

2012-2013 OFFICERS

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IT'S TIME !

You may renew your LIBROS membership at the September meeting. Bring cash or check (\$25) payable to LIBROS, or send to Treasurer Susan Homer, 5000 Sequoia Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120. Or go online and pay through PayPal or credit card at www.librosnm.org/join

Annual Member Exhibit 2012: Journeys

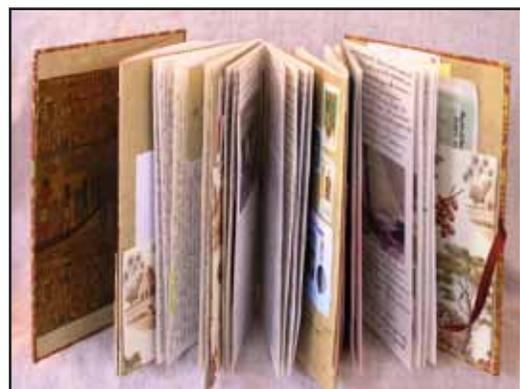
A selection from the exhibit "Journeys: Inner & Outer" at the Albuquerque Main Library and Erna Fergusson Library in April and May, featuring journals of various kinds, and more!



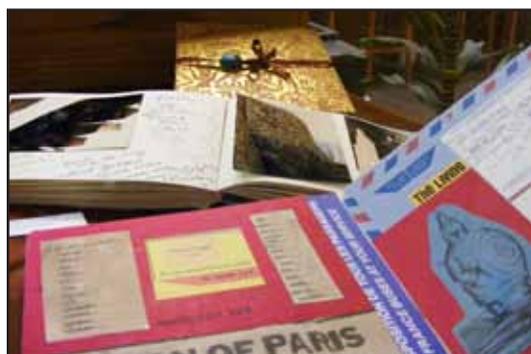
Jo B: Celebrating Don Quixote, triptych



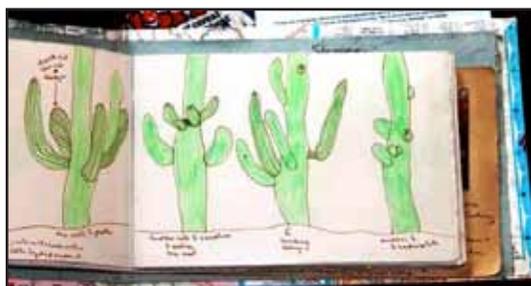
Margy O: A Woodland Walk, star book



Carol E: Egypt and Jordan Travel Journal



(back) Carol E: Egypt and Jordan, cover;
(middle) Judith R: Machu Picchu Journal;
Marilyn S: La Vie Boheme, collage journal



Judith R: Backpacking Journal



(back) Marilyn S: Favorite Things Mexicana;
(front) Mary S: China Journal, watercolors

- more on page 5 -

CALENDAR

LIBROS Monthly Meeting Schedule 2012–2013

We meet the first Saturday of each month unless otherwise noted, 9 am – 12 noon in Classroom #3, Manzano Mesa Multi-generational Center, 501 Elizabeth SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123. (Go south on Eubank past Central, east on Southern to Elizabeth.) The Center has plenty of convenient parking.

September 1st—Altered Books

What is the definition of an altered book? When is a book not just a book? How do you alter books? What tools do you need? Some of our members have great experience changing an ordinary book into a stage, an ofrenda, a sculpture, or an object of art, and will share their work with us. We will also get the chance to do a folded page sculptural book together.

October 6th—Ofrenda with Toni Lyons

The *Ofrenda* (Spanish for offering) is a home altar constructed for the Day of the Dead celebration to honor and please the returning souls. We will be constructing Ofrendas using an old book (or cigar box) as a base. Ofrendas may include: a photo of the soul being honored, flowers/marigolds, candles, candy, food and drink, candy skulls, “papel picado” decorations and items that the dead enjoyed during their life - a cigarette, toys, representations of sports, music, travel etc. The Ofrenda is a fun and touching way to remember and honor a lost loved one.

November 3rd—Basic Paper and Book Repair

Mita Saldaña will guide us in very simple repair techniques that we may need in our books. Some of the techniques are: paper repair, torn sections that occur during sewing, tightening up a loose binding, replacing endpapers and paste-downs, tipping in loose pages. Bring some of your old books that need simple repairs that we can work on or talk about.

December 1st— Holiday Party, Gift Exchange (optional), Making Star Boxes

Join us for our annual time to make and give and celebrate. This year we will make Star Boxes with Dale Harris. (Also bring your donations of small books and cards for Barrett House, as we will not make them during the meeting.) **STAR BOX** - this easy-to-make, five-sided pyramid box is constructed with book board and covered with decorative papers; it closes with ribbons and a bead. Created by Trisha Klus, as seen in the May 2012 issue of *Bound & Lettered* magazine, the design is both whimsical and elegant. Hang it on your Christmas tree or display it on your mantle with a small, surprise treasure inside.

January 5th—Artist Experience: Mary Sweet.

Mary Sweet will show and discuss with us her wonderful watercolor work and how she then applies it to her books.

February 2nd—Collaborative Book Project.

This is the date set to put the finishing touches on our collaborative books. Details to be announced.

March 2nd—Layering Textures – Trish Meyer

Experiment with creating expressive marks and texture on rice paper and thicker papers with a variety of media including sumi ink and watercolor. Then layer your papers together, comparing the variations in transparency offered by different pastes and glues. Trish will also demo creating collage papers using Citra-Solv. You'll leave with lots of ideas for embellishing those blank book pages!

April 6th—to be announced

May 4th—to be announced

June 1st—to be announced

LIBROS Exhibit Opportunities:

2012 State Fair: LIBROS and Against the Grain bookbinding studio sponsor the bookbinding display and competition at the State Fair each year. exponm.com/pdf/creative/bookbinding.pdf

2013 Annual Members Exhibit: Theme to be announced. April – May. Main Library, Downtown Albuquerque.

Get to know your Libros Officers!

Toni Lyons: Toni studied art at the Art Institute of Chicago and Western Illinois University. She got into journaling as a way to record the many hikes she's taken, and that, of course, led to making her own journals. The members and programs of LIBROS have been great inspiration for her and she is always so pleased with everyone's willingness to share.

Mita Saldaña: "I'm a professional bookbinder and have been making books for almost 18 years. I own *Against the Grain*, which has been around since 2000. This project is sometimes on mini-hiatus due to family obligations or unseemly hiccups in studio moves or the year-long deployments of my husband, but is always there in some capacity. My love of books started as a child. I would receive antique books for gifts along with antique bookcases to put them in. I went to school at Columbia College in Chicago. They have a fabulous book and paper department that I highly recommend. My specialties lie in repair and restoration, well-constructed traditional books, and I'm a really mean box maker. While my studio was down this past year due to a move I kept dreaming about books. I usually feel at peace if I can work on books about 5 days a week. The other parts of my life include: my husband of almost 10 years, George, my 8-year-old son, Connor, my 3 crazy dogs, felting, cross stitching, embroidery, journaling, scrapbooking, making jewelry, riding my Harley, thrifting, and watching way too much tv."

Susan Homer: "I joined Libros a couple of years ago after learning of it from Carol Erickson in a class at Papers! My interests had previously focused on music-making—I was a long-time member of Svirka, a local women's Balkan chorus—and arts-and-crafts making activities are quite new for me. But I have loved books for as long as I can remember! (Growing up, we lived across the street from the local library. As a trustee, my mother had a key, so I could to visit it at any time—and I did.) And I love papers of all kinds! I really enjoy the combination of artistic and craftsmanship elements of bookmaking. Now retired from a number of years of doing administrative work at Sandia Labs, I've been taking art studio classes at UNM."

Pam Sandoval: "I was fortunate that my grandparents introduced me to art at an early age, so I have always enjoyed and participated in all forms of art and creative expression. Sadly though, as of late, I have been traveling through a vast creative wasteland in search of my wayward muse. I do manage to spit out a pittance here and there, and have always stayed in touch with my culinary creativity, but am most grateful, currently, for this new (to me) and diverse art form of book making. I am looking forward to a great year of programs ahead, and the opportunity to serve as secretary on the LIBROS board."

Like Us on Facebook! If you're on Facebook, search for "LIBROS – New Mexico Book Arts Guild" and then click the Like button! Not only will LIBROS news show up in your News Feed, but you can share your book-related news with other Facebook members. Dale and Pam "own" the site at present.

Bookbinding at the New Mexico State Fair

exponm.com/entriescompetitions/premium-book/creative-arts-2/
OR www.exponm.com/pdf/creative/bookbinding.pdf

Entry Dates

Friday, September 7th 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Saturday, September 8th 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Pick up Date

Exhibitors are responsible for picking up their own exhibits or providing written authorization for pick-up by another individual.

Upon presentation of claim checks, all exhibits will be released only on Monday, September 24th, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Sections 385-391

Section 385 Youth (11 years and under)

Section 386 Youth w/ Special Needs (11 years and under)

Section 387 Senior Youth (12-17 years)

Section 388 Senior Youth w/ Special Needs (12-17 years)

Section 389 Adult (18 years and older)

Section 390 Adult w/ Special Needs (18 years and older)

Section 391 Professional

Youth and Senior Youth Classes 1-2

1. Blank Books - Handcrafted books (no interior images except an optional title page) that can serve as journals, guest books, photo albums, notebooks, etc. Books may or may not have an accompanying container.

2. Original Handmade Books - Books must have handwork on cover and content (Imagery) and/or text emphasizing sequential ideas (ex. Gardens, travel, drams, events, etc.). Journal may or may not have an accompanying container.

Adult and Professional Classes 3-14

3. Blank Books - Handcrafted books (no interior images except an optional title page) that can serve as journals, guest books, photo albums, notebooks, etc. Book may or may not have an accompanying container.

4. Original Handmade Journals - Journals must have handwork on cover and content (imagery and/or text) emphasizing sequential ideas (ex. gardens, travel, dreams, events, etc.). Journal may or may not have an accompanying container.

5. Artists/Sculptural Books - traditional or non-traditional with imagery and/or text. May include 3-D, pop-ups, extensions, wall pieces, painted books, scrolls, etc.

6. Artists/Sculptural Books w/Container - Traditional or non-traditional with imagery and/or text; may include 3-D, pop-ups, extensions, wall pieces, painted books, scrolls, etc. This class will be judged on the artistic quality of both book and container and suitability and "fit" of container to the book object.

7. Artists/Sculptural Books - Sculptural books with NO text or imagery. Books with sculptural bindings, 3-dimensional, made from unusual materials. Can be a book that does not have to function like a book.

8. Altered Books - Commercially manufactured books that have been altered in some way to provide areas for artistic expression.

9. Boxmaking - Boxes/containers made with traditional bookmaking materials (binders board, paper, cloth leather) and/or made using traditional bookmaking techniques.

10. Miniature Books - Books must have images and/or text inside, dimensions are limited to a maximum of 3" tall, 3" wide and 3" thick when closed. If book has an accompanying container, it must also fit with these dimensions.

11. Miniature Books - Blank books with NO images or text inside, dimensions are limited to a maximum of 3" tall, 3" wide and 3" thick when closed. If book has an accompanying container, it must also fit with these dimensions.

12. Collaborative Books - Books made in a collaborative group. The person who does the binding will be the exhibitor and will be eligible to receive a ribbon.

13. Fine Binding: Blank or Rebound Books - Books will be judged on execution of the structure; handing of leather and/or materials; endpaper construction and design; inlays, onlays and/or surface décor, finishing, tooling and/or titling. Book may or may not have an accompanying container.

Visual Journals Study Group

The Visual Journals Study Group within LIBROS recently marked the end of its first year. The group officially started July, 2011 with Jo Bryant and Annie Hooten as coordinators. The purpose is to explore Visual Journals, which includes a variety of expressive techniques, including writing, painting, and collage, using a host of mixed media tools and materials. Individual members present an informative demo on a specific subject each month, and all are encouraged with a monthly challenge. The group meets the third Saturday of the month at 1:30 at the Artisan Classroom at 3017 Monte Vista Blvd. NE. For more information, contact Marti Harlow, one of the new coordinators who handles communications at martiharlow@comcast.net. Jo and Annie are also happy to answer any questions about the group.

BOOK ARTS CLASSES

LIBROS member **Mita Saldaña** offers occasional classes at her East Mountain bookbinding studio Against The Grain and at other locations. Call (505) 286-8592 or talk to Mita at a meeting.

OFFCenter

Check out our community's "safe place for everyone to make art" studio. Get on their email list. Look at the class offerings (www.offcenterarts.org/workshops.htm). OFFCenter accepts donations of money, arts and crafts materials, volunteers.

LIBROS Yahoo Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/librosnmbag/>

Membership chair Annie Hooten is also the Moderator of the LIBROS Yahoo Group. To sign up so you can receive and post messages, first open a Yahoo Groups account, then send Annie an email at: librosnmbag@yahoo.com. Note: at = @.

LIBROS Online www.librosnm.org

The LIBROS website is where you can download newsletters, find meeting and workshop information, membership forms and more.

The LIBROS Lending Library

The lending library consists of approximately thirty books concerned with book arts and design. Titles include those on book-binding, altered books, collage, papermaking, creative journals, and multi-media design, among others. The library also includes a few titles on DVD and VHS. Borrowers may take home a book for \$1 a month. Proceeds from the book loans are collected to help support the acquisition of new books. A list of titles may be found on the Libros New Mexico Book Arts Guild Yahoo site under "databases." As a new librarian I will be discussing the acquisition of new books with the group as well as attempting to acquire new book arts books from various publishers seeking reviews. Questions about the Library can be directed to Micaela Seidel: stmic at gmail.com

A Field Trip to Taos by Esther Feske

The Bookbinding Study Group planned a trip to Taos to see a book arts exhibit by local women at the historic Martinez Hacienda. Someone suggested that we take in a special exhibit at the Harwood Museum of Art. The date was set--Friday, July 27--leaving at 8 am for the 2 1/2 hour trek northward. As the day approached, most of our group dropped out, leaving Beverly Wilson and I. When I got off the phone with her, my partner asked, "Well, can I go?" And immediately another friend called, and hearing of the next day's adventure, asked if she could go. Presto! Full car! Later, the book artists who could not go asked for a report, so here it is.

Unfortunately, we were disappointed with the Taos book show. There were lovely bits, such as the group's president's stunning photos; they were printed on luscious paper in smallish books, but the books themselves did not awe. Perhaps a larger page size would have emphasized the delight of the small photos. One little reliquary-like box was interesting, but there was no book quality to it -- a snippet of the St John's Bible glued to the back panel does not make a book. One sculptural piece, an assemblage of small encyclopedias with folded and cut pages, was a favorite of one my friends. However, I've seen too many folded-page altered books to think of them as anything but a tedious exercise that has little to "say" beyond the technique. Some books had good ideas but missed the mark in craftsmanship. Some objects were just puzzling, leaving us wondering: is this a book at all? There seemed little or no correlation between subject matter and structure.

However, we all enjoyed looking at the Martinez Hacienda, where the book show occupied one room. They were showing quilts, weaving, and colcha embroidery in the restored 1800's home with period artifacts. The whole place was an eye-opener about the earliest settlers and the difference in the structure and their use of rooms. We spent the morning there.

After a leisurely lunch at a familiar cafe on Bent Street, our friends wanted to play tourist. They departed for the nearby Moby Dickens bookstore, walked around the plaza, sat on benches, listened to musicians, and watched people.

Beverly and I went to the Harwood Museum, where the work of Beatrice Mandelman was the main show (through October 14, 2012). It was stunning. Bea Mandelman was a New Yorker, worked as a WPA artist, and some lithos, drawings, and color woodcuts from that period are shown. She was breaking new ground, bringing abstract concepts into the social-realism genre. Her expressiveness in woodcuts humbled me as I recalled my own recent woodcuts.

Mandelman and her husband, Louis Ribak, moved to Taos in 1944 from New York. She was prolific. The show covered work from the 50s to the 90s -- collage (paper and paint, mostly non-objective) onto whatever surface she could find: paper, mat board, canvas board, cardboard, even chunks of 2"x4" and 2"x8" lumber. I just kept saying "Wow." I looked for words to describe what moved me, but could find none. It might have been the "subject matter" of the collages -- paper, paint, color, texture -- all of which I love. It may have been the well-developed intuition she had for arranging those elements. Most pieces were untitled. Each piece was self-contained and referred to nothing outside itself (with a few exceptions). I noticed at one point that many of the pieces were self-bordered, which contains the "image" within the page/format. But then the next pieces had no border -- ran right off the edge of the paper. And just when I had concluded she used a lot pastel colors and pinks (which I normally don't like, but here I did), then there were pieces with intense and dark colors. One in particular, a painting entitled "Greece," had a stripe of that intense Mediterranean blue often found in photos of Greece, but most of it was a field of Red -- so red it blazed like the sun. Wow.

Beverly, who likes abstract expressionism, and enjoys doing collage, felt inspiration lurking in the distance. On leaving the show, she asked me for pieces of lumber to try to work on. Both of us left feeling excited about the possibility of using color and text in our work and tapping into newfound energy.

I went around the Mandelman show at least twice. I ran through the rest of the museum, not impressed with the other temporary exhibit, but enjoyed the small collection of old Hispanic artifacts, santos, retablos, etc. The Mandelman just struck me right, and while I am only recently "getting" abstract/nonobjective art and find much of it unmoving, I loved her work. Beverly called it "an explosion of color mostly in abstract collage." If you go to see the show, I won't guarantee you will enjoy it as much as we did. But if you lay aside expectations and listen, it might speak to you. I find that to be the most satisfying way to view art anyway, no expectations.

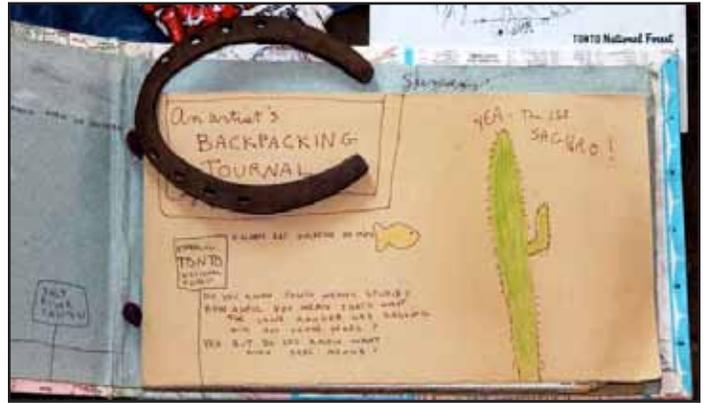
Beverly and I reluctantly left the Harwood, picked up the other two travelers, and headed south. Her new little "inferno orange" Chevy Sonic was very comfy, including the back seat, drove easy, and sipped gas at about 33 MPG. By Santa Fe, we were getting hungry, so stopped at Beverly's new favorite, Harry's Road House on Old Las Vegas Highway. Friday night? Half of Santa Fe was there for their pre-ordered lobster feast. The setting was lovely rustic Santa Fe-ish of course. Dinner and chatting were delicious. We pulled into Albuquerque a little after 8 PM. Well into the next day I savored the twelve hours of art, friends, and conversations we all enjoyed. Our thanks to those who mentioned places and planned this field trip!

Now we are planning more outings, just for fun, while we are still able to enjoy our good lives. So, where do you want to go? What do you long to see? Give yourself permission. Pass on any ideas, possibilities. Invite your friends.

The LIBROS Bookbinding Study Group was board-approved in 2005 to encourage those who wanted the challenge of learning new bookbinding techniques and structures beyond the time limitations of the regular meeting. Knowledge of the basics is required, and we share the teaching to keep costs minimal. Please check the LIBROS website for details.



Geri M: A Day in Santa Fe, accordion with collage



Judith R: An Artist's Backpacking Journal, multimedia



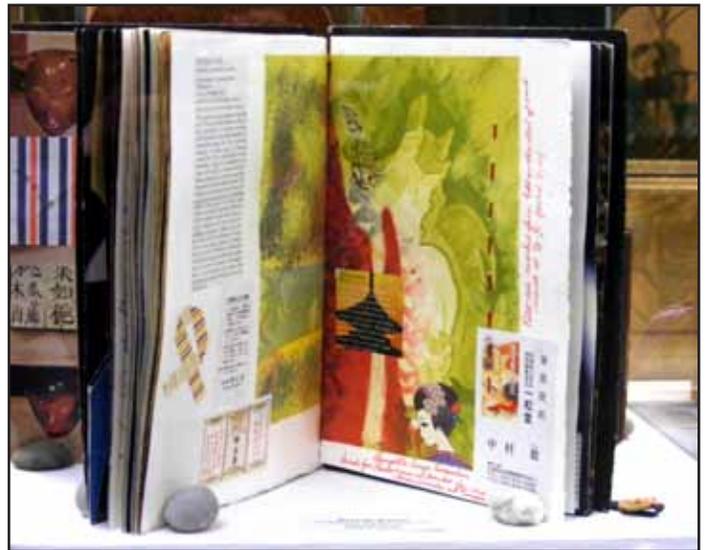
Kate P: Family Journey, star book with family photos



Kate P: Family Journey



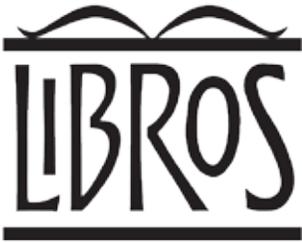
Beverly W: Layers of New Mexico, collograph prints and found objects in frame pages



Beverly W: Japanese Travel Journal altered book



Left: (back) Jo B: Stampin' Around New Mexico, accordion with stamps; (middle right) Kent S: Winter Forest Journey, linoleum print on amate paper; (left) Esther F: Nature Journal in burlap case; (right) Esther F: Cervantes' Journals



NEW MEXICO BOOK ARTS GUILD

PO Box 81065
Albuquerque, NM 87198

LIBROS MEMBERSHIP FORM

To join or renew, please fill out this form and mail it along with a check for \$25 payable to LIBROS to:
Treasurer Susan Homer, 5000 Sequoia Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120. Or go online and pay through PayPal
or credit card at www.librosnm.org/join. Membership year is September 1 – August 31. (If joining newly at mid-year,
partial year membership is \$12.50)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Please list any special interests _____

MEMBER BENEFITS: As a LIBROS member you can attend programs at member rates, receive the newsletter and join our Yahoo Group, where you will find reports from the officers and committees, a listing of library materials, electronic versions of the newsletter, photos and more. To join our Yahoo Group, send an email to: librosnmbag@yahoo.com