

Googins & Anton

Investment Advisors

March 31, 2011 Newsletter

Dear Clients and Friends:

Panic - Are you getting accustomed to the panic? We move around the world hop skipping to geographical places believing the worst is happening and find Wisconsin makes great news too!

James Steward, March 19th Wall Street column says, "Panic should never be a reason to sell anything. The question is whether whatever caused the panic justifies taking immediate action. As with many events that are both enormously complex and uncertain, it takes some humility to acknowledge the truth, which is that we simply don't know."

Black Swans or Natural Disasters? Both of them are unexpected - we can plan but we cannot guarantee outcomes. I'm still for planning while remembering we'll never be totally prepared. That's why courage and stick-to-it mentality are so important.

Jeremy Siegel, Warren Buffett, and Brian Wesbury think the market will do well in upcoming years. Laszlo Birinyi is the most aggressive; he says the S&P 500 can double - in a couple of years! If so, we'll want to reduce exposure then.

Accessing Your Accounts at Saxony/Pershing - You can go to www.googins.com and click on the "Client Access" tab to log in and view your accounts via NetExchange Client if you have completed the application with us for this online service. Call us for assistance.

Tax Facts You Might Use:

1. If you are required to take a required minimum distribution from your IRA, you can direct some or all of it, up to a maximum of \$100,000, to a charity of your choice. You must authorize the custodian of your IRA to pay the money directly to the charity. This special ruling is set to expire at the end of the year. A contingent benefit *might be* that the gift reduces the amount of your social security that is taxable for 2011.
2. Gift Tax Exclusion - Each year you can give \$13,000 tax free to as many family/friend recipients as you might choose without having to file the IRS form required if you are using some of your gift/estate tax exclusion. You can give more than \$13,000 to one recipient if you make the payments directly to an educational institution or medical establishment.

Many larger estates have chosen to use up their lifetime gift tax exclusion (\$5 million for 2011 and 2012) before dying as they believe the gifted asset will continue to appreciate. Better it appreciate in the beneficiary's estate. The two year \$5 million rule exclusion has increased current planning opportunities. Thus, it is a reminder that it may be time to review your planning with an attorney even if your estate is not that large.

3. Credit shelter trusts for non-spousal heirs - Many people have incorporated trusts in their estate plans due to second marriages or for other reasons. The new exemption exclusions have led to significant confusion regarding interpretation of amounts required to go into each trust. Fears are that a surviving spouse may be left with insufficient assets in his portion. Again, something to check on if your will incorporates trusts.

For short investment topics, please visit our blog at <http://googinsandanton.blogspot.com>

Sincerely yours,

Louise, Tracey, Brenda, Michael