



RI Sewing Network

October 2024 Newsletter

RISN Meetings

Warwick Center for the Arts
3259 Post Rd
Warwick, RI 02886

First Tuesday of the Month

**EXCEPT FOR
NOVEMBER 2024
APRIL 2025**

**SOCIAL HOUR
6:00 PM**

**SEW & SHARE
6:40 PM**

**SPEAKER
7:00 PM**



October 1, 2024
November 12, 2024
December 3, 2024
March 4, 2025
April 2, 2025
May 6, 2025

“RISN Year # 38!”

It was so nice to be back together for RISN year #38. As of the October meeting, 75 members are signed up for the year. When Diane first started the Network 25 people joined. At its peak when the Master Seamstress program was going strong, RISN had 205 members. Please be sure to spread the word about this fun, informative, and talented group. We want to expand the Network once again.

Everyone loves the meeting segment ‘Sew and Share’, but we realize there’s a lot more sewing going on behind the scenes that may not lend itself to a live display at the monthly meeting. So, for anyone that has sewing makes that can’t be brought to the meeting, we encourage you to bring a photo of your work and tell us about it. You’ll receive a raffle ticket even though the actual item/garment doesn’t make the stage.

For anyone that missed the September meeting, be sure to read a summary in the newsletter of the fabulous presentation by Diane Scarponi of Style Flacon. Those that attended the meeting were treated to a 20% discount on Style Falcon patterns. Also highlighted are the evening raffles, FaceBook posts and new exhibits.

We are very excited about the November meeting. The November speaker is Deepika Prakash, founder of ‘Pattern Review’. You will not want to miss this meeting!

“Important News”

NOVEMBER MEETING: Please be aware that the November meeting this year will be on the **SECOND Tuesday of the month, November 12.** November 5 is election day and the Board decided to postpone our meeting by one week.

DECEMBER MEETING: Due to the Warwick Center for the Arts Christmas Shop display, there won’t be any tables available for members to sell or display items. Please do not bring items that evening.

RISN Executive Board
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mary Jo Hines
(401-785-9001)

**TREASURER &
REGISTRATIONS**

Jo Ann Kunitz

NEWSLETTER

Susan Berlam

PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON

Diane Martin
(401-439-5376)

WEB ADMINISTRATOR

Maureen Rozes

FACEBOOK ADMINISTRATOR

Mary Morse

BOARD ASSISTANT

Nancy Spirito

Table of Contents

1. October Recap – Diane Scarponi from Style Falcon Pattern Company	3
2. RISN Meeting Schedule and Speaker Line-Up for 2024-2025	4
3. Sew and Share October 2024	6
4. RISN October Raffle	7
5. FaceBook Sharing	8
6. Other News and Interests	9
7. Membership Information for 2024/2025	11
8. Meeting Venue – Warwick Center for the Arts	11
2024-2025 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM	13

1. October Recap – Diane Scarponi from Style Falcon Pattern Company

Style Falcon Pattern Company

<https://stylefalcon.net>

RISN is very excited to have Diane as the keynote speaker to kick off the new season.

Diane Scarponi is the founder of Style Falcon, a global sewing pattern line inspired by and made for mature figures. A lifelong sewer and maker, Diane founded Style Falcon in 2022 as an antidote to the typical pattern design for youthful, hourglass figures. She works closely with a professional team of patternmakers, graders and graphic artists to create Style Falcon patterns for her ever-growing worldwide "Flock." She shared how she created this pattern line, how she designs for mature figures, and how she has fought against ageism in the sewing world. Style Falcon has been featured in Threads magazine and on the Sewing with Threads podcast. The Sew Over 50 Instagram group recognized Style Falcon in its "Sew Over Ageism" campaign. Diane lives in New Haven, Connecticut with her husband, David, and a feisty poodle named Asta.

Diane is extremely talented, driven, humble, and a delightful speaker. She had us all laughing at the humor as she described her adventure. She shared how she started her company just a few years ago after becoming frustrated with numerous pattern lines that designed for the under 30 women. With a smile, Diane explained that "this figure is not real; it has perfect posture, is symmetrical, has smallish boobs, never had a baby, never breast fed, doesn't feel the gravity of menopause, is taller than average...." These patterns were designed for the hourglass figure, a shape that is rare. Diane understands that some talented seamstresses can alter the hourglass pattern to fit their over 50 figures, but she says, "why should they?" Wouldn't it be great to have a line of patterns that has done much of the fitting for you. Thus, Style Falcon Pattern Company was born.

After extensive research into what was available from other pattern companies Diane noted that few used over 50-year-old models. In her research only 11 of 50 companies showed models over 50. Style Falcon was developed to address this gap by using a fit model over 60 years old to build their pattern block. Her team of pattern makers, professional graders, proofreaders, and sample sewers work closely together to design, test and market her pattern line. Diane provided a few examples of where her pattern block designed for over 50 would differ from the standard hourglass block. The Style Falcon bodice block is likely to have deeper armholes, longer shoulder lines, lower bust points, deeper sleeve caps, etc.

The Style Falcon collection includes numerous patterns designed for the mature figure. Patterns are available in paper and pdf in the USA. Visit <https://stylefalcon.net> to see the complete line.

Below are a few photos from the evening.



2. RISN Meeting Schedule and Speaker Line-Up for 2024-2025

RISN 2024/2025 Speakers

October 1, 2024	Diane Scarponi	Style Falcon Pattern Company
November 12, 2024	Deepika Prakash	Pattern Review - Sustainable Sewing
December 3, 2024	Pat Harrison	Quilts!
March 4, 2025	William Young	Trinity Rep Draper / Patternmaker
April 2, 2025 *WED*	Bill Culbertson	Pollywog Pond Puppets
May 6, 2025	Marie Karnolt	Sewing Technique

See the September 2024 Newsletter on our website (<http://rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com/>) for more details on each of these speakers. Below is a short teaser of what we can expect in November from Deepika Prakash, founder of Pattern Review.

Deepika Prakash

Nov 12, 2024



Sustainable Sewing
[patternreview.com](https://www.patternreview.com)

Sewing as a life skill

Have you been sewing for decades, creating everything from curtains to coats and everything in between? If your wardrobe is full, but your passion for sewing remains, join Deepika Prakash, founder of PatternReview.com for an inspiring session on how we can use our sewing skills to make a meaningful difference in our communities. Discover innovative ways to contribute and connect through the art of sewing.

Deepika Prakash is the founder of PatternReview.com, a global community for sewing enthusiasts with over half a million members. She started the site 20 years ago to connect with fellow sewists and share experiences. Deepika has contributed to magazines like Threads and appeared on "It's Sew Easy." She was a keynote speaker at the American Sewing Guild's 40th anniversary and the 2023 ASDP conference. In 2021, she was honored as a Commonwealth Heroine by Massachusetts. Her book, "1,000 Clever Sewing Shortcuts & Tips," donates royalties to breast cancer charity. When she is not sewing, Deepika likes to go on bike rides, hiking, walking and connecting with other sewists worldwide.

3. Sew and Share October 2024

Donna Mansolillo shared her adorable sheep costume using Simplicity 2788. Her second time making this costume.

Donna also told us about her sewing class, “Get to Know Your Sewing Machine”, she offered at her library. What a great idea on how to get people reacquainted with their own machine and reduce the fear of sewing!



Diane Comier relined a favorite leather pocketbook. She was able to reuse the original pockets, but she added a new zippered pocket. Such a great idea and reminder of how we can be “sustainable” sewers.

My sincere apologies to Diane as I didn’t capture her in the actual photo. I was so impressed with the work that I forgot to get a complete photo of Diane holding the bag.



Karen Penn made two plush characters for her grandchildren. The cat is a modified Simplicity pattern using a drawing that her grandson made. And the Axolotl was created from a hand-drawn pattern.



Joann Kunitz made a pair of jeans using Jennifer Sterns jean pattern. This was her second made of the pattern; the first being a few years back.



4. RISN October Raffle

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.

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, Susan Berlam, Newsletter Editor, will take your name, photo and details about your 'Share' for the Newsletter. Please be sure to "check-in" with Susan before you share so she can get the details. Susan will have index cards for you to jot down the details yourself to be sure she gets it right in the Newsletter.

We had two raffles this month. The first raffle was for everyone that signed up for RISN by September 15.

Six lucky attendees received a prize from the monthly raffle. This month it was a Needle Noter.

The prize winner, Jerilyn Perry, received a wonderful collection of items.

- Merchant and Mills Bodkin
- Make Supply Co. Red handled small scissors
- "What Shall I Wear? The What, Where, When and How Much of Fashion" book by Claire McCardell



- Lumos and Lumos Knitting Light.

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. These are just a few of many great posts.

Denise Carlson keeps us in stitches with this cartoon!



Susan Berlam started her summer bathing suit sewing in September and hopes they fit next year!

The two-piece suits are Jalie Claudia 4136, the long sleeve rash guard is Grace by Swim Style, the swim shorts are Jalie 3351, and the pink patterned 'bikini' top is GreenStyle power sports bra.



Rowena Burke posted a Field Trip Idea!

[New York Historical Society Explores Women's History through Everyday Clothing](#)

Rosemary O’Koren posted:

I've been wanting to cut into this fabric for a while and I finally did it this week. This is the Long Weekend Tank Dress from Pattern Emporium. I had extra fabric so I made a top from the same pattern and cut along the design for fun look.

Mary Morse offered a wonderful comment to remind us all of why we sew. “Once again it is those small details that take a garment from basic to fantastic. Great hem detail on the top.”

VERY PRETTY!



Mary Jo Hines shared a Ted Talk you will not want to miss!

In this engaging talk, Mollie Kaye, with a charming vintage flair, shares a transformative initiative - dressing up every Tuesday to connect with strangers. Exploring the profound impact of small interactions, she delves into the dangers of loneliness and the significant health benefits of meaningful connections.

[Is the cure for loneliness hiding in your closet?](#)

6. Other News and Interests

Fashion and Design Exhibition at Peabody Essex Museum, Salem MA

Ensembles from the Iris Apfel Rare Bird of Fashion collection celebrate the exuberant remixing and inventive styling of one of the world’s most prominent fashion icons, while constellations of unique and culturally significant works of design, fashion, and textiles explore distinctive and

resourceful forms of creative expression. Also featured are nearly 40 recent acquisitions that spotlight the vibrant and flamboyant collection of Boston-based entrepreneur and fashion icon Yolanda Cellucci. Yolanda's, based in Waltham, Massachusetts, became a hotspot for lavish evening and wedding ensembles and became a household name throughout the region and a shorthand for glitz and glamor in the late 20th century. Cellucci generously donated her collection of 57 works of fashion and accessories to PEM in 2021, along with archival photographs and materials related to the legacy of her bridal shop.

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

Costume & Textiles at Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford CT

The Wadsworth Atheneum's Costume and Textiles collection holds approximately 2,500 textile objects and 5,000 costumes and accessories, ranging in time from Coptic to Contemporary, in size from thimbles to tapestries, and representing every continent. Many objects cross curatorial lines, like African American story quilts, Native American baskets, and contemporary fiber art.

<https://www.thewadsworth.org/explore/collection/costume-textiles/>

Africa's Fashion Diaspora at The Museum at FIT, NYC

September 18 – December 29, 2024

Examples include South African designer Sindiso Khumalo's textile print inspired by American abolitionist Harriet Tubman, British designer Grace Wales Bonner's tuxedo informed by the court of Emperor Haile Selassie in Ethiopia, and French designer Olivier Rousteing's collection for Balmain based on Black American cowboys. Through approximately 60 ensembles, textiles, and accessories, Africa's Fashion Diaspora illustrates how fashion designers have contributed to international dialogues to chronicle, evaluate, and expand modern ideas of Blackness.

<https://www.fitnyc.edu/museum/exhibitions/index.php?exhibitions=upcoming>

Barbie at the Design Museum in London

July 2024 – February 23, 2025

Those who have not had enough of the fashion doll after seeing the Barbie film can dive further into the world of [Barbie at the Design Museum](#) in London. The museum will display a 65-year timeline of the iconic doll from the summer onwards. Barbie's legacy began in 1959 when Ruth Handler wanted to create a different story for her daughter Barbara. The exhibition explores the evolution of one of the world's most famous dolls through design, including fashion, architecture, furniture and car design. For the exhibition, which has been years in the making, the Design Museum gained access to the Barbie archives in California.

Paris anyone?? Fashion takes over the Louvre

January 24, 2025 - ??

Thus, Parisian museums are not entirely unfamiliar with fashion shows and exhibitions, but this is the first time that fashion in its broad sense has been chosen by the Louvre as the theme of one of its temporary exhibitions. Although the title of the exhibition, which will open its doors on January 24, 2025, remains a mystery, we already know that the exhibition will focus on the relationship between art and fashion, featuring 65 outfits and 30 accessories created by 40 different designers, including Karl Lagerfeld and Yohji Yamamoto. The pieces will span from the Byzantine era to the French Second Empire, yet still inspire designers worldwide today. Perhaps this is the first in a long series of fashion exhibitions at the heart of the Louvre, especially considering the richness of French culture in this field and the countless designers, both historical and emerging, who shape and sustain France's fashion legacy.

<https://www.nssmag.com/en/fashion/37816/louvre-first-fashion-exhibition-january-2025>

Labor of Luxury: Embroidery from India to the World. Univ of North Texas

October 1, 2024- February 1, 2025

<https://news.cvad.unt.edu/exhibition-cvad-gallery-labor-of-luxury>

"Labor of Luxury: Embroidery from India to the World" is a CVAD Gallery exhibition that celebrates the artistry of Indian artisans, showcasing high-fashion garments adorned with intricate surface motifs. Featuring over 30 exquisite designs by renowned Indian and Euro-American fashion luminaries such as [Ashish Gupta](#), Oscar de la Renta, Naeem Khan, Mary McFadden, Todd Oldham, Dries Van Noten, and Vera Wang, this exhibition invites you to explore the creativity, craftsmanship, and labor behind these luxurious creations.

RISN Website

Be sure to check the RISN website for archived Newsletters, updates, and events.

<http://rhodeislandsewingnetwork.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.

7. Membership Information for 2024/2025

Attached to this Newsletter is the 2024-2025 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:

<http://rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com/>

8. 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/>

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).

For 2024/25 we want to strongly encourage our members to consider carpooling! We hope that by doing so, you get to know one another a little better AND bring along someone that might not want to make the drive on their own.

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.

2024-2025 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Your completed application with a check made out to RI Sewing Network or RISN should be mailed directly to:

Jo Ann Kunitz
11 Lee Rd.
Barrington, RI 02806

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 2024-2025 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: <http://rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com/membership>

<u>RISN Membership Application 2024-2025</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) _____		