



RI Sewing Network

March 2022 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

RISN was thrilled to have Anna Mazur, THREADS Magazine contributor, share her works of art at two separate sessions on March 1. The special afternoon session, Anna dazzled us with a special afternoon “pattern review” program where she gave highlights about dozens of gorgeous garments she created for Threads. Later that evening Anna talked about the 18 bags that were showcased in her book, Handbag Workshop. Attendees were in awe of the fine workmanship displayed in her garments and bags. A few photos and a quick summary of the sessions is enclosed as well as some post meeting updates from Anna.

We kicked off the sewing machine and pressing station raffle at the March meeting. An anonymous donor has sweetened the pot by donating a lovely, wheeled roller bag to go with the beautiful sewing machine. All three items were on display. Raffle ticket sales were strong. You can purchase tickets up until the May meeting when the machine/bag and pressing station will be raffled.

Sew and Share saw 6 members modeling their beautiful creations that ranged from a selection of bags, eye glass case, necklaces, embroidered vest, and a dress.

Who doesn't look forward to the raffle at the end of the meeting? Winners were treated to grab bags filled with a few items to make a zippered pouch and the much needed first aid supplies of tissues and Band-Aids in case you prick yourself with a pin. Thank you, MaryJo!

Our next meeting, April 5, features Anna Taylor & Ben Greslick. They will tell us all about Body Scanning Dress Forms. Come see how a human body is scanned, printed (that is, 3-D printing) and made into a functional dressmaker dummy. Examples of the forms will be on display for you to get a close up look. And the last RISN meeting of this season will be on May 3 where Beth Bentley will discuss Draping.

Please send your ideas and stories for future newsletters to Susan Berlam, newsletter coordinator (scberlam@berlamnet.com).

Happy Sewing!

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1. Membership Information & Facebook Instructions

If you are wondering how many members we have, it's **111!!!!** Thank you to everyone for spreading the word about this fun and informative organization. It's never too late to join, or simply attend a meeting that showcases a topic you are interested in. Invite your friends to one of the remaining meetings!

For any members that would still like to join the private RISN Facebook page, here's updated information from Sueann on how to join.

To become a member of the RISN FaceBook group go to the search bar and type in RISN Exclusive. When it brings you to our page there are two questions you need to answer. Answer those and hit submit. Once the administrators are notified by Facebook the record will be checked to make sure you are a current member, and you will be added.

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. March Recap – Anna Mazur; THREADS Contributor



Afternoon Pattern Review & Trunk Show

Evening Handbag Trunk Show

Without a doubt, the two sessions we had with Anna Mazur on March 1 were more than one could wish for. I'll do my best to give you a few of the highlights if you missed either session.

Having last visited RISN in 2006, Anna had lots to catch us up on. Anna took us down her memory lane starting with her first appearance in THREADS in the Fall of 2000, Issue 94, straight through to the current publication Spring 2022, Issue 217, and a glimpse of the planning for the next two publications still in the works. As you know, Anna is the lead contributor to the Pattern Review article which she started in June 2004. Anna explained the process for selecting the patterns to be featured in her article and how her team of pattern testers work under her direction to assess the pattern pieces, directions, and overall construction method. At least 8 months in advance of the publication, Anna starts with an extensive review of patterns from the major retail brands and dozens of indie companies. Once she has 6 or so patterns, she assigns the patterns to her testers, ships out the patterns and awaits the return muslin and the review from the tester. The feedback is

then reviewed and edited for the final published article. Up until just recently, all the patterns were purchased in paper format, but with the recent surgency of pdf patterns and now “projected file” patterns, Anna is adapting to new ways to ensure her testers are well positioned to create their muslins.

When she’s not managing the pattern review part of her job, Anna is busy creating stunning garments for THREADS. Her pattern review trunk show included dozens of her creations that have appeared on the cover and in the publication. She shared work that appeared in THREADS Issues 107, 110, 113, 123, 149, 150, 152, 155, 161, 186, 192, 217 and more. As for the gorgeous pink double cloth jacket with pearls sewn along the seams, Anna was wearing Simplicity pattern 4599, featured in THREADS Issue 123. While these makes are just jaw-dropping, she was very proud of the wedding dress she made for her daughter and her “mother of the bride” dress. The crystal embellished silk gown took more than 1000 hours to construct. Anna shared pictures of the wedding gown and samples of the cloth and gorgeous lace. The “mother of the bride” dress was on hand for us to see the incredible detail as well.

In the evening, Anna continued to dazzle us with her memories of writing her first book, Handbag Workshop. She agreed to author the book, featuring 18 bags, in 2012 just as she was starting to work on her daughter’s wedding dress. Yes, she said, it was extremely challenging times to say the least. During the first year of book planning, Anna constructed many of the bags and took extremely detailed notes to help her with the book text later. She also did all the photography for the book herself. Early 2014 she completed authoring and sent it off for the in-house review. As luck would have it (or not in this case), her computer crashed, and she lost all the files that supported the content of the book. YIKES! Thankfully she managed to find someone on the West Coast with savvy computer skills to retrieve her files. Handbag Workshop was successfully published and released for sale Oct 2014.

Of the 18 bags featured in the book, fourteen are 100% leather, three are a combination of leather/fabric and one is entirely fabric. Leather types range from lambskin to the exotic’s, such as Stingray and Ostrich. Anna told us about how she often will repurpose everyday items around the house to be included in her projects. In one bag she used a kitchen cabinet handle as a bag handle, and in another she used plastic weed-wacker line to create welting for a bag. Although the handbag patterns were designed with leather in mind, they are also adaptable to fabric as well. All are her original designs, and every single one was sewn on a home sewing machine. She features handbags for every level of expertise; from beginner to intermediate to advanced.

Anna shared a few of her sewing tips when working with leather. For example, she doesn’t use leather needles, just jean or size 14 needles. Microtex needles and a Teflon foot work well too. The actual patterns are included in the book and simply need to be enlarged 250%. Anna provided instructions on how to enlarge the patterns at home. These instructions will be sent separate from the Newsletter.

I’m sure I can speak for everyone that attended these two events with Anna, it was an honor to listen to her articulate her career, her artistic work and see her exceptional garments. Anna is incredibly talented. We were very fortunate to have her as our guest. Let’s not wait another 16 years to see her again.

POST MEETING SHARINGS FROM ANNA

“I remembered all the things I had been putting off and one of them was to send you a couple of links to stuff I had talked about in the evening workshop.

1. Regarding the bag support, I kept saying bag bottom, but it is actually called "Bag Stiffener". Here is a link to it.

https://tandy-leather.com/products/bag-stiffener?_pos=12&_sid=ec9254157&_ss=r

2. The other link I wanted to send was for the Mirrabella lambskin, the really soft leather I used on several bags including the one on the cover of the book. It is the easiest leather I have ever worked with.

https://tandy-leather.com/products/mirrabella-lambskin-black?_pos=1&_sid=9dc29113f&_ss=r

I see Tandy only carries the black on their website, but in their stores, they stock in assorted colors. The stores carry so much more than what is shown on their website. They get regular shipments of all different types of leather and weights. My favorite is when they get a shipment of "Odd lots" because you'll never know what treasures you will uncover in that pile. Besides visiting the store on a regular basis to check out the latest stock, the best way to know what is newest stuff is to get on a monthly mailing list.

I thought the members might like this information.”

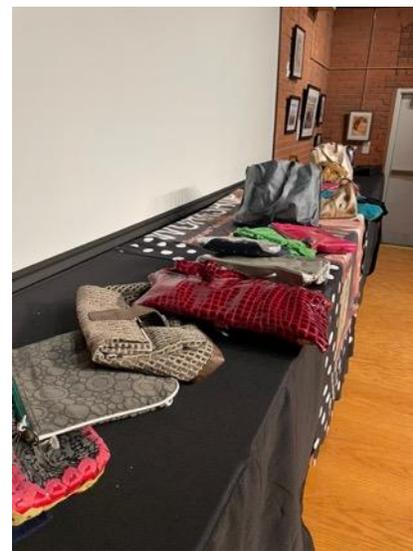
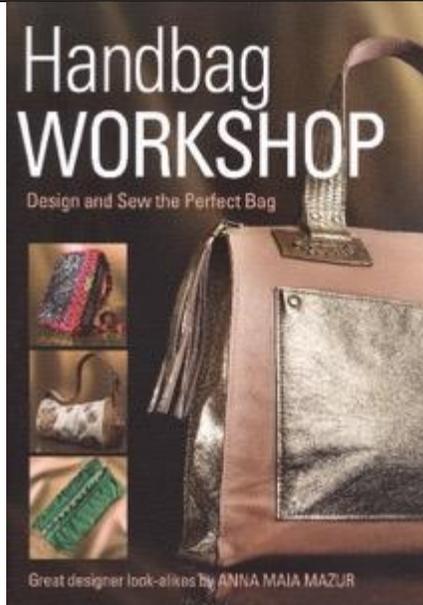
Enjoy the few photos captured from the afternoon and evening.



Anna at the board showcasing the construction of her daughter's wedding dress. A small sample of the lace on the right.









Stingray skin was used to make this bag. On the left is the “birthmark” on the stingray (every stingray has one) and on the right the bag uses the holes from the stingray’s eyes to feed to buckle through.

WOW!



A few photos from the evening....

Sew and Share



On the left Denise Carlson models her Sallie Tomato Clara Bag which she made in yellow pleather while watching an on-line class. See FaceBook for more details on her experience.



To the right Cindy Bucco shows her trio of cork fabric accessories; a purse, eyeglass case and a pouch. Cindy picked up the cork at Blaine's.



So, this isn't a sewing project, but these necklaces made by Rose O'Koren are too beautiful not to share. Using knitting needles and following a Zoom class, Rose said they were easy to make.



Nancy Hoell models her custom embroidered and crystal heat set embellished puffy vest. It's beautiful! Nancy used the Urban Threads design for her motif.





Joanne Brown shares her three bags; green Sewspire Journey Bag complete with an inside bag, cork and vinyl cross body bag, and blue duffel which used flusible fleece and Pellon 101 shapeflex to give it body. But don't miss that adorable polar fleece cape she made using double needle sewing on the collar.

VERY PRETTY Joanne!



Mary Jo Hines showing her beautiful pink Bristol dress from The Sewing Workshop. Don't you just love the cool hemline!



3. New Venue

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.



4. Special Raffle – Thanks to Generous Donors!

Diana Neumann’s family has graciously donated her Janome DC3050 portable sewing machine, and anonymous donors gave us a beautiful tapestry sewing machine roller bag to accompany the machine and a Digital Simplicity Quick Press Pro to the RISN. The sewing machine and roller bag will be raffled together as one and the pressing station will be raffled separately. Photos of these generous gifts are shown below. In an effort to continue to bring outstanding professional speakers and workshops to the RISN, these items will be raffled off and the proceeds will go into the RISN treasury. Raffle tickets will be sold at the remaining RISN meetings with the raffle being held at the May meeting. You do not have to be attendance to win.

Raffle Tickets: One (1) ticket for \$5. Five (5) tickets for \$20. Purchase tickets at the meeting (March, April, and/or May). Upon purchasing, RISN members will be asked to write your name on each raffle ticket purchased. Non-members purchasing a raffle ticket will be asked to write their name and phone number on each raffle ticket purchased.

If you are unable to attend a meeting in person to purchase your tickets, you can order raffle tickets by mailing your money and request to Ann Pericolo, RISN Treasurer. Ann will write your name on your raffle ticket(s). A Raffle Ticket Order Form is at the end of the newsletter.



To the left is the sewing machine and pressing station and on the right is the sewing machine bag to be raffled with the machine.



Raffle tickets will be sold up and until the start of the May meeting.



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

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 2PM	Special Event with Anna Mazur – Threads Magazine
March 1, 2022 7PM	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 the upcoming speakers. See previous newsletters for past speakers.

Anna Taylor & Ben Greslick
Body Scanning Dress Forms
 April 5, 2022

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

Below is a quick introduction from Anna and Ben as to what they plan to share with us on April 5.

“If you’re a garment sewer, you know how important good fit is and how difficult it is to get that fit on your own body. Many of us have tried to solve this with an inexpensive duct tape form, enduring the plaster casting process, or attempting to pad out an adjustable dress form, but found the results inaccurate at best and completely useless at worst. I was in the same situation and brainstorming with a friend when he had a brilliant suggestion. He had been experimenting with 3d printing and wondered if it would be possible to scan a human body, print it and make it into a functional dressmaker’s dummy. Through trial and error, we’ve refined the process, while still keeping an eye on developing technologies that might make the process even easier for home sewers. Through 3D scanning, we’ve eliminated the need for the cold and slimy hours long process for being plaster cast or spending hundreds of dollars for a do it yourself form that will never be an exact match for your individual curves. Our process reduces the scanning time to less than 20 minutes and provides a durable light weight dress form that can be covered and finished into a tabletop model or free-standing form.

We’re looking forward to explaining how it works, demonstrating the technology and answering questions in our upcoming presentation on April 5th. We’ll have examples of the forms on hand, talk about the differences between what we’re making and what’s available on the commercial market and discuss upcoming projects.”

Beth Bentley

Draping

May 3, 2022

We are very excited to have Beth Bentley in May with a session on draping. Look for more details in the next newsletter. 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.

6. Facebook Sharing

These are just a few of the great posts. Be sure to check out FB often as you are sure to find news on local shops, new courses, questions from fellow sewists, and lots of creativity.

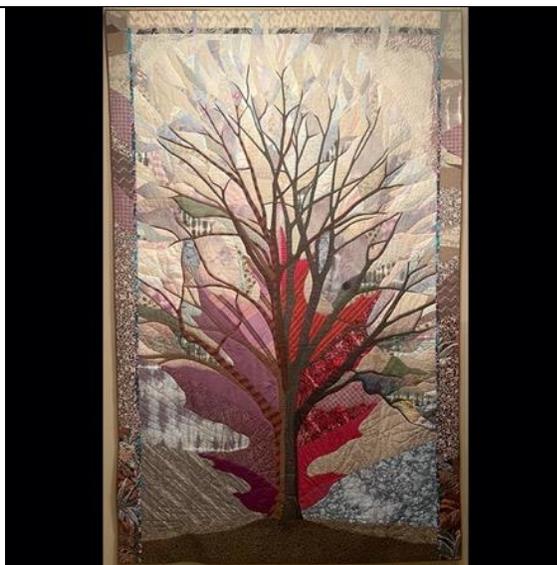
Sewing isn't always couture.....

Denise Carlson posted several updates this month. Beginning with the story about the head seamstress for the Green Bay Packers. Marge Switzer is retiring leaving behind a department of five, plus intern and part-time assistance, to make sure the Packers look their best on the field. You can read all about Marge here.

<https://www.packers.com/news/stories-from-the-packers-seamstress-marge-switzer-retires-after-27-years?fbclid=IwAR3KUnLzp15Q-dIZHdAfJ9u14rW4bATFJ7QrVHHhb4WO8VwtXRzMX97SVJg>

Denise reminded us that the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell MA, has a special exhibition titled "Tree Motifs from the 19th Century to Today". The exhibit goes through April 22, 2022.

To the right is a photo of a quilt from Ruth McDowell, of Winchester, MA.



Catherine Stevens shared this post and said, "have to go freshen my lipstick!"



Advice from a Singer Sewing Machine Manual from 1949

Prepare yourself mentally for sewing. Think about what you are going to do. Never approach sewing with a sigh or lackadaisically. Good results are difficult when indifference dominates. Never try to sew with a sink full of dirty dishes or beds unmade.

When there are urgent housekeeping chores, do these first so that your mind is free to enjoy your sewing. When you sew, make yourself as attractive as possible. Put on a clean dress. Keep a little bag of French chalk near your sewing machine to dust your fingers at intervals. Have your hair in order, powder and lipstick put on. If you are constantly fearful that a visitor might drop in or your husband will come home, and you will not look neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing.

Rose O’Koren attended the Sew Expo virtually and took a serge shrug class with Katrina Walker.

Isn’t her shrug gorgeous!!



Naomi Lipsky attended Jane Headley’s lace skirt class on Zoom, through Mastering the Art of Sewing. Her complex, couture skirt with 4 layers of fabric (lace, underlayer, underlining, and lining) is stunning.

Can you even find the zipper?



Ready for New England Spring weather?



Rose O'Koren is Spring time ready with her pretty flower print dress and warm and cozy pullover!

The Crossover V-Neck dress is from Judy Kessinger. Rose writes, "I am thrilled that the front and armholes do not gap. I added pockets to the side seams and sewed the top of the pockets into the waist seam. I added belt loops so the belt doesn't ride up and I won't lose the belt".

**SPOKEN FROM
EXPERIENCE!**



The pullover is a combination of a few patterns to recreate something Rose spotted on line.

Barbara Hendricks shared posts about upcoming sewing classes with *Master the Art of Sewing*. Be sure to check their website often. Many new classes to pick from including lots of inperson and remote attendance options!

<https://mastertheartofsewing.com>

7. Other News and Interests

RISN Website

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

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.

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) _____			

2022 Special Raffle Order Form

If you are unable to attend the RISN Meetings in March, April, and May to purchase raffle tickets, you can use this form to order your tickets.

Tickets: One (1) ticket cost \$5. Five (5) tickets cost \$20.

I would like to order _____ raffle tickets. (Please indicate the number of tickets you want to purchase.)

Please specify how you want to divide up your purchased tickets. All tickets can go to one item if preferred.

I would like to have _____ tickets put towards the Janome Sewing Machine and roller bag raffle.

I would like to have _____ tickets put towards the Simplicity Press raffle.

Please make checks out to RISN.

Your Name: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Mail the completed form and your payment to:

Ann Pericolo
10 Cherry Street
Wrentham, MA 02093

RISN Treasurer (Ann) will record the purchasers name on each ticket purchased by mail.