

Kim's Wisdom

Preface:

Kimberly Sue is my eldest daughter. At age 30, she was killed by a drunk driver. In her business life she was a lot like me, only better, a lot better. We shared the love of Desiderata. After her death, I found a decoupage plaque of it in her apartment. Both of us used a Franklin Planner to organize and schedule our activities (ok ok we were both addicted to it). In her desk and in her Franklin Planner I found the wisdom in this post. The last paragraph under Kimberly Sue's Wisdom is engraved on the back of her headstone. I hold those words close to my heart everyday.

The Wisdom of Kimberly Sue Stratton

August 11, 1969 - June 15, 2000

DESIDERATA

Go Placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence as far a possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life Keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

Max Ehrmann

Kimberly Sue's Wisdom

May today there be peace within

May you trust your highest power that you
are exactly where you are meant to be

May you not forget the infinite possibilities
that are born of faith

May you use those gifts that you have
received, and pass on the love that has
been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child
of God. Let this presence settle into your
bones, and allow your soul the freedom to
sing, dance, and to bask in the sun. It is
there for each and every one of you.

Believe in Your Heart

Believe in your heart that something wonderful is about to happen. Love your life
Believe in your own powers, and your own potential, and in your own innate goodness.
Wake ever morning with the awe of just being alive.
Discover each day the magnificent, awesome beauty in the world.
Explore and embrace life in yourself and in everyone you see each day.
Reach within to find your own specialness.
Amaze yourself and rouse those around you to the potential of each new day.
Don't be afraid to admit that you are less than perfect; this is the essence of your humanity.
Let those who love you help you. Trust enough to be able to take.
Look with hope to the horizon of today, for today is all we truly have.
Live this day well. Let a little sun out as well as in. Create you own rainbows.
Be open to all your possibilities; all possibilities and Miracles.
Always believe in Miracles!

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To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.
To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.
To reach out for another is to risk involvement.
To expose feeling is to risk exposing your true self.
To place your ideas, your dreams, before a crowd is to risk their loss.
To love is to risk not being loved in return.
To live is to risk dying.
To hope is to risk despair.
To try is to risk failure.
But risks must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.
The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, and is nothing.
They may avoid suffering and sorrow,
but they cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love, live.
Chained by their attitudes, they are a slave,
they have forfeited their freedom.
Only a person who risks is truly free.

Author unknown

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIFE

1. Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.
2. Memorize your favorite poem.
3. Don't believe all you hear, spend all you have, or sleep all you want.
4. When you say, "I love you", mean it.
5. When you say, "I'm sorry", look the person in the eye.
6. Be engaged at least six months before you get married.
7. Believe in love at first sight.
8. Never laugh at anyone's dreams.
9. Love deeply and passionately. You might get hurt but it's the only way to live life completely.
10. In disagreements, fight fairly. No name calling.
11. Don't judge people by their relatives.
12. Talk slowly but think quickly.
13. When someone asks you a question you don't want to answer, smile and ask, "Why do you want to know?"
14. Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
15. Call your mom.
16. Say "bless you" when you hear someone sneeze.
17. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
18. Remember the 3 R's: Respect for self; Respect for others; Responsibility for all your actions.
19. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
20. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps.
21. Smile when picking up the phone. The caller will hear it in your voice.
22. Marry a man/women you love to talk to. As you get older, their conversational skills will be as important as any other.
23. Spend some time alone.
24. Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.
25. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
26. Read more books and watch less TV.
27. Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll get to enjoy it a second time.
28. Trust in God but lock your car.
29. A loving atmosphere in your home is so important. Do all you can to create a tranquil harmonious home.
30. In disagreements with loved ones, deal with the current situation. Don't bring up the past.
31. Read between the lines.
32. Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality.
33. Be gentle with the earth.
34. Pray, There's immeasurable power in it.
35. Never interrupt when you are being flattered.
36. Mind your own business.
37. Don't trust a man/woman who doesn't close their eyes when you kiss.
38. Once a year, go someplace you've never been before.
39. If you make a lot of money, put it to use helping others while you are living. That is wealth's greatest satisfaction.
40. Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a stroke of luck.
41. Learn the rules then break some.

42. Remember that the best relationship is one where your love for each other is greater than your need for each other.
43. Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.
44. Remember that your character is your destiny.
45. Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD HAVE

1. One old boyfriend you can imagine going back to and one who reminds you of how far you've come.
2. Enough money within your control to move out and rent a place of your own, even if you never want or need to.
3. Something perfect to wear if the employer or man of your dreams wants to see you in an hour.
4. A purse, a suitcase, and an umbrella you're not ashamed to be seen carrying.
5. A youth you're content to move beyond.
6. A past juicy enough that you're looking forward to retelling it in your old age.
7. A realization that you are actually going to have an old age and some money set aside to help fund it.
8. A set of screwdrivers, a cordless drill, and a black lace bra.
9. One friend who makes you laugh and one who makes you cry.
10. A good piece of furniture not previously owned by anyone else in your family.
11. Eight matching plates, wineglasses with stems and a recipe for a meal that will make your guests feel honored.
12. A resume that is not even the slightest bit padded.
13. A feeling of control over your destiny.
14. A skin care regime, an exercise routine, and a plan for dealing with those other facets of life that don't get any better after.
15. A solid start on a satisfying career, a satisfying relationship and all those other facets of life that do get better.

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW:

1. How to fall in love without losing yourself.
2. How to feel about having kids.
3. How to quit a job, break up with a man, and confront a friend without ruining the friendship.
4. When to try harder and when to walk away.
5. How to kiss a man in a way that communicates perfectly what you would and wouldn't like to happen next.
6. How to have a good time at a party you'd never choose to attend.
7. How to ask for what you want in a way that makes it most likely you'll get it.
8. That you can't change the length of your calves, the width of your hips or the nature of your parents.
9. That your childhood may not have been perfect, but it's over.
10. What you would and wouldn't do for love or more.
11. How to live alone, even if you don't like it.
12. Who you can trust, who you can't, and why you shouldn't take it personally.
13. Where to go - be it your best friend's kitchen table or a charming inn hidden in the woods - when your soul needs soothing.
14. What you can and can't accomplish in a day, a month, a year.
15. Why they say live begins at 30!

In three words I can sum up everything

I've learned about life: It goes on.

— Robert Frost

“Our goal is to discover
that we have always been
where we ought to be.”

— Huxley

Good judgement comes from experience.

Experience comes from bad judgement.

— Mark Twain

STRATTON'S ADVICE-SECTION 6

Stratton's Advice for Life's Journey-Section 6

I'm not an expert but I am experienced.

From listening comes knowledge, From speaking comes repentance.

Discovery consists of seeing what everybody else has seen and thinking what nobody else has thought.

Albert Szent Gyorgy

If I don't ask “Why me” after my victories, I cannot ask “Why me” after my setbacks and disasters.

Arthur Ashe

“I will not put my name on a product that does not have in it the best that is in me.”

John Deere

Don't lock yourself in a room with open doors.

When you think your a person of some authority, try ordering around another persons dog!

You can't tell the depth of the well by the handle on the pump.

Dare to fail.

Better 0 for 20 than 0 for 0.

When you come to a fork in the road, take it.

Yogi Berra

WHO IS A SUCCESSFUL PERSON?

(The most successful person I have known in Grandma Maxine)

A person who lives well, laughs often, and loves all mankind;

Who gains respect of intelligent men and women and the love of little children;

Who fills one's niche, does one's work well, and makes the corner of the earth where

God has placed him or her a better place than it was before;
One who feels the flow of beauty in all life and never fails to voice praise for it,
Who always sees the best in other people, and lets them know it.
One whose life is an inspiration to all.
This is a successful person.

Success is not forever, and failure isn't fatal.
Don Schula's favorite saying

Excellence is never having learned enough.
Excellence is the gradual result of always wanting to do better.
Pat Riley in the book "The Winner Within"

When one door closes, another opens, but we often look so long and regretfully upon the closed door, we do not see the ones which open for us.
Alexander Graham Bell

To accept his lot and be happy in his work...this is a gift of God. He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart.
Ecclesiastes 5:19-20 NIV

The hours which I have spent alone with Mr. Edison have brought me the real big returns of my life: to it I attribute all I have accomplished.
Thomas Edison, American Inventor (Another of my favorite sayings)

If you have ever made any valuable discoveries, it has been owing more to patient attention, than to any other talent.
Isaac Newton

Fear knocked at the door
Faith answered
No one was there
Author Unknown

Our goal is to discover
that we have always been
where we ought to be.
Huxley

Good judgement comes from experience
Experience comes from bad judgement
Mark Twain

STRATTON'S ADVICE-SECTION 5

STRATTON'S ADVICE FOR LIFE'S JOURNEY-SECTION 5

When you think the world can't do without you, put your hand in a bucket of water; pull it out and measure the size of the hole.

Don't apologize for success. As Dizzy Dean said, "Pardner, It ain't braggin' if you can back it up."

To learn more; say I don't know, I don't understand, help me.

Always carry a pen and note paper. Great ideas come out of the clear blue. Write them down.

Don't make decisions until you have to, but make a decision when you have to.

Be a good example, you never know who might be watching and be encouraged.

Better to try and fail than to never have tired.

Be observant. See what is going on around you.

The calm of being in the right place and knowing it comes naturally to some and must be learned by others.

From Lake Wobegon

It takes three things to be truly happy

Someone to love

Something to hope for

Something to do

Make a list of things to study in the Bible.

Keep a copy of the Lutheran Book of Worship in your library. Read the sections you don't ordinarily use on Sundays.

Don't sail out further than you can row back.

Danish Proverb

We are what we train ourselves to be.

A handful of patience is worth a bushel of brains.

It's not how fast you go but how well you go fast.

The dullest pencil is better than the sharpest mind.

If it isn't written down, it never happened.

Risk not thy whole wad.

There is more nobility in being a good Hun than in being a poor chieftain.

(From the book, Leadership Secrets of Attila the Hun)

Every Hun is responsible for shaping his life's circumstances and experiences into success, (no one else) can do for a Hun what he neglects to do for himself.

(From the book, Leadership Secrets of Attila the Hun)

Old minds are like old horses; you must exercise them if wish to keep them in working order.

John Quincy Adams

I never give them hell; I just tell them the truth and they think it is hell.

Harry S. Truman

Energy and persistence conquer all things.

Ben Franklin

Do not fear the winds of adversity. Remember: A kite rises against the wind rather than with it.

The speed of the leader determines the rate of the pack.

The race is not always to the swift...but to those who keep on running.

Some people dream of worthy accomplishments while others stay awake and do them.

PERSISTENCE...

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

Calvin Coolidge

SCANDINAVIAN WISDOM

The trouble with doing nothing is that you can't stop to rest

It doesn't matter who is wearing the pants in the family as long as there is money in the pockets

Never lay in bed at night asking questions you can't answer

No one is ever old enough to know better

You can't out think a man who isn't thinking

Some people are like blisters. They don't show up until all the work is done

Before you give someone a piece of your mind, make sure you can spare it.

A Scandinavian's heart is proportionally as soft as his mind is stubborn

"WHAT IT TAKES TO BE NUMBER ONE" (Excerpt from speech by Vince Lombardi)

"Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all-the-time thing. You don't win once in a while, you don't do things right once in a while, you do them right all the time. Winning is a habit. Unfortunately, so is losing"

"It's a reality of life that men are competitive and the most competitive games draw the most competitive men. That's why they're there—to compete. They know the rules and the objectives when they get in the game. The objective is to win — fairly, squarely, decently, by the rules — but to win."

"And the truth, I've never known a man worth his salt who in the long run, deep down in his heart, didn't appreciate the grind, the discipline. There is something in good men that really yearns for,

needs, discipline and the harsh reality of head-to-head combat.”

” I don’t say these things because I believe in the ‘brute’ nature of man or that men must be brutalized to be combative. I believe in God, and I believe in human decency. But I firmly believe that any man’s finest hour — his greatest fulfillment to all he holds dear — is that moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle — victorious.”

STRATTON’S ADVICE-SECTION 4

STRATTON’S ADVICE FOR LIFE’S JOURNEY-SECTION 4

Learn to cry to release your emotions.

Vote in all the elections.

Take the responsibility, don’t blame others.

Remember newspapers and magazines represent an opinion.

Demand excellence and be willing to pay for it.

Do a nice thing for someone who won’t know who did it.

Enjoy family and class reunions.

Relish the beauty of God’s earth.

Practice fire safety in everything you do.

Smoke detectors save lives, don’t stay home without one.

Have a will and a living will.

Study your family and ethnic heritage.

Buy the best quality tools you can afford.

Keep extra cash in your billfold and check book

Remember, Mother Nature doesn’t play fair. She can love you but she can also kill you.

Go to church and Sunday School and grow in your spiritual life.

Be on time and expect it of others.

Better an hour early than a minute late.

Never give up.

Be persistent.

Learn to be patient.

Everyone deserves a second chance.

Always read the fine print.

You are not a slave to the telephone.

Learn from mistakes and push onward.

Learn from the mistakes of others, you won't live long enough to make all of them yourself.

Don't discuss business or people in the restroom. You never know who is in the stalls.

Learn to hug.

Pay yourself and the church first.

Winning the war is more important than winning the battle.

Feed the birds.

Plant flowers.

Remember words and bullets can't be called back.

Support your local businesses.

Be kind to everyone on the way up because you may meet them on the way down.

Remember, nothing comes without risk. Learn to manage the risk.

Remember, nobody wins all the time, accept occasional losses.

Find some private time for yourself every week.

Sit up front, you paid to get in, get your moneys worth.

STRATTON'S ADVICE-SECTION 3

STRATTON'S ADVICE FOR LIFE'S JOURNEY-SECTION 3

Initiative is doing the right thing without being told.

Victor Hugo

Positive anything is better than negative nothing.

Elbert Hubbard

We've got a long way to go and a short time to get there.

Smokey and the Bandit

Ninety percent of the work done in this country is done by people who don't feel well.

Teddy Roosevelt

The road to success is always under construction.

Either we will find a way, or we will make one.

Nevada High School Class of '62

A man should know the limits of his reach.

Deadlines should be set with a calendar, not a stop watch.

Keep the desk clean.

Life is unfinishedness.

Stop using your right hand to do work your left hand should be doing.

What apart from the eternal clutter of my everyday living should be the essence of my life?

When you're through learning, you're through.

A person lost in his work has probably found his future.

Horse sense is stable thinking with the ability to say 'nay'.

Improvise, adapt, overcome. (from the movie Heartbreak Ridge)

Do what you can with what you got.

Understand that bad things do happen to good people.

Buy United States Savings Bonds.

Do something to help your community.

Take time off from your job.

Read books on subjects other than your profession.

Birds of a feather flock together and success builds success so surround yourself with successful people.

Learn how to ask good questions. Asking good questions is key to progressing in your profession.

Make use of every gift God gave you.

Accept people for what they are, not what you think they should be.

Join Jaycees and take all the leadership skills and public speaking courses they offer.

Read biographies of people you admire. Learn about their character and philosophy.

Learn something from everyone you meet.

Tip well, your mother was a waitress before we were married.

Collect a library of books in your home.

Cars are for transportation, not status.

Practice the Golden Rule

Plant at least one tree in your lifetime.

Accept compliments.

Control your temper.

STRATTON'S ADVICE-SECTION 2

STRATTON'S ADVICE FOR LIFE'S JOURNEY-SECTION 2

In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: It goes on.

Robert Frost (from this desk of Kimberly Sue Stratton, and how meaningful that has been)

We remember 90% of what we do, 75% of what we say, 50% of what we see, and 10% of what we hear.

Lost time is never found again.

John H. Aughey

The best way out of difficulty is usually through it.

Robert Frost

As you go through life you are going to have many opportunities to keep your mouth shut. Take advantage of all of them.

James Dent

Average is as close to the bottom as to the top.

Efficiency is doing the thing right, effectiveness is doing the right thing.

Remember that time is money.
Ben Franklin

Everything comes to him who hustles while he waits.
Thomas A. Edison (one of my favorite sayings)

Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first and the lesson afterwards.
Vernon Sanders Law

A man can fail many times but he isn't a failure until he gives up.

Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday.
Don Marquis

Always remember to live while you're making a living.
William Hewitt (Chairman: Deere and Co.)

If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen.
Harry S. Truman

Speed is fine but accuracy is final.
Bill Jordan (Fast draw pistol champion)

Failure is an event, not a person.

If there are no hills to climb, there is no progress.

Wisdom is the art of knowing what to overlook.
William James

Philosophy is common sense in a business suit.
Oliver S. Braston

The only people who never fail are those who never try.
Iiak Chase

Manage your minutes, and your hours will take care of themselves.
Day Timers

Business is like riding a bicycle—either you keep moving ahead or you fall down.

Courage is grace under pressure.
Ernest Hemingway

STRATTON'S ADVICE-SECTION 1

STRATTON'S ADVICE FOR LIFE'S JOURNEY - SECTION 1

Memorize and believe in the Jaycee Creed

THE JAYCEE CREED

We Believe:

That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;
That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations;
That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;
That government should be of laws rather than of men;
That earth's great treasure lies in human personality;
And that service to humanity is the best work of life.

I shall pass through this world but once,
If therefore there be any kindness I can show or any good thing I can do,
let me do it now.
Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

Region 3 Iowa Jaycees

Paul Jansen Memorial Award

For the want of a nail the shoe was lost,
For want of a shoe, the horse was lost,
For want of a horse, the rider was lost,
For want of a rider, the battle was lost,
For want of a battle, the kingdom was lost,
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.

From Poor Richard by Ben Franklin.

Quality is like buying oats.
If you want good, clean oats,
you must pay a fair price.
However, if you are satisfied
with oats that have already
been through the horse, well
they are a little cheaper.

From Salesman's Desk

Keith Motors, Hudson, IA

The way that you wander
is the way that you choose
The day that you tarry
is a day that you lose
Sunshine or thunder
a man will always wander
where the fair wind blows

Jeremiah Johnson

A Mountain Man

Fear knocked at the door
Faith answered
No one was there
Author Unknown

I not only use all the brains I have, but all I can borrow.
Woodrow Wilson

The more they overtake the plumbing, the easier it is to plug up the drain.
Scotty in Star Trek III

Luck is preparation meeting opportunity.

Education is the progressive discovery of our ignorance.
Will Durant

One person with a belief is equal to a force of 99 who have only an interest.
J. S. Mill

Education is what you have left over when you subtract what you've forgotten from what you learned.

A Story To Live By

Introduction:

This story was written by Ann Wells and came into my life when I was a member of a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing team in the 1990s. The CISD team helped firefighters, EMTs, law enforcement, dispatchers, and other emergency services people deal with the psychological trauma we experienced in our work. Serving on this team was a most satisfying experience. This story was written in 1985 and is about living in the present and not saving it for something special. It has been a reminder to me to live life today.

A STORY TO LIVE BY

My brother-in-law opened the bottom drawer of my sister's bureau and lifted out a tissue-wrapped package. "This," he said, "is not a slip. This is lingerie." He discarded the tissue and handed me the slip. It was exquisite; silk, handmade and trimmed with a cobweb of lace. The price tag with an astronomical figure on it was still attached. "Jan bought this the first time we went to New York, at

least 8 or 9 years ago. She never wore it. She was saving it for a special occasion. Well, I guess this is the occasion. " He took the slip from me and put it on the bed with the other clothes we were taking to the mortician. His hands lingered on the soft material for a moment, then he slammed the drawer shut and turned to me.

"Don't ever save anything for a special occasion. Every day you're alive is a special occasion."

I remembered those words through the funeral and the days that followed when I helped him and my niece attend to all the sad chores that follow an unexpected death. I thought about them on the plane returning to California from the Midwestern town where my sister's family lives. I thought about all the things that she hadn't seen or heard or done. I thought about the things that she had done without realizing that they were special.

I'm still thinking about his words, and they've changed my life.

I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm sitting on the deck and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. I'm spending more time with my family and friends and less time in committee meetings. Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experience to savor, not endure. I'm trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them.

I'm not "saving" anything; we use our good china and crystal for every special event-such as losing a pound, getting the sink unstopped, the first camellia blossom. I wear my good blazer to the market if I feel like it. My theory is if I look prosperous, I can shell out \$28.49 for one small bag of groceries without wincing. I'm not saving my good perfume for special parties; clerks in hardware stores and tellers in banks have noses that function as well as my party-going friends'.

"Someday" and "one of these days" are losing their grip on my vocabulary. If it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now. I'm not sure what my sister would have done had she known that she wouldn't be here for the tomorrow we all take for granted. I think she would have called family members and a few close friends. She might have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles. I like to think she would have gone out for a Chinese dinner, her favorite food. I'm guessing-I'll never know.

It's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew that my hours were limited. Angry because I put off seeing good friends whom I was going to get in touch with-someday. Angry because I hadn't written certain letters that I intended to write-one of these days. Angry and sorry that I didn't tell my husband and daughter often enough how much truly love them. I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives.

And every morning when I open my eyes, I tell myself that it is special. Every day, every minute, every breath truly is...a gift from God.

by Ann Wells : Los Angeles Times : 4/14/85

Goose Sense

Introduction:

Humans can learn a lot of things from the animals God created to inhabit this earth if we would just pause to watch and study them. This story came into my life when I was part of a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing team. The team helped emergency services people to deal with the psychological trauma that is part of their work. We flocked together to help each other recover from those traumatic calls.

Do We Have as Much Sense as a Goose?

Next Fall when you see geese heading south for the winter, flying along in a "V" formation, you might be interested in knowing what science has discovered about why they fly that way. It has been learned that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. (People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier, because they are traveling on the thrust of one another)

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front. (If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed in the same way we are going.) When the lead goose get tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies the point. (It pays to take turns doing the hard jobs-with people or geese flying south.) The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. (What do we say when we honk from behind?) Finally (now I want you to get this) when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshot and falls out, two geese fall out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it is either able to fly or until it is dead, and then they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their group. (If we have the sense of a goose we will stand by each other like that.)

Author Unknown