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My Favorite Books to Prepare for Retirement

By Glenn Ruffenach

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What books do you recommend that could help prepare me for retirement?

Earlier this year, I highlighted [several resources](#) that can help with the financial side of retirement. Here, I'll focus on books that talk about time: figuring out the life you want to lead in your 60s and beyond.

- “The Big Shift: Navigating the New Stage Beyond Midlife,” by Marc Freedman. Mr. Freedman, who heads Encore.org, a San Francisco-based nonprofit that promotes encore careers, found himself at age 50 grappling with a host of questions: “How can I find rest and renewal? How do I make a change? Will I be any good at something new?” His book shows us how “pioneers” across the country are tackling the same issues and designing a “new map of life” for the 21st century.
- “65 Things To Do When You Retire,” edited by Mark Evan Chinsky. A collection of 65 essays written by “experts on the subject [of retirement], as well as achievers in their 60s who have forged unusual and fulfilling paths.” Thoughtful, enlightening and, at times, very funny.
- “Second-Act Careers,” by Nancy Collamer; “The Encore Career Handbook,” by Marci Alboher; and “Don’t Retire, Rewire!” by Jeri Sedlar and Rick Miners. Many retirees want to, or need to, continue working in some way. These books—filled with terrific examples and advice—show you how to do just that.
- “The Couple’s Retirement Puzzle,” by Roberta K. Taylor and Dorian Mintzer; and “Retirement for Two,” by Maryanne Vandervelde. The transition to retirement can be difficult for many couples. These authors can help you navigate the shoals.

- “Boundless Potential,” by Mark S. Walton; and “Master Class,” by Peter Spiers. The former provides a series of compelling portraits of people who have reinvented their lives; the latter, drawing on the experiences of hundreds of travelers ages 50 to 80, explains how to shape a healthy and enriching retirement. Two inspiring resources.