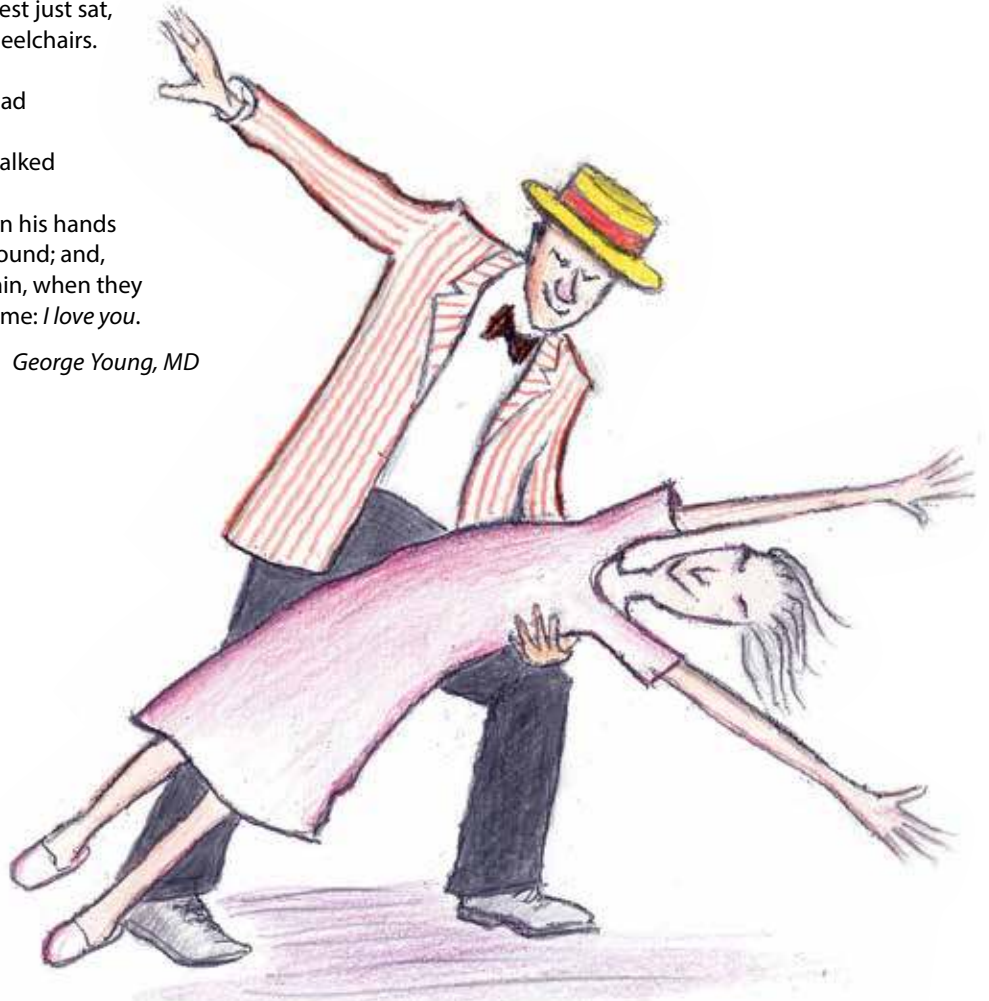


sonnet for a last dance

The retired judge, a widower and avid barbershop tenor, dutifully came once a month to sing with the twenty-odd ladies of the Alzheimer's ward. But only a few ever joined in. The rest just sat, chin on chest, slumped in their wheelchairs. Until one day he said: *Let's all sing the Anniversary Waltz*. Then one head did look up. One who had not moved before, stood and slowly walked towards him, arms outstretched. He grasped the cold bony fingers in his hands and began to waltz around and around; and, although this never happened again, when they were done, the mouthed words came: *I love you*.

George Young, MD



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