Spring is an amazing time of year:
things that once appeared dead find
new life; the long, quiet, dark hours
of winter begin to shorten and as the
clocks change (in parts of the world)
the days seem even longer; and the
roaring winds of March turn gentle
and slowly usher in warmer weather,
“April showers bring May flowers” as
they say.

There has been tremendous
change in the world since our last
issue of The Rose. That issue carried
us into the reflective reverie of the
winter months and spring begins in
that space as well. The articles, poetry,
artwork, and more in this issue carry
us from the beginning of Lent,
through Easter, and onto the fires of
Beltane and the promise of summer.
There are pieces along the way which
will remind us of important holidays
of remembrance that happen in this
season of rebirth: Yom HaShoah or
Holocaust Remembrance Day and
Memorial Day.

This time of year which includes
Lent, Passover, and Eastertide remind
us of the great sacrifice that must be
made to live a truly full life. Life is not
just joy and wonder it is also darkness,
sadness, and pain. To truly appreciate
all that is good in life we must make
our way through the suffering to the
other side. I have heard it said that
grief is the price of love. This thought
sends my mind wandering to the
dark tomb where Jesus lay for three
long days, three days through which
the Marys sat grieving because they
were given this gift of love. This same
grief made the promise of the Son’s
return even more dear to them.

As my mind wanders further into
this darkness of the tomb, I am called
to wonder if our grieving transforms
into the coins, the currency, which
can give us passage to the realm of
the dead and into the unconscious.

Just like the seeds which sit dormant
in the earth throughout the winter,
once we rise from that realm, we find
new life. In my mind, this is the great
blessing of the willing sacrifice, not
that Jesus takes the suffering from us
but that He gifts us the Wisdom to
know that there is a way back from it.

Right now, in our world today,
there is so much suffering and unrest.
No matter what side of the aisle you
find yourself on politically, the current
state of things can seem almost un-
bearable. This is when we can find
comfort in the small blessings of life,
the site of a dove on the horizon, the
promise of a rainbow, the laugh of a
child, or a bud on our favorite tree.
Even the beauty of a dream remem-
bered on a stressful morning, the hug
of a loved one, or the joyful memory
of someone passed can bring with
them the promise of new life and
remind us of the love that surrounds
us even in the darkest times.

The Rose in the World is one of
these things. My greatest hope for
our readers is that each issue of The
Rose takes you away from the stress
of everyday life, even for a fleeting
moment. That the stories told within
these pages give you a moment to
breathe and reflect. Each piece is
carefully selected to fit together with
all the others to tell a larger narrative.
A narrative of a life well lived. These
pieces are sad at times, painful even,
but the resilience and love that shines
through the whole brings us to a
place of hope and even joy.

So readers, I hope to leave you
with this thought as you start your
journey with this issue of The Rose.
The promise of joy at the end of a
long journey of a life well-lived. As
always, I encourage you to read The
Rose’s dream for the world (p. 2), as
it marks the beginning of our travels
together. I would also encourage you
to see each piece as a dream and see
where in your psyche these stories
find resonance “in my dream…”

So, once you reach the final pages
I hope you will see that the fires of
Beltane are blazing with hope. They
show us the return of the Son and
the Sun. That the maypole is raised
and the dancers are threading their
way through the circle of life, a circle
we are all an integral part of. That
the heat of this fire reminds us of the
heat of summer that is on its way and
the warmth of the soil that nourished
the seed, bulbs, and roots that now
bring us beautiful, colorful blooms:
iris, tulips, dogwood, magnolias, and
even roses. Finally, that as summer
gets warmer, we find a cool respite in
the waves of the ocean, our back-
cover page, where the depths are
calling and offering us pearls of
wisdom as our grand journey of life
cycles on.

~Sarah D. Norton