



**Darrell W. Gurney**

This eBook is comprised of an excerpt from the following professional journal.

As you see below, Chapter Six, “Crisis or Opportunity,” was one of seven chapters from the Summer 2011 Career Planning & Adult Development Journal. This edition was Guest Edited by Darrell W. Gurney and included the other transformational stories you see highlighted in blue. The full ebook with all inspiring stories is available [here](#).

CAREER PLANNING and ADULT DEVELOPMENT

# JOURNAL



Volume 27, Number 2

ISSN 0736-1920

Summer 2011

## Dealing with Mid-Life Career Crisis

### *Introduction to this Issue*

**Darrell W. Gurney**, Guest Editor

\***Chapter 1:** Displaying Entrepreneurism, by **Christine Henry**

\***Chapter 2:** Laughing at the Law, by **Alex Barnett**

\***Chapter 3:** Praying the Right Way, by **Laurie Jankower James**

\***Chapter 4:** Finding Santa, by **Cliff Snider**

\***Chapter 5:** Twisting Paths, by **Donna Merritt**

**Chapter 6:** Crisis or Opportunity? by **Darrell Gurney**

\***Chapter 7:** A Walking Tour of MidLife, by **Lisa Scalia**

\* This ebook only includes **Chapter 6: Crisis or Opportunity?** by **Darrell Gurney**. Chapters 1-5 and 7 are available in the full e-book entitled “Crisis or Opportunity: Dealing with Midlife, In and Out of the Office” [here](#).

## **Hunter Arts Publishing**

Copyright © 2011 Career Planning and Adult Development Journal.  
Revised 2016 - 2020 editions compiled with permission and available on [Kindle](#). All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced mechanically, electronically, or by any other means, including photocopying without written permission of the publisher. The original purchaser is authorized to make one printed copy for their personal use.  
ISSN: 0736-1920

Career Planning and Adult Development Journal

Reprinted with permission by

Hunter Arts Publishing

PO Box 14622

Long Beach, CA 90853 USA

310-400-0647

<http://TheBackForty.com>

<http://facebook.com/TheBackForty>

<http://twitter.com/BackFortyFliers>

<http://CareerGuy.com>

<http://twitter.com/CareerGuy>

<http://linkedin.com/in/CareerGuy>

<http://facebook.com/CareerGuy>

<http://youtube.com/careerguydotcom>

<http://DreamJobLife.com>

<http://facebook.com/DreamJobLife>

<http://twitter.com/DreamJobLife>

<http://twitter.com/DarrellGurney>

## **Limits of Liability and Disclaimer of Warranty**

The author and publisher shall not be liable for your misuse of this material. The author is specifically not giving legal or accounting advice. Get proper legal and accounting advice from licensed professionals.

## Other Educational Materials and Important Resources by Darrell W. Gurney

### **FREE TOP TEN TIPS TO LIFE'S RADICAL SECOND HALF**

*Create the second half of your life the best half because, after all, you have yet to do what you came here to do! Download the free eBook and receive the weekly inspirational Back Forty JOLT Note [here](#)*

### **FREE JOLT NEWSLETTER (JOY OVERHAUL, LIFE TRANSFORMATION)**

*Be inspired every Wednesday by "Unhumping Hump Day," having your career and life be so awesome that you don't feel there's any midweek hump to get over! Get the CareerGuy JOLT Note and free eBooks [here](#)*

### **BOOKS/EBOOKS /AUDIOS/WEBINARS/PROGRAMS**

#### **CAREERGUY STORE**

*Check out tools, courses, and home-study programs for training to take charge of your own job security through effective relationship building, personal branding and true north direction. Browse the store [here](#)*

### **FINDING THE S SPOT: CAREER PLEASURE SECRETS FOR MERGING SKILLS, PLAY & PAY (eBook)**

*The full eBook, to open up your body, mind, heart and soul to capture a uniquely personal "Sweet Spot" of career direction for you. If you enjoy this ebook and want to share it with a friend, invite them to get it [here](#)*

### **NEVER APPLY FOR A JOB AGAIN: BREAK THE RULES, CUT THE LINE, BEAT THE REST (Print & Kindle)**

*The highly endorsed and Amazon bestselling book that teaches you how to get known by influencers and thought leaders. It's the HOW TO to the WHO'S WHO! Get it [here](#)*

## **HEADHUNTERS REVEALED: CAREER SECRETS FOR CHOOSING AND USING PROFESSIONAL RECRUITERS (Print)**

*The critical and essential guide to utilizing recruiters for your benefit. Winner: Clarion Award for Best Book by the Association for Women in Communications and reviewed in Publishers Weekly. Get it [here](#)*

## **CRISIS OR OPPORTUNITY: MIDLIFE, IN AND OUT OF THE OFFICE (eBook)**

*This midlife-lemons-to-lemonade edition of the Career Planning & Adult Development Journal is a “love of labor” experience as participating authors share the unfoldment of their higher expressions of career even in the face of – or because of? – the challenges of midlife. Get it [here](#)*

## **FRONT DOOR FOLLY, BACKDOOR BONANZA (eBook)**

*80% of All Jobs Are Filled Before They Are Even Advertised! Be One of the Savvy That Get in Through the Backdoor...While Everyone Else is Knocking Senselessly on the Frontdoor. Get it [here](#)*

## **BIRTH OF THE BACK FORTY: A MIDLIFE OPPORTUNITY (eBook)**

*Darrell W. Gurney shares his midlife road to fuller self-expression from a career coach and committed single father's point of view, showing how slings and arrows can be transformed into plowshares of creativity cultivation. Get it [here](#)*

## **COACHING & SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

**Career Coaching** - [Click Here](#)

**Executive/PlayGame™ Coaching** - [Click Here](#)

**Back Forty™ Coaching** - [Click Here](#)

**A Back Forty RE-NEW-ALL Online Program** - [Click Here](#)

**Speaking & Workshops** - [Click Here](#)

**CareerGuy Online Programs, Webinars, Workshops** - [Click Here](#)



**DARRELL W. GURNEY**, is a Life Changer, Executive Coach, Licensed Spiritual Counselor, Consultant, and Career Advisor who has supported people in all walks of life for over 30 years. His clients play bigger, perform at peak levels, create thriving lives and businesses, and make empowered career and life transitions. The founder of [The Back Forty.com](https://www.thebackforty.com) and [CareerGuy.com](https://www.careerguy.com), he has written several books and edited professional journals on the topics of

finding one's passion, midlife pursuit of purpose, effective relationship building, and career transition. His work has been endorsed by best-selling authors and inspiring luminaries such as Harvey Mackay, Keith Ferrazzi, Dr. Ivan Misner, Rev. Michael Beckwith, and Cynthia Kersey.

Darrell's most recent work, *The Back Forty: 7 Essential Embraces for Life's Radical Second Half*, is an inspirational guide and companion for designing a fulfilling second half of life. It is due out in 2020. The Back Forty® INFUSE Program supports midlifers to create the second half of life as the best half, inspired by radical purpose, under the premise that "the best is yet to come and, babe, won't it be fine!"

As a Licensed Spiritual Counselor, Darrell has studied multiple disciplines with many renowned leaders. He speaks and leads workshops and trainings for community and spiritual organizations, professional associations, and university and MBA programs such as Harvard and USC.

Darrell's PlayGame™ coaching has empowered leaders to become their truest, most powerful self-expressions, producing extraordinary results in an innovative spirit of play. He consults with companies in a wide variety of industries and has been affiliated with some of the largest leadership organizations. Darrell is a personal and business brand strategist whose "stealth" method of building relationships and thought leadership has helped people expand their reach within careers and client circles.

Darrell has a young-adult son, whom he co-parented as a single father from age 2½. Having faced many midlife challenges including divorce, custody, and quest for purpose, Darrell has dedicated his own "Back Forty" to supporting others to make their second half their radically fulfilling best half.

Darrell is the author of [Headhunters Revealed!](#), [Never Apply for a Job Again](#), and [Finding the S Spot](#).

# BIRTH OF THE BACK FORTY: A MIDLIFE OPPORTUNITY?

*by Darrell W. Gurney*

There's an old myth claiming that the Chinese word for crisis is the same as the one for opportunity. While linguists tell us the myth is incorrect, perhaps in the language of midlife careers it undoubtedly applies.

As a career strategist and motivational writer and speaker, I look back and wonder: was it truly a midlife crisis I endured? Instead, perhaps it was simply the natural unfolding of what was programmed into me from the beginning, a freeing up of the Self-expression that was uniquely given me to share.

Maybe what we call midlife crisis is only the shaking up of the structures and worldview that we established in reaction the projection out into life by family-of-origin influences, cultural factors, and needs-of-the-moment solutions. What if it's not a crisis at all, but an opportunity: a coming to terms and acceptance of that which was always within us as our unique and special function. Maybe the real crisis is when one doesn't inquire into, face, recognize, and fulfill that special function.

My initiation, as I like to call it, occurred in the spring of 2002. Almost 40, I had only a month before sold my home of the past 10 years in an unstable real estate market (with 9/11 and stock market uncertainty abounding), had only a day before written a check to pay off debts from the economic downturn, and was doing my best to rationalize that living in an apartment and starting over was somehow alright at my age.

The previous year had given me a glimpse of possibility. Through a speaking engagement based on my first self-published, bank-breaking

book (money out, not in), I had seen the opportunity to make a career transition from being a self-employed executive recruiter for the previous 14 years to a career coach.

For years, I had wanted to escape from headhunting and had journaled about it often: “When can I get out of recruiting?” The problem was that it was the only real career I had ever had. After college, a year overseas for a Big 8 accounting firm, and another year in the Hollywood entertainment business, I decided that numbers weren’t my thing and that I needed to do something else. A headhunter I met as part of my initial job search suggested that, since I was considering a move into sales, why not give headhunting a go? I did, and did fairly well at it. I even parlayed that career into a life comprised of a wife, a newborn son and all the beginning trappings of what I thought were success (the house, the Mercedes, the hot tub, etc.).

Yet, in 1996, the marriage ended. And, as a single dad with still many pressures to keep the money coming in, I had yielded to my wanderlust to find a way out of recruiting—a faceless person on the phone sitting behind a desk—and wrote a book. They say to write about what you know, so I wrote about the recruiting industry and headhunters, to help job seekers understand how to work best with these enigmatic entities.

The book did well for a self-published tome: reviewed by Publishers Weekly and the American Library Association, and receiving the 2001 Clarion Award for Best Book from the Association for Women in Communications. But selling the book was another thing. And, though it was carried in Barnes & Noble and other bookstores for a couple of years, I had far more books in a storage facility and closets than were holding up people’s bookshelves.

So, I went into major debt, unable to cover the huge investment I had made in self-publishing. Though hindsight is 20/20, there couldn’t have

been a worse year than 2001 to bring out a book about utilizing recruiters—because they were practically out of business in the recession!

The economy had so tanked after 9/11 and the stock market crash that recruiting was at an all-time low. Therefore, it seemed like the best time to shift toward where my heart had been calling me: more writing, speaking, and generally making a difference in other ways than shopping talent. Plus, the prospect of career coaching had just entered my life, so it seemed like a good basis for a new start.

I had recently completed a four-year course of study to become a licensed spiritual counselor, and a more intimately helpful approach to supporting people in their careers called to me. So, after raising my son for five years after the divorce in the house we had all once inhabited, I decided to sell it, use the equity to eliminate debts, and start over.

I remember writing that last check to First Card for the remaining \$14K of debt I had amassed to finance my first-book venture...and feeling truly relieved. “There’s nothing wrong with starting over!” I thought.

Now I had an opportunity, freed from the shackles of pretentious success, to focus on what called to me: writing and developing a coaching and speaking business. I even thought I would use my seeming lesson to help others, so I sent in a mini-proposal to the Maui Writers Conference to have agents and publishers exposed to my next book idea: *The Back Forty: 7 Critical Embraces for Life’s Radical Second Half: Turning Midlife Crisis Into Midlife Opportunity*.

I received several hits of interest from some notable players and was excited to begin this next writing project...until life showed me I wasn’t cooked quite yet. Which brings me back to what I call my initiation in the spring of 2002.

When that last debt payoff and *The Back Forty* proposal had been put in the mail, I received a formal, written proposal from my ex that she move 30 miles away and have our son full time with me having him every other weekend. Given our 50/50 parenting relationship for the last 6 years (since he was 2½), this would reduce my time with him nearly 75 percent.

As a very active father, having him involved in Y-Indian Guides, Cub Scouts, Tae Kwon Do, YMCA Basketball, YMCA Swimming, AYSO Soccer, and church on the weekends, I couldn't comprehend not having at least an equal influence over his continued growth. Her "proposal," therefore, turned into 3 months of mediation followed by over 12 months of legal actions and 10 full days in court...with two attorneys each! So much for having paid off my midlife, career-shift debts!

Therefore, while winding down the recruiting business I had developed for 15 years, promoting a book about utilizing recruiters on radio and TV interviews—when folks couldn't even find a headhunter—I found myself attempting to build a fledgling career coaching business part-time while operating as a full-time lawyer. My days were mostly focused on feeding my attorneys everything they needed to help fight the cause. Did I mention that I went a lot further back into debt than the one I had just paid off?

Call it insane, call it ego, or even (more generously) call it devotion, I was uncontrollably committed to pressing forward in a game where simply being behind the 8-ball would have been a drastic improvement: I was a father in the family legal system. I wasn't going to fold, and I even engaged a litigation support professional on my own to help create graphic displays that we plastered throughout the courtroom, showing my son engaged in all of his activities as the happy boy he was.

However, nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through the discovery, interrogatories, depositions, masses of motions, and defensive maneuvers (Hamlet's slings and arrows had nothing on me), we heard that the psychologist hired to perform an evaluation had opined that my son's mother should have the bulk of custody. Where did he get that from? I subsequently learned that fairness and good sense don't necessarily reside in the family legal system.

Now, in addition to the already deep investment I had made in maintaining an equal role in my son's life, I had been delivered what appeared to be a death blow by an evaluator's opinion. I was told by my attorneys that, with the game changed as such, it would cost me even more now to have yet another evaluator get involved to dispute the first evaluator's opinion. Yet, with no more caution in my constitution to even throw at the wind, I pressed forward nonetheless.

Again, call it insanity, ego, or devotion, but I was all in for what seemed fair, right, and in the long-term, best for my son.

I remember specifically the moment when I decided that I had no choice but to persevere. My parents had lent me money to press forward and were in town when the evaluator's opinion had come out. Both they and my attorneys asked me to think long and hard that evening about whether going forward was wise. With my parents sleeping in my son's room, he was sleeping in mine. In the middle of the night, unable to sleep, sitting in my meditation chair looking at him with tears in my eyes, I somehow remembered the scout motto: Do Your Best.

Though the decision to move forward probably doubled the investment I would eventually make in the whole process, it was those simple words that had me know that I would unequivocally keep moving

forward in whatever way was necessary. I would do my best. I would not fold to pressure or seemingly unfavorable conditions and biases.

In the end, with the good fortune of having a female judge who did not really buy the evaluator's conclusion, I was able to maintain my nearly 50/50 custodial relationship with my son. It actually became 60/40, which had me feeling quite low...after all of the effort. Yet, a seasoned expert witness shared with me that, in the way the judge constructed our respective times with our son, he would be with me during his free time and with his mother more during school time. This advisor said it was obviously because of the strong influences I offered my son in terms of activities and participation in life.

Somehow that had me feel better. Yet it was clear that nobody ever wins in custody suits. The Harvard education that might have gone to my son is now going to be enjoyed by the kids of the attorneys.

In the end, I found myself mentally, emotionally, and financially all but bankrupt. The entire legal process—being on the defensive at whatever cockamamie accusations are thrown at you, thinking desperately strategically at all times to leave no stone unturned, and wondering if your legal team is really doing all they can or if this is just another day at the office for them—leaves you worn and tattered. Then, paying the bill, leaves you breathless. The initiation had begun.

I call the custody suit and the dearth of self-esteem that followed it my initiation into my own purposeful Back Forty because it was my point of critical choice. In exploring this midlife crisis phenomenon, it seems that people are generally going to have something major happen around this time in life, be it divorce, death, financial devastation, or health issues.

Yet, it's the choice one makes on how to hold it all that determines the value of everything that has occurred. The choice is basically whether I am a victim to it all (e.g., my ex-wife, the evaluator, the economy, etc.) or somehow at cause of it all. I didn't see this clearly at the time. However, my initiation into The Back Forty® had nonetheless, undoubtedly and, perhaps, unwittingly occurred.

What I was present to was simply this: I was a loser. Plain and simple. At nearly 41, I was without a home, living in an apartment, carrying a huge amount of debt, continuing as a single father while just launching a career in a new field. I was surely nowhere near where I thought I would/could/should be by this time in my life. For certain, there must be something wrong—with me, with life, with the world—that I would be in such a condition, and my tendency was to side with the former. I beat myself up relentlessly for somehow getting into this state.

For a few years, I wore the badge of What-She-Did-To-Me as I scrambled to regain financial footing...all the while nursing an open bottle of low self-esteem. I invested in a network marketing program, chasing the glitter of what would supposedly restore me financially so that I could get on with what really interested me: developing myself as a writer, coach, and speaker. However, four years later, while appearing to the unaware observer to be successful through traveling the world to exotic locations as part of the multi-level process, I was no better off financially than when I started.

In the spring of 2008, after a 10-day trip to Rome, I decided that I had to leave that opportunity and focus directly on what I wanted to do. I learned that any main focus of my efforts was going to require most of my time and, therefore, doing something less than enlivening in order to be able to one day afford to do something really I cared about just didn't work. The logic didn't hold. So, I decided that I would focus on

writing, coaching, and speaking anyway. If Marsha Sinetar's claim was true, I should be able to "do what I love" and the money would follow.

Though not specifically related to the career crisis, yet worthy of note on the self-esteem side of midlife, I did have a couple two year relationships in the midst of my post-custody-suit scrambling. One was looking for someone to provide the country-club caretaking existence she had grown up with, while the other wanted to start a family—neither of which, truths being told, was I in any condition to offer. For sure, getting caught up in another person's midlife initiative—a woman at 40 needing to get pregnant right away—was no territory for me to dabble in. So, the midlife angst was definitely going to get handled within rather than without: no escaping through love, younger gal, or sportscar.

However, during the last of these love affairs, I did feel my spirits pick up enough to begin to consider my creative urges again, one of which was writing. If you'll remember, I had floated a book proposal for *The Back Forty: 7 Critical Embraces for Life's Radical Second Half* by some agents and publishers six years earlier. Back then, I had presented the premise to the book as a simple idea: that even when folks hit midlife and feel like a washup for having not done or become what they coulda/woulda/shoulda, the fact is that they are right where they need to be in their process of R & D, research and development.

I had postulated that the first half of our life is simply R & D, with us conducting "experiments" by which to discover who we really are—our proclivities, tendencies, passions, leanings, motivations, etc.—and that the second half was the opportunity to pull all of those discoveries together so as to be useful in fulfilling our own unique purpose. What I didn't realize when I first presented that proposal in 2002 was that I

had more R & D to conduct: the whole custody suit and resulting dearth of self-esteem being part of it.

Though I had studied for four years just prior to the custody suit to become a licensed spiritual counselor, there was nothing like the last six years to open me up to the internal trials and tribulations that people face when life goes differently from what we expected or took for granted. I had truly been through an education to an nth degree on the downward-spiral pull of midlife lemons. The question was this: was I going to apply the book idea to myself, with this now cornucopia of life experience to process? The book idea had, unknowingly, been prophetic, and I found myself being challenged to walk the talk.

The book had not been written. Only a two-page mini-proposal of the idea had been presented, along with a brief introduction to the concept. How was I going to create some life-giving piece of self-help literature to thirsty people—after so many had lost their savings in the crash, the Great Recession, people out of work, folks downtrodden—when I was still in my own funk?

Gradually, I began rebuilding my career coaching program, when people needed the help most but were least able to pay. I aligned with a couple of outplacement organizations and led tons of workshops for laid off individuals. The outplacement firms were having record-breaking income years with all of the downsizing, and at least I was able to be of service and earn my way while doing it. Giving people hope and innovative ways to find something better nourished my spirit. And then, I started writing the book...even in the midst of my own recovery.

One of the first things I had to resolve for myself was that I would not write the book from the perspective of being an expert. That created too much pressure within me, and a sense of inauthenticity because I felt in no way an expert at midlife turnarounds. However, I knew I was

undoubtedly committed to that possibility for myself and, if I could somehow do it, perhaps it could inspire and support others caught up in their own version of midlife caca. So, I decided to write the book not from the stance of an expert but from that of a student. Plus, the other big roadblock I released was the idea that I—meaning me, myself—had to write it.

Being a licensed spiritual counselor and aware of the power of affirmative prayer—when you pray knowing that you already have that which you are seeking—I decided to write the book, in a way, like an affirmative prayer. I would sit at the beginning of each chapter and see what needed to be written, without any sense of pressure of having to have it all worked out, and let it flow like a prayer for my own healing. If, in the end, it truly did heal me, then perhaps the process that unfolded could help heal others as well. I was inspired by this quote, which actually had me write the book first and foremost for myself:

“If there is a book that you want to read and it hasn’t been written yet, then you must write it.”—Nobel prize-winning author Toni Morrison.

I wanted to read this book about living into a purposeful second half of life. It hadn’t been written. So I had to write it. And I wrote it for myself, completely selfishly. If others would benefit from it, that would be a nice bonus. But the main healing was for me.

Little by little, over the following three years, I wrote the book. There were periods of high prolificity followed by months neglect and simply paying the bills. But gradually, chapter after chapter, it unfolded. With a blank page at the beginning of each chapter, I heard what wanted to be said and, in a way, took dictation. It was the greatest joy to get up after each writing session—when time seemed to stand still—and look back over the healing words that had flowed. It almost felt like it wasn’t me that had written anything. And this joy of writing was growing more

acute in my awareness as an activity in which I most felt fulfilled and in the zone. In the face of the Great Recession scramble, I was reaffirming my own calling.

The book was gradually healing me as I let it unfold. Because of the highly intimate nature of the subject matter—using myself as the guinea pig for all of the exercises and processes presented in its pages—I was reluctant to get opinions from the outside. I battled with a side of me that wanted it to be capitalized on immediately through some kind of publishing arrangement while another side said to take my time and write it all for me, first and foremost, before ever taking it to market. With hard to muster patience, I did just that. I found myself on the other side of this indepth, self-induced healing process in late 2010 with a completed book.

I felt newfound inspiration in my life. I even allowed new love to enter my life and, for the first time in my adulthood, was with woman who didn't need anything from me. I even wrote an ebook about my unique career networking approach that further flowed my creative writing juices. As they say, things started to happen.

I took a full proposal of *The Back Forty* book to a large networking event in Las Vegas, with the intention to get referrals to an agent or publisher. I received a top-notch referral to an agent who, supposedly, only connects with people through such referrals. I sent my proposal and, a week later, heard that it was passed down to some lower-level agent to possibly consider but that it just wasn't right for this main agent. However, luck would have it that I attended a three-day book publishing conference a month later that this agent happened to be briefly attending. He was going to see just a few folks who got in line early enough one morning to catch a 1-minute meet and greet face-to-face with him.

I got there early, calculated my place in line, and saw that I would either be the last one in the door or the head of the line of out-of-lucks.

Miraculously, it was the former, and I grabbed a quick moment with this gentleman. It quickly became apparent that he was so sought after that he couldn't personally read everything presented to him. So, I pitched him the idea and, though he liked it, there was a question of my platform.

That's the P-word that is most important to the publishing world these days, which have been taking their own hits from online booksellers, ebooks, etc. Publishers want you to already have an email list of 25,000 and to speak to at least 5,000 people each year for them to consider publishing your book. I had developed a bit of a stepstool, but nowhere near that kind of platform. So, his advice was for us to send it to a lesser known publisher where I would agree to buy several thousand copies. At least he was willing to work with me, but the idea seemed second rate.

However, in our continued discussions per email, he mentioned that a career publisher was looking for another title for their Fall 2011 list and that he had a short window to get them something. A career publisher didn't seem right for this more in-depth, whole-life, self-help work, but I mentioned to him that I had published an ebook the year before, entitled *Backdoor Job Search: Never Apply for a Job Again. 10 Time-Tested Principles for Launching an Effective Backdoor Campaign*. Perhaps they would be interested in that? He told me to write up a proposal for it and "Let's give it a whirl."

It whirled. My first traditionally published book came out in February, 2012, entitled *Never Apply for a Job Again. Break the Rules, Cut the Line, Beat the Rest*. I'm proud and blessed that it has been endorsed by many substantial folks who have the writing and speaking careers that I

have dreamed of. It has also enlivened my business plans and given me greater ideas for helping people in these challenging employment times. Best yet, however, is the fact that, as of this writing, my agent (who happens to represent the likes of Eckart Tolle, Neal Donald Walsh, and other notables) is presenting my proposal and manuscript of *The Back Forty: 7 Critical Embraces for Life's Radical Second Half* to Hay House and other top publishing houses for perhaps a 2012 or 2013 release.

I guess that last word says it all: release. I believe that, as outlined in *The Back Forty*, the biggest hurdle to overcome in launching into our individual purposeful second halves is to release what woulda/coulda/shoulda been. Our charge is to take on the idea that, underneath all of the supposed muck that we've drudged up in our first halves, it was all simply part of an intricate design to get us each where we are supposed to be in these second halves of our life.

Chapter 1 of *The Back Forty* proposes that “your life has been a uniquely powerful laboratory for the discovery and expression of something.” Discovering that something, encoded in all of the experience—which we each absolutely caused and designed so as to get that discovery—is, I believe, when our purposeful life truly begins.

While *The Back Forty: 7 Critical Embraces for Life's Radical Second Half* is still in the process of being published, The Back Forty® “movement” is well underway. If you find yourself in your own “midlife crisis” check out [www.thebackforty.com](http://www.thebackforty.com). This is where concepts and programs birthed from the book truly come to life. Through blog posts, videos, The Back Forty® INFUSE Program, socials, memberships and more, a community is here to help you make the second half of life your best half.

Has something come along and hit you like a bag of bricks on the side of the head? Perhaps a midlife career wallop, or a relationship one-two

punch? Often the first and best action to take when the unexpected comes out of left field is to create a transition strategy: moving out of the old and into the new. If that sounds like a path for you, avail yourself of a Back Forty Re-NEW-ALL by, as the title says, renewing the ALL of you [here](#).

A Back Forty Re-NEW-ALL is a 5-module online roadmap for those times when life falls apart and, yet, will definitely come together again even stronger. You just need a strategy for getting yourself there.

Don't let another day pass where you are feeling defeated and confused. I guarantee that, if you join the amazing community of The Back Forty®, you'll find inspiration and forward-moving inertia from like-minded, second-half trailblazers.

If you are a little more focused on your career right now, Never Apply for a Job Again! can be helpful to separate yourself from the pack of job seekers doing things the same old way as everyone else.

Purchase your copy of Never Apply for a Job Again: Break the Rules, Cut the Line, Beat the Rest right now by going to Amazon [here](#).

And, if more personalized coaching can help you move forward, consider setting up a one-on-one coaching session.

Check out the individual and online programs offered at the [CareerGuy Store](#) and see if the support and guidance can move you forward faster. See some initial sessions that can help [here](#).

Consider a one-on-one 90-minute Career Review Strategy Session, a PlayGame™ Big Game Coaching Session, or a Back Forty™ Big Game Future Session, depending on your particular career or life situation.

The Career Review Strategy Session is for you if you're looking to transition into a corporate career role, whereas the PlayGame™ Big Game Coaching Session is for executives, entrepreneurs or business leaders looking to take their business to the next level. The Back Forty™ Big Game Future Session is about designing a radical second

half of life from wherever you are right now.

Schedule either session [here](#).

**Career Review Strategy Session (Reg. \$247)** A hugely powerful 90-minute stand-alone session that gives you the opportunity to discover and determine areas you would like to develop and expand upon in your career. We spend a full 90 minutes one-on-one together on the phone walking through your background in detail so that I can form deeper impressions from which to advise you.

At the conclusion of the session, I personally walk you through written summary of **What's Working, What Needs Attention, and What Next Steps** need to be considered in your passion-based career growth.

This session alone generates enormous insights and is an incredible stand-alone value...ESPECIALLY helpful during career transition and yet good to get a bead on growing in your current role as well.

**PlayGame™ Big Game Coaching Session (Reg. \$247)** In this 90-minute phone or zoom video call, Darrell helps you construct a "Big Game" around your specific situation. From issues of business building, goals achievement, launching initiatives, or simply the benefit of a coach in your corner, this session offers stand-alone value.

The premise of PlayGame™ Coaching is the idea that anything worth achieving is worth building a game around. That very idea flies in the face of most of us, trained in a Western, industrial mindset that says it's all about nose-to-the-grindstone arduous struggle and effort to knock out lots of tasks to get to a hard-fought result. Whew! Even hearing that wears you out!

Many players have benefitted from a contrary approach to achieving breakthrough results and launching inspired initiatives: the idea of building a GAME and PLAYING their way to the changes and results they want to see. More fun, more forgiving, and far more long-term enduring...not to mention effective.

If you are a “player” executive, entrepreneur or expansionistic individual with big goals you want to achieve and accelerated growth you want to accomplish, PlayGame™ Coaching is for you.

**Back Forty™ Big Game Future Session (Reg. \$247)** During this initial 90-minute phone or zoom video session, Darrell helps you construct your Back Forty "Big Game" Future. Address issues around goals and dreams you'd like to achieve at the midpoint of life and career, break through to fulfilling who you came here to be and what you came here to do. This session offers immediate and stand-alone value. Of course, longer term support is available.

See more reviews and videos on Career Coaching [here](#), reviews and videos on PlayGame™ Coaching [here](#), and reviews and videos on Back Forty™ Coaching [here](#).

See more reviews and Darrell’s 5-star rating as #1 Los Angeles Career Coach in organic search on Yelp [here](#):



To Your Success!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell W. Gurney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



About the author: **Darrell W. Gurney** is a life, career and purpose strategist in southern California.

Contact him at e-mail: [Darrell@CareerGuy.com](mailto:Darrell@CareerGuy.com) or [Darrell@TheBackForty.com](mailto:Darrell@TheBackForty.com)

***Did you enjoy this story? If so, check out the full book, full of even more inspiring midlife stories [here](#)!***

