



RI Sewing Network

October 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

“Excited for another year!”

Everyone was so happy see each other again and to hear Pamela Leggett our first speaker of the season. She talked about her patterns, fitting tips and tricks. She even let us purchase her patterns, fabric kits and sewing tools at the end of the meeting. The raffles did not disappoint either! There were unicorn pins, fabric glue sticks and elastic notions as well as the early registration prize.

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

“Thoughtful Lingerie Choices for the Modern Sew-er”

We had a great first meeting! In addition to the discussion, Pamela also brought many beautiful garments on display with pattern tags. All of the garments were made using her patterns that were available for purchase. In addition to the patterns there were other items to buy some included serrated duck bill scissors, pin magnets, rulers, pressing tools, pins, elastics, and knits. One item you should definitely purchase is the Perfect Sew Wash-Away Fabric Stabilizer, it can be found on her website. This helps cut and sew silky fabrics with ease.

On November 7th, Jennifer Lopez from RI (Not “Jenny from the Block” singer/actress) will be speaking about By The Yard Comics. She will have 2024 Calendars for sale. You can read more about Jennifer in the newsletter on page 14.

We cannot wait to see everyone for the November meeting. Please bring a friend, we had two new members this past meeting. It was great to introduce new people to the positive and encouraging community of all the RISN Sewers!



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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

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. October Recap – Pamela Leggett, Lingerie/Shapewear

www.pamelaspatterns.com

Pamela Leggett, creator of Pamela’s Patterns, gave us a wonderful kickoff to the new season of RISN. She started out with offering any one of her patterns as a raffle prize. We were so grateful Pamela was able to reschedule with us on October 17th.

Pamela shared how she teaches fitting at her studio in Vernon, Connecticut. Her studio includes a small classroom where she teaches, a market room where she stores all of her products and patterns for purchase, a warehouse downstairs where all of the products and supplies live and finally; shipping and receiving for the online store are upstairs, with a recent addition of a recording studio.

Pamela’s previous experience was the general manager and education manager of Manchester Sewing Center in Connecticut for 22 years. Most of the customers that she worked with had to change simple things in a commercial pattern because they were drafted the same front and back. This is why she designed patterns that were for the dimensional form a modern figure. Her patterns follow the Palmer/Pletsch pattern fitting method. Now Pamela is a National Educator and travels around to shows, groups and guilds to teach people about sewing and fitting. She specializes in fitting, fine garment sewing skills and sergers in fashion sewing.

Pamela’s presentation was based on the topic Thoughtful Lingerie Choices for the Modern Sew-er.

1. Where to buy supplies.

Bra Builders www.brabuilders.com

Fabric Depot www.fabricdepotco.com

Art Gallery Fabrics – Cotton with Lycra knits

Stoff (from France) -Cotton with Lycra knits

2. Fabrics and Notions.

Knits: When working with knit fabrics make sure to choose a good quality knit. To determine whether your knit is good quality, after the fabric is stretched, evaluate how the fabric recovers. Does it go back to its original shape or within 10%? If it does work with the knit, if it does not, choose a different one. Knits with Lycra are typically

best for keeping shape. Pamela also sells a ruler that she developed to measure the recovery of a fabric after it has been released.

You want to determine if you want compression or comfort.

- Nylon Lycra is a great compression fabric for swimsuits.
- PowerNet has great control fabric for lingerie. Medium stretch PowerNet works well.
- Nylon Tricot is a soft fabric, it is typically used for slips, non-static, or linings for knit garments.
- Stretch Lace comes as a trim and yardage. There are many different options.
- Picot Edge Elastics, once side has a decorative edge. Pamela's favorite is the felt back since it is smooth against the skin.

Threads:

- Sewing Machine Thread: High quality polyester threads, Mettler brand. Gutterman is also okay. Never use cotton thread, it breaks easily
- Serger Threads: Use a high quality long staple serger thread. My favorites are Mettler Seracor Serger Thread, Madeira Aerolock and Gutterman.

Sewing Machine Needles:

- Pamela likes Schmetz Chrome Stretch Needles more than Schmetz Stretch Needles. They last a little bit longer and only \$1 more.
- Use needle sizes 90/14 and 75/11. Use stretch needles instead of ballpoint ones.

Serger test fabric: use differential feed, increase or decrease the front feed dogs on your serger. You can change the speed. With knits, you want to increase the speed to prevent the fabric from stretching out. Make sure you test the fabric before sewing.

3. Pamela's Patterns Size Chart

Bust: Measure your high bust measurement to get your size. We are measuring your frame instead of your cup size

Hip: Measure the full hip below your tummy.

4. Patterns:

Threads Magazine approached Pamela about doing an article called Shapewear and Reducers. Pamela does not like reducers because they just squish you somewhere else which leads them to being uncomfortable. Pamela is not trying to make her size smaller; she just likes to look smoother! ***“Not smaller, just smoother!”***

She made sure to note, all of Pamela's Patterns are customizable.

“The pattern is the manuscript, you're the editor. You're the boss of your pattern. You can change it to whatever you want. Just because the pattern is there doesn't mean it needs to stay like that. So you do all of your fitting before you add your elastics.”

Pamela went into detail about a few of her patterns along with photos of the finished garments. The first pattern she discussed was the three pattern set, Smoothing Shapewear.

Smoothing Shapewear contains three patterns: Under Bust Cami, High Waisted Brief, Shaping Slip

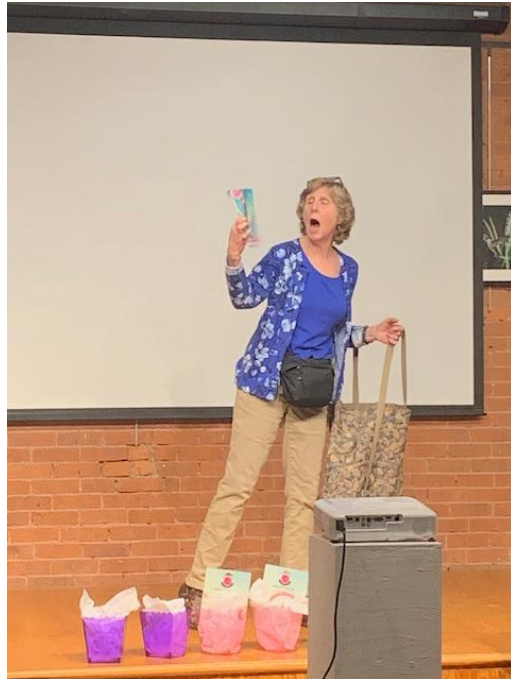
The Cami goes under your bra, so you can wear your own well-fitting bra.

The Brief has power panels, spanx have an outer layer usually tricot and an inner layer compression, however they are sewn together in the seam. Pamela's briefs have power panels that do not go all the way to the seams, it is stitched to the tricot fabric. The Shaping Slip does not ride up. The panel comes down below the tummy and a tricot panel that is not tight and contains power panels at the top.

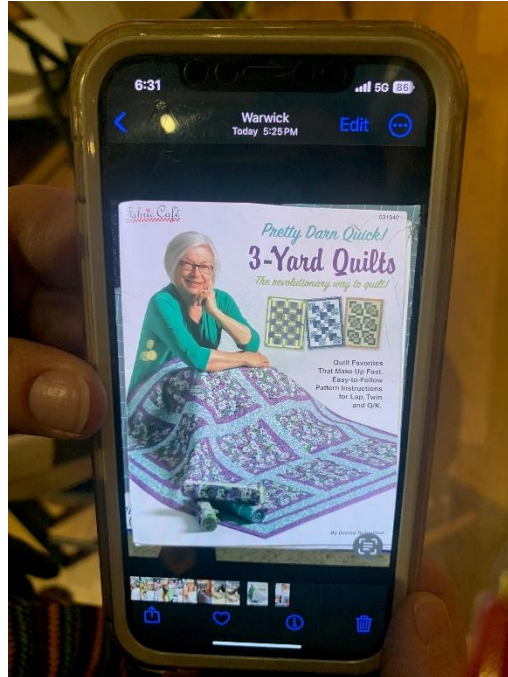
Take some time to check out Pamela's Patterns website and everything it has to offer including on-line workshops, lots of great patterns, and tutorials and blogs. It was great to have Pamela speak to us about her patterns and allow us the opportunity to purchase patterns, notions and tools at the end of the meeting. We can't wait to see everyone's garments at the future Sew & Shares.

4. October Recap - Sew and Share

Donna Mansolillo made an Ariel mermaid halloween costume for her granddaughter and her cousin. Fabric was from Joann Fabrics and Hobby Lobby, Simplicity 8725 Pattern.



Despite the challenge Cindy Tully had cutting her silk striped fabric and matching all the stripes, the blouse came out beautiful. Cindy also made a beautiful quilt. The quilt took her longer than she expected because after you finish the front, you must start the back.



Joanne Brown had the goal of fitting a top for the right fit. She used the Berda 6327 pattern, however she followed Nancy Zimmerman's method instructions. She even embroidered her buttons. We think she surpassed her goal!

She also made two hats! A rain hat using a mood pattern; however, she used the Green Apple Cottage directions. The wool winter hat is a McCalls pattern.



Laurie Donovan shared her top using Pamela's Pattern. It was only appropriate to wear it for show and share the same night Pamela was speaking.



Mary Morse used an existing garment she knew fit her grandchild. She traced off the white blouse. All the fabric was from her stash, except the elastic.



Diane Stacy did an alteration to her husband's pants. The front crotch was too long and the back was just right. She was inspired by the method used on "Fit and Stitch" on channel 36. Instead of cutting the crotch open she folded and tapered it gradually for the correct fit.



Aaron Terentiev used a Simplicity Pattern to make this beautiful vest.



Happy Halloween from Rose O’Koren! We love her embroidered sweatshirt!



Karen Penn needlepoint pillow is stunning! The cording is from Artee Fabrics & Home on Bald Hill Road in Warwick, RI. Additionally, her granddaughter now has a jacket this winter.



Joann Kunitz took a quilting class. Instead of paying someone to finish her quilt, she is hand stitching her quilt together using Sushiko thread. Dark thread is being used on light colored fabrics and white thread in being used on dark colored fabrics.



Ruth Gross made a Scrabble Pillow for her mother-in-law, all of the members of her family are included. The printed fabric comes with the individual scrabble squares. She brought in extra fabric for anyone who is interested in making one of their own.



Kathy Graves typically sticks to making knit tops, this time she used a Christmas woven fabric to make the swing top from Pamela's Patterns. We think it came out great!



Kim Larcom did not go on stage to talk about her jacket. Kim owns her own business, Astro Sportswear where she designs and makes her own active wear patterns. She is not currently a member of RISN, however we hope she comes to the next meeting and joins RISN this season.



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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Below are a few details about these very talented artists.

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. Ironically, the first software application that she developed for IBM EduQuest was called *Quilts* and it was part of a suite of software for kids grade K-2 called *Math and More*. The application helped kids learn early math concepts by making repeating patterns via virtual quilt blocks. 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. After that, she made a Log Cabin quilt for every baby that came along in the family. 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. *By the Yard* has even found a home in Model Railroading magazine for over two years, chronicling the antics of Quilt Girl's faithful companion Train Guy, a lover of model railroading. In real life, Jen is married to her own Train Guy, Terry, and they enjoy traveling to quilt shows and train shows all over their native Rhode Island and beyond. Jen has big plans for *By the Yard* including a book compiling the last five years of comics with quilting and train-loving adventures.

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.

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.

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



6. 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

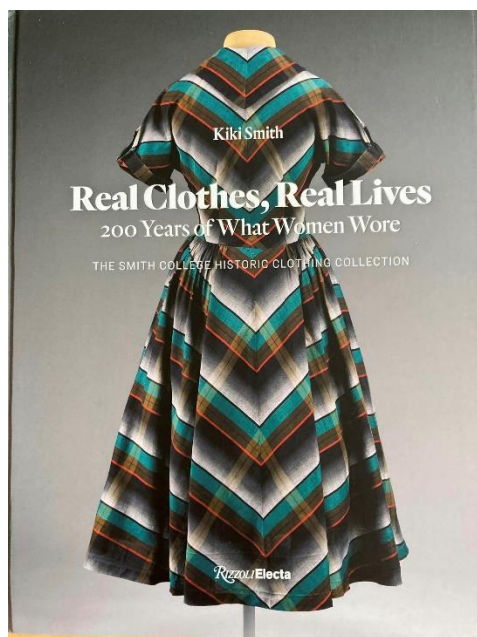
For ticket information and more details, check out this article link below.

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

RISN Raffles

1. Congratulations to Sueann Walter who won the Early Registration Raffle! Here are the two raffle prizes that she won. The book is now on order and anyone with an Ocean State Libraries card can place a hold on it. If you are interested in purchasing the book, check out the link below.

<https://www.rizzoliusa.com/book/9780847873135>



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.

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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.
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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

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) _____			