



# NMSR Reports

The Newsletter of the  
New Mexicans for Science and Reason

NMSR Reports, David E. Thomas, Editor, 1201 N. Avenida de Chamiso Pl., Socorro, NM 87801 © 2026

**FEBRUARY MEETING:  
NEW MEXICANS FOR SCIENCE AND  
REASON will hear**

**Dr. Leo Igwe**

**on**

**“A Global Approach to Ending  
Witch Hunts in Modern Africa”**

**=>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6<sup>th</sup>,  
2026 7:00PM<=**

**=>In-Person, at <=**

**UNM Continuing Education**

**1634 University Blvd NE,**

**Albuquerque, NM 87131**

**North Building, Room 123**

**See Page 3 for Maps**

**FUTURE MEETINGS ANNOUNCED!**

**NMSR February 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Human  
Rights Activist Leo Igwe, on “A Global  
Approach to Ending Witch Hunts in  
Modern Africa”**

While witch hunts ended in the West centuries ago, this superstition-based abuse persists with force and ferocity in Africa.

Alleged witches, which include women, children and elderly persons are targeted by those motivated by occult fears and anxieties. Accused persons are subjected to trial by ordeal and jungle justice; they are attacked, banished and murdered in cold blood.

Using data from the Advocacy for Alleged Witches, this presentation shows that ending witch hunts is an unfinished task. It highlights efforts by advocates to combat violations linked to magical beliefs and ritual attacks. This presentation argues that, in an increasing interconnected world, ending witch hunts is a global responsibility, and requires both global and local approaches and responses.

Dr. Leo Igwe is a longtime activist and author fighting to end superstition, human rights abuses, and witchcraft accusations in his native Nigeria and throughout Africa.



Igwe writes *“I am a humanist because humanity, individual freedom and social responsibility, critical thinking, happiness in this only life we have, tolerance and compassion for one another constitute the mainstay of my philosophical outlook.”*

7:00 PM February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 7:00 PM, UNM  
Continuing Education North Building, Room 123

**New Haiku! Page 4**

**New Mexicans for Science & Reason (NMSR)**

NMSR is a non-profit group with the goals of promoting science, the scientific method, rational thinking, and critical examination of dubious or extraordinary claims. NMSR meets at 7 PM on a quarterly basis, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at a variable location. NMSR Reports is its official newsletter.

**NMSR officers:**

**Dave Thomas, President**

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**John Covan, Vice-President**

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**Kim Johnson, Industrial Physicist**

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**Marilyn Savitt-Kring, Science Mom**

Membership: \$25/year (hardcopy newsletter), or \$15/year (downloadable PDF), make your check payable to NMSR, send to treasurer (Debbie Thomas).

**NMSR Advisors:**

- *Mark Boslough*,  
 Adjunct Professor, University of New Mexico.
- *John Geissman*  
 Professor of Paleomagnetism
- *Alan Hale*  
 Southwest Institute for Space Research

**Cyber-Cypher Clue: Y = J.**

**Bonus Puzzle Clue:** The answer is a multiple of  $\pi$ .

**WANTED: READER ARTICLES & COMMENTARY**

Got something to share with NMSR members? **Send it in!** ATTN: Dave Thomas, Editor, NMSR Reports.

**REMEMBER**, our next NMSR meeting is **February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7PM, UNM Cont. Educ. Bldg!**



**PUZZLE TIME!**

[Please send solutions to Dave Thomas at: [nmsrdave@swcp.com](mailto:nmsrdave@swcp.com), or at 1201 N Avenida de Chamiso Pl., Socorro NM 87801.]

**Cyber-Cypher: FEBRUARY 2026 PUZZLE**

(Submitted by Dave Thomas)

The following letters are a simple substitution cypher. If R stands for L, R will stand for L everywhere. Your Cyber-Cypher Clue: Clue? Oh, well - if you must, see p. 2.

" R L W E L P I E O    E D J L E P    U L B B L V O  
 G R I V I B F L E    P D    P Q L    X A J K G W ' R  
 Q L I K P Q    I B V    R Q D A K V    E L R G F B    D E  
 J L    C G E L V . "    -    I N L E G W I B  
 X A J K G W    Q L I K P Q    I R R D W G I P G D B  
 L Z L W A P G H L    V G E L W P D E    F L D E F L R  
 W .    J L B Y I N G B ,    N V

**SUPER SECRET WORD!**

However you prefer to do the cypher itself (above or below), simply duplicate those actions on the alphabetized row of cypher letters below. You'll build an answer key, and you'll also reveal - the Super Secret Word!

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

**SEPTEMBER 2024 CYPHER SOLUTION**

"IN SPRINGFIELD THEY'RE EATING THE DOGS, THE PEOPLE THAT CAME IN THEY'RE EATING THE CATS THEY'RE EATING THE PETS OF THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE THERE." - DONALD TRUMP

Esteemed September Code Crackers: Mike Arms\* and Austin Moede\*!

\*Secret Word: "HARDLY GENIUS"

**SOCORRO STUMPER**

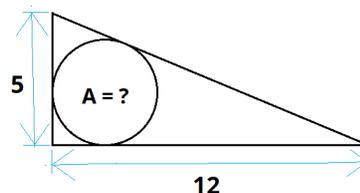
**Need more Secret Word Cryptograms?**

New puzzles every week at [www.nmsr.org/SocorroStumper.htm](http://www.nmsr.org/SocorroStumper.htm)

**February 2026 Bonus: "Area of Inscribed Circle"**

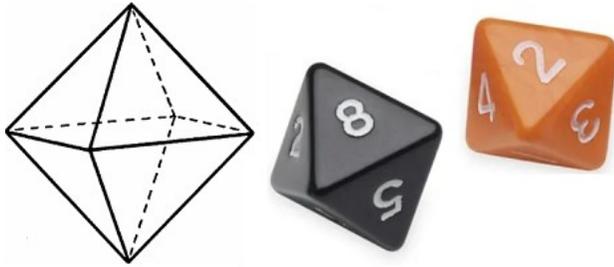
Submitted by Dave Thomas

**The February Bonus:** What is the area of the inscribed circle in a right triangle with non-hypotenuse sides 5 and 12?



## September 2024 Bonus Solution: “Octahedral Dice”

Submitted by Dave Thomas



**The September Bonus:** What is the expected value for rolling a pair of fair, 8-sided dice?

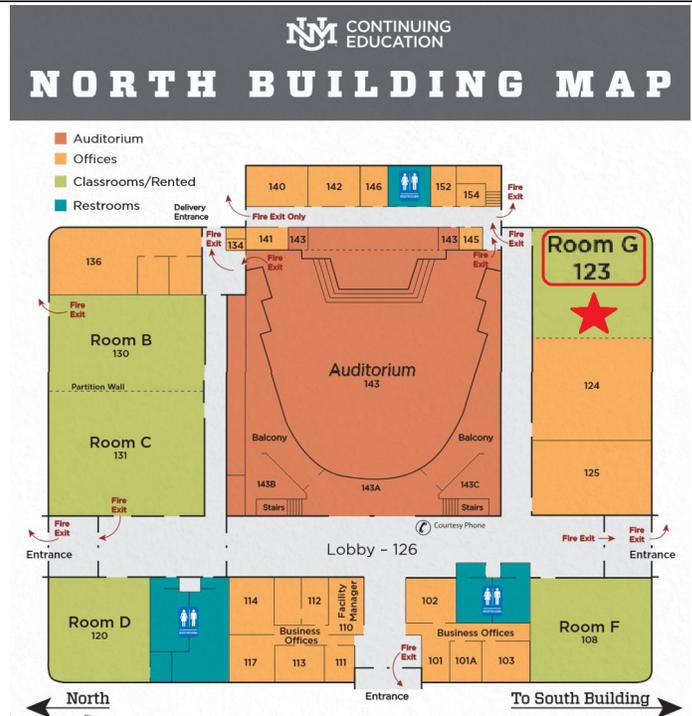
Answer: 9.

**Congrats to:** Rocky S. Stone (NM), Mike Arms (NM), K Sengupta (Calcutta, IN), Earl Dombroski (NM), Keith Gilbert (NM), Gene Aronson (NM),

## MAPS for Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Leo Igwe



**February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 7:00 PM**  
**UNM CE North Building, Room 123**  
**Northeast of University and Indian School**



## NMSR Hiatus Update!

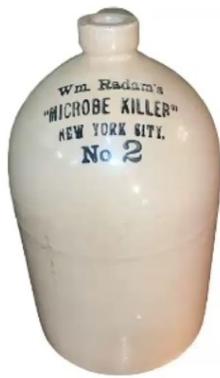
After the passing of editor Dave Thomas’s wife Pam late in 2024, and his triple bypass heart operation in 2025, NMSR was in hiatus for some time. We’re ramping up again, and hope to resume meetings and newsletters on a quarterly basis.

## October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, NMSR Meeting: David Weinberg, MD, on “Curing All Diseases... Again! Trampling Scientific Boundaries for Fun and Profit”



At our October 2024 meeting, David Weinberg presented an interesting look at Snake Oil medicines over time. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Germ Theory of disease was finally getting established, due to the pioneering work of scientists like Louis Pasteur and Alexander Fleming. It also provided an environment in which charlatans could bilk the public with patent, “snake oil” remedies. One of the most egregious examples of this was the “microbe killer” developed by William Radam. His product promised protection against *every single microbe*, a claim without a shred of merit. Nonetheless, he was able to sell his remedy for over thirty years, until his product was finally

banned, putting Radam out of business.



Fast-forwarding two centuries to the present age, David found similar examples of fraud dressed up in flowery scientific terminology. He presented the case of the U.S. Stem Cell company, headed by Kristin Comella.



**Building The New Generation of Regenerative Medicine**



Kristin Comella

Although some stem-cell therapies have been genuinely successful, the market has been flooded with products that claim far too much, and are actually harmful at times. U.S. Stem Cell offered treatments for age-related macular degeneration (AMD). For this method, cells were taken from the patients via liposuction, and then injected directly into the patients' eyes. While there are many proven medications which are injected into the eyes, the three patients who were treated, who had minor vision defects before the treatments, lost their vision

entirely, and were declared legally blind a few weeks after their treatments. The FDA did not provide adequate "adult supervision" at the time, and took a year to finally curtail the activities of U.S. Stem Cell. Lawsuits against the company by the afflicted patients are still in progress.

A vigorous Q&A session followed. NMSR thanks David Weinberg for a stimulating conversation.

Videos of this and past meetings are available at <http://www.nmsr.org/meetings.htm>.

**Skepticamp Videos Online!**

<https://www.skepticampnm.com/index.php/detailed-schedule/>

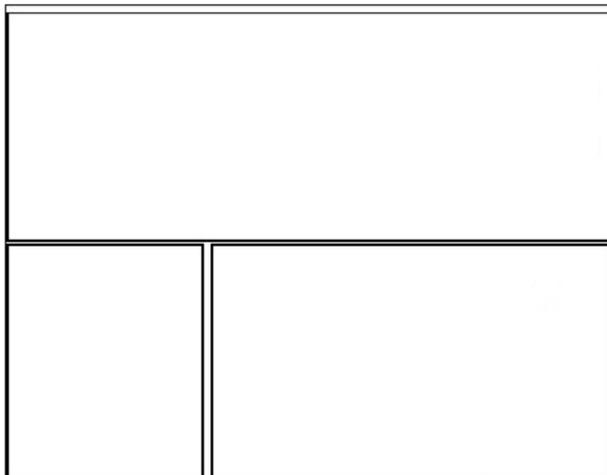
**Skeptiverse Haiku for Spring!**  
by Keith Thomas

Climate scientists May soon be feeling a lot Of government heat.	Could low vax rates cause A swell 'a/Measles, mumps and Perhaps rubella?
Will med science be M.I.A./At H.H.S. Under R.F.K.?	E.T. to distant Home now phones, To declare Earth Skies clogged now by drones!
South Fork Fire burn scars. Above bare lunar landscapes, Behold the full moon!	Skeptics once again Have cause/To keep a close watch Upon Dr. Oz.

*The NMSR e-mail list is fun! It's an e-mail list with news announcements of interest to NMSR members, discussions about news of the times, and more. To join, send a request to [nmsrdave@swcp.com](mailto:nmsrdave@swcp.com).*

DUES check the date on your mailing label. If it's time for you to renew, or to make a contribution, please make your check **payable to NMSR**, and send it to Debbie Thomas, NMSR Treasurer, 3205 Alcazar NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
*Membership \$25 per annum (hard copy newsletter), or \$15 per annum (online newsletter).*

*Thanks to: John Covan, Debbie Thomas, Keith Thomas and all of our Puzzlers!*



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