



## **Sam Cornish**

### **Old Best Friends**

The man at the table  
With a smile  
A firm handshake  
Will have a cup Of coffee  
And talk about the poem  
Like it is an old friend  
Of many years  
Someone he is glad  
To see again  
Good friends  
In poetry are rare  
And hard to find.

**Sam Cornish** grew up in Baltimore, MD and has lived in Boston, MA for the past 40 years. In the 1960s, he was a literature consultant for the Enoch Pratt Public Library in Baltimore, where he created and co-edited *Chicory*, an anthology of writing by Baltimore residents. Following his move to Boston, he was a teacher at the Highland Park Community School in Roxbury, MA, and was also active in the Poetry in the Schools program in Boston and Cambridge, MA. During the 1970s, he was a curriculum specialist at the Educational Development Center in Newton, MA where he developed curriculum materials for the public school systems of Philadelphia, Delaware, Washington, DC and other places. In the early 1980s, he was the Literature Director of the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities and subsequently, an Instructor in Creative Writing at Emerson College until his retirement in 2006. During that same period, he created for UrbanArts an anthology of writing engraved on concrete slabs installed in subway stations on the MBTA Orange Line. He has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Massachusetts Council on the Arts and St. Botolph Society, among others. In addition to his nine books of poetry and for children, he has been published in dozens of periodicals, including *Essence*, *Ploughshares*, *The Harvard Review*, the *Christian Science Monitor* and the *Boston Globe*. From 2008 through 2013 he served as the first Poet Laureate of the City of Boston.

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