

## COVID 19 CHRONICLES: This day, May 19 2020

Home.

Home only a year and four months

It took 16 moves in

14 years with

12 different addresses since loosing

Everything in post-Katrina flooding

Here in my 7th Ward Neighborhood.

By mid-March Professors, Students, Staff,

Admin said go home. At first, I thought,

This is a dream, must have heard them wrong, a fantasy, no a virus

COVID 19 killing folks around the world

Spread like confetti at a

Mardi Gras Parade, so go home

Stay home

Not the movie folks

Not the NBA, NFL, no Billboard folks

In just weeks Nurses Doctors Garbage Men Grocery Clerks are stars

Corona Drama 2020. Then,

folks complained, forced out of work

Their freedoms denied but

Their lives saved!

I'm not stuck at home

I'm safe at home & after

Grading 300 end-of-spring assignments

And final exams, I'm a  
Blessed one, safely home  
Can pay my bills for now  
Read a book, binge-watch *Luke Cage* or  
*The Godfather of Harlem*  
Listen to Nat King Cole, Aretha, or H.E.R.  
Can get the mail and groceries  
Fight my fridge for control  
Call my siblings and ask  
Whatcha doing & really mean it  
Call my cousins and ask  
Whatcha cookin now?  
Call my brother and ask  
Did you read the one about all the  
People out of work  
All the people protesting to remove  
Lockdown status & opening up the economy?  
I feel their hurt chests & empty bank accounts and  
Wonder what's to eat next  
All I can see are all those people  
Still alive to see another day like  
Aunt Rose always said  
"Be grateful God woke you up  
This Morning."

Mona Lisa Saloy, New Orleans, Louisiana

