



RI Sewing Network

October 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

Exciting New Season!

We are so happy to have started our new season with an outstanding presenter at a terrific location. Even the very rainy evening didn't seem to deter our members from attending the kick-off meeting. Between the presentation by Jenny Rushmore, founder of Cashmerette, time to mingle and catch-up, a table filled with beautiful cloth free for the taking, lots of Sew and Shares to "Ooh and Ahh" at, and multiple raffle prizes for the lucky winners, we had a fun evening.

Apart from the technical difficulties we experienced at the start trying to project Jenny via Zoom, her presentation was outstanding. Please know we did practice the Zoom session and equipment hook-ups a few weeks prior to our meeting in September. Of course, that session was executed flawlessly! 😊 Sadly, in this instance, "practice doesn't make perfect". Thank you to everyone who patiently waited while we got it "working" (though not exactly as planned) and to Kaleigh Guay who jumped in to offer her, much needed, technical expertise.

When the sound finally came on, Jenny Rushmore talked about how she identified a huge gap in the availability of patterns for the curvy woman. With her sewing and fitting skills, she was able to capitalize on the shortcoming by forming her pattern company, Cashmerette. She shared fitting tips and sources of information to help conquer those curvy fitting challenges. Even Jenny, had to manage some unexpected video challenges herself that evening. A few times her very young daughter came into view desperately wanted to share a bit of information with Jenny, which made for an even more endearing presentation. A classic Zoom meeting in all ways.

Get ready for our next meeting on November 1, when Linda Olean, a RI costume designer for "The Edwards Twins", who are nationally known Vegas impersonators, will be presenting on her unique work and sharing a few of the costumes. And, for anyone interested in seeing a production of "The Edwards Twins", see the details in the newsletter about the production November 12 in Cranston.

RISN membership for 2022-2023 is up to 75 so far. Thank you for renewing early. Please continue to spread the word about the organization and the outstanding talent of our members and the connections the Network offers. For someone not interested in joining for the season, the option to attend only the one or two sessions of interest is hard to beat. So, grab your friend, neighbor, cousin, or anyone you know that has the slightest interest in sewing, textiles, design, crafting, etc. and invite them to join us for a meeting.

Enjoy the Newsletter. We hope to see everyone in November!

Happy Sewing!

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1. Membership Information for 2022/2023

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

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/>

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).

COME TOGETHER - 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.

3. September Recap – Jenny Rushmore, Founder & CEO at Cashmerette

www.cashmerette.com

Jenny Rushmore, founder, and creative director of Cashmerette, gave us a wonderful kickoff to the new season of RISN. She so patiently waited as we got through the technical difficulties of

projecting the audio to the audience. Once she got going, you could hear a pin drop in the room as we hung on every word.

Jenny shared how she started Cashmerette in 2015 after learning to sew for herself and realizing that most of the pattern companies didn't produce patterns to fit the average American woman. According to Jenny, approximately 68% of American women are curvy, wearing a size 16/18 with a bust of at least a DD. We all know that the major 4 pattern companies typically draft for a B cup. That makes for a lot of pattern adjustments for the average sewer (if they even have the determination and skill to make the adjustments). It's no wonder people get frustrated and stop sewing. Enter Cashmerette!

Cashmerette pattern line was first launched with pattern sizes 12 to 28 for busts C to H. The success of the line encouraged for Jenny to expand her size range to 0-32 and busts C to H. She explained that her patterns come with in-depth instructions and many fitting options to ensure a great finished garment. For example, she said her Lipton dress pattern has 350 size possibilities.

Jenny's presentation focused on 5 core principles.

1. Measure the right way! Take your measurements standing and sitting. You'll see that our bodies expand in the sitting position and should take this into consideration and align a measurement with your own personal fit preferences. Some folks like clothing snug, others, not so much.
2. Understand Ease. Don't be afraid of negative ease. She recommended measuring some of your good fitting / favorite ready to wear garments to understand the amount of ease you like to have.
3. Understand proportions. Just because a body might be larger in the circumference, doesn't mean their arms are equally longer in proportion, or shoulders are wider.
4. Grading between sizes. At least 70% of us are not the same size at the bust, waist and hip. Learn to grade between sizes to achieve a good fit up and down the body. Jenny said she has a blog on her site on the topic.
<https://blog.cashmerette.com/2021/04/grading-between-sizes-on-the-auburn-blazer.html>
5. Order of adjustment. Jenny's rule of thumb for order in which she adjusts patterns is
 - Length,
 - Bust,
 - Shoulders, then
 - Everything else.

Jenny mentioned the website <https://sewbustty.com> as a great resource for how to make bust adjustments.

Take some time to check out Cashmerette website and everything it has to offer including on-line workshops, Cashmerette Club, lots of great patterns, and tutorials and blogs. Jenny recently published a book titled "*Ahead of the Curve: Learn to Fit and Sew Amazing Clothes for your Curves*". It's the first body-positive book focused on helping curvy sewists create a fabulous wardrobe that fits, which became an instant best-seller at launch. She is offering RISN members a 20% discount on her book. Use the discount code RISN20 when ordering at www.Cashmerette.com. The offer is good until the end of 2022.

4. September Recap - Sew and Share

Chrissy Bonin looking stunning in her Willow Wrap Dress (pattern from Love Notions) and the Kimball Bomber Jacket (pattern from Cashmerette). Thanks for modeling the Bomber jacket a second time for Jenny Rushmore to see your fine work!

<https://www.lovenotions.com> www.cashmerette.com



Maureen Rozes shared her beautiful, gored skirt made from Jalie pattern 2681. Very cute!

<https://jalie.com/>



Rose O’Koren donned a lovely jacket and top created from Judy Kessinger’s pattern the Blue Bandit. Rose has made many impressive things from the Kessinger collection of patterns, so I finally looked at the website. WOW! Lots of great looks there. Check it out.

<https://fitnicesystem.com>



Donna Mansolillo is ready for the season! Look at the adorable Halloween costumes she made. A beautiful purple Fairy dress with lots of fun flowers on the neckline and a warm, cozy, and colorful Unicorn costume for one lucky trick or treat! McCall’s 4887 and McCall’s 7852.



Mary Jo Hines didn’t make an item for Sew and Share this month. Instead, she used the opportunity to share a product she fell in love with. She recently started to use Silamide thread for hand-sewing. She couldn’t have been more pleased with how wonderful it is to work with. Now we all must get some and try it!

From Wawak.com – here’s what they have to say about Silamide.

“Waxed silamide skeins are used to replace silk thread for hand sewing. It is a soft thread with wax and a little silicone.”

<https://www.wawak.com>

Susan Berlam shared a few more bras she created after attending the International Bra Sewing Bee in August.

Black set: Emerald Erin Black Beauty Bra and Studio Costura Stella Panty

Blue bamboo print: Cloth Habit Watson bralette

Blue Lace: Orange Lingerie Devonshire bra.

<https://emeralderin.com> <https://www.studiocostura.com> <https://clothhabit.com>

<https://orange-lingerie.com/pages/about>



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

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.

Linda Olean

Nov 1, 2022

Costume Designer for

The Edwards Twins

www.theEdwardstwins.com

Linda Olean is a RI costume designer for “The Edwards Twins” who are nationally known Vegas impersonators. Here’s what Linda had to say about her step into the spotlight and what she plans to share at our November meeting.

“I met the Edwards Twins in 2011 at The Stadium Theater in Woonsocket, RI, through the dance studio I performed with [Fancie Dancer studio in Cumberland RI]. My dance

instructor, and friend, Fran Golombiewski, introduced me to Eddie. Eddie was planning his 1st Diva show and needed dancers. Fran then told him I made all the costumes and so it began! I have been creating his costumes ever since.

I will be sharing the techniques and challenges of making quick change outfits and working with sequin fabrics, feathers, and stones. I also make the undergarments to shape Eddie's body into the celebrities he portrays. To top it off, Eddie was generous enough to lend me Cher, Bette, and Barbara costumes to share with you. I look forward to meeting you and answering any questions you may have."

The Edwards Twins 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. A group of RISN members will be attending. Anyone else interested in going might want to contact Diane Martin first to see if she knows of RISN member who purchased tickets but are no longer able to attend. Otherwise procure ticket(s) directly through the venue. <https://theparkri.com>

Amy Page DeBlasio

December 6, 2022

Designer of wearable works of Art! 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

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

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.

6. 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.

Rowena Burke shared an interesting post about the URI pattern archive.

[The Verge Sewing Pattern Archive](#)

How many patterns do you have in your stash?



Rowena Burke found another sewing gem, a list of books, fiction and non-fiction, that touch on sewing.

[WorldCat Sewing Books Fiction and Non-Fiction](#)

25 books to keep you busy through the cold months ahead. For future newsletters, let us know if you read any and what you thought of the book.

Maggie Grenier posted a exhibition ongoing at the Rough Point Museum, the Newport home of Heiress, collector, and philanthropist Doris Duke. Through November 13, 2022

Inspired by Asia: Highlights from the Duke Family.

Doris Duke was a lifelong collector of fine and decorative arts from around the world. Several of her collecting interests can be seen in the museums of the Newport Restoration Foundation. At Rough Point, our special exhibitions underscore the variety of these interests and offer insights into Doris Duke's life and legacy.

<https://www.newportrestoration.org/exhibit/inspired-by-asia/>

Denise Carlson shared her plans for a Chanel jacket she will be working on in Jane Headley's class.

I see a future Sew and Share project!



From Mary Morse

Hi Friends! I finally completed the refresh of my two gliders in my three-season room! This was a hot summer to sew so this project was completed in 20–30-minute sessions. The left is the completed project. I removed the old fabric and used it as my pattern. The foam cushions were in good shape so I could reuse them. The skill challenge was matching the plaids. The

cording was cut on the bias, so I did not have to worry about matching that to the base. The fabric came from Lorraine's \$2.99 section, so the entire refresh of the gliders was \$18 plus my time



From Rose O’Koren

I started with the Woven Button-front blouse, pg. 30 in Judy Kessinger's The Design-it-yourself book and added some length. I serged a rolled hem with Filaine thread on the front plackets and collar. Added side pockets, I very rarely carry a purse. I cut a Fonzi collar and sewed it on per the Serged Blouse directions, pg. 45, same book. When I found the Inspiration picture, I had to make it.



7. Other News and Interests

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

RAFFLE offerings this year!

-
1. 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. This year, for anyone who participated in Sew and Share, they get an extra raffle ticket for the general drawing. Following the speaker presentation Mary Jo raffles off 5-6 goody bags to lucky winners. You never know what fun prizes await.

The September prizes were amazing. Here's what the lucky winners took home: a sleeve of Schmetz Microtex needles, a sleeve of Schmetz Universal 80/12 needles, 1 Purple Thang notion, 1 pack of Barbie themed tissues and 1 luggage tag or Sew In tags, all packed in a small plastic storage bin.

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. Then remember to pick up your extra raffle ticket. Good Luck!

2. At the October meeting, a special raffle was held for those that joined RISN as a premier member by September 15. We are extremely happy to see that Diane Martin had the winning ticket. Her prize was, *The Lady Di Look Book: What Diana Was Trying to Tell Us Through Her Clothes*, by Eloise Moran. In addition, Diane won a portable, rechargeable 8" fan; a portable, led light with USB charging in the base, and a box of glass fermentation weights which can be used as pattern weights, smooth, clear, and heavy.

If that isn't inspiration to sign up with RISN early next year, I don't know what is! Thanks Mary Jo for all the hard work you do selecting the prizes, wrapping them, and presenting them in a beautiful package.

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 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



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.

EXHIBITS / MUSEUMS

The Peabody Essex Museum

Patrick Kelly: Runway of Love

<https://www.pem.org/exhibitions/patrick-kelly-runway-of-love>

Through November 6, 2022



Patrick Kelly: Runway of Love celebrates the career and legacy of fashion designer Patrick Kelly (born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, 1954–1990). Based in Paris from 1979, Kelly was primarily self-taught and fearlessly drew inspiration from his experiences growing up in the American South, his Black heritage, his days in the New York and Paris club scenes, and his personal muses. His light-hearted and sophisticated designs pushed racial and cultural boundaries, asserted Black empowerment, and were rooted in expressions of love and joy. The exhibition was first presented at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in 2014 and revised for presentation at the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco. The exhibition at PEM situates Kelly and his work in the broader context of art and fashion history by exploring the impulses behind his designs, his significant

collection of racist memorabilia (images of which he repurposed to tell his own story), and footage from his exuberant and groundbreaking fashion shows.

The Museum at FIT (Fashion Institute of Technology, NYC).

SHOES: ANATOMY, IDENTITY, MAGIC

September 1 – December 31, 2022.

The exhibition features more than 300 of the 5,000 pairs of shoes, boots, sandals, and sneakers in the museum's permanent collection, aka "the closet." It will be accompanied by a book, *Shoes: The Collection of The Museum at FIT*, published by Taschen.

<https://www.fitnyc.edu/museum/exhibitions/shoes-2022/index.php>

EXPLORE ONLINE COLLECTIONS

<https://fashionmuseum.fitnyc.edu/collections>

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

The Department of Textile and Fashion Arts is global in scope, stewarding more than 30,000 objects that range from ancient Egyptian pleated dresses to contemporary fiber art by well-known American artists such as Ed Rossbach and Sheila Hicks.

<https://www.mfa.org/collections/textile-and-fashion-arts>

And don't miss their online collections, including this one on dresses.

<https://collections.mfa.org/collections/419373/tfafashionable-dress;jsessionid=42FA0F08DB7F6BE90859F3AD0ED45B90/objects>

RISD Museum

Art and Design from 1900 to Now

September 3, 2022 – June 9, 2024

Drawing together works on paper, costume and textiles, painting, sculpture, photography, and decorative arts and design, the installation reflects the interconnectedness of the disciplines RISD teaches and the cross pollination among art forms and media that can influence how artists work.

<https://risdmuseum.org/exhibitions-events/exhibitions/art-and-design-1900-now-0>

2022-2023 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

Sueann 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

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