

newsday.com/business/ny-bznnext0901,0,2007247.story

## Newsday.com

### After retiring, seeking the next chapter in working life

BY PETER KING

12:56 PM EDT, August 31, 2007

Labor Day was created to give workers a brief breather from their jobs. And for more and more Americans, even retirement has become just another brief respite from work. After turning the page on a longtime job, many begin looking ahead to the next chapter in their working lives.

"Think about it as a career after your career," says Marc Freedman, author of "Encore: Finding Work That Matters in the Second Half of Life." Freedman, chief executive of Civic Ventures, a San Francisco-based think tank focused on issues relating to aging in America, says this new career may last longer than you would think. "We're really talking about a 10- or 15-year phase in their working life."

For many boomers and seniors, the concept of retirement as "endless leisure" is becoming as unattainable, and unwanted, as the youthful daydream of endless summer. Some return to the workforce because they need the money. Some miss the satisfaction that comes from the daily routine of a job well done. And others take jobs in the nonprofit sector because they believe they can use their lifetime of experience to help others.

One sector that embraces older workers is retail. And while some malign this work as low-paying and unchallenging, Freedman does not.

"It's easy to make fun of those jobs because they don't draw on the full complement of people's skills, but that sector deserves to be congratulated for recognizing the talent and ability and numbers," Freedman says. For many retirees, he says, a retail job is a perfect fit. It provides a paycheck and a place to go, plus most retailers will accommodate the flexible schedule an older worker craves.

For people who want to work at jobs other than in retail, there are some employers who need them now and there will be a lot more in the near future. Among the hot sectors for older workers are education, health care, nonprofit, the government and industries that cater to older people.

So where can you find these jobs? Here are some tips from Freedman: If you're interested in the nonprofit sector, the NonProfit Times (nptimes.com) has advice and job listings. For some ideas on companies and industries that serve older people, check out 101+ Careers in Aging on the Exploring Careers in Aging site (exploringcareersinaging.com). For government jobs, a good site is USA Jobs (usajobs.opm.gov). For a general site with lots of jobs aimed exclusively at older people, visit Jobs 4.0 (jobs4point0.com). Two more bits of advice from Freedman: When looking for a job, don't fear your years -- your experience and your reliability are your best assets. And don't begin that new job right after you retire from your old job. "Take a few months off," he says. "It can be hard to forge ahead into the next chapter without catching your breath."

Copyright © 2007, [Newsday Inc.](#)

