

Investment Forum Program for Wednesday, January 23 at 11:30

Welcome to New Members

A welcome will be extended to new members. New members are invited to visit the forum's website at www.olligmu.org/~finforum/.

Perspective: The economy and the market are worrisome. However, worry is more focused and productive if what is known can be separated from what is unknown, and perhaps unknowable even to those making public pronouncements. (Viewing CNBC can be hazardous to one's financial and emotional well-being these days.) In other words, "Know what you don't know." This topic will be addressed in an opening group discussion.

Strategies: The stock market certainly appears to be an unattractive place to hold assets these days, but history has shown one aspect of stock investing with consistency; namely, those who sit on the sidelines often lose out on the market's biggest and most profitable movements. Such movements are often sharp, sudden and unanticipated. Perhaps the more important question is not whether to be in the market, but rather what investments to hold and what buying strategies to follow.

Bonds: Throughout the course of this decade to date, both the 30-year Treasury bond and the 10-year Treasury bond have far outperformed both the S&P 500 Index and the Dow Jones Industrial Average on an annualized basis. However, don't depend on this relative superiority enduring forever given the recent unsustainable sharp decline in Treasury interest rates (and sharp rise in Treasury bond prices).

Potpourri: Follow-up comments on two investments mentioned by members: the closed-end H&Q Healthcare Fund (HQH) and Ultra Petroleum (UPL). Plus, perspective on the proposed Bank of America (BAC) takeover offer for Countrywide Financial (CFC).

On the Website: Reading material on new topics is posted regularly at www.olligmu.org/~finforum/.

NY GIANTS RULE !!!