

2026 Alaksa Chapter Investing Education Fair Topics

Wayne Thorp, CFA and our BetterInvesting CEO

1. AI Won't Pick Your Stocks—And That's Actually Good News

Everyone in the room has heard that AI will revolutionize investing. This talk tells the part of that story nobody covers: what AI can actually do for individual investors, where it will get you in serious trouble, and why the fact that it can't pick your stocks is genuinely good news. Attendees leave with a practical, hands-on framework for using AI as a research assistant without outsourcing their judgment to a tool that has none. Particularly relevant for audiences curious—or skeptical—about technology's role in their investment process.

2. Buybacks: Why Most Programs Destroy Shareholder Value

Share buybacks are one of the most misunderstood tools in corporate finance — widely celebrated by management teams and widely misread by investors. This talk digs into the research: only a fraction of buyback programs are timed and executed in ways that actually benefit shareholders. Attendees learn a four-question diagnostic framework for evaluating whether a company's buyback program creates or destroys value, using real-world examples from companies they already know. A counterintuitive talk that changes how members read corporate capital allocation decisions going forward.