



“Out on a Limb” is a class sample for my “Demystifying Design for Foundation Piecing” workshop. Information on open enrollment sessions of this class is in the newsletter. Design by Dana Jones.

# Just Quilts

May 2022 by Dana Jones • [www.danajonesquilts.com](http://www.danajonesquilts.com)

## I’m Teaching in Houston...But First...

When I got the email from Jill Benge, education coordinator for Quilts, Inc., the host company for the International Quilt Festival — Houston, for short — I hesitated to open it. As Heather Pregger said in a recent lecture, sometimes you need a tough skin in the quilt world. She was talking about entering exhibitions but the same can be said for applying to teach at the big quilt shows.

I read the email several times. I will teach three classes and give two lectures in Houston this fall. Bucket list check off! More on that later. I like to lead off my newsletters with ramblings on quilting, not my teaching schedule. Thanks for indulging me this moment of celebration.

I'm once again contemplating the best way to arrange my quilting space. Watching how others set up spaces from tiny to huge can offer inspiration. You pick and chose ideas that will work for you. [Global Quilt Connection](#) is doing a series of studio visits with quilters across the country and world. I especially enjoyed "visiting" [Carol Wilhoit's studio](#). She has an incredible set up for photographing her quilts. Some emails back and forth with Carol, an order through [B&H Photo, Video, Audio](#) in New York City — my all-time favorite place for all things photography — and I'm equipped with better lighting and a laser system to ensure straight-on, level photos. Just arrived is a studio light box for shooting photos of small quilts, books and more.

How do you organize your sewing space? I remember times when I thought turning the walk-in closet in a one-bedroom apartment into a sewing "room" was luxury, a step up from the kitchen table. If there is one thing that improves virtually every quilter's output, it's finding a space where your machine can be set up ready to use at all times.

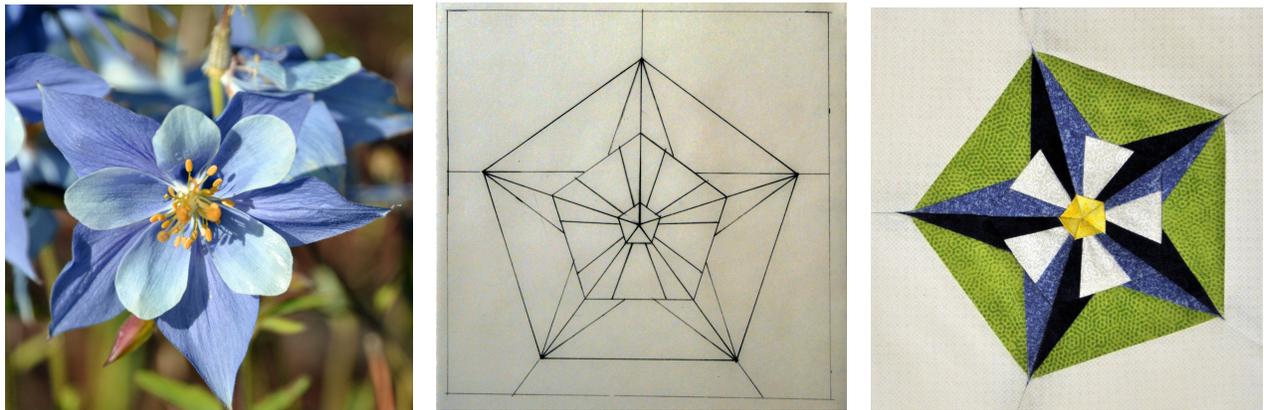
I have larger space now. I'm blessed with a view of Mount Thorodin, an endless source of inspiration and soul-restoring day dreaming. I remain challenged with having a place for everything and the need to change it up as my quilting style and tasks evolve. Send me your best ideas and I'll share them in an upcoming newsletter.

## **Classes, Classes and More Classes**

With guild teaching and speaking commitments light during the summer months, I'll make the most of the time to offer more open enrollment classes. What is an open enrollment class? It's a class I offer via Zoom for anyone anywhere who wants to sign up. So far, I've had students from across the United States, four Canadian provinces, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. This means interesting exchanges among class participants.

A benefit of open enrollment classes is offering them in multiple sessions with time between classes to use what is learned in each session. Participants complete more projects and really learn techniques. Three-hour classes with 10-minute breaks midway are perfect for optimal learning.

Here's my summer schedule. I hope you will sign up for one or more classes and let your quilt buds know what's available. I am willing to schedule a class if there are four people who want to take it. I set the time to work for them then I promote the class to others. If just one person is interested, I'm willing to set up a class and promote it in hopes there are at least three more people who will sign up. Every class listed here has at least one person enrolled and most have more than that.



Foundation-pieced Rocky Mountain blue columbine from photo to finished block by Dana Jones

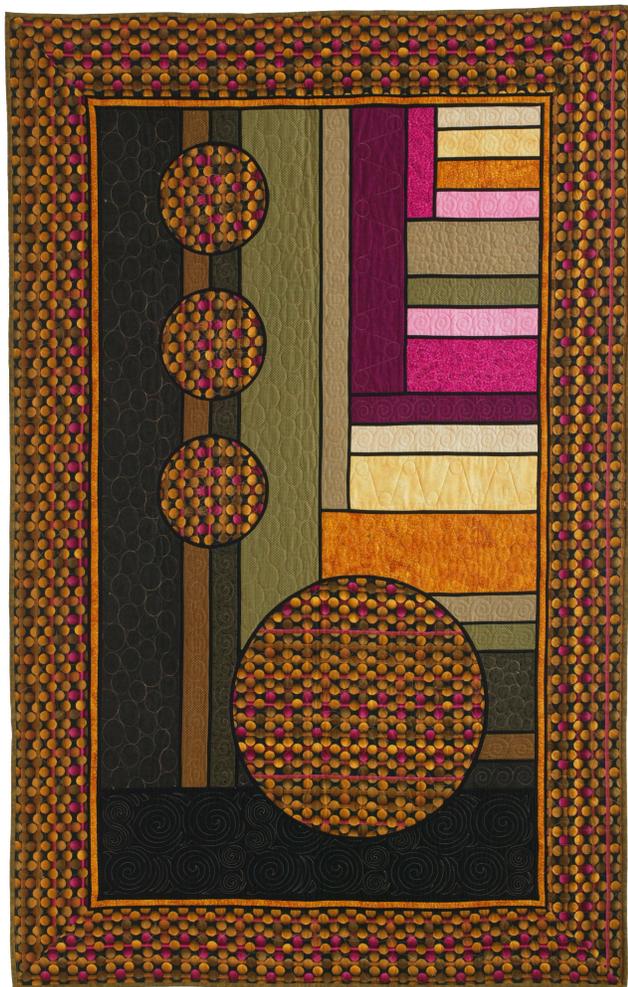
## **Demystifying Design for Foundation Piecing**

This is my top-draw class. I don't know anyone else who teaches quite what I offer. You'll learn to create foundations for everything from traditional blocks to pictorial quilts. You'll discover when foundation piecing is the best piecing process for you. You'll design a block and a small pictorial quilt working from a photo or drawing. You'll meet the Paper Police© in this class as you learn to:

- Determine the number of foundations needed,
- Create the appearance of curves with straight lines,
- Number foundations for piecing order,
- Label foundations and mark them for joining to other foundations, and
- Make templates for cutting patches for on-grain piecing.

Two sessions scheduled:

- 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (MDT) Thursdays, June 23 and 30, 2022
- 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (MDT) Thursdays, July 14 and 21, 2022



## Finding Your Design Sense

I'm really excited about this new class. If you're ready to design your own quilts but aren't sure where to start, this class will introduce you to the basics of design — balance, unity, variety, line, shape, value, color, pattern, texture and more — through in-class activities and at-home play projects between sessions. You'll learn what appeals to you toward developing your design style. In this class, you'll:

- Learn concepts of design you can use to design quilts and to adapt other people's designs;
- Be stretched to try new ideas, some that may push you to a new place and some that will affirm your ability as a designer; and
- Become confident that you can make quilts unique to you.

"Will It Go Round in Circles" by Dana Jones

The class will be four three-hour sessions spread over four months, allowing time between classes to use what you learn as you begin designing your own quilts.

12 hours in four 3-hour sessions

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 15, Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8, 2022

## **Peace Cranes Over Hiroshima**

Miki really wants to take this class so she needs you to sign up too. 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 from the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Experience with foundation piecing (machine paper piecing) is needed for success making this quilt. You’ll learn a lot about color value as value is key to creating this quilt’s sense of depth. The pattern and foundations for the quilt are included in the class fee.



I have a limited number of fabric kits for the six colors in the cranes available.

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesdays, July 6 and 13, 2022



## **Circle of Friends**

I designed “Circle of Friends” as a way of teaching Cheryl Phillips’ surprisingly simple technique for inseting circles using her Cut-a-Round tool. You’ll master inseting circles into blocks and circles into circles using just eight pins per circle no matter the size. You’ll make the first block for this quilt in a few hours, then the sky’s the limit on how many blocks you make from a table runner to a king-size quilt.

SPECIAL: 4-hour class: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, July 27, 2022



# International Quilt Festival Teaching and Speaking

November 1-6, 2022 • Houston, Texas

I'll teach three classes and give two lectures at International Quilt Festival in Houston in November. Here's my line-up:

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday, November 1

**Class: Demystifying Design for Foundation Piecing**

4-5 p.m. Wednesday, November 2

**Lecture: The International Honor Quilt: Women Remembering Women**

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday, November 3

**Class: Geese Over Manhattan**

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, November 4

**Class: Peace Cranes Over Hiroshima**

10-11 a.m. Saturday, November 5

**Lecture:**

**Indigo, Taupe and More: Japanese Fabric from Vintage to Contemporary**

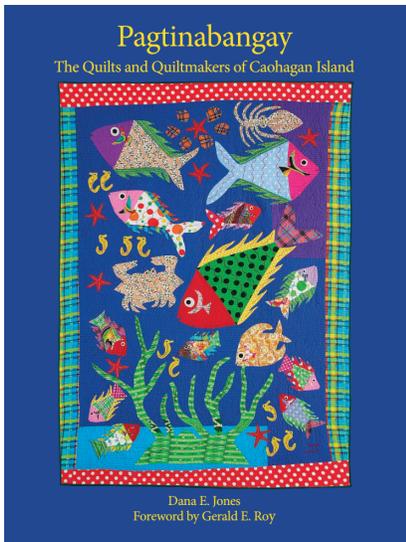
## Virtual Quilt Festival

I will give a lecture during Virtual Quilt Festival next month. I'll speak on "Pagtinabangay: The Quilts and Quiltmakers of Caohagan Island" from 1:30-2:20 p.m. Friday, June 17. [Register today.](#)

## Teaching and Speaking at AQS Grand Rapids

In August, I'll travel to Grand Rapids, Michigan, to speak and teach at the American Quilter's Society show. I'll give my lecture on "Pagtinabangay: The Quilts and Quiltmakers of Caohagan Island" from 11 a.m.-noon Friday, August 19, and teach "Demystifying Design for Foundation Piecing" from 1-4 p.m. the same day. If you'll attend the Grand Rapids show and/or International Quilt Festival, let me know. I'd love to meet up in person.





## Speaking and Teaching for Quilt Guilds

Since January, I've spoken and/or taught for close to two dozen U.S. and Canadian quilt guilds. It is always a good experience to see how members enjoy each other, support each other and reach out to their communities. The quilts they create are beautiful, sometimes funny and always made with love.

If you're part of a quilt group, I'd love to join you to speak or teach. I can do this on Zoom or in person. I may be coming your direction. You can check out [my calendar](#) on my website.

I've planned several road trips through the end of the year. If you're along my routes, I'd love to meet up for a meal or time with your guild. I'll be headed through Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, New York, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, New Mexico, Texas, Kentucky and more.

In March, I spent a day with the Fredericton Quilters Guild in Fredericton, New Brunswick. We are talking about the possibility that I will spend a month in their part of the world next summer meeting with guilds across New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and maybe Newfoundland. While I've been in much of western Canada, eastern Canada will be new for me. I'm so hoping this can be scheduled.

## Watch for Blogs Later this Month and into June

My precious camper, Emma, is getting a significant facelift — new door, shower head, shelves and overall tune up — as I prepare to head to Ohio for the Quilt & Surface Design Symposium where I'll do a seven-day independent study with Michael James and a five-day silk screen workshop with Pat Pauly. I'll be blogging as I drive and, as time allows, during my workshops. Watch for those posts beginning on or about May 26.



## Student Work That Makes My Heart Sing

As a teacher, my happiest moments are when those who take my classes send me photos of their work in progress and completed. Enjoy their work.

### Demystifying Design for Foundation Piecing

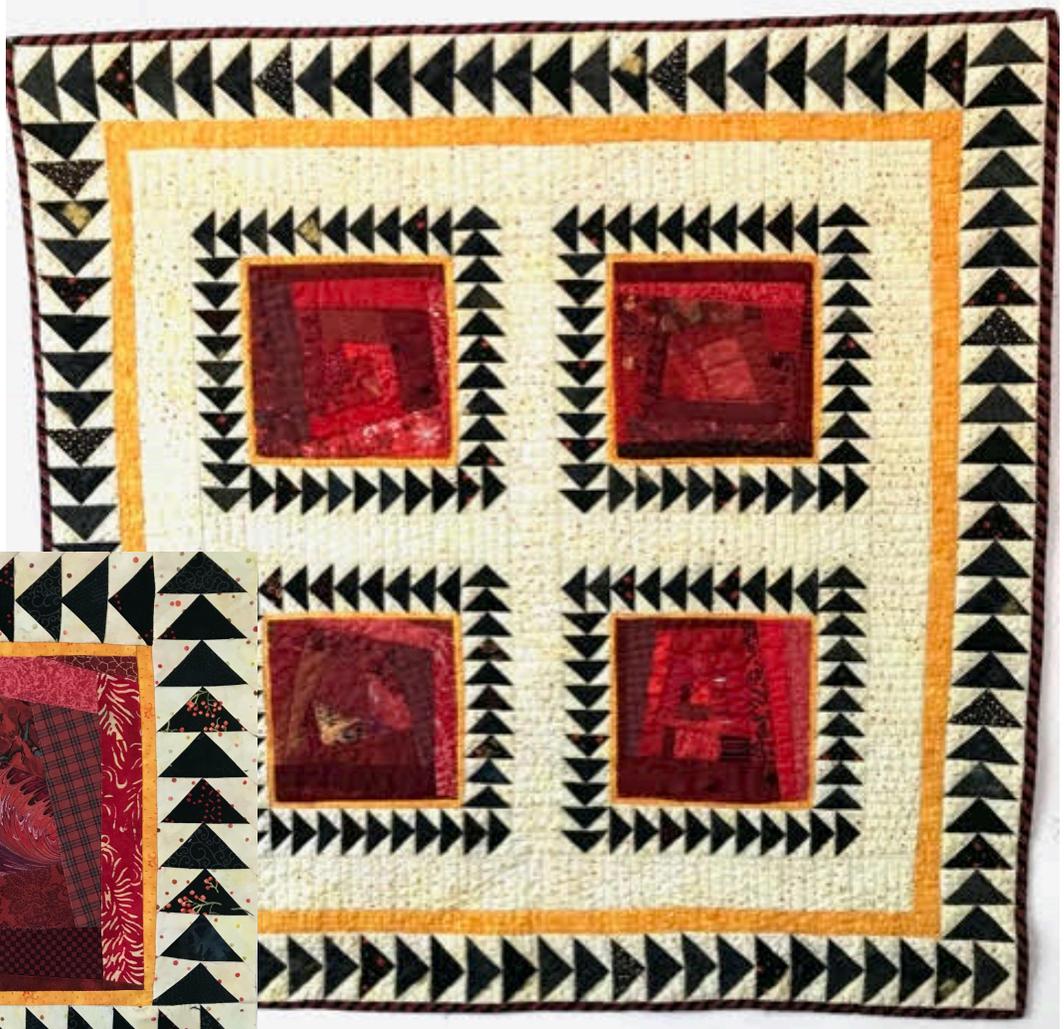


Clockwise from top left, "Tent" by Barbara Hacker; block by Jo Haraf; "Flower" by Maureen Hyslop; "Pegasus" by Peggy Natoli; "Family Home" by Vicki Zerfoss; and block by Sue Ewing, who gifted me her block. What a treat!

# Geese Over Manhattan



Above from left,  
"Geese Over Manhattan" blocks  
by Linda  
Borcherding  
Schissler and Jane  
Cochrane  
Duckworth.  
At right and below,  
block and quilt by  
Anne Toschi. All are  
members of the  
Quilt Guild of  
Asheville, North  
Carolina.



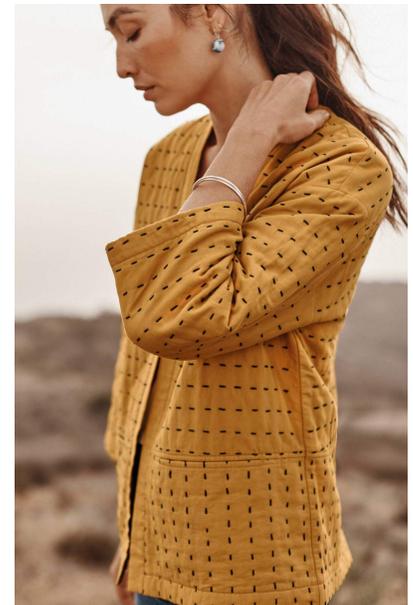
## Peace Cranes Over Hiroshima



At left, "Peace Cranes Over Hiroshima" quilt top by Angela Lawson Penney. Above, Gail Mitchell with her version of the same quilt, which now hangs in her family room. Both are members of Fredericton Quilters Guild in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. Gail blogged about her experience making the quilt. Check it out: <https://quilt-knit-run-sew.blogspot.com>

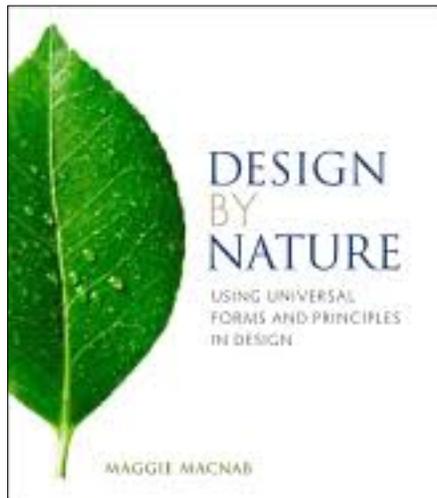
## Styling with J. Jill

When I opened a recent flyer from J. Jill, I was delighted to see quilted jackets featured. I love the blue jacket that includes patchwork and quilt stitching sure to grab attention. The large-stitch quilting on the gold jacket puts the thread work front and center. It's always fun to see the quilt and fashion worlds come together.



## Book Recommendations

First a few good reads I've discovered since my last newsletter. And then the list of recommended books from all of you. Thanks for sharing these! My recommendations are nonfiction. That's who I tend to be. But never fear. Many of you offered great fiction finds.

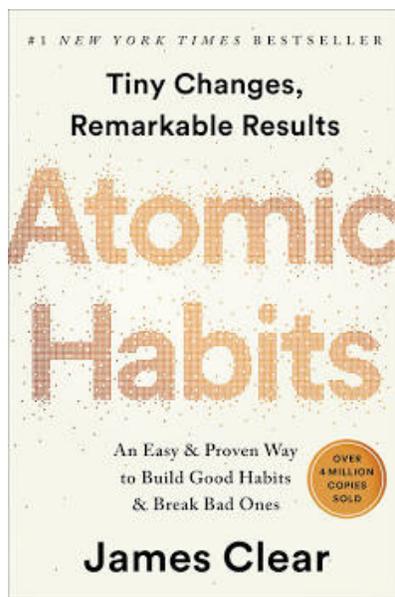


### **Design by Nature:**

**Using the Universal Forms and Principles in Design**

by Maggie Macnab, New Riders Publishing, 2012

Maggie Macnab, founder and owner of Maggie Macnab Creative in Santa Fe, New Mexico, says the truth and beauty of nature can guide us in design. While she is rooted in the world of graphic design, her concepts easily translate to quilt design. She opens readers' eyes to the colors, patterns, shapes, symmetry, asymmetry, and more found in the natural world noting nature will always find the most efficient design solutions. This is not a quick read but it's worth the effort and time, including time to do the exercises she offers.

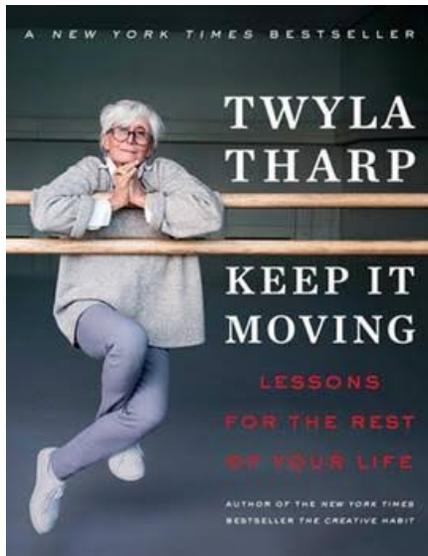


### **Atomic Habits: Tiny Changes, Remarkable Results**

**An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones**

by James Clear, Penguin Random House, 2018

I'm guessing some of you have read this *New York Times* bestseller since it's been out for awhile but James Clear is new to me. I'm taking a six-month class with [Maria Shell](#) called "Stitching Toward Discovery." She frequently shares wisdom from James Clear so I decided to check out his book. It's a quick read chocked with things to think about. It's proving helpful as I consider what is and isn't working for me as I build my art practice and my teaching and speaking business. So if you haven't discovered this gem, maybe it's time.

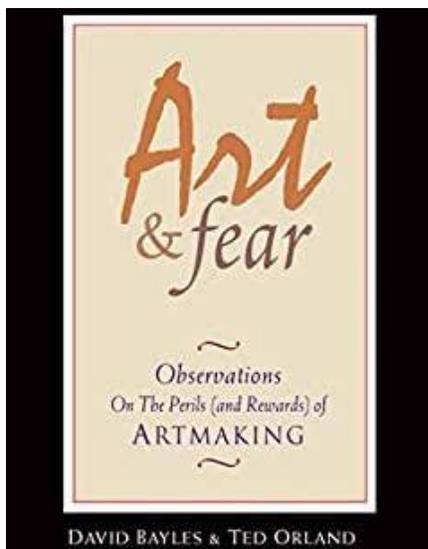


## Keep It Moving:

### Lessons for the Rest of Your Life

by Twyla Tharp, Simon & Schuster, 2019

I so appreciated Twyla Tharp's book *The Creative Habit* that I had to read this book also. Reading it on the heels of James Clear's book recommended above was perfect as she has different insights on habits especially related to those of us a bit older. While James Clear guides us in developing habits, Twyla Tharp suggests shaking things up a bit. These are perfect companions for where I am in life. Perhaps they will be for you too. She offers very doable physical activities — you don't have to have been a professional dancer to do these — that are designed to keep you moving. While quilting doesn't have the physical rigors of dance, it does tax our bodies so the exercises she offers are worth trying. They are easy to find even after you've finished the book as they are printed in boxes, one in each chapter.



## Art & Fear

### Observations on the Perils (and Rewards) of Artmaking

by David Bayles and Ted Orland, McNaughton & Gunn, Inc.

In a recent newsletter, quilter extraordinaire Jenny Lyons mentioned her need to read this book periodically. I didn't know it so decided to search it out. Glad I did. Meg Cox, quiltmaker and writer, recently posted the stages of creating on her Facebook page: 1) This is awesome. 2) This is tricky. 3) This is shit. 4) I am shit. 5) This might be okay. 6) This is awesome. Meg noted that she often works from No. 1-No. 5 but wasn't sure how often she makes it to No. 6. I'm guessing every maker reading Meg's post was shaking her/his/their head knowingly. David Bayles and Ted Orland have good advice rooted in experience that can keep us on track until we get to No. 6. They make it clear that making art is not magical; it's hard work. Jenny, I will be re-reading this book from time to time.

## Book Recommendations from Readers of My JustQuilts Blog

When I asked those of you who read my blog posts as I traveled to and from QuiltCon in Phoenix and the American Quilter's Society show in Daytona Beach earlier this year if you had books to recommend, many of you responded. Here are those recommendations.

- *Driving Miss Norma: One Family's Journey Saying "Yes" to Living* by Ramie Liddle and Tim Bauerschmidt
- *The Book of Lost Names* by Lisa Wingate
- Books about Anna Pigeon, a national park ranger, by Nevada Barr
- *Fox and I* by Catherine Raven
- *These Precious Days* by Ann Patchett (and anything by Ann Patchett)
- *Uncommon Type* by Tom Hanks
- *Leonardo da Vinci* by Walter Isaacson
- *Between Two Kingdoms* by Suieika Jaouad
- *About Grace* by Anthony Doerr (and anything by Anthony Doerr)
- Anything by Anne Tyler or Fannie Flag
- Mystery writers to look for: Elizabeth George, Louise Penny, John Grisham, Michael Connelly, Ann Cleeves
- *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towle (and anything by Amor Towle)
- Threads West series by Reid Lance Rosenthal
- *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins
- *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer



### Down Under With Lisa Walton

I first met Australian art quilter Lisa Walton when I was working for *Quilters Newsletter*. She was named the Jewel Pearce Patterson scholar and outstanding teacher in 2010. Outstanding teacher defines Lisa. Now with the power of Zoom, you can study with her through her live and on-demand classes, which are prerecorded classes you can take at times most convenient for you.

Check out what she has to offer: <https://lisawaltonartist.com/workshops/> or <https://lisawalton.podia.com>.