

More Words of Wisdom – 2017

by Phillip W. Weiss

Don't confuse performing a public function with actual work.

A functionary is not the same as a worker.

A public service union is not the same as a trade union.

The capitalist model does not apply to government.

All news is fake until proven otherwise.

Freedom of speech also includes the right to tell lies.

Never place limits on freedom of speech.

Freedom of speech – the ultimate guard against tyranny.

Freedom of speech can be messy.

The more controversy, the greater the flow of ideas.

All forms of speech must be protected.

No one has the moral right to control the flow of ideas.

Know your sources.

Mislead the people at your own peril.

Labor is the source of all wealth.

Capital is a derivative of labor.

If you want something done, pay for it.

Never expect someone to do something for nothing.

Service is at a price.

The more you can pay, the more you will be served.

It is no shame to perform a service for money.

Moral obligation is the luxury of the wealthy.

Economic dependence is a form of slavery.

Real property is a function of power, not right.

The goal of the landlord is to collect rent.

A landlord is not a friend.

All personal relationships are power struggles.

If an inanimate thing can become a love object, then what does that say about love?

The concept of love has been reduced to a cliché.

Our understanding of love is shaped by the mass entertainment media.

News reporting is a form of entertainment.

It is more than coincidental that television news anchors look like movie actors.

There are so many unsung heroes.

It's amazing that people survive.

The resiliency of people is truly astounding.

Never take anyone for granted.

Government workers produce nothing.

Communism failed because it produced no wealth.

Power from the top means misery at the bottom.

The street is where it's at.

Are the rules really the same for all of us?

Defiance is a form of expression.

To expect the police to be compassionate is to misunderstand their real purpose.

Be cognizant of the fact that the police are vested with real power.

It is prudent to be a friend of the police.

When criticizing the police, ask yourself: what would we do without them?

There are really seriously maladjusted people living amongst us.

For the criminal, rule breaking is normal, natural and rational.

Violating the law is a political act.

All criminal activity has a political component.

For the criminal, social rules do not apply.

Any crime can be rationalized.

Did not the Nazis believe that the Holocaust was just?

Watching sports is not the same as playing sports.

Why pay money to watch others having fun?

How can one explain talent?

Talent cannot be taught.

Talent is something special.

Beware of the complainer.

Second guessing is a function of contempt.

Two friends can harbor mutual hatred.

There's no such thing as a love-hate relationship.

Hatred is a function of unrequited love.

Flee the person who is preaching love.

Always consider ulterior motives.

Wisdom has nothing to do with education.

It's often hard to avoid wishful thinking.

Tell your story but don't expect others to understand it.

The playwright writes alone.

Talk is a form of noise.

Words can never fully convey feelings.

Feelings are real.

Despite our limitations, we accomplish truly great things.

When we want to, we can be great.

Growing up comes with loss of innocence.

What parent doesn't want the best for his or her child?

Things are so expensive yet spending goes on and on.

Try not to delude yourself.

Social conventions are a function of social control.

Life is more than just a series of formulas.

For some, social conditioning fails.

Who says you have to be happy?

Be wary of people who blame others for their anger.

Anger comes from within.

A hero one moment, a bum the next.

One photograph can tell an entire story.

Life is a play with a constantly unfolding script.

Life is a work in progress.

Each one of us travel our own unique path.

Old age is like mildew, once it takes root you can't get rid of it.

Age is not just a number.

There is nothing that can be done to reverse aging.

You can run from reality, but you can't hide from it.

What is, is.

The real function of mass media is to indoctrinate.

Who will remember us when we are gone?

All living creatures have feelings.

Never take a tree for granted.

The moment we are born we forfeit our privacy.

Privacy not only does not exist, it is an impossibility.

What good is an open book if pages are missing?

An open book can be empty inside.

A craving for sex will pass.

Burnt food produces an awful smell.

There are few activities more mind numbing than the classroom lecture.

Actually believing that you are knowledgeable is laughable.

Just because someone says something doesn't mean you have to listen.

Disagreeing can be disagreeable.

If you want it, pay for it.

Saber rattling without the saber is pathetic.

To mislead is to deceive.

The term win-win is an oxymoron.

In any contest there can only be one winner.

Defying the odds is so sweet.

The complainer wishes to be heard.

A complaint is a call for attention.

Complaining is not the same as acting.

Complaining is a waste of energy.

Don't complain, act.

Crime is a function of failed socialization.

Psychopathology comes in many forms.

The criminal mind is a warped mind.

Without socialization, civil society is not possible.

Even animals have rules of conduct.

A criminal feels no remorse.

For the sociopath, maladaptive behavior is normal.

Do what you say you are going to do.

Bad-faith leads to many problems.

Acknowledge good work.

Resentments keep piling up.

If you confronted your true self, what would you see?

Half of what we say is misunderstood; the other half is soon forgotten.

Making money is what it is about.

Money – the only objective measure of success.

It is natural to hate work.

What incentive is there for a worker to work hard?

People are sold bills of good every day.

Never underestimate the power of a well-stated lie.

True happiness is a literary construct.

Movies are an optical illusion.

Movies hypnotize.

Movies manipulate the mind.

Movies are seductive.

Every person is an actor.

Don't judge a book by its cover; likewise, don't judge person by their looks.

Human relations are a function of power.

Power is predicated on coercion.

Nobody likes to be bossed.

Nobody asked to be born.

If you have a weapon, eventually you will use it.

Everything has a beginning and an end, except eternity.

Compared to eternity, what's a billion years?

If death is not final, then why the need for cemeteries?

The body dies, but the spirit moves on.

There is a life force.

A parent rejecting a child is unnatural.

The sex drive is the strongest drive of all.

You never really know the other person.

People are both resilient and fragile.

The human personality is strong but brittle.

It takes strength to get through the day.

Don't take breathing for granted.

If you are going to attack, then attack.

Once plans are set in motion, anything can happen.

Most people try to do the best they can.

You can care for someone else just so much.

There is a limit to selflessness.

The priest has an agenda too.

If you like a certain sport, then play it.

If you want to write, then write.

If you have something to say, say it.

Give unto others, but ask for a receipt.

Generosity is quickly forgotten.

Why be a spectator when you can be a player?

Rolling dice always make noise.

Talent and intelligence are not the same thing.

Talent is not inherited.

A stupid smile can get you through the day.

Stupidity is often a sham.

Feigning stupidity is a survival tactic.

No one feels threatened by a stupid person.

A good politician will promise anything.

Dirty politics is just another term for politics as usual.

The customer is not always right.

Before you get into a fight, know who you are fighting.

When is politics not dirty?

Even memories change.

It's okay to cry.

It's okay to laugh.

Loud talk is like loud music, nothing but noise.

Real power is quiet.

Thievery comes in many forms.

Either do the job or leave.

Testing is a function of lack of trust.

To be tested is demeaning.

If you want to be in a club, form your own.

We all need each other.

Keep your religion, or lack of, to yourself.

Music to you, noise to me.

Without pastrami, what is there?

A man, a woman, and a pastrami sandwich – the logarithm of life.

To know me, you must know pastrami.

The pastrami high - the sweetest feeling in the world.

To live without pastrami is not to have lived at all.

Say what you want about me, but don't insult my pastrami.

Salami is wonderful, but the pastrami is supreme.

Salami versus pastrami – the eternal struggle.

How dare you not eat pastrami?

To make a friend, serve a pastrami sandwich.

Pastrami without mustard is a gastronomic insult.

Outcome cannot be controlled.

First do it.

Recriminations are an exercise in futility.

You can't undo what's been done.

Good intentions do not guarantee good results.

Scenery to you, a home to someone else.

Have a pastrami sandwich then sleep like a baby.

A baby – the human in its natural state.

Mental illness - social controls superimposed on natural urges gone awry.

When it's time, it's time.

Today me, tomorrow you.

Why worry? – easier said than done.

Concern is not the same as worry.

Beware of the politician bearing promises.

Life – drudgery and chores interspersed with moments of pleasure.

Never take breathing for granted.

Inhalation is not the same as exhalation.

The futility of it all.

Beware of the person who speaks in riddles.

Speak plainly, not in riddles.

There are two universal languages – pleasure and pain.

The actor is not the same as the character being played.

Animals have integrity.

To denigrate an animal is a crime.

Nature is supreme.

To seriously try to control nature is a folly.

Climate change – isn't that part of nature?

Even mountains disappear.

The beauty of nature belies its lethal power.

When pondering about life, look up to the moon.

We are but a speck.

Do not count yourself out.

Winner today, loser tomorrow.

It's easy to outsmart yourself.

Whose love have you earned?

What makes you so special?

Flee from those who preach religious slogans.

Do not confuse religion with spirituality.

Every crime has a motive.

By age five a human personality is formed.

Animals are not people.

Before the bite comes the bark.

Man's best friend can also bite.

Ferocity and tenderness are not mutually exclusive.

Mutual aid may not be so mutual.

The difference between a gang and a military alliance is only a matter of degree.

A terrorist to some, a hero to others.

A grievance to one, a whine to another.

Beautiful to one, ugly to another.

Stupid to one, smart to another.

If age did not matter, we would not be counting the years.

Old to one, young to another.

Everything is relative, except infinity and eternity.

What is eternity?

Finite versus infinite.

Is a zero a number?

Is not nothing also something?

Unconditional acts of kindness are rare.

Implied in a service providing is reciprocity.

Infinity and eternity are not the same.

Infinity is linear; eternity all-encompassing.

Losing faith is the ultimate religious experience.

Do not underestimate the power of prayer.

True prayer requires no priest.

Trust in God.

All will be revealed.

Alcohol is not the answer.

Getting high is not the same as getting smart.

Insights are never cloudy.

Drugs blunt acuity of thought.

Creativity is inspirational, not drug induced.

Drug abuse is just that – abuse.

No right thinking person can defend drug abuse.

Narcotics ease pain, but not the cause of the pain.

So much drug abuse, so many people in pain.

Nicotine and alcohol are drugs.

The sale of cigarettes and alcohol products is legalized drug pushing.

The drug pusher has no conscience.

If drugs are so bad, then why are they so popular?

Whores, drugs, booze, cigarettes – expensive habits.

Pay for it, own it.

The devil is seductive.

Addictions are insidious.

Emotional dependence is a form of addiction.

Everyone has their props.

Going about your business is a sham.

There is no escape.

We live for the moment.

Life is incremental.

Life is unpredictable.

Learn about life – visit a cemetery.

Many acquaintances, few friends.

The human condition is far from perfect.

Who cares about you?

Eventually we all have to grow up.

When feeling down, sing a song.

Stop your grandstanding.

The real heroes are silent.

So much phoniness.

The city is esthetically ugly yet strangely magnificent.

What starts as new soon becomes old and worn.

Recycling is part of nature.

No commodity lasts forever.

We all need each other.

Is there anything more vacuous than being a tourist?

Sightseeing is a joke.

Instead of looking at things, look at yourself.

Travel is a form of escape from self.

A truly happy person has no need to travel.

What is home to you is scenery to someone else.

The more it is advertised, the less it is worth.

Package it right, and people will visit a garbage dump.

The existence of street people is a fact.

There are subcultures that defy understanding.

Judge not what you do not understand.

Seek not what you really do not want.

Have not what you cannot possess.

Dependence comes at a price.

No matter what happens, the nation-state still survives.

Nationalism is stronger than ever.

Communication does not necessarily mean cooperation.

Sports are a diversion.

The mass media spews out propaganda.

The media sets the agenda.

Those who control the media have real power.

The people demand games.

Technologies change; people stay the same.

When people cooperate, the possibilities are endless.

Fame and fortune are the goals of the game.

Materialism drives modern society.

Social structures change; its principles remain constant.

The ruler and the ruled.

Democratic values is a Western construct.

Imperialism takes different forms.

Gunboat diplomacy is alive and well.

Beware of the person who claims to want to be friends with everyone.

Be selective of your friends, even more so with your enemies.

Woe to the man who abuses women.

When the jig is up, it is time to move on.

Sometimes you just cannot ignore the writing on the wall.

When it is time to leave, do it quickly and with no fanfare.

Please do not stop to explain.

Explanations are so self-serving.

Just let it be.

Time is relentless.

How the mighty do fall.

The world is bigger than any one person.

Do not underestimate the power of stupidity.

It is amazing that people survive childhood.

Do not confuse imagery with substance.

Ignore your fears at your own peril.

It is normal, and in fact essential, to feel fear.

Fear is a survival mechanism.

There is a cultural bias that devalues fear.

It is a rare person that willingly becomes a hero.

Do not spread yourself thin.

One task at a time.

When assigned a project, consider its parts.

Impugn actions, not motives.

Even a compliment can be an insult.

It is so easy to offend.

Sometimes it is best to remain silent.

The quickest way to dull a mind is to listen to a sermon.

The canons of faith are a human construct.

Prayers are but words to those who lack faith.

There is a higher power.

The sun, the moon and the stars are more than mere coincidence.

Shun the person who demands proof of a higher power.

People do so many rotten things; yet they also create works of beauty.

You laugh while I cry.

To learn your destiny, go to the cemetery.

Who hasn't played the fool?

You are important, but other people are important too.

To be ignored is a bitter pill.

Everyone wants to be loved.

If you think you have friends, think again.

A buddy is not the same as a friend.

A firm handshake can bruise your hand.

Beware of a lady who prefers to shake hands.

A beautiful woman will be beautiful in rags.

Gender roles are social constructs.

When it comes to gender, there are only two choices: male or female.

Who has the right to define someone's identity?

Let people come to you.

When opportunity knocks, open the door.

Make it happen.

Ideas are a dime a dozen; it is action that counts.

Take charge and see what happens.

Proving that you are right is better than proving that someone else is wrong.

Right and wrong are relative terms.

In the study of people, you can never factor in all the variables.

Without logic, there can be no math.

The numbers speak for themselves.

How wide is a straight line?

How deep is a plane?

How round is a circle?

Keep your concepts simple.

Do not be wordy.

Make it short and to the point.

Do not sermonize.

Do your job.

You are worthy of respect.

Be kind to children.

Spare the rod.

Hope for the best.

Enjoy it while you can.

Do not take it for granted.

If you care, show it.

Before you reach out, reach in.

Save yourself first.

Do not be smug.

The future has not yet happened.

Do not predict the future based on the past.

The present is but a moment.

The future becomes the past.

One hundred years from now none of us will be alive.

Nostalgia is a form of self-deception.

When we were young.

If you live long enough you will become old.

Heroes change with time.

We need heroes.

In life, there is both chaos and ritual.

Hold a baby; watch it grow.

The nature of existence is a riddle.

Why are we here?

There is a life force.

Some occurrences defy rational explanation.

It is okay to pray.

So much waste of human talent.

Shelter and home are not necessarily synonymous terms.

Social sciences fail to factor in the subjective nature of human beings.

Social interactions defy scientific analysis.

Calling social sciences scientific is pretentious.

Crises change; reactions stay the same.

The study of human behavior is at most descriptive.

Explanations about human behavior are invariably self-serving.

Human behavior is unpredictable.

You are never too old to make a mistake.

Access to knowledge should be universal.

You can live in filth and thrive.

Cleanliness and life are mutually exclusive.

Life produces waste.

Life by nature is messy.

Divine mercy is an act reserved only for the divine.

Only the divine can dispense divine mercy.

It is enough just to be nice to others.

A small child is dying: where is the justice in that?

The only person who cares about me is me.

We are each our own philosopher.

Nobody has a monopoly on knowledge.

Without food, there can be no civilization.

Civilization is a veneer.

All “isms” are distortions.

Death of one person, murder; death of millions, politics.

Democracy is controlled anarchy.

Politicians speak in platitudes.

The best politicians have the best platitudes.

Cultural diversity is a reality.

Diversity and unity are mutually exclusive concepts.

Diversity implies conflict.

People of like cultures tend to band together.

All literature is political.

History is a story of competing cultures.

Equal opportunity does not mean equal outcome.

Race and culture are not necessarily inclusive terms.

Geography is critical in shaping human life.

The messier the political process, the better it is working.

Woe to a people who forfeit their civil liberties.

Woe to a nation whose government wields unrestrained power.

Checks and balances are more than a slogan.

The spiritual is as important as the material.

The role of religion in society cannot be overstated.

The church is like an insurance policy – it is there if you need it.

No one is without a spirit.

