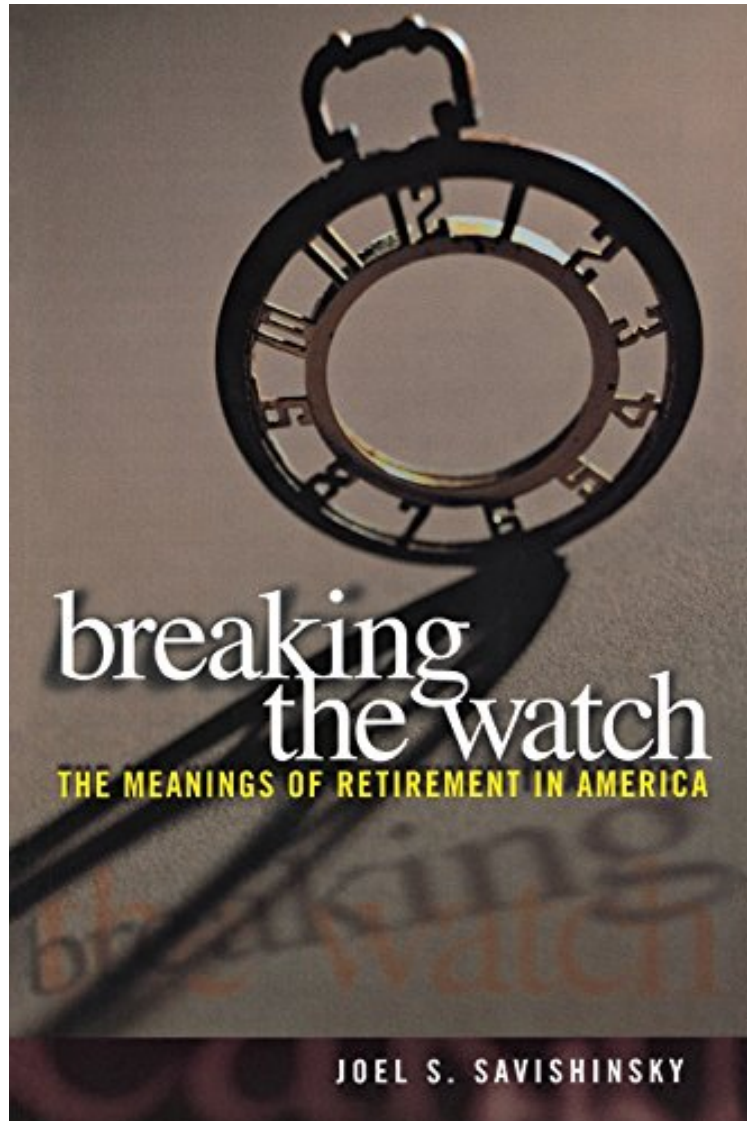


(Ebook pdf) Breaking the Watch: The Meanings of Retirement in America

Breaking the Watch: The Meanings of Retirement in America

Joel S. Savishinsky

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Joel S. Savishinsky : Breaking the Watch: The Meanings of Retirement in America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Breaking the Watch: The Meanings of Retirement in America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One Tool to Help You Adjust To Retirement By Value Shopper I read the book some years ago on the recommendation of a counselor who was helping me work through some of the anxiety and trauma I was experiencing in adjusting to retired life. I enjoyed it so much that I purchased it recently and gave it as a gift for another individual who has recently retired and is struggling with the concept. I have not heard yet

how they found the book to be as it relates to them. 20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Finally, a book about retirement with some meaning. By Peter R. Whitis, MD. Tired of reading just about the financial aspects of retirement or all about the myths of retirement? Hunger to know the in-depth experiences of those who have retired and spent some time looking at the process? Well, sociologist and anthropologist Joel Savishinsky has studied 13 women and 13 men who've recently retired with in-depth "participant-observer" interviews. Best of all, each chapter while dealing with experiences of the participants, is summarized with meaningful interpretations. The author is a good interviewer and writer and spent a good deal of time with his "subjects". Chapters focus on ending work, role changes, the search for meaningful purpose, relationships and health. I found this book lucid, easily applicable to my own retirement issues and a window into the experiences of many of my retired friends. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars. By Name. Awesome book. I give it to all my friends that are retiring.

The topic of retirement becomes increasingly compelling as the U.S. population ages. It's easy to find books about how to plan financially for those years after careers end, but *Breaking the Watch* focuses on the many ways of creating a life, not just making a living, as a retired person. This book follows women and men from a rural American community as they approach and experience the first years of retirement. Joel Savishinsky focuses on the efforts people make to find meaning in a stage of life American culture often views in a confused or disdainful way. In conversations and stories, 13 men and 13 women demonstrate a deep commitment to defining their own retirement. They bring to their mature years a diversity of backgrounds, interests, and responsibilities. They include former teachers, librarians, doctors, farmers, lawyers, bankers, mail carriers, and secretaries. Some are married, others divorced or single; many have children and grandchildren, but some have neither. Their finances run the gamut from the modest to the munificent, while their health ranges from robust to disabled. From an examination of the "rites of passage" that marked their exit from full-time work, *Breaking the Watch* moves on to consider how to plan appropriately for retirement; renegotiate ties to friends, family, and community; and create a sense of purpose. Whether it be tai chi, travel, painting, or politics that will drive a new sense of purpose. These intimate glimpses into real lives allow a rare understanding of the retirement process.

From Publishers Weekly. Bringing his considerable research skills and experience with other projects on aging to bear on this essentially anecdotal study, Savishinsky (*The Ends of Time: Life and Work in a Nursing Home*) relates his findings after extensive conversations and interviews with 26 recent retirees (all of them white and middle class) in a small upper New York State community called "Shelby." Nudged into early retirement, former postal worker Nate Rumsfeld found that he and his wife could meet their financial obligations just on his pension and her job as a receptionist. After a brief "honeymoon period," he endured an unanticipated stretch of worry and stress that disturbed his marriage until he was able to occupy himself with part-time employment. On the other hand, 67-year-old Alic Armani, recently divorced from an alcoholic husband, finally was free to pursue the painting career she had dreamed of when she was a young art student after she retired from her job as director of a social service agency. Although his subjects had unique reactions to retiring, Savishinsky does draw some tentative lessons in this quiet study, which is not definitive or wide-ranging enough to appeal to a wide audience. Among other unsurprising conclusions, he believes that those considering retirement should think carefully about it, leave their jobs on a good note and rediscover the passionate interests they may not have had time for during their working lives. (Oct.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist. Ithaca College anthropology and gerontology professor Savishinsky explores how 26 men and women in a small upstate New York town experienced their retirements. The subjects, half men and half women, all worked outside the home, most in middle-class, white-collar occupations (education, the professions, fairly high-level administrative work), but the group also includes a postman and several clerical retirees. The youngest retired at 54 owing to health problems; the oldest, at 77, still worked part-time. Using participant observation, informal and structured interviews, and life-story analysis, the author examines the "process" of retirement his subjects experienced and places their difficulties and achievements in the context of several other societies' rituals for and expectations of their older members. The retirees studied here are thoughtful, often eloquent observers of their new position in life; their "voices" are vivid and enlightening. Mary Carroll. Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. "Retiring means more than just quitting work. It is one of life's major transitions that can carry heavy-duty emotional and psychological issues, involving nothing less than a redefinition of the self. *Breaking the Watch: The Meanings of Retirement in America* grapples with the meaning and ramifications of this transition. . . . Mr. Savishinsky. . . does an admirable job of interviewing his 26 retirees on a wide range of topics and it's the voices of the retirees that power the book." Fred Brock, *The New York Times*, August 6, 2000. "This book. . . includes valuable information for younger (and older) readers, too. . . . The retirees studied here are thoughtful, often eloquent observers of their new position in life; their "voices" are vivid and enlightening. . . ." Mary Carroll, *Booklist*, October, 2000. "This book is an excellent, well-researched volume. . . . the well-reasoned discussions and thoughtful portraits offered make this a worthwhile purchase for both academic and public libraries." *Library Journal*, October 1, 2000. "Savishinsky brings his considerable research skills and experience with other projects on aging to bear on this essentially anecdotal

study. . . . "Publishers Weekly, September 25, 2000."Savishinsky treats his readers to very compelling narratives of loss, insight, triumph, and disappointment, told in lovingly crafted prose, weaving the lives of his interviewees together as their own paths cross. His book is an ethnography of retirement but also a guide to doing it well."Steven M. Albert, Columbia University. Current Anthropology, Vol. 43, No. 2, April 2002"The book is organized in a unique way. Each chapter (1-6) is prefaced by a conversation with a retiree and is followed by a set of life stories dealing with the same dilemma. This is where Savishinsky's strategy of letting the participants speak for themselves works superbly with the vivid and eloquent voices. . . Overall the book will be a good reader for anyone lay or expert who is interested in aging and retirement."Shin-Kap Han, University of Illinois. American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 107, No. 2, September 2001"This book shines with the earned dignity of those whose lives (and fate) it attentively and respectfully documents. Here, for all of us to understand, are the later years some Americans have taken on and here we learn of elderly resourcefulness, reflection, imagination, determination: life as it approaches the end becomes a spell of challenge of humanity affirmed, achieved."Robert Coles, Harvard University"A splendid book for anyone planning or taking retirement. Breaking the Watch resonates with the lively voices, illuminating stories, and wisdom of men and women who've made the challenging transition from employment to retirement. Kudos to Joel Savishinsky for this unique guide to the art of living in retirement."Carl Klaus, author of Taking Retirement: A Beginner's Diary"In his wonderful book, Breaking the Watch, Joel Savishinsky follows a group of women and men as they make the transition from work to retirement. Inspiring and sometimes heartbreaking, this book is an example of qualitative research at its best."Jill Quadagno, Florida State University"Head and shoulders above the many first-person how-to books about 'succeeding' at retirement, Breaking the Watch gives us a three-dimensional, rounded view of the retirement experience. I can't think of another book on retired life that comes close to this one."David J. Ekerdt, University of Kansas"The portraits in Breaking the Watch are nuanced, intimate, and recognizable. They reflect not only the nature of retirement, but also the far larger issues of relationship and the quest for purpose in life. Joel Savishinsky's book is lucidly written and compelling, a unique and invaluable work." Thomas Gregor, Vanderbilt University