



Just Quilts

April 2021 by Dana Jones www.danajonesquilts.com

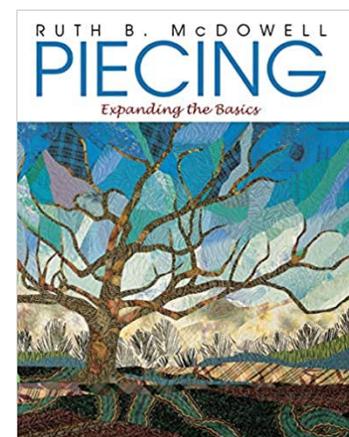
Welcome!

Welcome aboard as I launch my online presence in the quilt world. I once interviewed Ruth McDowell, iconic quilter who made her mark with her intricate landscapes and scenes of life. She explained how she'd carved out her career in quilting in part by trial and error learning what she did and didn't enjoy doing and what helped her earn a living doing what she did love. Over time, she discovered she loved making quilts and could sell hers for a good return compared to most quilters. She needed to complement those efforts toward supporting herself more fully. She landed on writing books and teaching to the joy of other quilters. She found her perfect mix of making, writing and teaching.

I've been trying many things quilting for a while now in my search for my perfect mix. I've edited magazines and patterns, written articles and a book, lectured for quilt guilds, taught for guilds and shops, and designed and made quilts. I've learned I love to design and teach. Writing and editing stories has long been my profession as a journalist so I bring that to my life as a quilter.

My journey to find my quilting niche continues. Thanks for joining that journey with me. I'd love your comments on what you enjoy in what I share, and I welcome your thoughts as we talk together about all things quilting in this space and in my other social media spaces.

Welcome! Dana





My Newest Creations

I took four quilts to long-arm genius Rita Meyerhoff last week:

- Top left, *Diamond Comfort*, my design made with one large foundation.
- Just below diamond, a block from the Colorado Quilting Council's 2021 mystery quilt, *Log Cabin Fever*, which I designed.
- Top right, *Patchwork City*, design by Elizabeth Hartman. I'll be teaching this for Holly's Quilt Cabin in Centennial, Colorado, via Zoom from 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, June 5, 12, 19 and 26, and July 10. Registration through the shop; link to come
- Just above, *Charley's Birds* bed runner, my design, features birds fussy cut from Charley Harper-inspired fabrics by Birch Organic Fabrics. Class to be scheduled later this year at the Stitchin' Den in Estes Park, Colorado.



In Gina's Footsteps, Dana Jones, 2008

On Exhibition

My quilt, *In Gina's Footsteps*, is on exhibition at the Texas Quilt Museum in LaGrange, Texas, as part of the American Quilt Study Group's (AQSG) 2018 quilt study exhibition, "Inspired by 200 Years of Solid-Color Quilts 1800-2000." What a thrill!

My inspiration quilt, *Flood of Colors* by Gina Abayan of Caohagan Island and made in 2000, came in just under the date wire of quilts that could be selected as inspiration. Every other year, AQSG issues a challenge to members to promote quilt study by creating quilts along a theme and within a size range. Quilters can create an exact replica, a partial reproduction or a new work inspired by the vintage piece. I chose to replicate Gina's work but smaller.

You can learn more about my quilt in the exhibition book, *Years of Solid Color Quilts: A Quilt Study*, (American Quilt Study Group, 2019). I was so honored when it was selected as one of five quilts pictured on the book's cover.



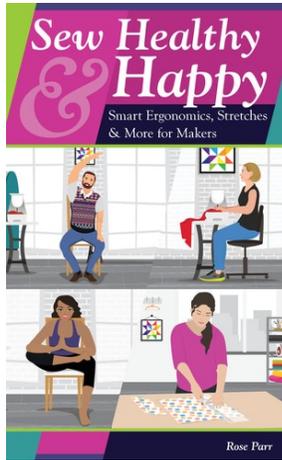
I'm an All-Star

I've been chosen as one of 18 teachers who will present during Global Quilt Connection's May 22-23 All Star Virtual Sampler Platter extravaganza. Each of us will have 15 minutes to show how we teach virtually by actually teaching a portion of a class. I'll present my favorite class: Demystifying Design for Foundation Piecing. I'll present Saturday, May 22 at a time to still be announced.

Check out my website for more on this class. I'd love to teach it for your quilt group:
<https://www.danajonesquilts.com/technique-classes>.

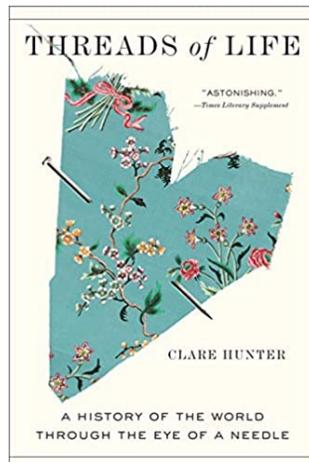
Book Recommendations

The blogs and newsletters I most enjoy share book recommendations so I'm borrowing a good idea. Three new additions to my bookshelf:



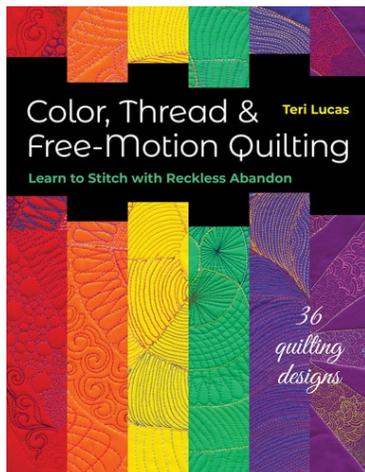
Sew Healthy & Happy:
Smart Ergonomics, Stretches & More for Makers
by Rose Parr (C&T Publishing, 2021)

Rose spoke to Colorado Quilting Council in February. She and her book are a wealth of ideas that will help all of us who quilt enjoy what we do longer with less or no pain. This is 80 pages of tips and illustrations on how to love our bodies as we create. The book even includes recipes, most of edible goodies but in the section on avocados, you'll find a recipe for a face mask that is yummy for your skin.



Threads of Life:
A History of the World Through the Eye of a Needle
by Clare Hunter (Abrams Press, 2020)

This book is an inspiring, sometimes joyful, sometimes troubling journey through time with stitchers including embroiderers, quilters and banner makers. Woven throughout is the author's commitment to justice for all and a deep understanding of the persistence of sexism only superseded by women's persistence to have a voice.

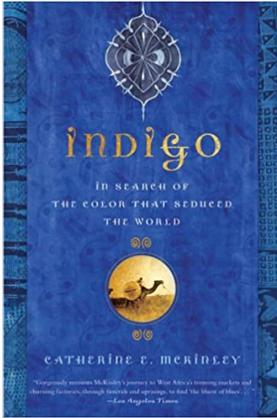


Color, Thread & Free-Motion Quilting:
Learn to Stitch With Reckless Abandon
by Teri Lucas (C&T Publishing, 2020)

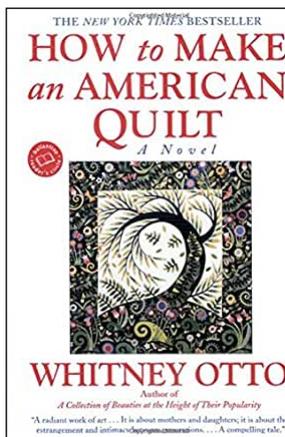
Teri and I once worked at the same fabric store. She'd bring in pieces of cloth with the most amazing quilting on them. I'd think, where is she going with this? Now the world knows. The chart on Thread Weight and Needle Sizes, page 70, and the section on Machine Quilting Rules and Reminders, pages 81 and 82, are worth the price of the book but there is much more. Get a copy then start stitching your own impractical color wheels.

What I'm Reading Now

These are books I'm reading. No comments on them yet. What are you reading? Let me know. I'd love to share it with others and pick it up myself.



Indigo: In Search of the Color That Seduced the World
by Catherine E. McKinley (Bloomsbury, USA, 2011)



How to Make an American Quilt: A Novel
by Whitney Otto (Ballantine Book, Random House, 1991)

An oldie that I've never read. Decided it was time. Movie next?

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 got 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.

To Read More from Dana Jones Quilts

If you've enjoyed this newsletter, go to my home page and subscribe if you haven't already. I'm sending the first few issues of this *Just Quilts* newsletter to a list of folks I think may be interested plus, of course, those of you have subscribed — thanks. I will be paring down the list to just subscribers in the future. If you do not wish to receive the May issue, drop me an email, and I'll remove your address right away. If you want to continue to receive my monthly newsletter, please go to my home page and subscribe: <https://www.danajonesquilts.com>.

To see more of my quick-take reads on quilting, including shout outs to other quilters and their amazing work, check out my blog posts. I write a new one most Mondays. They're calculate to take just a few minutes to read and are chocked full of images: <https://www.danajonesquilts.com/blog-1>. I'd love to have you follow my blog and start conversations with others who are following my posts.