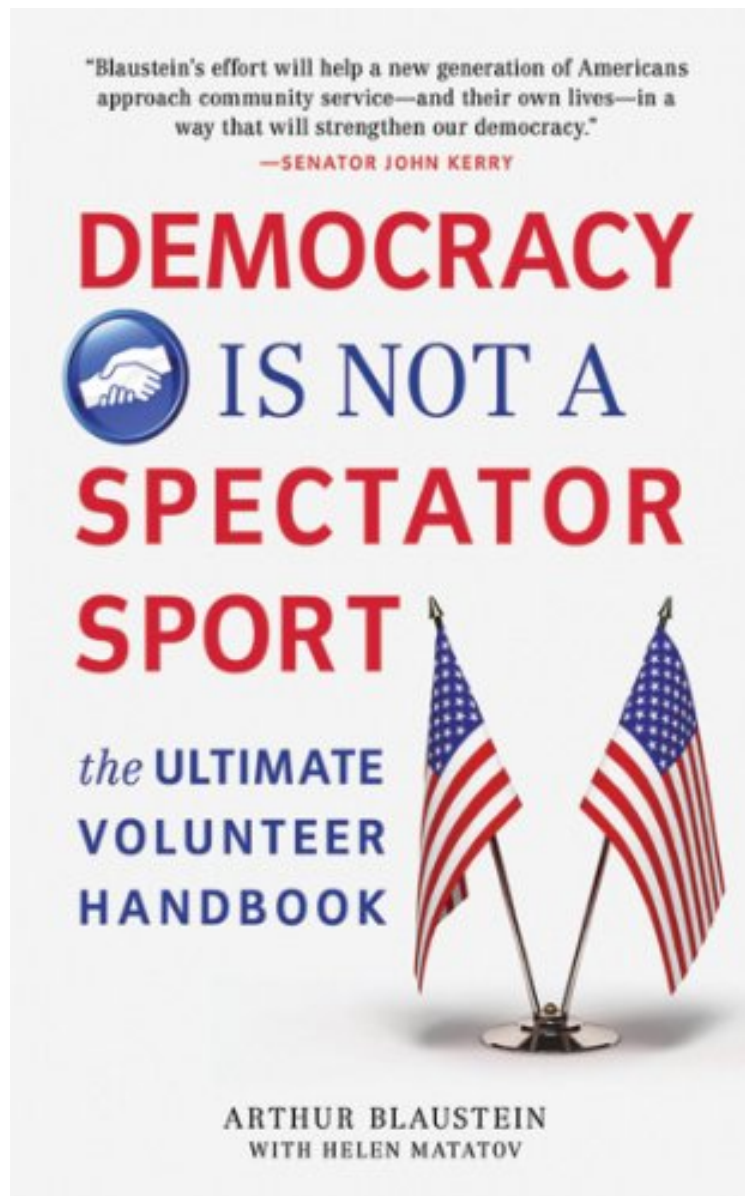


# Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport: The Ultimate Volunteer Handbook

Arthur Blaustein

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Arthur Blaustein : Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport: The Ultimate Volunteer Handbook before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport: The Ultimate Volunteer Handbook:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Democracy is Not a Spectator SportBy a pot of tea and a good

bookFive Star: Arthur Blaustein's Democracy is not a Spectator Sport reads like a well played chess game; ultimately you realize it is up to you as an individual to make the changes we all talk about needing in our society; yes "our" society, and we can own it one person at a time with this brilliant blueprint. I have given my students, God-children, nephew, son, and friends this book. It's uplifting and also awakens us to the power of our own influence, beginning with the impact of our decisions on the quality of our own lives. I know that volunteering has contributed more to my self understanding and of the world than anything else. It also was responsible for my first three professional positions. It's vital reading. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Resource For Would-Be Volunteers

By Jon D. Peterson

Arthur Blaustein's Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport: the Ultimate Volunteer Handbook, challenges Americans who have gotten soft or discouraged. He makes the case that current U.S. policies must significantly change to order to improve our struggling economy, correct the expanding gap between the rich and the poor, and return all Americans to meaningful work. Blaustein pulls no punches criticizing Reagan and the two Bush presidencies for tailoring their policies to reward corporate billionaires and to land us in the current financial mess. On the other hand, he praises Obama and virtually all past Democratic administrations for their consistent efforts to advance human rights, social justice, and to hold the rich accountable, in spite of GOP opposition. Blaustein's book is much more, however, than a liberal diatribe against greed in America or a historical work praising the Democratic Party. Blaustein reminds us that many of the most important, historic changes in our lifetimes owe their success, not to government, but to grassroots movements. He writes: "When our leaders could not or did not act, the people did. The civil rights, antiwar, environmental justice, consumer, anti-apartheid, disabilities, gay and lesbian rights, anti-nuke, and anti-sweatshop movements - among others - are a few examples..." To bring this point home, Blaustein showcases more than twenty volunteers who tell their individual stories. William Stacy Rhodes tells of growing up in a church that valued social justice, serving two years in the Peace Corps in Bolivia after being inspired by JFK, and in 2009 being appointed its chief. After losing her house as a teen in the Oakland fire, Sabrina Bornstein joined AmeriCorps-VISTA and worked for Habitat for Humanity, helping others rebuild their homes, and changing the direction of her life. Megan Voorhees volunteered her freshman year of college to teach ESL to migrant workers in Oregon, met Caesar Chavez, discovered the importance of service in every realm of her life, and today runs the Public Service Center at UC Berkeley where last year 6000 UC students volunteered at 270 organizations. After inspiring the reader with stories such as these, Blaustein shows why the book is sub-titled the Ultimate Volunteer Handbook as he lists more than 150 pages of volunteer opportunities and up-to-date contact information. Divided into twenty sub-sections, the book describes a wide variety of available volunteer opportunities. He describes hard-to-get internships, like working for the Center for Arms Control and non-Proliferation, in Washington, D.C, as well as part-time volunteer work making calls from home for organizations like MoveOn.org or the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. He describes jobs that require specialized medical or legal training, like Doctors Without Borders or the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, as well as dozens of hands-on opportunities available to everyone like Ameri-corps, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Habitat for Humanity, or the Red Cross. There are organizations listed which we have all heard of like the Salvation Army or the League of Women Voters, faith-based organizations, women's organizations, child advocacy organizations, political organizations, as well as research and policy analysis organizations. The list also includes many organizations that I never knew existed, like DoSomething.Org, a teen-focused organization that encourages young people to get out and do, or Pro Vote which has registered many thousands of low income voters. Repeatedly, Blaustein makes the point that when a person volunteers, everyone benefits. Those in need are helped, and yet there is a feeling of deep satisfaction experienced by the helper as well. It is this feeling of profound connection to other human beings that is neglected and virtually forgotten in today's materialistic world. Blaustein ends this inspirational resource with a list of fifty all-time works of fiction that could be used by a book discussion group to heighten people's consciousness about social problems. As someone increasingly spoiled by quick access to the internet, the only suggestion I might make for future revisions is to include one or two indexes listing these volunteer opportunities, first, by subject, then, in alphabetical order for easier reference. In so many other ways, this book is invaluable. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The Best Since Alinsky

By Subaru

If you're ready to create change we all can believe in, here is your roadmap. Arthur Blaustein has been leading the charge for social justice and economic sanity since the Carter Administration, and his new book, Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport: The Ultimate Volunteer Handbook, serves as an opus for all he has learned and all he has seen. This book is insightful, emotionally engaging and potentially world transforming--if you go out and put it in your hands, and take its glowing precepts into your heart and life, because, to paraphrase a pretty smart guy, "You are the change you've been waiting for".

Democracy is not a spectator sport! Learn how to get in the game with this comprehensive collection of more than two hundred community service opportunities and experiences. More than a simple resource guide, this unique handbook includes interviews, anecdotes, and commentary from the top folks in nonprofit and service fields and ties together the strands of volunteering, community service, and civic engagement. Whether you have a specific cause in mind or are looking for volunteer work to beef up a resume or increase professional experience, here are short- and long-term ways

to get involved.

About the Author Arthur Blaustein is a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, where he teaches community development, public policy, and politics. He has served on the board of the National Endowment for the Humanities and was chair of the President's National Advisory Council on Economic Opportunity. He lives in Berkeley, California.