

2015-2016 OFFICERS

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Melinda Fay

Amy Sproul

State Fair:

Mita Saldana

Barbara Byers

Esther Feske

Julie Salazar

Library Exhibit:

Barbara Byers

Esther Feske

Debbie Finrock

Amy Sproul

Collaborative Book:

Melinda Fay

Barbara Barnett

Kent Swanson

Webmaster:

Trish Meyer

LIBROS AT THE LIBRARY

During the months of April and May, LIBROS members displayed some of their most recent creations at the Main Albuquerque library. In addition, several members donated their time to help library patrons make simple books. These classes introduced book lovers to the fun of producing a book from scratch. Thanks to Esther Feske for coordinating the show, all the book contributors, and the other volunteers for keeping LIBROS' name out among the reading public. Below are some of the wonderful creations!

Participants included:

Barbara Barnett
Barbara Byers
Karen Fausnaugh
Melinda Fay
Esther Feske
Dale Harris
Ruth Krug



Toni Lyons
Trish Meyer
Margy O'Brien
Nichole Peters
Martha Saldaña
Micaela Seidel



MEETINGS

Held the first **Saturday** of most months from 9 am to 12 noon at Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center (MMMC), 501 Elizabeth SE, Albuquerque (south from Central on Eubank, east on Southern. MMMC has plenty of parking.

CALENDAR

Members will receive supplied program materials first. Guests are welcome to join if there are extra materials. Members should bring their bookbinding kit to project meetings. Programs are subject to change. Please check website for changes.

August 1, 2015 ~ TWO-SIES! with Dale Harris

Make two simple signature-sewn books with folded paper covers. Book 1 – Two Sewn as One: 2-section pamphlet stitched through a center tab. Book 2 – Dos-a-Dos: two books bound together back to front, sharing a mountain-valley cover.

September 5 ~ Grungy Effects for Decorating Paper with Micaela Siedel

Create grungy surfaces on paper using inexpensive household products like bleach, rubbing alcohol, and coffee grounds. We'll prepare a sampler of decorative papers for use in journals or collages. Bring several small sheets of inexpensive medium weight (40 to 80 lb) watercolor paper. Also bring a few buttons, beads, pieces of chain, or interesting looking scraps that will be used in a bleach resist.

October 3 ~ Cuban Handmade Books by Vigía with Barbara Byers & Margaret Randall

Vigía was started in 1985 by a group of young writers and artists who supported the Cuban revolution, but felt ostracized by certain repressive restrictions in place at the time. They proposed to make books with common materials that any Cuban might have access to: using butcher paper, bits of cloth, shells, and twigs, among other items. Their books are beautiful. Eventually the revolution recognized their work and gave them an old colonial house in their native city of Matanzas, an hour and a half from Havana.

Vigía books are now in important collections throughout the world. The collective celebrated its first thirty years with a 5-day festival that Barbara and Margaret attended. In addition to a short film on this magical publishing collective, they will be happy to field questions about Cuba itself at this moment of change.

November 7 ~ Altered Book Techniques with Esther Feske

How many ways can a book be altered? Esther will lead us in trying some easy-to-difficult ways to make old books (or even new, boring books) interesting. Handouts and free books to alter.

December 5 ~ LIBROS Winter Celebration

Let's close out 2015 and bring in the New Year with a party!

Potluck, bring something yummy to share \$10.00 Gift Exchange with bookbinding theme Group Show and Tell - now is the time to showcase your book arts related projects! This includes handmade books, journals, boxes, papermaking, techniques, etc. If you can think of it, show it! LIBROS Collaborative Book information shared at this meeting also.

January 2, 2016

Oriental Binding with Kate Padilla

This beautiful binding is unusual and opens flat. We will make one signature version with instructions for multiple signature books. Our objective will be to complete a single signature book with a binding that allows the folded signatures to be sewn to a stub and backed by a conventional decorative paper or a mat board covering. This method also prevents adhesive from coming in contact with the signatures, and allows the pages to remain flat. This binding is also referred to as a "Stub Binding."

Book artist, Monique Lallier, explains the structure, as "a derivative of the traditional Japanese and Chinese binding techniques," which allows for books to be disassembled without damaging the text. New pages can be removed or added, as in an atlas.



Program Committee

Carrol Moxham, Sue Ortiz, Ruth Krug,
Esther Feske, Kate Padilla, Kent
Swanson

February 6 ~ Collaborative Book with

Melinda Fay, Kent Swanson, Barbara Barnett

We will have great fun oohing and aahing over each other's pages and assembling a finished book. Sign up to make # pages to share with # people and learn a new binding technique. See examples of the 2015 book and pages below.

2015 Collaborative Book: A Stitch in Time



Blue covers and binding by Kelli Judkins-Cooper;
orange page by Esther Feske; yellow page by
Annie Hooten; quilted binding by Toni Lyons

March 5 ~ Fishbone Binding with Beverly Wilson

A Hedi Kyle design variation of a one-page structure that can have a sculptural look, similar to accordion binding. Several variations – Fishbone, Tree, and Fibona - are possible and we will attempt as many as time permits.

April 2 ~ Toggle Top Box Making with Mita Saldana

Note: Meeting will run until 1:30 pm

Assemble a simple, yet elegant, square box. This box has a separate flat lid that has a toggle-type bead handle attached. This is a great beginner box. You will learn the details of how to measure for the board and cover materials, and how to cover the box in a precise way so that it will look neat and professional. Mita will pre-cut bookboard. Measurements for paper to cover the books will be provided two weeks before so you can have your paper ready for assembly.



Focus on Youth by Amy Sproul

On May 3rd, the Albuquerque Museum and the Albuquerque Public Schools Fine Arts Program sponsored a juried student photography exhibit. Trish Meyer and her husband Chris were invited to jury Digital Special Techniques submissions. LIBROS members generously donated two \$50 awards within the Artist Photography Book category.

Recipients were Celeste Villasenor (10th grade) who won 2nd place with her book "Water Spills" (cover and spine is pictured below), and



Msu Ryu (12th grade) who shared 3rd place with her book "A Collection of Tea and Toothpicks" (pictured above, open to spread).

Both are students at the Albuquerque Academy and are taught by book artist Michal Sommers. Congratulations to all the 2015 winners!



Bookbinding Study Group

The Bookbinding Study Group (BBSG) was established in 2005 to encourage those who wanted the challenge of learning new bookbinding techniques and structures beyond the time limitations of the regular meeting. Above are four examples of books made in that group.

Members of the group choose the dates and the projects for the group which meets monthly. It is expected that participants have the basic bookbinding skills behind them and then can enjoy working with others on bookbinding and book arts structures and activities. Study group members are asked to participate on a regular basis and to prepare and offer presentations, rotating through the schedule with all other members of the BBSG.

In recent months, the group has studied stab bindings, Jacob's Ladder structures, Cheryl Moote's Spectacular book with variations, Daniel Kelm's wire edge bindings, Hedi Kyle's fishbone fold, and cyanotype printing. Future scheduled projects already sound fascinating!

BBSG is an open group, anyone may join.

If you are not on the BBSG e-mail list to participate, and would like to join us, please e-mail Carol Erickson at caroleliz@q.com

Nature Journaling Group

The Nature Journaling **Special Interest** Group met for the first time last September with several members meeting at Debbie Finrock's mountain home. With perfect weather (a mix of sun and rain), the members went their separate ways, drawing, painting, and doing whatever else they wanted in order to express themselves and record the natural surroundings in their journals. We rotate leadership, with volunteers taking responsibility for choosing a date and place to meet. **LIBROS** members who might like to join us should contact Melinda Fay at jivagil@comcast.net.

Bind, Alter, Fold: Artist Books by Marilyn Stablein

Former LIBROS member, Marilyn Stablein, has published a 90-page art catalog with 75 full-page color photographs of handmade artist books. It is available for \$25 from Book Arts Editions, www.facebook.com/BookArtsEditions?fref=ts 503-253-4089. Cascading Waters from the book is below.



CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Making Your Own Bookcloth and Buttonhole Stitch Book

August 7 ~ 10am – 4pm

Want to add more pattern and color into your books? Come and learn from **Mita Saldaña** how to change almost any type of cloth into bookcloth. Bring cloth you would like to transform, along with a hair dryer if you have one. Then we will take our newly made cloth and use it on our covers of our Button-hole stitch book. This binding is sewn onto tapes that can be made out of your brand new bookcloth! It has multiple sections, an exposed spine, and lays flat when opened. This is a perfect binding for a journal. Most materials and tools provided.

Held at Garianne Fuentes' house in the North Heights. Send check for \$68 to Mita Saldaña.

Decorated Journal Pages and Sewn on Tapes Book

August 15 ~ 10am – 5pm

Spend the morning learning multiple ways in which to prepare and decorate your journal/book pages. **Annie Hooten** will cover supplies and techniques and each attendee will have time to prep 15-20 pages using demonstrated processes. The afternoon will be spent with **Mita Saldaña** who will instruct us in assembling the pages into a super cool book. Your book can be used as a reference guide for future work or as a journal intended for collage, writing, etc.

Send check for \$70 to Mita Saldaña.

Book Arts: An Introduction

October 14, 21, 28 ~ 6-9 pm

Pam MacKellar and Carol Erickson will be offering their 3-week UNM Continuing Education class. Students will make 8 books that cover the elements of bookbinding and book arts, folding, stitching, gluing, as well as non-traditional structures, the flag book and the tunnel book. Join to gain a thorough foundation of bookbinding and book arts skills. Registration required, Course 05396 at CE South Building. Class fee \$89.

Paste Paper Workshop (beyond the comb)

Saturday, October 31, 10 am to 2:30 pm

Laura Wait opens her studio to demonstrate new techniques of making paste papers, including the use of mylar stencils. Participants in this hands-on workshop will leave with finished stencils and papers. Stencils and collographs will be made that can be incorporated into your paste papers.

Reservations required, as space is limited. Send check to Laura at studio, 3600 Cerrillos, #1108, Santa Fe, NM 87507. Contact Laura Wait at laurawait@iCloud.com. Studio is on the second floor with no elevator.

Materials and tools to bring:

About 10 sheets of paper, 20 x 25 inches in size

Arches Text Wove (Velin Arches) is my preferred paper. Fabriano and Dresden Ingres work well too. (Mohawk and similar book papers are not good for this method)

Self-healing cutting mat

Scalpel

A selection of acrylic paints

A few wider brushes, if you have them

Materials supplied: Mylar, paste, various marking tools, and hake brushes

Authentic Sewn on Boards Workshop

November 8 ~ 10 am – 4 pm

Priscilla Spitler worked alongside Gary Frost at Booklab when he developed the sewn boards binding. It is not a case binding. Instead, it features cover boards that are sewn onto the text and a cover spine component that allows a completely flat opening.

This one-day workshop will concentrate on the binding as it was originally designed, including sewn cover folios for the insertion of card stock; trimming edges for a clean squareless book; simple spine linings and the precise fitting of a flat black cloth spine; and finally, drummed-on cloth or paper on the boards. The book uses very little adhesive and does not require pressing.

Students will complete one book, but may bring their own sections to prepare for a book to

complete in their own studio. This will keep students busy if there are equipment bottlenecks.

All materials will be provided. Bring a general bookbinding kit.

Off Center Community Center
808 Park Avenue SW, Albuquerque NM
\$110 includes material and Off Center fees
\$50 deposit (check to Priscilla Spitler, send to Beverly Wilson, 301 Montclair Drive NE, Albuquerque NM 87018, nonrefundable after October 25) call 505-980-8042 if questions.

NM State Fair Competition

The New Mexico State Fair runs from September 10-20 this year. Dates for dropping off your work are August 28 and 29 from 9-5 at the Creative Arts Building. The pick-up date is Monday September 21st. All the details can be found on www.exponm.com website under State Fair.

The premium competition for Bookbinding is under the Creative Arts heading. You can enter under a couple of different sections: 1) Adult and 2) Professional. I want everyone to know that just because some person that knows nothing about craftwork has changed the rules to "5 years experience is a professional," that does not mean we follow that. We follow the old rules, which are if you teach book making, if you exhibit in galleries, or if you sell your work you are a professional. That makes sense to us. So please don't worry about the fair's definitions - don't let it stop you from entering.

The Classes for entry are:

- Altered Books,
- Artist/Sculptural Books with content and without content,
- Artist/Sculptural Books with container,
- Blank Books,
- Boxmaking, and
- Collaborative Books.

Bring everything you have and we will try to get it in. If you have any questions, just give Mita a call at 281-5737.

There are 3-4 judges that donate a whole day to judging. All of them know how to make a book and all of them have art experience. Everything is done anonymously. Each judge scores each work, identified by its entry number, with a 1

(low) to 5 (high) rating in 6 categories, such as use of materials, appropriateness of content to form, quality of craftsmanship, etc. The numbers the judges give are, of course, subjective, but the numbers are totaled and the highest total gets First place, second highest Second place, etc. If there is a tie (that is rare), the judges discuss to break the tie. In the judging that I have overheard, there is frequently consensus on high and low scores, so it seems to be a relatively equitable process. I am not a judge, I know everyone's work too well. I just organize everything. Again if you have any questions, give Mita a call.

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## An Ideation Experience

Amy Sproul, Vicki Bolen, and Carol Erickson participated in an Ideation Experience exhibit at the Abecedarian Gallery in Denver, Colorado. The theme of the exhibit was based on the cards created by Barbara Tetenbaum and Julie Chen for their use in the classroom. The cards are a great way to jump start and push through stalled projects. The exhibit will run through August 1.



### State Fair Committee

Mita Saldaña, Barbara Byers,  
Esther Feske, Julie Salazar

# Finding the Grain

by Mita Saldaña

When making books, it's important to pay attention to the grain of your materials. The rule is to keep the grain running parallel to the spine of the book. Everything...the text paper, book board, book cloth, decorative cover papers, need to be parallel to the spine. Here are some ways to find the grain in your materials.

## Paper

For text paper and decorative papers the first thing you do is look for chain line watermarks in the paper. These will be about an inch apart. If the chain lines are there, then the grain runs parallel to them.

If there are no chain lines, then you do the "bendy" test. Lay the paper on the table. Gently fold over one side of the paper and press gently on the fold. Try to feel how much resistance or bounce back you get when pressing the fold. Then turn the paper and fold it over in the opposite direction. Again press gently and feel how much resistance you feel. The fold with the least resistance is the grain direction.

If both ways feel about the same, then try the tear test. Tear a corner in one direction then in the other direction. One should tear fairly straight and the other should tear crookedly. The straight tear is the direction of the grain.

## Book Board

When you purchase book board, the supplier should tell you which way the grain is running, long or short, meaning the longer side or the shorter side of the rectangle of board. You can also do the bendy test with book board, but as the pieces get smaller this is harder to do. When you find the grain, mark it with a pencil up and down the whole length of board so you don't have to constantly look for the grain.

## Book Cloth

Book cloth is like regular cloth. The grain runs parallel to the selvage edge. If you cut off the selvage, mark the grain with pencil on the back of the cloth. If there is no selvage when you acquire the cloth, you can sometimes do the bendy test if the cloth is paper backed. Or if you know which way the cloth ran on the original bolt of cloth, then the selvage (and the grain) would run along the edges of the bolt.

For more detailed info, consider taking a Bookbinding Basics class with me!

## Just Do It and Exchanges

This year, LIBROS is offering a number of "Just Do It" special interest groups [for members only](#). Groups will meet outside of the regular monthly LIBROS meetings to give members an opportunity to explore book structures, content, box making, and more. Each group will decide how often and where to meet.

In the past, LIBROS has held monthly exchanges of Matchbox books and ATC card exchanges. In addition, we will add a Mail Art exchange. Members can participate as often as they choose. More information to follow.



Debbie Finrock  
newsletter production  
24 Doc Holiday Rd.  
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### 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: Gudrun Mauter, Treasurer, 720 Adams St, SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108. Or go online and pay through PayPal or credit card at [www.librosnm.org/join](http://www.librosnm.org/join). Membership year is September 1 – August 31 (if joining newly after March, 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 workshops 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](mailto:librosnmbag@yahoo.com).