

IGNITE YOUR PASSION

How to Find and
**Ignite Your
Fire Inside!**

April M. Williams presents:
16 authors show you how
to Ignite Your Passion, Find
Your Purpose, Define Your Destiny

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This Book Was Ignited By Passion!

What is it that gets us out of bed in the morning? How do we become inspired and motivated to achieve our best at whatever we choose to do? Why are certain activities so much easier to start and stay with? As I experienced changes over the past few years in both my professional and personal life, I thought hard about these questions.

When I talk about passion, I mean the exhilarating feeling which comes over you when you are immersed in that which you love. You're excited to get started and content to stay engaged in your work. You feel fulfilled and complete in what you are doing. Some people seem to find their passion as early as their teen while others of us take much longer to find the spark that ignites the fire inside of us.

Over the course of my professional life my occupation has changed direction and continues to evolve. I am most fulfilled when my passion is my career and now it is also my business. This metamorphose was not a simple overnight occurrence but an advancement which took several years to complete. Even now the journey continues. For me, it's a wonderful feeling to spend my days doing what I have a passion for. As I continue along my travels, I found others who are just as passionate about their work. They are easy to spot because of their passion emanates from every pore in their body.

That is how this book began. As I talked to others who demonstrate a passion for their occupations, I asked them if they would be willing to share their stories with you. My passionate co-authors include:

Michelle Kabele who is passionate about sharing marketing knowledge with others. She utilizes blogs, presentations and video to share her message with others.

Izzy Kharasch is all about education and the food industry. Through teaching, hands on experience, management and consulting, Izzy knows food means business.

Mark Cummuta is a techno geek with keen understanding that it is not the technology itself that is important but what the technology can do for people.

Christopher McCann does not walk softly. He is a "tell it like it is" kind of guy who you can trust to give you the straight answers and steer you in the right direction.



Mark Frietch is also down to earth and believes in building alliances to accomplish big goals. He offers concrete action plans to help others get the results they desire.

D'vorah Lansky is an innovator who keeps me in the loop on the latest product or service to make me more effective in my business. She knows she can help herself and others be successful by partnering with them.

Dave Sheffield is goal driven. Dave focuses on the next step ahead and bringing others with him as he drives results.

Andy Hughes lives across the pond in England and spends his time helping companies improve revenue. He is passionate about success for himself and others.

Julia Gorelik is soft spoken and knows how to ask those tough questions to get to the heart of the matter. She is passionate about helping her client achieve their goals.

Sandra Larkin built her career in the corporate ranks then transformed her knowledge, skills and passion as she branched out into the entrepreneurial world helping others be healthy.

Stefan Levy has a menagerie at his home. He loves animals, riding his Harley and matching hiring manager needs with talented workers.

Lisa Williams is passionate about horses. They appreciate her can do spirit and dry sense of humor. Lisa's passion for horses extends to her novels.

Maria Odiamar Racho is warm hearted, caring and devoted to diversity. She is a role model for her family and team mates in all she does.

Mark Stelzner takes action. Tired of the unemployment numbers, Mark took a small step and began a grass roots movement to get people back to work

Wally Amos's career has evolved from music promoter to gourmet cookie entrepreneur. Anyone who meets Wally knows he is passionate about cookies, literacy and the aloha spirit of Hawaii.

April M. Williams – I am passionate about helping other be successful and achieve their goals in life. I am most fulfilled when I help others stretch and grow to obtain their dreams.

In this collection you'll be inspired by tales of how my co- authors found their passion, what makes them passionate and how you too can find passion in your life. These experts in various fields and industries share their passion for what they love to do. In their own warm and dynamic way, their stories will inspire you to ignite your passion inside and define your own life's destiny.

Know Your Passion!

What is passion?

Passion is the strong feeling which compels you to action. Passion is the experience of enthusiasm for someone or something. Passion is driven by emotion and desire. When we act out of passion, we are motivated by that which we care about. When we have a fondness for what we do, there is no such thing as work. Only pleasure.

Why should you know your passion? When you are doing something you are passionate about you are enjoying yourself and feel fulfilled.

How do you know you have passion? When you wake up excited and looking forward to the new day.



Izzy Kharasch



Isidore S. Kharasch, owner and president, Hospitality Works, Inc an operational foodservice consulting, training and management firm founded in 1987. In April of 2009 Izzy also became a **Certified Green Consultant** allowing him to guide and direct businesses in becoming Green and Certified Green. Izzy has been an adjunct faculty member of Kendall College for the past 19 years and in that time has written and taught 10 courses in both the culinary and bachelor programs. Izzy has also been adjunct faculty at Ecole Hotelier, Lausanne, Switzerland (2002 – 2005) as well as Roosevelt University and Lexington College, both in Chicago.

Izzy is a 1982 graduate of The Culinary Institute of America, a 2005 graduate of the bachelor program in Hospitality Management at Kendall College, and recently completed his Masters Degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management at Roosevelt University in Chicago. Mr. Kharasch is also veteran of the U.S. Army (Food Inspection/Quality Assurance Specialist) and a prior to opening his company in 1987 Mr. Kharasch was the Executive Chef of Harvard University's Faculty Club.

Mr. Kharasch received the Presidential Citation from President Ronald Reagan for "outstanding service to the community and finding innovative private solutions to public problems." In addition, Mr. Kharasch is the President of The Foodservice Professionals Network of Chicago, and a past Advisory Board Member of Kendall College and Lexington College.

Izzy has also published articles in Crain's Chicago Business, Nations Restaurant New, Cooking for Profit, Commercial Lending Review, Dining Chicago and Food Service Equipment and Supplies magazine. Mr. Kharasch is considered and has been utilized as an expert in the hospitality industry by The Wall Street Journal, CNN, CNBC, ABC, The Los Angeles Times, The American Banker and many more print and broadcast media.

Izzy has also been the guest speaker for the National Restaurant Association (NRA show, 2005), Princeton University, Texas A & M, The Illinois Governors Conference, The Nevada Environmental Health Association Educational Conference, The Culinary Institute of America, The Club Accountants of Chicago and Hospitality Finance and Technology Professionals.

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I Found My Passion And It Only Took 24 Years!

By Izzy Kharasch

What I know about passion is that it is elusive. I know that in my case I had to really live and experience life before I could understand what my passion is. I know that a great part of my life has been a search not just to find my passion but to understand that I even have a passion. The reason I had trouble finding my passion is that I had to pass it by many times before I began to understand that what I was doing with my life was laying the groundwork that would allow me to appreciate my passion. I don't think I could have even told you what my passion was until I hit 40. The other thing about passion is once you finally understand what your passion everyone else wants to tell you why it's the wrong time to pursue it.

My Passion

My passion is for education. My passion is for learning and teaching. This comes from one of the worst students' fortunate enough to graduate high school. In an odd way I have always considered myself very lucky, blessed even, because since 15 I have always felt that I was on the right road. I knew something was out there, just out of reach, just around the bend within my grasp if I could only understand what it was. I have appreciated every twist and turn that my life has taken along the way. Good or bad I always felt that these experiences were an intricate part of my learning process. It has been time and life experience that has allowed me to reflect, understand myself, appreciate my desire, and continue the search for my passion.

Not Letting Passion Pass You By

I have a brother who is about the smartest guy I know and he was great in school and unbelievable in math. When he went to college he majored in accounting because this is what he his natural talent was. When he graduated he went to work for a big 8 accounting firm and within a month he knew that this was not his passion. He could have been like a lot of folks and stayed in the job because he invested so much time and energy, it paid well and he was good at what he did. He made an unbelievably brave decision, he decided to go for his passion; medicine. This meant another 5 years of school and with more years of being an intern. Following his passion made him a different person. Many years later that passion for medicine is as strong today as it was when he told us he was quitting his job and going to med school.



Passion Begins As Fun

I needed to make money when I was 15 and a friend of mine hooked me up with a cook's job at Barnaby's Pizza restaurant. From the very first day I started working at Barnaby's I felt that I was in the right place. I thought it was the cooking that I enjoyed so much. On the third day of work I started what I would consider a small fire in the toaster. It seemed my manager felt that it was a bigger fire and a much bigger deal than I did. It was a good thing that he liked me or I would have been let go. On day 4 I began working a few hours a day washing dishes and the remaining hours bussing tables. I loved it all but I especially enjoyed being with the customers, hearing what they liked and why they enjoyed coming to Barnaby's. I knew that being a busboy or a cook or a dishwasher was not my passion but there was something about the hospitality

industry that I was enjoying. It was the first time in my life that I felt that I was enjoyed something enough to want to pursue it as an adult.

Passion Is A Process

I knew that upper level education was not for me, so I decided to join the Army the summer that I left high school. I went to basic training and then I was sent to advanced training, another name for school. I really enjoyed the education I received in the military because it all



made sense. Everything you learned directly related to your job. All of a sudden I loved math and science because I what I learned would be used every day as part of my job. When it was time to leave the service I decided to go to chef school. I knew that I was choosing a school that would not only add to my education but teach me what I really needed to know.

Changing Focus To Find That Passion

I followed that road, that passion out of school into a job as a chef. I loved being a chef but I was not passionate about being a Chef. The part of the job I loved most was the training my staff. I appreciated the opportunity to teach something that I enjoyed. I knew that if I could communicate something that I get pleasure from rather than just the recipe my staff would do better, be more creative and hopefully improve on what I taught them. I really got it! I loved the teaching and the training! I loved knowing that I was changing my employee's perspectives in terms of what they did and how they did it. I loved being able to send people back to their jobs more excited today than yesterday.



Passion Is All Or Nothing

I knew that I wanted to make training my sole focus, my career, my passion. It took a few years but I really understood that my talent was not cooking but teaching my passion; hospitality. At 28 I made the decision to give up a prestigious job as the Executive Chef of The Faculty Club at Harvard University. The job had great pay and great benefits but for me I knew that I would never be happy staying for those reasons alone.

I decided to talk to other companies and let them know I was available to be their director of corporate training. Alas, I was told time after time that I did not have enough experience. I did the last thing available to me, I hired myself! I started a company called *Hospitality Works* that would focus on training and consulting.

I knew I Found My Passion When.....

- I knew I found my passion when the word no motivated me to stick with what I was doing.
- I knew I found my passion when I told other people about what I was doing most said that I should just get a full time job.
- I Knew I found my passion when after each training session all I could think about was how I could be more effective next time.

- I knew I found my passion when I was offered a part-time teaching position and my first thought was what an honor not how much does it pay.
- I knew I found my passion when I searched for more ways to learn and more effective ways to teach.
- I knew I found my passion when, after more than 20 years I'm as excited today as I was when I taught my first class, trained my first group of employees and sat in a class that I had been looking forward to.

I Know This About Passion

- I know that finding my passion did not come easily.
- I know that finding my passion was worth the wait.
- I know that I look forward to talking about my passion with other people and when I do, it's as fresh and exciting to me now as it was when I just figured it all out.
- I know that I don't have a hobby because there is nothing that excites me more than looking forward to, creating or teaching that next class or conducting that next training.
- I know that I don't wish I had discovered my passion any earlier.
- I know that discovering my passion came to me when I was ready to understand it, accept it and then act upon it.