



RI Sewing Network

September 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 3, 2023
November 7, 2023
December 5, 2023
March 5, 2024
April 2, 2024
May 7, 2024

“Excited for another year!”

The RISN Board is so happy to share with you a new season of exciting sewing topics presented by extremely talented local experts. The 2023-2024 season has something for everyone. We hope you all enjoyed your summer and are excited to come back to the Warwick Center for the Arts for our meeting. Make sure to bring your favorite sewn project to show and share!

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.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| October 3, 2023 | Pamela Leggart – Lingerie/Shapewear |
| November 7, 2023 | Jennifer Lopez – By The Yard Comics |
| December 5, 2023 | Jackie du Plessis – Needlepoint |
| March 5, 2024 | Elizabeth Clouse – Queen of King Richard’s Faire |
| April 2, 2024 | Kathleen Bowler – Project Runway (tried out) Home Ec Teacher |
| May 7, 2024 | Amanda Downing Carney – Trinity Rep Costume Designer |

“Special Thank You”

We would like to take this time to give a special “Thank You” to Susan Berlam. Susan is stepping down from the Newsletter Editor position due to travel plans. Susan felt it was best to pass the baton to someone who would be able to attend the meetings. Susan provided us with fantastic Newsletters for the past several years. She formatted the “Table of Content” to give us a clear guide to; Member Information, Meeting Venue, Meeting Recaps, great photos for Show and Share, Meeting Schedule and Speaker Line-Up, Facebook Sharing, and Other News and Interest with great links, along with the membership application form. Susan has offered her time to transition the position to Kaleigh Guay. I am sure Kaleigh will do an excellent job as well. I first met Kaleigh while she was getting her degree at URI in The Textile, Merchandising, Design department. She later participated in the Master Seamstress Program and joined RISN. She has worked in the fashion world and traveled abroad for her job. I am confident that Kaleigh will continue to bring us interesting Newsletters with her own expertise.

As someone who has been involved with RISN since its beginnings in 1986, I have seen how our Newsletters have evolved. I remember the single page in the early days. Then we went to the tri-fold where all the information had to still fit within the one page. It was a rush to fold it, stuff them into addressed envelopes, and place a postage stamp on each one before heading to the post office. Finally, it was better when just about every member had an email address. We can agree the internet has made our lives better in some ways. Now we even have Facebook!

I would like to encourage everyone to continue to support RISN whether you can make a meeting or only read the Newsletter. We have a great line-up of speakers. It is a wonderful group for a small price starting at \$10.

From the desk of Diane Martin.

RISN Executive Board
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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1. Membership Information for 2023/2024

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 2023 meeting.

Attached to this Newsletter is the 2023-2024 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/>

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 WCFA 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 2023-2024

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, Nancy Spirito and Kaleigh Guay attended and updated the roles of the Board members. 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 2023/2024 Speakers

| | |
|------------------|--|
| October 3, 2023 | Pamela Leggart – Lingerie/Shapewear |
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Below are a few details about these very talented artists.

Pamela Leggart
October 3, 2023

Lingerie/Shapewear
www.pamelaspatterns.com

RISN is very excited to have Pamela as the keynote speaker to kick off the new season. Pamela has been teaching sewing since 1981. Specializing in pattern fitting, fine garment sewing skills, knits and serging she has developed a fun and informative teaching style that is available in her patterns, social media, YouTube channel.

One of Pamela's passions is creating garments that flatter and fit the wearer. Her desire to teach others to achieve the perfect fit led her to the Palmer/Pletsch pattern fitting method, which she has used to help hundreds of women successfully achieve good fit and a renewed love of garment sewing. It is with this knowledge that she created Pamela's Patterns, which have many fitting solutions and adjustments built in the patterns.

Pamela's Patterns have been reviewed and featured in magazines and on-line review sites. Pamela is a contributing writer, book author and video personality for Threads Magazine, an instructor for Craftsy, director of the Palmer/Pletsch Philadelphia and Connecticut Sewing Workshops and a national sewing/serging educator. She has also appeared on PBS's Sewing With Nancy and Canada's The Shopping Channel.

Pamela lives in Connecticut where she operates her business and has a teaching program at The Studio at Pamela's Patterns in Vernon CT. She is a national instructor, teaching in-person and virtual classes for guilds, stores, and shows.

Jennifer Lopez

Nov 7, 2023

By The Yard Comics

www.justwannaquilt.com/jen-lopez

Jen Lopez is a quilter, cartoonist and author of the quilting comic *By the Yard*. She started out her career as a software developer after graduating from MIT with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Jen worked hard in software but always enjoyed sewing. She made her first real life quilt for her best friend's baby, a Log Cabin quilt that she learned from Eleanor Burns *Quilt in a Day* series of books.

Jen branched out by designing quilt and sewing patterns under her brand, Sew Fun®. She started cartooning for MIT's journal of humor called *VooDoo*, dating all the way back to 1919. She went on to create a business oriented comic strip called BizToons which appeared for years in Worcester Magazine, the largest independent newspaper in Massachusetts.

Finally, Jen combined her love for quilting with her penchant for cartooning in 2018 when she created *By the Yard*, a comic about quilting. *By the Yard* has since produced five annual calendars, has appeared bi-weekly in the C&T Publishing blog, as well as monthly in the Country Register family of newspapers throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Jackie du Plessis

December 5, 2023

Needlepoint

Jackie du Plessis was born and raised in South Africa. After graduating college with a teaching degree in the arts, she and her husband emigrated to the United States. Coming to the U.S. provided a whole new source of supplies and a huge opportunity for Jackie to fine tune her talents in designing and finishing. In 2000, Jackie's finishing business - It's Fine-ally Finished - became a reality and in 2002, she started focusing on designing and teaching dimensional needle art projects. In 2020 Jackie branched out into the world of mother of pearl designing and reproducing buttons and needlework tools.

We can expect a presentation by Jackie showcasing her projects from concept to finished product. Discussing how a design is developed and how supplies are selected and sourced as well as how she teaches in-person and on-line workshops. Then a brief talk about her mother of pearl buttons and reproduction tools. Jackie will bring a trunk show of her work as well as her mother of pearl products for all to view.

Elizabeth Clouse

March 5, 2024

The Queen of King Richard's Faire

“Queen Elizabeth’s Closet” started out as repurposing thrift clothing to create a 1940s wardrobe as the rebirth of swing when it was at peak in 1998. Then it transitioned to Civil War garments while participating in and teaching during full scale reenactments. Eventually she started designing and creating historical garments for various industries including Renaissance faire actors, theaters and anyone who wanted a special custom gown. I can be found in the Fall, performing in my 6th season at King Richard’s Faire as Queen Anne III. I also have a booth there, where I sell, one-of-a-kind, handmade, renaissance accessories.

We can’t wait to learn how to design extravagant archival inspired attire, utilizing contemporary sewing techniques for the stage.

Kathleen Bowler

April 2, 2024

Project Runway Home Ec Teacher

Kathleen Bowler began sewing at 13 making clothes from bed covers and shower curtains that her grandmother gave her. In 2015, she auditioned for Project Runway. Kathleen wasn't selected for the show, but was inspired to start her own business Double Button Designs. Since then, Kathleen has been experimenting with new ideas and combining mediums looking to reopen Double Button Designs by the end of 2024.

Kathleen will discuss her journey from the classroom to the runway to the business world. Discover how old threads become new and star opportunities turn into an inspiring business. Learn what future your threads hold.

Amanda Downing Carney

May 7, 2024

Trinity Rep Costume Designer

Amanda Downing Carney is the Costume Director at Trinity Repertory Company in Providence. She has a BFA in Theatre Technology with a concentration in Costume Design from URI and has toured nationally and internationally backstage with Broadway musicals as a Wardrobe Supervisor. She has lived in RI her entire life and has had a career in the arts for over 20 years.

Amanda will discuss inside the costumer’s mind. A costume designer is required to use MANY varied skills and I’d love to tell you about all the different disciplines and steps involved in a successful design process from Brain to Stage. Including: Script and Character analysis, Color Theory, Clothing History, Texture and Silhouette, Collaborative Input and

Magic Tricks. Listen to me explain how the form and function of costumes onstage also need to help tell a story to the audience.

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.

Mary Jo Hines shared if you miss Ryco for ribbons/trims, check out Bedford Fabrics and Amy's Fabric Treasures in Westport, MA



Thank you **Denise Carlson**.
Yes we all do!



Rosemary O’Koren shared a photo and a story about how she found the perfect trim and where to find it!

Thanks Rose.



Kaleigh Guay visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art over the summer to see Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty Exhibition. It is no longer on view, however keep an eye out for their annual apparel exhibit and others.

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



5. Other News and Interests

2023 Vaillancourt Christkindlesmarkt & Artisan Show

Celebrate the start of the season with a traditional German Christmas Market in the quintessential New England town of Sutton!

Friday, November 10, 2023 11:00am - 8:00pm

Saturday, November 11, 2023 10:00am - 6:00pm

For ticket information and more details, check out this article link below.

<https://valfa.com/event/2023-vaillancourt-christkindlesmarkt-artisan-show/>

RISN Raffles

1. Sign-up or renew your RISN Membership before September 15, 2023, and you will be entered into a very generous drawing. The winner will be selected at the first meeting, October 3. 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. Anyone that participates in the optional Sew and Share portion of the meeting will receive an extra raffle ticket. 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, Kaleigh Guay, Newsletter editor, will take your name, photo and details about your 'Share' for the Newsletter. Please be sure to "check-in" with Kaleigh before you share so she can get the details. Kaleigh will have index cards for you to jot down the details yourself to be sure she gets it right in the Newsletter.

4. Occasionally there may be an extra surprise raffle such as a book to go along with the presentation that month.

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.

2023-2024 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 2023 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 2023-2024 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 2023-2024</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) _____ | | | |