



# RI Sewing Network

## October 2021 Newsletter

### RISN Meetings

Warwick Center for  
the Arts  
3259 Post Rd  
Warwick, RI 02886

**First Tuesday of the  
Month  
@ 7:00 pm**



October 5, 2021  
November 2, 2021  
December 7, 2021  
March 1, 2022  
April 5, 2022  
May 3, 2022

### “WE MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION”

The RISN Board is so happy to share with you a new season of exciting sewing topics presented by extremely talented local experts. The 2021-2022 season has something for everyone. And more thrilling than the topics themselves is the fact that we will be able to have in-person meetings (fingers crossed & pending local guidelines), which means time to catch up with old and new sewing friends and share projects, ideas, and tips to keep the inspiration going.

You may have seen or heard we are moving to a new venue this fall. The Greenwich Club choose to not renew a contract with RISN, which meant we were able to search for new meeting space. Several Board members worked furiously over the summer calling dozens of places, visiting countless options, and finally identifying the best option for 2021-22. We think you are going to find the Warwick Center for the Arts in Warwick a fantastic selection. The ease of access, meeting space and parking is ideal. More details are in the newsletter.

Diane worked very hard to bring exceptional speakers to us this year. Five of the six meetings are locked down and the sixth meeting speaker will be shared shortly. A brief introduction to each months' speaker is in the newsletter. For October, we are very pleased to have famed fashion stylist, Jill Marinelli, joining us and kicking off the new season of RISN. Jill is a highly sought-after fashion speaker, so be sure not to miss it!

After many years with no increase, this year's membership fees will be increasing slightly to ensure we are able to attract highly talented guest speakers. For those that register by September 15, you will be entered into a raffle to win a very special sewing related gift. So please register EARLY!

Finally, as we get back together for live meetings this season much of the future newsletters will be devoted to capturing the meeting highlights. However, we would love to see ideas from the members for additional content, whether related to themes, or just topics/projects that are interesting. What are your thoughts on 'themed' sew and tell meetings? Do you have a sewing book recommendation to share? Have you been on a recent sewing trip, attended an EXPO, or visited a museum or interesting fabric/sewing store? Is there a RISN member you want to learn more about that we could spotlight in a newsletter? Send your ideas and stories to Susan Berlam, newsletter coordinator.

***HAPPY SEWING!***

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## 1. Membership Information for 2021/2022

For those that join as a Premier member by September 15, you will be entered into a raffle for a very special sewing related gift. The winner will be announced at the October 2021 meeting.

Attached to this newsletter is the 2021-2022 RISN membership application form. Membership includes six issues of our newsletter, access to the private RISN Facebook page, plus discounts to meetings and other events as well as email news.

1. Annual Membership is \$10 and each of the six scheduled meetings is \$10 for each meeting attended. The nonmember fee for meetings is \$10 per meeting (no emails or Facebook).
2. Premiere Membership is \$40. With this Premiere Membership, the \$10 membership fee is waived and there are no additional fees for attending meetings.

The Registration form is attached to the newsletter and on our website:

[www.rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com](http://www.rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com)

## 2. New Meeting Venue – Warwick Center for the Arts

With many fond memories of 30+ years of RISN meetings at the Greenwich Club, we are closing that chapter and heading a few miles north to the Warwick Center for the Arts (WCFA) for our in-person meetings. Over the summer the Greenwich Club contacted Diane and informed her that they were no longer going to be able to accommodate our group. As you can imagine, that caused quite the stir, but many members jumped in and started scouring the State (and beyond) for a suitable alternative. The search included hotels, libraries, schools, private function buildings and more. There were countless phone calls and emails and many site visits to better assess the facilities. With much consideration, the WCFA was selected for 2021/2022 season.

WCFA, situated in the historic Kentish Guard Armory building, is located on Post Rd in the heart of Apponaug and just a few miles from the Greenwich Club. Its central location was critical, and the facilities are ideal. WCFA offers plenty of lighted parking, handicap elevator, front and side door entry, good natural lighting along with overhead track lighting on the high ceilings, comfortable chairs, raised speaker platform with a podium and microphone, a basement classroom and outdoor patio area.



In addition, the Center is dedicated to connecting the community to all forms of art, now including SEWING!

The main gallery is a unique venue for private events. Exhibits of original artwork change every 4-8 weeks, brick walls add warmth and intimacy, and tall arched windows provide abundant light. This boutique-style space includes a modern kitchen for caterers, two unisex bathrooms, plenty of free parking behind the historic building — and a convenient location in central RI!

The room can accommodate up to 130 standing guests or 60 seated guests, around tables.

Additional classroom space is available for lecture-style classes, artist groups for hands-on creativity, and small meeting. The classroom accommodates up to 20 students for lecture-style classes: and up to 12 students for hands-on workshops.

With the move, we have decided to discontinue the refreshment offerings at the meetings. For some this news may be disappointing thinking about missing out on so many delicious goodies, but for others, it might be a welcome relief and one less thing to worry about. You may still bring your own refreshment if desired to get you through the evening.

We are very excited to try out the new venue and hope that you will find it as good or better than what we had in the past. Here's the address and website to learn more about the WCFA.

### **Warwick Center for the Arts**

3259 Post Road, Warwick, RI

#### **Address for Parking:**

3273 Post Road, Warwick, RI

<https://warwickcfa.org/about-wcfa/>



## 3. RISN Meeting Schedule and Speaker Line-Up for 2021-2022

The RISN Board held their annual board meeting in June where they discussed topics and speakers for the new season. Pictured from left to right Sueann Walter, Mary Jo Hines, Ann Percolo, Maureen Rozes, Diane Martin, Mary Morse, Susan Berlam, and Nancy Spirito.

We had a wonderful time catching up and discussing the potential topics for the new year. As Program Chair, Diane came with a long list of talented presenters. After much debate and later confirmation of availability, speakers for 5 of the 6 meetings have been locked down.



## RISN 2021/2022 Speakers

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| October 5, 2021  | Jill Marinelli - Fashion Stylist                            |
| November 2, 2021 | Adrian Burke - Fabric Design & Printing                     |
| December 7, 2021 | Jennifer Hunt & Joan Alger - Castle Lane Renaissance Cloaks |
| March 1, 2022    | Beth Bentley - Draping                                      |
| April 5, 2022    | Anna Taylor & Ben Greslick - Body Scanning Dress Forms      |
| May 3, 2022      | Speaker to be announced                                     |

Below are a few details about these very talented artists. Watch for more in the upcoming newsletters.

**Jill Marinelli**  
[www.jmstylist.com](http://www.jmstylist.com)  
October 5, 2021



Jill  
MARINELLI

We think that this is going to be an amazing kick-off to the new season. Just imagine what you are going to do with your Fall sewing plans after hearing what Jill has to say about personal style and fashion!

Jill is a personal stylist, public speaker and communications coach with a passion that lives at the intersection of personal development, image, and authentic expression.

Focusing on social science research, executive presence, and the power of personal style, she teaches her audiences and clients how to look great, project confidence, and build trust with others so they can achieve their personal and professional goals. Emphasizing empowerment and leadership, Jill asks, “Does your image and communication style reflect the person you hope to become?”

In addition to her work with individual clients, Jill has developed and presented workshops, keynotes, and breakout sessions for corporate partners including FM Global, Lifespan, Swarovski, General Growth Properties, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and the Bryant University Women’s Summit, among others.

Her work has appeared in The Wall Street Journal, Vogue, Psychology Today, Lucky, FOX Boston’s Morning News, and on CBS Providence in her role as a style correspondent for the The Rhode Show.

Here are a few snippets of testimonials from her website.

*“To rescue wardrobes that are more like war zones, look no further than personal stylist Jill Marinelli. She helps new moms and those going through life or body transitions turn their closets into streamlined collections that suit the owner....”* (Jamie Coelho, Rhode Island Monthly).

*“Jill is our go-to fashion guru, lending her knowledge of the latest fashion trends and style secrets every woman wants to know. She’s a polished speaker and presenter and commands an audience, both live and on video....”* (Nicole Polacek, Touchstone Crystal by Swarovski).

*"Fashion magazines and splashy storefronts can make style seem out of reach for many. Jill breaks the stereotype and finds ways for all women – regardless of age, size, or budget – to embrace their personal styles and learn what works for them. Through her work on The Rhode Show, Jill speaks woman-to-woman and is relatable; she presents information in easy-to-understand, visual ways that most viewers can apply immediately to their lives."* (Rebecca Johnson, WPRI 12 CBS, News Director).

Don't miss this opportunity to hear from a leading expert on style and fashion! See you October 5 at WCFA!

## **Adrian Burke**

### **Digital Fabric Printing and Industry Specialist**

[www.southcoastsurfacedesign.com](http://www.southcoastsurfacedesign.com)

Nov 2, 2021



Adrian Burke is a professional textile designer who opened the South Coast Surface Design (SoCoSD) studio in New Bedford, MA in October 2019. Adrian is a graduate of Parsons School of Design in NY and has worked as a textile designer for TJX Companies, Hasbro Soft Goods Product Design, and has taught hand and digital techniques for surfaces like metal, glass, paper, and textiles at Rhode Island School of Design.

Adrian specializes in design and manufacturing for the apparel and printed textile industries. Adrian is an experienced design professional providing apparel, accessory, home and other soft-product design support, from concept through manufacturing. Adrian assists clients with preparing art for printing production, developing surface patterns and embellishment, utilizing hand techniques, digital tools, and advanced production technology. Adrian supports ECO Positive, sustainable design and manufacturing methods and assists clients with production programs using the latest digital textile printing technology. She is an effective Print Broker for Textile & Wallpaper Printing with regional and international vendors. And she has 20+ years as a Design Instructor for Apparel Concept Development and Surface Design.

## **Jennifer Hunt & Joan Alger Renaissance Cloaks for Her Majesty and The Town Beggar!**

Castle Lane Capes on FaceBook  
December 7, 2021



Be sure to go to their FaceBook page, Castle Lane Capes to learn more. Here's a little teaser from Jen and Joan...

"Welcome to Castle Lane, we are the purveyors of quality capes, cloaks, scarves, blankets, capelets, pirate coats and more. Our home is at King Richards Faire, where we've been selling our wares for the last 20 years to the good people of the Realm. We are passionate about fabric, craftsmanship and the journey this adventure has taken us on!"

As of today, King Richard's Faire is scheduled to be back September 4 – October 24 so you might take a sneak peak of the cloaks, capes, leather, and furs in their booth.

## **Beth Bentley**

### **Draping**

March 1, 2022

We are very excited to have Beth Bentley kick off 2022 with a session on draping. Look for more details in future newsletters. Below is a brief bio from Beth that is sure to entice your interest.

After receiving a BFA in Apparel Design from Rhode Island School of Design, Beth Bentley designed women's clothing and sweaters for Mast Industries and Northern Isles. Bentley Design Studio opened in 2000 as a freelance design company specializing in men's, women's, and children's sweaters, wovens, prints and embroideries. Customers included Talbots, Susan Bristol, Robert Scott/David Brooks, Carters and TJMaxx/Marshalls. In addition to freelancing, Beth was a dance costume designer for Festival Ballet Providence and Fudsioworks Dance Co. She is currently a patternmaker for Accurate Service, Inc. 2005-2013 Beth taught classes in apparel design, cut and sew knits, costume design, garment up-cycling, patternmaking and garment construction at RISD. She continues to teach Upcycles Couture in TISD's accredited Summer Session. In 2009 Beth received her MFA in Artisanry/Fibers at UMass Dartmouth. Her fibers work has been exhibited at RISD, Fuller Museum, Slater Mill, Smith College, Keeseh Studios and Ellipsis Gallery. She currently teaches Draping, Apparel 1 (garment construction) and Apparel Design at URI.

## **Anna Taylor & Ben Greslick**

### **Body Scanning Dress Forms**

April 5, 2022

[3D Print Me Website](#)  
[Helpful FAQ's](#)  
[What to WEAR!.](#)

If you remember we were scheduled to have Anna and Ben last season and published a brief column in the March 2021 newsletter describing how they started their business. You can find the archived newsletter on the RISN website. In the meantime, take a moment to check out their website and learn more about their business and fabrication of custom dress forms.

## 4. Facebook Sharing

All Annual and Premier members are welcome to join the RISN private FaceBook page. Access is not automatically granted with membership applications. Please be sure to request access from the FaceBook Administrators if interested.

FaceBook activity continues to be high and is filled with sewing advice and fun links. These are just a few of many great posts.

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From **Denise Carlson** –

*The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York*

Dress like it's 5 o'clock somewhere 🍷

**#DidYouKnow:** In the late 1940s, Christian Dior was the first designer to name an early evening frock a “cocktail” dress. This allowed magazines, department stores, and rival designers to promote fashion with cocktail-specific terminology.

Dive into the history of cocktail hour attire on the [#MetTimeline](#) → [met.org/3zLMwxd](https://www.metmuseum.org/timeline)

👗 Christian Dior (French, 1905–1957). Eventail, fall/winter 1956–57.



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**Denise** has been busy at her sewing machine this summer. Check out her adorable Skort!

*“I made the skort from Jennifer Stern's pattern. She had a Zoom class which was just two classes. I absolutely love the pattern. I added the side seam pockets as the pattern did not have them.”*

I LOVE SKORTS!



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**Rosemary O’Koren** is one of the most prolific sewers I know. Go to the FB page and check out the pictures of her daughter’s wedding and the gorgeous makeover of the bridal gown. And, yes, an update to that adorable pillow made the newsletter again (I can’t resist!). Here’s just a





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few other things she worked on this summer.

*“This is my new golf outfit. The fabrics are stretch wovens from Apple Annie. The top is from Judy Kessinger and the skirt is the Pacer Skirt from Greenstyle. I added the pockets in front.”*

*Another piece of fabric that kept staring at me. I wanted a shawl collar wrap. The pattern looked like a shawl collar, but it actually was a hood. I should have used a two-faced fabric and didn't realize it till it was together so I had to cut two fronts so it would all blend. This took much longer than expected. As I was watching the Virgin River series, "Mel" wore a sweater wrap a lot with a belt, so I had to go back and make a belt with belt loops, so I do not lose the belt when I take it off. It has pockets too. I am very happy with the results.”*



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## **BISA BUTLER QUILTS**

This topic was shared on the FB page. If you haven't seen the quilt work of Bisa Butler, I encourage you to take some time and read a recent story from *npr* about these extraordinary works of art. Or simply search the internet for many stories, photos, and showings.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/08/15/1025950962/bl-ack-lives-are-celebrated-in-bisa-butlers-extraordinary-technicolor-quilts>



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## **5. Other News and Interests**

### **RISN Website**

Be sure to check the RISN website [HERE](#) for archived newsletters, updates, and events.

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## Sew Seeds of Love – Mary Jo Hines

Sew Seeds of Love, a volunteer sewing group coordinated by Mary Jo Hines (with participation by many of you members), will be sewing this fall for the December, 18" doll project.

This project is an exceptional gift for girls who are sheltered from domestic abuse or living in foster care in Rhode Island. This will be our 10th year of gifting! Each of these children receive an 18" doll with 3 handmade outfits.

They are wrapped in a tote bag, too! You can begin sewing now, in preparation for giving. We have been using the Springfield dolls which can be purchased at Joann's (use your coupons!). If you do not want to sew the doll outfits, you can purchase and donate a doll. Further details and specifics about sewing and possibly in-person sewing nights will be forthcoming.

I certainly hope you will join us for this gift of love.

Contact Mary Jo at -  
[ssol.sewinglove@gmail.com](mailto:ssol.sewinglove@gmail.com)



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## Sell, Buy, or Services

Urge to Purge? Members who have sewing/craft items for sale are invited to set up a table at our meetings. You need to bring home what you do not sell. We do not have the space to store extra fabric, etc. Do you have a sewing/craft related business? Why not consider showcasing/selling your items at a meeting? Please limit your selling space to one table. You can also post your sale items or what you might be looking to obtain on our Facebook page.

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## Scissors and Knife Sharpening

If you would like to get your knives and scissors sharpened, download the order form, and contact Chef's Culinary Edge directly to have your scissors sharpened at your convenience. [Scissor Service Sheet 1 \(pdf\)Download](#). The website is [HERE](#) and the e-mail is [chefsculinaryedge@gmail.com](mailto:chefsculinaryedge@gmail.com)

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## 6. Chuckle of the Month

A recent posting from  
Denise Carlson.  
Thank you!



**It's National Tell a Joke Day!**

*August 16*

**Two sewing machines  
are sitting in a bar. One  
looks at the other and says,  
“Hey, aren’t you a singer?”  
The other machine turns  
and says, “Why, ja-no-me?”  
The bartender looks at both  
and says, “Oh, brother.”**



## 2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

For those that join as a Premier member by **September 15**, they will be entered into a raffle for special sewing related gift. The winner will be announced at the October 2021 meeting.

Your completed application with a check made out to RI Sewing Network or RISN should be mailed directly to:

Ann Pericolo  
10 Cherry Street  
Wrentham, MA 02093

Membership includes six issues of our newsletter, membership to RISN Facebook page, plus discounts to meetings and other events as well as email news.

**Annual Membership:** New members will be asked to pay an Annual \$10 registration fee for the 2021-2022 season which includes the email notifications, newsletter, and access to the private FaceBook group. For each in-person meeting, a \$10 fee will be collected at the door from Annual Members. The nonmember fee for meetings is \$10 per meeting. Non-members will not receive any of the additional benefits (newsletter, emails, FaceBook, etc.).

**Premier Membership:** The Premier membership fee is \$40. With this Premiere Membership, the \$10 annual registration fee is waived and there are no additional fees for attending meetings. Premier Membership includes the email notifications, newsletter, and access to the private FaceBook group.

For members that want to participate with the FaceBook page, they must request to be included. A RISN membership does not automatically include one as a FaceBook participant. Send your request to the FaceBook Administrator Mary Morse ([memorse@yahoo.com](mailto:memorse@yahoo.com)) or Sueann Walter ([Sueann301@yahoo.com](mailto:Sueann301@yahoo.com)).

The Registration form is below and on our website: [www.rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com](http://www.rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com)

|   |       |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| <b><u>RISN Membership Application 2021-2022</u></b> |       |       |       |
| Last Name: _____                                    |       |       |       |
| First Name: _____                                   |       |       |       |
| Email: _____  |       |       |       |
| Mailing Address: _____                              |       |       |       |
| Street  |       |       |       |
| _____   |       | _____ | _____ |
| City/Town   | State | Zip   |       |
| Preferred Telephone Contact: _____                  |       |       |       |
| <b>Please select your membership category.</b>      |       |       |       |
| Annual (\$10) _____                                 |       |       |       |
| Premier (\$40) _____                                |       |       |       |