

Investment Forum Program for Wednesday, March 2 at 10:00

Future Meeting Schedule

The Forum will meet at 10:00 on March 2, 9 and 16.

Perspective: The debate continues to rage regarding a possible debacle in the municipal bond market later this year. All will be revealed in the fullness of time. Historically, it has been 140 years since state governments defaulted on their debt following the crash of 1837. The aftereffects of that public debt crisis persisted for decades. In recent times Orange County, California went bankrupt but bondholders were made whole. Since late last year bonds, in general, have been trending lower. So far, high-quality intermediate-term municipal bonds have closely tracked the broad market as represented by the Vanguard Intermediate-Term Bond Index Fund (VBIX). Also, risk is back as individual investors and institutions hunt for yield. It is said the one definition of insanity is repeatedly doing the same thing and expecting a different outcome each time. This has been done before and the outcome was unfavorable.

Unfinished Business: This week an attempt will be made to conduct a discussion of Big Tech. Stocks such as **Cisco** (CSCO), **IBM** (IBM), **Intel** (INTC), and **Microsoft** (MSFT) will be included. Opinion here is as divided as is the case for municipal bonds. Either they're "Old Soldiers" that should be retired from portfolios as one financial writer puts it, or they're value stocks as Bill Miller sees them.

New Business: One member has spent years following the oil sector. He has timely information to share.

