

# 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.

---

Take Heart: A Conversation in Poetry is produced in collaboration with the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance. Poem copyright © 2007 by Stuart Kestenbaum. Reprinted from *Prayers & Run-on Sentences*, Deerbrook Editions, 2007, by permission of Stuart Kestenbaum. Questions about submitting to Take Heart may be directed to David Turner, Special Assistant to the Maine Poet Laureate, at 207-228-8263 or poetlaureate@mainewriters.org