



# RI Sewing Network

## February 2026 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  
**May 19, 2026**

### **December Rescheduled to May 19!**

It was such a disappointment to have to cancel the December meeting due to weather. This has been a rough winter between the snow and dreadfully cold temperature. Enough of this cold winter already! However, we are thrilled to let you know that the December meeting with Gail Patrice Yellen has been rescheduled to **May 19!** Thank you, Diane, for coordinating that change!

Veronica Mays will be presenting at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Get ready to listen to a highly talented and decorated, renowned fiber artist speak about her art inspired quilting journey. Veronica will entertain us with a trunk show featuring heritage quilts and personal stories of her quilt journey, as well as offering renditions of quilt related poetry.

Looking forward to April and May, we have **three** more exciting evenings on the calendar. April 7, Janee Connor is presenting “Honoring Clarie Shaeffer”, May 5, Lisa Limer will present “Bela Monde: Wearable Art in Silk and Alpaca” and May 19, Gail Patrice Yellen will present “Serge Embellishments & Cover Stitches”. Fingers crossed the snow and cold is long gone and we are all sewing up those spring and summer outfits.

Here’s to longer and warmer days and more time at the sewing machine!

Susan

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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
<del>Dec 2, 2025</del>	<del><b>Gail Patrice Yellen</b></del>	<del>Serger Embellishments &amp; Cover Stitches</del>
Mar 3, 2026	<b>Veronica Mays</b>	African Inspired Quilts & Jackets
Apr 7, 2026	<b>Janee Connor</b>	Honoring Claire Shaeffer
May 5, 2026	<b>Lisa Limer</b>	Bela Monde: Wearable Art in Silk and Alpaca
<b>May 19, 2026</b>	<b>Gail Patrice Yellen</b>	Serger Embellishments & Cover Stitches

## Veronica Mays

Mar 3, 2026

## African Inspired Quilts & Jackets

Veronica “Conaky” Mays is a Rhode Island native whose background is in writing (journalism, poetry, fiction) and drama. She worked in the newspaper industry then entered the teaching profession. She taught high school English in Rhode Island, Alaska, and Italy! As her passion for art quilting grew, her challenges in the classroom likewise increased. She often stated, "I'd rather be quilting." In 2019, she finished her teaching career to pursue art quilting in earnest. She is partial to using African-inspired fabric to create pieces that reflect her culture. Art quilts and portrait quilts using applique' are her favorite designs. She began adding quilted coats and quilted postcards to her repertoire.

Mays has had the opportunity to answer nationwide calls for artists to have her works travel to various states for display. This has really allowed her to expand her knowledge and awareness of what is trending, while remaining true to herself and continuing to find her artistic voice. Mays was featured in the January 2023 edition of Quilt Folk magazine. In July 2024 she was selected by Rhode Island Monthly magazine in their “Best of Rhode Island” issue as an “Artisan to Watch”.

Additionally, Mays had been the coordinator of the Five Star Souper Kitchen at Community Baptist Church in Newport for the past 20 years. She served on several local boards including Bank Newport, ReNewport, AIDS Quilts RI and more.

The trunk show will feature heritage quilts and personal stories of her quilt journey, as well as her offering renditions of quilt related poetry.

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

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**NOT ON FACEBOOK** but **Diane Martin** wanted you to see her lovely “Sister Bears” she made with much love as Valentine’s Day gifts for her granddaughters. Diane cut the bears from onesies and pajamas her granddaughters both wore.

Diane used the bear pattern that was offered by Linda Olean at the time of her RISN Edwards Twins presentation a few years back. Diane said it was easy construction with simple printed directions. She can provide copies, via email, if anyone is interested in making the bear.



**Joanne Brown** shared the date for the Narragansett Bay Quilter’s Association 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary quilt show. April 18-19 at the West Warwick Civic Center.

**NARRAGANSETT BAY QUILTERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY**  
**QUILT SHOW**  
**GOLDEN THREADS**  
**APRIL 18-19, 2026**  
**10am-4pm**  
**West Warwick Civic Center**  
**100 Factory Street**  
**West Warwick, RI**  
**200 Quilts**  
**Raffle Quilt and Baskets**  
**Vendors**  
**Small Quilt Silent Auction**  
**Quilting Demonstrations**  
**Admission \$10.00**  
**Children under 12**  
**free with adult**  
**www.nbqa.org**

A spool of golden thread with a circular logo on the bottom. The logo features a red and white shell design and the text 'NARRAGANSETT BAY QUILTERS' ASSOCIATION' and '1976-2026'.

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**Susan Berlam** shared a special exhibit on going at the Katerharine Hepburn Cultrual Arts Center, Old Saybrook, CT. “Style & Substance” is on display through November.

Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center & Museum  
300 Main Street, Old Saybrook CT  
[thekate.org](http://thekate.org)

**Rose O’Koren** visited the museum and had a great time. She posted that the docent was wonderful and used to work for Chanel. Rose also commented on how cute the town of Old Saybrook is.



**Rose O’Koren** is back sewing beautiful graments for herself. Here she shows a ponte knit skirt made from Pattern Emporium Symphony skirt pattern. She said next time she would make it an inch or two longer. But overall she said it was “so easy, comfortable and moved beautifully”.

Very pretty, Rose!



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**Rose O’Koren** also posted her last two projects for 2025. Here’s what she wrote: “I could not use my usual doll patterns because she has an American Girl doll and not a Target doll. The vinyl was hard to work with. It was left over from the shopping bags I had made. The fancy dress is made from left over fabric. The American Girl dolls have bigger feet so the shoes you can buy on Amazon do not fit.”

Adorable!



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**Rowena Burke** shared a very simple project early in December.

The pattern is free and available here - <https://themakersatelier.com/blogs/journal/a-simple-drawstring-bag>

**Mary Morse** commented that she can see these would make lovely gifts for bridesmaids. What a great idea!



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**Rose O’Koren** was hoping to share this project at our December meeting. Here she and the grandkids are modeling their Turkey Trot costumes.

LOL! So ADORABLE!



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Other posts included more pattern and sewing ideas, queries for specific sewing supplies, fun videos, a search for an experienced furrier, and seeking advice on my next iron purchase.

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### 3. Other News and Interests

#### **Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center & Museum**

“Style & Substance” is on display through November. Located adjacent to the theater lobby, the museum houses letters, photos, home movies, costumes, personal wardrobe items, and other memorabilia exploring the life, career, and legacy of a Connecticut native and Hollywood icon.

300 Main Street, Old Saybrook CT

[thekate.org](http://thekate.org)

#### **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/>

#### **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. 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.



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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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## 4. 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) _____			