

Famous people are recognized for their inspiring lives. All of the rest of us can be equally successful in making the lives of those around us better, contributing to their happiness.

Carpe Diem: How to Live a Satisfying Life

By Michael E Pauszek

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CARPE DIEM

HOW TO LIVE
A SATISFYING LIFE



MICHAEL E PAUSZEK

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Print ISBN: 978-1-959622-46-8

Ebook ISBN: 979-8-88531-952-2

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Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Trenton, Georgia.

BookLocker.com, Inc.

2025

First Edition

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Pauszek, Michael E

Carpe Diem: How to Live Even a Satisfying Life by Michael
E Pauszek

Library of Congress Control Number: 2025900123

Chapter 1

Tu ne quaesieris (scire nefas) quem mihi, quem tibi
finem di dederint, Leuconoe, nec Babylonios
temptaris numeros. Ut melius quidquid erit pati!
Seu pluris hiemes seu tribuit Iuppiter ultimam,
quae nunc oppositis debilitat pumicibus mare
Tyrrhenum, sapias, vina liques et spatio brevi
spem longam reseces. Dum loquimur, fugerit invida
aetas: carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero.

Horace

Translation:

Don't ask (it's forbidden to know) what end the gods have
given me or you, Leuconoe.

Don't play with Babylonian numerology either.

How much better it is to endure whatever will be!

Whether Jupiter has allotted you many more winters or this
one,

which even now wears out the Tyrrhenian sea on the
opposing rocks, is the final one be wise,

be truthful, strain the wine, and scale back your long hopes
to a short period.

While we speak, envious time will have {already} fled:

seize the day, trusting as little as possible in the next day.

Horace

Quintus Horatius Flaccus, called Horace, was born in southern Italy in 65 BCE. His father had been brought to the area as a slave from Venus. He was freed, likely because of his innate abilities, and his son was born to a free man. Horace's father recognized his son's intellect and he spared no expense in educating the future poet. To ensure that education, they moved to Rome.

Following his father's death, Horace moved to Athens. There he enrolled in The Academy. The Academy was then dominated by Epicureans and Stoics. Though these philosophical approaches were vastly different, they both had an element of self absorption and personal "contentedness".

His first works, his Odes, were poorly received. Learning from his failure, he switched to verse. Epistles was his first book of verse and it demonstrated his acceptance of stoicism.

Over the last 2000 years, debate has raged as to the nature of Horace the author. Both Epicureanism and Stoicism philosophy are recognized in his works. He was self sustaining, self confident and self dependent. Despite his writing's popularity, he lived modestly. Horace's poem is a call to the reader to make the most of every day, to be constructive, to accomplish a worthwhile task. It is also a call for the reader to reflect with satisfaction on what has been done at the end of each day, to feel indulged. This poem reflects the same value as any other great and ambiguous

Carpe Diem

verse and is said to be as applicable to life decisions as those of the bible. Human life is full of ups and downs and inspiration for the moment can be drawn from this or any inspired verse.

The two words, *carpe diem*, have taken on their own existence since the poem was written. They have been the title of poems, a Spanish movie and quoted in another movie, *Dead Poets Society*. As will be chronicled hence, many lives seem to have adapted these words as an inspirational philosophy. Each chapter begins with a *carpe diem* poem.

Chapter 2

Labor

God thank you that I must toil
Days filled with pursuit
Pushing keys or breaking soli
Enjoying the challenge, watch it root

It's a blessing to labor
Sweating to pursue worthy cause
Creating and earning God's favor
Helping mankind gives thought pause

To give life order
Letting thought take shape
It is the joy of labor
Lifting from despair by the nape

Eugene Joseph Pauszek was born on July 8th 1930, the second son of two Polish immigrants who had emigrated to South Bend, Indiana a decade earlier. His father, Stanley, had come first, then during World War I, he had returned to Europe and served as a medic in the US army.

Poland as an independent country had not existed for one hundred years. It had been divided among Germany, Russia and the Austro-Hungarian empire. Stanley had left Poland, moving to Indiana. Like all legal immigrants of the

time, he was seeking a better life. Though much of his family still lived in the German occupied section of Poland, his roots were Polish, never German. He would never return there to fight for Germany.

But two million Poles were forced to serve in the German, Russian and Austro-Hungarian armies in WWI. Much of the eastern front fighting and death during WWI occurred in Polish territory with nearly 500,000 citizen deaths and one million citizens wounded. Allied victory led to Poland reunification after the war as an independent state.

More than one million Polish territory peoples, originally of German, Russian and Austrian origin, were displaced by the war and reunification, becoming the “displaced persons or DPs” of WWI. Though they survived the fighting, they were the real victims of the war. True refugees, after the war when Poland was reunited, they were wanted by no country. They were despised by the native Polish citizens and their homes were confiscated in the newly reunified state.

After the war, before returning to South Bend, Stanley went to Poland to see his family. There he was introduced by his sister, Helen, to Mary Prentkowski. There is no familial history or folktale of their meeting and neither Mary nor Stanley ever described their courtship. In truth, no one probably ever asked. They married and Mary returned with Stanley to South Bend. His siblings, Helen and Lawrence, stayed in northern Poland. Helen married a farmer. Mary’s brothers, William, Francis, Joseph, Stanley, John and Walter along with sister Bella and her widowed father eventually followed Mary and Stanley to South Bend.

Mary's family members worked in the factories that flourished in the post war period in northern Indiana. Stanley returned to house painting, participating in the post war housing boom. Bungalows were the most common home building style in the period after WWI.

Their first, Stanley junior, was born in 1924. By then the family had moved into their own bungalow on the west side of South Bend on a three acre plot. There Stanley and Mary spent the rest of their lives. Eugene followed six years after Stanley junior. Both Stanley junior and Eugene attended Woodrow Wilson school, a typical 12 year country school.

Their youth was interrupted by the Great Depression.

During the Depression the economy was crippled. Mary and Stanley, my grandparents, were fortunate not to lose their home as work was scarce. About a third of the national workforce was unemployed at the time. During my youth, on several occasions, my grandfather described how they survived. They had a large vegetable garden from which they canned. They raised chickens for eggs and meat. Once a year the extended family, which included some of Mary's siblings, bought a hog which they butchered and shared. All meat was preserved either by canning or salting then covering it with rendered lard. Nothing from the hog was wasted.

They were used to eating organ meats and entails from childhood in Poland. Even as they aged, I remember my grandparents still eating pig brains, pig stomach and pig feet. The pressure cooker was my paternal grandmother Mary's favorite cooking tool.

The Depression historically created hardship but such hardships were unfortunately familiar to them. It echoed back to their lives in rural Poland. They were used to living on brassica vegetables and undesirable animal by-products. In Poland they had dug peat and used it for cooking and heat. At least in Indiana they could get and use coal for home heating and had a cooking stove.

Poland, their country of origin's name, echoes my family roots. My grandparents were of peasant stock, living a life in Poland similar to American sharecroppers. They weren't slaves but their ancestors lived indentured lives. Never really free, their people before the war were under the economic control of one of the dozen magnate families. The Magnates owned all the land in the country. My grandparent's ancestors were not free to move or leave their magnate's land. Even the hovel in which our ancestors resided was magnate property. Their existence was untenable. They were called "the Polanie". The word translates as field or soil. They are the people of the soil. Poland was named for its tillers or workers of the soil. My grandparents knew how to endure. They brought an innate ability to survive and prosper with them to Indiana.

Any dream of higher education that Stanley junior might have had was interrupted by the Depression which began in 1929 when he was five. Its interruption was cemented by Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941 when uncle Stanley was 17. He completed the twelfth grade the next spring. After graduation from Woodrow Wilson school in May, 1942 he enlisted. He then served in the army in the Pacific theater.

Good with his hands and internal combustion engines, he worked primarily in the motor pool eventually rising to the rank of corporal.

Stanley junior, my paternal uncle, returned from World War II and married his high school sweetheart, Alice Chodzinski. They built a home on the east end of my paternal grandparent's three acre plot. Their house style was cape cod, which along with ranch, were typical in the post WWII era. They had one child, Dennis, born in 1949.

Uncle Stanley was a practical joker by nature. Little brother Eugene, my father, was the frequent victim. Both brothers recounted on several occasions how little brother Eugene once got even. Eugene knew his older brother loved chocolate. It was a real treat for the children of the depression. One day Eugene treated his older brother to some bitter chocolate, But it was really a chocolate flavored laxative. Over the years of my youth that humorous family story was shared.

Chapter 3

Gather ye rose-buds while ye may,
Old Time is still a-flying;
And this same flower that smiles today
Tomorrow will be dying.

The glorious lamp of heaven, the sun,
The higher he's a-getting,
The sooner will his race be run,
And nearer he's to setting.

That age is best which is the first,
When youth and blood are warmer;
But being spent, the worse, and worst
Times still succeed the former.

Then be not coy, but use your time,
And while ye may, go marry;
For having lost but once your prime,
You may forever tarry.

**Robert Herrick, "To The Virgins,
Make The Most of Time",
A carpe diem poem 1648**

John Adams

John Adams Jr. was the first U.S. vice president and second president of the U.S. serving in those capacities from 1789 to 1801. Thoughtful and well educated, he was relatively late in joining other American patriots. He initially believed that they were too radical. Intellectually similar to James Madison, he was more of a political philosopher than a politician. In response to the Stamp Act of 1765, he reluctantly wrote an anonymous essay describing the act as illegal because as British citizens, the colonists could not be taxed without their consent. In addition, he believed that the loss of that consent in the act denied them legal access to challenge the act in a trial by jury of their peers. As a result of its unpopularity, the act was ultimately repealed by the British Parliament.

In 1770, he was the defense attorney for the eight British soldiers involved in the "Boston Massacre". He did not personally support their military presence in Boston. But he did believe that as British citizens they had a right to legal counsel. Under his legal guidance, six were acquitted. The two that fired into the crowd were convicted of manslaughter. Though his role in their defense was not popular in Boston, it gained him notoriety and three months later he was appointed a delegate to the colony's legislature. The case launched his political career.

Over the next several years he remained politically active. He served in the First Continental Congresses and was on the committee with Jefferson that wrote the

Declaration of Independence. He then served as one of the continental Congress' ambassadors to France. Later, on returning to the colonies, he served in the Second Continental Congress where he was instrumental in writing the Constitution. He was elected first vice president of the new republic and served for Washington's two terms. He found the vice president's role to be largely ceremonial, insignificant and unsatisfying

He felt it was his duty to become President after Washington. Unfortunately his presidency was plagued by his personality. He was crippled by his stubbornness. As a measure of that stubbornness, he refused to enter into the political conflict created by the development of the two political parties.

Adams was an elitist, he ignored public opinion. Yet most historians believe that Adams' political decisions were correct. Despite his personality quirk, his legacy was one of sound leadership and the maintenance of peace in the period following the Revolutionary War when the new republic was very vulnerable.

Following his presidency John Adams wrote prolifically. Work included an autobiography and extensive correspondence. He rekindled his friendship with Jefferson which had become estranged during their public life. He spent the post presidency years near family on his farm in Quincy, Massachusetts. He died on the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Michael E Pauszek

John Adams was a driven man. He was driven by his parallel desires for personal achievement and the greater good. His was a life of carpe diem.

Carpe Diem

Memorable John Adams quotes:

Go on and improve in everything worthy

Defeat appears to me preferable to total inaction

To be good, and to do good, is all we have to do

Human nature with all its infirmities and deprivation is still capable of great things

Chapter 4

Life Storm

We look always for life's happiness rainbow
When life's trials darken our skies
But true gladness tastes life's storm
Giving joy to the color prism at its end

Winds of dissent rise
Clouds cast shadows forlorn
Thunder shakes at our very core
Lightning's arrows hit with tragedy

But the storm's front refreshes
Rain brings moisture, cooling sorrows
Weathering the storm
For happiness is sadness linked

Eugene was born in the heat of the summer, 1930. His cousin Vivian, born several months earlier in the winter of 1929/30, was kept warm in the heat of the kitchen oven. The drawer in which she was laid as a crib rested on the open door of the oven which was set on a low flame.

Across the road from my paternal grandparent's home was a gravel pit. It held an irresistible fascination for Eugene, nicknamed "Gene". Like many gravel pits, it was overgrown with brush and small trees making it a refuge of small game.

While in the Pacific during WWII, Stanley sent Gene the money to buy an air rifle. He bought an Ithica Pump, .177 caliber air rifle which he used to hunt in the gravel pit. He became quite a good shot and supplemented the family's war time diet with rabbit and squirrel. On the painted portion below the gun breech, he etched his nickname "poriky and the year 1946". It was a nickname he acquired at school though he had never been heavy.

Eugene also attended Woodrow Wilson school and graduated in 1948. His graduation class contained twenty-two students. Despite the small number in each grade level, the school had a football team. The team consisted of only 11 players and therefore they played both offense and defense. Eugene played center and used his short five foot seven inch frame to get under the larger opponents.

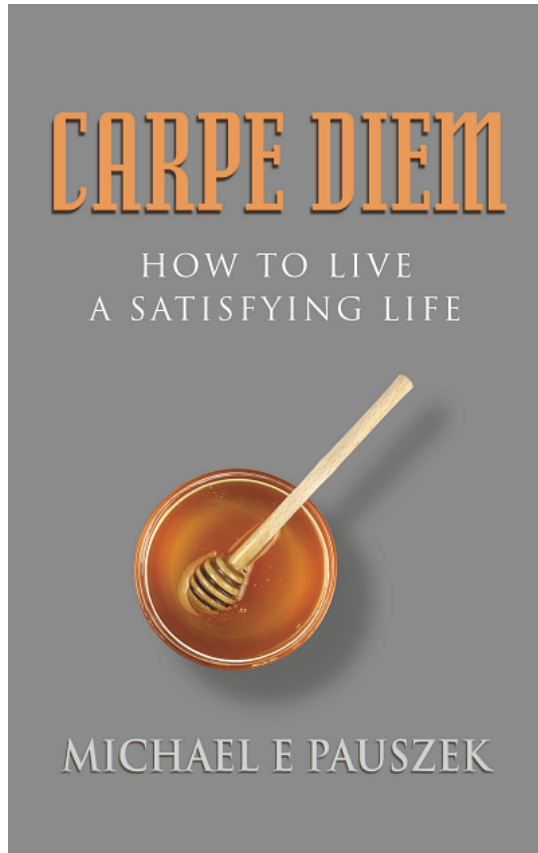
Like his older brother, Eugene was a product of the depression and shortages of WWII. There was no money or consideration for higher education. He shared with very few his wish to become a doctor. He never pursued any formal education. Instead, he joined his father and became a house painter after high school graduation. Over the next few years he rebuilt a Cushman scooter and helped provide for his family. A year after high school graduation he became an uncle when his nephew, Dennis, was born.

When brother Stanley returned from the war he went to work in the Studebaker factory. Studebaker initially made and sold wagons in the 1800s. In 1902 they produced their first horseless vehicle, it was electric. Studebaker gasoline vehicle production began in 1904. They provided motor

vehicles to the allies during WWI but not WWII. During the Depression they filed bankruptcy and thereafter remained chronically cash poor.

Stanley junior worked there until 1963 when Studebaker closed their South Bend plants and moved automobile manufacturing to Canada. Studebaker has begun using General Motors running gear and motors. Despite their cost, resource saving moves and change in parts, Studebaker's failure was inevitable. Their vehicles were dependable but Studebaker had no competitive edge. They were out-sold by both Chevrolet and Ford. An offshoot vehicle, the Avanti, survived briefly as a niche vehicle. No car corporation in the 1960's was rescued by the federal government. Shortly after the move to Canada, the Studebaker corporation diversified into other areas and car production stopped. Stanley junior, after losing his job, joined Stanley senior and Eugene in construction.

The loss of car manufacturing was devastating for South Bend. It only slowly recovered over the subsequent twenty years. This local recession had a widespread effect on the city's economy including the construction industry.



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