

ODE FOR HENRY

We celebrate you, Henry,
an esteemed colleague of ours.

With leader Havola you skied
defying frigid winds each hour.
You guided the South Pole team urging,
“Follow me!”

You traveled without anxiety,
toting a tripod and mathematical power,
you calculated change and probability.

Squinting to properly see,
your expression stern and dour.
Correct measurements were the key.

Your rotocopter flew at full speed.
Once landed, Ann’s home cooking you’d devour.
Henry, honored member of the Polar community.

A hike up Kilimanjaro to sightsee,
At seventy-nine, your stubbornness a superpower.
You proved: persistence is key.

Travel came via Henry’s ancestry.
Father Ernst conversed with tailors for hours
selling woolen and silk to dress society.

Only you lived of your family of three.
Ohio State a protective bower.
A place to call home, a chosen family.

We raise our glasses to toast you, Henry—
an esteemed colleague of ours.

Susan Schwartz Twiggs

Sue met Henry when he volunteered to share his life’s story for a children’s novel-in-verse that she is currently writing.