



# SAINT LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

ATTN: CALENDAR, NEWSROOM, OR PSA EDITOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**“Black Holes and Hawking Radiation”**, an illustrated presentation by **Dr. Carl Bender of Washington University**, will be featured at the January meeting of the St. Louis Astronomical Society. The meeting will begin at **7:30 PM Friday, January 19, in McDonnell Hall, Room 162, on the Washington University campus, Saint Louis, MO 63130**. McDonnell Hall is accessible from Forsyth Boulevard via Tolman Way. **Yellow zone and garage parking** are available to the audience. The event, cosponsored by NASA's Missouri Space Grant Consortium, is open to the public free of charge.

A black hole is a region of space that is so massive and so compressed that its gravity overwhelms all material objects in the area. At the black hole's boundary, the gravity is so strong that nothing, not even a beam of light, should be able to escape it. Black holes have, however, been detected indirectly, by the light and other energy emitted by gas spiraling in toward the black hole. Dr. Stephen Hawking proposed an exception to the “nothing can escape a black hole” rule. He figured out that particles and energy could be emitted at the boundary of the black hole. The escaping particles are called “Hawking radiation”. Dr. Bender will talk about the nature of black holes and discuss their emission of Hawking radiation.

Dr. Carl Bender is the Konneker Distinguished Professor of Physics at Washington University. His research involves several areas of quantum field theory. He also serves as Science Consultant to the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

The St. Louis Astronomical Society is an organization for individuals interested in astronomy and telescopes. The public is invited to attend its meetings, telescope observing sessions, and special events. For more information about Astronomical Society events, please visit the website, [www.slasonline.org](http://www.slasonline.org) , or call 314- 962-9231.

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