



# RI Sewing Network

## September 2020 Newsletter

### RISN Meetings

**NO MEETINGS 2020**  
**Resuming March 2021**

**GREENWICH CLUB**  
**5426 Post Road**  
**East Greenwich, RI**  
**02818**

**First Tuesday of the**  
**Month**  
**@ 7:00 pm**



### DIRECTIONS TO GREENWICH CLUB

**From the South:** Take 95 North to exit 8A (Rt. 2 Warwick/E. Greenwich). Stay on Rt.2, go to the traffic light at the Showcase Cinema, take a left onto Division Street (Rt. 401), follow to 2<sup>nd</sup> traffic light, and take right onto Post Road/Rt. 1. The Greenwich Club, 5426 Post Road, is on your left.

**From the North:** Take 95 South to exit 9 (Rt. 4 South). Take the first exit which will bring you to Rt. 401 (E. Greenwich/Division St.). At the end of the exit ramp facing straight, take a right turn onto Division Street. **Continue to follow above directions once on Division Street.**

### WELCOME BACK MESSAGE

A warm welcome back to the 34th year of RI Sewing Network! So much has changed over the years this group has been stitching and learning together and yet, nothing could be more different than 2020. The uncertainty of the COVID pandemic has created a situation where even sewers must reinvent how we “meet, share, and learn” together while we remain socially distant. Many members will not be surprised with the Executive Board decision to delay in-person meetings until the Spring of 2021 to ensure the health and safety of all its members. So, while we will not be meeting face to face in the Fall, we plan to keep you engaged and entertained through the monthly RISN Newsletter, Facebook page, and RISN website.

In this first newsletter you will find membership updates that take into account the limited meetings, a snapshot of the meeting schedule and exciting topics and presenters for the in-person 2021 meetings, and communication updates through our Newsletter and Facebook page. We invite your feedback and ideas to keep all of us happily sewing into and beyond 2021.

Don't hesitate to send your thoughts, ideas, pictures, and interests to Susan Berlam, newsletter coordinator, at [scberlam@berlamnet.com](mailto:scberlam@berlamnet.com) to be shared with the entire group.

*Happy Sewing!*

## RISN Executive Board

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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## 1. Membership Information for 2020/2021

Due to the pandemic and the fact that several meetings last session were cancelled, all 2019-2020 Premiere and Annual members have been extended membership through Spring 2021. No payment required!!

New members will be asked to pay an Annual \$10 registration fee for the 2020-2021 season which includes the email notifications, newsletter, and access to the private Facebook group. Instructions on how to join and the membership form is included at the end of the newsletter. For each in-person meeting, a \$5 fee will be collected at the door from new members.

If you are a current RISN Exclusive Facebook member you will continue as a Facebook member. If you are a new RISN member you will receive an invitation via email. If you are a current RISN member who does not yet participate in the RISN Exclusive Facebook group but would like to join please send your request to join to Mary Morse at [memorse@yahoo.com](mailto:memorse@yahoo.com).

## 2. RISN Executive Board Update

RISN says a special thank you to all of Board volunteers and a good-bye to Robin Donahue, Facebook Administrator, who moved to NY, Rose O’Koren, Newsletter editor, and Michele Ferguson, Special Events Coordinator. These ladies have been an enormous support and source of inspiration for the Network over the years and their contributions will be greatly missed. Sueann Walter will be taking over on Name Tags/ Membership Cards along with many hats on the Board and Susan Berlam will take over the Newsletter.

## 3. 2021 Spring Meetings

As you know we were not able to hold the Spring meetings in 2020, so Diane has successfully rescheduled the three presenters for Spring 2021. Below is a brief overview of each of the sessions, with more to come as we get closer to the specific meeting date.

## **March 2, 2021 - Ann Taylor & Ben Greslick - “Body Scanning to Make Dress Forms”**

You don't want to miss the presentation by Anna Taylor and Ben Greslick as they share their 3D print venture to creating dress forms. Here's what Anna and Ben have to say - If you're making clothes for yourself, you know how valuable an exact body double can be. Maybe you bought a commercial form and tried to pad it out to your shape and size, with varying results. Perhaps you attempted to make a Duct tape dummy and were deeply disappointed in how it turned out. Did you take form draping with Diane and had a cast made, but your size changed after and rendered it less than useful? What if there was a quick, easy, somewhat inexpensive and completely accurate solution? I'm happy to say there is! Using our method of 3D scanning and printing, it's possible to create a true to life body form with none of the mess and inaccuracies of other methods. This form can be mounted onto a base and covered in the same method as a cast foam form. During this presentation we'll demonstrate the scanning process, image clean up and manipulation, 3D printing and final results. We'll also discuss the development of the process, challenges to 3D printing the human body and answer your questions about the process.

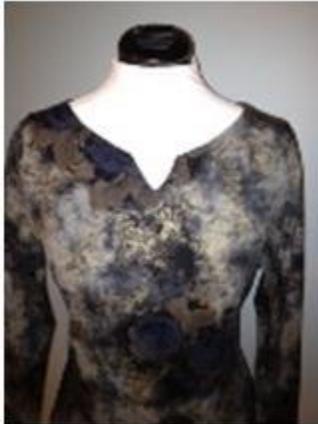
## **April 6, 2021 - Beth Bentley- “Draping”**

Beth Bentley will share her tips on draping and using half size dress forms.

Here's a little background on Beth. After receiving a BFA in Apparel Design from Rhode Island School of Design, Beth designed women's clothing and sweaters for Mast Industries and Northern Isles. Bentley Design Studio opened in 2000 as a freelance design company specializing in men's, women's and children's sweaters, wovens, prints and embroideries. Customers included Talbots, Susan Bristol, Robert Scott/David Brooks, Carters and TJMaxx/Marshalls. In addition to freelancing, Beth was a dance costume designer for Festival Ballet Providence and Fusionworks Dance Co. She is currently a patternmaker for Accurate Service, Inc. From 2005- 2013 Beth taught classes in apparel design, cut & sew knits, costume design, garment upcycling, patternmaking and garment construction at RISD. She continues to teach Upcycled Couture in RISD's accredited Summer Session. In 2009 Beth received her MFA in Artisanry/Fibers at UMass Dartmouth. Her fibers work has been exhibited at RISD, Fuller Museum, Slater Mill,

Smith College, Keeseh Studios and Ellipsis Gallery. She currently teaches Draping, Apparel I (garment construction) and Apparel Design at URI.

## May 4, 2021 - Pamela Leggett - "Pop up Store and Pattern Hacks"



### Pattern Hacking

Pamela will discuss her business and some fun details about a class that she teaches, *Pattern Hacking*. The class is for those who are interested in design. Pamela's method of teaching is to use an existing pattern to learn the design principals that are easy to learn and master. A perfect way to learn with instant gratification! Working from Pamela's Patterns, she shows class participants how simple changes can make patterns do double and triple duty!



Pamela Leggett has been teaching sewing since 1981. Specializing in pattern fitting, fine garment sewing skills, knits and serging she has developed a fun and informative teaching style that is available in her patterns and instructional DVD's.

One of Pamela's passions is creating garments that flatter and fit the wearer. Her desire to teach others to achieve the perfect fit led her to the Palmer/Pletsch pattern fitting method, which she has used to help hundreds of women successfully achieve good fit and a renewed love of garment sewing. It is with this knowledge that she created Pamela's Patterns, which have many fitting solutions and adjustments built in the patterns.

Pamela's Patterns have been reviewed and featured in magazines and on-line review sites. Pamela is a contributing writer, book author and DVD personality for Threads Magazine, an instructor for Craftsy online classes, director of the Palmer/Pletsch Philadelphia and Connecticut Sewing Workshops and a national sewing/serging educator. She has also appeared on PBS's Sewing With Nancy and Canada's The Shopping Channel.

Pamela lives in Connecticut and has a teaching studio, Pamela's Patterns Fashion Sewing & Fitting Studio, in Vernon CT. [www.pamelaspatterns.com](http://www.pamelaspatterns.com)

### **Meeting Refreshments - 2021 schedule – Stay Tuned!**

Refreshments are provided at all meetings and members provide the baked goods or appetizers as well as help with setting up and cleaning up. RISN uses a calendar for members to follow to provide refreshments. The first letter of your last name determines the monthly meeting for which you are requested to support refreshments. Members providing refreshments will receive an additional raffle ticket for the meeting raffle. Be sure to mention this upon check-in!

Nancy Spirito is our Refreshments Chairperson and may be contacted at: [bridalfinerydesign@gmail.com](mailto:bridalfinerydesign@gmail.com)

## **4. Member Contributions**

### **Sew and Tell**

Until we are able to meet in person, your latest creations can be shared through our Facebook page or through the Newsletter. For any postings, it would be helpful to share the pattern details and fabric and any learnings or recommendations you would like to share. For the meetings, please try to arrive a few minutes early so Susan Berlam can take a picture of you with your creations for the Newsletter. Then you can show it off during Sew and Tell portion of the meeting.

Here's a few photos of what some of the committee members have worked on over the break.



Diane shared this photo of her lovely shirt dress. And if you ever wanted to master a collar with a stand, check out the **Tutorial of the Month** in this newsletter. Through a series of photos Diane takes you step by step through the process of making a perfect collar!



Rose wearing her chic shirt and sharing the cutest bib ever!



Susan B. -  
Style Arc  
Patterns-  
Teddy  
Designer Pant  
(linen), Monty  
Shirt (cotton)



Rose adds a little  
“Flag” to her room  
with this gorgeous  
seasonal pillow.



But wait, it’s  
strawberry season.....  
Rose is so creative!  
She has other clever  
seasonal substitutes for  
that missing letter!



During the 4 day  
*Great Bra Sewing Bee*,  
Susan tried her hand at the  
Maris Bralette from  
Madalynne's Intimates.  
Lots of Fun!

### **Sewing Tidbits – Events, Shop, Skills and More**

As an attempt to keep us all learning and having fun, we encourage you to share topics that may be of interest to other members.

- Is there a recent exhibit, class or conference that you attended? Or one coming up that you want to share?
- Do you have a favorite destination fabric shop?
- Did you learn a new skill or looking to get some assistance on a skill?
- Did you read a book that might interest the group (Fiction and non-Fiction)?

Here's a few topics that you might be interested in.

#### **Christian Dior Fall 2020 Couture Collection**, July 7, 2020

Absolutely stunning collection not to be missed. Click [HERE](#) to see for yourself. If only we had a place to wear all of these gorgeous outfits!  
Thanks Rose!

#### **Great Bra Sewing Bee Conference** – July 23-26, 2020

For those that attended this first time, virtual, global sewing conference, we want to hear all about it. Please send in your brief review and any photos (maybe on hangers and not on you!) of your projects for our next Newsletter. Or post on Facebook so we can see it earlier!

### **Fabric Store Destinations**

The Sewing Studio Fabric Superstore in Maitland FL. Susan B came across this store when her son was going to school in Orlando. It's worth a stop if you are ever in the area. Click [HERE](#) for a link to the store.

Stoffliebe in Freiburg, Germany. Susan B was on a business trip and discovered this beautiful fabric shop in the small, quaint town of Freiburg. She says "My suitcase was very heavy with yards of gorgeous wool". Unfortunately, their website is in German but you can still get a sense of the shop through the pictures. Click [HERE](#) for a link.

### **BOOKs, BOOKs, BOOKs...**

*The Gown: A Novel of the Royal Wedding* by Jennifer Robson. Google Books writes "an enthralling historical novel about one of the most famous wedding dresses of the twentieth century, Queen Elizabeth's wedding gown and the fascinating women who made it."

### **Collection of Pandemic Sewing Stories**

Rhonda Pierce from Schmetz shared a post on LinkedIn: How are you spending time during the pandemic? 'SCHMETZ Inspired to SEW' checked in with sewing & quilting industry professionals and found them hard at work magnifying the reasons each maintains sew-lebrity status. Check it out at this link. <https://lnkd.in/gZ2fWQ7>

## **5. Information Sources**

### **RISN Facebook**

As a member of the Rhode Island Sewing Network you have exclusive rights to join our new private Facebook group. The name of the group is: *RISN Exclusive* and it is limited to registered RISN members only. Through participation on this Facebook page, we will get to know each other better, support one another in our sewing endeavors, and share our projects. No Facebook experience is necessary! We are all here to help each other along. This is an

exclusive group so you can only join by invitation. If you are on our newsletter email list, we will send you a link where you can request to join.

A few recent topics from the FB page include favorite (and *not so favorite*) irons, recommendations on scissor brands and sergers, adding on to the fabric stashes, stories about women that made astronaut space suits, troubleshooting sewing advice for fellow members, etc..... There are far too many topics to list, so be sure to check it out for yourself and tell us what you are up to in your sewing room.

### **RISN Website**

Don't forget to check out the RISN website [HERE](#) for updates news and events as well.

### **External Sites**

**Before the Stitches:** Rose has been tuning into this weekly airing and wanted to share the details with RISN members. A virtual peek into the sewing world with Margaret Moorehead and Judy Kessinger. Each week this team interviews someone in the sewing business. Before the Covid virus they interviewed the vendors at the shows, now interviews are remote. It's interesting to hear about the backgrounds of the companies. This is free, you just need to sign up to get the weekly notifications.  
[www.beforethestitches.com](http://www.beforethestitches.com) to register.

### **Sell or Buy**

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.

### **Services**

#### **Scissors and Knife Sharpening**

If you would like to get your knives and scissors sharpened, download the order form and bring your items to the meeting or contact Chef's Culinary Edge directly to have your scissors sharpened at your convenience. Scissor Service Sheet 1 (pdf)[Download](#). The website is [HERE](#) and the e-mail is [chefsculinaryedge@gmail.com](mailto:chefsculinaryedge@gmail.com)

## 6. Volunteer Opportunities

### Sew Seeds of Love

Mary Jo Hines is the coordinator of Sew Seeds of Love which creates hand sewn gifts for several charitable organizations. Many of you have experienced the joy of sewing with us on project nights and also sewing our projects from home. Please feel free to join us on any project. Sign up for our emails at [Sewseedsoflove.com](http://Sewseedsoflove.com). If you want to see photos and keep up with the projects, like our Facebook page (Sew Seeds of Love) or follow us on Instagram @ [sewseedsoflove](https://www.instagram.com/sewseedsoflove).

An e-mail will be sent soon, detailing the 2020-2021 sewing season. For g-mail users, please check your promotions tab, some emails have been diverted to that tab by g-mail algorithms.

## 7. Chuckle of the Month

Submit your funny comic or thought for next month's Newsletter. This one comes from Rose. Until next time....

**Happy Sewing RISN!!!**



## 8. Tutorial of the Month

Diane takes us through “*How to Assemble a Collar with a Stand*”.





## 2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Your completed application with a check made out to RI Sewing Network or RISN should be mailed directly to:

Ann Pericolo  
10 Cherry Street  
Wrentham, MA 02093

Membership includes six issues of our newsletter plus discounts to meetings and other events as well as email news.

Due to the pandemic and the fact that several meetings last session were cancelled, all 2019-2020 Premiere and Annual members have been extended membership through Spring 2021. No payment required!!

New members will be asked to pay an Annual \$10 registration fee for the 2020-2021 season which includes the emails notifications, newsletter, and access to the private Facebook group. For each in-person meeting, a \$5 fee will be collected at the door from new members. The nonmember fee for meetings is \$7 per meeting.

The Registration form is below and on our website:

[www.rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com](http://www.rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com)

### **RISN Membership Application 2020-2021**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street

\_\_\_\_\_

City/Town

\_\_\_\_\_

State

\_\_\_\_\_

Zip

Preferred Telephone Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please select your membership category.**

Annual (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_