

# TAKE HEART

## A Conversation in Poetry

*Edited & Introduced by Wesley McNair,  
Maine Poet Laureate*

In Today's column features two members of the "Salt Coast Sages": Sharon Bray, from Orland, and Gerald George, from East Machias. Their poems were inspired by characters born and bred in Maine.

### 1940

*by Sharon Bray*

After they left the roller rink  
and drove out of streetlight range,  
he showed her Orion,  
the one constellation  
she still could name  
into the year she died.

He could have seduced her  
on the back seat blanket  
of his downhill-fast Model A.

Instead he gave her one ripe orange,  
which she took home to her mother.

### Rained Out

*by Gerald George*

After the Red Sox  
blew their season  
by losing three straight  
in the playoffs to Chicago,  
it rained for days.

"Coincidence," I said  
over coffee down at  
Archibald's One-Stop.

"Think what you like,"  
Homer Jones replied,  
buttoning up his slicker.  
Then he walked out  
and never spoke  
to me again.

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