
Every Thursday

Thinksday

weekly reflections by Nat Tupper



June 18, 2026

Wooly Bear

"A bend in the road is not the end of the road...unless you fail to make the turn." – Helen Keller

In early April, this Woolly Bear had just thawed out after spending several frozen months on one side of Bayview Street. She was making her way across to the other side to spend a few weeks munching weeds before turning into a pupa and then on to become an Isabella Tiger Moth. I might have helped her cross the road safely; I regret that I only took a picture. I hope she made it.

Once the moth emerges, her 10-day race is on to mate and lay some eggs before she arrives at the end of her life's road. I don't know if the next generation will cross back over Bayview Street, or if they will continue on a new way. Nature may define the stages of the species life, but there's room too for both individual choices and random selections. And there is room for helping hands. I should have given one. Whatever route they go, they will face the same needs, drives, dangers, and life changes.

All of us navigate bends in the road, and we either make the turns or we don't. The twists in our road may be tragic, sad, or distressing - or they might be growth-inducing, life-embracing, or inspiring. Whether or not we "make the turn" often depends on the choices we make about how to face them. And sometimes on the help we are given. Rudyard Kipling urges us to "...meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two imposters just the same". (*If*) What happens for better or worse depends in large part on what we do on our own, but not entirely so. We can be present for one another to help each other through the disasters, and celebrate together the triumphs. We can give each other a lift. (*If only*)

Let's keep a look out for each other.



Happy Thinksdays

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