



Parts and pieces of a columbine design from summer 2021 class with Jane Sassaman by Dana Jones

# Just Quilts

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

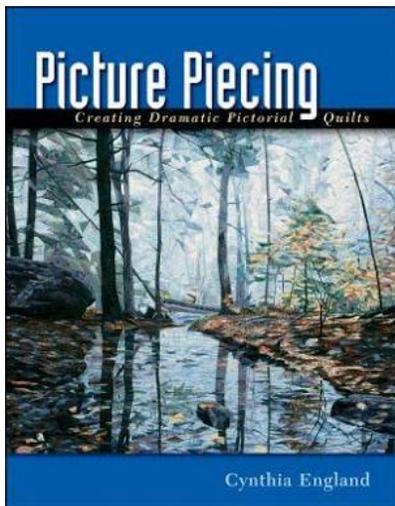
## Classes, Classes and More Classes

Working in a Cynthia England class at the International Quilt Festival in Houston recently, I realized how often my roles as quilt teacher and student intersect. I love machine foundation paper piecing. If there's a way to foundation piece a quilt, I will

find it. I'm always on the lookout for books, tools and ideas to enhance my foundation-piecing design skills. Taking a class with Cynthia toward that purpose had never been on my to-do list. I love her quilts and admire her design skills but didn't think her methods were in line with my quest to excel in foundation-piecing design. This thinking came from knowing Cynthia's method is not foundation piecing.

I'd learned that when I was on the road a few years back hopping from city to city and state to state telling the story of the quilts and quiltmakers of Caohagan Island. One stop in that journey was an American Quilters Society (AQS) show in Daytona Beach, Florida, where Cynthia had a booth next to mine. For four days, I eavesdropped — you really can't do otherwise at a crowded quilt show — as she explained and demonstrated her picture-piecing method. "It's not paper piecing," she said often.

I enrolled in her class at Houston because a friend I planned to attend with had it as one of her top picks. When my friend couldn't come to Houston, I decided to hang onto the registration. Cynthia's classes always sell out, and I was lucky to have a seat.



I've had her book *Picture Piecing: Creating Dramatic Pictorial Quilts* since soon after it came out but I'd never really read it closely enough to find the gem I found in the class. As I was working with her picture-piecing method, I realized more clearly than ever the key to success in foundation-piecing design: Divide the image into sections — manageable sections — then work methodically through each section, creating more sections as needed.

I need to be clear. Cynthia's method is not foundation piecing. You never sew on the paper. She's developed numerous techniques that are uniquely hers that do not translate to foundation piecing. Take a class with her; you'll be glad you did. Several elements of her design process are applicable to foundation-piecing design. Working with her "Waterfall" pattern proved an enjoyable and inspiring day that undergirded key concepts I teach in my "Demystifying Design for Foundation Piecing" class.

I take classes for such moments. I hope when I teach that those taking my classes experience such inspiration. My early 2022 teaching schedule is in this newsletter so please keep reading. I've scheduled three open-enrollment classes in January and February. More on that later. First I want to tell you about what I have planned as quilt student from now through the first half of next year. I've selected three key teachers for the journey:

- Wafa Ghaim of Tatreez and Tea

Wafa, a Palestinian-American artist, researcher, writer, educator and businesswoman, began learning Palestinian embroidery from her mother when she was two years old. I'm enrolled in her "Village Series Thobe" workshop in which we're learning traditional embroidery styles from multiple Palestinian towns. Her website: <https://www.tatreezandtea.com>. I discovered her classes while browsing the offerings of Tatter in Brooklyn, NY: <https://www.tatter.org/mission>.

- Maria Shell

Maria is an award-winning Alaska-based quilt artist whose teaching is rooted in art practice. Her work is firmly grounded in the craft of quilting, a craft she elevates to new levels using techniques and processes she has developed by combining a fascinating mix of improvisation and structure. I'll take her six-month workshop, "Stitching Towards Discovery: Finding Your Voice" starting in January 2022. Her website: <https://talesofastitcher.com>.

- Michael James

I'll do an independent study with Michael next summer through the Quilt & Surface Design Symposium: <https://www.qsds.com/aboutclasses.html>. Michael, a leader in the art-quilt movement of the 1970s and 80s and since and a professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, works closely with the International Quilt Museum and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the areas of foundation design, textile design and quilt studies.

In addition to the class with Cynthia, I took classes in Houston with Jenny Lyons (free-motion quilting, <https://quiltskipper.com>); Nina Clotfelter (ruler work, <https://www.ninaquilts.com>); and Janelle Girod (Inktense pencils on fabric, <https://www.fiberonawhim.com>). Three great classes. Three great teachers.

I have a full learning schedule into the summer. I don't know where I'll be this time next year as a quilter but I know I will be trying new things. I'll have learned new techniques, and my ideas about all things quilting will have evolved. What will you learn as a quilter or a maker in 2022? I'd love to hear your plans.



Foundation-pieced blocks designed and made by Dana Jones

## Sign-Up for Open Enrollment Classes Under Way

Enrollment is open for three classes I will teach via Zoom in early 2022. All classes will be recorded with recordings available to registered students for four weeks following the final session of the class. One-on-one assistance is available after the completion of classes because I want you to finish your projects. I want you to succeed. To register: <https://www.danajonesquilts.com/book-online>

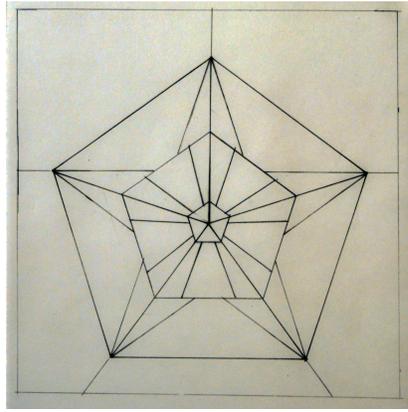


"Radiance" Table Runner: Center blocks design by Carol Doak from her book *300 Paper-Pieced Quilt Blocks*, page 182. Setting and border design by Dana Jones.

### Machine Foundation (Paper) Piecing 101

Extreme angles, perfectly matched points, fun images of animals and flowers, and more, much more, are all easy to do with machine foundation piecing. You'll learn the basics of this versatile and precise technique as you create blocks and a pieced border for a quick-to-make table runner. It's as simple as sewing on the lines. The pattern for the table runner comes with the class fee.

10 a.m.-1 p.m. (MST) Thursdays, January 6 and 13, 2022  
\$60 including pattern



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

## Demystifying Design for Foundation Piecing

This may be my favorite class to teach because 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/or a small pictorial quilt working from a photo or drawing. 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.

10 a.m.-1 p.m. (MST) Thursdays, January 20 and 27, 2022  
\$75

## Peace Cranes Over Hiroshima

This is my most popular class. 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 three-dimensional look. The pattern and foundations for the quilt are included in the class fee.

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, February 5 and 12, 2022  
\$75 including the pattern and foundations



## Student Work That Makes My Heart Sing

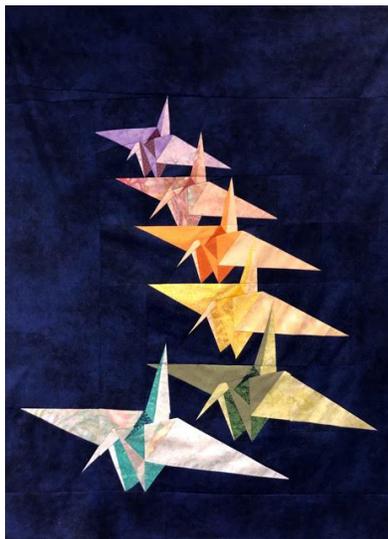
As a teacher, my happiest moments are when those who take my classes send me photos of their work in progress and completed. Enjoy their work.



Above, Iris by Barbara Skimin



At left, Kingfisher by Linda Billard. Above, Linda turned the block she designed in “Demystifying Design for Foundation Piecing” into a pillow to coordinate with the quilt she made for her



Top from left, “Peace Cranes Over Hiroshima” by Janet Bozzone, Margie Wandel and Maria Eyckmans. At left from left, quilts by Lynea Schulz-Ela and Laural Hoppes.

## Quilt Shop Shout Outs

When road tripping, I like to search out quilt shops. Besides having unexpected must-have treasures, they have the cleanest bathrooms. This fall, I traveled with my much-loved R-Pod, Emma, to Mahomet, Illinois, and then to Houston, Texas. Along the way, I found several shops worth sharing.



### Wagner's Quilts and Conversation Arapahoe, Nebraska

Conversation is more than a name for this shop. As I headed in, I was greeted by Ruth who is the senior half of the mother-daughter team that own the shop. Gretchen helped me once I was inside. On their website, they say: "The Conversation part of our name provides what every quilter needs at some point —



a shoulder to lean on. Whether it is help with a current quilting project or learning a new technique, there is always someone ready to lend an ear, or a hand, or offer a class or two!" Worth the stop:

<https://www.wagnersquiltsandconversation.com>



### Fabrics to Die For at Leo9 Textiles, Smithville, Texas

Meeting the president of the Smithville, Texas, quilt guild led me to this shop that features fabrics from around the world tucked into an unexpected space along a residential street.

<https://www.leo9textiles.com>

## My “Hometown” Shops

When you live in a rural mountain community as I do, you don't have a nearby quilt shop. That leaves you free to claim any hometown — read home state — shops you frequent. Here are three I want to share.



### **Sew-in-Tune, Monument, Colorado**

I just finished three days of teaching here. Super friendly shop, great students in my two sessions of “Demystifying Design for Foundation Piecing” and one session of “Geese Over Manhattan.” I didn't teach these kids but I think this photo shows the shop spirit.

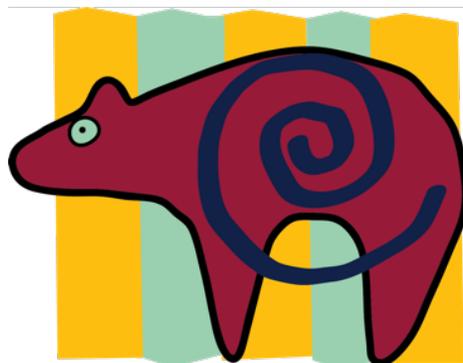
<http://www.sewintuneservicing.com>

### **Stitchin' Den, Estes Park, Colorado**

You may know Estes Park as the eastern portal to Rocky Mountain National Park. Now you know it also is home to the Stitchin' Den, a quilt and yarn shop. On the quilt side, they specialize in wilderness fabrics. You'll find gorgeous batiks featuring Colorado's wild residents, including a special fabric made just for the shop. I'm just starting work on the class sample for the next class I'll teach there, date still to be set.

<https://thestitchinden.com>

### **The Stitchin' Den**



*Fine Selection of Knitting,  
Quilting & Needlework Supplies*



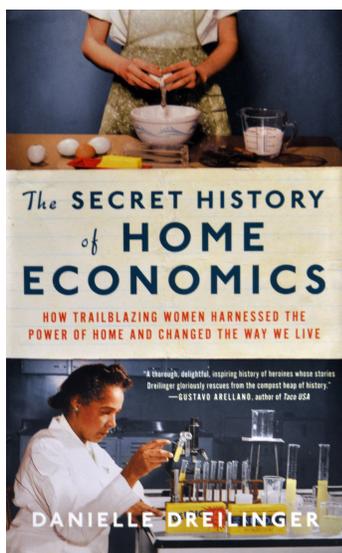
### **Wooden Spools, Englewood, Colorado**

Love Cherrywood fabrics? I'm addicted so I'm more than excited that this shop has become the first shop in the country to carry the full line of these 200 hand-dyed fabrics. Last month the shop hosted Karla Overland, Cherrywood owner, for a play day. We learned a lot about Cherrywood though Karla didn't reveal the company's secret that results in cotton that looks like suede.

<https://www.woodenspools.com>

## Book Recommendations

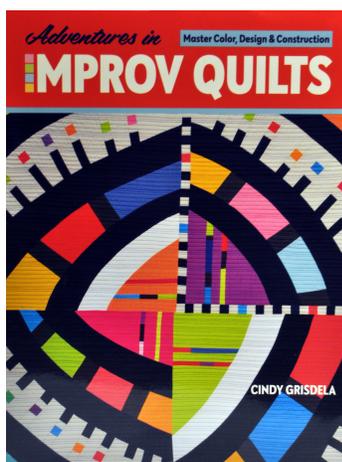
Reading time has become more precious as my speaking and teaching schedule has filled up — I'm not complaining — but I squeezed in a few good reads to recommend.



### **The Secret History of Home Economics: How Trailblazing Women Harnessed the Power of Home and Changed the Way We Live**

by Danielle Dreilinger, W.W. Norton & Company, 2021

Are you hearing folks say we need to re-introduce home ec into our schools? This well-researched book looks back to when home economics was a respected profession through which women could engage science in the most useful of ways. It chronicles the parallel development of home economics within Black and white institutions. Check out my blog for more on this book. <https://www.danajonesquilts.com/post/tears-over-breakfast>

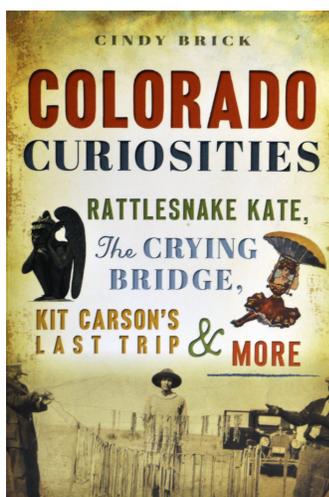


### **Adventures in Improv Quilts:**

**Master Color, Design & Constructions**

by Cindy Grisdela, C&T Publishing, 2021

Cindy's guided exercises will help you master three improvisational styles to create art original to you. These include using one repeating unit, creating multiple block units, and free cutting and sewing. Her techniques section will teach you easy multiple-cut curves, controlled log-cabin puzzle style and freehand curves. And she shows you how to add texture with quilting.



### **Colorado Curiosities:**

**Rattlesnake Kate, The Crying Bridge,  
Kit Carson's Last Trip & More**

by Cindy Brick, The History Press, 2021

This is not a quilt book. It is written by a quilter and quilt appraiser well known here in Colorado and far beyond. Cindy is someone I call friend so I had to tell you about her latest book. If you're a Coloradan or love to travel to our colorful state, this is a fun and occasionally spooky read filled with glimpses of life as it was in the Wild West.

## A Few More Items of Note

### I'm Teaching at AQS, Daytona Beach!

I can finally announce the specifics of what I'll speak and teach on at this show February 23-26, 2022. I'll do a short version of my "Demystifying Design for Foundation Piecing" class and will deliver two lectures: "Pagtinabangay: The Quilts and Quiltmakers of Caohagan Island" and "Indigo, Taupe, and More: Japanese Fabrics from Vintage to Contemporary." I'm on the faculty with friends, mentors and teachers I respect so much. I'm thrilled to be part of this event. Registration for AQS members

begins Tuesday, November 16 and for non members Tuesday, November 30. If you're in or near Florida or just need to get away mid-winter to warmer climes, check it out. I'd love to see you in class, a lecture or just around the vendor hall. Let me know if you'll be there. <https://www.americanquilter.com/quiltweek/event/workshops/eventid/20>



The graphic features a beach scene with lounge chairs and an umbrella. Text includes: "AQS QuiltWeek DAYTONA BEACH February 23-26, 2022", "QUILT SHOW INSTRUCTORS ANNOUNCED", "Dana JONES", "NATIONAL BRAND PARTNERS JANOME Gammill", and "Reliability by Design". A circular portrait of Dana Jones is also included.



### Serious Cherrywood Addict

Just to repeat, I'm a Cherrywood addict. So when they introduced their swatch box this fall, I fell in love. I'm already selecting fabrics from this super swatch set with all 200 colors. <https://cherrywoodfabrics.com>



### Holiday Shopping Destination

If you're searching for a creative, unique place for handmade holiday gifts, my friend Rachel Wallis has the answer. Check out her Etsy shop: [moneycity.etsy.com](https://moneycity.etsy.com)

## Familiar Faces, Shop Featured in Popular Magazine

I like to check out each issue of *Better Homes & Gardens Quilt Sampler*. What a surprise when I picked up the Spring/Summer 2021 issue and found Stitch, a shop in Durango, Colorado, where I've spoken and taught, featured.



I especially enjoyed this photo of co-owner LeeAnn Vallejos, left, with friend Linda Mount, who works at the shop and introduced me to it.



**Dana E. Jones**  
<https://www.danajonesquilts.com>



Check out my newest blog post, the video I made for the Global Quilt Connection:  
<https://www.danajonesquilts.com/post/global-quilt-connection-round-2>

**Thanks for reading. Be in touch!**  
**Dana**

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