

TAKE HEART

A Conversation in Poetry

Edited by Wesley McNair, Maine Poet Laureate

As we say goodbye to April, which is National Poetry Month, it's the perfect time to introduce Take Heart, my new column for Maine newspapers. Take Heart will feature one poem each week by a Maine poet. The column's first poem, by Stuart Kestenbaum of Deer Isle, urges us to join him in welcoming spring.

April Prayer

by Stuart Kestenbaum

Just before the green begins there is the hint of green
a blush of color, and the red buds thicken
the ends of the maple's branches and everything
is poised before the start of a new world,
which is really the same world
just moving forward from bud
to flower to blossom to fruit
to harvest to sweet sleep, and the roots
await the next signal, every signal
every call a miracle and the switchboard
is lighting up and the operators are
standing by in the pledge drive we've
all been listening to: Go make the call.

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