INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020, 11:50AM

We will meet this week on-line, using Zoom webinar, at *11:50AM.* We will meet at this time through July 26. We will then meet as a "club" starting August 5, at 10:30AM, to September 16.

The Zoom link is 84481995230. Be alert for Zoom link changes, with notification by email from OLLI and/or from me. The OLLI calendar on its webpage, ***olli.gmu.edu*** has classes and current Zoom links.

Forum Moderator needed for August 5.

Markets

An up week, with the DOW up 3.3% (YTD down 9.5%;) the S&P up 4.0% (YTD down 3.1%; and the NASDAQ up 4.6% (YTD up 13.3%.) The big news was better than expected jobs' numbers on Thursday, dropping unemployment from 13.3% to 11.1%, and worrying rises in covid infections and deaths in many parts of the country. Will these lead to another round of business shutdowns?

Second quarter earnings will start trickling out in a few weeks. These will reflect the pandemic impact. Perhaps more importantly, will future guidance numbers be disclosed, and what will they look like?

Topics this Week

Agriculture. John Woods will look at the agriculture and farming industry, to include his "sells" this week of corn and soybeans. (This discussion may be postponed to July 15.)

Bob Baker will review the buys and sells.

Garrett Ruhl will comment on where things stand and look at sectors and companies that stand to benefit.

Searching for Yield. I will look for yield via preferred stock ETFs. How much risk is there to get 5% yields? Later, I will look at preferred stock closed-end funds, and mutual funds. (This discussion may be postponed to July 15.)

Upcoming Topics

Health Care sector. I would like to put together a panel to discuss the health care sector, including health care ETFs, managed funds, and some individual stocks.

Investing Mistakes. Our "lessons learned" panel will talk about humility meted out by Mr. Market on July 26.

Sector Allocations. Over several weeks, I will look at mid caps, small caps, and some some international stocks, using ETFs and closed end funds.

Buys and Sells

Buys (week ending 7/5/2020)
Apple (AAPL)
Amazon (AMZN)
Microsoft (MSFT)
Intuitive Surgical (ISRG)
Teledoc Health (TDOC)
Merck (MRK)
Pfizer (PFE)
Vanguard Mid-Cap ETF (VO)
First Trust NASDAQ Cybersecurity ETF (CIBR)
Vaxart (VXRT) - flu vaccines. MC: $700M
Global X Cloud Computing ETF (CLOU)
Plug Power (PLUG) - 2 buys
Enterprise Products Partners (EPD)
Comcast (CMCSA)
Bloom Energy (BE)

Sells (week ending 7/5/2020)
Gladstone Investment (GAIN)
Loews (L)
IAC/Interactive Corp(IAC)
Vanguard Real Estate Index Fund (VGSLX)
625 bushels corn
234 bushels soybeans

Investment Forum Website. The Investment Forum website may be accessed directly at ***http://olligmu.org/finforum/index.html***, or through the OLLI website at ***olli.gmu.edu***, then pressing the "Clubs/Groups" link at the upper right of the home page, followed by the "Inve$tment Forum" link on the dropdown list. Please contact Jim Coile, the Webmaster with any presentation contributions, article suggestion, or improvements by emailing ***jcoile@gmu.edu***.

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