Well brother, as we enter the new year I am now in my 21st year as owner, publisher, editor, mail handler, ad salesperson and yes proofreader of the Totoket Times. Where did the time go?

I have been through six Mayors, four Town Managers, three Superintendents of schools and three of four High School Principals. The print charge and the postal charges to produce the Totoket Times have gone up close to twenty times each and many people still think it is a town sponsored newspaper and the town pays for all expenses and I work for them. Many things change but in some way they all stay the same.

In that same time period I’ve probably been on a different diet each one of those years and yet my weight stays the same. I talk to people who are on several of the different new diabetes drugs and their weight is dropping in unbelievable rapid fashion. Yet I’ve tried both of them and still the same weight. I’ve taken up exercise again and yet nothing. Like I said, everything changes but everything stays the same.

As I write this letter, the Giants have made the playoffs for he first time since 2016. You and the old man must be smiling. Although pop rarely smiled as he always tried to conceal the one tooth in his mouth.

Christmas eve was very nice. Only Frankie and I eat the fish sauce but it all came out good. Christmas day was disappointing as Erica’s family woke up feeling sick and tested positive for Covid. We didn’t want to make any visits just in case we were carriers. We stayed home and practiced for the big Domino Tournament at the Sons & Daughters of Italy. I never played before but they all said it would be fun. I’ll be honest with you, I’m not feeling the excitement.

Frankie and Ana left Tuesday to go to Brazil for New Years and without the grand kids it was pretty quiet (boring) around here. SueAnn is getting ready for retirement as she has officially retired again.

New Year’s was just another night. I tried to watch Dick Clarke’s New Year’s Eve but I just couldn’t do it. There were performers from all the different food groups and I couldn’t help but think that poor Dick was rolling over in his grave.

My two grandsons stayed up for the first time to watch the ball at Times Square drop. Johnny (the ten year old) explained to me the weight and size of the ball which he thought was not as big as it looked. Nico said he had and orange juice toast and was in bed by 12:01. He wasn’t impressed with the music either.

So now it’s the new year, 2023. It’s funny but you never hear anyone say I’ll miss last year. Everyone at Church this morning was thanking God for the end of 2022 and can’t wait for the new year. Getting back to my “everything changes and everything stays the same” philosophy, I just don’t see it. Every year is every year. There is good and bad. You can count the great things that happen in a year and then match the terrible things that happened in the same year. It all balances out in the end.

Each year we are faced with losses of loved ones, disappointments in our lives and failures and heartaches. Each year we are also faced with happiness, success stories and new beginnings. The ball dropping in a field of crazy people doesn’t wash away all the bad things in the world and create the new year of euphoria.

I’m not that old but I can’t decide this is going to be a good year or a bad year. I like to take things a day at a time. Plan for the worst and prepare for the best( a paraphrase from a Maya Angelou quote). Every day (not every year) is a new beginning. A time to move forward and try to make each day count. Don’t harp on the failures of the past. Let the failures go and make the present time count as you prepare for the future. Never forget the past, just build on it and move forward.

As usual, I have made no new year’s resolutions. I told the two boys I would try to swear less and not be as grumpy. Trying to change the stripes on a zebra at this point is probably not in the cards but we have to have some hope.

Johnny told me I should lose weight and Nico told be he likes my fat belly. So again, no resolutions as everything changes and everything stays the same.

I will just try to take each day as it comes. Until we all meet again.