



# INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF RHODE ISLAND

...through friendship, a world of understanding

## NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR - RISA GILPIN

"Building communities that practice understanding, loving-kindness and compassion may be the most important thing we can do for the survival of our world." Thich Nhat Han

We come into our fall season with delighted anticipation of a busy and productive time here at International House. This is the period in which we welcome newly arriving international students and visitors to Rhode Island and our mission "to promote friendship, connection, learning, and global understanding by bringing people together from around the world for cross-cultural exchange" shines its bright light on our community. The world is restless and unsettled but here at the House we honor and practice understanding, loving-kindness and compassion and keep the notion of global harmony alive with the knowledge that friendship and community give us high value and a sense of concrete purpose.

Many of you know that our dear colleague, Linda Breslin, has been out for most of the summer - she is recovering from cancer surgery and is doing quite well - we are thrilled to have her back in the saddle now, even on a part-time basis. Your cards and warm wishes truly helped keep a smile on her face - the needed ingredient for true recovery - thank you all for your support.

While Linda was out Bay McCulloch (granddaughter of Dotty and Sandy) and Grace Lucock, both engaging and competent young women, filled in at the welcome desk and assisted in so many critical ways - thanks go to these two for their excellent work.



Risa Gilpin, Linda Breslin, & John Walker

**TEACHERS/TUTORS** - As the new academic year begins we ask for your help for two of our on-going programs. We are always seeking volunteers to participate in our one-on-one tutoring program - a satisfying position that allows our international students to work directly with a local community member to get practice in English-language conversation. We have a library of resources and helpful hints - please let us know if you're able to volunteer for even one hour per week and THANK YOU! We would also like to start a Wednesday Evening Class for Intermediate English learners, from 5:30-7:00 pm - many of our students cannot get to the House during the day so it is important that we are able to offer instruction at least one evening per week. Call us at 401-421-7181 or contact me at [risa@ihouserio.org](mailto:risa@ihouserio.org) for further information.

**INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM** - Also, we will be looking for hosts to get involved with our International Friendship Program that pairs students with local community members who offer their support in terms of expanding the educational experience (other than academic studies) to help international visitors learn about our American culture, environment, sports,

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etc. The relationships that develop between hosts and international students tend to foster a new appreciation for how others live and view the world, and can contribute to achieving one of the principal values of the cross-cultural experience: cultural self-awareness. Because we learn so many of our basic assumptions, values, and behavior patterns at an early age, we rarely think about them as we conduct our daily lives. We tend to assume that most of our behavior and beliefs are “natural,” that is, universally experienced. The ability to accept those differences helps in building relationships with people from other cultures. Again, please be in touch as soon as possible, check out the application form on our website or let us know that you may be interested in getting involved in this program this academic year.

### VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

Our annual Volunteer luncheon was held in June this year – we could not exist and flourish without the help of all the wonderful folks who bring their passion, friendship and love to our House – thank you always for all you provide – our Volunteers ARE the heartbeat of International House.

### BOARD EMERITUS

Dotty McCulloch launched a new effort to involve former Board members in the tender loving care and sustenance of our House. The first meeting was held at the McCulloch's lovely home in Barrington – we look forward to working with this group of dedicated and savvy volunteers.



Irene Capotosto & Dorothy McCulloch

### SAVE OUR BUILDING

We recently learned that our House is in need of some tender, loving care itself. In order to bring the building up to code we are looking at expenses over \$60,000. To raise some of this needed funding we will be hosting a **SAVE OUR BUILDING** event on **Thursday, November 10, 2016 from 5:30-7:30 pm**. We will send official invitations with details soon. We have

applied for some grant funding as well but will not hear the result of that application until November. Thanks in advance for your help in keeping our 19th Century House, designed by prominent Rhode Island architect Edward I. Nickerson, with its inherent beauty and warmth, safe and secure.

**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 also send e-mail updates to our members – if you are not receiving these, please let us know so we can adjust our mailing lists...

**Academic year hours – Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00 pm; Wednesday, 9:00 am-9:00 pm**

This year we are collaborating with Hamilton House, our neighbor and an adult learning center, through a CR Bard Inc grant-funded program **CULTIVATING ARTS AND CULTURE IN OUR COMMUNITY**, presenting enriching cross-cultural programs to our audiences. We will offer members of Hamilton House the membership rate, where applicable. This new collaboration will help to strengthen bonds of friendship and understanding with our two organizations.

**Friday, August 26, 2016, 11:30 am-2:00 pm**

**Brown University Graduate Student Orientation Luncheon** – welcoming 300 new international graduate students to Rhode Island

**Friday, September 16, 2016, 6:00-8:00 pm – Chinese Mooncake Harvest Festival** – Traditional Chinese dinner, celebrating rejuvenation, gathering together, thanksgiving and moon worship. Menu - Vegetarian Lo Mein; Kung Pao Chicken over white rice; Pork dumplings; Green Beans with special sauce; Mooncakes. Traditional Chinese dance presentation by Julia Ma. Tickets are \$25.00 members; \$35.00 nonmembers; \$15.00 students – call early to reserve a spot.

**Wednesday, September 21, 2016, 7:00-9:00 pm – Pamela Gilpin**, estate gardener with 25 years of experience, who serves on the board of the Newport Tree Society, presents **Insects in the Garden: Friend, Foe or Escargot** – a photo essay of the myriad insects that can inhabit, and under the right conditions, benefit our gardens. This presentation addresses how insects play diverse roles in the environmental health of our home



Potluck Lunch - Sandra Melo, Mariarosa Rivera, & Lana Cruz

landscapes – given the right habitat, the insects in our gardens will work for us.

**Sunday, October 2, 3:00 pm – Concert – Duo Alturas/Alturas Duo with Carlos Boltes**, charango and viola, **Scott Hill**, guitar – a unique blend of South American and classical music, Alturas Duo has been recognized as one of the most engaging ensembles performing in the chamber music world today. They have performed in Brazil, Canada, Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala and throughout the US and Puerto Rico. \$10.00 members; \$15.00 non-members – co-sponsored by Hamilton House, limited seating, call to reserve a space. Check them out on youtube.

**Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 5:30 pm – Journeys – 40 Years of World Photographs**, slideshow by renowned Cranston-based photographer **Salvatore Mancini**. Award-winning photographer (Pell Award; Italy's prestigious Bolaffi Award), and documentary filmmaker, Mancini and his cameras have traveled to India, Mexico, Cambodia, Italy, and across the USA. His work has been exhibited at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Fogg Museum, and the RISD Museum and is represented in collections throughout the world. He is currently working on a documentary film about Providence, RI history and architecture.

**Friday, October 14, 2016, 11:00 am** – at Hamilton House, 276 Angell Street, Providence, RI – Presentation about **Roger Williams**, advocate for separation of church and state in Colonial America, early proponent of religious freedom, student of Native American languages, presented by **John McNiff**, Park Ranger at Roger Williams Memorial Park.

**Friday, October 21, 2016, 6:00-8:00 pm – Moroccan dinner** – a cuisine influenced by interactions and exchanges with other nations, typically mixed flavors from the Mediterranean, Arabic, Andalusian, and Berber cuisines. Tickets are \$25.00 members; \$35.00 nonmembers; \$15.00 students – call early to reserve a spot.

**Wednesday, October 26, 2016, 5:30 pm** – RISD Professor **Christina Bertoni**, presents Part II of **Personal Shrinemaking/Altars** workshop (anyone can sign up for this, whether or not you have previously participated). Limited to 10 participants.

**Thursday, October 27, 2016, 5:30-7:30 pm - Save Our House Event** – help to raise the needed funding to bring our House up to code - we need to make some serious modifications (fire protection, alarm systems, etc.) to our beautiful home-away-from-home for international visitors to Rhode Island – learn about architect Edward I. Nickerson and his 19th Century work throughout Rhode Island; enjoy jazz, cocktails and more...details to follow...Tickets are \$50.00, with sponsorship categories available between \$100-\$1000. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**Friday, November 18, 2016, 6:00-8:00 pm – Annual Thanksgiving dinner** – a week before the “official” holiday – experience our cherished American holiday – turkey and all the trimmings - Members: \$25.00; Non-members: \$35.00; Students: \$15.00

Special thanks to Ann Akroyd, working with Gil Mason to create, envision and prepare are nationality dinners.

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



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**Wednesday, November 16, 2016 – 5:30-7:00 pm – *The Artists Loop: Memory Quilt-Collage*** presentation with artist **Pnina Pressburger** – bring paper, photos, and piece of fabric that has particular personal meaning to you. Additional specialty papers will be provided by Paper Connection International. Limited to 10 participants. Once you sign up further instructions will be forthcoming.

**Saturday, Sunday, December 3-4, 2016 – 10:00am-4:00 pm *Annual Holiday Bazaar*** Member preview Sat. 9:00 am – find treasures for gift-giving and have lunch here at International House – an honored and much-anticipated celebration/sale

**Wednesday, December 14, 2016, 5:30 pm – *Solstice Poetry*** – poets reading their favorite poems about the return to light

**ANNUAL APPEAL – June 2015-July 2016** – We are delighted to report that we raised \$37,570 for this year's first "official" annual appeal. Thanks to our engaged donors we continue to thrive and offer a place of welcome and hospitality to all of our international visitors and local community members interested in cross-cultural exchange.

Don't forget our weekly programs including English classes; foreign language conversation groups (see website for details) and the following free offerings:

### **Thursdays –**

**12:30 pm** – Potluck lunch – bring a dish to share with our community

**2:00 pm** – Socrates Café – lively discussion group (good chance to practice English)

### **Fridays –**

**10:00 am** – Traditional Chinese Dance – instructor Julia Ma

**12:00 noon** – Yoga – gentle instruction for all ages – instructor Maja Stojkov



Joe Scott, Ederson Safra Melo, & Valentina Moro

### **Welcome to our new members!**

Cynthia Davis  
Adele Goss  
Paul Kappel  
Yvonne Mann  
Barbara & Dave Smith

**STAFF: 401-421-7181**

Risa Gilpin, Executive Director  
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SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2016



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