

Investment Forum Program for Wednesday, October 24 at 11:30

Mixed Messages: Somewhere in the week's potpourri of headlines surely lies the path to riches. The cover of the October 22 issue of *U.S. News & World Report* read "Most investors skimp on foreign stocks. It's not too late to get in." Meanwhile, the October 18 issue of *The Washington Post* business section carried a headline stating "China's Bid to Tame Economy Begins a Real Estate Bust." The writers at *Standard & Poor's* featured a cover story on the October 17 issue of *The Outlook* that read "We predict the dollar will fall further in the year ahead." The same issue of *The Outlook* opined that "gold appears to be on an ever-upward trajectory" (Mark Hulbert writing in Sunday's *New York Times* says upward, but not ever-upward) and on October 19 *Kiplinger.com* asked rhetorically "Time to Buy Gold?" On October 17, *The Wall Street Journal* carried an article entitled "Electricity Demand Is Far Outpacing New Supply Sources." On October 17, *BusinessWeekOnline* featured an article entitled "FPL Grabs the Lead in Renewable Power." Elsewhere, the October 29 issue of *Forbes* opines that, like it or not, we're stuck with coal as a primary source of energy for a long time to come. Finally, the October 19 edition of *The Wall Street Journal* presents the contrarian argument for falling oil prices. This mix of ingredients for investor anxiety should provide grist for discussion.

Mutual Funds: The Weitz Value Fund (WVALX) and the closed-end BlackRock Global Equity Income Trust (BFD)

Stock Talk: The current issue of *Barron's* offers a rare kind word for Citigroup (C).

The OLLI Investment Forum web site: <http://www.olligmu.org/~finforum/>