



RI Sewing Network

April 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

“Project Runway”

It was a pleasure having Katheleen Bowler speak about her time auditioning for Project Runway and everything in between. She shared her mindset on how she watches design shows, what she has learned from auditioning and reminded us all to think “What are you going to do next?”



“Coming Next-Trinity Rep Costume Designer”

Make sure to attend the May 7th meeting. Amanda Downing Carney will discuss inside the costumer’s mind.

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

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. April Recap – Kathleen Bowler, Project Runway and Home Ec Teacher

Kathleen is a learner, and innovator and is interactive. It was inspiring to hear her story and mindset about the sewing challenges she has overcome. Before her Project Runway audition, she made several Halloween Costumes and taught Home Economics to middle school students. My personal favorite costumes were the Java the Hut's girl Oola from Star Wars and Gizmo the dog. They both included the use of unconventional materials without you noticing them. Oola's headpiece was constructed out of dye panty hose stuffed with pillow foam and fluff. A piece of leather was added for support and lacquer was added to keep it stiff. For Gizmo, little wires were added to the hands and ears out of coat wire too make the ears movable.

Without Kathleen realizing it she had been preparing for her Project Runway audition in the comfort of her own home. She had been participating in challenges without being on the show. *"When I watch design shows it could be Flea Market Flip, it could be HGTV, anything. I sit down and I hear the challenge. I hear what they are going to do and then I pause it. I think ok, if I were to go into a flea market and pick three items...off the top of your head think of three items and write them down. What would I make out of those three items? And that is how get inspired when I do my sketches."*

After writing down the challenge, the next step is figuring out what she would make and how it would be constructed. Then the most important part, *"then I watch the rest of the show and I critique myself."* Then she jokingly said, *"obviously, Nina Garcia would not like this dress, I probably would be voted off today"*.

Kathleen participated in two of the three rounds of auditions. She talked about how so many people were waiting in line to meet the judges. The process of speaking with the judges was only around seven minutes, but felt like forever. The paperwork involved to apply for Project Runway was lengthy and required participants to include several references. As a thank you prize for making it through round two, she was gifted a Project Runway sewing machine, which she has named Rita.

Finally, she reminded us all to think "What's Next?" I hope she goes back to her men's accessories line "Double Button" or she has the opportunity to teach sewing to children again. I am personally waiting for her to offer a Halloween Costume Building Class.

Recommended Books: The Pocket Fashion Sketchpad:
<https://www.chroniclebooks.com/products/the-pocket-fashion-sketchpad>

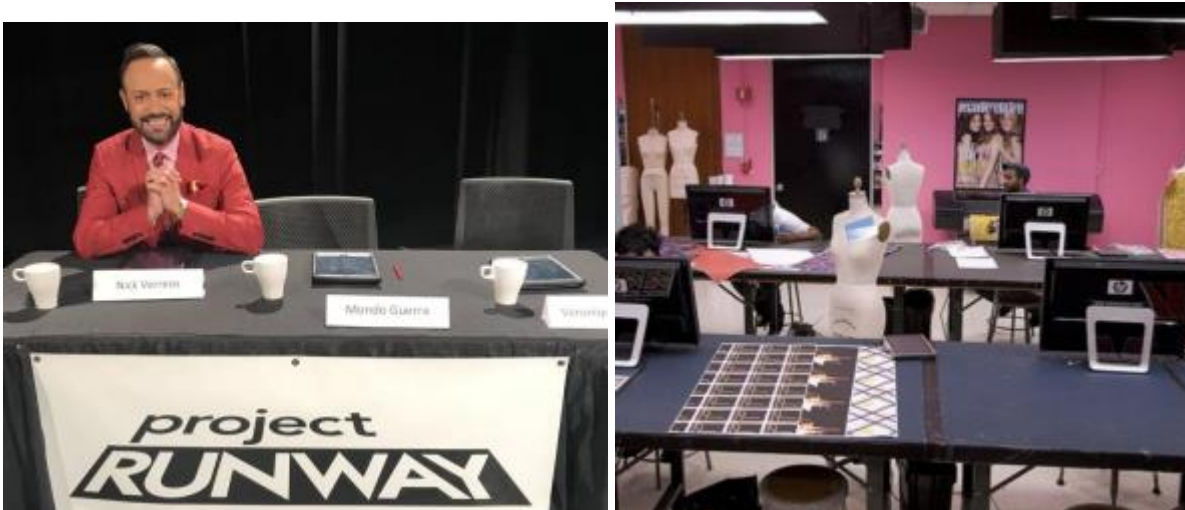
BEFORE PROJECT RUNWAY: HALLOWEEN COSTUMES



INSPIRED TO SKETCH FROM WATCHING PROJECT RUNWAY



AUDITIONS FOR PROJECT RUNWAY





4. April Recap - Sew and Share

Denise Carlson created this beautiful quilt using all of her scrap fabric. She received two patterns a month for six months, from her ASG group. This pattern was a mystery quilt pattern.



Rose O’Koren has stuck with her Alphabet Challenge with Judy Kessenger, right now she is on “N” for “No Rules”. Rose took a part her mother’s skirt to repurpose it to make this shirt. The shirt pattern is a knit pattern, however the fabric is woven.

Rose also loves the fit of all the patterns from Pattern Emporium. The dress is the Long Weekend Tank Dress. Rose often posts her creations on the RISN Exclusive Facebook group in addition to sharing at each meeting. Be sure to check out her posts. shirt and dress



Susan Berlim made a beautiful athletic wear jacket using Veltori by Green Style Patterns. The fabric is from Discovery Fabrics out of Canada. Note that shipping is expensive, however they have beautiful athletic and outdoor fabrics.



Jerilyn Perry made this children's dress for her granddaughter, the pattern and the cotton fabric was donated to her.

This shirt was made using a Simplicity Made Easy Pattern. The fabric was gifted to her from a student who visited Pakistan. Jerilyn modified the pattern in order to accommodate the applique fabric. She did not use the darts which were called for in the pattern. Additionally when adding the snap closure, she only attached the snaps to the front side first for ease of matching the fabric. Adding chalk to the back of the snap helped locate the proper placement on the backside of the fabric.



Emily Fournier's coat started out as a bathrobe. It is lined and has a hood. She increased the size of the pockets too. The buttonholes had to be hand sewn due to the excess layers of fabric. Emily used the same applique fabric from Pakistan as Jerilyn did. Like Jerilyn she considered the closure and did not use the full dart allowance recommended on the Simplicity Wrap Around Pattern. Matching up the applique's was a challenge and she opted to french seam all of her seams.



Donna Mansillo was on a mission with her granddaughter to find all the gnome fabric available at Joann Fabrics. We all love these drawstring bags.



Diane Stacy found directions for this yoga bag on Youtube. She repurposed a shoelace for the opening cord. The fabric was on sale at Joann Fabrics.



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.

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>

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

RISN Invitation to URI Collection

To all RISN members,

You are invited to view a selection from the URI Commercial Pattern Archive and the Historical Textiles and Costume Collection. Please let me know if you will be coming. You can suggest a theme or era if you have a preference.

Date: April 25, 2024

Meet at the Visitors Center 12:30 - 12:40

Pattern Archive at the URI Library Reading Room 1:00 - 2:15

Historical Textiles and Costume Collection in Quinn Hall 2:45 - 4:00

RSVP by April 23 to dianemartin426@gmail.com

Emergency Contact Diane 401-439-5376

You must register your license plate online prior to parking at the visitors center. The Visitors Center is the best parking area close to Quinn and the library. Some of you may prefer to carpool from off campus locations. I can post updates.

Here's the current information about visitor

parking: <https://web.uri.edu/transportation/parking/visitors/>

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.



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>

MFA Boston: “Dress Up” Exhibition

Check out the Dress Up Exhibition at the MFA Boston. “Dress Up” explores adornment and the creation of a look through more than 100 works of fashion and jewelry. The exhibition will be on until September 2, 2024.

<https://www.mfa.org/exhibition/dress-up>

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.

RISN Website

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

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) _____			