

Valuable Change - 10-15-2009

by vcmorris - The Thin Pink Line Blog: women and work, women and leadership, women and careers, women and negotiation, women and money, work/life balance - <http://thethinpinkline.com>

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by vcmorris - Thursday, October 15, 2009

<http://thethinpinkline.com/2009/10/15/valuable-change/>

Many years ago, a much cherished friend gave me the nickname "Valuable". It was her way of respecting my Mom's wish that my given name of Valerie not be shortened (though Val is quite fine with me) - while simultaneously delighting her by creating such a complimentary substitution.

This same friend is the one who showed me by her example - this most *valuable* life lesson: *once we have the freedom to re-invent ourselves, it opens up a buffet of choices.*

Her menu has always been varied. She has successfully and deliberately re-invented what she chooses to do with her time but more importantly, re-evaluated how she felt about herself with each change. Her career started working at the beginning of the life cycle - as a nurse midwife. She was present for the birth of both of my daughters. Her career now post, raising children, surviving widowed and the grandmother to a growing nest - is as a geriatric medical specialist.

In the midst of the lives we live - there is always change. Remembering my friend's *valuable* life lesson has always helped me (eventually) see a bigger menu - a buffet of choices. It does again as we are changing and starting to feel the beginning cycle of a recovering economy.

I believe that in the midst of this infant recovery are important generational change characteristics about personal money and what people are choosing to do with it. Call them the characteristics of new philanthropists in which cultural changes are rampant.

Younger generations are re-inventing the reasons, ways and to whom they tithe; looking for a return on their investment when it comes to which not-for-profits they support and commit to sustain as their assets and incomes grow. Charitable giving is coming of a valuable new age and new philanthropists - however rich or modest their financial circumstances - want to see the good of their assets rather than just feeling good about their actions.

This new mindset is real and worthy. It will require each of us to commit to seeing/reassessing/recalculating where everybody is now when it comes to money relations. The old "we've always done it this way" formula doesn't work anymore. Financial sustainability has new metrics these days and for the future.

The challenge: each of us must figure out how to move the financial people in our respective lives into the new money direction we each need - and do it without getting everyone's back up. A buffet of choices on how to do that is available to you. Get creative. Talk with your lenders, creditors and other financial services representatives in your money house and get your money needs recalculated. It's doable. It's worthy. It's valuable.

Here's to your health and wealth.

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