

# Handmade books on display

by **Betsy McClelland**  
*Staff Writer*

There are many intriguing and unique books in the exhibit “Hecho a Mano: Book Arts of Latin America.” There are handmade books from Mexico about Mayan culture, books made with recycled cardboard covers from Argentina and books from Cuba that have covers made out of bagasse, a material from the sugarcane plant. The curator of the exhibit, Teresa Chapa, bibliographer of Latin American and Iberian Resources at UNC, has been collecting books for the university since 2001. Some bookmakers have access to fine press materials but many do not.

“Something about what they do [without these materials] is just so clever,” said Chapa.

Most of the books are made by *talleres*, or workshops. One of Chapa’s favorite books is *La*

*Jicara* (1998), or “the gourd,” made by Taller Leñateros to celebrate peace in Guatemala. Taller Leñateros is in Chiapas, Mexico, and one of its goals is to preserve Mayan cultures. The taller makes its own paper and dyes, using traditional methods for its projects. The founder of Leñateros, Ámbar Past, will be at UNC on Aug. 27 to speak about the taller. Past was born in Durham.

Along with Leñateros, other talleres well represented in the collection are Ediciones Vigía of Matanzas, Cuba and Eloisa Cartonera of Buenos Aires. The primary objective of Ediciones Vigía is to create a cultural center in Matanzas. Upon its founding, the primary goal of Eloisa Cartonera was to provide inexpensive literature in the wake of the Argentinian economic crisis of a few years ago. According to Chapas, Eloisa Cartonera was named for

the unrequited love of one of its members — a woman named Eloisa. He even wrote her notes in the margins of the early works the taller produced, but she never responded.

It is stories like this that make the exhibit compelling. Chapas hopes that the exhibition encourages academic research and appreciation for the books and their makers. There are more books in the collection that are not on display. These books are housed in the Sloane Art Library and the Rare Books Room of Wilson Library.

The exhibit runs through Oct. 12 in the Melba Remig Saltarelli Room of UNC’s Wilson Library. Ámbar Past, founder of Taller Leñateros, will be in the Pleasants Family Assembly Room of Wilson Library on Aug. 27 at 5:45p.m. For details, visit [www.lib.unc.edu](http://www.lib.unc.edu) or call 962-4207 or 962-3948.

## ABBEY COURT FROM PAGE 1

was concerned that there are people living in some of the apartments who aren’t on the lease and that he was trying to use the parking permits as a method to determine where people are living.

Chilton called an Abbey Court residents’ meeting on Sunday, where he explained that the town did not have authority over the complex’s parking lot, but encouraged residents who have problems with their apartments to file complaints with the town and request inspections.

The town has inspected six Abbey Court apartments and has found violations in each unit, all of which lacked smoke detectors. A representative from the Pittsboro office of Legal Aid of North Carolina was also at the residents’ meeting and several residents are meeting with the office to determine if any action needs to be taken.

The county’s Office of Human Rights and Relations is also investigating the situation to determine if there have been violations of the Federal Fair Housing Act.

Violations of the fair housing act include actions that discriminate against a protected class, said Shoshanna Smith, director of the office.

“We’re looking to make sure that people from those classes aren’t being discriminated against,” Smith said.

Protected classes include race, religion, national origin, English-speaking ability and more.

Smith said her office never asks those who come to them for citizenship documentation, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

“We’re proud of the fact that we can help everyone,” she said.

The office has not launched a formal investigation yet, she said, because once they do so they have only 100 days to complete it.

Some residents, many of whom are illegal immigrants, have said management has started rumors about calling immigration officials.

“[Lucas] takes advantage of us because we are Latinos,” said resident Iris Maribel Arias.

In the press release, Lucas said many residents had already received parking permits.

“Many that have been denied stickers are not leaseholders nor authorized occupants,” Lucas said. “We must remember that more than 212 residents have been issued permits and feedback from those residents has been very positive.”

ple and news accounts suggest in this case.”

### A new towing ordinance?

Aldermen Dan Coleman and Jacquie Gist called a special meeting of the board of aldermen for 7:30 tonight (Thursday) to discuss and possibly enact a proposed ordinance regulating the towing of automobiles from private lots within town limits.

The ordinance would be similar to one enacted in Chapel Hill, which limits towing fees to \$100, vehicle storage fees to \$20 a day and unhooking fees to \$50.

Chandler’s Towing charges \$150 for vehicles parked illegally or abandoned vehicles, \$30 a day for storage and \$100 for unhooking.

The storage fee is applied as soon as the vehicle is brought to

*“I can assure you, I nor anyone in my company has any ‘hidden agenda,’ and simply wish to provide for our residents. We are proud of Abbey Court and feel that it is a better place to live as a result of our management.”*

— Ken Lucas, majority owner, Abbey Court

In an email to town officials, Lucas denied the allegations that management was discriminating against Latino residents.

“I can assure you, I nor anyone in my company has any ‘hidden agenda,’ and simply wish to provide for our residents. We are proud of Abbey Court and feel that it is a better place to live as a result of our management,” he said. “This is our 33rd year in business and our company’s history speaks for itself. We have never and would never discriminate against anyone as some peo-

Chandler’s lot, so owners must pay at least \$180 to get their cars back. The new ordinance would prevent companies from charging storage fees for the first 24 hours.

Coleman proposed an ordinance for Carrboro after Chapel Hill passed its towing ordinance earlier this year and called the special meeting to revisit the issue in light of the recent towing at Abbey Court.

The board will discuss a possible ordinance tonight at the Carrboro Town Hall.

## Community Briefs

### Back to School Bash

This year’s Back to School Bash wants to fill the book bags of over 100 less-fortunate kindergarten through 12th grade students with school supplies — and they’re going to need help.

The bash is planned for Aug. 9 from 12:30p.m. to 6:30p.m. at the Chapel Hill Faith Tabernacle at 800 Rogers Road.

“There will be the fun and games, but also a chance for people to support the youth in the community,” Reverend Robert Campbell said.

The Orange County Sheriff Department will speak to discourage gangs and drugs and will give out informational pamphlets about the implications of both, he said.

“We’re all growing together in this community,” Campbell said. “We need to let the young folks know that we are going to stand with them, and we are going to guide them.”

### UNC keeps music history

As a result of a grant given to UNC, Southern musicians like Ralph Stanley and Doc Watson will now be officially immortalized in UNC’s Wilson library by free access

to the artists’ recorded interviews and performances.

Funded by grants of \$138,275 from the National Endowment for the Humanities and \$6,000 from the National Film Preservation Foundation, the library staff also will begin preserving amateur films of life from 1920s Florence, S.C. The films are expected to be available to the public in August 2009.

The library’s Southern Folklife Collection will also use the grant to care for and make available 2,350 hours of exclusive and endangered musical recordings by July 2009.

The plans include live recordings made between 1970 and 2000 at The Ole Time Fiddler’s & Bluegrass Festival at Fiddler’s Grove in Union Grove and WPAQ radio broadcasts from the collection of the late Ralph D.Epperson, who founded the Mt. Airy, N.C. station in 1948.

### Philosophy at 506

On Tuesday, Aug. 5, UNC philosophy professor Josh Knobe and other members of the philosophy department will give an introduction to experimental philosophy, an original approach to answer-

ing philosophical questions. Experimental philosophy refers to the practice of performing studies and experiments to learn about moral values and judgments and how to resolve moral conflicts. Knobe and others will give a brief introduction to experimental philosophy, present new study results and provide live music.

### Chatham Habitat

Chatham Habitat for Humanity, in partnership with a private builder as yet unfound, will build 15 affordable homes on land donated by Chatham County. Chatham Habitat was awarded just over \$1 million by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fund low-interest mortgages for seven of the 15 homes.

Eight of the 15 will be built by Chatham Habitat in partnership with families earning 25 to 50 percent of local median income. The other seven will be built by a professional builder and sold for \$210,000 or less. Chatham Habitat has completed 82 houses since it was started in 1989. Partner families contribute 350 hours of sweat equity and buy the homes with no interest mortgages. For more information, go to [www.chathamhabitat.org](http://www.chathamhabitat.org).

## Recycled beauty in Pittsboro

by **Catherine Rierson**  
*Staff Writer*

Although the idiom “one person’s trash is another’s treasure” is probably more worn out than the rusty scrap metal Rita Spina and Tamera Mulanix collect for project ideas, it’s at the core of the two artists’ work.

Spina and Mulanix transform used metal they recover from scrapyards, woods and sides of rural roads into fine art, and the creative duo will present their exhibit of “Reborn Beauty” at Pittsboro’s Carolina Brewery in August and September. The Brewery will host a free brew-and-bar-snacks reception on Sunday,

Sept. 14 from 4p.m. to 6p.m.

Descending from a line of welders, Mulanix studied welding and blacksmithing at Carolina Central Community College, while Spina found her inspiration a bit later in her former career as a psychologist.

Spina works with a combination of organic and man-made materials, a blend to symbolically reflect the changing times in often abstract mediums. She has been a member of the Cha-

tham Open Studio Tour since its inception 16 years ago.

The Chatham Artists Guild is a nonprofit organization of regionally and nationally recognized visual artists. As part of its annual Chatham Open Studio Tour, guild members open their studios to visitors traveling with the tour throughout Chatham County for a meet-and-greet and an exchange of ideas on creativity and art.



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