

#### **GENERAL MARKET COMMENTARY**

This bull market has surpassed the decade of the 1950s by becoming the second longest bull market in Wall Street history with an increase of 269% in the S&P 500 Total Return Index since March of 2009. It has been surpassed only by the decade-long bull market of the 1990s, which had an even larger gain of 417%. There are many similarities to the Bull Market tops of 2000 and 2007. The S&P 500 TR Index lost 45% in 2000-2001, and lost 55% in 2007-2009. People forget. It will happen again, so don't get complacent.

Another dangerous development that appears in extended economic recoveries is the creation of excess debt and leverage. The financial system needs a periodic recession to clear the excesses out of the system since investors as well as consumers get carried away in borrowing and spending. The Federal Reserve has been reluctant to normalize interest rates, and we are again seeing excesses in the real estate marketplace. There is also a new debt instrument that has become popular called securities-backed-loans, or SBLs, and are referred to as "shadow margin" because they are not tracked in the margin debt figures. It is similar to a line of credit against your home, but it uses a brokerage account as collateral instead of a home, and can be used for any purpose except for buying more stock. With no maturity date or payback requirements, these loans could cause a forced major market selloff if the stock market has a major correction.

Leading economic indicators show no sign that the U.S. economy is currently slowing, with the manufacturing sector, service sector, Consumer Comfort Index, and Small Business Optimism Index hitting new highs. While hurricane fears may produce a negative economic outlook for the short term, they lead to strong regional demand through the recovery and reconstruction efforts. Strong market gains have been typical in the markets for 6-12 months following similar situations. Some economists are warning that with the flattening yield curve, which we are beginning to see (short term rates and long term rates becoming the same), there is a possibility of an inverted yield curve on the horizon. Since the Fed's current tightening cycle comes at the late stage of the economic expansion, they may not be able to prevent a recession. The reasons for this are one, pent-up demand is weakening, and two, falling rents and excess capacity in manufacturing is a headwind. Of the previous 14 Fed tightening cycles since 1945, 11 were followed by a recession.

#### SPECTRUM LOW VOLATILITY FUND (SVARX) MAKES NEWS

With a 3-year return of 28.35% through the end of the third quarter 2017, Spectrum Low Volatility Fund strategies have moved it to the top of its category, ranking #1 out of all 233 bond funds in the Nontraditional Bond

low risk opportunities arise to make better returns in any market environment, but the portfolio always remains liquid for when it becomes necessary to move to the safety of a cash position.

funds tracked by Morningstar. This chart illustrates its performance along with the #2 fund and #3 fund in this category. Also included in the chart performance are the three famous "Bond King" advisors: Pimco's Daniel Ivascyn, Doubleline's Jeffrey Gundlach, and Janus' Bill Gross.

The chart illustrates that not only has it outperformed its peers, the volatility is lower as well. The fund is actively managed by bond sector rotation, closely monitoring



the preferable bond class, and moving into more favorable sectors when relative strength improves. Bond classes may include government, high yield, mortgage backed, municipal, floating senior rate, and credit asset backed securities. Leverage may be used from time to time when The total return data for the funds referenced in the chart were obtained from Bloomberg, LP. Dividends reinvested, sales loads not included. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Fund prospectus should be carefully read to evaluate the Fund's objective. For Spectrum Low Volatility standardized performance, see page 3.

October 2017

PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE by Ralph Doudera

This week I discovered a book written over 300 years ago by an obscure French Monk who went by the name of Brother Lawrence. I am certain he would have no clue that I could order it this past Monday on my "one click" app and be reading it on Tuesday. The title is The Practice of the Presence of God. I felt it might help me in my struggle to connect in a more consistent way in the busyness of my life, since taking time to hear from God for me normally requires quiet and solitude. But how was he able to have an intimate relationship with God in the midst of his duties working in the kitchen of the monastery? He learned an important lesson through each daily chore: the time spent with God should be the same regardless of our activities. He said God paints Himself in the depths of our soul and we must merely open our hearts to receive Him and His loving presence.

What goes into any good relationship? God wants a personal relationship where I understand His heart and desires and vice versa. Open and honest communication is key. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said "*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God*" (Matt.5:8). So how do I do that? I need to examine my heart if there is a relationship problem with Him. If there is a problem of unforgiveness or sin in my life I need to stop hiding it and

get it out there on the table. Then we can be intimate again. This actually works in all of our relationships. If I was a marriage therapist, I would have my clients memorize and use often the phrase "*I really messed up and am truly sorry*. *Would you please forgive me*?" Although He is a Just God, He can and will forgive me by my acknowledging that Jesus Christ gave his life to satisfy the sins we all commit. I can then enter into a right relationship with Him again and then I can hear Him more clearly all throughout my busy day. I have discovered that talking to Him is not as good as listening to Him. Like any good relationship, an equal amount of talking and listening is ideal. But I need to be in a good relationship with Him to hear what He is saying to me.

God is not some abstract impersonal concept. And He is not religious—that was man's idea. He is a Person who loves me and wants to have a personal relationship with me, to be by my side in all the joys and pain of life—to be both a compassionate listening ear and also an advisor in all the dilemmas of my life. And I really want and need that relationship throughout every day. I have found that God often speaks loudest when I am the quietest.... Silence is anything but passive waiting. It is proactive listening, and expecting a response. Obey the whisper and see what God does. Life becomes less predictable and more interesting.

"Steady plodding brings prosperity; hasty speculation brings poverty" (Proverbs 21:5, LB)

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#### Objective

Total return with lower downside volatility and risk

#### Portfolio Manager

Spectrum Financial, Inc. Ralph Doudera (industry since 1973)

#### Morningstar Category Nontraditional Bond

### \*\*\*\*\*

The Fund received a 5-star Overall Morningstar Rating as of 9/30/17. Spectrum Low Volatility Fund (SVARX) was rated against the following numbers of U.S.-domiciled Nontraditional Bond funds over the following periods: 264 funds in the last three years. With respect to these Nontraditional Bond funds, Spectrum Low Volatility Fund received a 5-Star rating overall and 5-Star for 3 years. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

#### **Fund Symbols**

SVARX Investor Class Shares

Net Assets

\$65.3 M

#### **Dividend Frequency**

If accrued, Quarterly

## Spectrum Low Volatility Fund

A mutual fund with the flexibility to invest across global fixed income markets using time-tested investment processes to deliver total return and low volatility in all market environments.

#### Selective Use of Leverage

The Fund's experienced manager may selectively use leverage through the use of derivative products only when conditions are favorable. The Fund's manager has specialized in low-risk leverage strategies for over 29 years.

#### Active Management of Fixed Income Sectors

The Fund invests in an array of global fixed income sectors with the ability to adjust sector allocations as necessary based on proprietary models. By using liquid investment products, opportunities can be seized and risk can be managed effectively.

#### Hedge Against Interest Rate Risk

Flexible global allocations allow the portfolio to hedge against interest rate movements and credit spreads, either up or down. These allocations contribute to the portfolio's low volatile nature.



9/30/2017

#### Portfolio Allocation

		5/ 50/ 2017
	High Yield Bond	29.46%
	Mortgage- Backed	21.61%
	HY Credit Default Swaps	19.69%
	Municipal	14.33%
	Preferred	4.86%
	Floating Rate	56.02%
	Bond Other	73.26%
can contain de	erivatives and/or short positions	219.22%



Investment Model Exposure: 2.19 (1=100%) (value greater than 1 indicates use of leverage) Pie chart indexed to 100%, net exposure

Current performance may be lower or higher than the quoted past performance, which cannot guarantee future results. Share price, principal value, and return may vary, and you may have a gain or a loss when you sell your shares. Performance assumes reinvestment of distributions and does not account for taxes.

\*Inception date: 12/16/2013. For the most recent month-end performance, please visit thespectrumfunds.com



Fund Statistics based on SVARX (investor class share) and the 50/50\* benchmark.

## **Standard Deviation** 3.95

Sharpe 2.05

Beta

.83

R-Squared

**Up Market Capture** 112.48%

Down Market Capture 20.37%

Expense Ratio 2.9%

Portfolio statistics are based on 3-year calculations from Morningstar, FastTrack Data, and Bloomberg.

Standard Deviation: is also known as historical volatility and is used by investors as a gauge for the amount of expected volatility. It is a measure of the dispersion of a set of data from its mean. Sharpe Ratio: a risk-adjusted measure calculated by dividing a fund's annualized excess returns over the risk-free rate by its annualized standard deviation. The higher the Sharpe ratio, the better the fund's historical risk-adjusted performance. Beta: a statistic that measures volatility of the fund, as compared to that of the overall market. The market's beta is set at 1; a higher beta than 1 is considered to be more volatile than the market, while a beta lower than 1 is considered to be less volatile. R-Squared: a measurement of how closely a fund's performance correlates with an index. It can range between 0 and 1. An r-squared of 1 indicates perfect correlation, while 0 indicates no correlation. Up Market Capture: a statistical measure of an investment manager's overall performance in up markets. The up market capture ratio is used to evaluate how well an investment manager performed relative to an index during periods when that index rose. Down Market Capture: a statistical measure of an investment manager's overall performance in down markets. The down market capture ratio is used to evaluate how well or poorly an investment manager performed relative to an index during periods when that index has dropped.

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SVARX (Investor Class Shares)

#### Annual performance at net asset value (all distributions reinvested)

	2014	2015	2016	
SVARX	2.41%	1.08%	16.45%	
S&P/LSTA U.S. Leveraged Loan 100 TR Index	.99%	-2.75%	10.87%	
50/50 Barclays VLYHI/ S&P Leveraged Loan Index	1.55%	-4.01%	13.76%	

#### Annualized total return performance

	SVARX	S&P/LSTA U.S. Leveraged Loan 100 TR Index	50/50 Barclays VLYHI/ S&P Leveraged Loan Index
Qtr	2.78%	.89%	1.36%
YTD	8.30%	2.33%	4.47%
1 Year	11.32%	4.58%	6.46%
3 Years	8.68%	3.17%	4.19%
Since Inception	7.35%	2.96%	4.03%

(Inception Date: 12/16/2013 )

#### Highlights of one-year performance periods (12/16/13-9/30/17)\*

Best	Best	Worst	Worst	Average	% of 1-year	Number	Number
1-year	period	1-year	period	1-year	periods with	of positive	of negative
return	end date	return	end date	return	positive returns	1-year periods	1-year periods
16.46%	12/31/2016	1.22%	6/30/2015	7.50%	100%	12	0

\*Based on one year returns for quarterly rolling periods.

# The performance data quoted represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate, so that shares, when redeemed, may by worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted and assumes the reimbursement of any dividend and/or capital gains distributions. To obtain performance data current to most recent month-end, please call toll free 1-888-572-8868.

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**Consider these risks before investing:** Bond risk, derivatives risk, emerging market risk, foreign investment risk, junk bond risk, leverage risk, management risk, market risk, mutual fund and ETF risk, short position risk, small and medium capitalization risk, and turnover risk. There is no guarantee the fund will achieve its investment objective. You can lose money by investing in the fund. Please carefully review the prospectus for detailed information about these risks.

S&P/LSTA U.S. Leveraged Loan 100 TR Index: This benchmark is designed to reflect the performance of the largest facilities in the U.S.dollar leveraged loan market. Term loans from syndicated credits must meet the following criteria at issuance to be eligible for inclusion. 1) senior secured 2) minimum initial term of one year 3) minimum initial spread of LIBOR +125 basis points 4) U.S. dollar denominated 5) all constituents must have a publicly assigned CUSIP.

\*50/50 Barclays VLI HY/S&P Leveraged Loan Index: This benchmark gives 50% weight to the Barclays VLI HY Index and 50% weight to the S&P Leveraged Loan Index. Barclays VLI HY benchmark includes publicly issued U.S. dollar denominated non-investment grade, fixed-rate taxable corporate bonds that have a remaining maturity of at least one year, regardless of optionality. The bonds are rated high-yield (Ba1/BB+/BB+ or below) using the middle rating of Moody's, S&P, and Fitch, respectively (before July 1, 2005, the lower of Moody's and S&P was used). Included issues consist of only the three largest bonds from each issuer that have a minimum amount outstanding of \$500 million or more (face value) and less than five years from issue date. S&P Leveraged Loan Index is designed to reflect the performance of the largest facilities in the leveraged loan market.

Request a prospectus or a summary prospectus from your financial representative or by calling Gemini Fund Services at 855-582-8006 or access www.thespectrumfunds.com. These prospectuses include investment objectives, risks, fees, expenses, and other information that you should read and consider carefully before investing. Gemini Fund Services serves as transfer agent to the Fund and is not affiliated with the advisor, subadvisor or distributor.