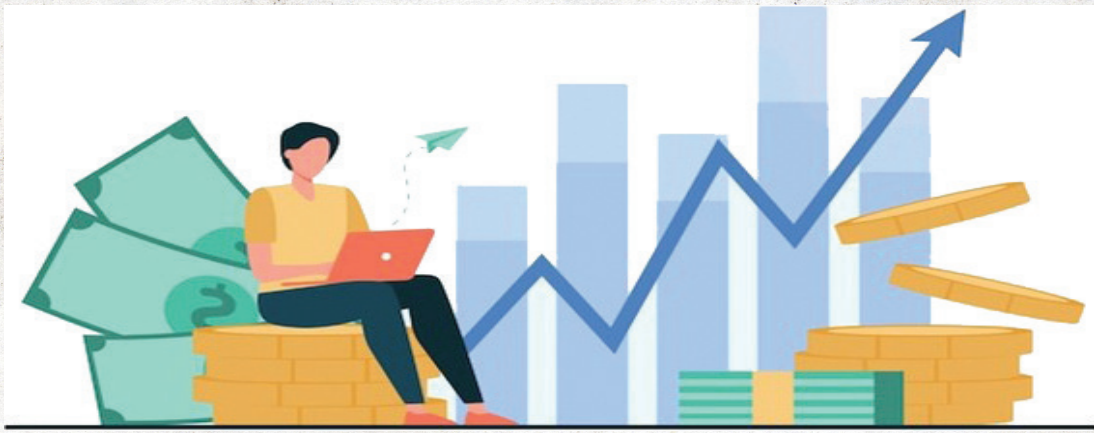
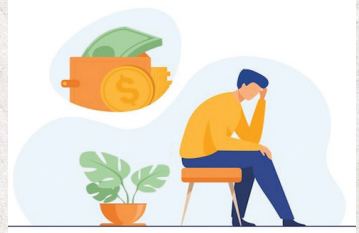


The Bear Has Left The Building!



We've been in what is called a "bear market". That is when the stock market indexes have dropped 20% from their high point. A 20% rise from a low signals the start of a bull market. We reached a high on January 4, 2022 and embarked on a steep decline. We started the bear market on June 13th of that year. I'm sure you opened your investment statements in 2022 and were disappointed.



So we've sat in these doldrums for the past year. We hit a low in October of last year and then started the slow march back. As hard as it may seem, you have to stay the course during the rough market downturns and resist the temptation to sell.

In fact, those are great opportunities to buy more as you are getting everything on sale. I've

seen many factors impact the markets over the years including Y2K, the wars in the Middle East, 9/11, the housing crises of 2007/2008, COVID and the market has always bounced back. Attempting to time the market has always been a challenge. You have to know when to get out and when to get back in. It is generally best to stay in the market and not react to the noise. I once had a boss that said "plan your work and work your plan". Pretty profound.

After the market low in October, we've rebounded and are finally up 20% from that point. We spent almost an entire year in the bear market category. The longest duration since one that ended in 1948. Most bear markets don't last that long, so this pain we went through seems worse. The average bear market lasts about 6 months. In all, we were down 25.4% from the high in January of 2022. And we are still 10.5% off that high so we still have some ground to make up.

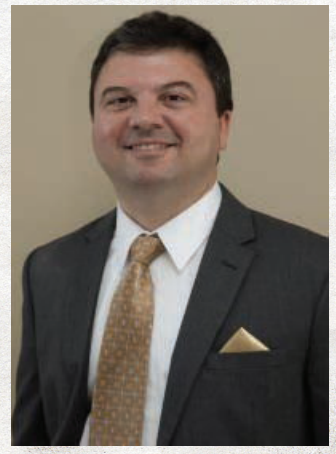


Where do we go from here?

History shows a largely positive return after we leave a bear market like the one we've been in. Since 1929, the average one-year return is 9.33% with a median of 13.17%. There were many negative years in the 1930s and 1940s that make those numbers seem lower than they should be. If you look at only the data since 1948, there has only been one negative year following a bear market. That's great news since it spans 75 years! The average one-year return, if you only take into account data since 1948, is 18.45%, with a median of 18.7%!

So, what is the takeaway? We've been through some hard times. And past performance is

"... continued on page 2"



Summertime fun is here. With the kids and grand kids out of school, now's the time to plan that summer time off. Although some of you may have already completed your summer vacation! Whether it is a cruise, time at the beach or heading north to a little cooler weather, it is a good time to spend with those you love.

Happy birthday to our nation! Our country turns 247 this July 4th. I always enjoy catching some fireworks. Either neighborhood families that conduct their own celebrations or larger, organized fireworks hosted by municipalities.

July also features Major League Baseball's All-Star Game on July 11th. I usually enjoy the home run derby held the night before. I also consider the All-Star Game the unofficial half-way point of summer. Yes time flies. Hope you and your family have a wonderful, fun filled and adventurous summer!

Respectfully,
Alexis Hongamen, CFP®, CRPC®

Your Advisor Got Engaged! Then He Got Married!!



It's true. Your advisor got engaged, and then less than two months later I got married! My wonderful bride, Mara, is now my better half and I couldn't be happier. We met last June and have been together ever since. She complements me in so many ways and I'm very blessed to have met her.

We enjoy many of the same things such as riding our bikes, going for long walks/hikes and visiting many of the things Central Florida has to offer such as our beaches and attractions such as Disney Springs and City Walk. We like exploring different areas such as Winter Garden, Celebration and look forward to exploring more.

Mara hails from Sao Pau-

lo, Brazil. Sao Paulo is the largest city in the Americas by population and 4th largest in the world. Although, I've been to Brazil I haven't been to Sao Paulo but I look forward to visiting with her.

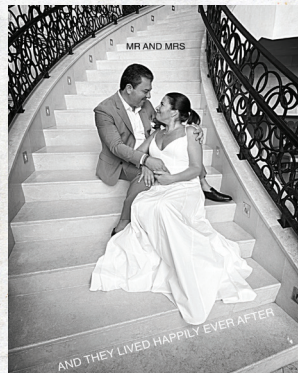


We got engaged in April after coming back from a trip to New York City where I met her sister. I took her to one of the highest points in Central Florida in Clermont and I proposed at Sunset. Thankfully she said yes!! That was after the initial shock of the proposal sank in! She immediately faceted her kids and her family to let them know the great news!

All of Mara's family outside of her two kids are in Brazil, so we realized it would take a while for all of them to secure visas for travel. Appointments at the US Consulate in Sao

Paulo are available about a year in advance, so realistically we were not going to have them here to celebrate with us for a long time. So we decided to have a small civil ceremony with immediate family that could come and postpone a larger celebration until 2024 when we could have everyone together.

We signed our marriage certificate and had one of our kids serve as witnesses and sign as well. This was done at the Four Seasons in Lake Buena Vista which served as a nice backdrop. We took some nice photos (thank you to our photographer!) and followed that up with a nice breakfast buffet at Ravello's.



I'm very blessed to have found someone that serves as my other half and looking forward to many nice memories to be made in the future.



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no indicator of future returns, but history shows us there is a good chance to

best be optimistic. Stay the course with your investments. And remember, to

plan your work and work your plan.

Flashback 50 Years Ago This Month



Celebrity

Bruce Lee, 32, U.S.-born Hong Kong martial artist and actor, died less than a month before the August 19 U.S. release of his blockbuster film Enter the Dragon (I loved that movie). Lee's death was probably from an allergic reaction to a painkiller.



Watergate!

The nation was in the middle of the Watergate scandal as senate hearings were taking place. The scandal stemmed from President Richard Nixon's administration's attempts to cover up its involvement in the June 17, 1972 burglary of the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Washington, D.C., Watergate Office Building. Hence, the name Watergate. In July, the existence of tapes that recorded everything in the Oval Office. The tapes were subpoenaed and Nixon had secretly recorded potentially incriminating conversations.



Canadian TV personality Alex Trebek made his U.S. television debut for as host of a short-lived game show on the NBC television network, The Wizard of Odds. He later became famous for Jeopardy starting in September 1984.

Tip Of The Month "Continued"

who hasn't owned a home in 3 years.

4. Zero in on an area you find desirable and look for deals there. It is often a good idea to not buy the most expensive home in a neighborhood. Good schools, access to shopping and a low crime rate are all desirable in a neighborhood.

Questions? Call Alexis 407-729-8516



Tip Of The Month

July is finally here and summer vacation has started! No more screaming kids or rowdy teens making your job even tougher than it already is. We all know inflation is here and everything costs more. This includes housing!

A challenge everyone has is knowing how much they can afford for a new place to live. Here are a few tips as a guideline as you consider moving or buying a new place.

1. Keep your monthly housing expense to 1/3 your monthly take-home pay. If you own, this includes taxes and insurance. Yes, this is a struggle nowadays because housing prices have gone up even higher than general inflation, which is saying a lot in itself. You do not want to be "house poor", having something so expensive that you can't afford anything else!

2. If you are buying, the higher the down payment, the more reasonable your monthly obligation will be. That's pretty obvious but it will also help you get approved for a loan a little easier as you have more "skin in the game" by putting in a higher down payment. You also may get better terms with a 20% (or higher) down payment. Same goes for obtaining a 15-year vs 30-year mortgage. There are usually better rates for a 15-year loan when compared to the 30-year loan. Having 20% down payment will also waive the private mortgage insurance (PMI) that lenders levy on those that put down less than 20% down payments on loans.

3. Look for first-time homebuyer programs in your state. Many offer loans preferred terms and even grants. First-time homebuyers are often defined as someone

Idiom Of The Month

“Walking In High Cotton”



If you have ever lived in the Deep South, you've heard the term Walking in High Cotton. It comes from the antebellum (pre-

Civil War) South when “high cotton” meant that the crops were good and so were the prices. The term has come to mean that a

person is doing well and successful. Because back then, if you were “walking in high cotton”, it meant you had a bumper crop that would yield a good payday at the market. I remember chuckling when

I first heard it, and haven't heard it in a long while. An old timer used the term a few years ago and it stuck with me as something a little different.



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