

Here's to Your Health and Wealth

by vcmorris - Thursday, May 26, 2011

<http://thethinpinkline.com/2011/05/26/heres-to-your-health-and-wealth/>

Success is about family, faith and finding your passion in life. But, without money and good management of it, we can't make those dreams secure. It is my hope that over the past two years that I've been contributing to The Thin Pink Line blog – that I have helped “show you the money”: how to make it, handle it, grow it, spend it and save it – because without financial knowledge – one's passion in life is often just a pipe dream.

In my more than 40-years in broadcast journalism, I've been an agent for change simultaneously to multiple generations of women – the generation above me, my own, and the one I created.

I was among the first women of color in television on television; a triple minority - Black, female and 21; and a few years after my career began, became the Bay Area's first on-air, pregnant anchorwoman. Women, young and older, grew up with me and with my style of delivering news, which however difficult the news was, I told it with the family in mind. Viewers in general perceived me as the working mother with whom they could and did identify.

As part of the immediate post-Vietnam era of television newscasters, I brought my personal core values and experiences from being a student reporter at San Jose State University during anti-Dow Chemical Company demonstrations and Hell's Angels on campus, to covering the creation of the 1968 Olympic raised fist salute by my classmates John Carlos and Tommie Smith.

But, it was my global view having been raised mostly abroad as the daughter of an Air Force officer that led the San Jose State University president all those years ago to ask me to lead the school's “Day of Concern” on how to address racial diversity issues on campus following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior.

This is the background from which my life values grew. And in this final blog for TTPL, I wanted to share my core values about money and life with you. Those values include:

- Knowing the importance of having a relationship with myself.
- Developing a personal agenda based on facts and discipline.
- Consistency in what I do and how I do it.
- Being clear about needs versus wants.
- Believing that good habits create a sense of stability.
- Having no time for drama when I'm seeking peace.
- Accepting the fact that if no one's in charge – I am.

I hope that my Women and Money posts have helped you to embrace urgency and forward motion regarding managing your personal money. Yes, *it's your money so take it personally*™.

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I hope that my posts have encouraged you to move from networking (just talking about what can be done) to active, startup strategies (ongoing, incremental ways to improve your individual financial literacy and begin wealth building.)

My two primary core values that I hope I never outgrow: curiosity and re-invention. I will continue to encourage students of all ages and speak and write endlessly to provide/contribute to a financial education model that encourages curiosity about how money can work for them. Re-invention will be my continuing message – in that financial re-invention should become a habit throughout life whenever there is any major life-changing event. Staying relevant and up-to-date are necessary components to financial well-being.

This blog has been hugely important to me in my efforts to “unstall” the stalled financial revolution of young women and men and helped me spread the work about the benefits of putting hard, cold cash money issues on the family menu – to be discussed honestly, regularly and fairly.

Finally, I hope each of you will buy into the concept of paying it forward. It is the process by which the newly financially informed can become committed to sharing that knowledge in a tangible way with another person who isn't as informed with the goal being no agenda other than to see another person succeed in some way because of the information you gave them. <http://valeriecolemanmorris.com/>

I wish each of you health, wealth and blessings of light – always.

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