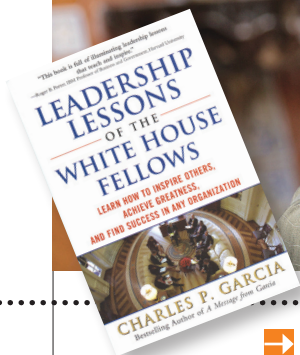


The Literati Corner



LL: When did you first think about this book? What inspired you?

CPG: Someone once said that you should write the book you want to read. The book I would love to read, and therefore wrote, is a book that reveals the leadership secrets from apprentices of America's premier leadership development program—The White House Fellows. In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson launched this leadership program, and its alumni have gone on to become some of our nation's most successful leaders. This is a very valuable opportunity, so I am donating 100% of the royalties of the book to the White House Fellows Foundation, which supports the education program of the current class.

LL: How has your experience as a fellow influenced your life?

CPG: In 1988, I had a cathartic leadership experience when I was selected for the White House Fellows program. The lessons I learned in this prestigious leadership program allowed me to serve in three Presidential administrations; to start a company with three people and grow it to sixty offices in seven countries; to be appointed by the Governor of Florida to serve four years on the State Board of Education; and to write a best-selling leadership book that was favorably reviewed by The New York Times.

LL: What are the qualities that define true leaders and how can someone cultivate them?

CPG: There are 20 qualities that define true leaders. From a balanced life and healthy lifestyle to focus, integrity, compassion, persistence, persuasion and a willingness to take risks. The complete list is in the book.

LL: What was the main challenge in putting this book together and how did you address it?

CPG: The main challenge was conducting over 200 interviews

Lessons in Leadership:

Charles Patrick Garcia

By Mariana Gutiérrez

The list of Charles P. Garcia's accomplishments is impressive. An immensely successful entrepreneur, Charles is also an inspiring author. In October 2003, he published his first leadership book, *A Message from Garcia*, which was ranked number 6 on the Wall Street Journal's Best Seller list and was favorably reviewed by the New York Times. In May 2009, McGraw Hill published his second book, *Leadership Lessons of the White House Fellows*. We caught up with him on his way to Washington to briefly talk about his book.

with some very important people. It took nearly five years and produced over 5,000 pages of notes. I also had to access and research the beginning of the program by getting special permission to research LBJs files in the LBJ Presidential Library in Austin, Texas, and special White House files in the Library of Congress.

LL: What changes would you like to see as a whole taking place from these ideas? How can they be applied in these challenging times?

CPG: At this time in our nation's history, as we face enormous political and economic challenges due to overwhelming failures by leaders at all levels in public and private enterprise, the time has come for statesmanlike leadership in every sector of our great society. I sincerely hope this book will serve as an encouraging guide to all who aspire to offer the capable, bold leadership our country – and indeed, our world – so desperately needs right now.

LL: What is the single most important lesson you learned from writing this book?

CPG: That leadership is not heralded by a sudden bolt of lightning and a great thunderclap from high above. It's certainly not the natural outcome of spending a remarkable year in Washington D.C. either. Rather, genuine leadership is measured by the individual moral choices one makes every day. I believe the anecdotes in this book clearly illustrate that truth and will also shed light not only on the benefits of authentic leadership, but also on the costs.

LL: What next for you?

CPG: To continue to work hard for the benefit of the Latino community. ■

Get it at: *Leadership Lessons of the White House Fellows*, published by McGraw Hill, is available online at amazon.com and in local bookstores.