

Are we having fun yet?



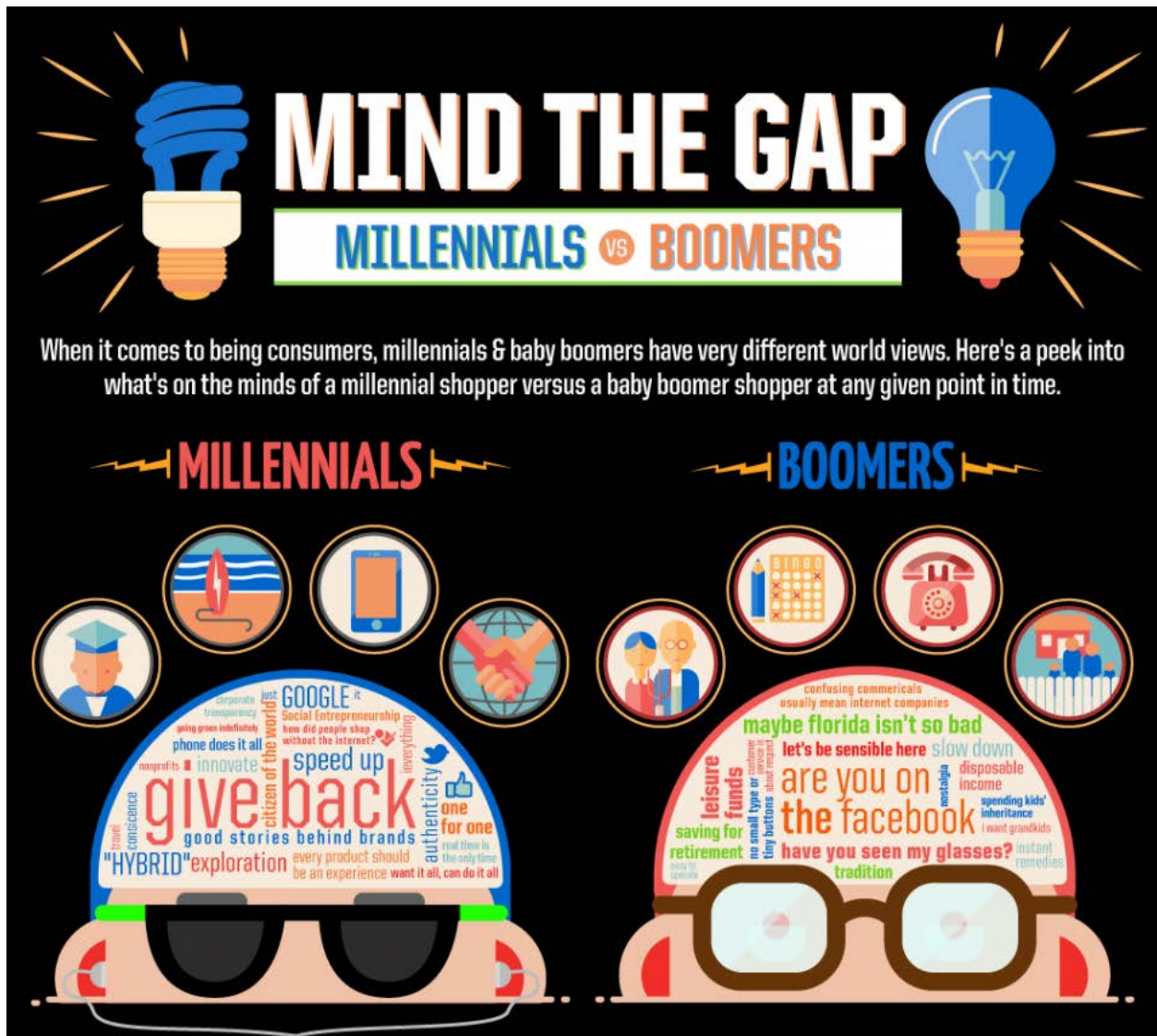
Millennials are bringing to the forefront quality of life issues that prior generations successfully ignored. Some of us Baby Boomers find that trait quite annoying and very frustrating. Yet, we secretly envy their moxie and wonder how they can be our children.

When I query Millennials about their obvious irreverence to our mecca of hard work and personal sacrifice they generally agree that they don't want to live the life their parents did. They do not want to spend endless hours at the office or on the road, working in isolation, enduring freshman hazing of getting coffee, making copies, and running personal errands for their boss. On the other hand Boomers see them as spoiled, entitled and arrogant brats who are not willing to pay their dues to obtain their rewards. How wide the pendulum swings!

I remember when I made my son work in my office during the summer of his high school years. When I asked him if he would be interested in eventually taking over my business he responded, "No way Mom, you work too hard." As my fellow Boomers will commiserate, I wondered where I had gone wrong. But as I watched him mature and enter the work force I observed that he had a knack for collaborating and teamwork which had a natural rhythm and flow. For Boomers, other than in sports, it was each person for themselves and we approached "collaboration" with reserved suspicion. An entire industry sprung to life because we did not know how to play nice in the sandbox. As I age (like fine wine) I have become intrigued by the Millennial way. I watch us fill our offices with Xboxes, shuffleboards, pool and ping pong tables to draw the coveted youth into our world. We throw around terms that are meaningful to them like; work/life balance, diversity and collaboration without fully embracing them hoping that they will not catch on. I am afraid that they are on to us.



Are we having fun yet?



I don't want to be called a relic or a dinosaur and the only way to get past that is to evolve. Please don't tell my son I said that. I am not saying we should throw the parent out with the bath water. But what if we can actually have the best of both worlds? Can the teacher be the student? That means we can't stand at the edge of the dance floor, we have to jump in and let go of what we thought were our past truths. Listen, observe and give it a whirl.

Are we having fun yet?

I think old dogs can learn new tricks and have fun while we are doing it.

CoSource provides real estate program and project management services. For more information contact me at tvoltin@cosourceinc.com

Tracy M Voltin
President

