

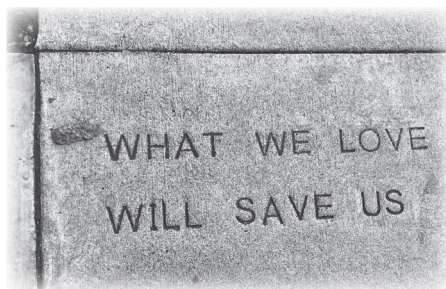
## Greetings from Your Editor

Every year, around this time, I find myself in a state of reverie. By this, I mean, in a place where I am taking time to reflect, remember, and reminisce. When the air starts to get cool and crisp, the skies seem a little more blue; when the skies are bluer, the colorful leaves, while they remain, seem more vibrant. As nature begins to pull into itself to hibernate for the coming winter, we are reminded of the cycles of life around us, and to have life one must know death as well.

This issue will take us on a journey that reflects this time of year; when the veil between daily life and the great beyond is thin and those we have lost seem much more present. Many of our contributors pieces are remembering beautiful souls that have been lost to us in this realm but who live on beyond us, in our memories and in our hearts. We also find in these pages that the ancestors are present and calling out to us, reminding us of all this world still has to offer. Even in the depths of despair, pain, illness, or upheaval there is so much to stay present to. In the midst of articles in remembrance of others are beautiful reminders of all that we are. Reminders that each one of us has gifts to offer the world and

that this time of year is ushering in the giving time.

As the holidays approach it is good to remember that we can be a gift to others just by being there for them; the greatest gift is one you can never purchase in a store. Many of our submissions remind us of this, even the gift of the shadow is illustrated in these pages. For without the dark times we would never appreciate the beauty of the light when it returns, the gold shining deep within the darkness.



As we hold these opposites and move forward into the dark, cold months, let us be a light to one another. As we remember those we have lost, let their love and memories hold us in their warm glow. In these hard times, let us remember, as the cover states, that “Love knows NO boundaries.” The love we have for one another, for

the world around us, and even, the hardest love, of our adversaries, can become the guiding light this time of year. The Wisdom in our nightly dreams can give us a window into this place of unconditional love, it can show us our shadow and help us to uncover the gold within.

I was recently in Portland, OR and took the picture to the left. The words must have been pressed into the sidewalk while the cement was still wet, the artist hoping the impression would take. I'd like to believe that this is how we work too. When we are hurt, lonely, or sad we are malleable and impressionable, as are others. We never know who is feeling what in any moment so isn't it best to put love into those soft places? When the dust settles and we find our way back to ourselves, the love will remain and be stronger than ever.

Whenever you find yourself in a difficult space this holiday season, I hope you will return to these pages and to the prayer below to find comfort, strength, and love to fill those soft places, and to know that you are not alone.

♥ Sarah D. Norton

Holy Spirit,  
Dreamgiver,  
Comforter\*,

Thank you for your presence in times of loss and sadness  
and thank you for the blessings of my dreams,  
they bring me comfort.

It is through my dream eyes you let me see other worlds  
and meet people of all kinds, even those I have lost.

It is through my dream eyes I see my beloved — now living, watching me —  
a vision that fills my heart with deepest joy.

This glimpse speaks of eternity and comforts me.  
I am grateful for the blessings of my dreams. Amen.

\*Comforter—An apt name and poignant for English speakers being one of the first English translations (KJV Bible, published 1611) of the name 'Holy Spirit' and used for the first occasion Jesus mentioned the coming of the Holy Spirit, see The Gospel of John 16:7.

Prayer by **Annette Thies M.A.** New York, NY Annette is passionate about dreamwork and dreamplay. A spiritual director who founded and leads St. Bart's church dream group, she was trained in dreamwork leadership by Dr. Montague Ullman. She teaches dream workshops, enjoys encouraging new dreamers and began dream journaling in 1984. Excerpts from her General Theological Seminary thesis, *Dreamwork: A 21st Century Christian Spiritual Discipline* can be found in *The Rose*, Issue 6, and the story of her dream group in *The Rose*, Issue 12 (both can be found in PDF form in the archives on *The Rose in the World* website [www.roseintheworld.org](http://www.roseintheworld.org)).