



A Year Ago...

by Kathryn Madden, r.c.

A year ago, I didn't know
when I came to Chicago
to be with my mother,
that within a day's space
I'd be sheltering with her in place
until she went home to God
sooner than expected
but with the grace and beauty of her contented perspective.

Then, when I couldn't travel home,
I let life gently unravel
and found myself anew in months of solitude...
How might that have happened for you?
When my world was turned upside,
I somehow landed on my feet.
What didn't you know a year ago?
When your world was turned upside down,
how did you somehow land on your feet?

A year ago, we were told
that masks were not effective.
Now we know that they,
like essential health care workers,
give of their all against the virus.
But what about the violence,
racism and destruction of the planet that tired us
yet inspired us to unmasked, costly silence
in which we asked what is ours to do
in the face of so much disorder?
And found our consciousness renewed
in embracing painful truths?
We must "*be*"come essential workers
for the vaccination of our nation and
for a new order beyond our borders

so that all may not only *stay* but *be well*.

There is so much that we didn't know a year ago...

Now that our world *has* been turned upside down,

we humbly pray to keep landing on our feet...