

Greetings from Your Editor

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 unbearable. 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 remembered 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