

Needle and ThREAD: Stitching for Literacy

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2008 BOOKMARK CHALLENGE MAKE-IT-TAKE-IT AT THE LOUSSAC LIBRARY

Arctic Needle, Funk & Weber Designs, and the Arctic Needleworkers embroidery guild are sponsoring a free Bookmark Make-It-Take-It in the lower level meeting room of the Loussac Library on Sunday, April 13, 2008, from 2 - 4 p.m. Children, teens, and adults are invited to come stitch bookmarks as we celebrate reading and stitching. No experience necessary; children under 10 years old should be accompanied by an adult. Materials will be provided.

This Make-It-Take-It event is part the Needle and ThREAD: Stitching for Literacy 2008 Bookmark Challenge, a program conceived and hosted by Funk & Weber Designs in Sutton. Arctic Needle, along with other independent needlework shops across the country, will celebrate Children's Book Week and encourage kids to read by collecting hand-stitched bookmarks from March 20 - May 8. Bookmarks will be donated to the Loussac Library and distributed to young readers as part of Children's Book Week programs.

Many needleworkers are already avid readers. They are also eager to put their needlework to good use. Reading and stitching go together like music and dancing: It's fun to listen to a story while plying one's needle. "I'm excited to share two things I enjoy and think are important," says Karen Bente, owner of Arctic Needle in Anchorage. "This is a great use for needlework."

In addition to collecting bookmarks, the Needle and ThREAD: Stitching for Literacy program raises money for literacy projects. Independent designers donate 10% of profits from bookmark patterns bearing a Needle and ThREAD logo. Funk & Weber Designs made their 2007 contribution to First Book—Anchorage, AK, a non-profit organization providing new books to children from low-income families.

The Needle and ThREAD: Stitching for Literacy program was conceived by Jen Funk Weber at Funk & Weber Designs in 2007 to celebrate and promote reading and stitching. Jen is a children's author and needlework designer.

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If you'd like more information about the program, please contact Jen Funk Weber at 907-746-5641, or visit the Needle and ThREAD: Stitching for Literacy Web site at <http://JenFunkWeber.com>