The future of the earth depends on a change of consciousness. The only hope for the future is in a change of man’s consciousness and the change is bound to come. But it is left to men to decide if they will collaborate for this change or if it will have to be enforced upon them by the power of crashing circumstances. So, wake up and collaborate!

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JOHN ROBERT CORNELL joined the Collaboration editorial and design teams to help support the journal grow into a more beautiful, relevant, and accessible service that meets our troubled times with love, and catches the visions of beauty and unity breaking on us in waves from the future.

AMANDA EMERSON is a practitioner of decorative darning and Rick Lipschutz’s partner in literature and in life. This distant relative of Ralph Waldo Emerson and descendant of American Natives, farmers, fishermen, horse thieves, pirates, and clergymen, styles herself a spoiled child of God.

RICK LIPSCHUTZ: What kind of nutcase packs up his whole family and embarks on a pilgrimage from Albuquerque, New Mexico, to western Massachusetts, believing that in some place called the Pioneer Valley we might find a northeast passage through schizophrenia? A devotee of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, that’s who. And one who is engaged, with partner and son, in a pilot project in Open Dialogue Therapy, and continues to write “that novel about the soul” (in fulfillment of his late wife’s last words). Now, when he meets with his son, at his son’s request, he reads aloud from Sri Aurobindo’s poetry. Three portions of The Soul That Makes Us Matter and some of his own poems have appeared in this journal.

DAVID MARSHAK is the author of Evolutionary Parenting and The Common Vision: Parenting and Educating for Wholeness. His research interests include evolutionary parenting, the evolution of consciousness, and adolescent development. He is also the author of Inviting Youths to Claim the Power of Their Imaginations: A Guidebook and Kids Need the Same Teacher for More than One Year. David is happy to talk with folks about his work and publications—you can contact him at david.marshak@gmail.com.

KAREN MITCHELL is a contributing writer for Collaboration and a member of the journal’s editorial team. Her work has been featured in previous issues, and Sri Aurobindo and the Mother have helped inspire her research, writing, and way of life.

MATEO NEEDHAM has been dedicated to Integral Yoga since 2003 and is devoted to developing our gnostic community, deepening our individual and collective practice, and creating potential for spontaneous co-creation. He has organized many groups focused on the depths of
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CAROLYN TOBEN is an educator, counselor, and author, as well as a founder of Timberlake Earth Sanctuary. She also founded the Center for Education, Imagination and the Natural World, a work inspired by the distinguished cultural historian, author, and priest Thomas Berry. During her long friendship with Thomas, Carolyn spent many hours with him in deep discussions about his profound insights and experiences regarding the human-earth-Divine relationship. Recovering a Sense of the Sacred is based on her personal notes and reflections from these conversations.

ABOUT THE COVER
The currents of the Time-Spirit still at sunset. Cover design by Saili Sawant. To learn more about her work and to view her portfolio visit www.sailisawant.com.
Collaboration

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SRI AUROBINDO ASSOCIATION BOARD: Mateo Needham, president; John Robert Cornell, secretary; Susan Curtiss, Alicia K. Gonzales, Jonathan Kay, Lynda Lester, Gloria Saya-vedra, directors.
On the tail of the summer solstice I flew 3,000 miles to visit my aunt, a field biologist, in Alaska. Since my previous trip, she had come all too close to a polar bear on the tundra of the North Slope—far from the melting sea ice of the Arctic—desperate for food, for survival. Massive wildfires had flanked her cabin, their swaths of flame ultimately wolfing millions of acres in one season. And the Last Frontier had wrestled drought—a record 79 weeks of water scarcity. Yet my aunt still holds a minority position among Alaskans: that there is urgent need for humans to end their exploitive relations with Earth.

When faced with seething climate on all sides, it is only natural to become crestfallen by the starving animals and raging fires, to feel both complicit in and powerless over the corporations spewing greenhouse gases that keep rising, rising, rising. Except this Yoga is not about resolving these externalized conditions, separate from ourselves, but “gracefully” peeling back our internalized conditioning to the point that our divine nature manifests without, across our planet. In the following pages, Collaboration contributors share their records of this effort, naming in their own way the psychic conditions necessary to hold both the earth’s agony and bliss together during our 11th hour of ecological meltdown.

In “The Soul’s Calling,” David Marshak spotlights the climate change activism spearheaded by Greta Thunberg and championed by youth around the world, illuminating how we too can embolden this internal will for external change. Ananda’s powerful “Three Meditations” invites us into his spiritual impressions, thanks to the Mother’s guiding light. Through Alan Baiss’ reflections on global crises in “Where I Find Myself Today,” he collectively asks the question: What can be done? And in “The Natural and Unnatural World” by Karen Mitchell, the author shares three experiences of earth consciousness that shook her reality, upending her understanding of the whole of nature through lightning strikes, desert stars, and crashing whitewater.

This issue also shines a light on Wayne Bloomquist. In “A Barfight for the Earth,” authors Rick Lipschutz and Amanda Emerson vividly retell his vision of life as a Wild West gunslinger, caught in the throes of cosmic transformation. Collaboration editor Bahman Shirazi got a chance to speak with Wayne about his early spiritual days, and we have captured excerpts from their conversation in “Decade of Illuminations.” We are also pleased to share prescient ecological (and sacred!) wisdom from avowed “geologian” Thomas Berry in “Seeds of the Future”—excerpted from a recent book by Carolyn Toben.

Now, poetry. With planetary life seemingly on the brink, John Robert Cornell’s “Blessing” brings us pause, and comfort, in Earth’s inborn divinity. Mateo Needham’s “Becoming a Poem” does a service of walking us through Sri Aurobindo’s poetry, meant, he affirms, to be wholly realized. Which brings us to “The Cosmic Spirit” and “Because Thou Art”—two sonnets of Sri Aurobindo that lyrically illumine how, and why, we are each “a single Self all Nature fills”—and in possession of our future’s passionate hope for a new way of life.—Alicia K. Gonzales
DIGITAL CONNECTIONS

Sri Aurobindo Association

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