



# RI Sewing Network

## October 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

### What a Turnout for October!

It was so nice to see everyone again for our first meeting of the 2025/2026 RISN season. There was a lot of excitement and chatter during the social hour. The “freebie table” was overflowing with fabric, patterns, books, and sewing notions. Several new faces were spotted and the overall turnout was huge requiring a few more rows of chairs for attendees. And we have a new order of RISN zipper tote bags for sale; get them before they are gone, again! It’s going to be another exciting year for RISN.

Marc Streisand, of Marc Allen, kicked off our year with an outstanding presentation and Q&A. For those that attended, I’m sure you will agree it was incredibly interesting and highly entertaining. Despite his amazing tailoring talent, business expertise, and globally recognized presence, Marc seemed like your next-door neighbor simply sharing some of his everyday workday decisions. Between his stories and exquisite garments, he brought with him, he had us all glued to our seats and wanting to learn more about his work. More on this presentation is in the newsletter.

Our Sew and Share had a great showing of the work our members toiled with over the summer. You’ll see they worked on shirts, pillows, quilts, handbags, dresses, Halloween decorations, and jackets. What are you sewing? Aim to bring it to our November meeting! We love seeing what our members are working on.

November 4 we will hear from Emily Boni, founder and owner of her LLC business focused on clerical apparel design. Emily’s presentation, titled Liturgical Garments, will truly be a unique evening showcasing her work designing and crafting clerical apparel and the process of creating a vestment. The timing couldn’t be better with the appointment of the new Pope, Pope Leo. And you might want to watch the award-winning movie “The Conclave” to set the mood and questions for the presentation by Emily. Don’t miss this on November 4.

For those that are on our FaceBook page, we want to see more of your sewing works, questions and sharing’s. September was a little quiet, let’s make October and November active with pictures of your creations and posts of your sewing interests.

Lastly, with very heavy hearts, we mourn our dear friend, Denise Carlson, who passed on October 8, 2025, after a long battle with cancer. For years Denise attended our meetings and always brought something to share and offered the kindest and most supportive words to her fellow sewers. She inspired many with her sewing talent and infectious joy of sewing. Denise graduated from Master Seamstress I (MSI) in 2010 and continued to receive MSII Certificates in 2011, 2012, and 2014. We’re blessed to have had you touch our hearts, Denise.

We are also thinking of Mabel Wagner as her health is declining. So many MSI graduates will remember her touching stories and sewing talents. Mabel would have loved seeing Marc Allen’s tailoring.

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

### RISN 2025/2026 Speakers

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

### **Emily Boni**

Nov 4, 2025

### **Liturgical Garments**

Emily is a young entrepreneur passionate about blending faith and fashion. 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. In her presentation, Emily will share how she entered the clerical apparel industry, walk through the process of creating a vestment, and highlight other unique projects she has developed through her online business.

## 2. Marc Allen – Recap October 7, 2025

### **‘Dressing you for your Lifestyle’ Marc Allen Fine Clothiers**

<https://www.marcalleninc.com>

WOW! Can I say that again? Wow!

It was clear we were in for something special that night as the RISN attendance on a Tuesday evening was very impressive. For those that attended the meeting, we got to listen to an amazing presentation from Marc Streisand. We stayed glued to our seats long past the normal finishing time and everyone seemed to want to hear more and more.

A special thanks goes out to Diane for bringing Marc to RISN.

I'll do my best to give you a few snippets from the evening and you can look at the photos below to get a feel for the artistry of Marc Allen Fine Clothiers.



The evening began with the question to Marc, “What’s your favorite sewing notion?” Marc paused a few seconds (clearly, he doesn’t get that question often) and then said, “the straight edge razor” (aka a seam ripper). Even an expert tailor takes out a seam or two now and then.

Marc is a New Yorker and started his career owning a consulting firm named Inside Out Image Consulting where he worked with high end clientele as a personal shopper and stylist. Most of his clients at the time were women and he focused his attention to first promoting beautiful lingerie as a foundation to a polished look on the outside. What’s inside and underneath is just as important as what is showing on the outside. After several years into this venture, he decided to hire someone to help run the business and be customer facing while Marc worked the back end and thought more about what he would do next. Life in New York city around the time of 911 was challenging and commuting from NJ to his office in NYC would consume 5 to 6 hours a day. This was not the best scenario for him and his wife and two small children. Next stop, Rhode Island.

Marc had met the owner of Briggs, a fine men’s clothier in Providence, at a show while still in NYC. As luck would have it, Briggs called Marc to see if he had interest in buying the Briggs business. Of course, he did have an interest and it didn’t take long to decide and buy the business. He told us that the decision to buy was largely due to the impressive and talented tailoring staff that would stay on with him. The business was rebranded to “Marc Allen” soon after he took over and has been an amazing success story ever since. He credits his success to his desire to offer the highest quality service and produce the finest possible clothing for his customers.

Marc brought one of his tailors to the meeting, Alyssa Glaser. You’ll see Alyssa in one of the photos below where she has on one of the men’s jackets. Alyssa has been with Marc Allen for a few years and attested to Marc’s scrutiny and expectation for perfect tailoring, though he admits to having not sewn for 27 years. Alyssa shared a little bit about herself and even in a few short words, we could tell she’s someone with immense talent and a storyline we want to hear more of. Perhaps another speaker for RISN.....

The Marc Allen business services men only and provides a full line of selectively curated clothing including custom made undergarments, jeans, shirts, high end / fitted ‘ready-made’ suits, and exquisite custom-tailored suits. His collections are small, highly sought after and when they are gone, they are gone. Most of their fabrics are sourced from the finest mills in Italy and they avoid any synthetic fabrics in their line. We were shown a suit jacket that was under construction and priced at \$55,000 due to the very limited production of this one type of wool. Only 100 yards of the finest quality wool is manufactured making it one of the most expensive fabrics in the world at \$8K+/yd. WOW!

Marc talked about his shop in Providence and how he has designed it to be very welcoming. They even have a bar for their customers to hang out and enjoy a drink while shopping or during their fitting. Between the finest selection of clothing, exquisite tailoring, entertaining personality of the founder, and the bar ☺, I can see Marc Allen being a wonderful place to visit and shop for the finest men’s clothing around.





### 3. Sew and Share October 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.

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Rose O’Koren shared her Happy Halloween pillow, a JuJu embroidery design articulating scarecrow and a cute V-neck shirt.



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Joanne Brown blew us all away with her gorgeous Jelly Roll rug, the “Place for Everything” yellow handled bag with numerous ‘pages’ of storage (bag by Annie), and her quilted burgundy vinyl Iris bag by SewYours.



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Karen Penn showed us her cute wristlet purse created from MAH Jorg Pattern using Spoonflower cotton fabric. The bag was made to hold a card game (forgive me, I missed the name of the card game). Before the meeting Karen also shared a picture with me of a ‘three-yard quilt’ she made and donated to Kent Infusion Unit the day before our meeting.



Sue Hamel travels with a measuring tape and apparently several other RISN ladies do too! Here Sue shows us a beautiful lace coverup she made by copying a ready-made garment she saw in a store. The lace was from JoAnn's. Lucky for her she had her measuring tape handy to ensure her make would be the proper dimensions.



Christine Blanchard modeled her Marcy Tilton shirt made from a beautiful Monet print and adorned with vinatge buttons. Christine also showed us her quilted, lined, iridescent zip bag and her Make Space wallet which she so matter of factly said "it wasn't terrible" as she referred to the difficulty of the construction. Everything looked awesome to us, Christine!



Susan Berlam was too busy to get photos of herself that night but here are previously taken photos of the items she shared. A sparkly knit faux wrap dress by Sinclair patterns, a waterproof jacket using a Jalie pattern and Polartec Neoshell stretch fabric from Discovery Fabrics, and a messenger bag made from a pattern and plastic-coated fabric from Splash Fabrics.

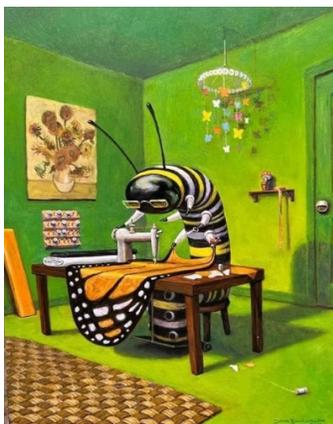


## 4. FaceBook Sharing

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

Maggie Riccio shared a few cute cartoons.



Rowena Burke shared an exhibit going on now at FIT in NYC.

<https://www.fitnyc.edu/museum/exhibitions/dress-dreams-desire/index.php>



Rowena Burke also shared an exhibit at The New Bedford Museum.

<https://www.whalingmuseum.org/exhibition/morabeza-cape-verdean-community-in-the-south-coast/>

On display: Luiza's hand-sewn and beaded wedding dress.

This fashionable wedding dress was made of silk with hand-sewn pearl seed and glass beading and a bias-cut "handkerchief hem" of lace by May Costa (b. 1879, New Bedford) for her daughter Luiza's marriage to João M. Barros. The couple was married at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in New Bedford in 1929.

This dress is part of our summer exhibition "Morabeza: Cape Verdean Community in the South Coast" through February 24, 2025.



## 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>

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## RISN Raffles

All meeting attendees are handed a raffle ticket when they check-in for the meeting. Following the speaker presentation Mary Jo raffles off several goody bags to lucky winners. You never know what fun prizes await.

This month we had the Early Registration Raffle for anyone that signed up for RISN before September 15. The lucky winner, Dorothy Sabourin, won the grand prize, a Pro Floor Lamp (sorry, no picture)! The regular raffle for meeting attendees and those that have a 'sew and share' item, were eligible for 9 chances win a "SEAM STICK"! A photo of the RISN zipper tote that is available for purchase at our meetings is included below

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.

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## **RISN Website**

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

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## **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.

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## **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](http://www.rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com)

<b><u>RISN Membership Application 2025-2026</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) _____		