Plan Now for the Life You Want

Today's economic realities have reset our expectations of what retirement is, yet there's still the promise for what it can be: a life stage filled with more freedom and potential than ever before. Given the new normal, how do you plan for a future filled with prosperity, health, and happiness? As a companion to What Color Is Your Parachute?, the world's best-selling career book, What Color Is Your Parachute? for Retirement offers both a holistic, big-picture look at these years as well as practical tools and exercises to help you build a life full of security, vitality, and community. This second edition contains updates throughout, including a section on Social Security, an in-depth exercise on values and how they inform your retirement map, and the one-of-a-kind resource for organizing the sea of information on finances and mental and physical health: the Retirement Well-Being Profile. More than a guide on where to live, how to stay active, or which investments to choose, What Color Is Your Parachute? for Retirement helps you develop a detailed picture of your ideal retirement, so that whether you're planning retirement or are there already, you can take a comprehensive approach to make the most of these vital years. From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

I liked the first book, but I really liked this one. I wish I could give it more than 5 stars. Whether you read one or twenty books on retirement, this one should be at the top of your list! Just like the first edition, this book is going to generate new thoughts and actions about retirement planning and how to prepare for this phase of life. Whether already in retirement, not there yet, or just starting a first job, I’m betting you will find this book well worth the read. It makes you aware that retirement is an entirely separate life stage that requires some careful thought and planning. I found the new information and worksheets included in this second edition to be even more helpful for planning for my retirement future than those in the first book. They clearly identified the steps that I need to take to be happy, healthy and financially prepared.

I’ve worked in the retirement field for over 20 years and this is a message that both young and old need to hear and by taking the approach suggested in the book, it can be a great help in deciding how much someone should be setting aside for their future. How can you establish a saving and investment plan if you don’t have a clue about what you want your retirement lifestyle to be like?

I’m one of those people who are “kind of” retired, but still working and I’m not alone. Studies show that between 60% and 80% of retirees and pre-retirees (and often even more) plan to continue some type of “work” - whether for pay or volunteering - well into their retirement years. The reasons for continuing to work are generally because the retiree is bored, needs a social network and/or wants to add some purpose to their life.

LIVING YOUR DREAMS -- planning for Prosperity, Health, Happiness & THE BEST TIME OF YOUR LIFE -- (this review is of the 2007 edition and was first posted November 22, 2007)
By Constant Reader "lovetoread" (Madison, WI USA)

This review is from: What Color Is Your Parachute? for Retirement: Planning Now for the Life You Want (Paperback)

I remember very well the revolution that the original WHAT COLOR IS YOUR PARACHUTE? caused in my thinking. Here was a career planning book that said I could design a satisfying work life based on what I like and who I am! It changed my thinking. This new book is designed to support the same kind of revolution in our thinking about retirement. The back of the book says “START LIVING YOUR DREAMS.” This is not about just “not working.” This book has lots of practical information about money and health and relationships--but the main thing is the basis of all the PARACHUTE books---that you can discover your heart’s desire and design your life to live it. This book can help a person identify their heart’s desire and would be terrific for anyone thinking about what they want for their
future retirement. I know John Nelson. John is dedicated to an approach to retirement that supports true fulfillment for the whole person, based on that person's own dreams and heart's desire. I would occasionally see him at meetings while he was writing this book. He was so inspirational when he talked about the book, and changes in how we view retirement, and how we can re-imagine and recreate our lives for happiness and satisfaction in retirement, and how retirement can be a wonderful time of fulfillment, that I just couldn't wait to read it.

This second revised and updated edition captures the change in retirement from the end of work to a new stage of life. It helps readers to prepare for the transition whatever form that takes for each individual. This book is about your retirement and the exercises you will find in its pages will help you clarify what you want. This book is updated with the considerations of the recent economic meltdown in mind and how that could have changed many readers plans about retirement with the stock market plunge and the real estate bubble popping. It is a new world and this is a new book for 2010. I have read several books on retirement, and this one is by far the best. It contains all the tools you will need to build a retirement that is best for you. It has lived up to its namesake, "What color is your parachute?" and I believe will be a classic itself. It begins by explaining you must build your retirement by balancing the big three of happiness, prosperity, and health. They overlap each other and depend on the others for fulfillment. Can you be happy if you are broke or sick in retirement? It explains the three boxes of life: education, work, and then retirement which takes you through the three dynamics of development, productivity, and then leisure. However you may want to make plans to have education or productivity in your retirement also and not just leisure. It briefly covers the financial aspects of retirement in examining what you will need from social security, your IRA/401K, and possible pension income, but it is brief, and covers the necessary information. The book then takes you through exercises on the six fields of knowledge for well being that enables you to build a specific retirement plan that caters to you.