



THE BABY BOOMER MANIFESTO

Claiming The Best Is Yet To Be

by **Randall Hartman**

Baby Boomers are dropping out of the work force. Every day large numbers are moving on. The “career phase” of the journey is coming to an end.

Now what?

We grew up despising the establishment.

Then we became the establishment.

Now we are abandoning the establishment.

Where did the time go?

Seems like yesterday

I was standing on the corner in Winslow,
Arizona

holding a piece of American pie

while watching all the girls go by

but getting no satisfaction.

We were going to take over the world. Peace and love was going to guide the planets. A new age was dawning.

We were **young**.

We were **indestructible**.

We were **idealistic**.

If only our optimism had
turned into reality.

We are jettisoning our careers like the empty NASA booster rockets which propelled Neil Armstrong to the moon.

Leaving our careers behind is only part of our challenge.

Dreams are dashed.

Careers failed to satisfy.

Personal debt threatens to swallow us up.

Aches and pains continue to grow.

And some Boomers play the Newlywed Game every five years.

Now what?

In the beginning, life resembled mountain climbing. There were the challenges of getting bigger paychecks and bigger houses. There were academic degrees to pursue. We had a family to raise. Using all our energy, we climbed higher and higher up life's mountain.

As we climbed, years turned into decades.

Decades morphed into a life.

In the fall of 2013, I realized I was on the other side of life's mountain. My kids were raising their own kids. We owned a condo and a cottage. I enjoyed a fair amount of career success.

Now what?

With fading energy and failing passion I did the unthinkable. I resigned. People resign every day. But this was different for three reasons.

One: this was happening to me.

Two: I had no Plan B.

Three: there was no extra money.

Now what?

What do you do when you are 60 years old and need a job? What do you do when you have no income, feel worn out, and have no place to go?

Have you ever been there?

Does any of this sound familiar?

Over the next ten months I faced an important question:

“What will I do with the rest of my life?”

This is the same question all who make it to the other side of the mountain must ask themselves.

**“What will YOU do with the
rest of your life?”**

We've worked hard.

We are worn out.

We are fed up and beat down.

Now what?

There are two major temptations.

First, if you are still in your career phase, just coast. Why not? That's what many others do. I've seen it and so have you. You've paid your dues. Just do enough to keep from getting fired. Just perform well enough to get a paycheck and build up the retirement fund.

Who could point fingers?

The **second** temptation, regardless of career status, is to give up.

Let's just sit around playing cards swapping knee replacement stories.

Let's start playing bingo at the 50 plus center.

Let's park our increasingly saggy butts in front of the TV set waiting for the Grim Reaper.

Sound good?

Go ahead. I dare you.

Just sit in your recliner and wait
for the black-hooded monster.

But not me.

Yes, I am an aging Boomer. Not everything turned out as planned. I have annoying aches and pains.

But I unequivocally refuse to raise the white flag of surrender to the triple enemies dubbed

Disappointment,

Despair,

and Disillusionment.

Now what?

Here's what I think. I am not alone. **You too are not ready to coast or quit.** Sure. You have had your share of heartaches and disappointments. Maybe you've been broken and kicked to the curb. But while reading this manifesto, something deep inside stirred.

Now what?

Poet Robert Browning reminded his aging readers **“the best is yet to be.”**

And like Browning, **I invite you to come along with me.**

We need each other. I need your encouragement.
I need your wisdom. I need you to cheer for me.

Now what?

Let's walk this journey together.

I'm forming a Tribe of Boomers who choose to recreate themselves for the rest of the journey.

There is a new territory for us to invade and conquer. It won't be easy. But together we will make it.

Tribe members invade the territory of life after 50 by focusing on four words:

Surviving

Exploring

Thriving

Conquering

Surviving

We celebrate because we have made it this far. We are **survivors**. Too many didn't make it. But there's a reason to celebrate: **YOU MADE IT!**

Exploring

We **explore** because this is new territory for us. There is much to see, learn, and experience.

Thriving

We find ways to **thrive** in this new land.
Together we'll learn how to make this part of
life the pinnacle.

Conquering

We find ways to finish well. I loathe the idea of sitting back waiting for my body to fall apart. Let's be proactive and **conquer** life after 50.

If you've made the decision to not coast or quit, I invite you to join the Tribe.

Together we will take this unexplored territory and turn it into the pinnacle of our life.

Trust me. The best is yet to be.

To find out more about The Baby Boomer Manifesto and how you can join the tribe of explorers [VISIT THIS PAGE](#)

To visit the website click [HERE](#).

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THE END

is a

NEW BEGINNING

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Randall Hartman has been happily married to Jacquie for 39 years. They have a son and daughter who are both married. Thanks to their combined family efforts there are six grandchildren.

For thirty years he successfully served as a lead pastor in churches located in Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan.

Currently he is a professional interim pastor providing assistance to churches in transition during times of crisis.

Education:

Bachelor of Science: Olivet Nazarene University; Kankakee, IL

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Peace Out



