

For Creative Writing Class, I wrote a sestina about overcoming the impacts of the quarantine a month ago, and I hope it fits well within the efforts of this project:

“With a Little Help from My Friends” By William Mackenzie

Learning again to trust your oldest friends
during these long strings of hardened times
can be a dilemma of those who mind
a wall against uncertain personnel
who seek to extinguish the beacon light
of your well of kindness and joy

Spend your earned keep to the enjoy-
meant for those you value as your friend-
ships docking toward the beacon’s light
entering port, where currency is spending time
and showing you the way home to personal
friends and family on your mind

Ray Charles singing “Georgia on My Mind”
While the long-missed parties owed to joy
about overcoming quarantine, getting personal
vaccines and social distancing from friends
finally walking out into daylight
without staring at the end of time

Sipping coffee, reading the New York Times
on a Thursday morning, being mind-
full of perspectives in a positive light
and in boundless bundles of joy
recuperating the illness of missing friends
and here’s a hug—get in close and personal

But here’s where things get personal:
Spreading viral trends in trying times
made it found, the missing of friends;
made it warring, the peace of mind;
brought to life a total killjoy
casting shade, but still weak to light.

An eyeful of corona concerns highlights
for the future, a fundamental need to be personal--
Ensure we keep on spreading a cacophony of joy,
upkeep the well farewells and fair welfares of our times,
and to entities of bad-faith, pay them no mind—
Instead, play the Beatles: “With a Little Help From My Friends.”

To seek out your friends, take care in your time.
Always keep in mind that your people are personal;

They are your light, and they are your joy.

Sincerely,

William Mackenzie