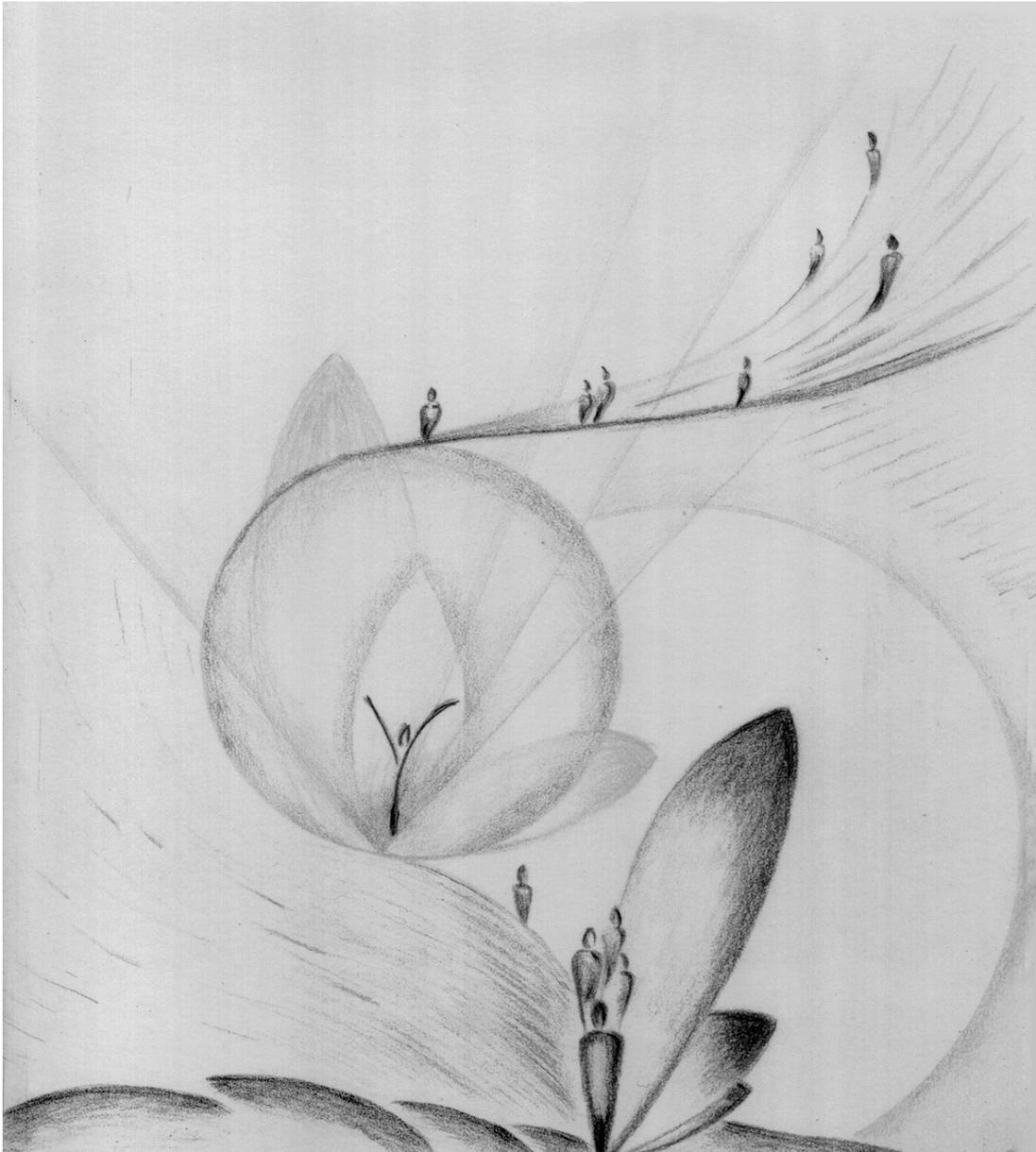


# Collaboration

Summer & Fall 2014

Journal of the Integral Yoga of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother

Vol. 39, Nos. 1-2



Amidhar's story, part 2 by Shyam Kumari •  
Land and spirit: An American yoga for the 21st Century, *continued* by John Robert Cornell •  
The composition of *Savitri*, part 1 by Richard Hartz •  
The role of the body in the Integral Yoga, part 1 by Martha Orton •  
Researching the practice of Integral Yoga in life and work by Larry Seidlitz •  
Organizational creativity and The Desert Flower by Pravir Malik •  
Current affairs • AV almanac • Source material • Poetry • Apropos



## About the cover

Title: Beyond the Sun Path. This is a greyscale reproduction of a color painting (pencils with watercolor) by Mirajyoti (mjyoti@auroville.org.in) who has lived in Auroville since 2001 and formerly lived in the Sri Aurobindo Ashram. It is part of a collection which is available from the artist (mjyoti@auroville.org.in). Mirajyoti is also an editor and she coedited the popular book *The Hierarchy of Minds* with Prem Sobel.

## The authors and poets

**Minnie Canteenwala** was a frequent visitor to the Sri Aurobindo Ashram where she received Sri Aurobindo's encouragement and guidance in writing poetry.

**Georgette Cody** was a member of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram who was a poet and essayist.

**John Robert Cornell** (johnrobt@cal.net) is a writer and workshop leader living in California.

**Richard Hartz** (richardahartz@hotmail.com) is a member of the Ashram where he works in the Archives and is a scholar on Sri Aurobindo's thought.

**Rod Hemsell** (rodhemsell@yahoo.com) is an Aurovilian and long-time associate of the Sri Aurobindo Learning Center in Crestone, CO.

**Kamalakanto** was a Bengali poet who joined the Ashram in 1949; he published two books of poetry and contributed poems to journals in India and abroad.

**Joseph Kent** is associated with the Cultural Integral Fellowship in San Francisco. His poetry has been published in three books and various journals.

**Shyam Kumari** (shyamkumari@auromail.net) is a long-time member of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram and the author of many books and a Hindi journal.

**Julian Lines** (julianlines@gmail.com) is president of the Matagiri Board of Trustees and a member of Auroville's International Advisory Council.

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**Pravir Malik** (pravirmalik@aurosoorya.com) is an Organizational Development and Change Management leader and consultant and an author.

**Prithwi Singh Nahar** (1898-1976), was a member of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram where his eight children also eventually settled.

**Nirodbaran** was a physician in the Ashram who became Sri Aurobindo's attendant and scribe. He also blossomed as a poet under Sri Aurobindo's guidance.

**Anie Nunnally** (aniemere@gmail.com) resides and works at the Sri Aurobindo Center of Los Angeles.

**Martha Orton** (martha.orton@gmail.com), a therapist in Virginia, is an author and facilitator of online courses on Sri Aurobindo's philosophy.

**Larry Seidlitz** (lseidlitz@gmail.com) is the author of *Transforming Lives*, editor of *Collaboration*, and a researcher and online instructor of the Integral Yoga.

**Karan Singh**, an Indian statesman, is chairman of the Auroville Foundation, the Indian Government body that is overseeing Auroville's development.

**Carel Thieme** (carel@auroville.org.in) is a Dutch Aurovilian and is the publisher of *Auroville Today*.

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## From the office of Collaboration

In this double issue, our featured Chronicle is the second part of a previously unpublished story from Shyam Kumari's series of interviews with disciples of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. In this extraordinary story, Amidhar recounts his early spiritual practices and experiences after taking up the Integral Yoga. The story recounts Amidhar's remarkable darshans with Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, with Ramana Maharshi, his visits to the Ashram, and his various spiritual and occult experiences.

This story is followed by our first Essay, the second installment of John Robert Cornell's previously unpublished book titled "Land and spirit, An American yoga for the 21st Century." This book explores the relation between nature and spirit that John Robert discovered while traveling and trekking in the American West with his wife Karen. In this second installment, John Robert and Karen explore the remote wildernesses of the Southwest. We get a feel for these ancient lands and their landscapes, their hidden treasures, and for the Spirit which they embody.

This is followed by the first of a two-part Essay, "The composition of *Savitri*," by Richard Hartz. This work was previously published in *Mother India* in 50 installments beginning in October 1999. In the first part of the series, reproduced here, Richard provides an overview of Sri Aurobindo's writing of *Savitri* from its beginning in 1916 to its final revisions in 1950, with special attention on Books 1 and 2 of the epic. Part 2, to be published in the next issue, will be based on selections from the *Mother India* series that specifically address the composition of Books 3-11. Richard's painstaking analysis of the successive drafts of *Savitri* for his work at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Archives is utilized in this work to give us a deeper appreciation of Sri Aurobindo's masterpiece.

These are followed by Essays by Martha Orton on the role of the body in the Integral Yoga, and by Larry Seidlitz on researching the practice of Integral Yoga in life and work. Martha's essay focuses on the importance of transforming the body, its resistances, and the way to do it. Larry discusses the basic methods and preliminary findings of his ongoing research study. Next, we have two short essays by Pravir Malik from his blog. The first examines his model for understanding organizational creativity, and the second tells the story of a young girl who escapes abuse and hardship to become a successful model, which is used to show how we can transform our own obstacles into opportunities.

We open this issue with Current Affairs, which begins with Anie Nunnally's remembrance of June Maher, who passed away on 25 April. June was a beloved member of the Sri Aurobindo community, whose dedicated work for Auroville and the Divine will always be remembered. This is followed by news from the Sri Aurobindo Learning Center and Matagiri. In AV Almanac we present articles on a new initiative for raising funds for securing the land in the center of Auroville, and on efforts to secure the water supply in Auroville. In Source Material we have excerpts from Sri Aurobindo and the Mother on the necessary attitudes needed in our work. We also have a selection of fine spiritual poetry, and we close the issue with a series of inspiring Apropos quotations.

## Artists

**Karen Cornell** has been drawing and painting since childhood. She was a graphic artist in the software industry for many years. She specializes in computer graphics, pen and ink, and watercolor.

**Margaret Phanes**, a graphic artist, resides in Lodi, California where she is associated with the Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham, and is a member of the Sri Aurobindo Association, which is the publisher of Collaboration.

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**Submissions:** Collaboration welcomes writing, photos, and artwork relevant to the Integral Yoga and spirituality. Submit material by email to: editor@collaboration.org; or by post to Collaboration, 2715 W. Kettleman Lane, Suite 203-174, Lodi, CA 95242 USA. Collaboration cannot be held responsible for loss or damage of unsolicited material. Letters and articles may be edited for style and space considerations.

**About SAA:** The Sri Aurobindo Association distributes information about Sri Aurobindo, the Mother, and Auroville, and supports projects related to the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Auroville, and Integral Yoga activities in America. Current members: Lynda Lester, president; John Robert Cornell, secretary; Angelo Salerno, treasurer; Margaret Phanes, director.

**Contributions:** Donations for the work of the SAA, Auroville, and the Sri Aurobindo Ashram may be sent to SAA. Donations are tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.