

# ROBIN WILLIAMS...WE'LL MISS YOU!

by  
*Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe*



*Syosset, New York*

RABBI EVAN MOFFIC wrote a piece titled, "The Jewish Genius of Robin Williams." The rabbi says, "Even though he was not Jewish, his comedy brims with the tones of traditional Jewish comedy...One of the great healing balms of Jewish life has been humor. It has helped us maintain perspective, seeing possibilities for joy amidst pain, for sweetness amidst the harshness of life."

Source: Oy! Chicago - An Online Community For Jews in the Loop

Show below are some "vunderlekh" (wonderful) quotes by the late Robin Williams:

1. "Never buy your 'gribbenies' from a mohel."  
(Also spelled, "grivines"--rendered chicken fat)
2. "krankayt" (disease)  
"You treat a disease, you win, you lose. You treat a person, I guarantee you, you'll win, no matter what the outcome." (Patch Adams)
3. "libe"/"libshaft" (love)  
"Real loss is only possible when you love something more than yourself." (Good Will Hunting)
4. "araynbrekher" (burglar)  
"We had gay burglars the other night. They broke in and rearranged the furniture."
5. "mies"/"mieskayt" (ugly)

“Never pick a fight with an ugly person, they’ve got nothing to lose.”

6. “gornit” (nothing)  
“Why do they call it rush hour when nothing moves?”
7. “kind” (child); “a kleyn kind” (a young child)”  
“Everyone has these two visions when they hold their child for the first time. The first is your child as an adult saying, ‘I want to thank the Nobel Committee for this award.’ The other is, ‘You want fries with that?’”
8. “perzenlekh” (personal)  
“Comedy can be a cathartic way to deal with personal trauma.”  
(Parade, 2013)
9. “mevaker khoyle zayn” (visiting the sick)  
The most powerful experience is visiting the wounded in hospitals. A friend of mine’s doing a program in San Francisco at a veterans’ hospital, getting them to do improv comedy as therapy. And it’s really helping.” (Parade, 2013)
10. “optimistish” (optimistic)  
“I was raised by a mother who was a Christian Scientist. I call her a Christian Dior Scientist.” She is basically optimistic, which is frightening sometimes. On the other hand, I was also raised by a father who was a veteran who had been blown across a bridge in a kamikaze attack and who was left to die. So he gave me one view and she gave me another, and between the two of them basically you function. And that’s how I lived. He was very much of a realist about his life. And she took the optimistic road where everything was wonderful and blueberries and happiness. And between the two of them they named me Carolina--no! They gave me both sides of the deal.” (The Hartford Courant)
11. “groyskayt” (greatness)  
“Some are born great. Some achieve greatness. Some get it as a graduation present.”
12. “aleyn” (alone)  
“The worst thing in life is to end up all alone. The worst thing in life

is to end up with people who make you feel alone.”

13. “friling” (Spring)  
“Spring is nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s party!’.”
14. “valyum” (Valium)  
“Cricket is baseball on Valium.”
15. “tish” (table)  
“Death is nature’s way of saying, ‘Your table is ready.’.”
16. “shtik” (piece)  
“The Statue of Liberty is no longer saying, ‘Give me your poor, your tired, your huddled masses.’ She’s got a baseball bat and yelling, ‘You want a piece of me?’.”
17. “mentshlek” (human)  
“We don’t read and write poetry because it’s cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. And a human race is filled with passion. And medicine, law, business, engineering--these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty, romance, love--these are what we stay alive for.”  
  
Note: The Yiddish-Hebrew poet, Khayim Nakhman Bialik wrote,  
“Reading poetry in translation is like kissing a bride through her veil.”
18. “goy” (gentile)  
“Gentiles are people who eat mayonnaise for no reason.”
19. “golf” (golf) Yes, there’s no Yiddish word for golf!  
“I don’t play (golf). I was once at a driving range with my son. I hit two balls, and he said, ‘Dad, that’s enough.’.”
20. “kloyster” (church)  
“I thought lacrosse was what you find in a church.”
21. “frage” (question)  
“When the media ask George W. Bush a question, he answers, ‘Can I use a lifeline?’.”

22. “aktyor” (actor)

“While accepting the Oscar for Good Will Hunting: Most of all, I want to thank my father, up there, the man who when I said I wanted to be an actor, he said, “Wonderful. Just have a back-up profession like welding.”

23. “yid” (Jewish)

“And some people say Jesus wasn’t Jewish. Of COURSE, he was Jewish! 30 years old, single, lives with his parents. Come on! He works in his father’s business, his mom thought he was God’s gift. He’s Jewish! Give it up!”