



RI Sewing Network

September 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!”

The RISN Board is thrilled to share with you a new season of exciting sewing topics presented by extremely talented local experts. The 2024-2025 season has something for everyone. We hope you all enjoyed your summer and are excited to come back to the Warwick Center for the Arts for our meeting. Make sure to bring your favorite sewn project to show and share!

Once again, Diane Martin worked hard to bring exceptional speakers to us this year. A brief introduction to each month's speaker is in the Newsletter.

Oct 1, 2024	Diane Scarponi	“Style Falcon Pattern Company”
Nov 12, 2024	Deepika Prakash	“Pattern Review - Sustainable Sewing”
Dec 3, 2024	Pat Harrison	“Quilts”
Mar 4, 2025	William Young	“Trinity Rep Draper / Patternmaker”
Apr 2, 2025 *WED*	Bill Culbertson	“Pollywog Pond Puppets”
May 6, 2025	Marie Karnolt	“Sewing Technique”

“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.

BOARD MEMBERS: We would like to take this time to give a special “Thank You” to Sue Ann Walter and Kaleigh Guay, both of whom are stepping down from their role on RISN. Sue Ann was our treasurer and registration person for many years providing exceptional oversight to the financial accounts, membership registration and every meeting greeting members and making sure we had our raffle tickets. Kaleigh graciously took over the role of RISN Newsletter Editor (2023/24) from Susan Berlam who had numerous travel conflicts. Kaleigh did an outstanding job capturing the meetings and providing tips on local activities that might be of interest. We will miss Sue Ann and Kaleigh on the Board. Replacing Sue Ann as treasurer and registration lead, is Jo Ann Kunitz. Susan Berlam will return to the role of Newsletter Editor.

We have a great line-up of speakers, representing a broad range of sewing related interests. For a very small price, starting as low as \$10, you have an opportunity to hear from and talk to these highly talented professionals. You don't want to miss the 2024/2025 season! Renew memberships before September 15 and be entered into a special raffle!

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

The RISN Board held their annual Board meeting in June where they discussed topics and speakers for the new season. Sue Ann Walter, Maureen Rozes, Diane Martin, Mary Morse, Susan Berlam, and Jo Ann Kunitz attended.

For the new season, once again, Diane set us up for great success. As Program Chair, Diane came to the June Board meeting with a long list of very talented presenters for consideration. We're certain you will love the 6 speakers selected for the new season.

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 1, 2025	Bill Culbertson	Pollywog Pond Puppets
May 6, 2025	Marie Karnolt	Sewing Technique

Below are a few details about these very talented artists.

Diane Scarponi

October 1, 2024

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 or her ever-growing worldwide "Flock." She will discuss 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.

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.

Pat Harrison

December 3, 2024

Quilts!

Color can be complicated or color can be fun, so we're going with fun! Enjoy a lecture featuring professional photography as we see why nature's color combinations are just the best. A trunk show of 100+ pounds of award-winning quilts will show off their colors.

Pat Harrison is a Certified Judge and current Webmaster of the National Association of Certified Quilt Judges as well as having served as President and Candidate/Judge Coordinator of the association. She judges, teaches, and lectures nationally in addition to being an award-winning long-arm quilter, pattern designer, and author.



William Young

March 4, 2025

Trinity Rep Draper & Patternmaker

<https://www.williamayoung.com>

"Draping as Designing: Transforming a Costume Rendering into Dimensional Space"

RISN is very fortunate to have William Young as a speaker in March. You'll recall that we first heard about William last season when Amanda Downing Carney shared her work as costume designer for Trinity. Check out his work at the link above – Incredible!

William is the cutter/drafter and costume shop supervisor at Trinity Repertory Company in Providence. He holds a double major in Landscape Design and Theater from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and his MFA in Costume Technology from Penn State University. He is the 2020 recipient of both USITT's Barbara Matera Award for Costume Making and the Bernhard R. Works Master Crafts Award, and his corsetry work was featured in the ZAZ10TS exhibit, "The Corset as Art," on the corner of Times Square in 2021.

Bill Culbertson

April 1, 2025

Pollywog Pond Puppets

<http://www.williamculbertson.com/pollywog-pond.html>

In 2014 we had a presentation by Bill Culbertson, "A Character's Journey: From Concept to Production" about the development of his project. Our April program will again feature Bill, returning to update his progress since we last saw him. His characters are now part of his early learner's show Pollywog Pond, broadcast and distributed by Rhode Island PBS and the PBS network. The show has garnered several international awards including two Emmy nominations.

A graduate of Towson University and holder of a Master's degree from RISD, Bill is an internationally recognized sculptor and professor with over 40 years in the business serving more than one hundred companies, including Disney, Henson, Sesame Workshop, and the list goes on. In his talk with us, Bill will give us an inside look at how he developed the characters for his preschool property project, "Pollywog Pond." We'll see how the project developed over time to where it is today, including how he taught himself how to sew his creations on the old Singer machine he played under when he was little while Mom sewed clothes for the family.

Marie Karnolt

May 6, 2025

Sewing Technique

Marie Karnolt: owner of MLK Design Studio in CT, which is a sanctuary for fellow sewing enthusiasts, retired tailor (Marie's Tailor Shop), 30+ years as a sewing educator, former fashion design adjunct professor, costume designer, custom sewer, avid artist, lover of all things in the garden. With all this background and more, we are sure to be entertained and dazzled by what she brings to us on May 6. Stay tuned for more details on Marie as we get closer to May.

2. 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.

A recent post from **Rosemary O’Koren** after she finished organizing her sewing and fabric rooms. She has the sewing room(s) we all dreamed of having. Take a peek at the before and after photos!



Mary Morse posted a video on leather from TheQuitShow.com
Watch the video to see how Desserto creates a leather alternative from cactus!

<https://youtu.be/oZyqLpT8aNM>

Mary Morse shared a YouTube clip the Olympic Team USA
Gymnastic Leotards were made using 47,000 crystals costing
\$3000 for each uniform.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrUJlZUeSU&feature=youtu.be>

Jerilyn Perry posted her recent conversion of her friend’s wedding gown that became her daughter’s rehearsal dress. She took an elegant one piece gown and turned it into two pieces, a crop top with a high waisted skirt! Gorgeous!



Over the summer we saw posts about the closure and sales from Sew Nice Fabrics, videos shared on sewing hacks, sewing related comics, reminders of exhibitions in the area, troubleshooting sewing machine issues, and so much more!

Be sure to register to join the FaceBook RISN private group so you don't miss out.

3. 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>

RISN Field Trip to URI

In April Diane arranged for a private tour of the URI Pattern Archive and Historical Textiles and Costume Collection. The pattern collection includes more than 50,000 patterns and dates to the 1840's. You can learn more about the collection and how you can use it here:

<https://copa.apps.uri.edu>

The costume collection and historical textiles was also spectacular. Check out the website.

<https://web.uri.edu/business/about/tmd/collection/> Enjoy the photos captured by our group and also posted on FaceBook.





RISN Raffles

Sign-up or renew your RISN Membership before September 15, 2024, and you will be entered into a very generous drawing. The winner will be selected at the first meeting, October 1. Complete the membership form attached to the Newsletter and send it to Jo Ann Kunitz as instructed by September 15.

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.

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.

4. Membership Information for 2024/2025

For those that join as a Premier Member by September 15, you will be entered into a raffle for a very special sewing related gift. The winner will be announced at the October 2024 meeting.

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:
www.rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com

5. 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

For those that join as a Premier Member by September 15, they will be entered into a raffle for special sewing related gift. The winner will be announced at the October 2024 meeting.

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: www.rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com

<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) _____			