

Encore Careers:

Is that what's next for you?

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'I am having a positive influence on the lives of the kids with whom we work, and I am making great new friends among the volunteers and school people with whom I work.'

BILL WOLFF , Encore Careerist, Experience Corps SITE COORDINATOR

Are you ready for your Encore Career? Whether your answer is an emphatic YES or simply “What’s an Encore Career?” you’ve come to the right place. On Wednesday, March 11th, Discovering What’s Next (DWN) will host a Forum at the Newton Free Library at 7 pm on this intriguing topic. Encore Careers is a newly defined concept put forth in a recent book “Encore – Finding Work that Matters in the Second Half of Life” by March Freedman, founder of San Francisco-based think-tank Civic Ventures. “Encore Careers combines personal fulfillment, social impact and paid work – a tall order, “ notes Kathy Burnes, DWN Forum Chairperson, “but many are finding it just the right formula at this stage of life.”

Discovering What’s Next (DWN), the host of the library forum, is a pioneering community-based organization that engages midlife and older adults in creative exploration of their next life stage. In addition to Judy Goggin, VP of Civic Ventures and forum moderator, the program will feature a panel of Encore Careerists who will discuss how they made the transition, what their lives are like now, and what impact they have had in their new roles. You will meet Bill Wolff, a retired marketing executive who volunteered two days per week for Generations Incorporated, an Experience Corps program, working in the Boston schools to improve literacy. This quickly led to a three day per week stipended position as a site coordinator. He manages 30 volunteers and makes sure the relationship between the school and the volunteer program runs smoothly. According to Bill, “I am having a positive influence on the lives of the kids with whom we work, and I am making great new friends among the volunteers and school people with whom I work.”

Other panelists include Judith White and Bruce Bell. After 30 years as a small business owner in the field of foreign language instruction for young children, Judith moved into fund-raising and communications for nonprofits. “When I sold my business I felt satisfied that work was completed; now I wanted to do something different but had to figure out what that could be.” She is excited to share her experience of going from the for-profit to nonprofit world and the “fit” she now feels with development work. Bruce took early retirement from his career in teaching and administration in post-secondary education. “I quickly found that retirement wasn’t for me; I needed to be a part of something where I could make a difference.” He has found his niche and loves his work as the manager of the Legal InfoLine at Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD).

This spring, as part of its focus on Discover Work, DWN is hosting a number of Encore-related events including book discussion groups, Encore Transition Talks as well as this library forum. For more information about Encore Careers, visit www.encore.org

To register for the free Forum on March 11th, visit www.discoveringwhatsnext.com or call 617-796-1419. This program is co-sponsored by The Village Bank, CareerMoves at JVS and the Newton Wellesley Hospital.