

# Connecting New

February, 2015

February is the month designated to celebrate romance, and so this month I offer a twist on that theme. In addition to the usual Valentine's Day rituals, step back to consider how the love alive within and between lovers is not only a blessing to the rest of the world, but ideally is celebrated and blessed by the rest of the world. Perhaps you have been privileged to witness the deep love of a couple close to you, and perhaps you felt how such a love cannot help but spill out to the other people who touch their lives. If you have experienced this, here is your invitation to thank that couple and/or thank God for that couple.

But it does not stop there. Imagine one of those Disney movies where the birds and squirrels delight in the young couple in love (and look away shyly as they kiss) as representing how all of creation celebrates love, how all of creation finds its purpose in love. We too are afforded the opportunity to affirm and support the love affairs of those in our lives, both in ordinary and extraordinary ways.

This month I share a poem and a painting commemorating one of those extraordinary ways - the wedding of my son and his beloved.



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## Wedding

Free outdoor spirit dances in the prairie  
and blows through the trees,  
celebrating, seductive, gentle.  
Like true love, fall colors emerge  
to reveal our deepest selves,  
vulnerable, generous, considerate.  
"Come away with me, my beloved," the spirit beckons  
under an irresistible October moonlit sky,  
illuminated enough to be welcoming,  
dark enough to be mysterious.  
"Receive all I have to offer,  
while I receive all you offer me.  
For while today we rejoice (along with all the cosmos),  
our marriage is forever,  
our love is forever."

May romance be alive and well in our lives, and may we celebrate and bless it for the good of all.

Peace and Blessings,  
Clarence

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Clarence Heller is a spiritual director, poet, and dreamer whose writing and paintings are inspired through prayerful reflection.

Contact: [clarence@clarenceheller.com](mailto:clarence@clarenceheller.com)

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