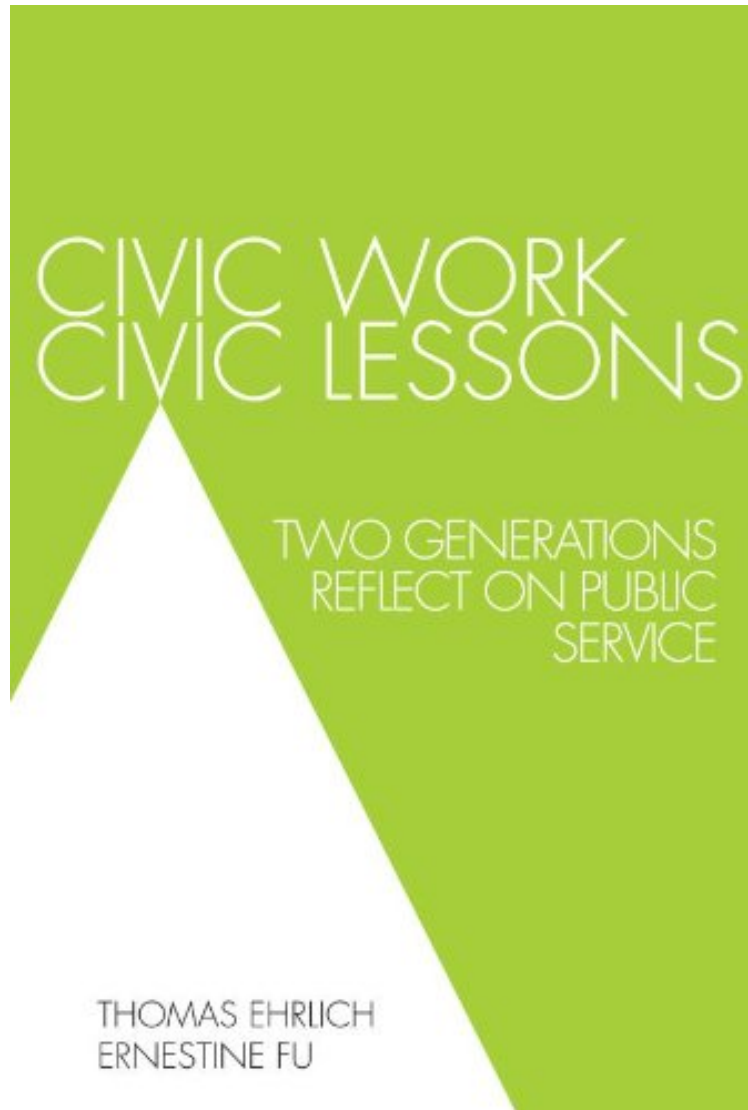


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Civic Work, Civic Lessons: Two Generations Reflect on Public Service

Thomas Ehrlich, Ernestine Fu

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Thomas Ehrlich, Ernestine Fu : Civic Work, Civic Lessons: Two Generations Reflect on Public Service before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Civic Work, Civic Lessons: Two Generations Reflect on Public Service:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. JOIN THE CONVERSATION! Civic lessons learned across two generationsBy Jonathan R. DolleI wish a book like this had existed 20 years ago, when I was entering high school and just beginning down a path to public service. Alas, it did not. But as luck would have it, I got to know Tom Ehrlich

some 10 years later, after I began graduate school. So this review is informed by nearly a decade of knowing Tom as a colleague, friend, and mentor. And fortunately, now everyone has access to this fabulous book. Many of the lessons that organize Civic Work, Civic Lessons will be familiar to readers, especially those who have spent years, if not careers, engaged in public service. But what really makes the book a gem are the compelling personal stories bringing each lesson to life. Imagine you had the opportunity to have coffee and an intimate conversation with two remarkable civic leaders, 57 years apart in age. These leaders share what they've experienced and learned through their years of service, drawing parallels between each others stories. Reading this book feels like an open invitation to join their conversation. Readers who want to find mentors (or mentor others), explore the meaning and forms of "public interest" work, navigate the pull between lofty ideals and careful execution, or leverage technology for the public good will find inspiration in their stories. I highly recommend Civic Work, Civic Lessons to anyone interested in reflecting on their own civic life or supporting a new generation of civic leaders.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Pass It On

By Bill Plater

After having read Civic Work, Civic Lessons and thought about the book for a few weeks, I have just placed an order for a third copy of the book. Tom Ehrlich and Ernestine Fu have inspired me to think deeply and reflectively about all of the wonderful mentors I have had over many years in many contexts--and those younger people whom I have had the joy and privilege of mentoring. Their book of lessons and reflections is not so much a model or blueprint for others to follow as a platform for developing and enriching the unique and individual relationships we all have with mentors, complete with guideposts along the way suggesting how we might define our own journeys and take stock of what we are doing--and why. I have begun buying copies of the book for people whom I have mentored and whom I know to be themselves mentoring others. I believe that Ehrlich and Fu have taught us yet one more valuable lesson about the intentionality of succession and connection: we need to pass it on. We certainly need to engage more deeply in civic work in these troubled times, and we need to be increasingly intentional about how capacity for civic leadership is developed. If you have a few dollars, I highly recommend an investment in the future by buying a copy of Civic Work, Civic Lessons and by giving it to someone whom you have mentored with a note about what the relationship has meant to you and what they will mean to those whom they, in turn, mentor. Thanks, Tom Ehrlich and Ernestine Fu for helping me fulfill one part of my civic duty.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Cause for Optimism!

By John P. Weyant

Wow! In this totally inspiring little book, Thomas Ehrlich and Ernestine Fu very clearly identify one way each of us can respond proactively to the many daunting challenges now facing society. Not weighed down with ivory tower philosophy, this is a practical "how to" guide to self-fulfillment through PUBLIC SERVICE. By sharing their volunteer experiences across the generations - powerfully, personally, and passionately, the authors identify the lessons they have learned that demonstrate that maybe - just maybe - one person really CAN make a difference IF that person joins with other like-minded individuals in pursuit of a worthy objective! And if that collective objective is clearly understood, all who participate can take deep satisfaction in its achievement, eschewing the kind of "it's all about me" philosophy that seems to often stunt our growth as a society. This kind of thinking makes me suddenly optimistic about the future of our world. As Fu and Ehrlich might say, "may the force be with you always - use it well and it will become stronger in you." Bravo!

Civic Work, Civic Lessons explains how and why people of all ages, and particularly young people, should engage in public service as a vocation or avocation. Its authors are 57 years apart in age, but united in their passion for public service, which they term "civic work." The book provides unique intergenerational perspectives. Thomas Ehrlich spent much of his career in the federal government. Ernestine Fu started a non-profit organization at an early age and then funded projects led by youth. Both have engaged in many other civic activities. An introductory chapter is followed by seven key lessons for success in civic work. Each lesson includes a section by each author. The sections by Ehrlich draw mainly from his experiences. Those by Fu draw on her civic work and that of many young volunteers whom the co-authors interviewed. The concluding chapter focuses on leveraging technologies for civic work. All profits received by the authors from the sale of this book will be donated to philanthropic organizations.

"Thomas Ehrlich and Ernestine Fu transform their experiences, life lessons, and passion for civic engagement into a powerful blueprint for those looking to create meaningful and effective change. This book is a must read for both new and seasoned leaders alike." -- Alan Khazei, Co-Founder of City Year and Vanessa Kirsch, Founder Managing Director, New Profit Inc.

"Tom Ehrlich has been such a thoughtful mentor and champion through my Teach For America journey and I'm so glad that he's partnered with an inspiring young leader, Ernestine Fu, to share the stories and lessons of a lifetime of public service." --Wendy Kopp, Founder Chair, Teach For America

"Underneath the usual popular dissatisfaction with government and politicians, there is also an untapped sense of civic duty. From their unique vantage points -- more than 57 years separates them in age -- Thomas Ehrlich and Ernestine Fu point out key lessons they think are imperative for young people, and indeed, anyone who wants to make a difference. And they put the lessons in very engaging personal stories that I enjoy reading." --David Mathews, President, Kettering Foundation

"Wherever I go, I find that people want to make a positive contribution to their communities and their country -- but do not know how. Now, two gifted authors, generations apart in age and

experience, give people a valuable primer on how they can enrich their lives and the lives of others through public service." -- Lee H. Hamilton, former United States Representative; Director, Center on Congress at Indiana University

"Thomas Ehrlich and Ernestine Fu, from the standpoint of very different generations, share remarkable findings of how each of us can prepare to serve and then to realize enormous personal satisfaction in the new achievements and well-being of those touched by very thoughtful service." -- Richard G. Lugar, former United States Senator "I am struck by the unique gift this book offers readers, two distinctly different yet equally valuable perspectives on public service. What a blessing for Ernestine Fu to be able to have Tom Ehrlich as a mentor, and how incredibly invigorating it must have been for Tom Ehrlich to work with Ernestine Fu, who seems destined to do great things." -- John Mellow, PBS NewsHour and Learning Matters, Inc. "Through this inter-generational approach, Civic Work, Civic Lessons brings together two unique perspectives about remarkable experiences in public service. Tom Ehrlich and Ernestine Fu lead by example, demonstrating the value of civic engagement in the private and public sectors and challenging us to expand our personal civic efforts." - Maureen Curley, Campus Compact "We can either inspire hope and optimism for the next generation by engaging them in the process to rebuild the public and private sector, or we can leave them behind. Tom Ehrlich and Ernestine Fu's honest discussion of so many difficult issues - sharing examples of failure and success - takes immense courage and vision to inspire greater good. I am inspired!" - Kim Meredith, Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society at Stanford University "The Stanford community has a long history of public service. This book - written by members of two different generations of the Stanford family, Tom Ehrlich, a faculty member, and Ernestine Fu, a student - is very much in our university's spirit. It explores the importance and relevance of service in its many forms and the benefits that come when generations reach out to each other. It offers valuable insights for tomorrow's leaders." -- John Hennessy, President, Stanford University

About the Author Thomas Ehrlich has held a number of public-service positions since the administration of President John F. Kennedy. He was the first head of the Legal Services Corporation and was the director of the agency responsible for foreign-aid policy, reporting directly to President Carter. He has also served as president of Indiana University, provost of the University of Pennsylvania, and dean of Stanford Law School. He is author, co-author, or editor of fourteen books, including *Educating Citizen: Preparing America's Undergraduates for Lives of Moral and Civic Responsibility* (2003), and *Educating for Democracy: Preparing Undergraduates for Responsible Political Engagement* (2007). He holds five honorary degrees and is a member of the American Academy of Arts Sciences.