



RI Sewing Network

April 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

Don't miss the LAST meeting of the season!

Where did the time go? In a few short weeks we'll be having our last meeting of the 2022/2023 season. Don't miss this exciting evening with Genevieve Kacmar, an expert color consultant, who will most certainly inspire beautiful color palettes for the spring and summer season.

Before we rush forward, let's take a quick look back to April. The members who attended the April meeting were mesmerized with fashion historian, Julie Eilber, and her detailed story of how sewing at an early age to avoid hand-me-downs, turned into an obsession with 'everything vintage' and catapulted her into an amazing second career. Julie shared a beautiful slide deck containing photos of her work beginning as a child and moving through the decades of the 1970's, 1980's and beyond, her detailed research of Claire McCardell's fashions and Julie's expert reconstructions of a few of Claire's historic pieces.

Take a moment to recall the other outstanding speakers we heard from this season. Remember Jenny Rushmore, founder of Cashmerette; a company focused on creating exceptional patterns and advice for the curvy sewer. Linda Olean, who had us in 'stitches' as she described her work as the costume designer for the Edwards Twins. And a local, incredibly successful designer of wearable art, Amy Page DeBlasio. What beautiful and unique designs Amy shared with us. Lastly, Anna Mazur, from Threads Magazine, treating us to a second presentation in less than a year; this time sharing her exceptional collection of children's clothes. You'll see in the Newsletter how Anna has inspired a few of our members to challenge their creative skills. Be sure to take a look at our website if you want to go back and read the newsletters from these meetings or earlier meetings to refresh the memories.

It was clear from the overwhelming number of sewists sharing their pieces at 'Sew and Share' this month that many ladies in our network are loving being back to their machines this spring. We had seven ladies sharing a very impressive collection of makes.

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 and she'll share it with the rest of the RISN Board. Diane spends months pulling together ideas of potential speakers, researching their availability, and consulting with the RISN Board to select speakers. Your input on guests and topics is greatly appreciated. Remember this is YOUR network to enjoy.

We hope to see everyone May 2!

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. April Recap – Julie Eilber

Fashion Historian, Author, Sewing Blogger

www.jetsetsewing.com

“How I used my sewing skills to reconstruct famous vintage designs”

Writer and sewing blogger Julie Eilber shared how her love of sewing and vintage fashion led her to become a fashion historian. Julie has made presentations for the Balenciaga Museum and the Museum of Modern Art, as well as many other organizations. We were thrilled to hear her story and

see and touch a few samples of her reconstructed garments by legendary American designer, Claire McCardell. Beyond her detailed work on the McCardell designs, Julie presented a slide deck with numerous photos of her work, including numerous examples of her vintage makes for special occasions in her life.

Julie started sewing as a young child to avoid sibling hand-me-down garments. It didn't take long before she discovered vintage clothing and shopped thrift stores and sewed vintage patterns. In her early career days, she didn't do much sewing for herself. Working on the CBS Morning News, her own wardrobe was 1980's professional attire and when attending many of the formal events, she wore gorgeous haute couture vintage gowns. Julie said one of the gowns she bought from a couture house in Paris. When her children came along, she did a lot of costume making using a simple Janome mini machine. She'd purchase clothing from thrift shops and cut them up and use the fabric for the costumes.

It wasn't long before her sewing obsession and desire to collect patterns reemerged. She enrolled in a haute couture course taught by Susan Khalje, which Julie said "really kicked her butt, but raised her skills to a new level." For those that have made a Chanel Jacket, you will very much relate to the story she told where a true couture Chanel costs 50,000 Euros. We can believe that!

As Julie became more and more "obsessed" with vintage gowns she sewed her own vintage gowns for special occasions, such as Oscars. Some of her patterns/inspiration came from 'Decades of Styles' (<https://www.decadesofstyle.com>). It was during this period that Julie started to focus heavily on the world-famous designer, Claire McCardell. Julie told us that during WWII some American designers would travel to Paris and sneak into the French design houses and make sketches of the work being produced there. The sketches would be shipped back to the US and used to make knockoffs of the French designs. But Ms. McCardell wanted to create her own style, the *American Look*, sleek, simple and chic design. She was the originator of mix-and-match separates. A fun fact we all learned, Claire McCardell 'invented' the ballet flat in the 1930's when she convinced Capezio to make a ballet shoe which McCardell then showed in her collection. At a time when shoes were difficult to come by due to leather rationing, the ballet flat proved to be a popular substitute to traditional shoes and was soon to be seen all over the streets. To learn more about Claire McCardell, you might be interested in the book "What Shall I Wear".

Julie brought a few pieces from her collection of reconstructed vintage garments. Through meticulous research, Julie has been able to find designer notes, pictures, and some early era patterns to understand how some of the McCardell garments were originally designed and constructed. Julie shared her reconstructions of the 1931 silk scarf, 1950 Monastic dress and the Popover dress.

Julie continues to research McCardell, work on reconstructions, and is busy with speaking engagements. Much of her work has been chronicled in her blog, <https://jetsetsewing.com/>. Julie is also busy working with Jenny Rushmore at Cashmerette where they are collaborating on new pattern designs.

Here are a few photos from the meeting. Visit Julie's blog to see more of her fabulous work.



Julie on the left and her Chanel Jacket on the right.



In this photo, the plaid garment is a reconstruction of the Monastic dress. And to the right is the silk scarf made from triangular shapes. The white piece at the top right is a sleeve of her Popover dress, which Julie asked that it not be photographed at this time. It was still a work in progress and the photos would be released at another time.

Below are photos from the internet of the famous Popover dress and Monastic dress from Claire McCardell. Be sure to *google* the history of both garments.



4. April - Sew and Share

Denise Carlson shared the nearly finished French jacket she is making in Jane Headley's class. The jacket is styled a little longer than traditional and has zippers on the sleeves which open from the wrist. When she asked for input on the style of pocket she should use, traditional square-ish or rectangular with a slant top, the attendees didn't hold back – there was a unanimous roar for the slant pocket. Denise wouldn't allow any photos of the unfinished jacket but did PROMISE to post photos on FaceBook when done. We can't wait to see the finished jacket.

Rowena Burke shared three gorgeous makes:

- Apron Dress and Wrap Jacket made from a wool remnant from Bedford Fabrics and pattern by The Assembly Line
- Tessuti Apron made from corduroy fabric using a free pattern
- A warm and cozy robe made from a heavy cotton fabric.





Pamela Pereira, a new guest to our meeting, showed her *Box Bottom and Bow Tote* made from a Charm Pack of fabric and additional yardage. The pattern is her design. The bag is beautiful, Pamela.



Rose O’Koren is on a major challenge here! Remember her “ABC Challenge” with Judy Kessinger. Well, she is up to “D” and D is for Dondi.

Rose shared the story behind the name. Dondi is a friend of Judy Kessinger's. Judy admired the top Dondi was wearing so Judy made a pattern based on Dondi's top. It is your basic round neck top with a large "cowl" attached. This "cowl" is oversized compared to the pattern.



Kirsten Rounds had a fantastic display of fashion bags and garments to share. Her bags, both designed by her, included a laptop/travel cross body bag with water bottle pocket and an exquisitely embroidered needle case using embellishment techniques she learned from Kenneth King.

Kristen modeled a beautiful Sandra Betzina top and showed us her quilted jacket she uses when teaching examples of quilt techniques to her students. The photo of the jacket doesn't do it justice, but there are numerous quilting designs in that cute jacket.







Mary Morse has a 6 month old granddaughter that is going to be the cat's meow with her new collection of sun bonnets. Mary used the Tulip Petal Sun Hat from www.cottagehome.blogspot.com to create 4 adorable hats. Mary used fabric from her stash including some from Cranston Print Works. Inspired by Anna Mazur to challenge yourself, Mary choose a plaid (look at that matching skill!) and a floral design that looks perfectly symmetrical in the finished product. See the little flower at the top of the hat and how the six pieces come together perfectly to form that flower!



JoAnn Kunitz shared her cute collection of 4 quilted bags that she made for her daughter. They are beautiful JoAnn.



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

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.

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 this month. Our FB page is active with members sharing ongoing exhibits, interesting "how to videos", sources of interesting patterns, sewing machine maintenance tips, classes of interest, funny sewing stories they find on the internet, and of course, photos of their lovely makes.

Naomi Lipsky completed "The Princess Coat", from Charm Patterns (available from Hart fabrics). It's a beautiful coat for Spring! Here's what Naomi had to say. It has 37 pieces - the lining pieces are different from the fabric pieces! The skirt alone has 8 sections plus another 8 for the lining. The directions took you through everything step by step so it was easy. The pattern has sizes from 2-20 and different cup size pieces as well; I traced everything first onto other tissue paper. The fabric was a design I liked from Spoonflower, but I ordered it in a denim weight, that was a little too heavy and inflexible, but I was able to correct the problems with some "design choices". The lining is a taffeta that I had.



Rose O’Koren with a few more “C” projects. C is for Cross over top/dress. The dress is made with woven fabric with the added tuck trim inspired by Anna Mazer. The One Shoulder top was made to go with her Palazzo pants she made last summer. Rose raised the arm hole to hide the bump above the bra. The "binding" is 2.5" folded over and attached. She measured the neckline and subtracted 1.5 inches and it lays nicely. Rose tried the "minus 4" for the cross over dress and it was too tight. Rose writes “Thank you Judy for extending the letter C. I really wanted to make this top, I might make another Cami in the same fabric before I move on to the letter D.”

The photo furthest right is the cami Rose made with the extra fabric!



Kathleen Garrity shared an ongoing exhibit *Madame Gres: The Art of Draping* at the Savannah College of Art and Design Museum of Fashion (SCADFASH). A lengthy write-up about the exhibit is in The Vintage Traveler ([madame-gres-the-art-of-draping-at-scadfash-in-atlanta](https://www.vintagetraveler.com/madame-gres-the-art-of-draping-at-scadfash-in-atlanta)). The exhibit goes through June 30, 2023

<https://www.scadfash.org/exhibitions>

Thanks, Kathleen, for sharing this interesting event. I’ll be in Atlanta in a few weeks, and this is now on my list of things to see! Susan Berlam



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 April, Mary Jo filled 6 rope bags with an assortment of sewing notions! Members were also treated to an extra raffle item. It was the book by Claire McCardell, “What Shal I Wear”.

We can’t wait to see what surprises are in the May 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

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>

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

<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) _____			