



RI Sewing Network

November 2021 Newsletter

RISN Meetings

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

**First Tuesday of
the Month**

**SOCIAL HOUR
6:00 PM**

**SEW & SHARE
6:40 PM**

**SPEAKER
7:00 PM**



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

“WELCOME BACK!”

Welcome back everyone! It was so nice to be back together for our first meeting and the turnout was fantastic! It’s been more than 16 months. We have a lot to catch up on.

What did you think of the new venue, the Warwick Center for the Arts? The artwork on the walls offered a beautiful backdrop to the warm brick walled room. And every month we can expect to see a new art showing. If there’s interest, RISN could possibly have our own features on the walls. Stay tuned for that!

If you missed the meeting, I’m sorry to say you missed an outstanding, informative, and entertaining presentation from our keynote speaker, Jill Marinelli, Personal Stylist and communication coach. Catch-up with a summary of the discussion in the newsletter.

After the keynote speaker, Mary Jo kicked off the season with two raffle drawings. A huge congratulations to Denise Carlson who won the drawing for signing up for RISN membership by the early deadline of September 15. Denise will receive an amazing assortment of ‘basic’ of sewing supplies including the Singer Steam Craft Plus iron, Teflon sheets, wool iron pad, small iron pad, silicone iron rest, pins, snippers, and measuring tape. I think that’s it ☺. After that exciting prize, Mary Jo randomly awarded raffle bags to several attendees. The winners received a cute white box filled with a tea towel, seasonal fabric, and twill tape with instructions on how to make your own Fall design towel. To the winners, the rest of us want to see your beautiful creations at the next meeting.

With all the excitement of getting together again, we didn’t have any “sew and shares”. For many this is a highlight of our meetings so let’s not let this tradition pass by. To enable enough time for the Sew and Share and more time to socialize, we set up additional time from 6-7PM. More details on this social hour and the “Sew and Share” dedicated time is in the newsletter

Remember we have an exciting lineup of speakers for this season. The sixth speaker, Anna Mazur, from Threads Magazine, will come to us in March 2022. Beth Bentley, Draping, is moving to May 2022. More information on Anna is in the newsletter.

Besides a recap of the September meeting, enjoy the member contributions (Windham Textile Museum), FaceBook snippets and other news in this month’s newsletter.

And, importantly, remember to send your ideas and stories for future newsletters to Susan Berlam, newsletter coordinator (sberlam@berlamnet.com).

HAPPY SEWING!

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1. Membership Information for 2021/2022

Membership for 2021/2022 is going very well. We have more than 90 members so far. WELL DONE!!! Please continue to make others aware of the organization and invite them to join us for a one meeting or the full season. 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

2. October Keynote Speaker Recap – Jill Marinelli

Jill
MARINELLI

Personal Stylist

Speaker Coaching

Closet Cleanups

Private Workshops



If you missed the meeting, you missed on outstanding, entertaining discussion about the power of style, the different body types, and how to “clean out your closet”! Jill engaged the audience with funny stories of clients and corporate presentations, while providing numerous style tips and advice to simplify our style decision making process.

Jill explained the importance of the “Power for Style” and the impact it can have from the first impressions you have on others to how you feel wearing a certain outfit and so much more. She shared to value a “uniform” (or formula) can have on making your mornings that much easier when trying to select what to wear. Think of Steve Jobs, Apple (jeans and black turtleneck), Mark Zuckerberg, FaceBook (t-shirt and jeans), and Matilda Kall a DC executive (white top and black pants). Reduce your decision paring down your clothes to something you love to wear, it fits great, you love the color, and it makes you feel good then create an outfit around that style and a specific color scheme. Jazz it up with some accessories to give the “uniform” a different look each day.

Dress your body style. Are you an hourglass, rectangle, triangle, or an inverted triangle? Jill shared the best styles for each shape. And don’t forget to consider the four elements to your clothing: color, pattern, texture, and shine.

Lastly, Jill shared great stories and tips of how to clean out your closet. It's been shown that we wear 20% of our wardrobe 80% of the time. Jill asked, "are you wearing your past, your present, or your future?" [*Oh boy, I have far too much 'past' in my closet!*]. Enlist a friend and dig deep in your closet and ask yourself the following key questions.

Does it fit me?

Does it flatter me?

Does it show wear and tear?

If I saw this in the store today, would I buy it again?

Do I feel good when I wear it?

Does it spark joy?

With the help of your friend and a few deep breaths, there's probably a lot of things in that closet that could find a new home. As you move on to update and add to your style, be sure to shop SMART! A few simple well-made, classic pieces that you wear often, even if "pricey" are better buys than the bargain item you might only wear once. Think "cost per wear"!

For our November meeting, let's see how many of us started a closet clean-out!

Be sure to check out Jill's website for more helpful information.

<https://jmstylist.com>

A few photos from the evening....



Mary Jo welcoming us back and kicking the night off with announcements.



Our pretty venue!



Sew Seeds of Love display.



Assortment of items for sale.



What is in those Raffle Prize boxes????

3. New Venue, Social Hour, Sew & Share, Meeting Schedule

REMINDER –

The Warwick Center for the Arts does have a handicap parking space and an elevator located near the rear of the building. If you need to use the elevator, call the number posted on the door (401-737-0100) and someone from the Center will unlock the door.



The new venue has so much to offer, including extended hours and workshop space for focused event. Don't hesitate to bring ideas forward for special workshops or events that could be added to regular season activities.

As I mentioned earlier, we didn't have any Sew & Share presenters in September but look forward to seeing and hearing more from our members at future meetings. To facilitate this fun activity, we plan to set aside time prior to the official 7:00PM meeting start.

For those that would like to get together early, a social hour is available from 6-7PM. During this time, you are welcome set up and display your creations or items for sale. This hour will also include the "Sew & Share" activity. Anyone interested in sharing their creation should let

Mary Jo know by 6:30PM (if possible). Beginning at 6:40, everyone interested will be asked to present their creation in ~2-4 minutes. Please remember to capture key details such as fabric, pattern, and lesson learned, for example. Susan Berlam will be taking pictures and notes of the creations for the newsletter.

Meeting Schedule of Events

- 6-7:00 PM Social hour with sale/free items and garments on display
- 6:40 – 7:00PM Sew & Share (please let MaryJo know you wish to share)
- 7 – 8:30PM Announcements followed by presentation
- 8:30-9:00PM Depart and doors close

4. Member News

Remembering Diana Neumann

Our dearest RISN member Diana Neumann passed away from heart complications on September 6, 2021. She was 92 years old. Diana first started with the Master Seamstress Program in 1990. She had beautiful hand sewing skills. She was a perfectionist when it came to sewing. Diana has been an active member of the RISN since that time as well. You would always see her sitting center front at all the RISN meetings. She lived a healthy lifestyle while living alone (her husband died 4 years prior) and was driving to the very end. She always wished she had more time to sew!

Donations can be made in her memory to:
The First Baptiste Church of North Attleboro
75 Park St.
North Attleboro, MA 02760

At the November 2nd meeting, items from Diana's sewing room will be available. A small donation to her charity would be appreciated.



5. Places to Visit!

Windham Textile and History Museum as seen by Diane Martin

<https://millmuseum.org/>

“I visited this small town in Connecticut. It has a tiny museum but lots of vintage sewing machines are on display. I would suggest it if you are passing through the area. The area is known for “The American Thread Company”. There is a great bridge in town with giant spools of thread at each end of the bridge. Large frogs sit on top of the spools. It is said that at the time of war the frogs were so loud that the opposing troops backed off thinking the army was close by.”

Go to the link and look at all that they have to see and experience at this museum. The small town of Willimantic is east of Hartford Connecticut and a fairly straight shot on Rt 6 from the Providence area.

The Museum's current exhibit, "Unlacing the Corset, Unleashing the Vote," will remain in place until end of December 2021.

Here's a link to a brochure for the "self-guided" tour which shows the museum floor plan and some information on the permanent exhibits. You can also learn about other museums in the area and places to stop for a meal if you choose to visit.

https://millmuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/WTHM_SelfGuidedTourBook.pdf



Diane couldn't resist the urge to learn more about the famous Frog Bridge in Willimantic. She shared the following:

One 1851 ballad, called *[The Bull-Frog Fight. A Ballad of the Olden Time](#)*,

begins the tale:

*A direful story must I tell,
Should I at length relate,
What once a luckless town befell,
In 'wooden nutmeg' State.*



The Windham Frog Fight

Here's the story of the Great Windham Frog Fight: In the summer of 1754, tensions ran high in the frontier town of Windham, Conn., because the [French and Indian War](#) had broken out in May. At the same time a drought threatened the farming community's crops. Shortly after midnight on a hot, muggy night in June, the residents of the town of Windham woke to a hideous sound, a shrieking, clattering roar. The frightened townspeople jumped from their beds. Some thought the horrifying sounds were the war troops of attacking Indians. Some thought they were the trumpets of Judgment Day. Others thought they were native Americans saying 'gin' and 'rum.' An elderly African-American man [argued it couldn't be the Day of Judgment](#) because it was nighttime.

Some terrified villagers thought they could hear the sound of names being called out: 'Col. Dyer' and 'Elderkin' — two of the town's militia leaders. Lawyer [Eliphalet Dyer](#) — described by [John Adams](#) as 'longwinded' and 'tedious' but an 'honest, worthy man' — led the town's militia in military readiness. Jedidiah Elderkin was another lawyer who, with Dyer, planned to colonize the Susquehanna Valley. Windhamites may have thought the plan would anger the Indians. The militiamen were said to have fired their muskets into the darkness throughout the night. By morning, the sound died down, and the townspeople celebrated their victory in the Great Windham Frog Fight.

Oops

But as dawn broke, a scouting party ventured out toward the place from where the sound came. They realized the embarrassing truth. Hundreds of bullfrog corpses — all belly up — littered the landscape. The sound had come from a pond belonging to Dyer. Because the drought had dried up all of Windham's standing water, only a puddle remained at the bottom of the pond. A horde of frogs descended on that one remaining wet spot and fought over it. What the Windhamites had heard were the battle cries and dying moans of thirsty bullfrogs, magnified by the cloud cover and muggy air.

The story spread far and wide. At least three ballads were written about the Great Windham Frog Fight, while an 1888 operetta, *The Frogs of Old Windham*, drew audiences throughout Connecticut. After the American Revolution, the Windham Bank [issued banknotes with an image of a frog](#) standing over the body of another frog.

The [Willimantic](#) section of Windham grew into a factory town that produced silk and cotton thread. The American Thread Company located on the banks of the Willimantic River and became Connecticut's largest employer. Today, four 11-foot frogs sitting atop giant spools of thread guard the Thread City Crossing, or Frog Bridge. Windhamites renamed the frog battlefield Frog Pond, which [you can see today a mile east of Windham Center](#) on the Scotland Road. Look on the left as you cross Indian Hollow Brook.

Here the link to "The Great Windham Frog Fight of 1754".

<https://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/the-great-windham-frog-fight-1754/>

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

RISN 2021/2022 Speakers

November 2, 2021	Adrian Burke - Fabric Design & Printing
December 7, 2021	Jennifer Hunt & Joan Alger - Castle Lane Renaissance Cloaks
March 1, 2022	Anna Mazur – Threads Magazine
April 5, 2022	Anna Taylor & Ben Greslick - Body Scanning Dress Forms
May 3, 2022	Beth Bentley - Draping

Below are a few details about these very talented artists.

Adrian Burke **Digital Fabric Printing and Industry** **Specialist**

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. Adrian 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.

Anna Mazur **Threads Magazine**

March 1, 2022



Anna Mazur is a contributing writer for Threads Magazine since 2000 and has been writing their bi-monthly Pattern Review column since 2003. She has released the book, "Handbag Workshop", Taunton Press 2014. She was a participant in the Threads Design Challenge VII, has designed for the Fairfield & Bernina Fashion shows, and made guest appearances on HGTV's, "Sew Much More". Anna is a former ASG regional representative and past president of the CT chapter. She has presented sewing programs at various venues across the country including Hawaii. Her work has appeared in several books and various publications. Anna is known for her attention to the fine details and her blue-ribbon award winning garments have been exhibited locally, nationally, and internationally.

Anna Mazur was born on the Portuguese archipelago island of Madeira, world renowned for its hand embroideries, cutwork and appliqué, fine wine, and wicker. Her early childhood was surrounded by couturiers and embroiders. It was natural she picks up a needle and mimic the influences who unknowingly carved out the blueprint that would eventually follow her throughout life. At age 6 she began to hand embroider, by age 9 could make a bound buttonhole and by age 12 dove into garment sewing. She has been at it ever since. She grew up in Massachusetts, where she never forgot her roots and influences. She began sewing garments without a pattern and by the 5th grade was wearing her creations to school. Teachers took notice and when a math competition came up that year, she chose the topic, metric vs. imperial measuring systems. She set out to prove whether they were the same by using each system to make a garment. The outcome was identical and won first place, the first sewing award of many to come. Freshman year in high school she upped her sewing skills and began making tailored garments. She always knew she wanted a career in fashion, specifically to attend FIT. When it came time pick a college and choose a major her parents did not see it the same. Her dad, an accountant himself, thought best that she pursues a traditional career; besides they saw NYC and Boston as two worlds apart. As a result, she followed in his footsteps, earning a bachelor's degree in accounting. She never forgot her dream and always found time to sew. She credits her current level of work to her patience for handwork and those solid tailoring

techniques she learnt in the early days. She believes patience and precision go hand in hand with quality and solid design.

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.

Beth Bentley **Draping**

May 3, 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 Fudisionworks 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 taught Upcycles Couture in RISD'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 also taught Draping, Apparel 1 (garment construction) and Apparel Design at URI.

7. 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, local events, sewing classes and fun links. These are just a few of many great posts.

Rosemary –
Matching PJ's!!!
So adorable!



Rosemary –
The first picture is my inspiration. This
shirt needs a little tweaking but pretty
close. I used the Woven Button-Front
Blouse pattern from Judy Kessinger.



Susan – More from the Great Bra Sewing Bee....



Boylston Pattern by
Orange Lingerie
Scuba fabric



Chloe Pattern by The Bra
Makery
Hacked to a long line in lace



Devonshire Pattern by
Orange Lingerie

8. Other News and Interests

RISN Website

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

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 or make a monetary donation which will be used to purchase a doll or two.

Please let Mary-Jo know by **October 20th** if you plan to sew or donate for to this cause.

Contact Mary Jo at - ssol.sewinglove@gmail.com

And visit the website to learn more about this remarkable charitable cause.

<https://www.sewseedsoflove.com>



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.

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

9. Chuckle of the Month

A recent posting
Denise Carlson shared from the
American Sewing Guild
Silverdale Chapter.

Thank you!

Yesterday morning, I was being prepped for surgery.

The chatty nurse was preparing the IV.

Nurse: “How do you feel about needles?”

Me: “Needles? I like needles. My favorite is Schmetz
80 Universal, but ball points are great, too.”

Dead silence from the nurse.

I think she was trying to remember where they kept the
restraints.

P.S. Surgery went well. No restraints needed.

2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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) or Sueann Walter (Sueann301@yahoo.com).

The Registration form is below and on our website: www.rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com

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