

Attention:

Subject: Socially Responsible Investing programs with national expert scheduled for October

Date:

Contact:

Did you know that more and more people are choosing socially responsible investing (SRI) to address growing concerns such as corporate scandals, the environment, and human rights while making better than average returns in their portfolios? A recent Barron's article shows SRI funds outperforming the S&P 500 in the 10 years ended Dec. 31, 2002.

SRI is rapidly becoming the most important grassroots movement in the financial sector. SRI funds are joining state treasurers and other officials like the comptroller of the New York City Retirement System to push for more transparency in accounting and corporate governance.

Together with other nonprofit organizations, SRI funds have negotiated a number of significant achievements including a global computer recycling and take-back program with Dell; a new policy with McDonald's to phase out meat raised with growth promoting antibiotics; and comprehensive policies addressing workplace violence with CVS and Dollar stores.

As a financial advisor, I work with many people in the Hudson Valley who share these concerns and I believe this topic would be of great interest to your listeners. A discussion of SRI would be a timely follow up to a recent RoundTable discussion by the managing editor of the Times Herald Record. The results of their informal poll of reader concerns showed the economy and retirement to be the top two concerns.

Shirley Peoples, social research analyst and leading expert on corporate governance with the Calvert Group, the largest and one of the oldest socially responsible investment firms in the U.S., will make several informational presentations in the Hudson Valley this fall. At these informational talks Ms. Peoples will explain the screening process, by which companies are accepted or rejected based on six broad areas of concern, and the role of shareholder advocacy in promoting corporate social responsibility.

I invite you to attend a presentation to learn more about SRI. Ms. Peoples and I are also available for interviews on the topic. Two presentations have already been scheduled. On Oct. 14 Ms. Peoples will speak at the Dutchess County Community College Emeritus Luncheon. On Oct. 15 Sustainable Hudson Valley will host a public program at SUNY New Paltz (location to be determined).

Having lived in the Hudson Valley for 12 years, I've enjoyed both the RoundTable and Vox Pop, and I hope you will consider SRI as a topic for either program. Since the topic is so timely, an ongoing exploration might be of interest.

I will follow up within the week to see if you are interested in a further discussion about socially responsible investing. I look forward to speaking with you.