

November Branch Program featuring

**Melissa Romero**

speaking on

**Identity Theft**

Saturday, November 7, 11:00 a.m.

White Rock Library



Identity theft is on the rise! The Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that 17.6 million U.S. residents were victims of identity theft in 2014 and almost every day there's a staggering headline on the news like "Russian hackers steal over 1 billion internet passwords" or "As many as 80 million customers may have been affected by a data breach at Anthem/Blue Cross Blue Shield of GA". Join us for a discussion on **Identity Theft: How it Happens, How to Reduce your Risk and What to do if your Identity is Stolen.**

Melissa Romero is currently the Fraud/Security Officer for Los Alamos National Bank. Her career in banking stems over 25 years. As part of the Risk Management Department, her responsibilities include investigating criminal activities against the bank which includes check fraud, identity theft, bank robberies, internal theft and kiting. She is a graduate of Western State School of Banking at the University of New Mexico and has had over 18 years of training in fraud detection & prevention. Mrs. Romero has also been active in the following charitable and professional organizations; Leadership Los Alamos, LA Youth Leadership, Kiwanis, Big Brothers Big Sisters, ABQ FISOA (Albuquerque's Financial Institution Security Officer Association) and SFSOA (Santa Fe Security Officer Association). She currently resides in Rio Rancho, NM with her husband Larry, of 25 years, has two adult children and believe it or not just recently became a grandmother to 3 month old, Autumn. Mrs. Romero can be contacted at [melissa@lanb.com](mailto:melissa@lanb.com).

The new White Rock Library, on Sherwood at the corner with State Route 4, is a beautiful and functional addition to our community. Our November program provides an opportunity to view the new library including photographs donated by AAUW member Bev Cooper and her husband, and to learn how to best protect ourselves from identity theft. The program is open to the public, and members are encouraged to bring guests.

### Branch News

Future programs include our holiday lunch on December 5 and the Legislative preview in January.

### Book Group

The November book is The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty. The Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30 pm meeting will be at Angela Coop's, 332

Aragon. Let Angela know if you are coming, 672-1073, [acwalkercoop@yahoo.com](mailto:acwalkercoop@yahoo.com).

The Tuesday, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00 pm meeting will be at Bev Cooper's, 521 Ridgecrest. Let Bev know if you are coming, [mcooper@cybermesa.com](mailto:mcooper@cybermesa.com), 672-9696.

Angela will lead both discussions.  
Visitors welcome.

## Non-fiction Book Group

The next non-fiction book group meeting will be on January 11 at Betsy Comly's. We will be discussing Timothy Egan's book, Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher about the photographer Edward Curtis.

## MANA del Norte Scholarship

IRS guidelines for maintaining tax deductibility of gifts made to scholarship programs stipulate that all scholarships must be awarded through a competitive selection process. Since MANA del Norte offers only one-year scholarships, recipients must reapply each year to be eligible for consideration. Therefore, we are not able to ask that our AAUW-funded MANA scholarship be awarded to a previous recipient. Out of a pool of 24 applicants, MANA chose ten to receive scholarships this year. Unfortunately,

Andrea Tuero, our scholarship winner last year, was not selected.

This year's AAUW-funded \$1000 scholarship went to Sheri Lopez, who is pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering at New Mexico Tech. Sheri is a single mom of a four year old son. She works 20 to 30 hours a week and has maintained a 3.7 GPA. Sheri has also been awarded a national STEM scholarship this year for which she is required to do a poster presentation this month in Pasadena, California. Hopefully, Sheri will be able to attend one of our AAUW activities and meet with some of her AAUW supporters.



## Bright Young Minds:

Organic chemistry haunts most pre-med students, but not Sarah Reisman. The two-semester class was so invigorating that she abandoned her pre-med major to pursue chemistry. "Organic chemistry presented me with this idea that we could do things that are new," says Reisman, who heads a lab at Caltech. "The idea that I could design a brand new way to make a molecule, there was this real creative component," she says.

Reisman got the science bug in high school through a program that paired local students with scientists at the MDI Biological Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine. As an undergraduate at Connecticut College in New London, she worked in the lab of chemist Timo Ovaska. He asked Reisman and three other undergrads to make various fragments of the ringed molecule phorbol, a difficult task. "We never made that molecule, but he had a plan and some naïve students that were happy to try," she says. "It taught us how to think about making these products and to be ambitious."

While getting her Ph.D. at Yale in the lab of John Wood, Reisman dived into synthesis strategies and new reactions, a focus that continued during a postdoc at Harvard. Today she keeps a running list of seemingly impossible-to-synthesize molecules, ones that many chemists steer clear of. "We try to look at molecules that we don't know how to make," she says. "What are the reactions that we wish we had?"

Many of these molecules are made by plants, fungi or bacteria and have interesting biological activities that could prove useful in drug development. The molecules typically have elements of asymmetry, dangling reactive chemical groups, and a backbone of many rings. (A motif that Reisman sees everywhere: "A piece of abstract art in an airport looks like benzene rings to me.")

She has already developed several new synthesis strategies, including a way to make the fungal metabolite acetylaranotin and its chemical relatives. These compounds are potential cancer therapeutics, but difficult to work with. Without feasible ways to make these molecules, scientists can't generate quantities large enough for study. Enter Reisman. "There's still so much important chemistry to do." (copied from Science

### Branch Calendar

Nov	2,3	Book Group
Nov	7	Branch program on Identity Theft, 11:00 am, White Rock Library
Nov	12	Council meeting, United Church 7:00 pm

### Coordinating Council for 2015-16

Marilyn Doolen	Co-Facilitator/Publicity	672-3571	<a href="mailto:mtdoolen@aol.com">mtdoolen@aol.com</a>
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Nina Thayer	AAUW Fund	662-6835	<a href="mailto:gnthayer@cybermesa.com">gnthayer@cybermesa.com</a>
<b>Non-council positions</b>			
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Marilyn Minshall	Historian	672-3499	<a href="mailto:mjminshall@q.com">mjminshall@q.com</a>
Harriet Dodder	Nominating Chair	662-7473	<a href="mailto:harrietdodder@comcast.net">harrietdodder@comcast.net</a>