

Greetings from Your Editor

Winter is the time of year where things seem to slow down and speed up all at the same time. The holidays kick into high gear and daily life can be set on the backburner for a while. This is the time of year when the darkness is at its height. Every day grows shorter and shorter until the winter solstice. We are forced to live many more hours in the dark, a place of reverie and reflection. For many, this time of year is very difficult, it can be a time of great melancholy. However, by the light of the advent wreath, the candles in a Menorah, the lights on a Christmas tree, the fire of a Yule log, we begin to recognize the light that can shine through even in the darkest times.

It is also a time of hibernation: when the seeds are sleeping deep within the earth, animals are tucked into their dens fattened against the winter's cold, the frozen surfaces of rivers even make the water seem still (though the current flows unseen). This is the time of year that offers us a new start while honoring all that is behind us. For some of us there is a snowfall that offers us a blank canvas on which to ponder and create a vision of the world in the year to come. For those of us who may not have this experience in nature, we begin to create a snow covered blank page of our own. With the coming of the New Year and the slow return of the sun we create hopes and dreams for 2016.

In this issue of the Rose in the World we offer this journey to you. We begin on the cover and with our first article with a look back all the way to the beginning. The latter is all about the story of Adam and Eve from the bible. The Celtic goddess Boann, on our cover, is in many ways an Eve figure. She caused the waters of wisdom to overcome their banks and flood the world. These brave women offer us their wisdom but place us outside the paradise we once new, sent into the bitter wilderness of the world. This feeling is what we are often faced with in the traditional vision of winter. The bare trees, icy landscapes, bitterly cold wind and snow; this time of year shows us the strength and cruelty of nature and the world around us. However, this also offers us a time to hibernate and build our strength for the coming year.

This is where the bulk of our current issue is leading us. It is a poetry issue. We have many beautiful poems with accompanying artwork and photography to get our readers into a reflective, meditative state of mind to begin to prepare for the New Year, the return of the sun, and the coming of spring. These poems span the whole array of form and subject, they are all beautiful and deep, each page can send us on a journey deep within our own psyche. Some take us into the depths, others soar above; we travel down paths, over bridges, into forests, and down river. In these poems we can see the past, present, and future.

Finally, our last article is bringing us to a place of mystery and suspense; isn't this what a new year is? It makes us ponder many questions that are the epitome of a journey into the unknown, into 2016. It is even looking forward to a brand new issue of the Rose in the World, coming out in the Spring of 2016!

This issue has been a difficult and wonderful task. Here at the Rose in the World we have been working hard to get enough funds to keep this beloved publication going and we could not do it without you, our devoted subscribers/readers. This is the final issue of 2015 and it took this long to get the funds together to print a second issue! For 2016 we desperately want to keep the Rose coming to you. Please make sure to sign up for your new subscription, the form is on page 29. Your donations on top of the subscription fee were what made this second issue possible.

Thank you as always, YOU are The Rose!

Happy New Year, I cannot wait to see what 2016 has to offer!

Sarah Dungan Norton

