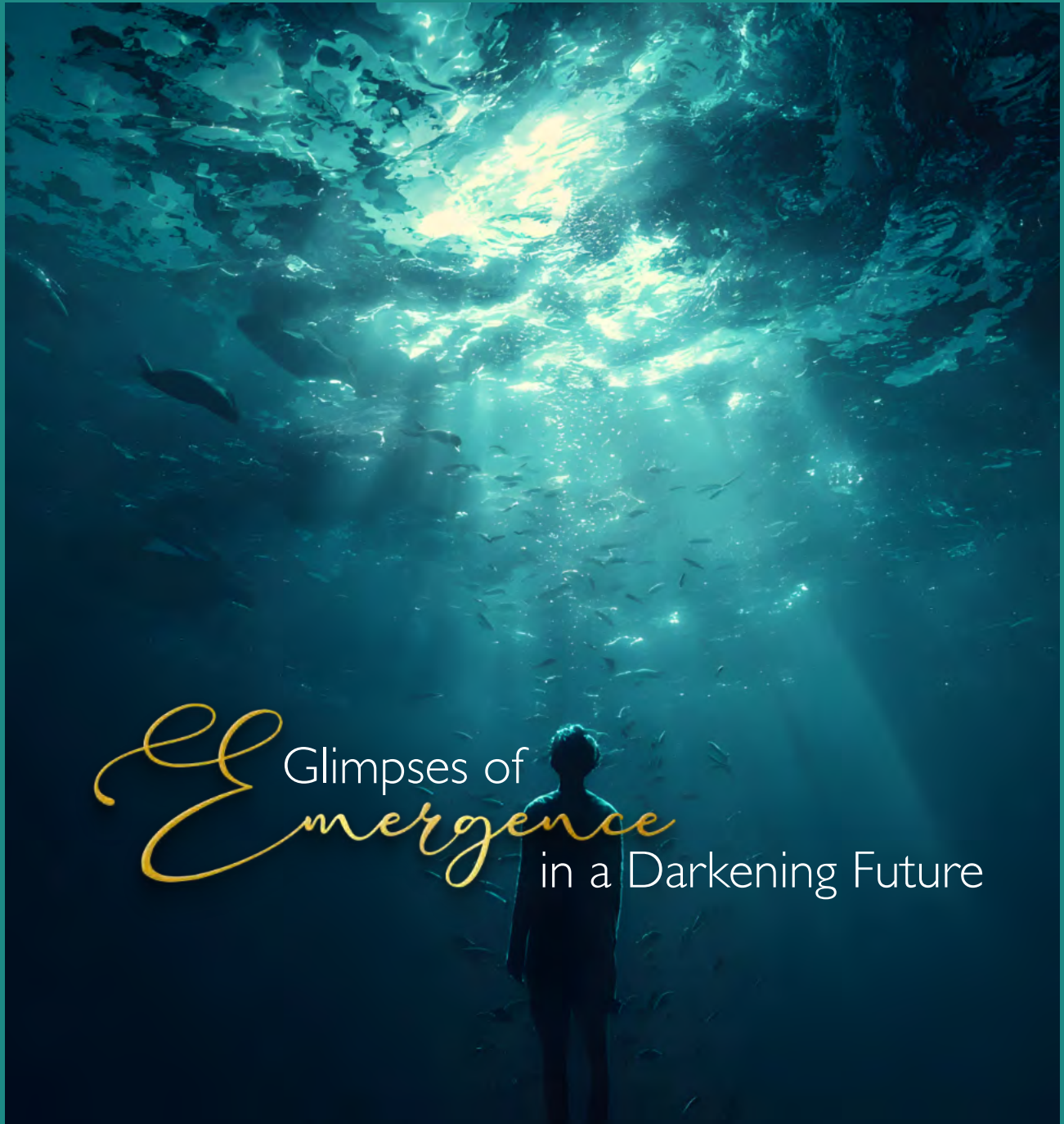


SUMMER 2026

VOL. 51 NO. 2

# Collaboration

JOURNAL OF THE INTEGRAL YOGA OF SRI AUROBINDO AND THE MOTHER



Glimpses of  
*Emergence*  
in a Darkening Future

# The Secret *Knowledge*

SRI AUROBINDO



"Joy," oil painting by Nadya Rose

When darkness deepens strangling the earth's breast  
And man's corporeal mind is the only lamp,  
As a thief's in the night shall be the covert tread  
Of one who steps unseen into his house.  
A Voice ill-heard shall speak, the soul obey,  
A Power into mind's inner chamber steal,  
A charm and sweetness open life's closed doors  
And beauty conquer the resisting world,  
The Truth-Light capture Nature by surprise,  
A stealth of God compel the heart to bliss  
And earth grow unexpectedly divine.

—*Savitri*, CWSA, vols. 33–34 (Pondicherry: Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust, 1997), p. 55.

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FRONT COVER

Image by Leo / Pixabay

# Collaboration

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# Collaboration

JOURNAL OF THE INTEGRAL YOGA OF SRI AUROBINDO AND THE MOTHER

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## WRITINGS OF SRI AUROBINDO AND THE MOTHER IN THIS ISSUE

All references to writings from Sri Aurobindo and the Mother in this issue are taken from *The Complete Works of Sri Aurobindo (CWSA)* and *The Collected Works of the Mother (CWM)* unless otherwise noted.

# Contributors

ANJU ARYA has been on a spiritual journey since childhood, seeking answers to life's deeper questions through the study of various teachings. Her search eventually led her to the Sunlit Path, where the call to a Great Adventure by the Mother resonated deeply within her. Since then, she has devoted herself to applying these teachings in daily life, striving to live in alignment with absolute truth consciousness.

EARL BLAUNER'S career was in nonprofit organizations, first in the environmental movement and then in public broadcasting. He found the writings of Sri Aurobindo in the mid-1970s and entered the Integral Yoga community in 2010 at an AUM (All USA Meeting) at Matagiri Sri Aurobindo Center in Mt. Tremper, New York. He resides in San Francisco and also has a residence in Lodi to be near Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham.

RICHARD CATALANO is a writer and wrestling coach living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His work explores memory, myth, and the interior life, often blending autobiographical experience with philosophical reflection. When not coaching or writing, he can usually be found reading, walking, or revisiting the books that first taught him how strange and luminous ordinary life can be.

YOGINE MAJI, age 11, won the Sunlit Award 2025 for creativity from the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Delhi. He enjoys soccer, karate, and chess. A vivid storyteller, he is inspired by superhuman journeys. Joyful, playful, and imaginative, Yogine often invents superhero adventures during his solo play, filled with beauty, power, conquering evil, and bringing peace! Introduced to Integral Yoga by his mother, Dolan Champa, he admires her book *Rays of Inspirations* for its prayers, art, and poetry.

MARCO MASI, PhD, is a physicist who has conducted research at universities in Italy, France, and Germany and has also worked as a school teacher for three years. After tutoring at various universities and teaching high school, he developed an interest in innovative approaches to individual learning and free progress education. He is currently working on a project that aims to "thin the walls between soul and matter."

JENNY GILLESPIE MASON is a writer, musician, and devotee of Integral Yoga originally from rural central Illinois and currently living in Berkeley, California, with her husband and two sons. Her work has been published in *Metapsychosis* journal and *NAMAH: The Journal of Integral Health*. She is at work completing a manuscript of poems and developing an artist residency for those working with spiritual themes in Big Sur, California. Her essays on Integral Yoga can be found at [wandofmind.substack.com](http://wandofmind.substack.com)

DAVID L. MITCHELL is president of the Divine Mission, a Satyachetana organization (<https://satyachetana.org/SCI/>); board member of the Order of Universal Interfaith (<https://ouni.org/>); and associate research professor emeritus at the University of Nevada (<https://www.dri.edu/directory/david-mitchell/>).

JULIA MURPHEY has relocated from one country to another more than once in her lifetime, and she does not feel she belongs anywhere completely. However, writing poetry makes her feel at home and at peace wherever she is. Her poetry has previously appeared in *Better Than Starbucks*, *The Lyric* magazine, several annual anthologies for International Haiku Day (Moonstone Press), *Remembering Sylvia Plath Anthology* (Moonstone Press), and *The Dirigible Balloon* webzine.

ANGELO SALERNO has been a sadhak of Integral Yoga for more than 20 years and is presently the executive director of Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham in Lodi, California, and CEO of Auomere, Inc. He previously lived in Auroville, India for nine years. Apart from work, his interests include Sanskrit, Vedic research and astrology.

DON SALMON worked as a composer/pianist in the 1970s and 1980s in New York City, and since the 1990s as a clinical psychologist in North and South Carolina. His research has included exploring how music can help us to "be conscious of our nights," and examining how a shift of attention can reduce physical and emotional pain, seeking always to embody the truth that "All life is yoga."

SANGEETHA SRIRAM has spent over three decades engaging in many social experiments, exploring what it means to be an effective change agent in a world of converging crises. Her personal search led her to Integral Yoga and Indic wisdom. Her interests and pursuits span learning and chanting ancient Tamil and Sanskrit scriptures, singing, gardening, cooking, fabric art, and designing bioregional systems for change. Sangeetha is autistic, and has been learning about and pursuing integral healing. She lives with her family in Auroville.

KAIA SVIEN, MS, is a retired "Work That Reconnects" facilitator, meditation instructor, spiritual guide, community activist, cultural change agent, and novelist. She is a former longtime adjunct professor in the Master of Arts in Holistic Health Studies program, St. Catherine University, St. Paul, Minnesota. She thrives on cocreating responses to societal change that are rooted in global Earth-based wisdom including Wiccan practices and Buddhist traditions.





## EDITORIAL

# Glimpses of Emergence in a Darkening Future

ONE OF THE SALIENT FEATURES OF Integral Yoga is its evolutionary framework. However, a closer examination of evolutionary processes indicates that, both on the individual and collective levels, evolution of consciousness is not always synonymous with continuous, linear progress. It may involve up-cycles and down-cycles, as well as periods of stagnation or acceleration. A key question before us at the moment is what signs and indications should we look for to help us understand where we are in the larger landscape of evolution?

The current world situation brought to us relentlessly by the news and social media presents a dire scenario. Humankind faces challenges such as climate disruption, political divisions, genocides, and the erosion of a shared sense of reality. The future of our species and the web of life itself appear to be in peril. But, at the same time, counterpoints and instances of light and positive direction are emerging beyond the glare of mainstream communications.

Since the middle of the 20th century we have seen a resurgence of interest in traditional spiritual traditions and practices such as yoga, meditation, and other mind-body disciplines and holistic practices emphasizing unity consciousness, love, compassion, mindfulness, and intuition. Some believe that we are currently on the threshold of an unprecedented breakdown of old paradigms, in anticipation of a major breakthrough in evolution of consciousness.

As bad as things may appear, are we simply in one of those momentary down-spirals where the forces of evil and unconsciousness happen to have the upper hand? Is this hopefully the darkest hour before a new dawn in evolution of consciousness? For this issue we invited writers and artists to share a more hopeful glimpse of the future, looking for real world examples and descriptions of these emerging potentials and possibilities.

In "Discovering Integral Yoga in Unexpected Places," Don Salmon advocates sharing the essence of Integral Yoga in ways that are easily accessible to everyone. He suggests that without losing sight of what is unique about

Integral Yoga, we can also be sensitive to other ways in which the integral vision is emerging in the world. He refers to the work of child and adolescent psychiatrist Dan Siegel known as "*The Wheel of Awareness*" practice, as an example, which is an application of mindfulness practice allowing us to develop our awareness with a calm and nonjudgmental equanimity. This practice helps us "integrate our outer experience with the love, compassion, and spaciousness of our essential Being," which is what "the Mother was referring to when she said we should integrate all the movements of our nature around the psychic center of our being."

The next article, "Embodying Integral Yoga in the Garden," is an account of Sangeetha Sriram's life journey which she describes as a search for ways she has aspired to serve as a midwife to the emerging "New World." Before living as an Aurovilian she spent decades in collective communities advocating for animal rights, civil action, and social and environmental justice, among other activities. However, although learning many skills, she still felt limited and incomplete. After arriving in Auroville she faced many more challenges and responsibilities, including serious mental and medical challenges. She writes: "It was during this period that surrender ceased to be a mere philosophical idea. It became my lifeline. The only way I could go on was to offer myself moment by moment, asking the Mother to carry me through the next breath, the next hour."

In the next article titled: "Yet Another War ... A Post-Materialist Meditation on the Nature of War in the Light of Sri Aurobindo," Marco Masi invites us to move beyond our current material and commercial mindset to be able to see that "disappearance of war cannot be achieved merely through political arrangements, economic interdependence, or technological progress. True and lasting peace requires something deeper: an inner evolution of human consciousness itself."

"Collective Community in Minneapolis" by Kaia Svien draws on what Joanna Macy, renowned Buddhist scholar, deep ecologist, and environmental activist, called the

“Great Unraveling.” Kaia gives a detailed account of collective practices, intersubjective connections and actions taken by some people in Minnesota to help others in the aftermath of raids by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. This has resulted in the emergence of a “beautiful, delicate and strong, clear and very present awareness that many of us—immigrants, other BIPOCs (black, indigenous, and people of color) and protectors—are participating in a potent, new level of trust and connection that weaves relatively easily much of the time through our various cultures.”

“From Darkness to Truth, from Fear to Power,” by Anju Arya invites us to examine where darkness may still dwell within each of us and how each person, knowingly or unknowingly, contributes to the collective falsehood. The author stresses that “while community action is one way to serve the light, an individual may have equal if not greater impact by turning inward. When falsehood is brought into awareness, it begins to lose its unconscious hold, allowing both the individual and society to evolve.”

David Mitchell’s article, titled “A Brief Explanation for the Rapid Decline of Social Harmony and a Potential Remedy,” draws on the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita to trace the apparent decline in the social and political climate of the United States in recent decades to the root causes of desire, attachment, and anger, leading to clouding of judgment and bewilderment of memory culminating in destruction of intellect. For a remedy, the author suggests activities that can help us restore the link between our outer consciousness and the soul (psychic being) such as “solar practices” involving the descent of light through the crown chakra, by which a yogi can become a more effective channel of divine consciousness to the collective consciousness.

Our last essay is an imaginative story by Yogine Maji, who was 11 years old at the time of writing! In this story the protagonist is presented the choice between power and kindness. Although initially the protagonist contemplates the path of power and worldly success, through Divine

intervention he is drawn towards the path of sincerity and kindness. Our editors were delighted by this story, and even more so by the young author himself who is a beacon of light for the future of humankind.

For source materials we have selected a small sample of writings by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother pertinent to the theme of this issue. “The Yoga of Integral Knowledge” is an excerpt from *The Synthesis of Yoga* in which Sri Aurobindo gives a summary of three steps of evolution, from division and coercion and subjection—our current stage of darkness—to the stage of relation, reconciliation, and harmony in the gnosis between the *purusha* (conscious being) and *prakriti* (nature); and finally to the stage of unity

in the “tops of the gnosis and in the Ananda.” In “Identifying the Signs of Spiritual Progress,” the Mother reminds us that most of the progress in spiritual life,—especially in the earlier phases—is worked out behind the curtain of our surface consciousness. She also gives practical advice about how to deal with certain difficulties and resistances.

Our poetry collection for this issue includes three short selections from *Savitri*: “The Secret Knowledge” (inside front cover), “The World of Falsehood,” and “The Dream Twilight of the Ideal”; two sonnets: “The Call of the Impossible” and “The Ways of the Spirit”; and a brief excerpt from *Letters on Poetry and Art* titled “The Poet and the Poem.”

In addition, we have several poems submitted by various authors specifically for this issue. These

include an untitled poem by Angelo Salerno; “The Response” by Earl Blauner; “The Mother’s Words” by Jenny Gillespi Mason; “A Nascent Longing” by Julia Murphey; and “the Secret Fire” by Richard Catalano.

We hope that these offerings can help us better situate our current evolutionary challenges in the larger, more positive context of evolution of consciousness, and help us strengthen our faith in humanity and aspiration for the Divine. —Bahman A. K. Shirazi for the *Collaboration* editorial team



Yogine Maji’s story, “God Is There for You,” features a trusted horse named White Chocolate.

Image: “Kalki, Steed of Light,” acrylic painting by Nadya Rose

# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

## Spring 2027 Issue

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2026

THERE IS NO SPECIFIC THEME FOR the Spring 2027 issue. We welcome many kinds of contributions, especially those that share, in ways both personal and universal, the surprises of grace, intuition, and delight in the widening—or frozen—moments of our

lives. We also love to publish submissions that challenge the increasing polarization of our personal and social lives or embrace that fragmentation and find its deeper meaning and healing in the integrative and inclusive currents emerging today.

## Summer 2027 Issue and Beyond

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2027

BEGINNING WITH THE SUMMER 2027 ISSUE, authors may submit one or more entries on the following four themes. This will allow ample time to reflect and prepare submissions for one or more

themes. When we receive enough submissions on a specific theme, we will schedule an issue for that theme. In addition, we may also occasionally include an article or poem that is not connected to a specific theme.

### YOGA AND THE ARTS: CREATIVITY AND THE EVOLUTION OF CONSCIOUSNESS

For this issue, *Collaboration* Journal invites submissions at the intersection of yoga, artistic practice, and creativity. For Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, art is not merely expressive or representational, but a dynamic site for the evolution of consciousness, where higher planes of awareness seek form and embodiment. How does artistic practice lean into yogic progress and collective transformation in your experience? In what ways do rhythm, sound, gesture, image, and form participate in the unfolding of consciousness and world-making? We welcome essays, reflections, lived experiences, and creative works that interweave aesthetic and yogic practice in your life.

### HEALTH AND HEALING IN INTEGRAL YOGA

Integral Yoga provides a comprehensive framework that takes into account the whole human being. This provides the foundation for derivative fields such as integral psychology, integral education, integral health, and other areas where an integral or whole-person framework can be applied. *Collaboration* invites your submissions in health and healing, including topics related to Sri Aurobindo's and the Mother's teachings in these areas, as well as other flavors of integrative or holistic health, mind-body medicine, or traditional Eastern mind-body practices such as Ayurveda, traditional Chinese medicine, and indigenous healing practices.

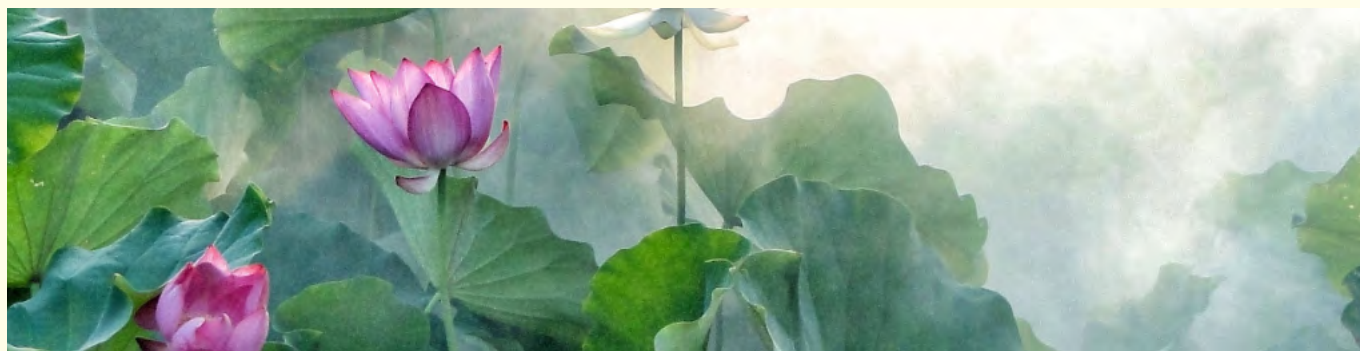


Photo by yyyr1030 / Pixabay



## DEMOCRACY, POLITICS, AND INTEGRAL ETHICS

*Collaboration* Journal invites submissions that explore the intersection of democracy, politics, and ethics through the lens of Sri Aurobindo's integral philosophy and psychology. Sri Aurobindo's writings, particularly in *The Human Cycle*, offer a compelling way to rethink political life as part of the evolving movement of collective consciousness. In this work, Sri Aurobindo's vision of spiritual anarchy gestures toward possible futures in which social order arises not primarily from external law, institutional control, or rigid moral binaries, but from the awakening of the psychic and spiritual being. How do inspirations from Sri Aurobindo's and the Mother's life and work help us reimagine and embody the meaning of new forms of collective life in today's uncertain times? What new perspectives does integral ethics offer for governance, justice, freedom, and the evolution of social forms?

## THE HEART IN INTEGRAL YOGA

The heart plays a central role in human and spiritual affairs. Recent scientific studies of the brain-heart connection, as well as spiritual traditions, whether they be Abrahamic, Eastern, Indigenous or Shamanic, have essential teachings pertaining to the human heart and its many aspects. Authors of literature and poetry never tire of writing about the heart's joys and sorrows. The heart figures in so many ways in human experience! How are the heart and its function in the evolution of consciousness presented in Integral Yoga? Have Sri Aurobindo and the Mother elucidated any further or expanded understanding of the part it plays for the new creation and/or the new species? We look forward to receiving your perspectives, experiences and artistic expressions involving the heart now and as we contemplate the future.

Please email your submissions to [editor@collaboration.org](mailto:editor@collaboration.org)



Photo by yyryr1030 / Pixabay



## A Call for Volunteers

This is a call for those who are eager to be a part of a networked laboratory of consciousness, a co-laboratory, and practice an integrated collective yoga by joining the *Collaboration* production team. We aspire to do inner work together as well as collaborate on producing this journal. If you are inspired by this call, send an email to [info@collaboration.org](mailto:info@collaboration.org).

## About *Collaboration*

**MISSION:** *Collaboration* is a print and digital journal of Integral Yoga published in the United States. Our mission is to share articles, conversations, poetry, and art that deeply engage our transitional times with the beauty, joy, and hope of the vast wisdom and practice of this evolutionary tradition and its founders, Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. We explore and celebrate particularly the individual practice of yoga in this country as well as currents and expressions of the collective yoga of the American soul.

**AUDIENCE:** *Collaboration* is a means of reflection, encouragement, and inspiration for the Integral Yoga community. We also want to highlight friends and allies in related areas of personal and social transformation. Including these fellow travelers requires sensitivity from our contributors, whom we ask to refrain from using references and terms of Integral Yoga and the works of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother without explaining or clarifying them.

**CONTENT:** We welcome many kinds of contributions, especially those that share, in ways both personal and universal, the surprises of grace, intuition, and delight

in the widening—or frozen—moments of our lives. We also love to publish submissions that challenge the increasing polarization of our personal and social lives or embrace that fragmentation and find its deeper meaning and healing in the integrative and inclusive currents emerging today.

**GUIDELINES:** Contact our editorial team at [editor@collaboration.org](mailto:editor@collaboration.org) for the word count suitable for your contribution before submitting. This allows us to provide you with writer's guidelines that reflect our editorial criteria.

### DIGITAL CONNECTIONS



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[Collaboration: A Journal of Integral Yoga](#)



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