

## Smilin' Joe, We Love Ya So

Forty-nine years ago  
I first met Smilin' Joe  
At Canada JC to study US history.  
Taking out the mystery  
He made the class fun and clear--  
A welcomed relief from philosophy.



Ten years later his Cheshire grin  
Smiled at me once again  
Where he lobbed every ball  
Across the net at Red Morton  
And wore me out to my chagrin  
Having given it my all.



But it was the start of something new  
As our friendship as equals grew  
And I saw beyond the smile sardonic  
The man who was quite iconic:  
A lover of history, math puzzles,  
and philosophic mysteries--  
I, but a candle to his brilliance.



And this we had for six-squared years  
Until he quit the courts and took to bed,  
Which is when we met his lovely wife  
Who handled all the worry and strife,  
And showed us another side of love  
As she cared for Joe and took us in.



Thank you, Mary, Thank you, Joe,  
For for allowing us to keep in touch  
and for all that you have given us.

Joe Barile  
March 6, 2016  
at the party  
celebrating  
your 84th

