

**INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 815, 2015, 11:50AM,
Fellowship Hall, Lord of Life Lutheran Church**

Market Perspective. Good week. DOW and S&P were both up 1.7%, and the NASDAQ was up 2.2%. The S&P is now just 1% under its all-time high.

The big news was deals. Shell (RDSB for the ADR) agreed to buy BG Group, a natural gas and liquified natural gas play, for \$70 billion. Mr. Market thought poorly of that deal, (or at least the price paid) and punished the Shell stock with a 7% one-day decline. Mr. Market smiled, though, on General Electric's announcement to sell another big piece of its former financial services empire, and a share buy-back. GE shares rocketed up 11% on Friday, to the pleasure of patient GE shareholders (which includes many Forum members) who have seen GE shares stagnate recently. On Saturday, *Barron's* opined that it is time to sell GE; others like GE's direction back to its industrial roots and away from the financial services business. We will chat about GE, and whether it is now a buy, sell, or hold.

Financial Advisors (cont.) I received much positive feedback on last week's program. We saw Frank and Maury (thank you, guys) with different approaches and uses of Financial Advisors; there are many more variations of services. If you use a Financial Advisor, please consider sharing with us how you use them; you do not need to do a PowerPoint or something that requires a lot of preparation.

Tom Crooker will offer some comments on the broad topic of Money Managers, and I will briefly discuss how I use an Account Executive, who is not an Investment Advisor, and some important distinctions on the rules they operate under compared to Investment Advisors.

Upcoming Topics.

Big Pharma. Phillip Crooker (yes, Tom's son) will discuss the drug approval process and other pharma topics on April 22.

International Stocks and Funds. The Forum has been underweight in discussions of foreign investments for several years. Given the bull market in U. S. stocks, and economic weaknesses in Europe and emerging markets, focus on U. S. stocks is not surprising. Recently, though, European equities and emerging markets have outperformed domestic markets, and the pundits are now saying it is time to buy Europe and emerging markets. Or are European markets just responding to European Central Bank stimulus, much like has happened in the U. S.?

If you follow international markets or a particular country, sector, or company, or have insights on international stocks or funds, please let me know. You can lead a discussion, or I may be able to discuss an investment or fund that you suggest.

I will also do some broad comparisons of international ETFs.

Buys and Sells (week of April 8)

Buys

Starbucks (SBUX)

Exxon Mobil (XOM)

Alibaba (BABA)

Purefunds ISE Cyber Security ETF (HACK) - like that ticker!

West Corp (WSTC) - communications services. MC: \$3B

Pandora Media (P) - MC: \$4B

Vanguard FTSE Emerging Markets ETF (VWO) - add to

Sells

California Resources Corp (CRC) - Occidental Petroleum spin-off.

Windstream (WIN)

Greif Inc Class B (GEF-B) - industrial packaging. MC: \$2B

Genetics Technologies ADR (GENE) MC: \$25M

Global X SuperDividend ETF (SDIV)

Thinking About . . .

Vanguard Dividend Appreciation ETF (VIG)

Schwab US Dividend Equity ETF

Simulations Plus (SLP) - MC: \$101M

Dow Chemical (DOW)

Forum Resources

Investment Forum Website. The Investment Forum has its own website, www.olligmu.org/~finforum. Or the OLLI website, www.olligmu.org, and from the Main Menu, click on “Clubs, Group Blogs, and Ongoing Activities,” and then “Investment Forum.” The current agenda and previous agendas are posted, as well as articles in the financial press that members recommend.

AAll (American Association of Individual Investors.) The DC Metro Chapter of AAll has monthly seminars on investment topics, given by recognized experts. AAll also publishes a magazine and resources for individual investors. The website for the DC Metro Chapter is aaiddcmetro.com. Seminars are held monthly on Saturday mornings at the Sheraton Pentagon City, and usually cost \$35. Sign-ups are online. The next event is April 18, “Guerrilla Approaches to Finding and Evaluating Stocks,” and the presenter is Marc Gerstein, Director of Research, Portfolio 123 and Editor of Forbes Low Priced Stock Reports.

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