

Dreams

by Phillip W. Weiss

People do have dreams and often the realization of their dreams is a long shot, just like playing the lottery, but occasionally dreams do come true, for good or for bad, just like winning the lottery. It's a gamble. Having dreams is important because with dreams there is hope and hope provides a reason to live. Just because dreams may not come true doesn't make having them any less valid or important. Whether or not your dreams actually come true is not important. Rather, what is important is that you are pursuing your dreams, that you're in the race, that you are participating, and that therefore you have a chance to succeed, to make your dreams happen, even if the odds are stacked way against you. Being in the race does not guarantee that you will win, but not being in the race will categorically guarantee that you will lose, meaning that your dreams will never become a reality.

There are many examples of people who have realized their dreams. Here are some:

Lady Gaga - born in NYC; attended NYU; today one of the most famous and wealthiest recording artists in the world.

Colin Powell - born in Harlem, raised in the Bronx, graduated from CCNY; became an Army four-star general, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and U.S. Secretary of State.

Abraham Lincoln - his career is legendary; today he is a cultural icon.

Eminem - a high school drop out from Detroit, MI; today one of the most successful performing artists in the world.

Andrew Carnegie - an immigrant from Scotland; began his career as a factory worker; founded the U.S. Steel Corporation.

Barbra Streisand - born in Brooklyn, NY; attended public school; today a living legend.

Jack L. Warner - born in Canada; along with his brothers founded a legendary movie company which today still bears their name.

Ronald Reagan - born and raised in Illinois; sports announcer; Hollywood actor; became President of the United States.

Barack Obama –African-American; born in Hawaii; lived in Indonesia; became President of the United States.

Steven Jobs - father was an immigrant from Syria; adopted at an early age; a college drop-out; founded Apple Computer.

Nikita Khrushchev - parents were peasants; was a factory worker; became leader of the Soviet Union.

Arthur Miller - born in Harlem, NY; grew up in Brooklyn; attended the University of Michigan; became one of the most famous playwrights in history; was married to the legendary Marilyn Monroe.

Sandy Koufax - born and raised in Brooklyn, NY; became one of the greatest baseball pitchers in history; his career is legendary.

Mike Piazza - born and raised in Pennsylvania; 1,390th player selected in the 1988 MLB amateur draft; today is considered one of the greatest catchers in history; married a Playboy Playmate.

They had their dreams and against all odds their dreams came true. Their lives are incontrovertible proof that sometimes dreams do come true.