



O.M.G. on the Flip Side

The times they are a-changin'. A lot has happened at O.M.G. this summer. Claudine Kratz, VP of Operations and assistant to Teresa O'Dette for over 6 years, announced that she will retire this October. With the upcoming birth of her 3rd child, due on Halloween, Claudine and her husband, Daryn, will be busy raising their young offspring. We're going to miss her terribly! Not to worry however, as Ange Worl will be replacing Claudine as Teresa's



Claudine Kratz in Tahoe City with her daughters Annie and Kelly.

Executive Assistant. (See page 2 for more exciting changes to Teresa's team!)

The newest addition to our team is Matt Boudro as Client Services Coordinator to Mortgage Consultants Andrew Kojane and Katie Rice. Matt graduated from Lyndon State

College in Vermont with a BS in Recreation and Resource Management. We are very excited to welcome him to our family!

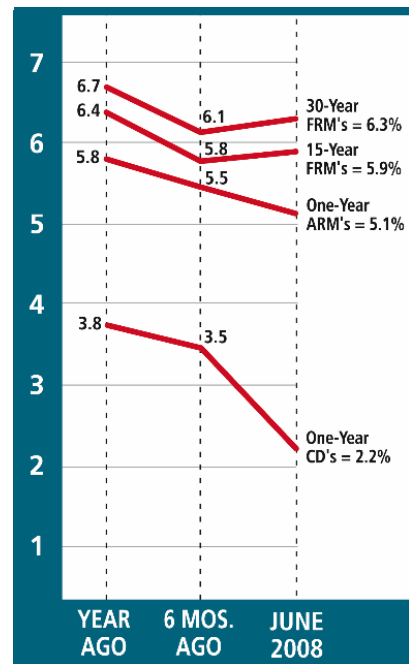
While many mortgage companies have closed their doors in the face of this difficult mortgage market, O.M.G. continues to thrive and expand. To better serve our Bay Area clients, we are proud to announce the opening of our office in San Francisco. Additionally, our Tahoe City office has moved across the street to the brand new Customs House building near Starbuck's and Chase International. Stop by next time you're in town - we'd love to see you!

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Key Interest Rates At A Glance

Rate trends as of Mid-June 2008



FRM = Fixed Rate Mortgage
 ARM = Adjustable Rate Mortgage

"To accomplish great things we need to dream as well as act."

~ Anatole France

Your Link to Nature

Take your workout into the great outdoors with the inspiring guide at www.outdoorindustryfoundation.org. Click on "Getting American Active Database" for a list of more than 100 organizations like the American Hiking Society, Bikes Belong Coalition, and American Canoe Association. Narrow down your choices by activity and/or location, then click on one of the groups you like for program details and a Web site link. The database is



also loaded with information on volunteer organizations, many of which—like the Women's Wilderness Institute and Sierra Club's Inner City Outing—are geared toward getting women and kids active. So pick a program, and you'll be outward-bound in no time.

Getting Rid of Ants

When you see ants, put out small piles of cornmeal. They eat it, take it "home" but can't digest it. It kills them. It may take a week or so, especially if it rains. You don't have to worry about pets or small children being harmed.

O'Dette, Schwartz and Wees Partner-up

In an effort to better serve their clients, Teresa O'Dette and Ephraim Schwartz have joined forces as Co-Originators. Partner, Janet Wees, will take over business operations and development.

Ange Worl will

transition as Teresa's Executive Assistant and Shawna Hale will continue as Client Relations Coordinator for Ephraim Schwartz.

"The combination just makes sense. We have different strengths that complement each other. We can focus on serving our clients with the attention they deserve," said O'Dette.

"This will even further improve our service to clients, referral partners, and help us stay ahead of the game in this rapidly changing market," Schwartz commented.



The Dream Team - Shawna Hale, Ephraim Schwartz, Teresa O'Dette, Janet Wees and Ange Worl.

Burglar-proof Your Garage

Treat any door to your garage like an external door, which means making sure it has a good dead bolt on it.

Burglars will scour neighborhoods



with common brands of remote openers, looking for garage doors that will open. Change your garage-door opener code. New openers come with factory-set codes that are meant to be changed, but many people neglect to do so.

Keep your car locked with the alarm on, even in your garage, and consider additional anti-theft devices such as The Club or any device that allows you to track your vehicle through a GPS system.

Use a large key lockbox in the garage for storing rarely used car keys.

Make sure garage lights can be turned on from inside the house so you never have to walk into a dark garage.

Money Matters: Is it Time?

Submitted by: Diane Morrison, AAMS Financial Consultant, A.G. Edwards & Sons

The question on every investor's mind is whether or not it is time to buy stocks? Let's start with the bottom line – no one knows for sure. If you are willing to accept that humble conclusion, you have taken a big step toward being a successful, long – term investor. So how do we accumulate wealth by investing in the future of our economy? The first question to ask yourself is whether or not you have faith in the long term growth of our country. Growth that has continued since 1776 based on our democracy and free enterprise system. If you do not, stop reading this article. If you do have faith in our country, ask yourself one major question: Would you rather buy stocks after they have been going up for a long time or after a long decline? Bear markets occur approximately every four to five years and do one very good thing – they create great buying opportunities for the long term.

Sounds simple! The problem is: How does one know

whether a bear market is about over, half over or just getting started? The answer is also a humble one – there is no way to know for sure but there are some guidelines to follow. This bear market started nine months ago, the popular averages have dropped more than 20% and many individual stocks have declined much more. The level of fear is great, sidelined cash is at record levels and it's very difficult to find a bull. All of these factors are seen in the area of a potential bottom, but there are no guarantees we won't see the stock market decline. These factors do say that the risk/reward ratio in the long term is much improved from what it was one month or nine months ago.

Most Americans have faith in our nation's long term outlook. The biggest challenge investors face in buying stocks after substantial price decline is their own state of mind. After big market declines, most folks are depressed, pessimistic and certainly not in the

mood to buy stocks. Successful investors control their emotions and buy when it is uncomfortable to buy. To protect against possible further market decline, we suggest taking only partial positions. Keep some cash to use if the market goes lower or when market action improves. If you are fully invested, talk with your investment advisor about possibly switching holdings to others that appear more attractive. Is it time to buy? We can only say with complete confidence that we don't know for sure. However, market history says it is time to do some selected buying for the long term.

Diane Morrison is a contributing author as well as the Preferred Financial Consultant to Teresa O'Dette.

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Recalls and Product Safety

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products. You can find information on over 4,000 product recalls and recall alerts by visiting www.cpsc.gov and clicking on the Recalls and Product Safety News link.



Baby Powder at the Beach

On trips to the beach, keep a small bottle of baby powder in your beach bag. When you are ready to leave the beach, sprinkle yourself (and the kids) with the powder and the sand will slide right off your skin.

Turn Off the Water

When leaving on vacation, turn off the water to your washing machine. Leaving the water on means that the hoses remain pressurized at 60 to 80 pounds. If these hoses break it could mean that up to 650 gallons of water per hour can pour out of a single 3/8" hose. That's more than 2 1/2 tons of water per hour spilling out into your basement—or even worse if the washing machine is located upstairs.

Consumer grade hoses last about four to five years. Periodically check hoses for soft spots, brittleness near connections, kinks and blockage of water flow. Replace when necessary.

Financial Safety Nets

Given today's headlines, you may wonder who protects your money in case a financial institution goes under. Here's information on the entities that back up various types of accounts:

Bank or Thrift

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) covers at least \$100,000 per person (\$250,000 for some retirement accounts) at each institution. For more, go to www.fdic.gov/deposit/deposits/insured/index.html.

Credit Union

Most are insured by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA). Some supplement NCUA insurance with private American Share Insurance, not government-backed. Still others use only American Share. For more, go to www.ncua.gov/shareinsurance/index.html or www.americanshare.com.

Broker

The Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) gives each investor \$500,000 of protection to recover lost assets if a brokerage belonging to the SIPC closes or becomes insolvent. For more, go to www.sipc.org/how/brochure.cfm.

Defined-benefit pension

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) covers most workers with traditional retirement plans. For more, go to www.pbgc.gov/about/insurepension.html

401(k)

There's no federal fund to repay investors losses, but invested retirement money might be protected by programs that apply to relevant financial institutions.

Insurance

Many products are protected by state associations funded by the insurance industry. Coverage varies. For more, go to www.ncigf.org.

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