Investment Forum Program for Wednesday, December 8 at 10:00

Future Meeting Schedule

During the interim period until the OLLI Winter Program begins, the Forum will meet at **10:00** on the following dates: December 8 and 15, and January 5, 12 and 19.

Perspective: The tech sector is in a growth spurt led by new consumer products and services and a corporate equipment renewal cycle. Concerns are being raised about infrastructure bandwidth capacity keeping up with demand. But, unlike a decade ago, investor enthusiasm for tech stocks is muted. Big Tech is cheap by virtually any measure and is financially strong. Some players are quasi- monopolies. The only cloud on the horizon is diminished demand from cash-strapped government agencies. But, Big Tech is comprised of *global* companies and the global outlook is positive. Value investors are taking note.

Stock Talk: Dividend-rich telecom **CenturyLink** (CTL) is the largest holding in the SPDR S&P Dividend ETF (SDY) and is the second-largest holding in the iShares Dow Jones Select Dividend Index ETF (DVY). *Value Line* comments "We recommend these quality shares for risk-averse income-oriented investors" and *Value Line* includes CTL in their most recent list of Stocks for Dividend Growth with Low Risk. Also, many electric utility stocks have done well since the bear market bottom, but **Exelon** (EXC) is an exception. Based on its P/E and dividend yield, it appears to be cheap. It may deserve to be so or it may be a recovery candidate offering substantial total return potential—it depends. *Morningstar* sees the stock as priced well below their estimate of Fair Value. Others see it fully priced at the current quote. Finally, **Abbott Laboratories** (ABT) is widely recommended. Its P/E valuation is modest and its dividend yield is attractive with a long history of dividend increases. But, its popularity among stock analysts is not yet shared by investors. Is it a contrarian opportunity or dead money?

Municipal Bonds: The generic term "municipal bonds" covers a very broad range of debt. And, in recent months, it has taken on an increasingly negative connotation as states and municipalities across the nation have experienced highly publicized budgetary distress. Some investors have begun shying away from munis. Is this a clear warning sign or is it creating buying opportunities?

The Rich: It has long been a cliché that the rich are different—they have more money. Based on a recent survey commissioned by U.S. Bancorp, it appears that the rich are also committed long-term investors. Among those with at least $1 million in invested assets, over 90% are sticking with equities despite having experienced losses in the recent bear market.