

Refreshments

Thank you to Ellen Griffin, Susan Love, Mangala Gunaratre-Devendra, Edi Jourdan-Grittner, Ruth Batchelor, and Deborah Siravo who generously provided refreshments for our December meeting. If you are able to volunteer to assist with refreshments please contact Deb Siravo at 401-207-1323 or at <u>deblily@cox.net</u>.

For Sale

Have you started spring cleaning? Members who have items for sale are invited to set up a table at our meetings. Any craft or sewing related supply is suitable.

Have a sewing/craft related business? Why not consider showcasing/selling your items at a meeting? Please limit your selling space to one table.

DIRECTIONS TO GREENWICH CLUB

From the South: Take 95 North to exit 8A (Rt. 2 Warwick/E. Greenwich). Stay on Rt.2, go to the traffic light at the Showcase Cinema, take a left onto Division Street (Rt. 401), follow to 2nd traffic light, and take right onto Post Road/Rt. 1. The Greenwich Club, 5426 Post Road, is on your left.

From the North: Take 95 South to exit 9 (Rt. 4 South). Take the first exit which will bring you to Rt. 401 (E. Greenwich/Division St.). At the end of the exit ramp facing straight, take a right turn onto Division Street. **Continue to follow above directions once on Division Street.**

Executive Board

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Deborah Siravo

On the Web with RISN

http://www.rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com Membership information can be found on our website. On Facebook, we are listed as Rhode Island Sewing Network and you will find a link on the webpage to bring you directly to our Facebook page.



March Meeting

March 3, 2015

Accepting History-Designing for the Theatre

Our March presenter, **David T. Howard**, will explore the use of sewing in both historical recreation versus the potential theatrical assimilation. David states "When one approaches an historical period, one must look at a variety of factors beyond the visual of the time". Featured will be garments from the *Women in White* collection, a historical recreation study collection that uses white fabrics to focus on silhouette and construction details. Also featured will be garments representing theatrical constructions of historical clothing.

David is an Associate Professor of Costume Design at the University of Rhode Island and a resident artist at The Gamm Theatre. David's costume and Sabbatical work was recently presented in a solo exhibit, *Guilding the Shoestrings II*, at URI's Providence Campus. Other local design credits include Theatre-By-The-Sea, Elemental Theatre, Connecticut Rep, and Brown University. David is a proud member of The Beauty Salon, a weekly aesthetics radio show. David earned his B.F.A., Performance, from the State University of New York, College at Fredonia and his MFA, Theatre Design, from the University of Connecticut.

David says he was always drawn to the creative arts, particularly live performance. "I was always the kid who wanted to put on crazy plays in school," he says, laughing as he recalls his early work. "They were interminable and awful. But what can you expect from a six-year-old?"

More information can be found about David at <u>www.providenceonline.com</u> from which biographical information about David was drawn for the newsletter. (Please enter David T. Howard in the search field on the website.)

Show and Share

Sheila Vargas welcomed members and guests and updated us on the DCYF sock shaped bag project. Rose O'Koren led off the Show and Share portion of our meeting with a briefcase which she created with embossed vinyl from RYCO and a guilted batting lining. Rose followed up with a lunchbag and cosmetic bag. Naomi Lipski modeled a draped skirt with a crazy guilt panel. Renee Keough presented a coat which she made for her project in the Master Seasmstress Classic Tailoring class. It was based on a 1920's design from Eva's Patterns. She finished the coat with antique bakelite buttons. Ruth Bachelor wore a green corduroy jacket she made for the Master Seamstress Pattern Fitting class using a Jano's pattern. Several members shared their projects from the Master Seamstress Shirt Class. Diane Cormier offered a shirt which she made for her husband using an old shirt as the pattern and a tunic created for a medieval reenactment group. Alice Erdman presented a beautiful white shirt. Joann Kunitz modeled her autumn plaid shirt. Jocelyn Souto imspired RISN members as they prepared for our Apron Challenge by sharing several vintage styled aprons. A tailored sportcoat made for her husband was displayed by Robbin Donahue. Robbin shared that the sportcoat took "Best in Show" at the North Stonington Fair. She closed our Show and Share with a poly-shantung vest for which she created the fabric by weaving alternating right and wrong side strips of fabric.

RISN Apron Challenge

Wondering what to do during our many snowy days? Why not design and whip up an apron for our Apron Fashion Show in May. Showcase your sewing skills or share your sense of whimsy in your special apron.

Master Seamstress II

Looking to expand your sewing skills? Please consider registering for one of the MSII offerings. The following courses have openings: Wearable Quit Designs Mondays 7 - 10 PM Jeans Wednesdays 9 - 12 noon Little Black Dress Thursdays 9 - 12 noon Please call URI at 227-5050 by March 2 to register.

RISN Meetings

GREENWICH CLUB 5426 Post Road East Greenwich, Rhode Island 02818

First Tuesday of the Month @ 7:00 pm

RISN 2014-2015 Meeting Dates and Presenters

April 7, 2015 Ellen Stone, "Gardens to Dye For"

May 5, 2015 Patricia Keay, "RI Wine and Cheese With An Illustrating Mix" Member Apron Fashion Show



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New York City Garment District Bus Trip Wednesday, June 3, 2015 Mark Your Calendars!

Additional information such as the NYC Garment District Handbook, a handy list of shops by street, tips, and the registration form can be found on the RISN website. Contact Faith Daya at <u>faithdaya55@gmail.com</u> or 508-528-7175 if you have any suggestions, questions. More information will be provided before the trip to help you plan your day!

December Program Highlights

Cynthia Treen presented our December program, "The Long and the Short of It". Cynthia has had a long, eclectic career. At age seven she completed her first sewing project, a reindeer, which would prove to be an inspiration later in her career. Cynthia studied for two years at RISD and then moved to Los Angeles. She credits making connections as a big part of her career successes. In LA, Cyhthia connected with Richard Lundquist for whom she made architectural models. She then worked at Dosa for several years before returning to New York and connecting with Martha Stewart. Cynthia shared stories from her five years at Martha Stewart. While working for Martha Stewart, Cynthia designed kits and prototype production pieces for Martha by Mail as well as appearing on Martha Stewart Living.

Following 9/11, Cynthia returned to Providence and continued her creative career. She created wedding dresses, religious vestments, textile installations, baby toys, and craft kits while continuing to work with many well-known artists and designers. Cynthia wrote "Last Minute Fabric Gifts" and appeared in a PBS show "Cultivating Life".

Cynthia's Threadfollower kits are sold in small art boutiques and Pottery Barn. The Threadfollower kits are a variety of animals and birds created with felt and stitched together with DMC embroidery floss. Cynthia uses a padded "tomato wire" to give structure and support to her creations. She has created a tutorial for the reindeer which she shared via email with RISN members.

After attending a quilt show in Paducah, Kentucky, she was struck by the potential of quilts. Cynthia's beautifully appliqued and embroidered quilts are inspired by Korean wrapping cloths called Bojagi. Cynthia has created several quilts for private clients who also collect her cashmere blankets and pillows. She does the majority of hand quilting herself. She shared her materials sources such as Kaffe Fasset Shot Cotton, gorgeous Japanese ribbons from Mokuba, Roxanns' Quilters Choice marking pencil, the Ted Thimble, and a screw punch from Talas that she uses to mark darts.

Cynthia's work is inspiring and impeccably executed. Her sense of humor was much appreciated. RISN members can follow Cynthia's work online at <u>www.threadfollower.com</u> and purchase her kits and patterns in her Etsy shop www.cynthiatreenstudio.etsy.com.