

## Investment Forum Program for Wednesday, March 17 at 10:00

### Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

**Perspective:** What if they threw a bull market and no one came? In one sense, that's been happening over the past year. Individual investors in managed U.S. stock mutual funds have steadily withdrawn money as the market has risen. As measured by mutual fund money flows, investors have poured enormous amounts of money into bond funds and have invested heavily in emerging markets stocks, gold, and natural resources funds. If history follows a familiar pattern, investors may be waiting too long to get back into U.S. stocks. Or, perhaps ETFs are permanently changing the way individuals invest.

**Guru Watch:** Jeremy Grantham is not a household name such as Warren Buffett, but he has demonstrated an impressive long-term record as a stock strategist. Grantham's current thoughts are synopsized in a *Kiplinger.com* article entitled "7 Stocks for the Next 7 Years" found on the forum website at [www.olligmu.org/~finforum/](http://www.olligmu.org/~finforum/) and full details of his prognostication record for the past decade can be found at [www.gmo.com](http://www.gmo.com). Basically, Grantham strongly favors the very stocks that investors are now shunning. He especially likes Microsoft (MSFT) and Oracle (ORCL) because of their durable franchises and lush profit margins.

**Tech Stocks:** John will offer a short presentation on the current outlook for selected tech stocks.

**Stock Talk:** National Grid (NGG) is a sleeper that may be worth investigating. It is a London-based electric and gas utility that generates two-thirds of its revenues in the U.S. It is mentioned favorably in the February issue of *Kiplinger's Retirement Report*. It offers a 5.8% dividend and has grown the dividend at an annualized rate of 9.5% over the past five years. S&P rates the stock a Low-Risk Hold. Citigroup and Morgan Stanley both rate it a Low-Risk Buy, and Morgan Stanley has especially favorable comments regarding its prospects.

**Feedback Session:** It has been two weeks since the forum heard Brendan Hughes of Charles Schwab. What was the reaction to Mr. Hughes' presentation? What topics most strongly interest members and what topics would members like to hear discussed? What are members hearing from their brokers/advisors? As demonstrated last week, there is a vast amount of information available to discuss, but a basis for selection is needed. Also, would the group like to select a portfolio of ten or twelve stocks to follow on a regular basis for an extended period?