



RI Sewing Network

March 2023 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

UBER Children's Wear!

Anna Mazur's March presentation focused on the topic of children's wear and our members were ahead of the game with fabulous creations of their own at Sew and Share. Anna, from Threads Magazine, shared many fun stories and dozens of garments across the decades of exquisite sewing for her children. The trunk show was fabulous and was sure to inspire our attendees to use their own talents to create a special garment, or two, for a little one of their own. March Sew and Share certainly looked to be the start with several members sharing recent makes for special children in their life.

On April 4 we will host fashion historian, Julie Eilber. Julie, a writer and sewing blogger will discuss how her love of sewing and vintage fashion led her to become a fashion historian. Julie will bring samples of her reconstructed garments by American designer Claire McCardell and talk about her methods to recreate the works of art.

In preparation for Julie's presentation in April, you might want to check out one of Claire McCardell's latest books, "*What Shall I Wear? The What, Where, When, and How Much of Fashion*" published August 2022. This book, first published in 1956, focused on Claire McCardell's collection of fashion wisdom and philosophy. The new edition features photos of McCardell's collections.

The final meeting of this session is on May 2, when expert color consultant, Genevieve Kacmar, will be our keynote speaker. You don't want to miss this presentation – as you might rethink your summer sewing color palette after hearing what Genevieve has to say.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter this month. There's a short summary and a few photos from the March meeting with Anna Mazur. In addition, there are several photos from the evenings' Sew and Share which show the amazing talent of our Network. And a few clips from FaceBook and other tidbits of interest.

Please consider bringing a friend or budding new sewist to the Network meeting. We love to share our excitement and experiences with others.

It's not too early to think about the 2023/2024 RISN season. Do you have an idea or recommendation for a meeting topic, workshop, or speaker? We want to hear from everyone. Send your thoughts to Diane Martin or Susan Berlam and we'll share it with the rest of the RISN Board.

Enjoy the Newsletter. We hope to see everyone April 4!

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 and ask you to consider carpooling together. 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. March Recap – Anna Mazur

THREADS Magazine

“Mini-Me: Childrenswear”

This presentation was amazing! Anna shared decades of sewing for her children starting from the Spring of 1989 when she made the first dress for her infant daughter. She walked us through the christening outfits, special occasions, holiday outfits, communion dress, graduation dress, and many, many in between. Each garment was exquisitely constructed. And what’s so amazing is that

Anna saved so many outfits and remembered the smallest of details of each. No technique was too difficult to be included in her children's special garments. Anna even used bound buttonholes in her son's christening outfit!

Enjoy the photos and short summaries of just a few of the many outfits Anna shared with us.

Below, on the left is her children's christening gown and on the right is her daughter's graduation dress. Anna shared a funny story about the graduation festivities. Fortunatley, Anna was given a heads up that the graduation dress was going to be worn while taking a plunge in water fountain. Apparently, dunking is a tradition for the school. Think of all that gorgeous handwork on the dress and then to jump into a fountatin!!! Speechless! Anna, calm and cool, with the news of the dunking tradition, she made sure the garment would keep private things '*private*' using flannel lining among other techniques to retain the stunning glamour of the dress, even when wet!....





Anna brought two incredible racks of clothing that she made for her children over the years.



Below are three little girl dresses from Anna's large collection. These featured beautiful pleated and ribbon adorned bodice work and stunning lace work on Irish linen.



In the photos below, the bodice on the left was embellished with ribbon embroidery. The skirt in the middle was made for her daughter using very pricey fabric her daughter ‘just had to have’. Anna limited the purchase to half a yard. To give the skirt length, Anna added an underlay and then topped it with beautiful beading at the hemline. The jacket on the right caught everyone’s attention with the use of home-dec fabric and fleece.



More below.... The black jacket was made during the Blizzard of 1978. And the dress on the right is a “copy” of a mini-dress originally designed by Valentino and worn by Megan Markle for an event in September 2021. Threads Magazine asked Anna to recreate the stunning dress. The dress features floral appliques with beadwork embellishments around the neckline and sleeves. The dress was featured in a recent Threads publication.





4. March - Sew and Share

Suzanne Mancini shared two adorable little girl dresses she made using Children's Corner pattern "Lilah". Note the cute keyhole sleeve on the plaid dress and the expert piping along the neckline and bodice. Those are beautiful dresses for a very lucky young lady!



Rebecca Armitage was very busy making up 4 sets of doll clothes for Sew Seeds of Love. Each set includes pajama and robe, tights, top and sweater, and a dress. Rebecca explained how she used an old sweater to make the doll sweaters. First, she felted the wool, made up the sweater and adorned it with two buttons at the neckline and an elastic hair tie to finish the closure.



Jerilyn Perry shared a beautiful pink flower girl jumpsuit which she made using Simplicity 8850 and 1507.

Every mom, granny, auntie needs to check out pattern 8850 – that is so cute!

Jerilyn used the pants from 8850 and the bodice from 1507 to make this lovely outfit.



Rose O’Koren is on a major challenge here! She signed on for a sewing challenge called “ABC Challenge” with Judy Kessinger. The objective is to make a garment according to the alphabet using Kessinger’s FitNice patterns. Sewers have two weeks to make something beginning with each letter. The is the “C” garment; “C” for camisole! WOW, what a commitment! We are looking forward to seeing more *letters*, Rose.

PS – Rose made her necklace too.



Karen Penn made a boy’s fleece jacket using a Vogue pattern. The zipper installation and sewing were exceptional! Another lucky youngster.



Mary Jo Hines brought the wedding dress she made for her daughter and many samples of the fabrics, lace, bindings, etc. for all to see. You'll recall that Mary Jo did an article on the making of the dress last month. Mary Jo started with her own gown and cut the skirt off the bodice. She then made a new skirt and did significant alterations to the bodice to produce a lovely two piece gown for her daughter. You can see the picture of Mary Jo in the original gown and the remake adorned with a fur cape in the photos below.



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	Genevieve Kacmar – Color Analysis

Below are a few details about these very talented artists.

Julie Eilber

April 4, 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.

Genevieve Kacmar

May 2, 2023

Color Analysis
www.houseofcolour.com

We are looking forward to hosting Genevieve Kacmar for our final meeting of the season. Genevieve, located in Boston, 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.

Important Note For Businesses -

Are you a RISN member engaged in a sewing related business? Although business advertising is not allowed on the newsfeed/discussion section of the RISN Exclusive Facebook page you can post information about your business within the File section of our Facebook page. Under File find the document "RISN Members' Business" and post information about your business.

Here are just a few of many, many FaceBook posts.....

From **Rose O'Koren** - I am enjoying "shopping" in my stash. I love my Bermuda top from Judy Kessinger. Instead of adding wings to the sides like the pattern suggested, I extended the back, rounded the side seams and added buttons. The triangle on the top is a little smaller than the pattern called for so it would line up with the lines on the shirt. I went with 3/4 sleeves so I could make a dress with the leftover fabric. The black fabric is all scrap fabric. B is for Bermuda.



Diane Cormier shared -

There is an Exhibit at the New Bedford Library that might be of interest to the group. The library is showcasing Afghan refugee women's art as they build for the future. The exhibit is through March 23.

[new-bedford-library-features-exhibit-of-afghan-womens-art/69901327007/?fbclid=IwAR3iiZKwfKk7bECJCr6sygpE9OSrQDdJZ1F5TigHNSRssCr827RAhcVRz7E](https://www.facebook.com/new-bedford-library-features-exhibit-of-afghan-womens-art/69901327007/?fbclid=IwAR3iiZKwfKk7bECJCr6sygpE9OSrQDdJZ1F5TigHNSRssCr827RAhcVRz7E)



Denise Carlson finds the best cartoons!



7. Other News and Interests

RISN Raffle

As a reminder, every RISN member that attends a meeting is given a raffle ticket for the evening drawing. In addition, anyone that has a Sew and Share project receives an additional raffle ticket

In March, Mary Jo filled 7 flower boxes with an assortment of sewing notions! We can't wait to see what surprises are in the April raffle.



RISN Website

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

Sew Seeds of Love – Mary Jo Hines

Stay tuned for updates from Mary Jo.

Sew Seeds of Love, a volunteer sewing group coordinated by Mary Jo Hines. This project is an exceptional gift for girls who are sheltered from domestic abuse or living in foster care in Rhode Island. 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

Trinity Rep (Providence, RI)

The Inferior Sex

March 16 - April 16, 2023 in the Dowling Theater of Trinity Rep

[Tickets to the Play](#)

It's the summer of 1972. The battle to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment is ramping up across the nation. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm is campaigning for president. And in midtown Manhattan, a group of women have created a magazine "for feminists who love fashion." As the war in Vietnam intensifies, and the Watergate scandal erupts, the charged political and social climate challenges friendships and the future of the magazine itself. Poignant and hilarious, *The Inferior Sex* looks at finding your politics, your community, and your voice in an ever-changing world.

Bringing 1970s Fashion to the Stage

Almost every piece of clothing you see in *The Inferior Sex* is genuine vintage.

We don't mean vintage as in "clothes made today that look like they're from 1972," but as in most of the show's shirts, pants, skirts, shoes, and purses were actually made and worn in the late 60s or early 70s.

Costume Shop Director Amanda Downing Carney designed the costumes for *The Inferior Sex*. While most Trinity Rep productions set in the past tend to recreate clothing in the style of the era, Amanda instead opted to source actual vintage garments. Her process included finding authentic pieces online through Etsy or specialty shops, as well as by thrifting at local shops. She said that she can often tell if a piece of clothing is genuine or not by its label, silhouette, and fabric. In 1972, fashion was filled to the brim with a durable new "wonder fabric: polyester.

[More from Costume Director Amanda Downing Carney](#)

Peabody Essex Museum

Fashion and Design Exhibition: Iris Apfel's Rare Bird of Fashion Collection

Opens March 11, 2023

Who is Iris Apfel? 101-year-old Iris Apfel is an American sartorial superstar and global fashion icon known for her daring personal style and signature round glasses. She has been the subject of several museum exhibitions, a coffee-table book, a documentary, a campaign for MAC Cosmetics, and even had two Barbie™ dolls created in her likeness.

<https://www.pem.org/exhibitions/fashion-design-gallery>

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

Designing Women: Fashion Creators and Their Interiors. Through May 14, 2023.

<https://www.fitnyc.edu/museum/exhibitions/>

FRESH, FLY, AND FABULOUS: FIFTY YEARS OF HIP HOP STYLE. February 8 – April 23, 2023

<https://www.fitnyc.edu/museum/exhibitions/hip-hop-style/index.php>

Elizabeth Hawes: Along Her Own Lines. March 1-26, 2023

<https://www.fitnyc.edu/museum/exhibitions/>

Food & Fashion. September 2023 – January 2024

<https://www.fitnyc.edu/museum/exhibitions/>

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

RISN Membership Application 2022-2023

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Street

City/Town

State

Zip

Preferred Telephone Contact: _____

Please select your membership category.

Annual (\$10) _____

Premier (\$40) _____