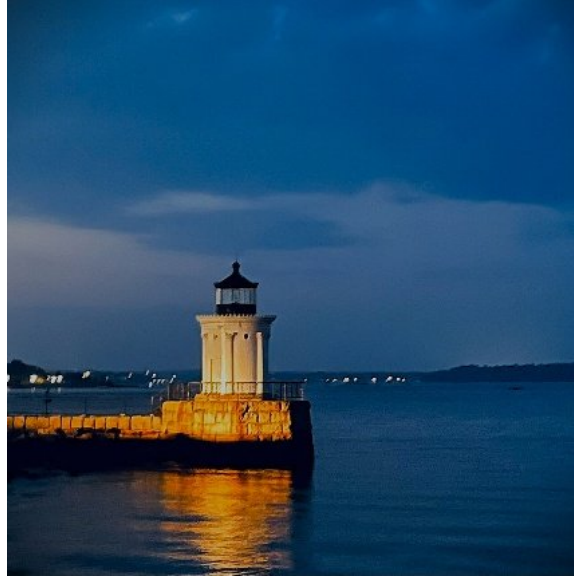


THINKSDAY

Bug Light

June 11, 2026



“There are two ways of spreading the light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.” — Edith Wharton

I’ve not been cheated — not at all! On balance, life’s uneven hand has provided me privileges and opportunities that I never earned nor merited... nor even recognized. I was not born into poverty, and not into a family beset with substance addictions or mental health issues. Growing up I had a decent home, healthy food lovingly prepared and served; good health care, good education and good health and two loving parents. I was not denied status or opportunity, or support of any kind based on religion, race, disability, origin, or economic circumstances. I certainly wasn’t subject to the scourges of war, or hatred, or oppression. Such advantages were simply the circumstances of my birth, not the result of anything I had to work for to receive. But those circumstances were not accidental either. As a child, I was blind to the privileges granted to me simply because I was born into them. I didn’t recognize my unearned advantages nor did I know the myriad ways that my experience was not the life shared by the majority of human beings in my time, or in prior times. I could not see the social, economic, and racial constructs that arranged for my

privileges.

That is not to say I didn't whine and chafe at perceived slights, minor jilts and jealousies, tough breaks, envies, frustrated goals, and the various tribulations of life. I did — and when I'm not at my best, I sometimes still do. Awareness, understanding, and empathy awakened in me only very gradually, and still fights to overcome the centripetal forces of my shallow, sheltered experiences and perspectives. I didn't know what I didn't know... none of us ever will. But I know more now, more about how much I have been given, and much more about what so many others were dealt instead. But I don't know the answers to the questions raised: Why this should be? How can I make a difference? Where will I find the thoughtfulness and the courage to act to bring change? How should I best share while still caring about and treasuring so much? How do I show gratitude and not self-satisfaction? How can I help change the systems that perpetuate inequity and suffering? Who will be with me? What light will we give?

Happy Thinksdays