



# RI Sewing Network

## March 2024 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

### “The Queen has Arrived”

It was a pleasure having Elizabeth Clouse speak about her business Queen Elizabeth’s Closet. It all started in her off campus apartment in 1998 and now Elizabeth can be seen performing in her 6<sup>th</sup> season at King Richard’s Faire as Queen Anne III in this stunning purple dress. It was exciting to hear not only how she constructs her garments, but how she maneuvers performing in them.

Information about the upcoming King Richard’s Faire is in “6. The Other News and Interests” Section, starting August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.



### “Coming Next-Project Runway Audition”

Make sure to attend the April 2nd meeting. Kathleen Bowler will be speaking about her time auditioning for project runway and her special project runway sewing machine she was gifted. You won’t want to miss it.

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 E 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. March Recap – Elizabeth Clouse, The Queen of King Richard’s Faire

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

Elizabeth spoke to the sewing network about her business, Queen Elizabeth’s Closet. Her love for sewing started in her theater high school where she would sit backstage as a Freshmen and Sophomore sewing buttons on costumes with the dressmakers and seamstresses. After that she repurposed thrift clothing in her first off campus apartment in Chicago, in 1998. Then she evolved to historic costume by making Civil War garments for reenactments. Now she primarily develops garments and accessories of the Renaissance period and performs at King Richard’s Faire as Queen Anne III. She also has a booth there, where her one-of-a-kind, handmade, renaissance accessories are sold.

In the Early Tudor Era and Late Elizabethan Era, there were several layers of clothing of the proper Queen’s attire. The layers include stockings, bloomers, chemise, corset, hoop skirt, bum roll, underskirt (kirtle), forepart (petticoat), outer dress, parlet, sleeves, stomacher, bodice, ruff and finally hat (head dress). Elizabeth incorporates all of these historic pieces into her designs, but modifies them to allow for quick changes in theater. She builds the undergarments into the outside garment, so that there is no separate corset. Zippers and buttons are used in the garments but are not visible to the outside to remain visually historically accurate.

What I appreciate that Elizabeth shared with us was like the Elizabethan Era, she does wash her cotton and linen chemise. The remaining of the garment she does not dry clean. She will spot clean with the help of vodka to remove odor. She also stores all of her garments the same way they were stored during historic times, fully dressed on a dress form. She also provided fabric stores she frequents and books that are her sewing bible. I personally cannot wait until the next season of King Richard’s Faire to see Elizabeth and Sara, her lady in waiting.

Recommended Fabric Stores:

SR Harris Fabric in Minneapolis <https://srharrisfabric.com/>

Artee Fabrics & Home, 1245 Bald Hill Rd #6, Warwick, RI 02886 <https://arteefabricsandhome.com/>

Lorraine Fabrics, 593 Mineral Spring Ave, Pawtucket, RI 02860

Thrift Shops, New York and Estate Sales

Recommended Books:

The Tudor Tailor: Reconstructing sixteenth-century dress by Ninya Mikhaila and Jane Malcom-Davies

Patterns of Fashion 3: The Cut and Construction of Clothes for Men and Women C. 1560-1620 by Janet Arnold







## 4. March Recap - Sew and Share

**Mary Morse** made a beautiful red Christmas dress for her Granddaughter. It was inspired by the dress seen in Classic Sewing Holiday Issue 2023 Magazine. Instead of embroidering the dress she applied the dress with the beautiful trim from Joann Fabrics.



**Joanne Brown** shared three beautiful pieces.

Firstly her Knit Dress with pockets, Butterick 6494. It looks so comfortable to wear.

Second Burda style pattern shirt. After getting the perfect fit, the next one Joanne will make is sleeveless.

Lastly someone from Joanne's online sewing group modified a backpack pattern to be a personal carry on bag for travel. There are multiple features that allow ease in carrying the bag in different modes. "It is better than something you could buy."





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**Karen Penn** has been inspired to finish her mother's fabric and complete her half done projects. Her mother used to make wristlets for people, so Karen made one as well. Karen also made a trifold wallet for herself.





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**Rose O’Koren** made a beautiful red plaid shirt using a Judy Kessenger pattern. She added a zipper and the cuffs are from a Pattern Emporium, an Australian Pattern Company. Check out Rose’s posts on the RISN Facebook Page of more Pattern Emporium Projects. They are great patterns that did not need any modifications.



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**Rowena Burke**

Vogue Vest has no side seams, only a center back seam. The vest had to be made out of wool so that the garment would fall the proper way.

Willow Overalls it was a pdf pattern.





## 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
April 2, 2024	Kathleen Bowler – Project Runway (tried out) Home Ec Teacher
May 7, 2024	Amanda Downing Carney – Trinity Rep Costume Designer

Below are a few details about these very talented artists.

### **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.

Be sure to check out Trinity Rep and Amanda  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuVeaVpuJi0>

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## 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.

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## 6. Other News and Interests

### Rhode Island Sewing Network Totebags

Mary Jo will be bringing RISN Totebags for sale at the next meeting!

There are 8 available of the Large Canvas Tote Bags (non zippered) \$15 each.

There are 12 available of the Large Canvas Tote Bags (with zipper) \$20 each.





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## Peabody Essex Museum

Check out the ongoing Fashion & Design Exhibition at the Peabody Essex Museum. There you can find pieces from the Iris Apefel Rare Bird of Fashion collection. Also you can find statement pieces from Boston-based entrepreneur and fashion icon Yolanda Cellucci. Peabody Essex Museum hours are Thursday through Monday 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

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

## University of Rhode Island, Historic Textile and Costume Collection and Gallery

View the collection in person or the online.

<https://web.uri.edu/business/about/tmd/collection/>

## King Richard's Faire

Be sure to spend the day at King Richard's Faire, The New England Renaissance Festival. There you can see Elizabeth in her purple dress and her lady in waiting, Sara for an amazing day of dance performances, jousting and shopping at her stand. King Richard's Faire is on weekends August 31-October 20, 2024, including Monday holidays September 2<sup>nd</sup> & October 14<sup>th</sup>. Gates open 10:30 a.m. and close at 6:00 p.m. 235 Main Street, Carver, MA

<https://www.kingrichardsfaire.net/>

## 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) _____			