



# RI Sewing Network

## December 2021 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 5, 2021  
November 2, 2021  
December 7, 2021  
March 1, 2022  
April 5, 2022  
May 3, 2022

Our second meeting of the season, November 2, was another wonderful gathering where members shared their makes, MaryJo challenged our creativity with another “take home” project, and Adrian Burke “wowed” us with a fascinating presentation of her digital fabric printing business. And not to be forgotten, those raffle prizes! If you missed the meeting, I hope to give you a tiny glimpse of the evening activities. Try not to miss another one, because the words on the paper don’t do justice to the outstanding creativity this group has to share.

We tried a new format to the meeting where the first hour, now coined the “Social Hour” from 6-7PM, we socialized for a bit, walked around to see the displays of “sew and share” garments, bought a few items that were offered for sale, and then jumped into the “Sew and Share”. A special thank you to anyone that “purchased” items from Diana Neuman’s fabric stash. The monies were donated to the charity she chose. Mary Jo did the announcements, including her holiday creative challenge she came up with. She challenged 5 people to take home a holiday themed fabric panel and create something unique in time for the next meeting. I can’t wait to see what the volunteers will make. The new meeting format seemed to work out nicely. Members had a little more casual time to meet each other and talk to one another. It felt relaxed and when the time came for the featured speaker at 7PM, we were ready and all ears.

Our featured speaker, Adrian Burke, professional textile designer, and owner of South Coast Surface Design, shared her story on how she created and started this unique business. I must admit I didn’t know what to expect, but walked amazed at how Adrian took, what “seems” like a simple concept of printing on fabric and turned it into an avenue for local and international artists to bring their artwork to life in apparel. It’s anything but simple and everything about creating unique custom, gorgeous, fabrics just waiting to be sewn into that one-of-a-kind garment. More on this in the newsletter.

Following Adrian’s presentation, Mary Jo presented the raffle. Six fall festive decorated bags containing 16oz of Mary Ellen’s Best Press. I never heard of this before but based on the ‘oooohs’ and ‘aaaahs’ of the group I realize this is something I must be missing out on. Congratulations to the winners.

We have an exciting lineup of speakers for this season; two fabulous evenings done and only 4 to go. You don’t want to miss next month with Jennifer Hunt and Joan Alger from Castle Lane Renaissance Cloaks. See updated details on the March 1, 2022 evening meeting AND a special afternoon session with Anna Mazur from Threads Magazine.

Please send your ideas and stories for future newsletters to Susan Berlam, newsletter coordinator ([scberlam@berlamnet.com](mailto:scberlam@berlamnet.com)).

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## 1. Membership Information for 2021/2022

Membership for 2021/2022 is going very well. Please continue to make others aware of the organization and invite them to join us for a one meeting or the full season. Attached to this newsletter is the 2021-2022 RISN membership application form. Membership includes six issues of our newsletter, access to the private RISN Facebook page, plus discounts to meetings and other events as well as email news.

1. Annual Membership is \$10 and each of the six scheduled meetings is \$10 for each meeting attended. The nonmember fee for meetings is \$10 per meeting (no emails or Facebook).
2. Premiere Membership is \$40. With this Premiere Membership, the \$10 membership fee is waived and there are no additional fees for attending meetings.

The Registration form is attached to the newsletter and on our website:

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

## 2. October Featured Speaker Recap – Adrian Burke

### Digital Fabric Printing and Industry Specialist

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



Adrian Burke is a professional textile designer who opened the South Coast Surface Design (SoCoSD) studio in New Bedford, MA in October 2019. Adrian is a graduate of Parsons School of Design in NY and has worked as a textile designer for TJX Companies, Hasbro Soft Goods Product Design, and has taught hand and digital techniques for surfaces like metal, glass, paper, and textiles at Rhode Island School of Design. She is an effective Print Broker for Textile & Wallpaper Printing with regional and international vendors. Adrian has 20+ years as a Design Instructor for Apparel Concept Development and Surface Design.

South Coast Surface Design (SoCoSD) is a new design studio located in downtown New Bedford, MA. SoCoSD customers develop products for the apparel, home decor, gift, stationery, and action sports markets. They support regional and global manufacturing programs and produce locally, custom printed fabrics, wall treatments and adhesive appliqué. South Coast Surface Design specializes in helping artists, designers and DIYers transfer top quality imagery to a range of surfaces, focusing on sustainable, Eco-Positive materials and manufacturing methods.

Adrian shared a little about the beginnings of her career first studying Fashion at UMass Dartmouth then at the Parsons School of Design. With an intense interest in digital printing, she created her own study program at Parsons focused on this new passion. While she worked in many areas of apparel design, her goal was to start her own digital printing operation. She explained how she first set up her business in a small cottage on her property where she expertly outfitted the tiny space to accommodate two large fabric printers (different operating designs) and supporting equipment, such as a washing machine. Each printer works with different types of dye that suit specific fabric,

reactive dyes for cotton, linen and silk, and acid dyes for wool, silk, and nylon. At the same time as renovating the cottage she acquired and completely renovated the beautiful studio in New Bedford, MA. At the studio, Adrian started to work with local artists, taking their design and translating it to fabric, wallpaper, paper, etc. We were treated to a show and tell of some of the gorgeous fabric samples. Those at the RISN meeting were able to get a close up look at some of the gorgeous sample fabrics. These pieces were works of art and understandably, the artists requested that photographs of their work not be published in the newsletter at this time. However, I recommend you take some time to look at the SoCoSD website and check out the “Featured Artist” page to get a glimpse of the stunning work Adrian and the artists put together. You’ll want to sign-up for her newsletter to learn about future showings at the Studio as well. And be on the lookout; Adrian said she might be looking for seamstresses in the future to help transform the artistic fabrics into gorgeous garments.

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### A few photos from the evening....



Mary Morse’s daughter’s wedding gown!!! More on this later.



Mary Jo shows us her fleece dress with lapped seams and exposed zipper. Beautiful!



Sew Seeds of Love display.





On the left - Rose shows her travel bag with removable mini-bags. All made from fabric from Ryco.

On the right - Mary-Jo's custom-made press-cloths for all your pressing needs (idea from Threads).



Susan shared a few of her bra creations.

What's in those pretty raffle bags??

Mary Ellen's Best Press (google it! 😊)



Denise shared her gorgeous wool cape. To the left you can see the lining and an embroidered tag on the right facing with all the sewing details captured. To the right is the embroidered design on the back of the cape.



### 3. New Venue

REMINDER –

The Warwick Center for the Arts does have a handicap parking space and an elevator located near the rear of the building. If you need to use the elevator, call the number posted on the door (401-737-0100) and someone from the Center will unlock the door.



### 4. The Wedding Dress – by Mary Morse

As promised by Mary, she posted this article on FaceBook. Be sure to enlarge the photos she provided of her daughter’s gown to see the exquisite detail. Absolutely stunning!!!

Reading Inspiration: My daughter gave me a copy of “The Gown: A Novel of the Royal Wedding” by Jennifer Robson.



Badgley Mischka “Callista”.

<https://vowsbridal.com/product/badgley-mischka-callista/>

This dress moved my daughter to consider a lace-based dress. The bateau style neckline was an element used from this design. The mermaid silhouette inspired the basic design of the wedding dress.



Cory” by Maggie Sottero for Sottero and Midgley  
<https://www.maggiesottero.com/sottero-and-midgley/cory/16167>

This dress inspired the back design as well as the organic, flowing lace design. Sheer back and long lace sleeves were desired elements incorporated into the wedding dress. Again, the mermaid silhouette became the foundation for the wedding dress desired by my daughter.

**Patterns:**

Skirt- Vogue V1032  
Bodice front and back- V1032  
armscye, side seam, and shoulder seam combined with draping.  
A princess seamed bodice was then created from that first pattern.  
Sleeves- I followed the directions in “A New Way to Fit Sleeves” by Judith Neukam in Threads #205.

For lace yardage used for appliques-

[https://www.etsy.com/listing/644694772/high-end-beaded-embroidery-bridal-lace?ref=shop\\_home\\_active\\_62&frs=1&crt=1](https://www.etsy.com/listing/644694772/high-end-beaded-embroidery-bridal-lace?ref=shop_home_active_62&frs=1&crt=1)

[Elmalaceapplique](#)

High End Beaded Embroidery Bridal Lace Fabric, Sequins Lace Fabric for Wedding Dress, Tulle Guipure Lace Fabric By The Yard at \$49.39

**Fabric:**

For base- Dutchess 5% Stretch Crepe Ivory from fabric.com  
For lining- 3-4% Stretch Charmeuse Satin Ivory from either fabric.com or fabricwholesaledirect.com  
For netting overlay and sleeve base- 5% Stretch Tulle from Fufi Fabrics (London)



**Techniques:**

Machine and hand applique- The border at the hem was all machine applied. A small portion of the center back skirt at the train area was machine applied. All the rest of the lace was hand appliqued. Motifs were cut from the yardage.

Covered buttons- at the sleeve wrist and at the center back of dress at the zipper closing.

Invisible zipper- center back waist

Horsehair braid- facing the hem to provide body for the heavy lace and give movement to the dress at the hem.

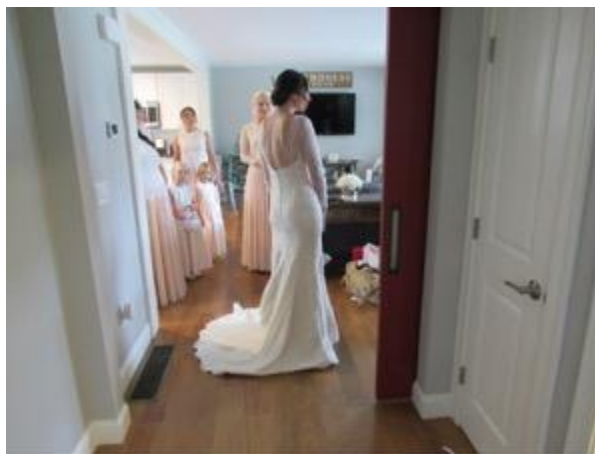
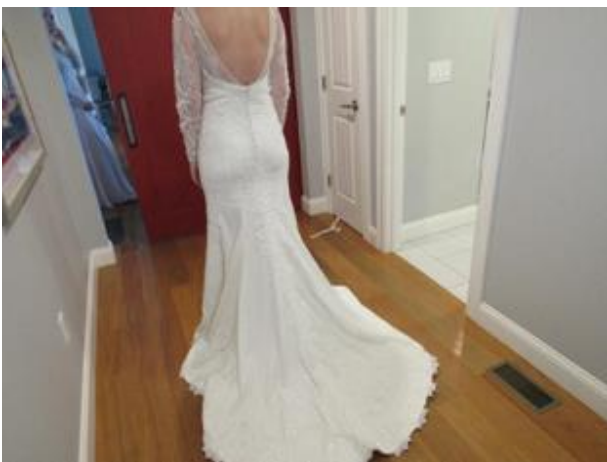


**Challenges:**

1. Finding the perfect fabric during Covid to give the silhouette desired.
2. Achieving the tight mermaid style/fit but keeping the dress easy to move in.
3. Being mindful of the lace appliques (with no stretch) impeding the stretch of the base fabrics when applied. Space was planned for between appliques to allow the base to stretch.

**Fun:**

I loved playing with the lace appliques to create a design. I studied the inspiration dresses to see how the lace designs enhanced the silhouette to flatter the figure.







## 5. RISN Meeting Schedule and Speaker Line-Up for 2021-2022

### RISN 2021/2022 Speakers

October 5, 2021	Jill Marinelli - Fashion Stylist
November 2, 2021	Adrian Burke - Fabric Design & Printing
December 7, 2021	Jennifer Hunt & Joan Alger - Castle Lane Renaissance Cloaks
March 1, 2022 2PM	Special Event with Anna Mazur – Threads Magazine
March 1, 2022 7PM	Anna Mazur – Threads Magazine
April 5, 2022	Anna Taylor & Ben Greslick - Body Scanning Dress Forms
May 3, 2022	Beth Bentley - Draping

Below are a few details about the upcoming speakers. See previous newsletters for past speakers.

### **Jennifer Hunt & Joan Alger Renaissance Cloaks for Her Majesty and The Town Beggar!**

Castle Lane Capes on FaceBook  
December 7, 2021



Be sure to go to their FaceBook page, Castle Lane Capes to learn more. Here's a little teaser from Jen and Joan....

“Welcome to Castle Lane, we are the purveyors of quality capes, cloaks, scarves, blankets, capelets, pirate coats and more. Our home is at King Richards Faire, where we’ve been selling our wares for the last 20 years to the good people of the Realm. We are passionate about fabric, craftsmanship and the journey this adventure has taken us on!”

As of today, King Richard’s Faire is scheduled to be back September 4 – October 24 so you might take a sneak peak of the cloaks, capes, leather, and furs in their booth.

## **Anna Mazur** **Threads Magazine**

March 1, 2022

**Special Afternoon Session 2-4PM - Behind the  
Scenes at Threads & Garment Showcase**

**Evening 7PM - Handbag Trunk Show**



Anna Mazur is a contributing writer for Threads Magazine since 2000 and has been writing their bi-monthly Pattern Review column since 2003. She has released the book, “Handbag Workshop”, Taunton Press 2014. She was a participant in the Threads Design Challenge VII, has designed for the Fairfield & Bernina Fashion shows, and made guest appearances on HGTV’s, “Sew Much More”. Anna is a former ASG regional representative and past president of the CT chapter. She has presented sewing programs at various venues across the country including Hawaii. Her work has appeared in several books and various publications. Anna is known for her attention to the fine details and her blue-ribbon award winning garments have been exhibited locally, nationally, and internationally.

Anna Mazur was born on the Portuguese archipelago island of Madeira, world renowned for its hand embroideries, cutwork and appliqué, fine wine, and wicker. Her early childhood was surrounded by couturiers and embroiders. It was natural she picks up a needle and mimic the influences who unknowingly carved out the blueprint that would eventually follow her throughout life. At age 6 she began to hand embroider, by age 9 could make a bound buttonhole and by age 12 dove into garment sewing. She has been at it ever since. She grew up in Massachusetts, where she never forgot her roots and influences. She began sewing garments without a pattern and by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade was wearing her creations to school. Teachers took notice and when a math competition came up that year, she chose the topic, metric vs. imperial measuring systems. She set out to prove whether they were the same by using each system to make a garment. The outcome was identical and won first place, the first sewing award of many to come. Freshman year in high school she upped her sewing skills and began making tailored garments. She always knew she wanted a career in fashion, specifically to attend FIT. When it came time pick a college and choose a major her parents did not see it the same. Her dad, an accountant himself, thought best that she pursues a traditional career; besides they saw NYC and Boston as two worlds apart. As a result, she followed in his footsteps, earning a bachelor’s degree in accounting. She never forgot her dream and always found time to sew. She credits her current level of work to her patience for handwork and those solid tailoring techniques she learnt in the early days. She believes patience and precision go hand in hand with quality and solid design.

***Registration details for this special afternoon event will be provided in future RISN communications.***

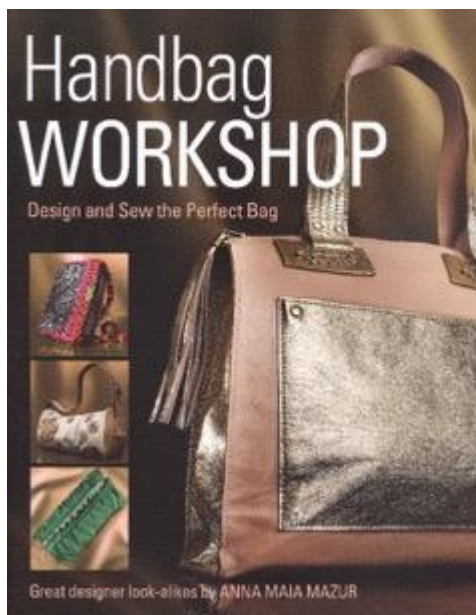
## **March 1, 2022 – Special Session: 2-4 p.m.**

- A behind the scenes look at how the THREADS Magazine pattern review column comes together
- A trunk show of Anna’s garments and accessories featured in THREADS magazine articles dating as far back as 2001, plus a few more special occasion outfits

Anna has been writing the pattern review column for THREADS magazine since 2004. Over the years she has seen the format evolve, but one thing that has remained constant is the testing process. Come find out the time frame it takes to produce one article and the ins and outs of how it all comes together. You will also take a look at her extensive collection of garments created for articles in the magazine. She loves to go above and beyond the written word and often times incorporates techniques that need to be left off the page due to either being unrelated to the article or because of space constraints. Examine firsthand the actual garments and view the details which were left out. She will also bring along some memorable clothing created over the years.

## **March 1, 2022 – RISN Evening Meeting : 7PM**

- A Trunk show of all the handbags showcased in Anna’s book “*Handbag Workshop*”, Taunton Press 2014 ([click here to see the book](#))
- Look through the actual folders that were generated while developing the designs



Here is your chance to examine firsthand the tangible handbags featured in her book. Of the 18, fourteen are 100% leather, three are a combination of leather/fabric and one is entirely fabric. Leather types range from lambskin to the exotic’s such as Stingray and Ostrich. Although they were designed with leather in mind, they are also adaptable to fabric as well. All are her original designs and every single one was sewn on a home sewing machine. She features handbags for every level of expertise; from beginner to intermediate to advanced. The actual patterns are included in the book and simply need to be enlarged 250%. Anna will show you how to print the pattern on your home printer. You will also get to see and be able to browse through the eighteen developmental files: from the initial conception, all the way through to the final manuscripts.



## **Anna Taylor & Ben Greslick Body Scanning Dress Forms**

April 5, 2022

[3D Print Me Website](#)  
[Helpful FAQ's](#)  
[What to WEAR!](#)

If you remember we were scheduled to have Anna and Ben last season and published a brief column in the March 2021 newsletter describing how they started their business. You can find the archived newsletter on the RISN website. In the meantime, take a moment to check out their website and learn more about their business and fabrication of custom dress forms.

## **Beth Bentley Draping May 3, 2022**

We are very excited to have Beth Bentley kick off 2022 with a session on draping. Look for more details in future newsletters. Below is a brief bio from Beth that is sure to entice your interest.

After receiving a BFA in Apparel Design from Rhode Island School of Design, Beth Bentley 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 Fudisionworks Dance Co. She is currently a patternmaker for Accurate Service, Inc. 2005-2013 Beth taught classes in apparel design, cut and sew knits, costume design, garment up-cycling, patternmaking and garment construction at RISD. She taught Upcycles 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 also taught Draping, Apparel 1 (garment construction) and Apparel Design at URI.

## **6. 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.

FaceBook activity continues to be high and is filled with sewing advice, local events, sewing classes and fun links. These are just a few of many great posts. Be sure to check out FB often as you are sure to find news on local shops, new courses, questions from fellow sewists, and lots of creativity.



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Rose continues to **WOW** us with her fabulous makes using Judy Kessinger patterns. Here's what she had to say –

Another Judy Kessinger pattern, the Dakota top. The printed material is fleece lined from Ryco. I wanted it to be a jacket, but I ended up sewing down the "front seam" and it lays better. The shirt underneath was found way back in my drawer, now I have a shirt to wear with it.



Finally, a nice day to take pictures. I have been sewing with Judy Kessinger for the past year or so. These are two of her patterns: The Alicia on the left and the Dondi on the right. The left fabric is from my stash and the right, I think, is from Joanne's, very soft and warm.

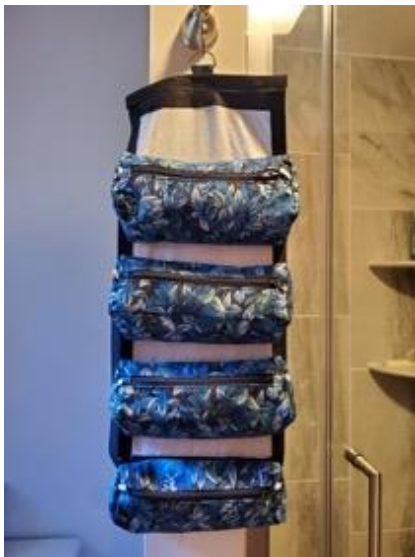


More from Mary Morse...

Hi RISN Friends! My older daughter was married on Oct 16. The photos are of the two flower girl dresses that I made. The two little girls live in New Jersey, so I had to work by their measurements which I took during a bridal shower on Aug 21. The lace motifs are from the bridal gown lace. I only had 9 in zippers in my stash, so I made them work by creating a faux keyhole style closure at the back top.



Take another peek at that Rollie Pollie Organizer by Cozy Nest Design from Rosemary. The pouches are held on with Velcro, one pouch for make-up, hair stuff, etc. There is supposed to be interfacing on the back/silver material but I forgot to add it.



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Remember the raffle prize won by Denise Carlson for being an early registrant to RISN? Here's what Denise had to say on Facebook.

"Here are the gifts that I received. Thanks so much. They are wonderful! The iron was designed by MaryJo's son. Imagine that!! I love the color, by the way. I like how the water tank is clear so that you can actually see how much water is in it. I have not tried it out yet.

Very nice carrying case for the wool pressing pad. I now have three sizes as I had a wool pressing pad a little bit bigger than the small one that you see. thanks again!"



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## 7. Other News and Interests

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### RISN Website

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

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### Sew Seeds of Love – Mary Jo Hines

Sew Seeds of Love, a volunteer sewing group coordinated by Mary Jo Hines (with participation by many of you members), will be sewing this fall for the December, 18" doll project.

This project is an exceptional gift for girls who are sheltered from domestic abuse or living in foster care in Rhode Island. This will be our 10th year of gifting! Each of these children receive an 18" doll with 3 handmade outfits.

They are wrapped in a tote bag, too! We have been using the Springfield dolls which can be purchased at Joann's (use your coupons!). If you do not want to sew the doll outfits, you can purchase and donate a doll or make a monetary donation which will be used to purchase a doll or two.

Please let Mary-Jo know as soon as possible if you plan to sew or donate for to this cause. Donations can be brought to the December meeting or contact Mary Jo directly to make arrangements to drop off at her house or meet somewhere.

Contact Mary Jo at - [ssol.sewinglove@gmail.com](mailto:ssol.sewinglove@gmail.com)

And visit the website to learn more about this remarkable charitable cause. <https://www.sewseedsoflove.com>





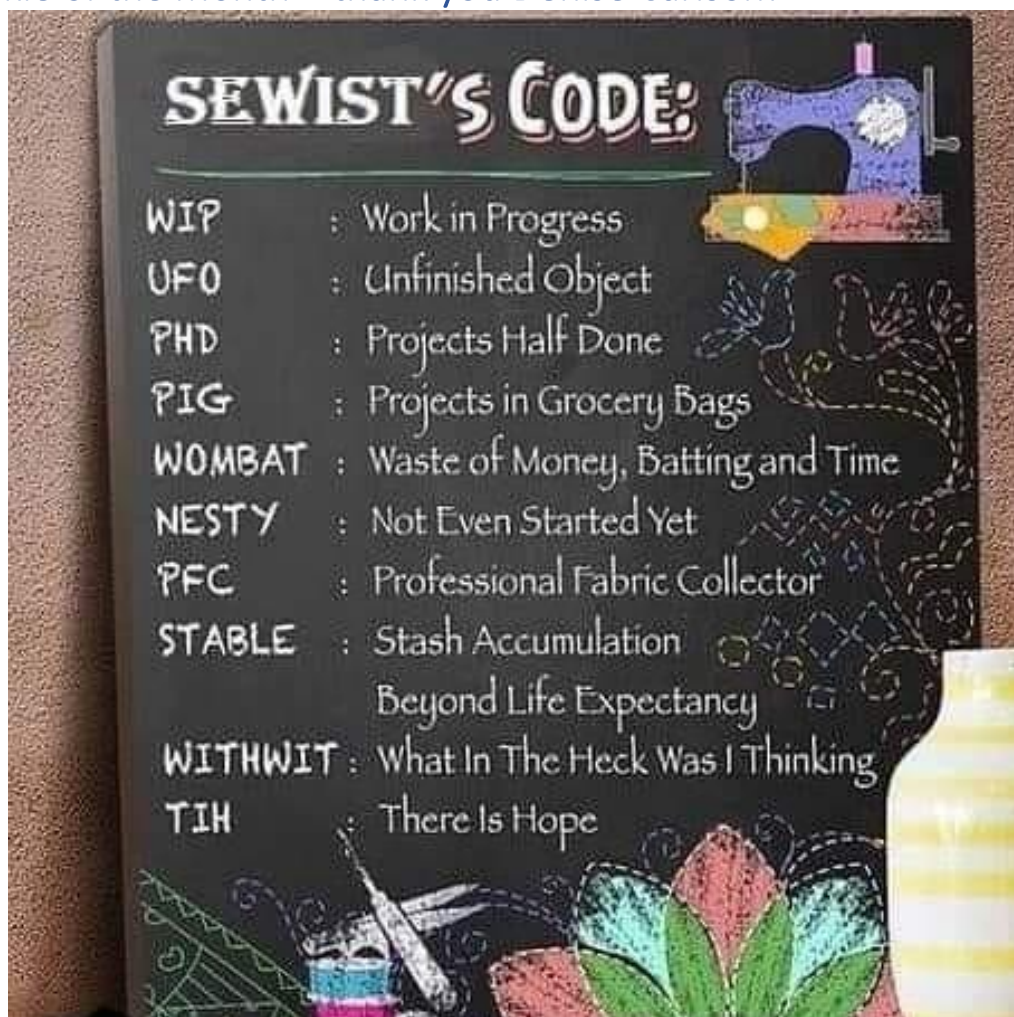
## Sell, Buy, or Services

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.

## Scissors and Knife Sharpening

If you would like to get your knives and scissors sharpened, download the order form, and 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)

## 8. Chuckle of the Month – thank you Denise Carlson!





## 2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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, 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 2021-2022 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. 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. A RISN membership does not automatically include one as a FaceBook participant. Send your request to the FaceBook Administrator Mary Morse ([memorse@yahoo.com](mailto:memorse@yahoo.com)) or Sueann Walter ([Sueann301@yahoo.com](mailto:Sueann301@yahoo.com)).

The Registration form is below and on our website: [www.rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com](http://www.rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com)

<b><u>RISN Membership Application 2021-2022</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) _____			