



RI Sewing Network

November 2025 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 7, 2025
November 4, 2025
December 2, 2025
March 3, 2026
April 7, 2026
May 5, 2026

How is it December already?

Our December meeting is going to be one not to miss! How many of you use your serger for things besides serging inside seams? OK, some might take one more step and use your serger for rolled hems, but beyond that? Renowned serger and embellishment expert, teacher, Bernina Ambassador and author, Gail Patrice Yellen will be with us sharing her creative talents to inspire us to up our game with the serger and cover stitch machines and the use of decorative threads. Try to make time to check out her YouTube channel before the meeting. Get ready to be dazzled and have your questions ready for the Q&A session.

Looking back at the November 4 meeting, your newsletter editor, me (Susan Berlam), could not attend so the letter is slightly briefer than normal (perhaps a good thing?). I want to thank Kaliegh Guay for volunteering to help in my absence and collect information and take the photos of the Sew & Share.

Our guest speaker for the evening, Emily Boni, presented her career journey on creating a business that combined her fashion design expertise with her deep Christian faith. The presentation was particularly inspiring and her workmanship on priest vestments and repurposing wedding gowns is outstanding. See inside for more details and photos of her work taken from her website.

Sew and Share offered a variety of makes ranging from a gorgeous quilt and wall hanging, professional handbag and wallet, a remake of a Santa outfit, a cute raincoat and American Girl doll clothes. Our group is certainly busy at the machine.

The RISN Board would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our members for your continued interest and unwavering support to the Network. Our membership is very strong this year with over 100 members already on record. This is your Network and we look to you to share your ideas, interests and talent amongst the group through the meetings, FaceBook and/or the newsletter.

Back to the newsletter...this is the last newsletter for 2025. The next one will come to you February 2026 with a recap of the December meeting and will set the stage for the three remaining meetings in the spring. During that hiatus, please keep posting your makes to our FaceBook page and I'll be sure to copy a few into the February newsletter.

Here's an early "Happy Holidays" wish to you all.
Susan

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Table of Contents

1. RISN Meeting Schedule and Speaker Line-Up for 2025-2026	3
2. Emily Boni – Recap November 4, 2025	3
3. Sew and Share November 2025	7
4. FaceBook Sharing	9
5. Other News and Interests	11
6. Meeting Venue – Warwick Center for the Arts	12
2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM	13

1. RISN Meeting Schedule and Speaker Line-Up for 2025-2026

RISN 2025/2026 Speakers

Oct 7, 2025	Marc Allen	Dressing you for your Lifestyle
Nov 4, 2025	Emily Boni	Liturgical Garments
Dec 2, 2025	Gail Patrice Yellen	Serger Embellishments & Cover Stitches
Mar 3, 2026	Veronica Mays	African Inspired Quilts & Jackets
Apr 7, 2026	Janee Connor	Honoring Claire Shaeffer
May 5, 2026	Lisa Limer	Bela Monde: Wearable Art in Silk and Alpaca

Gail Patrice Yellen **Serger Embellishments & Cover Stitches** Dec 2, 2025

Let me show you how to take your serger to a whole new creative level with decorative serger stitches and specialty threads. Just a few tweaks can turn utility stitches into stunning embellishments. I'll demonstrate my favorite overlock and cover/chainstitch techniques. Did you know that you can blend multiple threads in a looper? We'll finish with time for Q & A.

A serger expert, Gail teaches serger basics and advanced techniques. She teaches workshops across the country including Houston Quilt Festival, machine dealers and Craftsy. Zoom classes keep Gail interactive with sewists around the world. Gail is a BERNINA Ambassador and author of two books, Serger Essentials Master the basics; beyond! and It's All About Embellishment (digital) and her patterns include serger skill building techniques. Check out YouTube.com/GailYellen for free tutorials.

2. Emily Boni – Recap November 4, 2025

Liturgical Garments

Emmy B. Catholic, LLC

<https://www.emmybcatholic.com/>



The meeting attendees thoroughly enjoyed Emily’s presentation on liturgical garments. This type of garment is not something we normally think about with respect to fashion design. Emily shared her story of how she combined her fashion design degree and her strong Christian faith to launch her faith and fashion brand, Emmy B. Catholic LLC. After earning her BFA in Fashion Design with a minor in Business Management in 2018, she began working full-time in manufacturing and now works in marketing—all while running her own business, Emmy B. Catholic, LLC. Emily shared how she entered the clerical apparel industry the summer before college, walked through the process of creating a vestment, and shared several highlights of her work repurposing wedding gowns.

In describing her work on the vestments and how she became an expert, Emily said her first vestment was for her parish deacon the summer before college. She had no formal sewing training but the deacon was very happy with her work. In 2023 she officially opened her business, Emmy B. Catholic, LLC and custom orders grew rapidly. She explained that the fabrics for the vestments are priced at \$50 - \$60 per yard and that the priests have a lot of input from fabric choices to the embroidered motifs. It’s very custom work.

Besides vestments Emily also ventured into reworking wedding gowns into baptismal gowns, bridal accessories and bridal shower dress, for example. Emily said that most of this work is done using the wedding dress from the mother of the bride. To make the most of the gown, Emily must bend the rules a bit on nap placement and places patterns in every direction to prevent waste. She said there’s endless options when working with these gowns.

We don’t often receive email feedback from attendees so the feedback below sent to Diane Martin from a few attendees says a great deal about how special Emily’s presentation was.

“The meeting was great. The speaker was inspiring. Just seeing a young woman talking about her faith and fashion inspire me. She talked about how she found her niche and also her process on how she makes the priest vestments.”

“I was inspired by her authenticity as she applied her passion for sewing and design to her faith.”

Below are photos taken from Emily’s website and a few from her slide presentation showing the stunning custom design and outstanding workmanship.







3. Sew and Share November 2025

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 a sign-up sheet for you to write down the details yourself to be sure she gets it right in the Newsletter.

Emily Fournier showed us her barn quilt which was a 15-year project. She sourced fabric from Joann's and Marden's. Wow – huge congratulations for sticking with it and completing a masterpiece!



Mary Morse shared a Santa suit she was asked to “remake”. The original suit was many, many years old and well worn. Mary found fabric at Lorraine's and fabric.com and traced a pattern off from Santa suit. And here's a picture of Jolly Saint Nick modelling his custom garb! Great job, Mary!



Christine Blanchard shared a beautiful raincoat, leather handbag, and matching wallet. The raincoat was made using water resistance fabric using an Amy Nicole pattern in Etsy. The handbag and wallet were made using Sew Hungry Hippy patterns using leather she recycled from a skirt! Very impressive, indeed!



Donna Miller showed us her outstanding wall hanging. That's an amazing work of art, Donna!



Rose O’Koren has been busy sewing adorable American Girl doll clothes for the American Sewing Guild.
“Sew Cute, Rose!”



4. 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 filled with sewing advice and fun links. These are just a few of many great posts.

Joanne Brown keeps us all up to date on the status of the Big 4 pattern company. Thank goodness, they are going to stick around. Listen to the update from Mimi G & Abbie Small on YouTube.

Simplicity Pattern Inc.
Is Officially Here!

Simplicity **VOGUE**
McCall's **PATTERNS**
NEWLOOK
knowME **Butterick**

Big 4 Patterns Saved

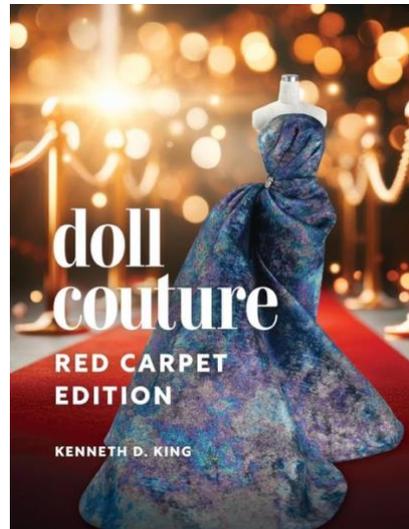
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1Hsbr2jzJ4>

Susan Berlam shared an upcoming event posted by GorgeousFabrics.com.

Kenneth D King will be signing copies of his new book, "Doll Couture 2 - Red Carpet Edition" at Gorgeous Fabrics' Galactic Headquarters in Billerica, MA on December 6, 2025, from noon to 3PM.

You can purchase copies of the book at the event or bring your own copy (and any other books of Kenneth's in your sewing library), and he will sign it for you.

Kenneth is a marvelous raconteur, and he will bring the dolls and characters from his books, in their fabulous looks. His talks and classes are always a delight.



Rowena Dunlap Burke is all over the Christmas holiday and sharing a link on how to make the “prettiest ugly Christmas sweater for your kids”. Check out the Folded X-Mas Tree Tutorial.

<https://www.misusu.co/collections/free-1/products/folded-x-mas-tree-tutorial>



Susan Berlam shared some photos of Kimonos she saw at the National Museum of Japan in Tokyo. Here are a few of those photos. Check out FaceBook for the rest.





Other posts included reminders of a local quilt show, a private fabric sale, and chats about what fellow members were bringing to the next meeting for the giveaway/sale table.

5. Other News and Interests

Fashion and Design Exhibition at Peabody Essex Museum, Salem MA

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

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

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

Dress, Dreams, and Desire: Fashion and Psychoanalysis, at The Museum at FIT, NYC, Sep 2025 – Jan 2026

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

Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Style is at The King's Gallery, Buckingham Palace. Spring to Autumn 2026

<https://www.rct.uk/about/news-and-features/largest-exhibition-of-queen-elizabeth-iis-fashion-announced>

RISN Raffles

All meeting attendees are handed a raffle ticket when they check-in for the meeting. Anyone that participates in the optional Sew and Share portion of the meeting will receive an extra raffle ticket. Following the speaker presentation Mary Jo raffles off several goody bags to lucky winners. You never know what fun prizes await. This month the prize was book ends modeled after a quilt pattern.



RISN Website

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

Gift, Sell, Buy, or Services

Urge to Purge? Members who have sewing/craft items for gifting or sale are invited to set up a table at our meetings. You need to bring home any leftovers.

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.

6. 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 2025/26 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.

2025-2026 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 2025-2026 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 2025-2026</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) _____		