

Invent and Connect by Ayla Kim

“Liberty and Prosperity”—

That is our state motto.

While right now we may not feel free,
Words of life shall not ring hollow.

Social distancing has become the norm,
Masks and gloves are ubiquitous.
We have the imperative to conform,
But home life does not have to be ruinous!

As a fellow New Jerseyan
Of the famous Thomas Edison,
I realize it is innovation
That evokes the best from within.

The light bulb that turned on
In not only Menlo Park¹ but my mind,
Called attention to the foregone:
A new contraption to be designed!

For my young and able yet languid feline,
I wished to cure the day’s monotony.
Now, with this time (and boxes, and twine!)
This agility course has brought her glee.

It is said that Laughter is contagious;
Although my cat can’t do so, she’d agree
That Happiness is advantageous
When it’s shared to the maximum degree.

So on every video calling platform,
I connected with Friends and Family.

¹ “Edison’s Lightbulb.” *The Franklin Institute*, <https://www.fi.edu/history-resources/edisons-lightbulb>

On my pet's obstacle course I spoke to inform,
How Grateful I was for the Praise they gave me!

And so I did for them,
When they divulged watchings and readings.
The sources from which their calms stem
Provide respite from what life wrings.

Here, I found that times are tough
And I may be young, but now I know:
What is undesired we can slough;
It all starts with a simple "Hello."

I know you've been hearing this constantly,
But it is worth reiteration.
We can achieve that Liberty and Prosperity,
If Together we foster Affirmation.

The 2nd Floor Youth Helpline,
At 888-222-2228,
Provides outreach from one benign
And solutions for our troubles to abate.

Of course, another option is to invent,
It's alright to get in your zone!
Just remember the resources that are present,
Remember: "Apart but not Alone."