

*First distribution to schools  
from the Jean Nereson  
Books Memorial*



*Packing the fruit bags for LA Cares: 90 bags to feed over 200 residents with over 300 pounds of oranges, apples, clementines and plums. Thanks to all who contributed to make this a successful service project.*

**Legislative Preview**

**Fuller Lodge**

**January 8, 2014**

**6:30 refreshments, 7:00 program**

**This annual program is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters**

## **Volunteers Needed**

We need volunteers to serve as **judges in the Los Alamos County Science Fair** to be held Saturday, January 25, 2014. We will evaluate elementary school projects and award \$125 in prizes. To volunteer or for more information, call Denise George at 672-9688. Our students will amaze you with their creativity and scientific minds. Come join the fun!

## **State Opportunities:**

**January 12: Lobby Corps Meeting** – 2:00 at the Bernalillo Rail Runner Depot [on Hwy 550 just west of I-25 (Exit 242)]

**January 27: A Day at the Legislature**

## **Great Decisions**

Carroll Thomas is organizing the morning group for 2013-14 Great Decisions. Please contact her at [ctgb@earthlink.net](mailto:ctgb@earthlink.net), 672-1937 if you are interested. The organizational meeting will be Monday, January 13 at 10:00 a.m. at Mesa Public Library upstairs meeting room.

Helena Whyte, [mozden08@aol.com](mailto:mozden08@aol.com), 672-9153, is organizing the evening group. The organizational meeting for the evening group will be January 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at Helena's house, 100 El Morro St. in White Rock; please contact her if you are interested.

## **Non-fiction Book Group**

On January 20, 2014, we will meet at Marilyn Doolen's, 713 Meadow, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss The Cooked Seed by Anchee Min.

## **Book Group**

There is no January book group meeting.

## **Title IX, Supporting Girls' Sports**

Friday, Jan. 10: girls' basketball Los Alamos High School, Griffith Gym, 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 7: girls' basketball game, 5 p.m. at Northern New Mexico College in Espanola.

Contact Helena Whyte 672-9153(h), 690-7824(cell) for details.

## **Women Who Made a Difference in 2013**

from The Washington Post, December 14, 2013, and thanks to Nina for preparing this article

### **Antoinette Tuff**

On Aug. 20, the bookkeeper came face to face with a man who had entered her suburban elementary school with an AK-47-style assault weapon, 500 rounds of ammo and "nothing to live for." She told him he wasn't alone, that her husband walked out on her after 33 years. "We all go through something in life," she reassured him, telling him she loved him and was proud of him as he began to surrender. President Obama called Tuff a hero.

### **Diana Nyad**

One word: Determination. For more than 50 hours, the 64-year-old swimmer stroked through 110 miles from Cuba to Florida, the first to accomplish the feat without a shark cage. Her success in September followed four failures. "People give up too quickly," she said on the beach when she emerged. "It wasn't an athletic event; it was a moment of human spirit."

### **Edith 'Edie' Windsor**

Her challenge to the Supreme Court led to one of the two major decisions in 2013 on same-sex marriages: striking down a key element of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act. Section 3 of DOMA, the court wrote in a 5-4 decision, was unconstitutional because it deprived citizens of the Fifth Amendment protection of "equal liberty of persons" — in this case, Windsor and her love for more than four decades, Thea Spyer,

who died in 2009. What next, the 84-year-old Windsor was asked after her court victory? “I have a problem because I’m still terribly in love with Thea,” Windsor said in July. “I’d have to put away who she is to find anybody possible.”

### **Malala Yousafzai**

At 15, she was shot in the head by Taliban gunmen for speaking out in support of the right of girls to go to school. As she recovered last year, she collected awards from the United Nations and the European Union (and was mentioned as a possible Nobel Peace Prize winner). Everywhere she went, from Harvard to the World Bank, her poise and unrelenting passion impressed. In October, her memoir, “I Am Malala,” appeared.

### **Wendy Davis**

Eleven hours in June transformed the state senator from Texas into a national figure. By leading a filibuster against an abortion bill, she inspired supporters of abortion rights nationwide — and by October, she was running for governor of the Lone Star State. She has long odds: A Democrat hasn’t won as governor since 1990, and she will probably be facing a well-funded foe, state Attorney General Greg Abbott.

### **Mary Barra**

The U.S. automotive industry has gained its first female chief executive. Mary Barra will succeed General Motors CEO Daniel Akerson as leader of the world’s No. 2 automaker. Barra, an electrical engineer by training, has most recently led GM’s global product development, purchasing and supply chain operations.

### **Sonia Sotomayor**

The world learned that not only did she grow up poor but also that she had to inject insulin into herself at an early age because the hands of her alcoholic father were too shaky. With spirit and sass, somewhat leavened by the nuns, Sotomayor recounted her journey from the Bronx in her best-selling memoir “My Beloved World,” a journey that would take her to the U.S. Supreme Court.

### **Sens. Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski, and Kelly Ayotte**

The Republican senators — from Maine, Alaska and New Hampshire, respectively — have been credited for nudging the male leadership of Congress toward agreement to end a 16-day government shutdown in October. Their action raised a question: If more women were in power in Congress, would the United States have such divisive political leadership? Women now make up a record one-fifth of the Senate.

### **Janet Yellen**

The Post’s Neil Irwin has called Yellen’s job, chairman of the Federal Reserve, impossible. Yet at her nomination in October as the 15th Fed chief, she spoke of helping all the American people, of moving effectively to make sure “everyone has the opportunity to work hard and build a better life.”

### **Alice Munro**

The Canadian short-story master finally got her due in 2013, winning the Nobel Prize for Literature at age 82. “Mention to a serious bibliophile that you like her and the conversation will shift to a solemn, almost embarrassingly private register, as if you’d interrupted cocktail party chatter to reveal a family secret,” novelist Ben Dolnick wrote in The Post.

## Deborah Rutter

After success in the arts community in Chicago, Rutter was named on Dec. 10 as the new president of the Kennedy Center. Rutter, president of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, will be artistic and administrative director of Kennedy Center's theater, dance, chamber music, jazz programming and education initiatives while overseeing the National Symphony Orchestra and the Washington National Opera.

## Branch Calendar

|     |    |                         |
|-----|----|-------------------------|
| Jan | 8  | Legislative Preview     |
| Jan | 13 | Morning Great Decisions |
| Jan | 20 | Non-fiction book group  |
| Jan | 23 | Evening Great Decisions |
| Jan | 25 | Science Fair            |

## Coordinating Council for 2013-14

|                              |                                    |                       |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Mona Wecksung                | Co-Treasurer/Membership            | 662-7084              | <a href="mailto:wecksung2005@msn.com">wecksung2005@msn.com</a>   |
| Judy Prono                   | Facilitator/Public Policy          | 662-2691              | <a href="mailto:djprono@msn.com">djprono@msn.com</a>   |
| Natalie Markin               | Co-Treasurer/International Affairs | 662-9399              | <a href="mailto:natalie@lanb.com">natalie@lanb.com</a><br><a href="mailto:natgmark@aol.com">natgmark@aol.com</a> |
| Nina Thayer                  | Program                            | 662-6835              | <a href="mailto:gnthayer@cybermesa.com">gnthayer@cybermesa.com</a>   |
| Marilyn Doolen               | Publicity                          | 672-3571              | <a href="mailto:mtdoolen@aol.com">mtdoolen@aol.com</a>   |
| Maryjane Giesler             | University Representative          | 662-5574              | <a href="mailto:mgiesler@unm.edu">mgiesler@unm.edu</a>   |
| Ginny White                  | Secretary                          | 500-8009,<br>695-2072 | <a href="mailto:ginny@atomicski.org">ginny@atomicski.org</a>   |
| <b>Non-council positions</b> |                                    |                       |  |
| Jane Sherwood                | Hospitality                        | 662-3194              | <a href="mailto:jane.sherwood@att.net">jane.sherwood@att.net</a>   |
| Denise George                | Newsletter                         | 672-9688              | <a href="mailto:georgeje@acm.org">georgeje@acm.org</a>   |
| Marilyn Minshall             | Historian                          | 672-3499              | <a href="mailto:mjminshall@q.com">mjminshall@q.com</a>   |
| Rosmarie Frederickson        | Nominating Chair                   | 662-5915              | <a href="mailto:frederrh@yahoo.com">frederrh@yahoo.com</a>   |