

A haiku quintet

**Les Downing**

1941-2023

In fond memoriam

so much to discuss ...  
lifetimes of deep reflection  
beyond ivy walls,

our midwestern roots,  
academic scholarship  
founded in reason,

how we met our mates,  
our psychological art,  
our humanism's voice,

peppermint ice cream,  
a guilty pleasure no more,  
we've set ourselves free

we tilled our friendship  
in New Year's fresh, fertile soil  
... but ran out of time



Photo: January 1, 2023, a hazy day on Sarasota Bay, the very view shared with Les and Holly as our dinner guests that evening.

18 March 2023



[dandana.us/poems](http://dandana.us/poems)