



# INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF RHODE ISLAND

...through friendship, a world of understanding

## NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR – RISA GILPIN

“Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul - and sings the tunes without the words - and never stops at all.” - **Emily Dickinson**

“You may say I’m a dreamer, but I’m not the only one. I hope someday you’ll join us. And the world will live as one.”

- **John Lennon**

2019! – HAPPY NEW YEAR! But, how does a year pass by so quickly? The great thing, of course, is that at each year’s beginning, we return to the notion of hope and the possibility of fulfilling dreams. It is a good and positive thing that we can examine life with fresh eyes each year.



Winter Solstice Celebration - Mary Mueller, Margie Flanders,  
Mike Laureanno, Risa Gilpin

I have been here at International House as Executive Director for five years – five years of meeting remarkable folks from around the globe who all add to the positive feelings here at the House. Five years of growing dreams of world peace, of knowing that there is possibility in these sentiments, in understanding that we all have the potential to reflect on love and friendship, on peace and understanding. This gathering spot for cultural exchange really works to truly turn dreams into realities, to witness the qualities of working towards John Lennon’s vision of folks coming together to share their love and dreams.

Our classes, taught by an outstanding volunteer force of individuals dedicated to “things with feathers that perch in the soul” shine brightly here due to this idea of sharing stories and experiences through conversation, and writing in new languages. In April we’ll be launching a “Moth”-like experience, soliciting stories from members and students about their own cultural “ah-ha” moments. And here are two examples of writing from our students that are worthy of sharing (many examples are worthy of sharing...) – so beautiful!

Yaser Taymoriasl, from Iran (a beginning Intermediate student) writes: “I am 39 years old. I have seen 39 seasons change so far. My favorite season is autumn, because of two reasons, its beauties and opening schools. From 33 years ago to last year, always I was waiting for autumn, many years as a student and the other years as a professor in university. But this autumn I was not waiting for opening university, so I had only one reason to enjoy autumn, that was its beauties, that’s why I prefer going around to see the beauty. I am a lucky person because in Providence autumn is so bountiful like my birthplace in Iran. When I see leaves falling and I hear scratchy sounds under my feet, I think this is the metaphor for all us... Being green, yellowish and ultimately falling. When a car coming with speed in the street distributing leaves with its tires. In this time I tell myself: if we are in this world for do not fall in love so why are we here? For falling and die? Surely no! In that time I decide whisper a beautiful poem from a Persian poet named Khayam, a famous materialist Scientist at eleven century:

Now its mining in English (its mining not from me)  
Alas! The journal of my youth has all been subscribed  
And the fresh greenness of my life has become grey winter  
As for the state people call youth...  
I don’t remember how it arrived or when it ended”

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Eleonora Angelillo, from Italy (Intermediate group) -  
“**41°82’40”N 71°41’28”W** - A few days ago I decided to leave the heat of my roots to glide over a frozen sea, which, in a few days, was able to surprise me with its depth.

Today, trying to learn the foreign language, someone asked me to talk about my childhood starting from this sentence: When I was a child ... When I was a child I wanted to be a surgeon, so with my cousin we used to practice the job, playing. He was the patient and I was the terrible doctor who wanted always to cut, metaphorically of course!

When I was a young girl I also loved the scissors.. yes, the scissors! They were so charming in my eyes, because they were responsible for an action from which you can't go back, but from which you can create something new. Also a hard choice for a young girl. By the way, I liked to cut everything: I liked to cut family photos, or magazines, clothes, hair and dreamed about cutting people ... In a nutshell what I did was cut to create weird new things like collages or, if we want easier and cool, make redesign. Oh... forgot: ...and sometimes make my mommy crazy.

I realize just now the bond between these two “passions”; cut and paste, this is what I loved to do with everything, dreaming to do the same with people, cut somewhere to fix somewhere else, or someone. Now, thinking about that, my behavior seems so poetic. Anyway I decided to dedicate myself to fix people's things or I should say adapt them to their perspective or even better, drawing new ones. Now I am an industrial designer, nothing of what I dreamed of...”



Risa Shiga, Esther Ahn, Eleonora Angelillo

These reflections indicate the amazing level of caring and thoughtfulness and true motivation of our students. It is always such a pleasure to witness this connection and opening our minds to this beautiful cross-cultural exchange. It is, in fact, this very idea that makes our House so unique – a place to truly make cultural connection, to understand our similarities and respect our differences – we think this is the solution to the

world's problems – if only they (the allusive “they”) would listen and take note!

We are looking for some additional tutors and teachers of English for Speakers of Other Languages (passion is the biggest requirement) – if you think you might like to join the ranks of these outstanding volunteers, please send an e-mail to Linda Breslin ([linda@ihouser.org](mailto:linda@ihouser.org)) and know that we are always so grateful to all of our volunteers.

Our building projects are moving forward – LLB Architects have completed the extensive work on drawing up plans, and now our construction managers, Site Specific, will be putting the projects (handicap accessibility and fire suppression) out to bid. The work should begin sometime in the spring. We are assured that we can continue business as usual – we're keeping fingers crossed, and thanks in advance for your patience.

Thanks to all of our members who, by lending their support to our organization, make it possible for this work to grow and flourish.

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

**Tuesday, January 15, 2018, 12:30 pm – RIISP Luncheon – Rhode Island International Spouses and Partners Association gathering – focus on Japan.** This newly formed group is open to all spouses and partners (or, frankly, anyone) of Rhode Island community members who are international students, post-docs, visiting fellows, and other affiliates. The group will meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 12:30 pm – please bring your own lunch. Each month a representative from different countries will prepare a talk (and dessert) about their home country. Check out the RIISP Facebook page to learn more and become involved.

**Friday, January 25, 2019, 6-8 pm - Annual Burns' Night Supper with host Joseph Scott;** featuring Scotch Broth, haggis (o yum!), roast beef, neeps and tatties (turnips and potatoes), piper, and of course, Scotch tasting donated by Campus Fine Wines – join in on the fun! – Tickets are \$25.00 for members; \$35.00 non-members; \$15.00 students. Call for reservations

**Saturday, January 26, 2019, 7:00 pm** – Con Raices Latino Americanas/With Latin American Roots, presents the **Transcontinental Duo** concert – **Hiroko Kajimoto**, flute; **Igor Golger**, guitar. Tickets, available at the door, are \$10.00 for students/members; \$15.00 non-members.

**Saturday, February 9, 2019, 7:00 pm** - Con Raices Latino Americans/With Latin American Roots, presents **Cantos del Sur del Mundo** – folk music from Chile and Argentina, with special guest **Samy Mielgo** (on guitar, from Argentina), **Oscar Ballester** (guitar), and **Hugo Gonzalez** (vocals). Tickets, available at the door, are \$10.00 for students/members; \$15.00 non-members.

**Saturday, February 23, 2019, 7:00 pm** – Con Raices Latino Americans/With Latin American Roots, presents **Alturas Duo Ensemble**, with **Scott Hill**, guitar; **Carlos Boltes**, viola and **charango**, and others. Tickets, available at the door, are \$10.00 for students/members; \$15.00 non-members.

**Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 5:30 pm** – **Travels in Africa** presented by **Robin Bowman**, internationally known award-winning freelance photographer, author and lecturer. Ms. Bowman's work consistently demonstrates her fierce commitment to creating concern for the human condition. For most of 2017 she explored the wonders of East Africa, particularly Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania. Ms. Bowman will also share stories and photos about her time spent with the Hadzabe bushmen.

**Friday in March – Nationality dinner – stay tuned!**

**Saturday, March 23, 2019** - Con Raices Latino Americans/With Latin American Roots, presents **Czesare Santana** (singer songwriter, originally from the Dominican Republic) – new album release party. Tickets, available at the door, are \$10.00 for students/members; \$15.00 non-members.

**Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 5:30 pm** – **Festivals and Carnivals in Colombia** – presented by **Maria Cecilia Cano**. Highlighted will be two popular festivals – “Festival de Negros y Blancos,” and “Feria de las Flores.” Ceci Cano is director of Colombia in Rhode Island, and is a bilingual/bicultural high school teacher who has also participated in the State of RI Heritage Festival, the Providence International Children's Festival, and was keynote speaker at Bilingual Seeds.

**Friday, April 5, 2019, 6:00 pm** – “**An Empire of Touch**” book signing by **Poulomi Saha**. This book, written by our dear benefactor Dorothy McCulloch's granddaughter, is an innovative account of women's political labor in East Bengal over more than a century, articulated in writing, political action and stitching.

**Wednesday, April 17, 5:30 pm** – **Cultural Encounter Story Hour** – A new programs begins – join us for an opportunity to tell your story – of a time when you were travelling or visiting or moving to a new culture, of a time when you were surprised, delighted, shocked, confused or alarmed by a situation in a new place, a time when your culture met a different one. Your story should be about 8 minutes long. It can be a written essay or told as a story – WE WANT TO HEAR IT! We hope you'll want to participate – please be in touch with Risa to get on the list of presenters – [risa@ihouser.org](mailto:risa@ihouser.org) or call 401-421-7181

**SAVE THE DATE – Friday, May 3, 2019, 6:00-8:00 pm** – **World of Thanks** – annual fundraising event.

**Weekly and Monthly programs:**

**French Club** – meeting on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm during the academic year, this group of folks gathers to hear a talk, in French, about a range of topics. All level of French speakers are welcome to attend, and we ask that you bring either a bottle of wine, or some refreshments to share.

**RIISP meetings (Rhode Island International Spouses & Partners)** – 3rd Tuesday of each month at 12:30 pm. All are welcome to join. Look for our Facebook group (search RIISP Association).

**Potluck Lunch** – every Thursday at 12:30 pm – bring a dish to share, and enjoy great food and conversation.

**Socrates Café** – every Thursday at 2:00 pm – free lively discussion group

**Knitting Group** – Second Friday of each month at 10:00 am – please let us know if you are interested in joining – we would love to add new members to this group if there is continued demand – all levels of expertise welcome.

**French Salon de Conversation** – Mondays, 9:30-11:00 am, with instructor Aida Sahakian – French conversation group, \$15.00 per class

## 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.ihouser.org](http://www.ihouser.org)

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**Italian Avanzato – Mondays, 3:00-4:30 pm**, with instructor Dedda DeAngelis – Italian conversation group, \$15.00 per class

### NEW CLASS –

Beginning **Friday, January 18, 2019, 9:30 am** (and held every other Friday following) – **WORDS, WORDS, WORDS:** Aspects of English Grammar and communication – a new class here at International House focusing on Grammar, Pronunciation, Word and Sentence Structure, Idioms, etc. Taught by **Jean Lewis Keith**, who has taught for many years here at the House, holds a PhD in Art History and Archaeology from Columbia University, and is Professor Emerita at the University of Connecticut. Please contact Linda Breslin if interested in joining the group at [linda@ihouserri.org](mailto:linda@ihouserri.org) (same cost as other classes).

### Planned Giving

Please be in touch with us to discuss a possible bequest/planned giving contribution to our House. Please call John Walker here, or send him an e-mail at [john@ihouserri.org](mailto:john@ihouserri.org) - thanks for considering International House of Rhode Island as a recipient of your bequest.



Gladys Corvera Baker, Robert Vachon

We are delighted to announce that **Robert Vachon** is our new Board Chair. Bob is a retired Professor from Providence College where he served as Director of the Teacher Certification Program, and was Principal of Woonsocket High School before that. His tremendous impact in providing support, encouragement and building great relationships for his students transferred perfectly to his volunteer activity here at the House. Bob serves as a tutor, and is also teaching the Advanced Conversation classes on Tuesdays. He brings his enthusiasm, sense of calm, knowledge of non-profit organizations and love of his students to our House, and we are forever grateful for his assumption of this huge responsibility.

### Welcome to our new members!

Katrina Avery  
Salvatore Brusco  
Juliann Cerrito  
Christina Comier  
Toni Dumville  
Katharina Galor  
Savannah Harik  
Mary and Jerry Hobbs  
Emiko Kaplan

Carmen Khorram  
Nisheila Leal  
Madolin Maxey  
David Reynoso  
Janet Ridgway  
Chris and Martha Ritchie  
Christine Tansy

### STAFF: 401-421-7181

Risa Gilpin, Executive Director  
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John Walker, Development & Financial Manager  
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Linda Breslin,  
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JANUARY - APRIL 2019



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