

Investment Forum Program for Wednesday, February 13 at 11:30

Meeting Schedule Notice

This is the final meeting of the forum under the OLLI Winter Program. **Starting next week, Feb. 20th, the forum will meet on Wednesdays at 10:00.**

Perspective: The economy may or may not be in recession and stocks may or may not be in a bear market. These events are defined by formal metrics which are yet to be clarified. However, whatever is going on with the economy and the financial markets, the current state of affairs doesn't feel very good to many individual investors. Let's talk about what is known and what isn't known, and what options are available for retired investors as offered from several perspectives.

Follow-Up: The current issue of *BusinessWeek* has a few kind words for Bank of America (BAC).

Sectors: The "emerging markets" may seem far away and incidental to many investors but, collectively, they could represent more than half of the aggregate global gross domestic product in the very near future. And, *Dow Theory Forecasts* suggests an easy way to participate in these markets without leaving home.

Precious Metals: *The Wall Street Journal* attempts to put the current gold fever in perspective on a factual basis.

Mutual Funds: The current market exposes one of the downsides of traditional open-end mutual funds. Namely, managers must cope with a rush of new money when the market is rising and a rush of redemptions when the market is falling. Both phenomena are harmful to investors. And, why closed-end funds are immune from this activity.

Stock Talk: There's much more to Google (GOOG) than a search engine, and why it poses a serious threat to Microsoft (MSFT). Also, why Big Oil isn't so big anymore.

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