



UNIVERSITY  
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# Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Central Oregon Newsletter

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## Book Discussion Group's Next Read: *Gödel, Escher, Bach: the Eternal Golden Braid*, Douglas Hofstadter

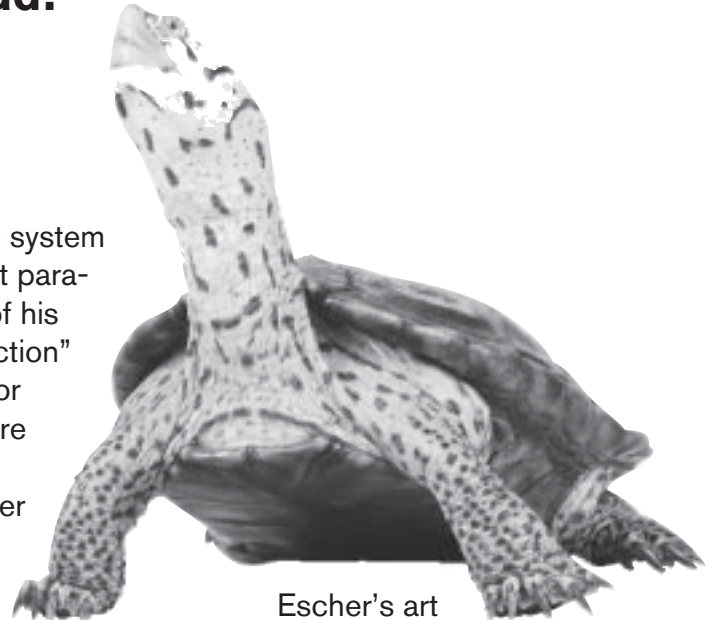
By Ed Lee

Most of us believe that Albert Einstein came up with the most amazing scientific ideas of the twentieth century, but Douglas Hofstadter undertakes to explain, in layman's language, an even more amazing one: Gödel's incompleteness theorem. He does so through the art of Escher, the music of Bach, parables of a tortoise and his "unbreakable" phonographs, paradoxes, computer science, the structure of DNA and other metaphors.

In the 1930's Kurt Gödel proposed and proved mathematically that: no interesting (that is non-trivial) system can contain a complete description of itself. Every system, finite or infinite, is intrinsically incomplete. Attempts to explain a system from within require self-referencing statements and paradoxes. Only

something outside the system can describe it without paradox. One implication of his theorem is that "perfection" is not possible, even for an infinite system. There is no escape from this dilemma, but Hofstadter demonstrates that it is the essence of human self-awareness.

This Pulitzer Prize winning book is at once both insightful and fun. It is like a Bach Fugue with seven distinct parts, each reflecting the main theme, yet complementing and enhancing the other parts. It is not a book that must be read from cover to cover in linear fashion. It is more easily enjoyed and understood by first savoring the thematic explanations in the reader's most familiar contexts (perhaps Bach's music,



Escher's art or Hofstadter's parables) then exploring them in less familiar or more abstract contexts (computer programs or formal, self-referencing logic.)

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## Upcoming Presentations

**First Wednesday Recorded Lecture: Genomics—From Humans to the Environment**  
Wednesday, March 5, 10:00 a.m. (Chandler Building)

In this Imperial College London Centenary Prestigious Lecture, Dr. Craig Venter discusses his work at the J. Craig Venter Institute and its implications for the future of our culture, society and science. The Institute's projects include developing new understanding of human disease at the DNA level, running the Sorcerer II Global Ocean Sampling Expedition to understand microbial diversity in the world's oceans and finding new ways of tackling environmental issues, especially the production of new biological sources of energy. One of its many goals is to engineer microbes that can produce biological sources of fuel. Dr. Venter and his team believe that genomics is the field of science that has the power to transform the world around us.

In 1998 Dr. Venter founded Celera Genomics to sequence the human genome using new tools and techniques he and his team developed. The successful completion of this research culminated with the February 2001 publication of the human



genome in the journal *Science*. He and his team at Celera also sequenced the fruit fly, mouse, and rat genomes. Dr. Venter and his team at the Venter Institute continue to blaze new trails in genomics research and have recently published several important papers covering such areas as environmental genomics, synthetic genomics and the sequence and analysis of the dog genome.

In 2007, researchers at the J. Craig Venter Institute, along with collaborators from Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, the University of California, San Diego, and the Universidad de

Barcelona in Spain published the first diploid genome of an individual—Dr. Venter, in *PLoS Biology*. This analysis and assembly of the twenty billion base pairs of Dr. Venter's DNA is the first look at both sets of an individual's chromosomes (one inherited from each of his parents) and has shown a greater degree and more kinds of genetic variation with human to human variation five to seven times greater than in previous genome analysis.

Dr. Venter, one of the most frequently cited scientists, is the author of more than 200 research articles and is a member of numerous prestigious scientific organizations including the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Society for Microbiology. He earned his B.S. in Biochemistry, Ph.D. in Physiology and Pharmacology from the University of California at San Diego.

### Are You Receiving OLLI's Weekly E-minders?

Each week OLLI sends an e-mail with the following week's offerings and announcements. We have updated our format to include color and live links you can access with a click of your mouse. If you would like to receive these e-minders, give us a call with your e-mail address, or send us an e-mail and ask to be added to our e-minder list.

## **Disaster Preparedness: What to Do if an Asteroid Hits Near Bend**

**Wednesday, March 5, 2:00 p.m.  
(Chandler Building)**

Science fiction? Not really. At the present time the Near Earth Object Program at the JA Propulsion Lab, NASA, Los Angeles, California looks for the tracks of asteroids larger than 1,000 meters in diameter. The asteroid that caused Meteor Crater in Arizona was only 100 meters in diameter. There are literally hundreds of Near Earth Objects as yet undetected. Don Webber, Deschutes County Emergency Services Manager for Disaster Preparedness, will answer all your questions.

## **Medical Series: Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Revealed!**

**Wednesday, March 19, 2:00  
p.m. (Chandler Building)**

The Medical Series presents opportunities for OLLI members to discuss selected topics with persons having skills, professional experience or explicit knowledge in a variety of health-related areas. The discussions are lively and open and are confined to the topic. After discussing medical visits and terminology and dementia, we turn now to discussions in alternative medical practices.

For this session, Steven Foster-Wexler is the presenter. Steven

received a Master of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine degree from the Oregon College of Oriental medicine. His license is issued by the Oregon State Board of Medical Examiners and is certified by the National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncture and Ori-

ental Medicine. Steven maintains a private practice in Bend and sees patients through the Hospice of Redmond and Sisters. He teaches Eastern Theory and Practice at Central Oregon Community College in the Massage Therapy degree program.



## WATER FOR OUR WORLD

“Global demand for freshwater doubles every twenty years, twice as fast as population growth . . . the richest industrialized countries consuming many times more water than the poorest developing nations.” World Resources Institute, Earth Trends

In January we delved into water resources and how we measure them and in February we explored the distribution and legal rights to water. Join us to learn more about this vital resource.

Water Resources and Legal Obligations  
Tuesday, March 11, 2:00 p.m. (Bend Senior Center)

How do water resources impact us nationally and internationally? The same river at the same location can border two or more states or even two or more countries. Some cities and countries fight among themselves for the same drop of water. Who gets that drop? What responsibility do the states and countries have to assure that water in space clearly lying in their own domain flows downstream to other citizens of the world who rely on that water to live? These matters will be addressed by our speaker.

Seeing Things Whole, Bend and the Deschutes Basin—  
Water Use and Management  
Tuesday, March 18, 2:00 p.m. (Bend Senior Center)

Great graphs, historical photos and statistics illustrate the big water picture as Patrick Griffiths presents today's water use and management, concluding OLLI's Water For Our World series with a look at the City of Bend's water history and current situation. Patrick is the City of Bend Water Resources Coordinator.

## Service-Learning: Empowering Students to Make a Difference

Wednesday, March 26, 2:00 p.m. (BSC)

Betsy Warriner and a service-learning student will talk and show a video about how engaging students in the community affects their lives, their learning, and our community. Participants will learn how we are working with school and college students, teachers, and com-

*Participants will learn how we are working with school and college students, teachers, and community agencies to educate a generation of wise and compassionate leaders.*

munity agencies to educate a generation of wise and compassionate leaders. We will also engage participants in sharing their own experiences of how volunteering can create changes in self and community.

Betsy Warriner is the founder and president of Volunteer Insights, a local nonprofit center that connects students with community volunteering in order to enrich their classroom learning and community leadership experience while meeting social and environmental needs. Betsy previously coordinated the service-learning programs at Seattle University and Portland Community College, building bridges between campus and community. Betsy holds a Masters in Teaching from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in Guidance and Counseling from the University of North Carolina.

### Let it Snow, Let it Snow

We are well aware of how quickly and unexpectedly our winter weather can change here in Central Oregon. The snow and ice, while beautiful, can make travel treacherous, even within our local community. We certainly hope that cancellation of a presentation or discussion/study group will not be necessary, but it may be inevitable. Should you hear on the radio or television that COCC has cancelled classes, please know that all OLLI-UO Central Oregon activities are also cancelled.

Should the college be open, but we experience somewhat heavy snow or ice, it is possible that the group leader, course manager, or presenter may need to cancel their event. Please call the OLLI office, (541) 617-4663, for the most up-to-date OLLI event information. As always, please use your best judgment as to whether you feel the roads are safe for your travel.

## Study/Discussion Groups

### First Tuesday Social Luncheon

Meets the first Tuesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. To reserve a space, contact Gail at 617-4663 or [gailm@uoregon.edu](mailto:gailm@uoregon.edu).

**March 4:** Crossings Restaurant at The Riverhouse

Contact: Harlie Peterson, [harliepete@hotmail.com](mailto:harliepete@hotmail.com)

### Book Discussion Group

Meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

**March 11:** *Gödel, Escher, Bach: the Eternal Golden Braid*, Douglas Hofstadter

**March 25:** *Gödel, Escher, Bach: the Eternal Golden Braid*, Douglas Hofstadter

Chandler Building

Contact: Ed Lee, [edwinlee@alum.mit.edu](mailto:edwinlee@alum.mit.edu)

### Discussing Science

Meets the first and third Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

**March 7:** TBA

**March 21:** TBA

Chandler Building

Contact: Harlie Peterson, [harliepete@hotmail.com](mailto:harliepete@hotmail.com)

### Dutch Masters: The Age of Rembrandt DVD course

Meets second through fourth Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

**March 12:** Jacob van Ruisdael; Dutch Landscape Painting until 1689

**March 19:** The Age of Rembrandt: Marine Painting; The Moral of the Story—History Painting

**March 26:** The Decoration of the Amsterdam Town Hall; Rembrandt to 1630

Contact: Jim Hammond,  
drjhammond@oldshoepress.com

### **Film Series at Touchmark**

Meets the second and fourth Fridays at 1:00 p.m.

**March 14:** *Topper*

**March 28:** *Circle of Deceit*

Terrace Lodge, Touchmark at Mount Bachelor Village

Contact: Larry Weinberg,  
larry101@bendbroadband.com

### **Joy of Science DVD course**

Meets Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

**March 6:** The Bohr Atom; The Quantum World

**March 13:** The Periodic Table of the Elements; Introduction to Chemistry

**March 20:** The Chemistry of Carbon; States of Matter and Changes of State

**March 27:** Phase Transformations and Chemical Reactions; Properties of Materials

Chandler Building

Contact: Bob Clautice,  
bclautice@bendbroadband.com

### **Thinking Allowed**

Meets the second and fourth Monday of every month at 1:30 p.m.

**March 10:** TBA

**March 24:** TBA

Chandler Building

Coordinator: Ruth Burleigh

### **Thinking Allowed II at Touchmark**

Meets the first and third Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

**March 3:** Bring your favorite quote to share

**March 17:** Bring your favorite quote to share

Touchmark at Mt. Bachelor Village

Coordinator:  
Helen Vandervort,  
helenv@bendcable.com

**The Writing Life** meets Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. The workshop ends on March 19.



## **NEWS ITEMS**

### **Renewals, New Memberships, Questions**

Renewals and membership application may be mailed to:

OLLI-UO, Central Oregon Site  
1227 University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403-1277

Or you may drop them by the OLLI-CO office:

1027 NW Trenton, Bend

**Questions?** Call Gail at 617-4663.

### **Newsletter Contributors**

Thank you to the following for their contributions to the OLLI-UO newsletter:

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Sandi Hanna,  
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Lina Van Brunt,  
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### **Questions?**

Call our friendly staff at (541) 346-4663 or (800) 824-2714.

E-mail us at:  
ctrinfo@uoregon.edu

Or visit our website at <http://osher.uoregon.edu>, where you can always find the latest newsletter, calendar, and information on OLLI.

***The OLLI Newsletter is available to download online.***

***Visit us online at <http://osher.uoregon.edu> for more information.***



## NEWS ITEMS

### **Introduce a Friend to OLLI**

Did you know that most current members of OLLI first heard about the program from a friend? You can help us meet our 2007/08 membership goals by telling your friends about OLLI. Better yet, invite a friend to join you at one of the lectures or groups so that they can become better acquainted with our program.

The OLLI office can provide your friends with membership information, just call the OLLI office to make the request and packets will be mailed directly to your friends. (541) 617-4663 or (800) 824-2714.

### **OLLI-UO Standing Committees**

Would you like to learn more about the types of activities and projects planned by our standing committees?

Members are welcome to attend the monthly meetings as visitors, or contact the committee chairs, to learn more about the committees and their on-going projects. A schedule of monthly meeting times is included on the back of each newsletter.

## **Armchair Traveler**

### **Patagonia**

**Thursday, March 27, 2:00 p.m. (BSC)**

Spanning the southernmost area of Chile and Argentina is the area known as Patagonia. This is a big land with a multitude of scenic wonders. We will sample such areas as the Tierra del Fuego National Park, Torres del Paine National Park, Perito Moreno Glacier, and the area around Mount Fitzroy. There will be views from Santiago and Buenos Aires, as well as the spectacular Iguazu Falls on the Argen-



tine-Brazil border. However, a brief caveat emptor: this write-up is being prepared prior to the trip and does require the cooperation of Mother Nature to get the pictures. So, counting on Mother to be on her best behavior, join Larry Weinberg for a trip to this exotic and fascinating area of the world.

### **OLLI-UO Alaska Excursion, July 4 - 15**

Spend eleven nights in Alaska. The adventure begins in Fairbanks and finishes in Anchorage. Ride a riverboat down the Chena River, visit the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline and Denali National Park, ride the Alaska Railroad, tour Resurrection Bay, and more.

Total tour cost of \$2950, includes meals, lodging, transportation within Alaska, educational programs and admission fees, and a full time coordinator. To secure your reservation we'll need your completed registration form and deposit of \$500, no later than Wednesday, February 27. For more information, or to make your reservation, call the OLLI office (541)617-4663 or (800) 824-2714.

Trip itinerary available at <http://osher.uoregon.edu>

# OLLI-Central Oregon Membership Options

## Silver Level

For \$35 per year, Silver members of OLLI may attend all membership meetings, socials and single-session lectures.

Members who elect this option may also purchase Silver Sage Coupons to use for admission to individual sessions of OLLI study/discussion groups, short courses, and lecture series. The coupons can be purchased when joining

OLLI; additional coupon sets may be purchased as needed.

## Gold Level

Gold members enjoy access to the single lectures, activities and socials included in the Silver level but, as an added benefit, Gold membership includes admission to short courses, study/discussion groups and lecture series for a single annual

fee of \$120 (individual) or \$200 (household).

Registration and participation in OLLI-UO Trips and Special Courses is open to all OLLI members. Additional fees specific to those activities may be required.

Silver to Gold upgrades can be made within sixty days of paying annual fees.

## Silver Member Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Silver Level Membership?

This is a new annual membership option for those who, because of frequent travel, seasonal residency, or busy lifestyles, prefer to “pay-as-they-go”.

For an additional fee, silver level members purchase Silver Sage Coupons that can be used for admission to short courses, study groups and lecture series sessions.

### How do I know which sessions will require Silver Sage Coupons?

Beginning with the April edition, we will designate those sessions in the newsletter course listings. Look for an icon near the presentation title.

**For March:** Silver Sage Coupons are needed for admission to the following events:

- Book Discussion Group: *Gödel, Escher and Bach*
- Discussing Science
- Thinking Allowed and Thinking Allowed II
- The Dutch Masters
- The Joy of Science
- Film Series at Touchmark
- Water for Our World sessions, March 11 and 18
- Medical Series: Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine, March 19

### How do I purchase my Silver Sage Coupons?

Coupons may be purchased in sets of five for \$20 or ten for \$40 at the OLLI office.

To make your purchase, please call the office (541) 617-4663. Payments by personal check, or VISA or Mastercard, are preferred.

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## Calendar of Committee Meetings

The meetings are listed in chronological order each month. *(All members are welcome to attend.)*

### **Governing Council Meeting**

Friday, March 21, 10:00 a.m.  
President: Mort Perle,  
388-3376

### **Program Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, March 25, 1:15 p.m.  
Chair: Helen Pruitt 382-7827

### **Hospitality**

Chair: TBD

### **Membership Outreach**

For information contact: Jim and  
Nancy Horton, 388-4939.

### **Newsletter Coordinator**

Mary Cope, 317-5753

### **Program Assistant**

Gail Merydith, 617-4663

### **OLLI-UO Program Director**

Ruth Heller, (800) 824-2714

### **Governing Council Members**

Mort Perle, President,  
388-3376  
Barbara MacMillan, Secretary,  
322-0236  
Bob Clautice, Vice President/  
Treasurer, 317-9498  
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Nancy Horton, 388-4939  
Barbara Koop, 322-8748

Harlie Peterson, 593-2015

Linda Shaw, 312-4665

### **Program Committee Members**

Helen Pruitt, Chair, 382-7827  
Mary Cope, 317-5753  
Jim Hammond, 617-1086  
Jim Horton, 388-4939  
Harlie Peterson, 593-2015  
Larry Weinberg, 610-9023  
Margaret Young, 548-3941



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