



# Institute for Continued Learning Digest

## Welcome to the 91st Edition of the ICL Senioritis

Vol. 91, December 22, 2021

Editors: GwenEllyn Anderson and Dave MacMillan

ICL Update:   **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**  

- The ICL Senioritis Editors will be on vacation next week! More news next year...
- **Board Meeting Highlights (Dec. 16, 2021):**
  - **January classes will NOT be in person. We will still meet for presentations via Zoom on Tues. and Thurs. mornings.**
  - The months following January will be decided when we get closer to each. Stay tuned! Announcements will be made via email and the newsletters.
  - The Opening Day Coffee Social is *cancelled*.
  - When we do meet again in person, ICL will not be accepting any waivers for vaccinations. *You must be vaccinated.* We are not requiring booster shots at this time.
  - **THANK YOU, Charlene Robbins!** For filling in as Financial Director while Jan Petroski was briefly unable to fulfill those duties.
  - **Board Meetings** will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM via Zoom (until further notice). Board meetings are generally open to all members. The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2022.
- As required in **Article 6** of the ICL Constitution, here is the [2020-2021 Annual Letter to Willamette University](#).
- **Spring Semester Parking:** There are still a few parking permits available in the Willamette Heritage Center parking lot for the Spring semester. Call or email Gary Slangan: [garyslangan@msn.com](mailto:garyslangan@msn.com). Put "Parking Permit" in the subject line and just your name in the text.

### Share Your Best!

Tell us the best thing that happened to you in 2021 despite all the events of the year. What are you most happy about or grateful for?

Link to us here: [ICL Newsletter Sharing My Best](#)

### Willamette University Update: Quiet Period

Willamette will enforce a two-week "quiet period", during which students will be encouraged to limit their in-person activities and interactions. Many classes that can be made remote will move online during this two-week period with the intention of returning to full in-person instruction after the quiet period is completed. For the Salem campus, the quiet period will begin January 10. For the PNCA campus, the quiet period will begin January 18. *(Looks like the board made the right decision to not meet in person in January)*

### [Academy for Lifelong Learning at Oregon State University](#)

For our members who are not willing to meet in person - and even those who are willing but can't get enough learnin' - you might want to sign up for a similar program through OSU called "Academy for LifeLong Learning." Their registration is open now, and they plan to continue classes online through the Winter and Spring of 2022. See their [Winter Schedule](#). Cost is

### Handy Links:

- Link to [ZOOM](#) classes, Board meetings, Coffees, Happy Hour,... almost all things ICL
- [Calendar](#): Classes, etc.
- [Schedule Reports](#)
- [Recorded Classes!](#) More recordings are available in the [password protected area](#) for members only. Others are not available at all without permission from the presenter.
- [Zoom Help](#) - Find tips, FAQ, and other resources available on the Website

### Missing ICL Friends?

Join us for...

- [Virtual Happy Hour](#) on Fridays at 4:30 PM.
- [ICL Wine Club](#) on the third Monday each month at 4:30 PM

### [2021 2nd LEGISLATIVE SPECIAL SESSION](#)

The Oregon Legislative Assembly convened December 13th for the 2nd Legislative Special Session. The session is to end on December 17th.

[2021 2nd Special Session](#)  
[Browse Bills](#)

[OHSU COVID Forecast](#) - (PDF) Edition: 12/10/2021

- [COVID-19 Resources for Oregon](#)
- [Get Vaccinated Oregon](#)

[James Webb Space Telescope \(JWST\) Launch date: December 24, 2021 7:20 am EST](#) - [Countdown](#)  
[Launch Home](#) - [Images](#)

**Best Fruit Cake as heard at a Recent ICL Happy Hour:** Trappist Abbey Bakery.

\$85 per academic year. Visitors are allowed to attend 2 classes without being a member.

---

## WATER LEVEL LINKS

Here are some handy links to water data for major Salem streams/creeks and the Willamette River:

- [National Weather Service \(NWS\) Public Alerts for the Mid Willamette Valley](#)
- [Near Real-time Map of Stream Gage Levels](#)
- [Near Real-time Data Table of Stream Gage Levels](#)
- [Near Real-time Map of Rain Gages](#)
- [USGS Willamette River DISCHARGE and GAGE HEIGHT – Salem](#)
- [NOAA Willamette River – Salem](#)
- [NOAA Willamette River – Corvallis](#)
- [Mid Willamette Valley High Water Watch \(NWS\)](#)
  - [Current – Levels](#)
  - [Rainfall Summary](#)
- [Map of the Salem Floodplain \(Interactive\)](#)
- [WaterWatch: Real-time streamflow map](#)

---

## THE LEGEND OF SANTA CLAUS by Beryl MacDonald

(Beryl became an ICL member in 2001 and is not currently a member)

Hello! I'm Santa, the jolly old elf,  
And I'd like to tell you about myself.  
My parents were Greek, and they welcomed me  
In the Fourth Century *anno domini*.

As a little boy, I was known as Claus  
But that's just the nickname for Nicholas.  
I was taught to say my prayers and be good  
And I tried my best, as all children should.

When I grew up, I became a priest,  
Then Bishop of Myra, in the Middle East.  
Every year, on December's holy date,  
I gathered my flock to celebrate.

On Christmas Day there were bells to ring,  
Presents to give and carols to sing.  
But I saw that some little girls and boys  
Were poor and received no gifts or toys.

I promised God I would set things right.  
Then, every year on Christmas night  
In secret I sent to the homes of the poor  
And left their gifts inside the door.

They made me a saint when I passed away,  
December Sixth is Saint Nicholas Day.  
The story spread of the Christmas joys  
I had brought to good little girls and boys.

---

## Chicken Checker

by Andrea Suozzo, Ash Ngu, Michael Grabell and Bernice Yeung, Updated Nov. 18, 2021

See how often salmonella was found at the plant that processed your chicken or turkey.

[Find the P-number on a package of raw chicken or turkey.](#)

**P-number** shown in different places on product packaging: near use-by date, inspection stamp or price tag.

---

## The Best Sci-Fi Movies of 2021

From Dune to Little Fish, they're all love stories—though some are more touching than others.

By Jason Kehe

---

A photographer tracks down people he photographed 40 years ago and [recreates the images](#).

---

## St. Nick was more generous than jolly

You probably already knew that the idea of Santa Claus came from [St. Nicholas](#). The saint wasn't a bearded man who wore a red suit; that tradition came much later. In the fourth century, the Christian bishop gave away his large inheritance to the poor and [rescued women](#) from servitude. In Dutch, his name is Sinter Klaas, which later morphed into Santa Claus in English.

Our current image of Santa Claus comes largely from the Coca Cola magazine ads of 1931.

---

## A Word to Know: Lucubrate

(LOO-kyə-brayt) verb

Origin: Latin, early 17th century

1. Write or study, especially by night.

---

What the world was [searching for in 2021](#).

---

A look back at expert [predictions for 2021](#).

Along the years, my fame has grown.  
By many different names I am known.  
In England and France they know me well  
As Father Christmas and Pere Noel.

I am Sinta or Santa, Saint Nick or Kris Kringle.  
I come in a sleigh with bells that jingle  
And magic reindeer that know how to fly  
As they carry my sleigh across the sky.

I fill all the stockings and shoes that I see  
And leave presents under the Christmas tree.  
And I watch for the joy in children's eyes  
As they wake to find their Christmas surprise.

Tis centuries now since I passed away  
But my Spriti survives and on Christmas Day  
People across the world take pause  
To remember the Legend of Santa Claus.

---

### **Tech Tip: What is crypto?**

#### **It's digital**

Crypto is a computer-generated file designed to be a completely digital store of value that isn't connected to anything tangible in the real world.

#### **It's like currency**

Crypto was created to be a new kind of money, but it isn't widely accepted yet and currently can't be used as a way to pay or send money on PayPal. Even when you use it to check out with PayPal, you're really just cashing out enough to pay the merchant in USD.

#### **It isn't regulated**

For the time being, cryptocurrencies aren't regulated by governments or central authorities like federal regulatory agencies because they don't belong to any nations, organizations, or private companies.

#### **It's a technology**

Most cryptos work on an ecosystem of computer programs running on thousands of devices around the world, known as blockchain technology. Since many of the most prominent blockchains are public, the information in these networks is protected using cryptography, or complex computer-generated code -- this is what puts the "crypto" in cryptocurrency.

#### **It's growing**

Bitcoin launched in 2009 as the first crypto in the world. Today, there are thousands -- each one offering new possibilities and pathways to wider adoption. Three of the most popular ones are available on PayPal along with Bitcoin, including Ethereum, Litecoin, and Bitcoin Cash.

(Source: PayPal)

---

### **Local and Virtual Events!**

- [Elsinore Theatre Winter Film Series](#): 2pm and 7pm; Tickets: \$10
- **Magic at the Mill returns!** The Willamette Heritage Center is excited to bring back [Magic at the Mill](#) between **December 19-23**.

---

**Twenty-nine ideas [that will shape 2022](#).**

---

**The year's most [ridiculous pet photos](#).**

---

**Fun Fact: Reindeers' eyes [change color with the season](#).**

Santa's reindeer are a vital part of his Christmas story, but did you know that Rudolph didn't exist until 1939? The beloved reindeer with the red nose was the creation of Robert L. May. May was a catalog writer for Chicago-based department store Montgomery Ward. Each Christmas, the store would give away free storybooks to the children. May decided to write the tale of a lonely outcast reindeer. Two million copies were printed and the story became a huge hit, inspiring songs, cartoons, and more.

---

**Christmas Wasn't Always on December 25**

While Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the actual date is lost to history. There's no mention of December 25 in the Bible and many historians say Jesus was really born in the spring. Some historians posit the date was originally chosen because it coincided with the pagan festival of Saturnalia, which honored the agricultural god Saturn with celebrating and gift-giving.

---

**Take a trip down memory lane** and look at [the most popular holiday gifts through the decades](#) and their modern equivalents.

---

"NFT" is Collins Dictionary's [word of the year](#) - say goodbye to crypto and cheugy.

---

**Questions?**

**Send us a message at [ICL Digest](#)**

---

**[Newsletter Archives](#)**