

## From the Planners' Bookshelf...

### ***The Great Good Places, Cafés, Coffee Shops, Bookstores, Bars, Hair Salons and Other Hangouts at the Heart of a Community***

Ray Oldenburg, Marlowe & Company, New York, 336 pages, 1999.

#### Summary.

Ray Oldenburg defined a place that defines a community. "Third place" is a concept that serves small cities and towns well as they strive to become and remain place where people want to be; welcoming places between home and work.

**YouTube:** In addition to the reviews cited below, check out:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hd1\\_jNln-qw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hd1_jNln-qw)

#### Published Reviews.

##### Goodreads

#### **The Great Good Place: Cafes, Coffee Shops, Bookstores, Bars, Hair Salons, and Other Hangouts at the Heart of a Community**

by

[Ray Oldenburg](#)

"The Great Good Place argues that "third places" - where people can gather, put aside the concerns of work and home, and hang out simply for the pleasures of good company and lively conversation - are the heart of a community's social vitality and the grassroots of democracy."

Source: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4119>.

#### Project for Public Spaces (PPS)

"Ray Oldenburg is an urban sociologist who writes about the importance of informal public gathering places. In his book *The Great Good Place* (1991), Oldenburg demonstrates how and why these places are essential to community and public life, arguing that bars, coffee shops, general stores, and other "third places" are central to local democracy and community vitality. In exploring how these places work and the various roles they serve, Oldenburg offers Placemaking tools and insight that can be useful to individuals and communities everywhere."

Source: <https://www.pps.org/article/roldenburg>

