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| *Robert W. Romeo presents:* |
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| **IN THIS ISSUE****The Financial Powerhouse Potential of Millennial Women**The future is female[[CLICK TO READ]](#Article_ONE)**Financial Moves for Adults Living with Parents**Make your time at home work for you[[CLICK TO READ]](#Article_TWO)**The Market in a Minute**A recap of the last three months in one minute or less.[[CLICK TO READ]](#Market_Minute) |  |  |
|  | **WINTER 2018****NOTABLE QUOTE:**"A man or woman is seldom happy unless he or she is sustaining him or herself and making a contribution to others." *- Zig Ziglar***QUICK TIP:**We all have instincts that can make us spend more and save less. Recognizing them can help us to improve our financial behaviors. |
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|  |  | **The Financial Powerhouse Potential of Millennial Women**According to the recent John Hancock Twine Savings and Investing app, which took a look at the money behaviors of women ages 19-36, solid habits are being formed and a potential powerhouse financial block is building. According to the findings, 45% of women indicate that setting a financial goal motivates them into meeting that goal. While 71% of these young adult women are working, and more likely than men to have graduated from college, only a third of these young women are investing money beyond their workplace retirement accounts. Despite mixed results, the potential exists for millennial women to achieve great strides; the desire to meet goals, for instance, can be very beneficial to any individual looking to build and sustain wealth, regardless of gender.John Hancock financial advisor Misty Lynch points out how far things have progressed in the last few decades: “Millennial women have more freedom with their finances than past generations ever did. […] A married woman couldn’t even get her own credit card before 1975 without permission, and single women didn’t have it much easier when it came to financial independence.” The confidence and independence evidenced by these studies indicates that the future may be bright for millennial women.1 |
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|  |  | **Financial Moves for Adults Living with Parents**A major trend in 21st Century American life is the number of young adults living at home with parents or other family. The numbers jumped over 10% since 2000 and 15.3% at the turn of the millennium to 26.3% in 2016, per a report this year from the National Association of Home Builders. Further evidence comes from a 2016 finding from the Pew Research center, which found that, for adults aged 18-34, living with at least one parent had become the most common living arrangement. There are many reasons for the trend: Underemployment, low wages, the rising cost of housing, and overwhelming student loan debt. For some, living with the folks is a necessity. For others, it is an opportunity.The opportunity comes from living under a roof owned by someone more sympathetic than a landlord or rental agency. Taking advantage of the situation may take the form of using the time at home to make larger payments to student loans (avoiding larger interest payments), building a nest egg for emergencies, and paying off credit card debts (or building credit). The time can also be useful if you are building good budgeting habits; perhaps you are making regular, small rental payments to your parents or relatives, or maybe paying one of the utilities. Ultimately, these practices can help you prepare for a time when you are ready to find a place of your own.2 |
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|  |  | **The Market in a Minute**The Nasdaq Composite eked out a monthly gain of 0.34%, closing at 7,330.54 on November 30. The S&P 500’s 1.79% November rise left it at 2,760.17 at the end of November, and the Russell 2000 climbed 1.45% to 1,533.27. (The Russell lagged behind the performance of other major indices, ending November down 0.15% YTD.) The blue chip Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.68% to 25,538.46.3,4According to a Census Bureau report, the pace of retail sales improved 0.8% in October, a big difference from the 0.1% retreat in September. Meanwhile, as October ended, the Department of Commerce announced a 0.6% advance in personal spending in October along with a 0.5% boost for personal incomes.5,6 |
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