



# RI Sewing Network

## November 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 17, 2023  
November 7, 2023  
December 5, 2023  
March 5, 2024  
April 2, 2024  
May 7, 2024

### “Comics and Patterns what more could you want”

It was a pleasure having Jennifer Lopez speak about her businesses and the challenges and rewards of being an entrepreneur. We also enjoyed her patterns for the raffle that RISN graciously purchased. Personally, I cannot wait to make my Brainy Baby Ball. I also hope the other members who won Santa and Mrs. Clause Quilted Pillows make them before Christmas.



### “What December has in store ”

Make sure to attend the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Jackie du Plessis will be speaking about needlepoint projects. She will amaze you with her exceptional needle art kits, mother of pearl buttons, and tools.

Additionally, Warwick Center for the Arts will be showcasing their Winter Market. If you are looking for a unique Christmas gift, Tuesday night will be the night. Look below in the “Other News and Interests” Section to read more details.

Below is the list of the exceptional speakers this year. A brief introduction to each months’ speaker is in the Newsletter.

October 17, 2023	Pamela Leggett – 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

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## 1. Membership Information for 2023/2024

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](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 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. November Recap – Jennifer Lopez, By The Yard

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

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

It was a pleasure hearing Jennifer speak about her experience with owning two businesses. By the Yard Comics, sewing related comics and Sew Fun, quilt sewing patterns. The crowd laughed most when Jennifer shared her relatable stories about the struggles and joys of sewing. Her experiences and her friends have influenced all her comics. **“No one is more motivated than a quilter with a baby shower tomorrow”** was a huge hit. Her response, **“You literally had nine months to do this”**. This spoke to all the sewers in the room who have at one point or another completed a project just in time of the due date.

It was exciting to hear about Sew Fun, where she has used her love for quilting to create patterns for pillows, tote bags, baby accessories, etc. She shared her experience working with pattern companies, printers and publishers to grow her business to the success it is at today. She started out printing her patterns at staples and shipping them out and now works with a printing company directly.

If you did not have the opportunity to purchase any of Jennifer’s patterns and comics or did but want more, use this coupon with the special discount code until the end of the year for a discount. The below photo includes some of the finished products of patterns available for purchase.

**Coupon**  
**15% off**  
with code  
**RISN2023**  
www.bythyardstore.com  
Expires 12/31/2023

Follow us:  
Instagram  
@bythyardcomics  
Facebook  
www.facebook.com/bythyardcomics  
www.bythyardcomics.com

By the Yard © 2021 Jennifer Lopez  
I LOVE FALL! IT'S THE PERFECT TIME FOR STARTING ALL THE HOLIDAY GIFTS I'M NOT GOING TO FINISH!  
Questions?  
jensewfun@gmail.com



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#### 4. October Recap - Sew and Share

Denise Carlson traced an existing swimsuit to create her new swimsuit. Additionally, last month she also traveled to New Zealand and brought back some sustainable fabric called Cupro. Cupro is a regenerated cellulose fabric made from linter, which is cotton waste. It is silky-smooth and drapes just like silk. Unlike silk, cupro ignites easily and leaves behind copper-containing residue. We are grateful for Denise who taught us about a fun fabric and cannot wait to see what she makes out of it.



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Donna Miller was the raffle winner of one of Pamela's Patterns. She put it to good use by creating the top she was wearing.

She also finished her quilt top, look how great it came out! She plans to rent a long arm to finish the quilt.



Diane Stacy sewed a tool cart caddy that goes around a five-gallon bucket. This is her favorite gardening accessory. The idea came from a tool bag from Sailrite. The most fun part was



making the pockets.

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Rose O’Koren is still on her alphabet challenge. This is her “L” entry, the Louisa Top. What a perfect shirt for golfing.



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Rowena Burke used the Folia Frock, Sew Different Pattern to create this garment. She got the fabric at the consignment shop, Fabric Treasures. She looks so lovely in this piece.



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One of our newest members, Aaron Terentiev did not disappoint. This stuffed dragon is so great to make for children or for those young at heart. If you want to make your own here is the pattern. <https://simplicity.com/simplicity/s8715>



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There is no challenge too small for Donna Mansolillo. While enjoying a summer party she noticed her niece had a beautiful dress on with a torn zipper. After inquiring more she realized, the dress needed more than a new zipper. Sewing a new built-in corset insert was the answer. Now her niece can wear the dress again! Donna inspired and encouraged us to install this corset insert in our tight fitting dresses too.





Mary Jo came to November's meeting in style, Burda Style. She made the short version and still had to take 4 inches in the sleeves. What a stunning print and a beautiful dress!



## 5. RISN Meeting Schedule and Speaker Line-Up for 2023-2024

### RISN 2023/2024 Speakers

October 17, 2023	Pamela Leggett – 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
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May 7, 2024	Amanda Downing Carney – Trinity Rep Costume Designer

Below are a few details about these very talented artists.

### **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. While living in South Africa she learned many forms of needle art from creative woman surrounding her including her mother and grandmothers. 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. Jackie draws her inspiration from many places including her extensive library of antique books and needlework antiques. Her projects are functional three dimensional needle art objects that feature a variety of interesting stitches and finishing techniques. She has taught at many venues throughout the United States, England, France and Canada. She loves sharing her artistic and technical knowledge with fellow needle artists and finds teaching her designs tremendously fulfilling.

Description of presentation.

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,

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 form all the 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.

## 5. 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.

## 6. Other News and Interests

### Winter Market Artists Reception at Warwick Center for the Arts

The open gallery is available for view and purchase November 26<sup>th</sup> through December 16<sup>th</sup>. In addition to handmade jewelry, toys, cars, ornaments, pottery and accessories, the Market will also sell affordable, framed paintings, prints and other wall hangings. At our next RISN Meeting you will also have the opportunity to see all the items on display!

Opening Reception	Saturday, November 25, 2023	3:00pm - 5:00pm
Gallery Hours	Wednesdays - Saturdays	11:00am - 3:00pm
Extended Hours	Fridays	3:00pm - 6:00pm

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For more information, check out their website.

<https://warwickcfa.org/event/winter-market/>

## Winter Market Artists Reception

November 25 | 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm



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## RISN Raffles

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. 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.
2. 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.

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

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## RISN Website

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

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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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## 2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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](http://www.rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com)

<b><u>RISN Membership Application 2023-2024</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) _____			