



Wednesday, July 25, 2007

The Paths to Creative Retirement participants during the June 22-24 session hadn't even begun their Sunday morning presentations when they asked, "So when are you going to have us back for our reunion and refresher course?" They even came with some suggestions:

- "You didn't cover how my partner and I should talk about money since we speak different financial language."
- "How about helping us define happiness at this life stage?"
- "I want some tips on living creatively with chronic illness."
- "Why don't you delve into some taboo subjects like depression, sex or drug abuse for starters?"
- "You need to add a session on nutrition and optimal changes in diet as we age."
- "Why not give us the good, the bad and the ugly of what we can expect physiologically and psychologically as we age?"



Within a week of that workshop, I received an e-mail from a former participant saying, in part, "Having to present a plan to our fellow workshop attendees was just the jump-start we needed to get focused. It hasn't been a linear process...but was certainly prompted by that session. We've bought a house in another state, are in the process of decluttering and are excited about the new opportunities ahead. It's been terrifying and exhilarating all at the same time!"

And two days later came an e-mail from another former participant on another matter. "I'm three years into my retirement and 18 months into my partner's retirement and now have survived a one-year stint as caregiver, funeral planner and estate settler for my dad. Even though he had a will, settling his estate was a trial because of family conflicts. Please make sure you emphasize to your Paths clientele the extreme importance of proper estate planning for their peace of mind and as a gift to their heirs, loved ones and charities."

So which "camp" are you in – the *bring-us-back-for-a-refresher*, the *I'm-still-reaping-the-benefits-and-applying-what-I-learned* or the *add-this-to-the-agenda-or-list-of-resources* camp? Or maybe your opinion represents another category.

Let us hear from you. E-mail your successes, failures, ideas, and comments. Tell us what you are thinking about or what you think we should be thinking about.

Thank you.  
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