



# RI Sewing Network

## September 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 4, 2022  
November 1, 2022  
December 6, 2022  
March 7, 2023  
April 4, 2023  
May 2, 2023

### “Another fabulous line-up!”

The RISN Board is so happy to share with you a new season of exciting sewing topics presented by extremely talented local experts. The 2022-2023 season has something for everyone. We will be back enjoying the Warwick Center for the Arts lovely setting for our meeting. By now, most have figured out the rotaries and only need one time around to find our way to the parking entrance ☺. The new setting and early social hour have been wonderful changes which facilitated much needed face to face interactions.

Once again, Diane Martin worked hard to bring exceptional speakers to us this year. A brief introduction to each months' speaker is in the Newsletter. For October, we are very pleased to have Jenny Rushmore, CEO & Founder of Cashmerette, kick off the year. The following months will see Linda Olean (costume designer), Amy Page DeBlasio (contemporary designer), Anna Mazur (Threads Magazine), Julie Eilber (fashion historian), and Gretchen Mayhew (color consultant).

The membership fees for 2022/2023 have not changed. For those that register for Premier membership by September 15, you will be entered into a raffle to win a very special sewing related gift. So please register EARLY! A second monthly meeting raffle, in addition to the normal meeting attendance raffle, is being added this year. Check out the specifics on pages 9 and 10 of the Newsletter.

The Board received a few inquiries for providing remote attendance through Zoom and spent a great deal of time considering this as an option. However, after careful consideration and debate, the Board decided to continue with live meetings and not offer a Zoom option. They realize this decision is a disappointment to some. There are numerous reasons for remaining an in-person organization that far outweigh the convenience of watching a meeting from home. Most importantly, as a “Network” we aim to facilitate impromptu interactions between like-minded people and provide an environment that builds friendships, continuous learning and sharing of sewing skills and projects. The member social hour, raffle, and opportunity for personal interactions with the speakers are key components of the RISN that would be missed. In addition, the business side of meetings would be impacted greatly. To offer remote meetings, an investment would be needed to obtain a suitable camera, lighting, sound, Zoom account, and a person to film/project the meeting. Many speakers are not willing to participate in filmed settings, particularly if in-person attendance is low. For these and other reasons, the RISN meetings will continue with in-person format for our members. We encourage carpooling to assist with those needing rides (see page 3 for more details). That being said, the keynote speaker for October, Jenny Rushmore, will ONLY join us as a remote presenter. Based on Jenny's exceptional credentials, the Board decided to proceed with the remote format for the speaker only for the October meeting.

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## 1. Membership Information for 2022/2023

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 2022 meeting.

Attached to this Newsletter is the 2022-2023 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.
2. The nonmember fee for meetings is \$10 per meeting (no emails or FaceBook).
3. 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. Meeting Venue – Warwick Center for the Arts

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

3259 Post Road, Warwick, RI

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

3273 Post Road, Warwick, RI

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

RISN Meetings will continue to meet at the Warwick Center for the Arts (WCFA) located in the heart of Apponaug Village. After 6 meetings last year, most have learned how to successfully navigate the numerous rotaries in the area (I'm still working on that success!). The ever-changing beautiful artwork on display in the Center, makes up for the extra one or two trips around the block to get to my final parking place.

For directions, we suggest you use your GPS, however, here are a few details you might find helpful.

From RT 117 go straight past the first rotary, turn right at the second rotary (Dunkin Donuts), and a short distance to the next rotary go 3/4 around onto Post Road. Immediately watch for the first driveway on the left (before the Town Hall) for parking in the back. There is also parking on the street if you passed the WCFA (Armory building).

Being a “Networking” group, we’d like to encourage more interaction between the members. What better time to do it, than during that drive to and from the meetings. If you know someone that lives in your area, consider driving together. Not only might it save a little on gas, but you get to talk “ALL THINGS SEWING!” If you aren’t sure who to ask and want to carpool or need a ride, send Diane Martin an email and she will forward the request to the Network.

WCFA, situated in the historic Kentish Guard Armory building, is located on Post Rd in the heart of Apponaug IWCFA 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.



### 3. RISN Meeting Schedule and Speaker Line-Up for 2022-2023

The RISN Board held their annual Board meeting in June where they discussed topics and speakers for the new season. Sue Ann Walter, Mary Jo Hines, Maureen Rozes, Diane Martin, Mary Morse, Susan Berlam, and Nancy Spirito attended and updated the roles of the Board members. Ann Pericolo has decided to step down from her Board position to free up more time to enjoy other pleasures in life. Thank you, Ann, for many wonderful years of dedicated volunteer service to the RISN. We will miss you on the team but wish you all the best. Sue Ann Walter will take over as Treasurer. Nancy Spirito will be the Assistant to the Board. For a full list of Board members and their respective roles and contact information, see the second page of the Newsletter.

For the new season, once again, Diane set us up for great success. As Program Chair, Diane came to the June Board meeting with a list of nearly a dozen very talented presenters for consideration. We're certain you will love the 6 speakers selected for the new season.

#### RISN 2022/2023 Speakers

October 4, 2022	Jenny Rushmore - Cashmerette
November 1, 2022	Linda Olean – Costume Designer
December 6, 2022	Amy Page DeBlasio – Designer Wearable Art
March 7, 2023	Anna Mazur – THREADS Magazine
April 4, 2023	Julie Eilber – Fashion Historian
May 2, 2023	Gretchen Mayhew – Color Analysis

Below are a few details about these very talented artists.

#### **Jenny Rushmore** **Founder & CEO at Cashmerette**

October 4, 2022

#### **5 Top Tips for Fitting**

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

**RISN is very excited to have Jenny as the keynote speaker to kick off the new season. Please note that per Jenny's business practice, she will be joining us remotely for the presentation while we attend from the Warwick Center for the Arts. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and interact with her during the presentation. Below is a snippet about Jenny.**

Many will know Jenny from her pattern line Cashmerette. One of our ‘Sew and Share’ enthusiasts, Chrissy Vonin, modeled the Cashmerette Kimbal Bomber last season and it was beautiful (check out the April 2022 Newsletter for a photo). Jenny will be presenting on a favorite topic, fitting, specifically ‘5 top tips for fitting’. She is also offering RISN members a 20% discount on her book “Ahead of the Curve: Learn to Fit and Sew Amazing Clothes for your Curves”. Use the discount code RISN20 when ordering at [www.Cashmerette.com](http://www.Cashmerette.com). The offer is good until the end of 2022.

Jenny Rushmore is the founder and creative director of Cashmerette, which is dedicated to empowering big boobed sewists to create a dream wardrobe that actually fits.

Cashmerette began as Jenny’s personal blog in 2010, when she had the profound realization that she didn’t have to change her body to fit clothes – she could change clothes to fit her body. That led to the launch of Cashmerette in 2015, the first modern, body-positive, sewing company, with patterns in sizes 0 – 32 and cup sizes C – H. Cashmerette has grown since then to empower curvy sewists to find confidence through online workshops, a thriving online community, and “Ahead of the Curve: Learn to Fit and Sew Amazing Clothes for your Curves”, the first body-positive book focused on helping curvy sewists create a fabulous wardrobe that fits, which became an instant best-seller at launch.

Jenny’s work on Cashmerette and body positivity has been featured in publications including People magazine, The Guardian, and the Huffington Post.

Originally from Scotland, Jenny has lived in 9 countries, and is now proud to call Boston, MA home.

## **Linda Olean**

Nov 1, 2022

## **Costume Designer for The Edwards Twins**

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

Linda Olean is a RI costume designer for “The Edward Twins” who are nationally known Vegas impersonators. The duo is known to impersonate Elton John, Dollie Parton, Bette Midler, Barbara Streisand, Neil Diamond, Cher, Tom Jones, Lady Gaga, Celine Dion, Andrea Bocelli and many more. In fact, the pair has mastered more than 100 characters! Can you imagine the work of the costume designer to keep pace with dozens of characters? Don’t miss the November meeting, when Linda will share how she does it!

The meeting with Linda is timed around a local production of “The Edwards Twins” show on November 12 at 8PM at the Historic Park Theater in Cranston, RI. RISN is looking to secure a number of seats together for member purchase so interested members can attend. Stay tuned!

## **Amy Page DeBlasio**

December 6, 2022

## **Designer of wearable works of Art!**

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

Amy Page DeBlasio is a distinctive and ethical contemporary design label founded in 2017. Each APD piece is a wearable work of art, radiating movement and energy in a seamless blend of urban attitude and edgy sophistication. From each design concept to every stitch, APD reveals impeccable attention to detail. Through a mix of bold fabrics and luxe textiles, APD designs demand attention, provoke excitement, and express confidence. APD is more than a trend, it's a lifestyle. Designed in the Rhode Island studio and made in the USA with pride.

**Anna Mazur**  
March 7, 2023

**THREADS Magazine**  
“Mini-Me: Childrenswear”

We are thrilled to have Anna return to the Network this season. You'll remember she presented last March on her exquisite garment work and handbag creations. You can see some notes from her March 2022 presentation in the March 2022 Newsletter. One year later, Anna will be back and presenting on her work on childrenswear.

Anna used many of her inspirations from her own garments that we saw last year to create beautiful garments for her children over the years. Come be inspired by her many samples of her intricate hand embroideries to couture details.

**Julie Eilber**  
April 5, 2023

**Fashion Historian**  
**Author, Sewing Blogger**  
[www.jetsetsewing.com](http://www.jetsetsewing.com)

Writer and sewing blogger Julie Eilber will discuss how her love of sewing and vintage fashion led her to become a fashion historian, who has made presentations for the Balenciaga Museum and the Museum of Modern Art. Julie will be bringing samples of her reconstructed garments by legendary American designer Claire McCardell, and she'll talk about the various methods she used to re-create the designs from original notes, patterns, and garments.

**Gretchen Mayhew**  
May 2, 2023

**Color Analysis**  
[www.houseofcolour.com](http://www.houseofcolour.com)

We are looking forward to hosting Gretchen Mayhew for our final meeting of the season. Gretchen, located in Barrington, is a color consultant with the House of Colour.

*“Color has a profound impact on your mind, body, and mood. What you wear on the outside directly affects how you feel on the inside.”*

This session in May will surely be an inspirational springboard for your summer wardrobe. More details to come as we get closer to the meeting.

## 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. 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.

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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**Mary Jo Hines** shared an article from Threads on Stephanie Kwolek, the chemist who invented the life-saving material known as Kevlar.

[www.threadsmagazine Stephanie Kwolek.com](http://www.threadsmagazine.com/Stephanie_Kwolek)



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**Rosemary O’Koren** asked -

“I want to dye a cotton knit jacket that has faded. What is your favorite dye manufacturer? I have used iDye in the past, but I am having a hard time finding Navy.”

And the FB response was:

In bra making forums I often see Dharma mentioned. I’ve never dyed fabric myself though. Also, I see a few comments about how hard it is to get the right navy. Good luck.

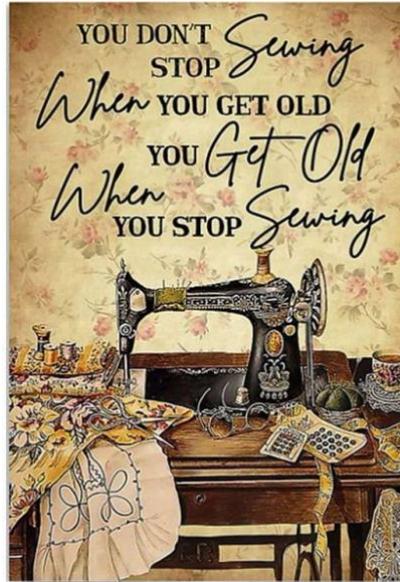
<https://www.dharmatrading.com/dyes/>

*So, what happened Rosemary???*

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Thank you **Denise Carlson**.  
The message says it all!



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**Rosemary O’Koren** shared a photo of a Judy Kessinger blouse she made using her serger and Filaine thread to get the trim look.

It’s beautiful!  
Thanks for the inspiration Rose.



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**Mary Jo Hines** shares another fun story...

A woman kept her grandma’s dress in an attic for 25 years. A viral TikTok has helped her discover its origins and reconnect to her family history.

[www.insider.com/vintage-dior-dress-grandmother](http://www.insider.com/vintage-dior-dress-grandmother)



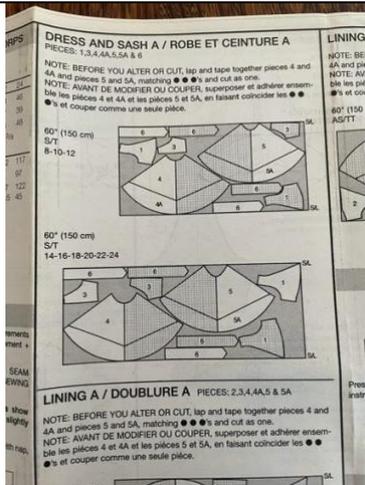
**Rosemary O’Koren** busy embroidering for her grandchild to be.



And from JuJu Designs, **Rosemary O’Koren** made several “lovies” for the many ‘moms to be’ in Rosemary’s network.



**Susan Berlam** sought advice on cutting out the full skirt (B5175) on the cross-grain (as instructed) or straight of grain for a silk fabric. Members were right on the request and provided many expert recommendations and tips. The dress turned out great thanks to all the priceless input!



## 5. Other News and Interests

**RISN Raffles – It’s getting sweeter in 2022/2023!**

Not one, not two, but THREE RAFFLE offerings this year!

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1. Sign-up or renew your RISN Membership before September 15, 2022, and you will be entered into a very generous drawing. The winner will be selected at the first meeting, October 4. Complete the membership form attached to the Newsletter and send it to Sue Ann Walter as instructed by September 15.
  2. Without a doubt, we love the meeting raffle that Mary Jo coordinates. If you don't go to the meetings, you are missing out on the fun and possibility of winning a thoughtful prize. All meeting attendees are handed a raffle ticket when they check-in for the meeting. Following the speaker presentation Mary Jo raffles off 5-6 goody bags to lucky winners. You never know what fun prizes await. It could be sewing supplies that everyone needs and always forgets to purchase, a piece or two of cloth and a challenge to make it up, adorable coffee mugs with sewing themes, powerful LED lights for your sewing space, etc.
  3. This year we are adding a second raffle to the monthly meeting, called the Sew & Share Raffle. Anyone that participates in Sew and Share portion of the meeting will receive a raffle ticket good for a separate raffle. We want to encourage everyone to share what you are working on, whether it be successes or NOT. There's no better way to learn and be inspired, but from someone else's experience.

For Sew & Share, Susan Berlam, Newsletter editor, will take your name, photo and details about your 'Share' for the Newsletter. Please be sure to "check-in" with Susan before you share so she can get the details. Susan will have index cards for you to jot down the details yourself to be sure she gets it right in the Newsletter.

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## **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 11th 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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## 2022-2023 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 2022 meeting.

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

Sue Ann Walter  
54 Hamilton Avenue Rear  
Norwich, CT 06360

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 2022-2023 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.

**Nonmembers:** 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.

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.

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

<b><u>RISN Membership Application 2022-2023</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) _____			