

The Stitchers' Voice

VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 4
APRIL, 2010



SHOPPE
FOCUS ON
**Stitches
From The
Heart**

2010
**Bookmark
Challenge
Contest!**



RECENT RELEASE! 'Blackbird's Garden' from My Big Toe Designs

Blackbird's Garden is a March release from My Big Toe Designs. It uses all whole cross stitches and can be easily adapted to your favorite colors and fabric.

The model is stitched on 35 count Weeks Dye Works linen, "Parchment", with Gentle Art Sampler Threads "Wrought Iron" and "Currant". The fabric is also available in 30 count.

Stitch count is 85W x 85H A conversion for DMC is listed.

More details are available on this and other designs and accessories at www.mybigtoedesigns.com.

I don't know about you but the change in seasons always makes me want to tidy up my studio and take stock of my stitching projects. Which ones do I continue with in my current rotation, which ones do I put away for a little while, and which ones would I like to add to the ever increasing rotation list?

When I first started stitching I was very virtuous. I would start and finish a piece before I even looked at another project. Friends who had been stitching for a lot longer than I would laugh and say ... 'that won't last!' And it didn't - there were, and still are just far too many wonderful designs out there to only have one project on the go!

Once I had stopped being virtuous, and had bought lots of charts I began to struggle with the fact that I had become a 'serial starter'! You'll recognise the symptoms ... buy a new chart, kit it enthusiastically, rush home and start to stitch. Stitch all that night, all the next day and all the next night. Then, whilst popping into the LNS the following day for a new packet of needles, spot something new ... a design that calls your name, insistently, until you give in and buy it, and kit it enthusiastically, and rush home and start to stitch it! And so it goes on, and on and on until you have rather a lot of projects started and not one of them finished.

Thankfully one of my friends took pity on me and explained the concept of a stitching rotation to me! What a wonderful idea! It got rid of all the guilt, and I realized that I could have as many projects as I wanted on the go at the same time. (I mean ... a rotation doesn't have to be over just a week now does it ... it could be over a month, or every two months, or over a year ... there are no stitching police after all!)

So this week I am going to tidy up my studio and take stock of my unfinished stitching projects. Some will be put away for a little while, some will continue in my stitching rotation, and I think a trip to my local needlework store is called for as I think there are some new designs calling my name ... yes, I can hear them ... I'll be there soon my pretties.

Janie Hubble
Editor

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These Village Shoppes have been busy changing their window displays ... why not head on over to see what they have in store!

Hanging By a Thread
Shope 2

Picture This Plus
Shope 9

THE STITCHERS' VILLAGE shoppe FOCUS

Stitches From The

Stitches From the Heart is in San Antonio, Texas, and the owners are Sharon Taber and Jackie Kayser. Opening in late 2005, they are 4 years young!

We will let them tell the story from here ...

Stitches From the Heart encompasses 1800 square feet so we have lots of inventory, but we're also a very cozy and friendly place. There is a large stitching table that's open when we are, so customers can come and stitch all day if they want. Our lighting is excellent (on purpose!) Thursday evenings are our late nights for stitchers to gather and visit while stitching.

There's not enough space to list all our designers, but we have most of them! We have a Mary Wigham/Hawk Run Hollow night once a month. In April, we're having a "Purse Swap" to benefit the Battered Women's Shelter in San Antonio, which will be lots of fun. Twice a year we have an "Overnight" party. We provide dinner and breakfast and stay from Saturday afternoon until Sunday morning just stitching and laughing. Some stay up all night, others take naps during the night. What fun we have!

We carry 5 lines of silk threads, including Dinky Dyes, Belle Soie, Silk 'N Colors, Waterlilies and Splendor, as well as the full line of DMC and Anchor fibers. We have fabrics from Picture This Plus, R & R, Zweigart, Weeks Dye Works, and Lakeside Linens. Jackie also hand-dyes fabric in Texas Pecan and Blueberry, etc. We carry mono canvas for the beautiful Laura J. Perrin, From

Nancy's Needle and Needle Delights designs. We carry evenweaves and linens in all counts up to 40.

Frances works at the shop one or two days a week and is invaluable - she has a wonderful eye for color and helps people choose the right fabric and fibers. She also keeps our financial books straight and does most of our product ordering.



From left to right: Sharon Taber, Jackie Kayser, Penny Cranek and Frances Sandera.

THE STITCHERS' VILLAGE shoppe FOCUS



Store exclusive, 'Bee Hive ORT Jar/Pin Cushion' by Feathered Friends Frame and Finish which comes with two other designs.

Penny is the best framer/finisher in the world, we think! Her company, Feathered Friends Frame and Finish says it all. She can do anything and is brimming with new ideas all the time. She taught a beginner class of seven with two 12 year old girls and a 10 year old boy! We love seeing youngsters learning needlework. This is a picture of a store exclusive that Penny designed. We use this as an ORT (other remaining threads) jar/pin cushion while stitching. These are sold with three designs.

Jackie teaches our beginning hardanger classes, and she ramrods our three stitching camps every year. This year they are March, June and October. About 35-45 women spend the weekend stitching, eating and laughing ... it's a blast! They get wonderful door prizes and the March camp project was an exclusive design from Debbie Booth of My Big Toe called "Blackbird's Garden" and it is gorgeous! We'll have another exclusive design at the June Camp from another designer---it's very "Texasy".



'Blackbird's Garden' from My Big Toe Designs, an exclusive design for our March 2010 stitching party. Design is now available from My Big Toe.



Happy customers enjoying themselves at the March 2010 stitching weekend.

We give special attention to our newest stitchers but assist all stitchers in choosing colors of fabric and fibers based on the chart they choose. We gladly kit projects that include everything necessary: serged fabric, fibers, chart, and embellishments.

Our website address is www.heartfeltstitches.com and we're working on our webstore shopping cart. It's easy to

contact us by phone at our toll free number, 1 877-479-2620 and order whatever you want. Our email address is stitches.heart@att.net You should contact us to get on our newsletter mailing list. We mail packages all over the country and only charge what USPS charges to keep shipping costs low.

Come see us when you're in San Antonio-we promise you'll love our shop.

Stitches From The Heart is our competition host this month - check out page 7!



Weeks Dye Works and Jackie's natural, hand dyed fabrics.



Bookmarks ... Bookmarks ... BOOKMARKS!

by Jen Funk Weber

It's a Bookmark Bonanza! Since we're all in the thick of bookmark stitching (you are stitching a bookmark or two, right?), I thought I'd round up some bookmark ideas to share this month.

IDEA NO. 1

In addition to embroidery fabric and canvas, consider stitching bookmarks on these surfaces:

Perforated Paper

You should be able to find this at your local needlework shop. It comes in a variety of colors and even some hand-painted patterns. The paper bends and wrinkles easily, so take care. Backing the stitched design with card stock adds strength and stability. Glue can be used to attach the card backing.

Vinyl Weave

Daniel Enterprises makes vinyl weave which comes in a variety of colors, is thinner and more flexible than plastic canvas, and available in some needlework shops and some of the craft store chains. It's durable and the edges don't fray.

Token & Trifles Sewing Cards

These are modern versions of Victorian paper embroidery products, available at some needlework shops and through Kreinik. They are similar to perforated paper, but come in pre-finished shapes--very elegant. Victorian stitchers made paper embroidery bookmarks, and we can too!

Felt

Perfect for freeform embroidery, and available in a wide variety of colors and thicknesses, from needlework shops, craft stores, quilting stores, fabric stores. I'm partial to the Weeks Dye Works hand-dyed wool felt. It's wonderful to touch and the colors are vibrant. You'll probably find it in your

local needlework shop.

Screen

Since Heather from *monsterbubbles* turned us on to screen stitching, I've been eager to use it for bookmarks. It's widely available at hardware and building stores, it's durable, and it does not fray.



Tentakulum hand-dyed Peltex

It's possible your needlework shop has some of this, but even more likely that your quilt shop does. Peltex is an extra-firm stabilizer from

Pellon, used in sewing and quilting. It's great to embroider on too, but was kind of boring until Tentakulum dyed it. It comes in postcard (called "artist mailing cards") and trading card sizes, both of which are great for bookmarks: just cut the postcards into two or three pieces for bookmarks. The colors are fabulous.

Scraps of Denim and Twill Fabrics

I decouped bits of embroidery to pockets from denim baby overalls, but we can stitch directly on scraps of denim as well. Wash the scraps first to fray the edges if you want.

IDEA NO. 2

If you want to protect your hand-stitched bookmark, vinyl sleeves are made in a variety of sizes. Some are designed specifically for rectangular bookmarks, but other sleeves,

intended for trading cards and other collectibles, can be used for bookmarks of other shapes and sizes. Look for sleeves in your LNS, book stores, craft and hobby stores, collectibles stores, and online.

IDEA NO. 3

Attach ribbon or a bookmark form (I call them shepherd's hooks) to your hand-stitched bookmark so that the ribbon marks your place inside the book, and the pretty part hangs outside where it can be seen. If using a protective sleeve, exchange the decorative tassel (if the sleeve comes with one) for a longer functional ribbon or a shepherd's hook.

IDEA NO. 4

Do you know that Funk & Weber Designs has two bookmark finishing tutorials posted online? Well, you do now!

<http://www.funkandweber.com/fw/bookmark-finish.html>

<http://funkandweber.com/fw/going-gone-tutorial.html>

IDEA NO. 5

Put your handiwork to great use by donating bookmarks to the Needle and ThREAD: Stitching for Literacy Bookmark Challenge.

The Village is collecting bookmarks for Francis Elementary School in Houston, TX.

Tara Rollins, the librarian at Francis Elementary, asked to receive

bookmarks to use in her Bluebonnet Reading Program. "Our students are primarily suburban socio-economically disadvantaged youth. They would be thrilled just to have the



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the bookmark challenge at tsv

The Stitchers' Village has partnered with not one, but two libraries for the Needle and ThREAD: Stitching for Literacy 2010 Bookmark Challenge. At the beginning of the school year, thirty-three libraries wrote to Jen Funk Weber, asking if they might receive bookmarks during the 2010 Challenge. Participating shops and guilds usually contact their own local libraries, but these libraries want to be included, too. Because TSV is a global Web community, we've adopted two of these "orphan" libraries.

The librarians are grateful for needleworkers' support of literacy and are eager to share embroidery with their young patrons. Please help us provide beautiful hand-stitched bookmarks to our library partners, and encourage kids to read.

Of course, we're not just going to support a good cause; we're also going to have some fun! Join us in the Tea Shoppe as we explore color and make bookmarks. Jen will post a doodle pattern soon that we will use to test unique color combinations based on color theories. Then we'll turn our doodles into bookmarks for the Challenge. Post your bookmark images to the Stitching for Literacy Flickr Group. Now we can share images of the bookmarks we create for the Challenge! It's Jen's first venture into the Flickr system. She's always wanted to see images of donated bookmarks, so we hope you'll share. Once you post images to Flickr, you can also post them in the Tea Shoppe Bookmark Challenge photo thread.

This is a public Flickr group, and we've labeled it "safe," meaning appropriate for kids as well as adults. No R-rated bookmarks, please! Please reduce your images, making the longest dimension 400 pixels. Each person is limited to five uploads per week, and we'll see only the most recent 200 uploads. If the group proves active, we'll upgrade to unlimited storage and uploads. <http://www.flickr.com/groups/stitchingforliteracy>

Every bookmark you donate to the TSV collection is an entry into the TSV Bookmark Challenge Contest. Send your bookmarks to: **The Stitchers' Village, 12819 Bedford Falls Drive, Cypress, TX 77429**. They must arrive by May 6, 2010. Every bookmark receives one entry into the contest. If you stitch and send ten bookmarks, your name will be entered ten times into the drawing. On May 7, 2010, winners will be randomly drawn from all entries. The Grand Prize winner will win a Complete Set of Dinky Dyes Silk Embroidery Thread in a Stitching for Literacy Zippered Tote. Five Runners Up will receive their choice of twenty-five (25) skeins of Dinky Dyes 6-strand embroidery silk, and a Cat's Whiskers Design Studio chart or kit.

Everyone who participates receives the joy and satisfaction of encouraging kids to read, introducing them to embroidery, and supporting a great cause. Please join the Bookmark Challenge thread in the Tea Shoppe, and let us know that you're stitching bookmarks. We are a substantial group, and if we all stitch just one bookmark, we can support more than the two libraries we are currently committed to. I'm still looking for partners for sixteen orphan libraries.

Bookmarks ...
Bookmarks ...
BOOKMARKS!

continued

bookmark and to know that someone somewhere had taken the time to make something for them." Tara expects to use the bookmarks as incentives for students to read a certain number of books. "Thank you so much for the opportunity to give these students something that will be valuable to them, perhaps more valuable than any of us ever realize!" Send your bookmarks to:

**The Stitches' Village,
12819 Bedford Falls Drive,
Cypress, TX 77429
U.S.A.**

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MARCH 2010
**competition
WINNER!**

Congratulations go to **Karen Waletzki** - our March competition winner. Karen wins a \$100 gift certificate from Traditional Stitches, located just outside of Calgary, Alberta.

Stitches From The 

The gorgeous ladies from Stitches From The Heart are the competition hostesses for April, 2010.

To be in the running to win a \$100 gift certificate to spend at their store you need to send the answer to following question to **editorTSV@stitchersvillage.com** by the end of day **Wednesday 28 April, 2010.**

And the question is:
What does the acronym ORT stand for in the stitching world?

CORRECTION

In the March, 2010 edition of The Stitches Voice we included an article entitled 'Creating Creation - The Story of A Masterpiece'. We inadvertently spelt Deborah's surname incorrectly - her surname is Dick not Dicks, and we also forgot to cite the source of the article which can be found here: <http://temptingtangles.blogspot.com/> We apologize for any inconvenience or misunderstanding this has caused to Deborah and to anyone who was trying to follow up on the article online.

**what's
happening |
at the village shoppes?**

Have you checked out the Stitches Village Travel Agency recently?

You will find the Travel Agency in the blue building with the bright red door located next door to the Newspaper Office ... and when you click on the door you will be directed to the Customer Destination Board (just like at the airport).

This is where you will find information about classes, events and happenings being held all over the world.

So ... from now on, if you want to know what's happening at The Village Shoppes, or are looking for a special stitching weekend away pop into The Travel Agency and be inspired!

You will never again be like our gorgeous little old lady ... a l l packed up with nowhere to go!



THE STITCHERS' VILLAGE

2010 Bookmark Challenge Contest

The Stitchers' Village has accepted the Needle and ThREAD: Stitching for Literacy 2010 Bookmark Challenge, and now we need your help.

The **Needle and ThREAD: Stitching for Literacy** program seeks to encourage and reward kids for reading—and introduce them to embroidery at the same time. Bookmark Challenge participants (like us) collect hand-stitched bookmarks and donate them to libraries and schools during Children's Book Week, where they are awarded to kids for reading accomplishments.

Will you help us put hand-stitched bookmarks into kids' hands and books by stitching a bookmark?

Naturally, we at The Stitchers' Village want to turn this into a contest, complete with prizes ...

The contest rules are simple:

1. Stitch a bookmark. Any pattern, technique, fabric, fiber, embellishments, etc. Every bookmark counts.
2. Send it to **The Stitchers' Village,**
12819 Bedford Falls Drive,
Cypress, TX 77429

between now and **May 6, 2010** for a chance to win a prize. Every bookmark receives one entry into the contest. If you stitch and send ten bookmarks, your name will be entered ten times into the drawing.

On May 7, 2010, winners will be randomly drawn from all entries. The Grand Prize winner will win a **Complete Set of Dinky Dyes Silk Embroidery Thread in a Stitching for Literacy Zippered Tote.** Five Runners Up will receive their choice of **twenty-five (25) skeins of Dinky Dyes 6-strand embroidery silk,** and a **Cat's Whiskers Design Studio chart or kit.**

Please help us promote literacy and share the joy of needlework.
As Jen Funk Weber, the Stitching for Literacy founder, says,

“Reading and stitching make the world a better place.”