

TAKE HEART

A Conversation in Poetry

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

On a winter day of despondency and nonstop snowfall, today's poet, Linda Aldrich of Portland, receives a package in the mail that changes everything.

After Another Difficult Week

by Linda Aldrich

In French, *pendant* means hanging, like pomegranates,
like persimmons, like ideas you keep afloat for poems
that finally find their way to you. Like friends
waning to slivers of moon, then rounding
like the world again, dropping gifts in your lap.
This morning, a pair of bees in my mailbox—
a gold bee pendant from Crete—where she found it
in an alley shop. Two bees holding a drop of honey
between them, an amber bead kept from falling.
Outside my window, the second foot of snow is coming down.
I watched rhododendrons become mounds of white
sadness, like hasty graves. But now this.
How unexpected is summer's sudden memory.
How easily it buzzes and brims over the morning.

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