

# TAKE HEART

## A Conversation in Poetry

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

Poet Lynn Ascrizzi, from *Freedom*, writes that in her garden she raises fruits, vegetables, “and those elusive crops, the perennial ones, that hide in between the sown and planted,” yielding “poems like ‘New England Asters.’”

### New England Asters

*by Lynn Ascrizzi*

They’re firing purple from the rock wall,  
shouting hurrahs amid gloriosas,  
towering on leggy stalks  
near the rose trellis, before the frost.

The dames are taking over.  
Fringy and sticky, drunk with nectar,  
they lean and swagger,  
staging a revolution.

Volunteers from last year’s seeds  
spring up near the house,  
and new forces bivouac  
down the long dirt drive,  
ready to occupy the roadside  
past the mailbox.

Shovel in hand, I am fully enlisted  
in the cause of late bloomers.  
I transplant rootstock,  
shake out new progeny,  
post ensigns amid the wan and cheerless,  
marshal troops down desolate hollows,  
seed my universe with stars.

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