

Rocky Mountain blue columbine block from inspiration photo to foundation design to finished block. Copyright by Dana Jones , ©2021

# Just Quilts

May 2021 by Dana Jones • [www.danajonesquilts.com](http://www.danajonesquilts.com)

## Speaking, Teaching, Designing, Oh My!

Last week I zoomed into Covington, Washington, to share the story of the quilts and quiltmakers of Caohagan Island with the guild there. I mentioned that the islanders are able to cut birds, flowers, fish and other images of their lives directly from fabric — no patterns and no drawing — because they know their surroundings so well. When you life centers in 13 acres and you walk everywhere, you have time to see, really see, the people, the plants, the animals. One of the guild members picked up on this comment and asked how we can learn to really see what is around us. It may be the best question I've been asked in my several years of talking about the island and its quiltmakers.

When I teach my “Demystifying Design for Foundation Piecing” workshop and we get to the portion on creating designs for pictorial quilts, we start by studying our inspiration images closely. To be successful, we have to see, really see, the essence of images before we can create them in fabric.

For all who quilt and those who make art in other media, seeing and seeing again is an important starting point. Seeing requires slowing down. While we can see amazing big strokes from our car windows — the Front Range of the Rockies from the greater Denver area — we have to slow down to see the flora and fauna of those mountains. I suggest something that works for me: Take a hike. Your quilting muse will thank you. Let me know what you saw for the first time, what you saw in a new way, what inspired you that you can use in your next creation. I invite you to register for my “Demystifying” workshop through my website. Email me with questions.

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“Circling Charley,” ©2021 by Dana Jones

## Charley Harper Groupie for Decades

In the mid 1970s I met Charley Harper’s art while kayaking in Glacier Bay. I bought the poster he’d created for the park rolled up in a tube where it stayed for most of the next 35-plus years. Each time I moved, I’d take it out, admire it, re-roll it and put it back into the tube.

I started to repeat this familiar ritual as I packed to move from New York to our home in Colorado 12 years ago. I’d promised myself not to move anything I wouldn’t live with. The poster had to be framed or given away. It now graces a guest room in our mountain home.

When Birch Fabrics introduced fabrics based on Charley Harper’s art, I began purchasing a half yard of every pattern. More recently, I bought close to 10 yards of the tree trunk design above. I love Birch Fabrics.

Birch Owner and Art Director Cynthia Mann is committed to truly organic fabric. If you haven’t yet discovered this company and its to-die-for fabrics, it’s time.

I created the table runner above as a classroom sample for the “Circling Charley: Quick & Easy Inset Circles” workshop I will teach at The Stitchin’ Den in Estes Park, Colorado, August 7. Check out my website for details then go to the shop’s website to register. The workshop will be offered on Zoom so you don’t have to live near the shop. While you’re signing up for class, check out their selection of Charley Harper fabrics. It’s the best I’ve seen.



Charley Harper Glacier Bay poster

## Upcoming Workshops

I have four upcoming workshops, two I'm offering as open enrollment, which means you register on my website. One is "Demystifying Design for Foundation Piecing" and the other my most popular class, "Peace Cranes Over Hiroshima." I also have two workshops I'll be teaching at quilt shops here in Colorado. Because both will be offered via Zoom, you can enroll wherever you live. Here's information on these workshops.



Inspiration photos and finished designs foundation pieced by Dana Jones. Quilts are copyrighted.

## Demystifying Design for Foundation Piecing

9 a.m.-noon MDT, Tuesdays, July 6 and 13

In this class, you'll learn how to create foundations for everything from traditional blocks to pictorial quilts. We'll start with designing foundations for simple blocks — log cabin and flying geese — then move on to more complex blocks — butterflies, flowers, animals and more. You'll design one or more blocks, and you'll design a small pictorial quilt working from an inspiration photo or drawing you bring to class. Skills taught in the class will include:

- Determining the number of foundations needed.
- Numbering foundations for piecing order.
- Labeling foundations and marking them for joining to other foundations.
- Making templates for cutting patches for on-grain piecing and efficient use of fabric.

This is a technique class but you will take home foundations for log-cabin and kite blocks, foundations for one or more additional blocks, and a design for a quilt that is uniquely yours.

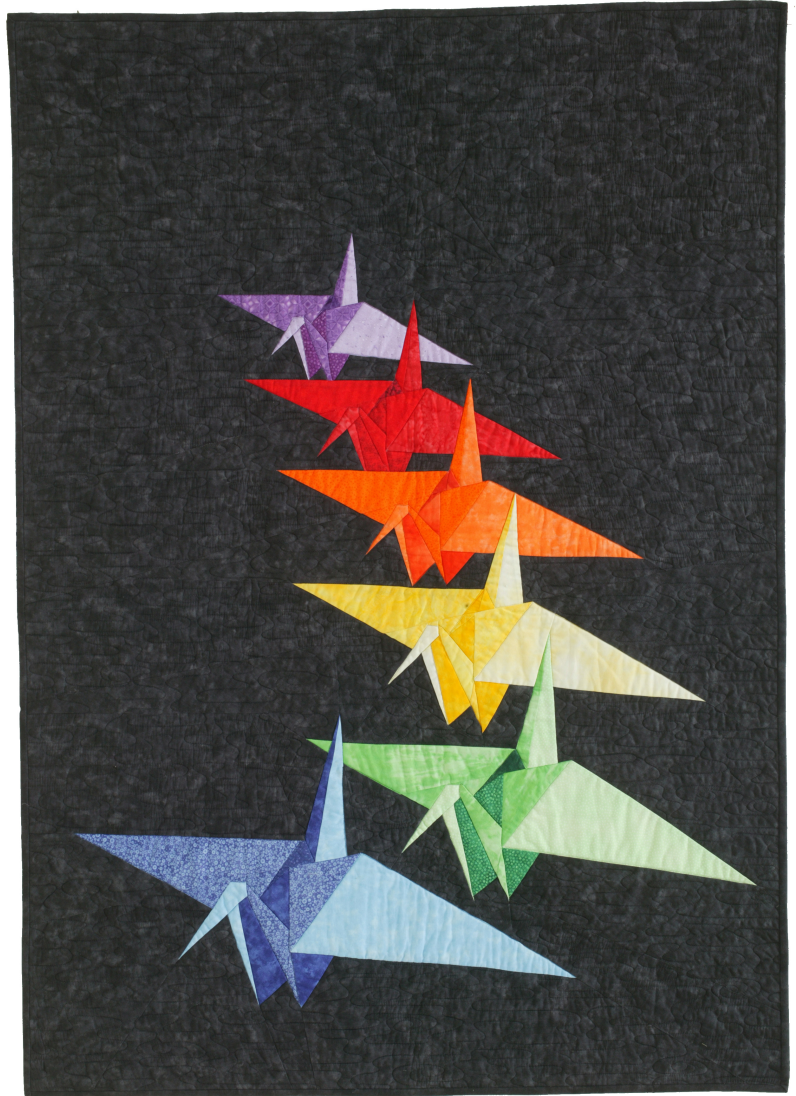
Register on my website: [www.danajonesquilts.com](http://www.danajonesquilts.com). Class fee: \$60.

## Peace Cranes Over Hiroshima

9 a.m.-noon

Tuesdays, August 12 and 19

I designed and made “Peace Cranes Over Hiroshima” after a visit to the peace park that is at the epicenter of the World War II atomic bombing site in Hiroshima, Japan. This foundation-pieced quilt is based on an Origami folded peace-crane image used with permission of the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Experience with foundation piecing (machine paper piecing) is needed for success in making this quilt. You’ll learn a lot about color as value is key to creating this quilt’s three-dimensional look. The pattern and foundations for the quilt are included in the class fee of \$70.



“Peace Cranes Over Hiroshima,” ©2021, designed and made by Dana Jones



From left, “Peace Cranes Over Hiroshima” quilts by students Janet Bozzone, Susan Roper and Maria Eyckmans

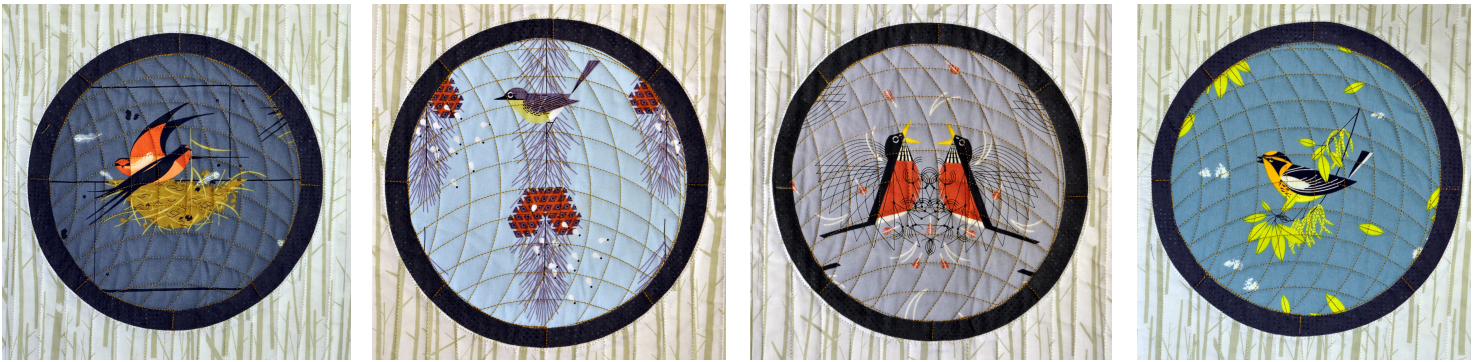


"Patchwork City," pattern design by Elizabeth Hartman. Made by Dana Jones. Quilted by Rita Meyerhoff.

## **Patchwork City: A Quilt Design by Elizabeth Hartman**

1-4 p.m. Saturdays, June 5, 12, 19 and 26, and July 10  
Via Zoom for Holly's Quilt Cabin in Centennial, Colorado

This 75-block quilt takes a while to make but don't worry. This class will offer you a range of possibilities for smaller quilts with just the blocks you like most. Elizabeth designed this quilt with exactly that in mind. The first class will give you time to select the blocks you'll make so your quilt will be uniquely yours. This quilt lets you use a wide range of your favorite, fun fabrics as you create a city that fits your personality. Elizabeth's significant design talent is exhibited in these fun blocks. Register through the shop; the link is on my website: [www.danajonesquilts.com](http://www.danajonesquilts.com). Fee is paid to the shop.



Details of "Circling Charley" by Dana Jones, ©2021

## Circling Charley: Quick & Easy Inset Circles

10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. MDT Saturday, August 7

Learn to inset circles into blocks and circles while making a table or bed runner. You'll be amazed how easy it is to do. Using a technique developed by Cheryl Phillips that requires minimal pinning — eight pins per circle no matter its size — you'll make the first block for this quilt in a few hours. Then you'll perfect the technique so by the end of the class, you'll likely have made two or more blocks, and you'll know how to continue making blocks for as large a quilt as you want.

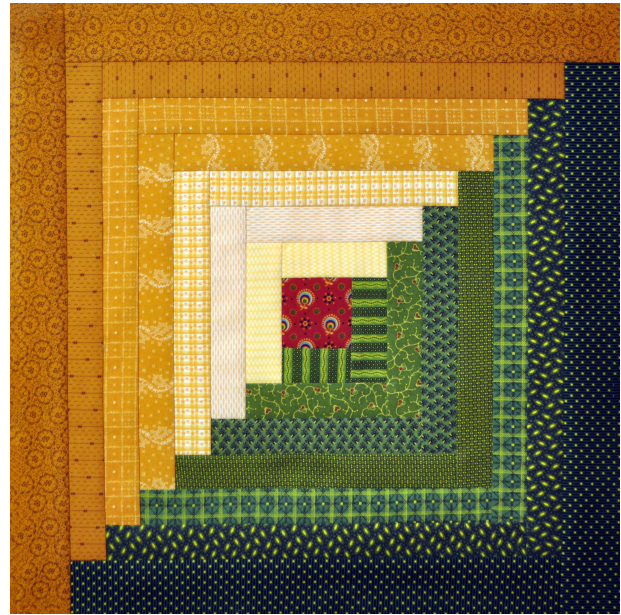
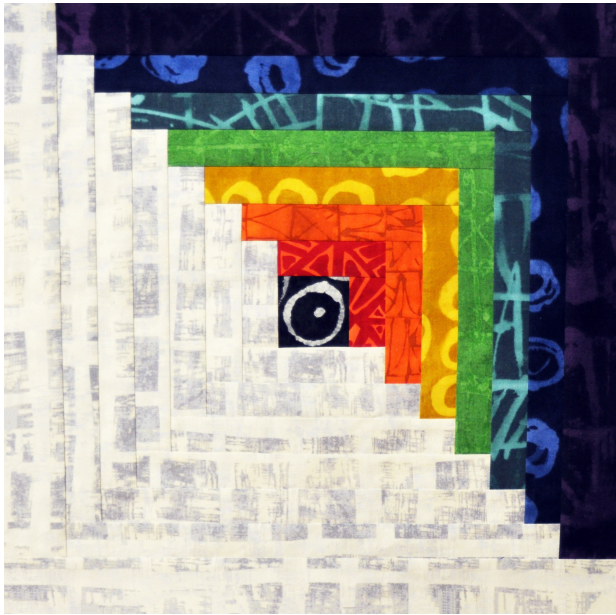
Offered through The Stithin' Den quilt and yarn shop in Estes Park, Colorado, via Zoom. Contact the shop to register or email me for the link:  
[danaellenjones@gmail.com](mailto:danaellenjones@gmail.com)



## Caohagan Island: Lectures and Book

I'm booking Zoom lectures on "Pagtinabangay: Quilts and Quiltmakers of Caohagan Island" for guilds across the country. If your guild, bee or other quilt group would like to book this or another of my lectures, email me: [danaellenjones@gmail.com](mailto:danaellenjones@gmail.com). See my website for details.

My book on the same topic is for sale for \$20 on my website. Check it out. These quilts will make you smile.



Modern and traditional log cabin blocks by Dana Jones

## **Block Aid: New Trunk-Show Lecture Coming This Summer**

When Common Thread Quilt Club in Parker, Colorado, invited me for a return engagement — I shared the story of the quilts and quiltmakers of Caohagan Island with them several years ago — program coordinator Kathy Curry asked if I could do a program/trunk show to get folks thinking about quilt blocks and making quilts with blocks. She wrote:

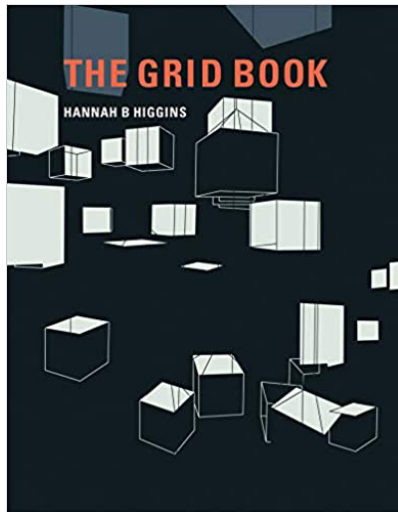
“Our members are mentioning quilt blocks more as a focus, which we’ve veered away from in the past several years.”

And so an idea was born. I began looking at my quilts and discovered how often they are made from blocks or partially made with blocks. I’m now doing some research, completing a few UFO block quilts, and getting more and more excited about this program.

Once it’s together, I’d love to share it with other guilds so be in touch if this is interesting to you.

## Book Recommendations

Some books worth reading:



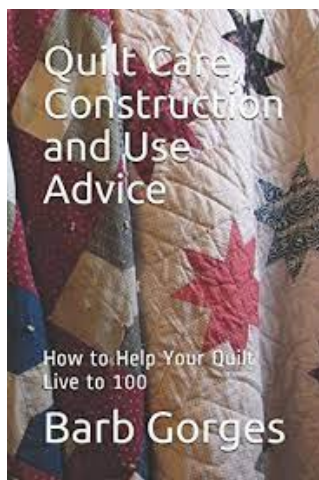
### **The Grid Book**

by Hannah B. Higgins

(Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2009)

From brickwork grids of ancient times to maps and ledgers to type to today's cyber networks plus a few more stops in history along the way, Hannah B. Higgins shows us how grids have been with us forever. She writes:

“The history of the grid is a living history of crafted things — from the handmade object to the World Wide Web.

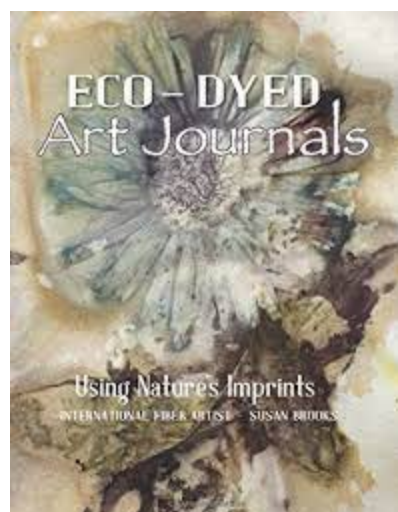


### **Quilt Care, Construction and Use Advice:**

#### **How to Help Your Quilt Live to 100**

by Barb Gorges (Yucca Road Press, 2017)

Don't be fooled by the slim profile of this book. Its 48 pages are packed with tips and practices for caring for your quilts that every quilt lover will appreciate. I recently was gifted a handmade Cathedral Window quilt that I'd like to wash. After reading this book, I feel confident in tackling this task.

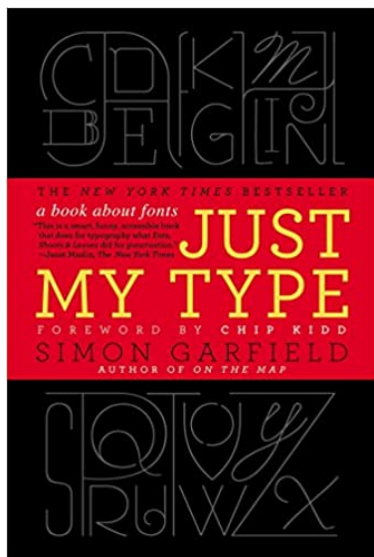


### **Eco-Dyed Art Journals: Using Nature's Imprints**

by Susan Brooks (Creation's Child, 2020)

Working with plants, leaves and flowers, fellow Coloradan Susan Brooks shares her learnings from many hours of experimenting, including successes, trials and errors. The book is gorgeous. It will make you want to sign up for her workshops. I'll join you at one.





## Just My Type: A Book About Fonts

by Simon Garfield (Gotham Books, 2011)

My love affair with type began as a journalism student at the University of Illinois when we were required to take a typography class. This book shares the history of typefaces we know and love and some we may not know nor love but each chapter brings new, exciting insights about how they came to be, how they've shaped our world, what messages they carry and more. If like me, you like to use type in your quilts, this book is sure to provide inspiration galore.



## Nature's Palette:

### A Color Reference System from the Natural World

Introduced by Patrick Baty

(Princeton University Press, 2021)

Don't check out this gorgeous expanded edition of *Werner's Nomenclature of Colours* from your library. Buy it. You want it for your bookshelf. *Werner's Nomenclature of Colours*, a landmark reference book on color and its origins in nature that was first published in 1814, is a taxonomically organized guide to color in the natural world. *Nature's Palette* is enhanced with new illustrations of the animals, plants and minerals Werner referenced alongside each color

swatch. You'll see "tile red" in a piece of porcelain jasper, the breast of a cock bullfinch or a shrubby pimpernel. You'll admire "Berlin blue" on a piece of sapphire, the Hepatica flower or the wing feathers of a jay. There are more than 1,000 color illustrations.

**I'd love to hear** what you're reading. Drop me an email. I love discovering books that inspire, inform and entertain. I'd enjoy hearing why you like the books you like. It would be fun to share some of your favorites in one of my future newsletters.

## **Thank You for Subscribing**

Thank you to all who have subscribed to this newsletter. If you haven't had a chance, you can do so on the home page of my website: [www.danajonesquilts.com](http://www.danajonesquilts.com). You'll receive it by email once a month. I'm sending the first few issues to a list of folks I think may be interested plus, of course, those of you have subscribed. I will be paring down the list to just subscribers in the future. If you do not wish to receive the June issue, drop me an email, and I'll remove your address right away. If you want to continue to receive it, please subscribe.

## **I've Launched a Facebook Page**

I have a new Facebook page devoted to my quilting endeavors. I'm waiting for it to take off. You can help. Facebook algorithms benefit those whose sites get followed. If you've liked my site, please go the next step to become a follower. The more followers I have, the more likely Facebook is to push my posts out to you and others. Equally important is for you to respond to my posts. A like or love is great. Even better is a comment — a word or two is plenty. Just say "Cool" or "Wow" and it will help catapult my page when folks are searching for all things quilting. Sharing it with others is also a huge help.