



MARKET HIGHLIGHTS:

- The FOMC raised rates for the 10th consecutive time in May but paused in June. Officials now forecast two additional rate hikes for 2023.
- Treasury rates shifted higher with stress in the banking sector receding and risk aversion dissipating.
- US equity markets advanced in Q2, with a narrow group of mega-cap Technology stocks pushing the market higher.
- Information Technology, Consumer Discretionary, and Communication Services were the best performing sectors within the large cap market, while Utilities and Energy generated negative returns.
- The economy has been surprisingly resilient in the first half of 2023, with the Atlanta Fed estimating Q2 GDP growth of 1.9% following 2.0% for Q1.

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It's a Scorcher

July is here. Are you ready for the heat? If you think it's been scorching hot already in some places in Florida, it's time to prepare for the next-level experiences those of us who live here have all become accustomed to. June 29, 1931 was a hot day in Monticello in Jefferson County, which is north and east of Tallahassee. It currently stands as the hottest day ever in the Sunshine State, according to the Florida Climate Center. The thermometer topped out at 109 degrees. Grab your ice cream and let's hope this is a record we never get to break.



INDEX PERFORMANCE

06/30/2023

	Q %	YTD %	1 Year%
Aggressive Allocation	5.91	12.14	14.88
Balanced Allocation	4.25	9.67	11.03
Conservative Allocation	2.62	7.26	7.18
S&P 500 TR	8.74	16.89	19.59
Russell 2000 TR	12.31	8.09	12.31
Barclays U.S. Agg Bond TR	-0.84	2.09	-0.94
MSCI EAFE NR USD	3.22	12.13	19.41
	As of	As of	
	6/30/2023	6/30/2022	
10-year Treasury	3.81%	2.98%	
Barclays 1-3m Treasury/Cash	5.43%	1.75%	
Price of oil	\$70.64	\$105.76	
Real GDP YoY % change	1.80%	3.50%	
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.70%	3.60%	

The aggressive allocation is made up of 50% S&P 500 TR, 8% Russell 2000 TR, 18% Barclays U.S. Agg Bond TR, 22% MSCI EAFE NR USD and 2% cash. The balanced allocation is made up of 39% S&P 500 TR, 5% Russell 2000 TR, 35% Barclays U.S. Agg Bond TR, 16% MSCI EAFE NR USD and 5% cash. The conservative allocation is made up of 29% S&P 500 TR, 2% Russell 2000 TR, 53% Barclays U.S. Agg Bond TR, 9% MSCI EAFE NR USD and 7% cash. All indices are unmanaged and investors cannot actually invest directly into an index. Unlike investments, indices do not incur management fees, charges, or expenses. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

Market Review – Rally?

— By Rick Tonkinson, MBA, MPA, CFP®, CLU, AIF®



Yes, the stock market has had a solid half year performance but, is it a rally?

By definition, a rally is a period of sustained increases of stocks or their related indexes. It is a rapid upside move over a short period of time. A rally is triggered by surprises or economic policies. News stories and new products trigger investor enthusiasm.

This “period of time” is a matter of a point of view. As money managers, our point of view is that it holds those gains for at least a quarter (90 days).

To put the current stock market into perspective, the top ten stocks in the S&P 500 have a market capitalization of 31.7% and the earnings of 21.5% of the S&P 500. They are trading at price/earnings (P/E) ratio of 29.3 while all the other 490 companies are trading at P/E of 17.8. The

S&P 500 has a P/E ratio of 19.1 which means the top 10 stocks are 153% higher than the average company in the index.

Regardless of the market conditions, these top 10 stocks are the 800-pound gorilla and will determine if the market is good or bad. Of these 10 companies 7 are in tech heavy companies, Apple Inc, Microsoft Corp, Amazon.com Inc, NVIDIA Corp, Alphabet Inc, Tesla Inc, and Meta Platforms Inc, which now make up 27.7% of the S&P 500 Index but they have been the driver of returns this year.

The NASDAQ Composite, which is an exchange, has 3,611 listed companies that are primarily tech, and it has been driven up by the top 7 companies and those same 7 stocks now make up 48.2% of the exchange. Think about that for a second, of an exchange with more than 3,600 companies almost half of it is made up of just 7 names.

The Russell 2000 is an index of 2000 small companies, it has a P/E ratio of 23.7 despite 45% of the names within the index not currently generating a profit.

During the first half of the year, certain sectors of the S&P 500 did not experience the same level of participation in the market rally. Utilities declined by 5.7%, energy by 5.5%, healthcare by 1.5%, finance only saw a modest increase of 0.5%, and real estate rose by 1.5%. In contrast, the S&P 500 as a whole posted a significant gain of 16.9%. These disparities suggest that the overall performance of the economy may not align with the optimism exhibited by the markets.

It is important to remember that if a sector such as technology declined 40% in 2022, a \$100 investment is now \$60. When it increases by 40% in 2023, it is now \$84. It needs to gain 66.6% to break even.

In May, the political turmoil surrounding the debt limit had minimal impact on the federal budget, resulting in few changes. However, the current National Debt has reached a staggering \$32 trillion, and the interest charges on the borrowed money are now expected to exceed \$1 trillion. This indicates that a significant portion of our financing needs still heavily relies on borrowing. To cover upcoming expenses, a staggering \$1.4 trillion (\$1,400,000,000,000) will need to be borrowed. Given that our current federal budget is \$6.2 trillion, this represents a substantial 23% of the budget. It is evident that this level of borrowing creates a significant burden on the budget, as the servicing costs continue to grow, posing challenges for overall financial management. This path is just not sustainable.

Overall, economic conditions are improving with lower gas prices, full employment, an unemployment rate of 3.7%, and decreasing inflation at 4.1% in May. They can indeed contribute to an improved consumer sentiment. When consumers feel more confident about the state of the economy, they tend to spend more, which can have a positive impact on various sectors.

With 68.3% of the economy coming from consumer spending, it's not surprising that the consumer discretionary sector has seen a significant increase of 33.1% so far in 2023, given the positive economic conditions. Amazon (AMZN), is one of the largest e-commerce companies globally, and it has an increase of 55.2% in its stock price this year.

For short-term investments with a duration of less than 1-year, in particular US treasuries stand out providing attractive rates and maybe the most underestimated investments right now.

Considering typical economic conditions and market behavior, I hold a positive outlook for the rest of the year, expecting the ongoing "rally" in tech stocks to continue, while the rest of the market experiences slower growth.

TESLA

— By Rick Tonkinson, MBA, MPA, CFP®, CLU, AIF®

Right now, the financial press is absorbed in writing that Tesla is the darling with a 2023 year to date gain of



112.5%. With a record of 466,140 deliveries in the second quarter of 2023 and Ford and General Motors using Tesla's charging connectors it can do no wrong.

For several months in 2022, the same financial press was absorbed in writing that Tesla was the worst and everything they did was wrong. They really beat up Elon Musk for buying Twitter.

The stock fell from \$414.50 on 11/4/21 to \$101.81 on 1/06/23. On June 30, 2023, Tesla stock was at \$261.77 a share. Despite its tremendous 2023 results, it is still short \$152.73 to get back to breakeven 20 months ago. This is an example of the wild roller coaster ride that happens when one invests in a high-profile stock.

The financial press has no memory of bad times when things turn around.

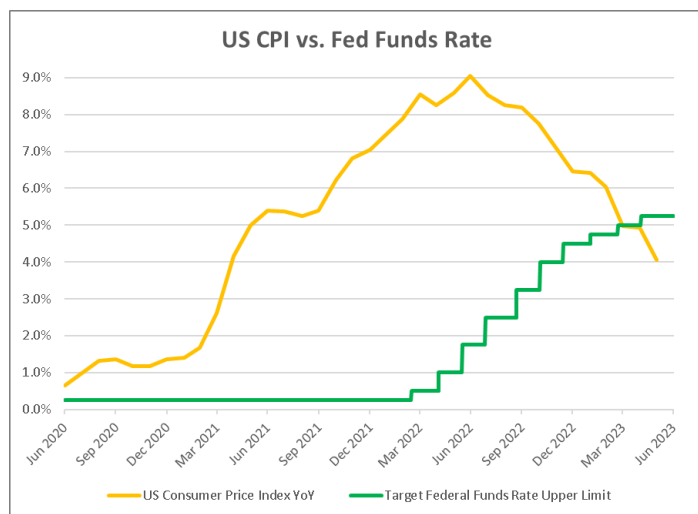
When Will the Fed Stop raising Rates?

— By Steven Tonkinson, CFP®, AIF®, CFS®



The Federal Reserve continues its campaign of hiking interest rates while economic turbulence persists. A recession in the next 12 months remains a possibility, which should be short-lived if it occurs. Once the Fed wins the war against inflation, it will shift to cutting interest rates in order to get the economy moving again.

The Fed has continually pushed interest rates higher and higher for more than a year to squash high inflation. This has been done by hiking the Fed's Fund Rate and other measures, which has driven interest rates to levels not seen since the late 2000s, before the global financial crisis. A year ago, the U.S. inflation was at 9.06% and as of last month it is down to 4.0%.



The United States (and many other countries) enjoyed the experience of a decade of low interest rates following the 2008 global financial crisis and the Great Recession, but many investors are now wondering whether that era has ended for good. The last time we saw the Fed's Fund Rate this high was back in 2007.

Higher interest rates have meant higher borrowing costs for consumers and businesses. The 30-year mortgage rate is close to 7%, the highest in over 20 years. This is causing a slowdown in spending for the housing and other sectors of the economy. This is by design—the Fed must rein in spending in order to bring inflation down.

One reason that interest rates have risen much further than most forecasters anticipated is that the U.S. economy has proved more resilient to the impact of higher rates than expected. Housing activity has fallen sharply, but the rest of the economy seems unscathed. We think that

households' excess savings and other factors are temporarily cushioning the hit from higher interest rates. Over the coming year, we imagine seeing the impact of rate hikes to be felt more strongly in other parts of the U.S. economy.

A common question we get is “when will rates go down”. First, we expect the Fed to pause its rate hikes after conducting one final hike in July. Then, starting around the beginning of 2024, we expect the Fed to begin cutting the Fed's Fund Rate. We also see the trend in prices of goods and services going from inflationary to deflationary in 2023 and the following years mostly due to supply constraints in durables, energy, and other areas. This will make the Fed's job of curtailing inflation much easier.

As long as the Fed is allowed to shift to easing by the end of 2023, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) should avoid a large downturn and start to accelerate in 2024 and 2025. Fed rate cuts could also jump-start GDP growth.

Housing, which is the most interest-rate-sensitive major component of the GDP, will drive much of the fluctuation in GDP growth. Lower rates in 2024 and 2025 will be needed to improve housing affordability via lower mortgage rates and thereby resuscitate demand in an ailing housing market.

The Fed's potential pivot should provide welcome relief. Rising interest rates played a key role in the selloff in both stocks and bonds in 2022. Bonds will certainly rally if yields fall. And while not guaranteed, we expect that falling interest rates would likely also lift stock prices.

Investing for Short Term

— By Kristina Shamonina, CFP®, ChFC®, Certified Senior Advisor (CSA®)



When planning for a short-term goal like financing a wedding or saving for a home or vehicle purchase it is important to not only be disciplined at putting money away but also be mindful about where you are putting that money to accumulate. Since the money is needed in

the near future, investing in stocks is not appropriate as it bears too much risk. However, keeping funds in the checking account is not the best idea either, as it offers a way-too-easy access to the funds while providing no opportunity for investment gain. Luckily, there are other options that can help your savings grow.

1. High-yield savings account (HYSA)

A high-yield savings account is a type of account that offers significantly higher APYs than the national average.

Normally, HYSAs are available through online banks (like Ally Bank, Discover, Capital One, to name a few). Online banks don't have brick-and-mortar locations, so they have less overhead costs and can provide higher rates to their customers. HYSAs are backed by FDIC or NCUA insurance. They usually have no minimum deposit requirements and don't charge monthly fees.

Their main disadvantage is that all business and activities are done strictly online so clients who prefer a more traditional way of banking will not have a physical location to walk into and deposit/withdraw the funds. Unless the bank behind the HYSA operates branches and teller services, you can only typically make electronic funds transfers; the bank may also impose a limit on the number of monthly transactions.

2. Money market accounts

The money market account is a type of a deposit account offered by banks and credit unions. They are also backed by FDIC or NCUA insurance. Historically, these accounts have offered higher interest rates than savings accounts but nowadays there are HYSAs that beat the rates offered by money markets.

Like HYSA, money markets may also have a limit on the number of transactions per month. They can, however, have a higher minimum deposit requirement and charge monthly account fees. Money markets also provide easier access to funds – via a debit card or via check-writing features.

3. Certificates of deposit (CD)

CDs are offered by banks & credit unions and are time deposits, meaning that once you open a CD, you cannot access the money for a set time period, ranging weeks to many years. At the end of the term, the bank will return your principal plus the earned interest.

For short-term goals, CDs with shorter maturities (6, 12 or 18 months) can be considered. These days short-term CD rates are very attractive and are currently higher than long-term rates, while normally it's quite the opposite. Keep in mind, though, that once again, the higher CD rates are offered by online banks vs the traditional brick-and-mortar establishments.

Withdrawing funds from a CD before the term is up bears a cost in the form of penalties – that is why a CD is not the best way to invest cash that may be needed at a moment's notice. A no-penalty CD can be considered, though its interest rate will be much lower.

A CD's interest rate can be a blessing and a curse. Once the CD is opened, its rate is locked. If subsequently interest rates drop, then your CD keeps earning a higher

rate. However, if subsequently interest rates rise, then your CD is stuck earning a below current market rate.

4. Treasuries

Treasuries (T-bills, T-notes and T-bonds) are debt obligation backed by the AAA credit rating of the US federal government and offer the ultimate in safe yield. There is a cost to safety though, the interest rates on Treasuries may not be the highest available on the market.

T-bills, with maturities of up to a year, are a good option for short-term investments. Treasuries can be purchased directly from the government or in your brokerage account. The great advantage of Treasuries is their liquidity: they can be bought and sold on stock exchanges any time during market hours. That comes with potential gains and losses.

5. Money market mutual funds

Money market mutual funds are sponsored by an investment fund company. They are a type of mutual fund that invests in highly liquid, short-term investment such as cash, cash-equivalent securities and short-term, debt-based, highly rated securities, such as U.S. Treasuries. The returns are dependent on the fluctuating market interest rates. Their high liquidity with a low level of risk make money market mutual funds attractive as a holding place for cash in investment account for short term.

6. Ultra-short-term corporate bond funds

These bond funds invest only in fixed-income instruments with very short-term maturities of less than one year. They have low durations, which means that increases in the interest rates will have a lesser impact on their value vs the value of a medium- or long-term bond fund.

Ultra-short bond funds are not FDIC insured; they invest primarily in a diversified portfolio of short-term, investment grade fixed- and floating-rate corporate and structured debt while actively managing credit and duration exposure. These bond funds bear more risk than money markets but tend to offer higher yields. They are also susceptible to losses due to defaults from economic factors.

Each of the short-term investment options discussed has its pros and cons which need careful considered when choosing the most appropriate one for you. There are many factors, such as individual risk tolerance, investment horizon, investment amount and end goal – you should make sure you are putting your cash to work in the right place. Consider reaching out to us for a conversation on balancing the needs for preservation of capital, income, and liquidity.

Understanding P/E Ratio Multiples

— By Tom Saul, Advisor & Co-Portfolio Manager



Investors rely on various metrics to evaluate the value of stocks in the market. One key metric is the price-to-earnings ratio (P/E ratio), which provides insights into investor sentiment, growth prospects, and risk assessment. Additionally, understanding the dynamics of multiple expansion

and contraction can shed light on market trends and the performance of different investment strategies. In recent months, both cap-weighted and equal-weighted versions of the S&P 500 have exhibited distinct patterns, with most of the growth in the first five months driven by multiple expansion.

What is the P/E Ratio?

The P/E ratio compares a company's market price per share to its earnings per share (EPS). By dividing the market price per share by the EPS, the P/E ratio helps investors gauge how much they are willing to pay for each dollar of earnings generated by the company. This metric reflects market expectations, investor sentiment, and the company's future growth prospects and risk profile.

Multiple Expansion and Contraction:

Multiple expansion occurs when the P/E ratio increases over a given period, indicating that investors are willing to pay a higher price for each dollar of earnings. This expansion is typically driven by optimism about the company's future prospects, anticipating strong growth, increased profitability, or favorable market conditions. An expanding P/E ratio reflects higher expectations for the company's earnings potential, potentially driving up the stock price.

Performance of Cap-Weighted and Equal-Weighted S&P 500:

Despite mixed economic signals, turmoil among regional banks, and rising interest rates, the S&P 500 managed to advance during the first five months of the year, with a significant portion of the growth attributed to multiple expansion. Mega-cap stocks, with their substantial market capitalization, experienced notable increases in their P/E ratios. This expansion reflected heightened investor optimism and positive market sentiment toward these large companies, contributing to their overall outperformance. However, it is noteworthy that a small number of stocks were responsible for most of the index's gains. The provided table illustrates the performance of the S&P 500 across different economic sectors, revealing that 8 out of the 11 sectors experienced year-to-date losses until the end of May. Among the sectors,

Technology, Communications Services and Consumer Discretionary had the most significant impact on the S&P 500's performance when considering the market capitalization weightings. This cap-weighted index increased by 9.6% over the past five months. Conversely, when evaluating the index on an equal-weighted basis, where each stock carries equal influence regardless of market capitalization, it actually declined by 0.7% over the same period. This observation underscores the considerable contribution of mega-cap stocks to the overall return of the cap-weighted index.

Sector	Total Return	P/E Ratio as of 12/31/2022	P/E Ratio as of 5/31/2023	Percent Change in PE Ratio
Natural Resources	-3.0%	15.8x	16x	1.3%
Consumer Cyclical	17.7%	20.6x	23.5x	14.1%
Financial	-6.8%	12.1x	12.7x	5.0%
Real Estate	-1.7%	16.4x	15.8x	-3.7%
Consumer Defensive	-2.1%	20.7x	19.2x	-7.2%
Health	-5.6%	17.4x	16.5x	-5.2%
Utilities	-7.2%	18.8x	16.7x	-11.2%
Communications	30.1%	14.5x	17.1x	17.9%
Equity Energy	-11.6%	9.8x	9.7x	-1.0%
Industrials	-1.0%	18.0x	17.5x	-2.8%
Technology	32.2%	20.2x	25.4x	25.7%
S&P 500	9.6%	16.6x	18.1x	9.0%
S&P 500 Equally Weighted	-0.7%	14.6x	14.6x	0.0%

The table's fourth column provides information on the change in the sector P/E (price-to-earnings) ratio from the beginning of the year until the end of May. Notably, the Technology, Communications Services, and Consumer Discretionary sectors, which have performed strongly, have experienced significant increases in their P/E ratios. Conversely, most of the other sectors have seen smaller gains or even declines in their P/E ratios.

It is interesting to observe that the P/E ratio of the cap-weighted S&P 500 has risen, indicating that the valuations of the larger companies within the index have expanded. However, the P/E ratio of the equal-weighted index has remained nearly unchanged since the beginning of the year.

This suggests that there may be good investment opportunities among stocks that are not mega caps, in terms of their size. The relatively stable P/E ratio of the equal-weighted index implies that smaller companies within the index have not experienced significant valuation expansions, potentially making them attractive for investors seeking opportunities outside the larger, mega-cap stocks.

However, the performance dynamics shifted in June, with the equal-weighted S&P 500 outperforming its cap-weighted counterpart. This change can be attributed to a slowdown in the performance of mega-cap stocks and stronger growth exhibited by smaller companies within the index. Investors seeking opportunities beyond the larger, mega-cap stocks turned their attention to the equal-weighted index, which captures the growth potential of these smaller firms and achieved higher returns. Overall, the analysis of the P/E ratios in the table implies that there are potential investment prospects among stocks below the mega caps, indicating that a diversified portfolio approach may yield favorable results.

Sector	Total Return	P/E Ratio as of 5/31/2023	P/E Ratio as of 6/30/2023	Percent Change in PE Ratio
Natural Resources	10.0%	16x	17.6x	10.0%
Consumer Cyclical	10.8%	23.5x	28.7x	22.1%
Financial	5.7%	12.7x	13.1x	3.1%
Real Estate	5.0%	15.8x	19.3x	22.2%
Consumer Defensive	1.9%	19.2x	20.8x	8.3%
Health	3.2%	16.5x	18.7x	13.3%
Utilities	0.4%	16.7x	17.8x	6.6%
Communications	3.7%	17.1x	18x	5.3%
Equity Energy	6.3%	9.7x	10.5x	8.2%
Industrials	10.3%	17.5x	19x	8.6%
Technology	4.5%	25.4x	29.9x	17.7%
S&P 500	5.3%	18.1x	20.1x	11.0%
S&P 500 Equally Weighted	6.7%	14.6x	15x	2.7%

Importance of Multiple Expansion:

It is worth noting that most of the growth seen in the first five months of the year came from multiple expansion. This highlights the impact of investor optimism and market sentiment on stock prices. Multiple expansion signifies that investors are willing to pay a higher price for each dollar of earnings, suggesting their confidence in the future prospects of the companies involved.

The P/E ratio, along with multiple expansion and contraction, plays a crucial role in evaluating the relative value of stocks and understanding market trends. In the first five months of the year, multiple expansion drove the performance of the cap-weighted S&P 500, primarily due to the increasing P/E ratios of mega-cap stocks. However, the equal-weighted S&P 500 outperformed in June as smaller companies demonstrated stronger growth while mega-cap stocks showed signs of slowing down.

Investors should consider market dynamics, the performance of different market segments, and the impact of multiple expansion or contraction when formulating investment strategies. While multiple expansion contributed significantly to the growth of the

cap-weighted S&P 500 in the early months, it is essential to conduct thorough analysis beyond the P/E ratio to make informed investment decisions. A comprehensive evaluation of a company's financial health, competitive position, industry dynamics, and growth potential will enhance the chances of investment success.

Market Excitement:

Over the past few weeks, the market has seen a strong momentum in stocks associated with the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications. These stocks have garnered significant attention due to the perceived potential of AI-related products and services. However, it is worth noting that the current enthusiasm surrounding AI-related stocks bears some resemblance to the investor excitement seen in digital currencies a few years ago and, to a greater extent, the technology bubble of the late 1990s.

An example of this trend can be seen with NVIDIA (NVDA), a semiconductor manufacturer that offers products suitable for AI applications. The company's stock is currently trading at a multiple of 40 times its revenues and 213 times its trailing earnings. While the forecasted earnings growth is expected to be 36%. NVIDIA is now has a \$1 Trillion market cap. These valuation metrics highlight the heightened investor interest in AI-related companies, similar to the excessive valuations witnessed during the tech bubble era.

While the potential of AI is undoubtedly significant, it is essential to exercise caution and be mindful of the historical precedents. The comparison to past investment frenzies suggests that the current enthusiasm surrounding AI-related stocks may carry some level of speculative fervor. It is crucial for investors to carefully assess the fundamentals and valuations of such stocks to make informed investment decisions.

Thoughts When Passing on Your Passwords

— By Lucy Foerster, Client Relations Coordinator



Digital footprints are everywhere and almost impossible to back track. We all know the saying “sharing is caring” – but in the world of passwords this isn’t one we should be living by. Password sharing is a major security risk.

We all make rules in our own homes, not sharing passwords is most likely in the top ten but is also a rule that becomes more of a guideline that has grey area. When you ultimately do share a password, it's important to do it safely. This happens when you ask your spouse to

pay an online bill through a portal or if you get someone in your household to access the grocery store delivery account. Just keep in mind there are safe ways to give out the login/password information.

The biggest consideration is HOW you share the data. If you send via email or SMS, you might as well send it on a postcard for the world to see. Those communication methods generally aren't encrypted end-to-end, so they are easier to hack. Consider using WhatsApp or Apple's iMessage (clue bubbles) because they are encrypted and inaccessible to companies that operate them.

Another thought to keep in mind is WHO are you trusting with your credentials. Limit the people you share passwords with to only those who absolutely need the contact information. Make sure that you trust this person to keep the password secure as well. You don't want to take security measures only to have someone else make your passwords accessible and hackable. A good food for thought is to share passwords for a limited time with those who are giving access.

Setting up a legacy contact is a responsible reason to give access to your online accounts. It could look like family members needing access to a parent's account for estate planning or emergency purposes. When someone dies, their family members may need to access accounts to help close them out and give the parties involved the information about the person's passing, hospitalization, or incarceration. Many tech companies have added features to address this, however, there's no industry standard for how they work, so evaluate each one before turning it on.

Again, we know we shouldn't share data but ultimately it is going to happen, we just hope you take some time and consideration when it happens. Make it a habit to revisit this every couple of years in case there have been changes in your personal life regarding your digital legacy.

BOOK REVIEW: The Dog Who Could Fly –

Written by Damien Lewis

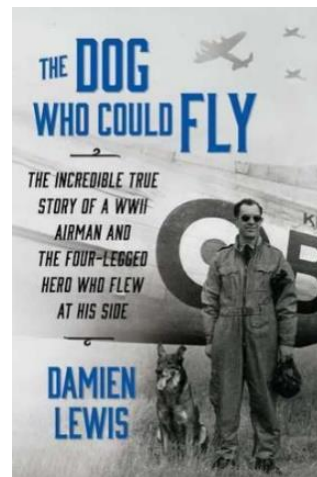
— By Margarita Tonkinson, Associate



"A thoroughly enjoyable story of heroism and true friendship," this is the true account of a German shepherd who was adopted by the Royal Air Force during World War II, flying countless combat missions, and ultimately saving the life of his owner and dearest friend.

— Publishers Weekly

This is a captivating read, from the moment we meet Antis as a starved and abandoned puppy in a French farmhouse, and on through one deathly peril after another. Damien Lewis has captured the spirit of the era and the relationship between dog and owner using Bozdech's manuscript as the main source material, keeping it as objective as possible without making it too sentimental.



It is a heartwarming and well-paced man-and-his-dog story, Lewis takes readers on a roller-coaster ride with as many ups and downs as a bombing mission. During WWII, Czech airman Robert Bozdech and his dog Antis strove to contribute to the war effort, first from France, then Great Britain. Together, the two set out on wartime adventures full of severe injuries, harrowing narrow escapes, and death-defying bravery, testing the limits of the bond between man and dog.

After the war, Bozdech and Antis retired to Czechoslovakia, but they were forced to flee as the Soviets targeted Royal Air Force airmen. They made their way back to the U.K., where Bozdech rejoined the RAF and eventually became a British citizen.

Damien is a British author and filmmaker who has worked as a war correspondent, (1991 - 2005) as part of his twenty years reporting from and writing about conflict zones in many countries. He has produced about twenty films and written more than twenty-five books, some of which have been published in over thirty languages.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Clients in the Community
St. Lucie Community Theatre

For many years John and Gail Luchka have dedicated their time and energy at the local playhouse for community to enjoy.



TF: What is the mission of this organization?

John: Since 1949 community theatre has been entertaining St. Lucie County. Their mission is to inspire our community through education and entertainment with the power of the performing arts.

TF: What drew you to this organization?

John: My wife (Gail) and I have been with the St. Lucie Community Theatre (SLCT) since 1984 when our original theatre in Port St. Lucie was called the Treasure Coast Players Gail was president at that time. When SLCT was in Fort Pierce and our two theatres didn't have a place of our own - we would perform at community centers and local schools. While performing for both organizations we decided to merge the two and we helped purchase the property where the theatre is today. We began by remodeling the building from a school into a theatre (no easy feat by any means). We named the building the "Pineapple Playhouse." Our first show was "Move Over Mrs. Markam" Directed by Joanne Humphries (one of the founding members of the theatre) in September 1984. Proud to share that Gail and I are the only remaining members from the original group of volunteers!

TF: How are you involved?

John: Throughout the years I have been just about everything President 5 times, Vice President 4 times, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Maintenance Manager, Set Construction Director and on the Board of Directors for probably 30 years. Presently, I am the Chairperson for the Board of Trustees and I'm also the Technical Director for all shows (I program the lights and sound systems). I used to build all of the sets for the shows, but since I retired, I only do one or two a year. Right now, when something breaks at the theatre, they call me to fix it...

I have been on stage as a performer for dozens of shows and I have also been the Director for eight shows. Gail has always been my Stage Manager and I wouldn't direct a show without her.

TF: What has been your most rewarding experience with this organization?

John: I guess as a Director to see normal everyday people with a lot of talent get on our stage and have a performance that could match Broadway. When you are a part of a show you become what we call "theatre family" and the experience will last a lifetime. You develop a bond with each person by having to rely on them when on stage and you definitely become close friends. A whole lot of fun and laughter that takes you away from the everyday stresses of life.

The group's next performance at the playhouse will be from August 18-20, The Sounds of Philadelphia International Recording, directed by Will Vaughn.

You can purchase tickets to their next performance:

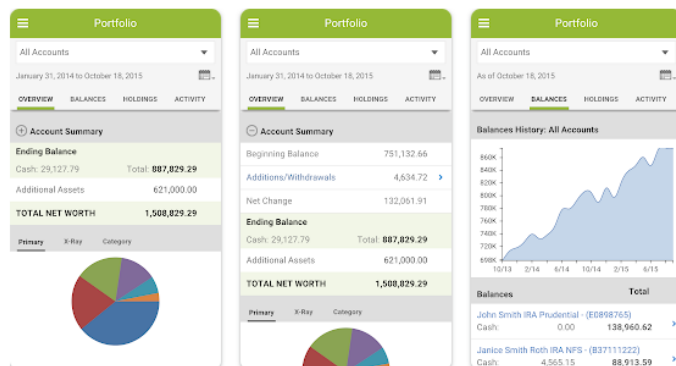
www.pineappleplayhouse.com

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DJ Industrial Average (DJIA): Computed by summing the prices of the stocks of 30 companies and then dividing that total by an adjusted value—one that has been adjusted over the years to account for the effects of stock splits on the prices of the 30 companies. Dividends are invested to reflect the actual performance of the underlying securities. NASDAQ Composite Index: Measures the performance of all issues listed on the NASDAQ Stock Market, except for the rights, warrants, units and convertible debentures. Barclays Capital Global Aggregate Bond: This index provides a broad-based measure of the global investment-grade, fixed-rate debt markets.

MSCI China: This free-float adjusted capitalization-weighted index is designed to measure the performance of China-based equities. MSCI EAFE (Morgan Stanley Capital International Europe, Australia, Far East): This index is a capitalization-weighted index that tracks the total return of common stocks in 21 developed-market countries within Europe, Australia and the Far East. MSCI Emerging Markets EMEA: This index captures large and mid-cap representation across 8 Emerging Markets (EM) countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA). With 139 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country. Russell 2000: This index measures the performance of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000 Index. Standard and Poor's (S&P) 500: This index tracks the performance of 500 widely held, large-capitalization U.S. stocks. S&P Consumer Discretionary: A market capitalization weighted index that tracks the performance of consumer discretionary companies. S&P Consumer Staples: A market capitalization weighted index that tracks the performance of consumer staples companies. S&P Energy: A market capitalization weighted index that tracks the performance of energy companies. S&P Health Care: A market capitalization weighted index that tracks the performance of health care companies. S&P Materials: A market capitalization weighted index that tracks the performance of materials companies. S&P Technology: A market capitalization weighted index that tracks the performance of technology companies. S&P Utilities: A market capitalization weighted index that tracks the performance of utility companies.