

Evening Meetings

This year, we are planning two Thursday evening programs, one in the fall and one in the spring, with speakers and time to socialize in the Auditorium. We hope this will allow women who aren't able to attend our Monday morning meetings to be a part of the Women's Alliance.

October 21, 2025, 6:30 pm: The Seeds We Sow: Reclaiming Our Food System through Community, Equity and Belonging

Speaker: Lisa Raiola

Lisa will share Hope & Main's transformative origin story—and how local food entrepreneurs are reshaping the future of food, forging a new path rooted in health, resilience, and community.

Lisa Raiola, MPH, is the founder and president of Hope & Main, Rhode Island's first—and nationally recognized—food business incubator. Since 2014, she has helped more than 500 entrepreneurs launch ventures that drive inclusive economic growth. Her career spans 30+ years in public health, higher education, and nonprofit strategy, including senior roles at Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Brown University, and Roger Williams University. A 2025 USA Today Woman of the Year, Lisa's work centers on equity, civic infrastructure, and systems-level change.

April 23, 2026, 5:30 pm: Working Together to Promote Climate Resilience

Speaker: Sue AnderBois

Though concerns about the impact of global warming and rising sea levels are often framed in terms of the year 2050, it is clear that some areas are being impacted much earlier, including Rhode Island and New England. As a result, organizations that have traditionally worked separately, and in a somewhat disjointed fashion, are coming together in joint efforts to promote resiliency planning and action, across municipalities and states.

Sue AnderBois is the Northeast Division Climate & Energy Director at The Nature Conservancy. Her career has been focused on public policy solutions for climate change, clean energy, and sustainable food systems. In addition she represents Ward 3 on the Providence City Council.