



Happy Fall from API!

We're Sweet on You by Sandy

Each year we try and host an event that will appeal to our clients. This year we tried an ice cream social and had a great time at Churned Creamery in Cypress. The best part of the day was meeting cute grandchildren of our clients. You can go to Asset Planning on Facebook to see the fun photos. I love informal events where we have time to chat with our clients and meet extended family. We hope to see you next July for National Ice Cream Month.



"Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without coming away better and happier."

– Mother Theresa

Healthcare Emergency Planning for Adult Children by Erin

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, my daughter is now a college freshman. We also recently celebrated another milestone with her, the 18th birthday. Though, Ashley is technically an adult, I know she has some years ahead before she is truly an adult with real responsibilities and maturity. With that in mind, I knew I didn't want to be caught in an emergency situation where I was unable to help my daughter because of her "legal" adulthood. I once experienced a medical emergency nightmare with my unmarried adult brother whom was hospitalized in an incapacitated condition. Due to HIPPA privacy laws and no established health care directives, we could not see him, get any information, nor make any decisions about his care.

To be prepared in a healthcare emergency,
continued on next page...

Earthquake Coverage by Carol

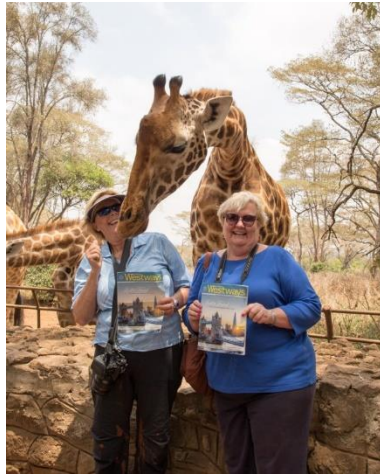
While the country is recovering from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, I have been thinking about California and its vulnerability to earthquakes. Hopefully, you have done your due diligence to make your family and home earthquake ready. Your home is one of your largest assets, but how many of you have earthquake insurance and should you? Your homeowner's insurance does not cover structural damage from an earthquake. You need a separate insurance policy for earthquakes. Here are some guidelines:

1. Size up your risk: What type of ground is your home built on? Bedrock is more stable than sandy soil or fill. How is the quality and type of your structure? A flexible wood frame should do better than brick.
2. Assess the cost: get a quote from your current insurance company; go to the CEA-California Earthquake website: earthquakeauthority.com and use their premium calculator to get a quote. There are many options for deductibles and coverage. For example, I got a quote of \$2,100/year for a 5% deductible policy vs. \$937/year for a 20% deductible.
3. Insurance is to guard against a catastrophic risk that might ruin you financially. You have the choice to assume the loss and pay for any damage, eliminate the risk, or transfer risk by obtaining insurance.

If you have more than 50% equity in your home, you should look into adding earthquake coverage. After you receive some quotes, please feel free to have us help you review and choose what policy is best for you.

African Safari by Sandy

I recently went on an African safari across the Maasai Mara animal reserve in Kenya to witness the Serengeti migration. We saw over 80 individual species including hippos, elephants, giraffes, zebras, white and black rhinos, wildebeest, leopards, impala, warthogs, antelope, lions, gazelle, crocodiles, hyena, and many baboons and monkeys on our tent porches. It was a once in a lifetime trip that has been on my bucket list for decades. Diane, from the CPA side of the office, went on the safari also. (We are trying to get into the AAA Westway's magazine in this photo.) You must plan on seeing these beautiful wild animals before they dwindle in number to extinction and poachers. As an animal advocate, I cannot understand trophy killing of big game. Please shoot animals with a camera only.



Keep Us Current by Samantha

In light of the recent disasters around the world, it is important to remember to keep us informed of any changes to your address, phone number, or email address. It is crucial for us to have up to date information if we need to reach out to you for any reason. If we see these changes come through AdvisorClient (TD) or Schwab Alliance, we will reach out to you unless you have previously reached out to us with the same information.

Please note that our office does have procedures in place in the event of a disaster to continue monitoring your accounts, as well as placing trades, if necessary.

Follow our blog for tips on how to prepare for disasters and for ways to help. www.assetplanninginc.com/new-blog

Market Trends and Outlook by Carol

The stock market continues to push forward and hit new highs. The hurricanes, North Korea threats and retail pressures did not change the upward direction of the market. The economy is doing well: GDP is up 3.1% YTD. Corporate tax reform is adding to the momentum. The main proposal is to change the top corporate rate from 35 to 20%, leading to better corporate growth and earnings.

The personal income tax reforms have some big changes: no state income tax deductions, larger standard deduction, only three tax brackets, no AMT or estate tax. This is a general framework and many details are missing. We do not expect the final result until next year and that it will be very different from what was presented this month.

Healthcare Emergency Planning... continued by Erin

a HIPAA release and Healthcare Directive are two forms that can be prepared in advance by your adult children or any adult.

A signed HIPAA release permits healthcare providers to disclose your health information to anyone you specify. A stand-alone HIPAA form does not have to be notarized or witnessed.

An Advanced Healthcare Directive form allows you appoint an "agent" to make medical decisions on your behalf in case you are incapacitated and cannot make such decisions for yourself. You can also specify your wishes regarding life support.

Each state has different laws and forms governing these legal documents. If your child is out of state, complete the away and home state forms. I will post this information on our blog as well as links to the state of California's standard forms. Also be sure to check with your insurance company or Medical Provider if they have their own form to sign as well. I know Kaiser does.

	YTD
	Sept 2017
60% Equity/40% Fixed	8.9%
50% Equity/50% Fixed	7.8%
Barclays US Agg Bond	1.4%
S&P	12.5%
DOW	13.4%
iShares (EFA)Foreign	18.6%