

Investment Forum Program for Wednesday, November 5 at 11:30

Future Meeting Schedule

This is the last meeting of the forum for the OLLI Fall Program. However, the forum will continue to meet throughout November, December and January on an irregular basis—at 10:00 AM. For **November**, the forum will meet on the 12th and possibly the 19th. Renovation work may cause the November 19th session to be canceled. Meeting dates for **December** are the 3rd, 10th and 17th.

Perspective: A. Gary Shilling writing in the November 10 issue of *Forbes* lays out a worst-case scenario. He states that “The overarching reality is that both households and financial institutions are unwinding immense leverage they built up over three decades. That deleveraging is far from complete.” He is not easily dismissed at this point. However other market observers and participants differ, claiming that current equity valuations already discount a major economic slowdown short of depression.

Income Taxes: A member presentation on options for required withdrawals from tax-deferred accounts.

Strategies: In indexes we trust. The current bear market provides an interesting test of several types of index funds. A sampling of data as provided by *Morningstar* will be discussed. Basically, in many instances fund managers can be replaced by a computer.

Whom to Believe: Usually reliable sources are putting out starkly contradictory economic perspectives on inflation versus deflation. The full economic power of the federal government is focused on attempts to cushion deflation, but will their unprecedented fiscal and monetary policies lead to future inflation? If deflation is the more urgent concern, what investment strategies are retirees wise to consider?

Passage of an Era: 2008 has been a difficult year for Wise Men. Alan Greenspan, Robert Rubin, Bill Miller and T. Boone Pickens have fallen. Warren Buffett and Paul Volcker remain on their pedestals—for now. Meanwhile, John Bogle is teetering. His mantra of buy-and-hold using stock index funds is suspect at this point. But his accompanying advice to hold lots of bonds in retirement provides a degree of redemption.

On the Website: New articles which may be of interest to retired investors are posted regularly at www.olligmu.org/~finforum/.