

# The Elly Sienkiewicz Applique Academy® llc



**Learn Something New!  
Improve Your Appliqué Skills!**

September, 2011

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Dear Friends- both met, and not-yet-met,

WARM GREETINGS ... and many more days of perfect summer weather to you!

Hot where you are? Imagine stepping-out in antebellum Baltimore's heat, humidity, and constricting high-fashion! Once, eyeing a collection of mid-19th century cotton housecoats, their comfort was not lost on me: full-skirted, waist-less, front-buttoning, ankle-length. I envied their generous yardage of the most elegant antebellum ombré-style prints, amply ornamented with eye-catching "Baltimore Blue." Might the Good Ladies of Baltimore have stitched in these, at home in the good light of a morning? Ah, loose cotton's relief from the era's laced-in formal styles! Are you and I not blessed by comfortable styles ... and air conditioning?

Having acknowledged creature comforts, I find myself smiling at this moment, grateful for the blessings of "perfect days of summer" in all their floral-perfumed heat and blue-sky'ed glory; and for the blessing of home's embrace in July downpours when lightening splits the skies and thunder claps shake the Earth. Gratitude shines forth from the antebellum Baltimores we love. It uplifts us. Perhaps gratitude becomes habit? Though their makers' lives were surely harder than ours, we read "gratitude" ever more clearly, even as we come to know these quilts better. That's quite a legacy to follow!



Summer Pauses: Then & Now: A corseted beauty with a soda pop . . . & Elly writing this TESAA's Visit, in a man's loose shirt - under a beach umbrella! As Bette wrote, two List Letters ago of her new home in CA's mountains, "Yes, I know how lucky I am!"

## Academy News

Our TESAA announcement has always been just for you, first ... and always will be. So with this TESAA List-Visit Letter, Bette and I are delighted to remind you that the Elly Sienkiewicz Appliqué Academy® 2012 brochure is now up on our website. For our friends - both you who follow our List Visit, you "Academicians" who have attended, and you first-

timers whom we'll welcome with open arms in 2012 - you each understand that the Academy is an ever-growing and changing family, a wondrously welcoming gathering of like-minded quilters, come to learn, stitch, and share in friendship together. Not only is our 10-strong Appliqué faculty superbly skilled - but they are all about you. More on that further on.

**What: The Appliqué Academy 2012**

**When: February 9 - 12, 2012**

**Where: Williamsburg VA**

**Link to The Appliqué Academy:** [www.ellysienkiewicz.com](http://www.ellysienkiewicz.com)

## **WHY TESAA?**

*Collective thought is powerful! When like-interested talent shares and learns together, we are as though in an appliqué hothouse: Creativity abounds! Time to relax invites ideas to germinate: A 2-hour lunch break allows a stroll through beautiful Williamsburg, VA with its boutiques and good eats. (We're right in town!) Sometimes a surprise back at our desk welcomes our classroom return! Catered festivities follow class - great food and "girlish" festivities like the gala tea: "Our Mothers' Hats". Don Hancock, our gentleman stitcher this year, joined the fun, dressing with gallant formality for tea. Evenings, most years, before returning to classrooms to sew, you'll enjoy "Dessert and Theater" - the hilarious skits written by Bette and our volunteer staff. Elly is commandeered to perform in it, her role divulged to her - only as she steps up to the stage. (Our wonderful volunteer staff - recognized by the sweet perfume of their pinned-on flowers - is "everywhere" - to assist you and make you feel welcome.) Best of all, you - the Academicians - provide the daily All-Appliqué Show and Tell brought from home. Your audience - friends, all - will surely enjoy treasures in-progress from home: blocks, tops without borders (to become tops with borders the following year), and of course, finished quilts. We'll respond with happiness and the most encouraging applause!*



Collective Thought is Powerful!

*Oh, what a background!* First sighted this June, at Laurel Fances's Bloomin' Inn Appliqué Seminar in Pincher Creek, Alberta, Canada: "For the Love of Appliqué", Kamloops TAS Marigold Quilters, 2010 group quilt.

Part of our fascination with Baltimores is . . . who made them? Some are clearly group made. But who designed those most famous? The group - or a spectacular artist? This Marigolds' Revivalist Baltimore Album will surely become famous in history - not only for its beautiful "impact", but also for its innovative classicism, tying our era to the original Baltimore blooming of long ago. We're told this gem is truly group-designed. How? Let's find out more! It may inform our understanding of the antique originals. If you have been part of exceptionally successful group Baltimore-design, let us know how it went?

## **REASONS TO STUDY AT TESAA!**

When I returned my brochure edit to Bette, I was excited: 2012's class descriptions are wondrously diverse, eloquently written, and as enticing as I've ever reviewed! Even more, from my philosophical outlook, they serve, perfectly, our moment in history. Perhaps you'll resonate to this last comment as you read our 2012 offerings; and I'm, frankly, awed by how TESAA faculty excels in expertise, artistry, high standards - but more than that, in their earnest devotion to each student-guest's comfort and joy in learning. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, fellow teachers!

## **OUR MOMENT IN HISTORY!**

Concerning Our Moment in History: A recent commentary noted, "Free and open societies have existed for a relatively short time, as history is measured - and their staying power has always been open to question." It observed further that so much depends on the informed concern and wisdom of the citizenry. We echo our Baltimore sisters-of-yore in stitching gently - heads down thoughtfully - and with particular beauty, attending to our own "milestones of democracy". You'll find a blossoming of them in TESAA's 2012 offerings: joyful celebrations; silent meditations on our own "moment in history".



TESAA teacher, Rita Verroca's 2012 Iconic Liberty Bell block. Aren't the ingenious details of this block, themselves, a lesson in innovative classic appliqué? Makes me wish I had more of my old Baltimore Beauties fabrics, seeing how Rita's color and cloth use so echoes original Baltimore artistry.)

Another thought-provoking observation: "Culture is more important than politics." In my experience, Quilters never talk politics when in community with other quilters. But we have a definable communal culture: one that determinedly avoids all that which might divide us. Free-born, we rise above divisions, thereby, in gratitude for all that does unite us. What's more, "We're doing well, by doing good! Mightn't we be uplifted by a helping hand quilts feature in a future letter? Quilters seem always to have been "can do more" workers, ... when we are gathered together. ! Perhaps you might share a group or personal charity story with us?

not able to come in 2012 - (or "ever" - as some of you readers have shared) - we still send you friendship's offering and all good wishes. Grateful thoughts - on "our moment in history", appliqué and quiltworld friendships - humbly offered, follow, in the Elly's News Corner. Bette- TESAA's website and Letter-Visit designer, as well as Administrator par excellence- recently created a special column for me (News from Elly) including my new-book-coming announcement informal "Game of Clues."

Last, but not least, I was left - as ever - with admiration and gratitude for our dear multi-talented "The Bette". The edit took me days - and I can only imagine how hard Bette labors over our increasingly widely read - "just click the button to subscribe, free" -TESAA brochure. We all feel her industrious creativity, high standards, unfailing responsible-ness, respectful personal ethics, and what can only be called love for we assembled: both staff and Academicians - as she and we pursue the Art of Appliqué. Thank you, Bette, for being you . . . and THANK YOU, FRIENDS of the Academy (volunteer staff and faithful members and new-attendees-to-be), for being you. Without you, we, TESAA, could not be. Thank you for your loyalty. But even if you're

With our fondest wishes that we will see you, particularly, in Williamsburg in 2012 - and that you may enjoy your remaining summer,

Elly (for Elly and Bette)

**ARDIS BUTLER JAMES**  
(1926 - 2011)



Ardis Butler James  
1926 - 2011

Incoming quilt community news requires an interruption; a pause for special remembrance (a worthy clue for the book in mind!) Ardis Butler James, who with her husband, Robert, established the world's largest public quilt collection, died at 85, July 7 in Stamford, Connecticut. I overheard Ardis and her husband at a quilt auction, appraising a possibly Baltimore Album Quilt, saying "They had lost the style by then." Ardis and Robert, philanthropists, started the International Quilt Study Center and Museum at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, in 1997. Today its 3,500 quilts, including over 1,000 donated by the James', span three centuries and two dozen countries.

Many of us have suffered the loss of someone dear to us. We appreciate their spontaneous presence in our thoughts. Quilt lovers privileged to see or study the collection in Nebraska will be grateful to Ardis and Robert. I never actually met Ardis James, but she sounds like someone I would like to have known. She definitely appreciated the memories kept sacred by stuff! She understood that to study an old quilt block, to run our hands over

it, to admire its stitches was to connect souls with someone with whom we'd have a cloth for common understanding. The NY Times, Sunday, July 17, 2011 quote gives us the flavor of this great quilt patroness's wisdom. Ardis said (wrote Margalit Fox) in a talk she gave some years ago, "Almost everything in our lives can be disposable if we want, and I'm not against paper plates, but there may be need of an anchor as well. An 1875 Log Cabin can help when you feel, as did Willy Loman, 'kind of temporary about myself'"

Makes you want to think about Ardis's good life, generously lived, and how quilts - and other goods carefully worked by the human hand, feed our hungry souls; stave off the loneliness when we might be tempted to feel temporary about ourselves.

*Link to International Quilt Study Center & Museum: [www.quiltstudy.org](http://www.quiltstudy.org)*

## NEWS FROM ELLY!



Dear Friends,

Ah, late-summer! Out my window now, our city neighborhood is quiet, save for wee birds destination-zooming tirelessly about! A goldfinch juvenile peeked up, now here, now there ... along my 2nd floor window's outdoor sill. Watching, I saw its mother nearby, perched on a low-slung telephone wire, sweetly "close by". Such magic made me grin! Oaks line the street and dappled sunlight falls on a stately 1930's yellow house, white picket-fenced. This view, to me, is the yellow Baltimore house our familiar Baltimore "Goose Girl" eternally departs from, flanked by paired geese and a curly tailed dog, for

fidelity.

A bit familiar with the "language of flowers" and other symbolic tongues of Western Civilization? Yellow is the color of Friendship: "Make new friends, but keep the old," we sang, "One is silver, and the other gold". Looking out on a friendship-yellow house seems perfect for Letter-Visit-style sharing between old friend quilters and new!

Goose Girl by Donna Collins



My first "news" is inspired by diverse skill levels within a class and attempts to serve each student better. The second "news" is utterly familial ... but it concludes on an appliqué note!



### **Teaching - Head Start!**

While some have appliquéd for decades, others seek Bette's wisdom in choosing their courses. Many experienced quilters come to class mainly for community and that "one new thing" group learning always delivers. Whatever your level, to better use your time, I've begun offering Optional Head-Start pre-class stitching. At home, advanced stitchers can appliqué a base layer - like the wreath-stems pictured below. (Same thing in my TESAA 2012 Design a Heart-Wreath and Tropical Bird in-a-Bush classes.) With foundation appliqué already finished, "swift" stitchers can move right on - independently - to foliage layers! And I'm set free to teach the main class basics, hands-on, focusing on the many marvels of fresh stems and stitches!



## Teaching - Independent Study!

What if a class's techniques intrigue you ... but the block taught, does not? Then take the class as INDEPENDENT STUDY! Independent study means that you - experienced and self-confident - know you can and will proceed independently until the class is confidently underway. My December Appliqué by the Bay one- day class, for example (see schedule, below), offers advanced students specific independent study on a bird block whose wreath stem and broderie perse foliage - specifically parallel Pattern #1: the class block.

(FYI: Appliqué by the Bay enrollees get all three patterns pictured, regardless, plus the how-to sheet needed to populate classic Baltimore Pattern #2 with your chosen backyard birds! Advanced participants choosing Independent Study understand that birds and flowers will be gotten to when back home. I'll happily overview these, briefly, right after class.)



### Redemption Vignette?

In June's "Elly's News" column, I admitted to a "scandalous" wimp- out. To redeem myself: "Grandpa" and I have just returned - tuckered-out but grinning, from grandchild-sitting in New England. Eldest son and wife celebrated a 15th anniversary by 3 days sailing a borrowed boat off Maine's coast. We took over their family of 4 (ages 6 -12) and their subsistence NH farm: goats, pigs, chickens, a St. Bernard, and a mega vegetable/fruit garden. All these were thankfully on the children's' chore list, not ours! The small-scale 1970's farmhouse has 3-bedrooms, 1 full bath, and a playroom holding my son's country-law office. Cooking, close living, plus home-schooling happen in the one-room kitchen/living/dining area ... the tight space efficient with big-family 12'-long table and a high sky-lit cathedral ceiling.

Surprises are such fun! Grandpa plus 2: weeded, planted geranium and hosta, watered, mulched . . . then re-surfaced three long pebbled stair flights from driveway down-hill to house ... Won't this surprise Dad, we asked? Thinking, His clients will get a less hard-scrabble office-entry impression. Grandma + 2: sewed matching August vacation-week dresses for 5 cousins (picture), visited lots over it, and cooked. The routine? (Grandpa had 2 years at West Point): All break from work in the late afternoon for a cooling dip, suppers they - good cooks all - help, by turn, prepare - and rousing rounds of "Spy Alley" (great board game) before bed. (OK, Grandma neither swam nor played games, but stitched and kept company.) We were all blessed by gorgeous weather!



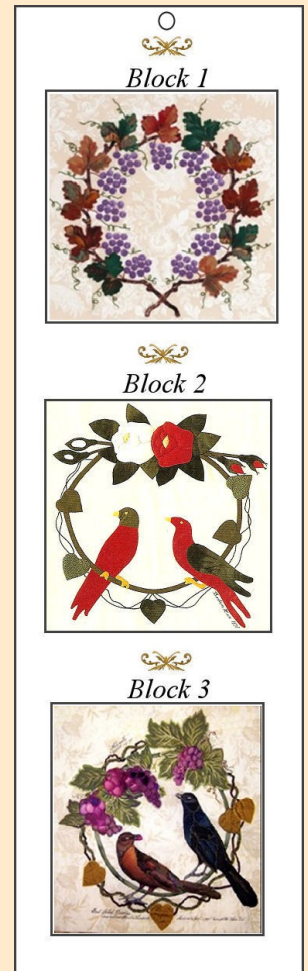
This moose. no longer loose! When my first

### Can you find 5 girl cousins in black "cherry dresses"?

With 2 machines going, 2011 beach week dresses are almost finished. Colter, at 6 is now too old to wear that matching red "bow" tie! I asked older cousin Elias (10) "What can we do for you boys?" "We'll bring our matching Moose jackets!" he replied without hesitation. OK . . . They're done. That's easy ... and sometimes Atlantic beaches do get cold in August!



grandchild was born. I made her a very Russian-



looking appliqué-embellished fleece, with a Cossack-embroidered hat. She wore it for 18 months. Encouraged by great appreciation, I've been making special-order jackets since, for a growing-up contingent of seven grands. One day we'll show some of the designs on this Letter Visit. So easy, I hope it might bring you joy, too! Here's the story of the matching moose jackets: Middle son, Alex (back row) won a Vermont moose-hunting tag. Brother Donald (front row), camp cook Grandpa and the boys joined him. My only grandmother secret: No time to make a quilt? Buy fleece jackets, embellish them! The boys love their "moose jackets" picturing "The one that got away ... with a sprig of blueberries". The one that didn't . . . is in two families' freezers. And since this is a place where Bette and I share deep secrets with friends, here's my own mother's grandmother secret: Pop packaged chocolate chip cookies in the microwave when children are expected. When you open the front door, you are making happy memories: As they hug you, they'll smell Grandma's homemade cookies already baking for them!



### ***A New Game of "Clues"***

I'm working on new books ... Of course I've been told to keep specifics secret.

I intend to drop clues, here in my "Corner" with every List Visit letter, like a bread crumb path to the book's official future announcement. Creating a book is quite an undertaking - and to get it published, its theme has to be fresh and pretty compelling. So in this new pattern and technique book I want to explore a serious subject: Our attraction, our pull, our ardent fascination with the old Baltimores and our seriousness about building our own works of art upon their foundations.

Such fun! I've amassed photos and phrases, titillating but not openly telling - clues to -should I live long enough- what could be a series of many books on the tack I have in mind. Those clues here-to-fore planned for this issue (and shared with certain recently met friends in Rapid City, SD and Pincher Creek, Alberta, Canada where I taught this June) are too good not to share with you, too critical a modeling of the book's clay. So they are presented here in appreciative memory of Ardis Butler James: 2 more tangible clues to things recalled, thoughts provoked are below.



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### ***Inklings, Hints and Tidbits***

#### ***Clue # 3***

Detail: Old Baltimore block; quilt unfinished. But didn't this stitcher have style! How can we tell? What are its elements? Could we recognize among the many, this artist who tied her bows without any knots?





#### **Clue # 4**

My father died at 57; my mother at 95. Like yesterday, as though a child, I see him put down his keys, then his brief case into which my mother had tooled his initials. The smell of the unheated old ford and the cold still on him, I remember, still. My mother mid '90's, carefully, ceremonially, taking off her hand-worn Vermont Country Store leather mittens, and tucking them, just so, into the nursing home bureau, 3rd drawer down. Such simple memories, so visceral and comforting. For a moment, as though they were here.

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On that happy memory for me, we'll say good-bye for now. We hope you are as pleased as we are about the course offerings, the special events, meeting new friends, greeting old ones, simply having a lovely time! The always joyful Academy looks like next winter's warmest hot spot for quilters to gather! Thank you Bette, for assembling such a tempting menu. Thank you Faculty, Guest Artists, and Honored Quilter for such a glorious 17th Anniversary bouquet for dearest friends to enjoy together. Thank you dear staff, for being there to add efficiency and the milk of human kindness. Can hardly wait 'til we meet in front of the fireplace at the Hospitality House in Williamsburg, its homey Southern elegance one Academician referred to as "like coming home to Grandma's house." Who knows? In Colonial Williamsburg, even spring's early daffodils may push up to bloom next February to greet us!

We leave you, dear fellow appliqué aficionadas, with the Clues pictured above, until we meet again on these pages. Bette and I part from you with this affectionate floral needlework blessing:

May this year's roses  
Be many and sweet,  
And few be the thorns  
Where wander thy feet.

*Old Victorian Needlework Blessings*

Elly (For Elly and Bette)

View  
Elly's Teaching Schedule at

[www.ellysienkiewicz.com/Webpages/Allthingselly/1Schedule.html](http://www.ellysienkiewicz.com/Webpages/Allthingselly/1Schedule.html)

		
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>October 3-7, 2011</b>
	<b>Place</b>	Quilting in the Tetons Jackson, Wyoming
	<b>Web site</b>	<a href="http://www.quiltthetetons.org">www.quiltthetetons.org</a>
	<b>Contact</b>	Kelli Fennessey
	<b>Phone</b>	307-733-3087; Fax 307-739-0749
	<b>E mail</b>	<a href="mailto:kfennessey@tetonwyo.org">kfennessey@tetonwyo.org</a>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>November 1-6, 2011</b>
	<b>Place</b>	International Quilt Festival, Houston George R. Brown Convention Center; Houston, TX
	<b>Web site</b>	<a href="http://quilts.com/newHome/index.php">http://quilts.com/newHome/index.php</a>
	<b>Date</b>	<b>November 30-December 4, 2011</b>
	<b>Place</b>	Appliqué by the Bay; Mare's Bears Quilt Shop
	<b>Address</b>	528 E. Savannah Road, Lewes, DE 19958
	<b>Phone</b>	302-644-0556
	<b>Web site</b>	<a href="http://www.maresbearquiltshop.com">www.maresbearquiltshop.com</a>
<b>2012</b>		
<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>January 12-16, 2012</b>
	<b>Place</b>	Feather Princesses Tampa, Florida
	<b>Contact</b>	Dorothy Johnson
	<b>Address</b>	12717 Trowbridge Lane, Tampa, FL 33624
	<b>E mail</b>	<a href="mailto:Djohns47@tampabay.rr.com">Djohns47@tampabay.rr.com</a>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>February 7-13, 2012</b>
	<b>Place</b>	The Elly Sienkiewicz Appliqué Academy <sup>®</sup> llc Williamsburg, VA
	<b>Contact</b>	Bette Augustine, Administrator
	<b>Address</b>	PO Box 8, Mountain Center CA 92561
	<b>E mail</b>	<a href="mailto:bette@ellysienkiewicz.com">bette@ellysienkiewicz.com</a>
	<b>Web site</b>	<a href="http://www.ellysienkiewicz.com">www.ellysienkiewicz.com</a>

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