



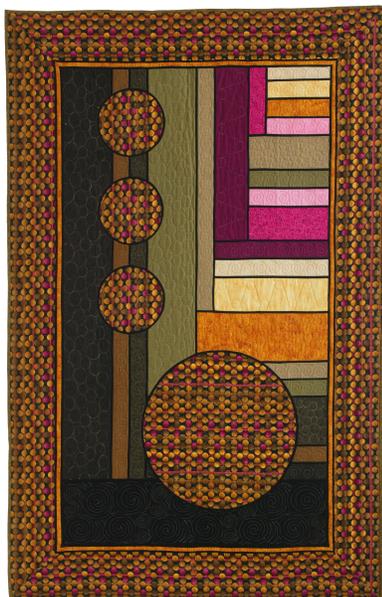
Just Quilts

December 2021 by Dana Jones • www.danajonesquilts.com

Out of Control

I'm a recovering control freak. This week I was reminded recovery has been and is a lifetime pursuit. I stopped by our local grocery store to pick up copies of our local newspaper. They were running an article about my quilt business as part of the paper's initiative to feature local entrepreneurs.

They devoted most of a page to the article and four full-color photos. Wow! Then I realized my "Peace Cranes Over Hiroshima" quilt had been turned on its side. My first thought was, "Oh no." Then I stepped back and decided to claim my first reaction — delight because they gave me a full page. It will be fun to see if anyone notices the cranes are stunt pilots.



From left, "Will It Go Round in Circles" by Dana Jones, pattern in *Quilters Newsletter* and quilt by a QN reader who won an award at a statewide quilt show.

It wasn't the first time one of my quilts appeared in print positioned wrong. When *Quilters Newsletter* ran the pattern for my "Will It Go Round in Circles" design, the photograph was upside down. The drawing of how to put the quilt together was correct so I hoped those who made the quilt would follow that. Some months later, a reader sent a photo of her version of the quilt that had won a statewide award. She'd won best of show hanging the quilt upside down.



Blocks made by Dana Jones in Maria Shell's "Riffing on Tradition" class.

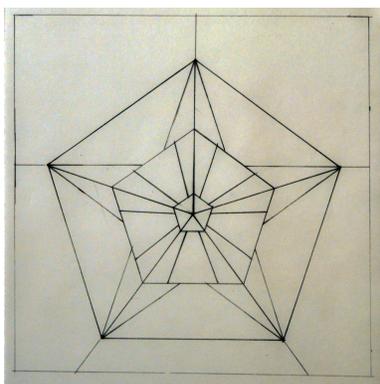
As a quilter, my journey includes learning what I can't control and celebrating unexpected results —sometimes improvements — on what I'd planned. Improv quilting is such a celebration. If you haven't tried improv and are sure it's not your thing, I encourage you to step out of your comfort zone. Sign up for a class with any one of the great teachers who will show you how to enjoy quilting when you don't know where you're going. Two I appreciate are Cindy Grisdela and Maria Shell, who calls her process "controlled improv." Now that appeals to me.



If you like my “Peace Cranes Over Hiroshima” quilt, now is the time to sign up for my open enrollment class to make your own version. The class will meet on Zoom from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mountain Standard Time Saturdays, February 5 and 12, 2022. You can hang it as I intended or however you or your local newspaper wishes. If you’re a Coloradan or want to visit our colorful state, I will also be teaching it from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. MST, Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at Sew in Tune quilt shop in Monument, Colorado. To sign up, contact the shop, 719-203-5642.

“Peace Cranes Over Hiroshima”
by Dana Jones©

If you want to stay in control, my “Demystifying Design for Foundation Piecing” could be your cup of tea. I will offer it via Zoom from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. MST Thursdays, January 20 and 27, 2022. Sign up on my website. I’ll also be teaching this workshop at Sew in Tune (719-202-5642) Monday, January 31, 2022, and a three-hour version at the AQS show in Daytona Beach Wednesday, February 23, 2022. Register through AQS Quilt Week.



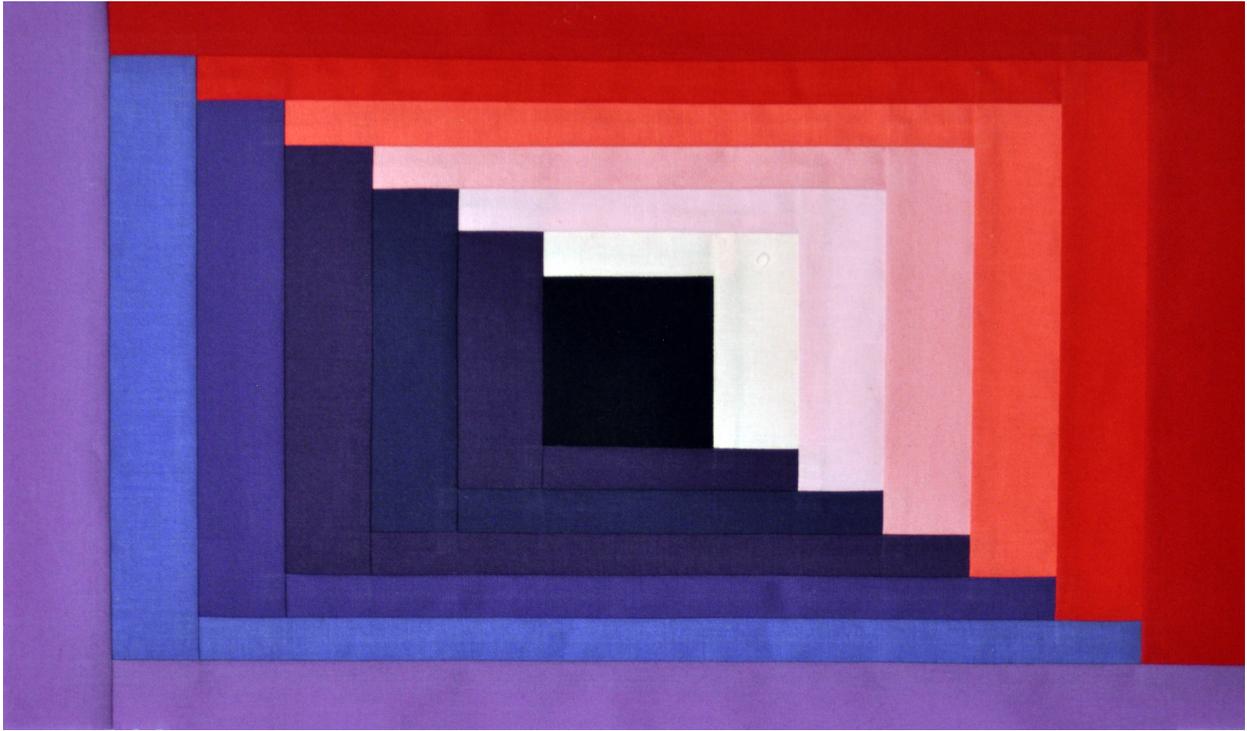
“Demystifying Design for Foundation Piecing” takes you from photo to block or quilt.



What I'm Learning

I just graduated from Bernina's Presser Feet 101 and 102 workshops. It was 12 hours of class — three hours a day for four days straight — and worth every minute. If you're a Bernina user, I highly recommend these workshops. I can't be responsible for how much you spend at your Bernina dealer after class. I was fortunate that all presser feet are 25 percent off this month.

I'm just beginning to tackle my Bernina Q20 long arm. I have the sit-down model. I've had difficulty learning to quilt because of vision challenges. I have great hopes the Q20 is designed in such a way that I can learn. It will take time and practice, and I'm committed to both as 2021 closes and 2022 arrives.



Warped log-cabin block by Dana Jones©

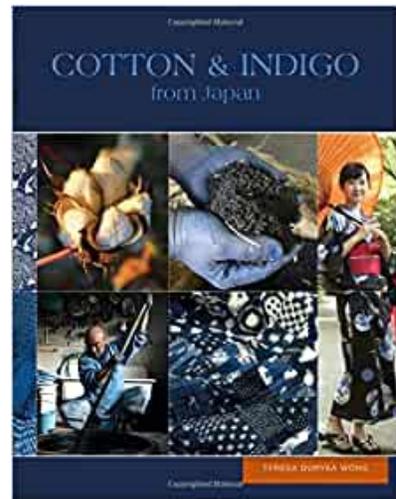
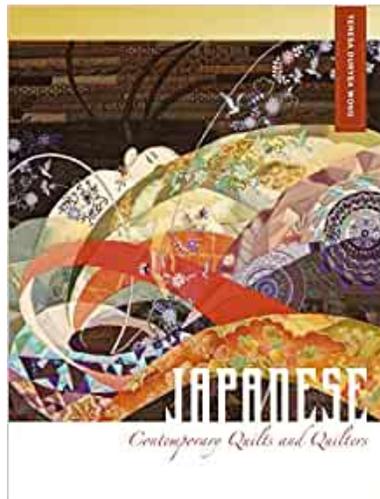
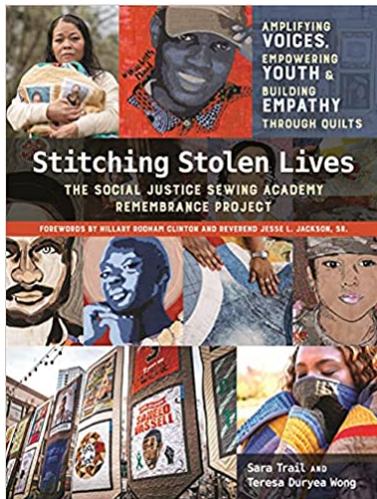
Quilts in Progress

I always have multiple quilts in progress. Right now, I have four to bind, two that need borders and a half dozen I'm piecing. I'm anxious to finish a warped log-cabin quilt I started some time ago, and later today, I plan to cut out pieces for a class sample for a workshop I'll teach at the Stitchin' Den in Estes Park, Colorado, later this year. The fabric — "Warehouse District" by Leslie Tucker Jenison for Robert Kaufman — is gorgeous. More on that class as the quilt comes together and a date is scheduled.

I'm making another version of my "Peace Cranes Over Hiroshima." I'm reworking the pattern so this is a first step. Once the new pattern is done, I plan to create the quilt in Cherrywood fabrics.



"Warehouse District" fabric collection



Books to Read

I'll attend Quilt Con for the first time in February 2022. In preparation, I picked up books by several key people in the Modern Quilt Guild community: Sara Trail and Teresa Duryea Wong. My first read was *Stitching Stolen Lives: The Social Justice Sewing Academy Remembrance Project* (C&T Publishing, 2021). It's co-authored by Sara and Teresa, who are donating 100 percent of the royalties from the sale of the book to the academy, which is rooted in empowering individuals to see art as a form of activism and resistance. The stories and photos are powerful.

During a recent stop at the International Quilt Museum in Lincoln, Nebraska, I picked up two books by Teresa: *Japanese Contemporary Quilts and Quilters: The Story of an American Import* (Schiffer Publishing, 2015) and *Cotton and Indigo from Japan* (Schiffer Publishing, 2017). Both are beautiful publications filled with images of amazing quilts and information on Japanese quilters and the fabrics they use. I enjoyed reading about several Japanese quilters I've interviewed. Photos of their shops reminded me of my visits to them. The book introduced me to additional talented Japanese quilters. The information in *Cotton and Indigo* dovetails nicely with what I share in my lecture "Indigo, Taupe and More: Japanese Fabrics from Vintage to Contemporary," and provides information new to me about quilters who use antique kimono fabric in their quilts. When folks ask me about use of kimono fabric, I'll refer them to this book.