

January 2025

To All Financial Journey Partners' Clients,

To the people of Southern California, our hearts go out to all those affected by the wildfires sweeping through Los Angeles, losing their homes and all their belongings. The courage and resilience of residents, first responders and emergency personnel during this challenging time is truly inspiring.

If you want to help the people of Southern California who have lost much, we recommend directing donations to established non-profit organizations that are actively assisting the affected communities. The Emergency Network Los Angeles (ENLA) maintains a comprehensive list of verified organizations providing critical aid and support services. These trusted partners are making a meaningful difference in the lives of impacted residents. To find and support one of these organizations, visit the [ENLA](#) website.

Looking ahead to 2025, we see this as a year with lots of news and change, driven by a new president and administration which will implement new directions and policies in Washington D.C. Even with all these changes, the U.S. economy, consumer spending, and stock market remain strong. We see new innovations and uses for artificial intelligence making people's lives better on a regular basis. We remain optimistic and excited for the year ahead.



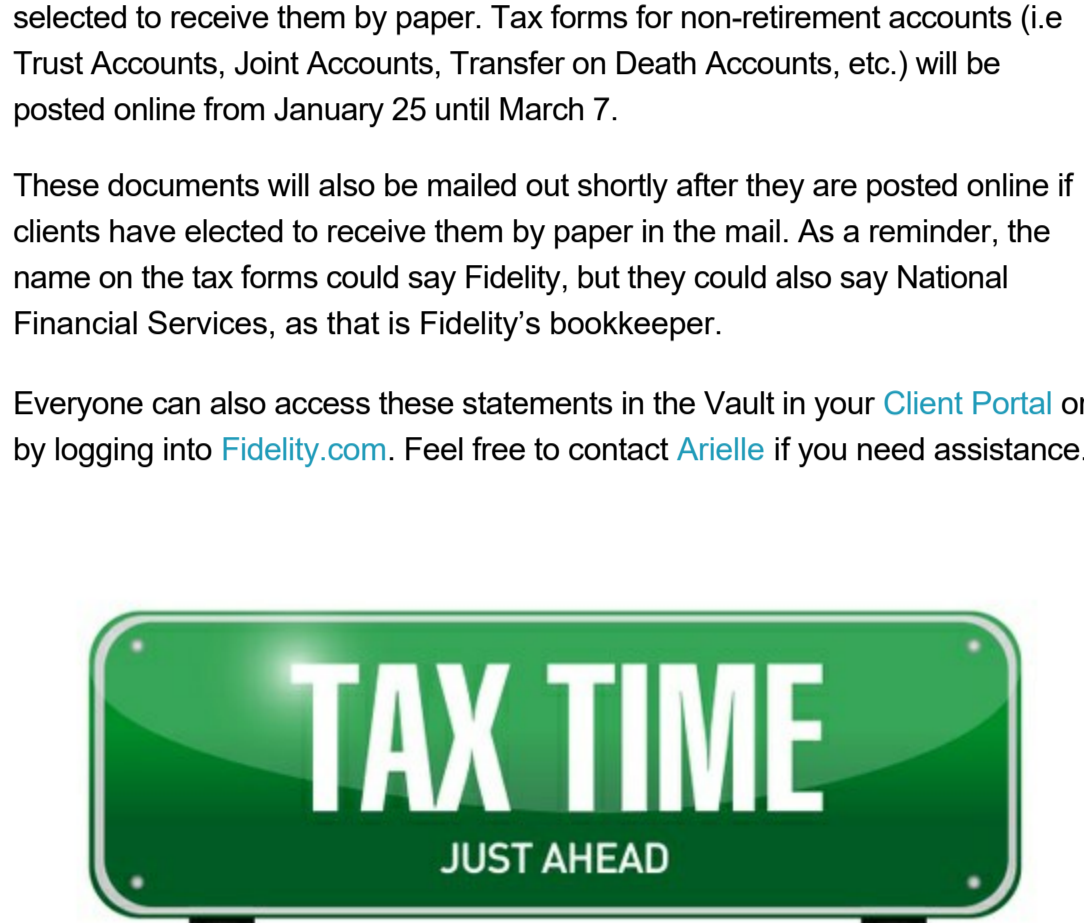
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Topics in this edition of *Insights* include:

- State of the Economy, January 2025
- Preparations for Tax Season
- January is a Great Time to Review Your Budget
- Our Books Can Help You Make Smart Financial Decisions
- Next Event - 2nd Annual FJP Women's Group Event
- FJP 2025 Event Schedule
- Enjoy the Journey - Congratulations Ben and Devon

State of the Economy, January 2025

On January 30, 2025, we held a webinar with a special guest, Mark Peterson, who is the Director of the Market & Portfolio Insights Team at BlackRock. BlackRock is the largest asset manager in the world, and we appreciate Mark taking the time to share with us the views from BlackRock.



BlackRock is a valued partner for us. We regularly use ETFs from BlackRock in our client portfolios. FJP Wealth Manager Scott Manley and Mark discussed important topics about the state of the U.S. economy, policies of the President and his administration, and the outlook for 2025. This article will recap the important points from the webinar.

[READ BLOG POST](#)

Preparations for Tax Season

Tax time is almost here and your tax documents will begin arriving shortly. Tax forms for retirement accounts (IRAs, Roths and SEPS) were available online beginning January 17, 2025, and have been mailed to clients who have selected to receive them by paper. Tax forms for non-retirement accounts (i.e. Trust Accounts, Joint Accounts, Transfer on Death Accounts, etc.) will be posted online from January 25 until March 7.

These documents will also be mailed out shortly after they are posted online if clients have elected to receive them by paper in the mail. As a reminder, the name on the tax forms could say Fidelity, but they could also say National Financial Services, as that is Fidelity's bookkeeper.

Everyone can also access these statements in the Vault in your [Client Portal](#) or by logging into [Fidelity.com](#). Feel free to contact [Arielle](#) if you need assistance.



Here are a few reminders for you:

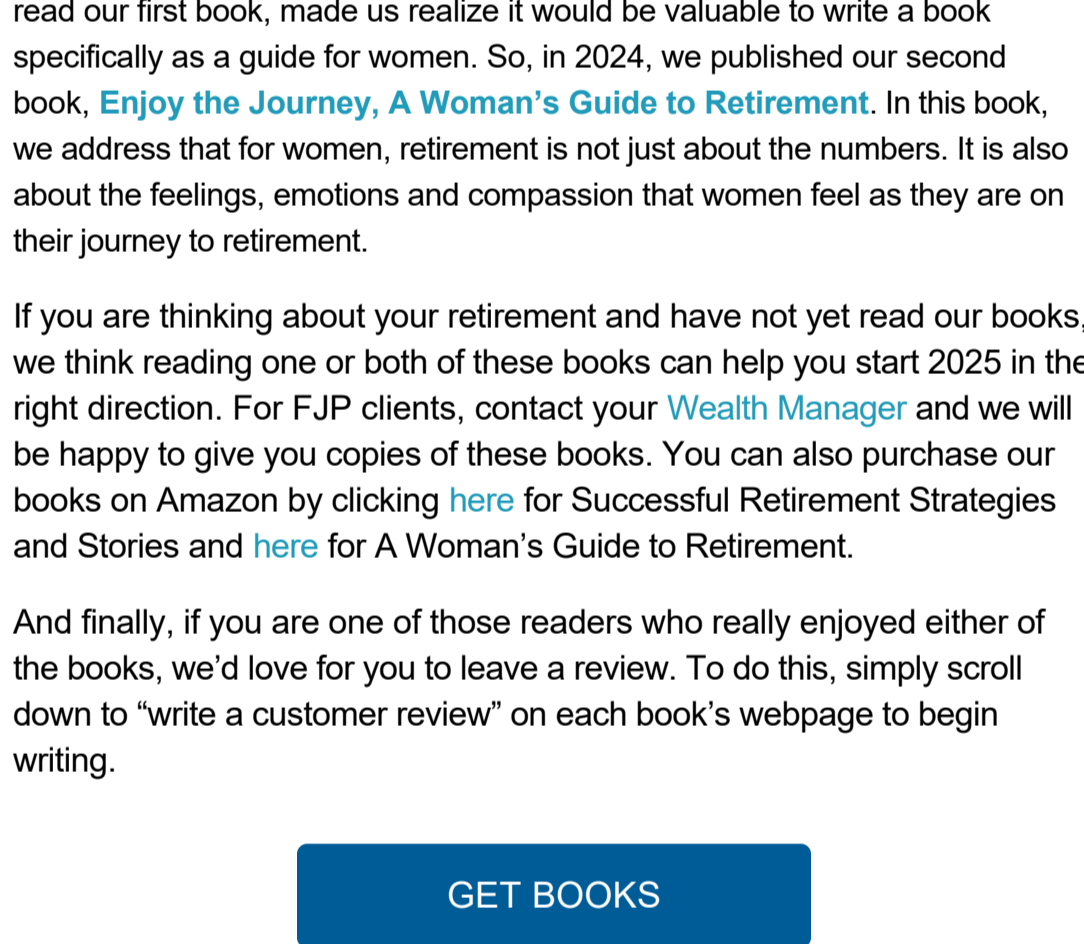
- **Each individual** will need to access their personal Client Portal Vault to obtain their own documents pertaining to their Social Security Number. You might have to refresh your access to the Client Portal if it has been a bit since you use it.
- Step-by-step instructions to **access your individual tax documents** can be found in your [Client Portal Vault here](#).
- You can access your accounts at [Fidelity.com](#) directly to reference the same tax documents.
- We can help you give access to your documents to your **personal tax professional** via your portal. A one-time secure link, or fax, can be generated, with your permission.
- We can **physically mail you your tax documents** if that works best for you. Let us know if you would prefer that next year.
- If you use **TurboTax** to import your tax documents, select Fidelity as the financial institution and use your Fidelity.com username and password, **not** your FJP Client Portal.

We want to make tax time as easy as possible for you. Be sure to contact [Arielle](#) with your questions. We are here to help.

[Click Here To Access Detailed Instructions to Access Vault](#)

January is a Great Time to Review Your Budget

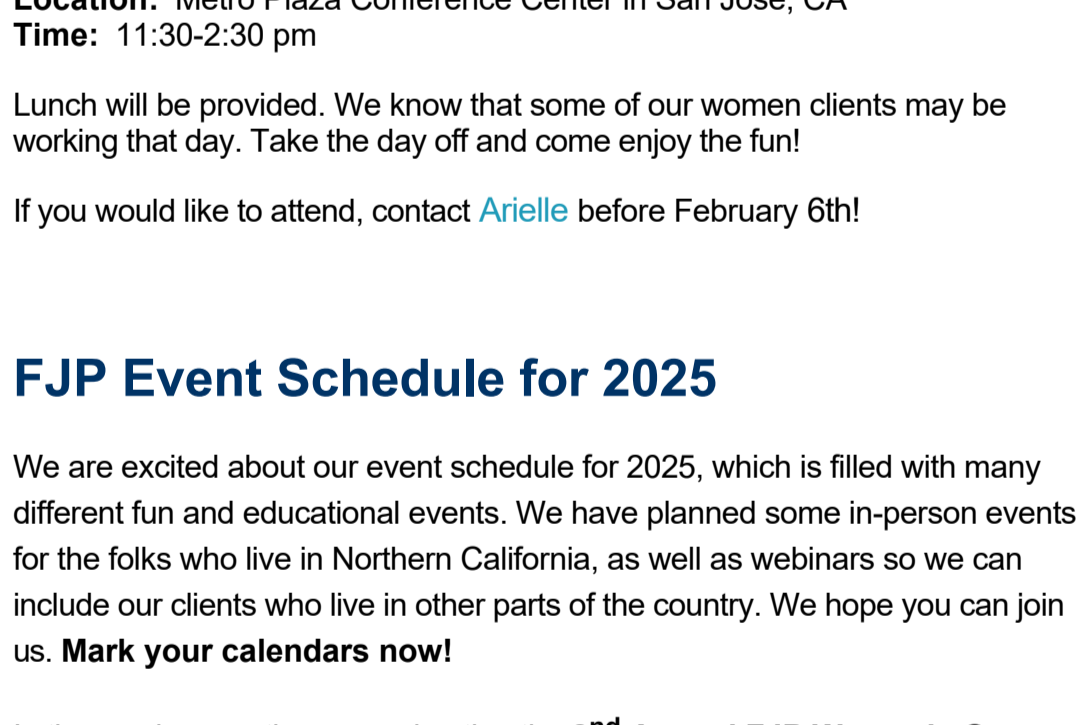
We think January is a great time to review your spending and budget, to start the year in the right direction, aligning your money with your goals.



There are many reasons to budget, five of our favorites include:

- **Understanding Cash Flow** - Track how much money comes in and goes out, ensuring you don't spend more than you earn and establishing a measurable baseline
- **Setting Priorities** - Allocate funds to essential needs, i.e. mortgage, groceries, etc. while leaving room for saving and discretionary spending
- **Making Decisions** - Track your spending on a regular basis, within a specific timeframe to make smarter decisions about how much to save vs spend
- **Rainy Day Planning** - Set aside 3-6 months of emergency funds to help avoid tapping into reserves and investments at the wrong time, i.e. when the market is down
- **Enjoy the Journey** - A clear understanding of your living expenses may give you more freedom to pursue a dream or to retire without panicking about running out of money

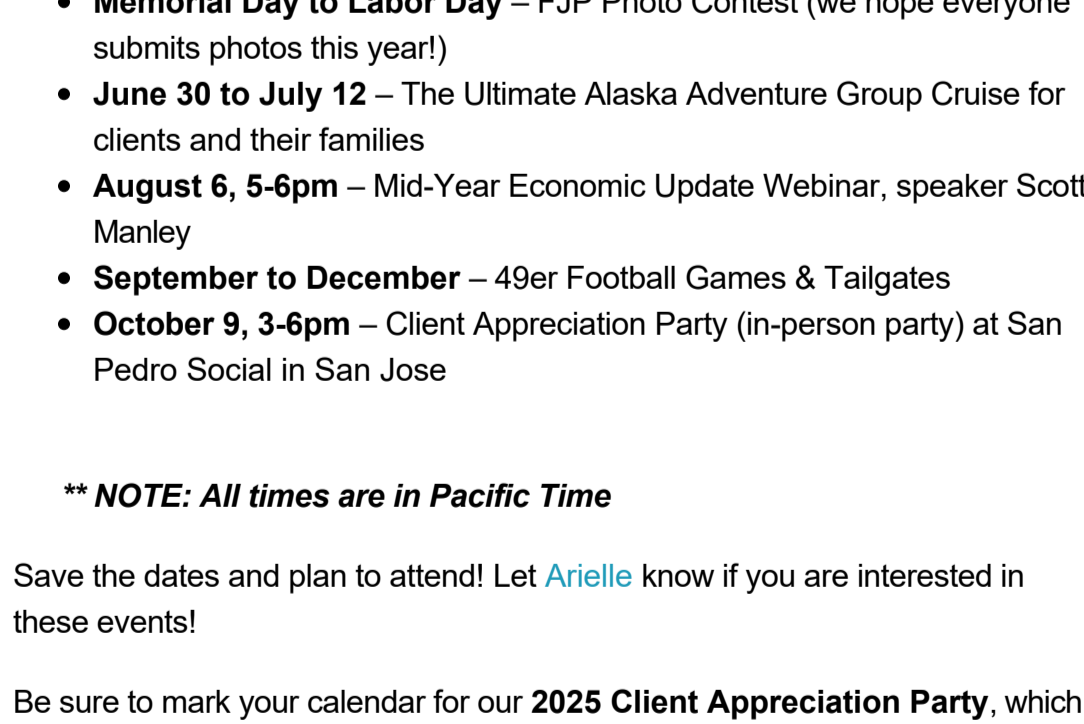
FJP clients have a helpful budgeting tool in your client portal that makes tracking and analyzing your budget easier and more efficient.



As a client of FJP, we hope you have learned to use the spending and budgeting features in your Client Portal. If you need help, please contact your [Wealth Manager](#) to learn how to begin using this amazing tool. You can also reach out to [Jennifer Michaelesen](#) who will be happy to teach you how to use this tool in your Client Portal.

Our Books Can Help You Make Smart Financial Decisions

Elaine and Scott Manley have written two books to share their decades of experience working with people to help them make smart decisions with their money and align their money with their goals. We appreciate all of the positive and enthusiastic feedback we have received from our clients and the public at large.



"We believe you can retire with more clarity and confidence than you ever thought possible."
Elaine & Scott Manley

Enjoy the Journey, Successful Retirement Strategies and Stories was written for people who are nearing retirement or who are already in retirement. In this book, we share the process we use to help clients transition from working full-time to the next phase of their life. Listening to the women who read our first book, made us realize it would be valuable to write a book specifically as a guide for women. So, in 2024, we published our second book, **Enjoy the Journey, A Woman's Guide to Retirement**. In this book, we address that for women, retirement is not just about the numbers. It is also about the feelings, emotions and compassion that women feel as they are on their journey to retirement.

If you are thinking about your retirement and have not yet read our books, we think reading one or both of these books can help you start 2025 in the right direction. For FJP clients, contact your [Wealth Manager](#) and we will be happy to give you copies of these books. You can also purchase our books on Amazon by clicking [here](#) for Successful Retirement Strategies and Stories and [here](#) for A Woman's Guide to Retirement.

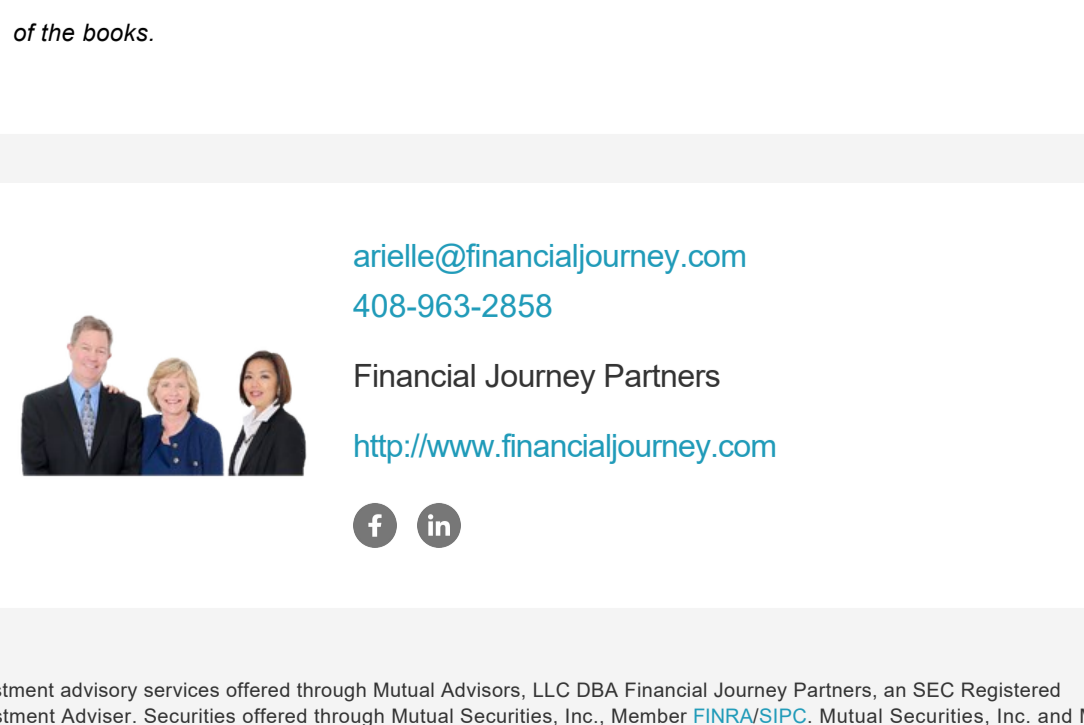
And finally, if you are one of those readers who really enjoyed either of the books, we'd love for you to leave a review. To do this, simply scroll down to "write a customer review" on each book's webpage to begin writing.

[GET BOOKS](#)

Next Event - 2nd Annual FJP Women's Group Event

In 2024 we launched the FJP Women's group. The purpose of the group is:

- Connecting the Women of FJP with other like-minded women
- Women connecting with women to build friendships
- Connecting the Women of FJP with other women who are interested in similar activities



In 2024, the women in the group held fun events that included 4 different hikes, two pickleball events, a luncheon and watching the movie *Wicked*. While it has been women in Silicon Valley who have been attending these events, our women clients from around the country are welcome to join if they are visiting in the area.

All FJP women clients are welcome to attend the 2nd Annual FJP Women's Group Event, which will be:

Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2025
Location: Metro Plaza Conference Center in San Jose, CA
Time: 11:30-2:30 pm

Lunch will be provided. We know that some of our women clients may be working that day. Take the day off and come enjoy the fun!

If you would like to attend, contact [Arielle](#) before February 6th!

FJP Event Schedule for 2025

We are excited about our event schedule for 2025, which is filled with many different fun and educational events. We have planned some in-person events for the folks who live in Northern California, as well as webinars so we can include our clients who live in other parts of the country. We hope you can join us. **Mark your calendars now!**

In the coming months we are hosting the **2nd Annual FJP Women's Group event in February** after a very successful launch in 2024. With federal estate laws set to expire at the end of this year, you can get an update by an estate attorney at the webinar **Estate Strategies – Beyond the Basics in March**. Back by popular demand for a second time, **Dr. Marc Milstein will share his updated presentation Age Proof Your Brain - Adding Decades in May**. You will not want to miss this.

We are thrilled to bring you our schedule of fantastic [events for 2025!](#) We have a wide range of events planned, so we hope you can join us!

FJP Events for 2025 – Save the dates and RSVP today!

- **February 11, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm** – 2nd Annual FJP Women's Event, at the Metro Plaza Conference Center [Contact Arielle to RSVP](#)
- **March 20, Noon – 1 pm** – Estate Strategies – Beyond the Basics, guest speaker attorney E.J. Hong [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **May 15, 5-6 pm** – Age Proof Your Brain: Adding Decades, guest speaker Dr. Marc Milstein, back with an updated presentation [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Memorial Day to Labor Day** – FJP Photo Contest (we hope everyone submits photos this year!)
- **June 30 to July 12** – The Ultimate Alaska Adventure Group Cruise for clients and their families
- **August 6, 5-6pm** – Mid-Year Economic Update Webinar, speaker Scott Manley
- **September to December** – 49er Football Games & Tailgates
- **October 9, 3-6pm** – Client Appreciation Party (in-person party) at San Pedro Social in San Jose

**** NOTE: All times are in Pacific Time**

Save the dates and plan to attend! Let [Arielle](#) know if you are interested in these events!

Be sure to mark your calendar for our **2025 Client Appreciation Party**, which will be on Thursday, October 9, 2025, from 3-6 pm at San Pedro Social in San Jose. We hope to see you all there.

[Download 2025 Event Calendar](#)

Enjoying the Journey – Congratulations Ben and Devon!

We have some very exciting news about one of our team members at FJP. He has been a member of the FJP team for several years and now works remotely from Florida. In January, while on the very romantic island of St. Lucia, Ben proposed to Devon, and she said "Yes!" Congratulations to you both! We are very excited for you. Their wedding is planned for spring, 2026. Elaine and Scott are very happy to see their son engaged to such a wonderful woman.

With the new year started, we hope you take time to create your goals for the year. As you meet with your Wealth Manager, please share your goals for 2025 and we will do our best to help you make them happen.

Thank you for enjoying the journey with us! If there is anything we can do to help you, [please give us a call](#).

[Elaine](#), [Scott](#) and [Linda](#)

We want to help you make smart decisions and align your money with your goals so you can enjoy the journey.

Partners in Your Financial Journey®

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