

New Jonathan Clements Book Will Help Finance \$1,000 Grants to Kick-Start Retirement Savings

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The Best of Jonathan Clements now available in print and on Kindle; the proceeds will go to the new Jonathan Clements Getting Going on Savings Initiative

The Best of Jonathan Clements, a collection of 62 of Jonathan Clements' "Getting Going" columns for *The Wall Street Journal*, is now available in paperback (\$21.99) and on Kindle (\$9.99) on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). In Jonathan's classic breezy and straightforward style, the columns share key lessons for ordinary individuals to manage their savings and investments simply, to maximize their financial security and happiness, and to impart smart money basics to their children.

"Jonathan has, over the course of his career, put the *Journal's* readers on the path to a more prosperous and happy future," said William Bernstein, the best-selling author who wrote the foreword to the book. "Now, as he faces a dire health prognosis, this volume reprises this priceless wisdom for his loyal *Journal* audience and for those who missed it the first time around."

Besides assembling some of his favorite columns into a single volume, Jonathan is looking to the book to advance one of his cherished aims – helping young working adults, including those from lower-income backgrounds, get an early start on setting money aside for retirement. He is donating the royalties from the book to a new program he envisioned that will provide direct \$1,000 grants to selected qualifying individuals to fund a Roth IRA.

The team working to make Jonathan's vision a reality includes representatives of the John C. Bogle Center for Financial Literacy and J-PAL North America, a research center based at MIT, as well as other individuals close to Jonathan. The program is fittingly called the Jonathan Clements Getting Going on Savings Initiative. In addition to directly benefiting the individual recipients, the program will enable J-PAL researchers to evaluate whether grants like this are an effective tool to help young adults, including those from lower-income backgrounds, establish an early habit of setting money aside for later in life.

"My hope is that, like my old *Wall Street Journal* column, the proceeds from this book will help folks get started on a lifetime of saving and investing," said Jonathan. "One of the greatest gifts we can give is a sense of financial security, and buyers of the book will be doing just that."

About Jonathan Clements

Between 1994 and 2015, Jonathan wrote more than 1,000 “Getting Going” columns for *The Wall Street Journal*. Initially a personal-finance offering, the column soon began to plumb money’s deeper questions: How can it make us happy? How does it make us miserable? And above all, what’s it all for, in the end?

In May 2024, Jonathan was diagnosed with terminal cancer. He decided to collect his most meaningful *Journal* columns into a volume that would both share what he’s learned about finance and life, and also fund an initiative that would help deserving young investors to “get going.”

Early praise for *The Best of Jonathan Clements*

“Few people have combined technical expertise with common sense and beautiful storytelling like Jonathan Clements. He will go down as one of the greatest gifts to personal finance education we've ever seen.” — Morgan Housel, author of *The Psychology of Money*

“Few people in financial media have made as much of a difference in people's financial lives, by as much and for as long, as Jonathan Clements.” — Barry Ritholtz, host, *Masters in Business*

“Jonathan Clements has been one of the very best financial writers of all time.... There is no better compilation of essays about investing available.” — Burton Malkiel, author of *A Random Walk Down Wall Street*

“Jonathan has the rare ability to simplify complex topics in a way that's useful to any reader, regardless of their financial acumen.” — Ben Carlson, author of *A Wealth of Common Sense*

“Jonathan...has a gift of making personal finance understandable and approachable. This book gives you the power to change how you handle money starting right now.” — Clark Howard, consumer advocate, Clark.com

About the Jonathan Clements Getting Going on Savings Initiative

Members of J-PAL’s network of affiliated researchers — including Matthew Notowidigdo of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Raymond Kluender of Harvard Business School, and Alicia Modestino of Northeastern University — will conduct a randomized controlled trial to measure the impact of gifting \$1,000 to young adults to fund Roth IRAs. The program will be piloted during the summer of 2025, with the full study to launch the following summer.

Program recipients will be young adults aged 18+ who participate in the City of Boston’s Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). This program targets underserved

communities and places qualifying youth in jobs with a local government agency, community organization, or business for a few weeks over the summer. The goal of the program is for youth to gain work experience, earn a steady paycheck, and develop the soft and hard skills that will help with future employment opportunities.

Discussing the new Clements initiative, the University of Chicago's Matthew Notowidigdo, who also serves as Scientific Director of J-PAL North America, said, "There is a large academic literature studying why many Americans lack savings, but much less evidence on effective solutions. This is an exciting opportunity to test whether a simple, well-timed intervention can set young adults on a path of financial planning that begins early and supports long-term economic stability."

For decades, noted Alicia Modestino of Northeastern University, the Boston summer jobs program has aimed "to reduce inequality of opportunity by increasing access to early employment experiences for disadvantaged youth." With the Clements initiative, she said, "We now have an exciting opportunity to add financial planning to their toolbox and sustain the positive impacts of the program into the long-term."

Interested donors can make tax-deductible contributions to the Jonathan Clements Getting Going on Savings Initiative via the Bogle Center, a 501(c)(3) non-profit. To contribute online or learn more, go to boglecenter.net/donate.

About The John C. Bogle Center for Financial Literacy

The mission of the non-profit Bogle Center is to expand the legacy of Vanguard Group founder John C. Bogle by promoting the principles of successful investing and financial well-being through education and community. The Center hosts the annual Bogleheads Conference and the *Bogleheads on Investing* podcast, and it supports the activities of Bogleheads chapters around the globe. Videos of conference sessions, podcast episodes and a host of other educational materials are free to all users on the Bogle Center website, boglecenter.net. Christine Benz is the current president of the Bogle Center board and William Bernstein is a director.

Said Christine Benz: "The Jonathan Clements Getting Going on Saving Initiative is a natural extension of Jonathan Clements' life's work of helping people improve their financial well-being. It's also a reflection of Jack Bogle's lasting legacy that all investors, regardless of their levels of wealth, should have a 'fair shake' at investing well. The leadership of the Bogle Center, a 501(c)(3) public charity, is proud to help make Jonathan's vision a reality by administering contributions to this initiative."

About J-PAL North America

J-PAL North America is a regional office of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), a global research center based at MIT and anchored by a network of more than 1,000 researchers at universities around the world. It works to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is informed by scientific evidence. To that end, J-PAL conducts

randomized impact evaluations to answer critical questions in the fight against poverty. J-PAL co-founders Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, with longtime affiliate Michael Kremer, were awarded the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economics for their pioneering approach to alleviating global poverty. Learn more at povertyactionlab.org/na.

More information on the research study associated with the Clements initiative can be found on J-PAL's [Building Retirement Savings for Young Adults](#) page.

Contacts for further information:

For inquiries about the new book *The Best of Jonathan Clements*, please contact William Bernstein at wb@efficientfrontier.com.

For inquiries about the new study, please contact Jessica Sashihara at jsashihara@povertyactionlab.org.

For inquiries about the John C. Bogle Center for Financial Literacy, please contact Christine Benz at cbenz@bogle.center.

For inquiries about J-PAL North America, please contact Erin Graeber at egraeber@povertyactionlab.org.

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