



INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF RHODE ISLAND

...through friendship, a world of understanding

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR – RISA GILPIN

“The country I dream of is a place in which all humans are free to take their indoor voices out into the streets, both as proud members of families – however myriad, however defined – and as their own liberated individual selves. ... The one country I’ve ever lived in that’s consistently fulfilled this dream has been the Novel.” Joshua Cohen, author of “Moving Kings”

There is no Frigate like a Book
To take us Lands away,
Nor any Coursers like a Page
Of prancing Poetry.
~ Emily Dickinson ~

Brrrrr baby it sure is cold outside – but inside we can delight in the fact that we can be warm (except, as was the case recently at our House, when the boiler back fired and there was no heat, though only temporarily) and can cozy up with a good book, or watch a good movie, and drink hot tea and soup and wait (patiently, or not so patiently) until spring, being inspired by the written word. Here at International House we also take great pleasure in the exchange of ideas and culture with our wonderful international visitors and local community members who celebrate each other’s lively existence. Winter solstice brings with it the positive energy of returning light (again, slowly/surely) and in my case, old age, reminds us that time passes quickly and that we will, and must, face all challenges and celebrate the bright moments. Tis the season.

Our annual Holiday Bazaar was, per usual, a fun and rewarding event – we brought in \$5,000 for the House – all

from items donated by you, our loyal and devoted members. Shirley Schreiber made those calls to remind you to bring in your treasures, and you did, and then busy shoppers had the chance to find new and adoring homes for those treasures. Going round, coming round – a perfect way to share joy. We thank you for your participation (there were 46 volunteers involved in this event – WOW), over 200 shoppers, and oh my, the baking – thanks in that department go particularly to Dotty McCulloch and Ilda Franco who baked and baked and made soups and sandwiches despite health issues – what loyalty and devotion – so highly appreciated! Thanks to ALL who helped out!



Winter Solstice with Margie Flanders, Mary Mueller, Mike Laureanno

From Winter Time, by Robert Louis Stevenson –
Close by the jolly fire I sit
To warm my frozen bones a bit;
Or with a reindeer-sled, explore
The colder countries round the door.

Our Second Annual Winter Solstice Celebration was also a highlight of the season – Margie Flanders, poet, Mike Laureanno, singer/songwriter, guitarist, and Bruce Ganek, on piano all conspired, along with Mary Mueller, our poet whisperer, to host another successful and inspiring evening welcoming the return of light – the perfect antidote to the insanity of the season. We will



RISCA, Executive Director Randall Rosenbaum and Risa Gilpin

continue to offer this respite of peace and tranquility in coming years. "And tree and house, and hill and lake, Are frosted like a wedding cake."

We raised \$12,481 for our Save Our Building efforts at our November fund-raising event. We are also proud to announce that we were awarded a \$50,000 matching grant through the Rhode Island State Cultural Facilities Grant, a 3-year initiative supported by Rhode Island voters through the Creative and Cultural Economy 6.5 million-dollar bond issue, and administered through the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission. These monies will be used to begin a handicap accessibility project and will be part of the larger code compliance issues that we face. We were honored to be amongst 38 other arts and cultural organizations to be awarded resources from these funds, and as Governor Gina Raimondo stated "These cultural improvement grants contribute to the economic and cultural vitality of our state."

Our long-time dedicated Board member Henry Majewski, announced recently that he would be revising his will to have International House of Rhode Island become part of his bequest planning. Henry believes so strongly in our mission and the friendly nature of our organization that he wants to insure

that we will carry on into the future providing much-needed services for our international and local community members. Henry finds our House to be a new CENTER for him – a place where he can continue to teach and interact with international students – he feels that this is a place of sustenance for all who arrive here. This announcement reminded us to remind you to think about us, and our Planned Giving program when planning your estate. If you wish to learn more about it, please be in touch with John Walker, our Development and Finance Manager to begin the process and THANK YOU for helping us to serve.

As an illustration of how critical our work is to our international community, we tell this story about a young woman who arrived here in September from Kenya. A Fulbright Scholar, and from a small village in Kenya with little knowledge about how our systems work here in the USA – where to find food, how to get around, and dealing with a housing situation that was NOT working – she drastically needed help and fortunately found us. Through our International Friendship program, we arranged for a host family to help her negotiate through her needs, outside of the academic needs – finding warm clothes, food shopping (we take so much for granted – the aisles and aisles of choices can be overwhelming), getting around, and finding new housing better suited to her needs. Then, as she was walking home one day in September, she was attacked by a vicious pit bull who punctured her arm, threw her to the ground and bit her repeatedly on the leg as the owner of the dog stood by unable to control her animal. Our frightened young woman ended up in the hospital, has had physical therapy and is now recovering well, thanks to her amazingly responsible and responsive host family. This story illustrates the sort of challenges that, without help, would otherwise fall through the proverbial cracks and demonstrates the need for our mission so dramatically.

We were sad to learn of the passing of one of our long-time members Marie-Paul Gonon in November – condolences to her family and friends. Daughter of French parents, Mrs. Gonon was born in Spain during the Spanish Civil War, and after her studies at the Sorbonne and working for French magazines, she moved to the States after marrying Paul Gonon. She taught French and Spanish at Dean College and at the Berlitz School of Languages, the Alliance Francaise, and the Wheeler School. She will be sorely missed.



Carlos Boltes, Scott Hill, and Gonzalo Cortes - Alturas Duo

UPCOMING PROGRAMS - Be sure to check our website for updates on programs (things do change) - also check out our Facebook page (International House of Rhode Island) to find photos of our events. We also send regular e-mail updates to our members - if you are not receiving these, please let us know so we can adjust our mailing lists.

Saturday, January 13, 2018, 7:00 pm - Con Raices Latino Americanas/With Latin American Roots (a series of monthly events providing the opportunity to enjoy Latin American music in an intimate setting) presents Alturas Duo - created in 2001, bringing together the worlds of South American folk, western classical, and contemporary music. Guitarist Scott Hill and violist and charango player Carlos Boltes. Tickets - \$15.00

Friday, January 26, 2018, 6:00-8:00 pm - Annual Burns' Night Supper - celebrating the works of Scottish poet, Robert Burns, "the Bard of Caledonia" and featuring Joe Scott as Master of Ceremonies and presenter of "The Immortal Memory"; the procession of the haggis with Pipe Major Debbie Kane of the Rhode Island Highlanders; and a Scotch whiskey tasting courtesy of Providence's Campus Fine Wines. Dinner includes haggis (along with a vegetarian version), Scotch broth, salmon, roast beef, neeps 'n' tatties (potatoes and turnips), salad, and shortbread. Tickets are \$15.00 for students; \$25.00 for members; \$35.00 for nonmembers. Call for reservations to this popular event - tickets sell out quickly.

Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 5:30 pm - Valentine card-making workshop with RISD Professor Christina Bertoni. Join in on the fun of matching verse with artistic design. Please sign up so we can provide supplies.

Saturday, February 10, 2018, 7:00 pm - Con Raices Latino Americanas/With Latin American Roots presents a Tribute to Felipe Rosario and Carlos de Leon - Hugo Gonzalez and friends will celebrate the music of these two legendary artists of the Latin music scene in Providence. Tickets - \$10.00

Sunday, February 25, 2018, 3:00 pm - Piano concert - classical, jazz, ragtime, and French film scores, presented by Jerome Nowak, visiting scholar from Tours, France, in Engineering at Brown University

Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 5:30 pm - in celebration of International Women's Day - Joe Scott presents songs and poetry in his program A Celebration of Women!

Saturday, March 10, 2018, 7:00 pm - Con Raices Latino Americanas/With Latin American Roots presents Historias de Latinas/Latina Women's History - Songs that tell the stories of Latinas, and world-acclaimed songs written by Latina composers. Many stories, many songs, and many musical guests. Tickets - \$10.00

Wednesday, March 28, 2018, 5:30 pm - modality, tonality, atonality and the "isms" - Classicism, Romanticism, Serialism and Minimalism, presented by Barbara Kolb, American composer whose musical styling can be identified by her use of colorful textures, impressionistic touch, and atonal vocabulary, with influences stemming from literary and visual arts. She was the first American woman in Music Composition to win the Rome Prize, and was the recipient of two Guggenheim Fellowships. Ms. Kolb taught at the Eastman School of Music, Temple University, Brooklyn College and the New School. She came to Rhode Island on a "Meet the Composer" Residency Grant and worked with the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra, the Festival Ballet, and WaterFire.

MEMBERSHIP AND CLASSES

Help us to spread the word about our International House and its programs and classes. Membership is open to anyone interested in other countries and cultures. Call today and join our global family - 401-421-7181. Please become a member: \$30.00 individual; \$45.00 family. Join now and save on our events. Our ESL classes; foreign language classes and clubs welcome new students at any time in the semester. We offer sessions for Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced conversation groups. Visit our website at www.ihouserio.org

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF RHODE ISLAND

March 30, 2018, 6:00-8:00 pm – Nationality Dinner – TBA

Sunday, April 8, 2018, 3:00 pm – Classics Jazz Plus performs jazz improvisations from the American songbook, show tunes, movie themes, etc. Victor Krischuk on piano; Jim Delilo on bass; Al Testa on trumpet and flugelhorn. Tickets - \$10.00 members and students; \$15.00 non-members

Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 5:30 pm – G'day From Down Under – Australian Poetry presented by Christine Rose. Christine was educated in Australia by the natural world and gained her BA Hons in English and American Studies at Sussex University, UK. She also holds a post graduate teaching certificate, however, most recently Christine has been educated by like-minded people in the USA.

April 25, 2018, 5:30 pm – The High Price of Freedom presented by Jorge Olivera Castillo - Cuban Poet, Author, Television Editor and Journalist, in Providence at Brown University with an International Writers Project Fellowship, and last year

at Harvard Scholars at Risk Fellow. His work has been translated into Czech, Polish, English, Italian and French and he is President and one of the founders of the Club of Independent Writers of Cuba, founded in 2007, Director of the Independent Press Agency, Habana Press, editor of the official television from 1983 to 1993.

New Class to begin in March – Reading Childrens Literature limited to 6 participants – March 13, 20, 27, April 3 at 1:00 pm - please let us know if you might be interested in participating. Nadia Jensen, Education Professor at Bridgewater State University, will teach a class for parents of young children – and anyone who's interested in learning more about American children's literature. Reading to children is an important and enjoyable aspect of parenting around the world. In this four-week session we'll explore several of the most loved children's picture books by American authors. Each session will focus on one or two books, with an emphasis on vocabulary and pronunciation.

Welcome to our new members!

Fatima Alves
Karen Rand Anderson
Mary Ann Bevilacqua
Carolyn and Ari Birnbaum
Jennifer Booth and
Pierre Ford
Michaela and
Zita Cerhakova

Joseph Correia and
Kasther Bragatto
Sorrel Devine
Renee Fullerton
Stephania Ispir
Susanna Kaske and
Kirsten Wolfe
Joanne and Hugh Oechler

STAFF: 401-421-7181

Risa Gilpin, Executive Director
risa@ihouser.org

John Walker, Development & Financial Manager
john@ihouser.org

Linda Breslin,
Administrative Coordinator
linda@ihouser.org

JANUARY - APRIL 2018



INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF RHODE ISLAND

8 Stimson Avenue, Providence RI 02906
www.internationalhouseofri.org 401-421-7181