



ROAR AWAKENING THE LION WITHIN™

ROAR Community Newsletter

News and views by ROAR

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*Retirement at sixty-five
is ridiculous.*

*When I was sixty-five,
I still had pimples.*

- George Burns

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62 is the New 52

by Dan Christopherson

According to a recent AARP survey, 70% of employees close to age 62 - and early Social Security retirement benefits - plan to continue working beyond that age.

Given the economic collapse, doubtless many of those people are not seeing any other choice. Others certainly see no point in retiring while still fully capable of contributing and consider working to be essential to their physical and emotional well-being.

Regardless, the wise 60+ worker who is not using his or her God-given talents in the course of career life would do well to see how to make the job serve his or her life's purpose. If that is not a viable option, then the way to ROAR is to put one's gifts to use outside of the job - such as getting involved in a church ministry or as a volunteer tutor or helping with Habitat for Humanity.

Health and longevity studies show that people with a purpose, people who share their gifts, people who ROAR - they stand a better chance of living several decades longer than age 62, not to mention finding those extra years the happiest in their lives.

The Retirement Myth

by Joe Sturniolo

My belief is that the government failed us in the '30s by not indexing Social Security to life expectancy. We could have dramatically reduced the costs of Social Security by being more realistic about retirement.

Why is the age 65? The only reason is that 80 years ago the government determined that it was a good time to quit work since you would soon die. During the industrial revolution it was also determined that younger people could do the job quicker and with less pay.

Today, retirement should be 75, indexed for life expectancy. And that is only if you believe in retirement at all. I have spoken many times about the myth of retirement. It was an invention. You don't see retirement in the bible nor do you see it in any history books that go back centuries. We continue to be valuable and significant into our 70s and certainly beyond. In America we will need more workers in the future because there are far fewer workers following the baby boomers.

You might get laid off from your current job, but you will never become retired if you choose not to be. It is up to you to find your passion and continue to be useful and meaningful.

Bummer for Boomers in the EU

by Dan Christopherson

Although dedicated to the purpose-driven personal careers or avocations of persons of all ages, ROAR has its roots in the plight of baby boomers being turned out to pasture way before it makes any sense - for the individual or for society.

That's why a report like the one that follows disturbs us.

According to a report on a website for a social workers organization in Sutton, UK, baby boomers who might want to hang on to their jobs past age 65 are being shown the door - when it pleases the employer.

Despite the European Union's Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 outlawing age discrimination in employment, the report says that the UK government "has decided to interpret the wording of the EU directive in a manner that allows employers to apply a default retirement age of 65.

"The government has decreed that reaching your 65th birthday is sufficient justification in itself for requiring a worker to retire" If you apply for a job in social work - or any other role - and you are age 64 and a half, an employer can refuse to employ you based purely on your age, "even if you're the best candidate for the job."

A UK activist group called *Age Concern*, the report says, "is so angry about the way this affects older people's employment rights that two years ago it took the government to the European Court of Justice. However, last week the EU advocate general ruled that the compulsory retirement age was not necessarily contrary to EU rules on equality." Employers now can give notice to retirees that they will be forced to retire at age 65, fully intent on hiring some of them back - with compensation terms advantageous to the employer - after the retirement.

Recommended Reading: *Fire in the Belly* by Sam Keen

By Joe Sturniolo

This book is for men, and the women who love them. "A man must go on a quest to discover the sacred fire in the sanctuary of his own belly to ignite the flame in his heart to fuel the blaze in the heart to rekindle his ardor for the earth." This statement comes at the beginning of this deeply moving book. At a time when mid-life crises were washing over me, I read this book. It helped me understand what the longing was inside. It helped me understand what it meant to be a man. It is one of the strongest voices of the men's movement over the past 20 years.

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I believe this book redefines the role of a man in these troubled times. It may be time to read this book and become the man that you were destined to be. It shows how men can find their own path to understanding the unique mysteries of being male and, in the process, rediscover a new vitality and virility that will energize every aspect of your lives. Men and women will see the similarities of the journey of Sam Keen and the journey I speak of in ROAR. It begins by defining what makes a man, then moves to the Rites of Manhood, and how to join the "heroes journey," then finishes with men and women coming together. It is a must read for anyone looking to dig deeper on this quest for meaning.

Joe Sturniolo's book, [The Caterpillar That Roared](#) available online through Amazon.com or other book sellers.

I do want to caution you that the book is secular and does not do a very good job of relating the journey to God. When reading it, try to instill into the message your own religious beliefs. Then you will not be taken aback with messages that appear about mythology. I strongly recommend this read.

Share your thoughts ... on the ROAR Blog

by Joe Sturniolo

If you haven't visited our [blog](#), you are missing one of the best resources for ideas, support and inspiration. The blog is meant to keep your mind and heart in tune with your journey toward awakening the lion within. Several ROAR community members contribute regularly. We welcome your comments and we welcome you as a part of our community. What do you think and feel when you read a blog? Do you have any personal stories?

I am currently writing a series for the blog on addiction and repression. I believe these issues are some of the greatest obstacles to following your heart because we do not know how to deal with them. Follow me on these important blog postings and send me feedback on your own personal journey. Get involved in the ROAR community. I promise you that your heart will be enriched.

[Visit the ROAR blog](#)

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