



INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF RHODE ISLAND

...through friendship, a world of understanding

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR – RISA GILPIN

“We have a vision for the human family – we believe in it with a passion, and we believe that every single nation on Earth is equal and none is more equal than the others. We’ve got to create a culture where we recognize that every human life is sacred and precious...that sanctity of life must be the link between the spiritual and the political life, that it must be the ultimate value in society.” Mairead Corrigan Maguire, a peace-activist from Northern Ireland.

“When we enlarge our view of the world, we deepen our understanding of our own lives.” -- Yo-Yo Ma

Aaaah yes, behind our own mission statement is the vision of establishing our “human family” and enlarging our world-view – this is the stuff that makes it such a pleasure to be part of this place with its positive perspective. We embrace these ideas and try to keep this safe place alive and thriving, serving a cause and mission that grows in importance on a daily basis. Connecting and exploring cultures, coming together with joyful intent – this is what encourages our spirit and continues to give us hope.

Currently living in our House are international graduate students and faculty members from Italy, Cameroon, India, England, Turkey, and Brazil. Our English Language learners who attend classes here each week are literally from all around the world. What a pleasure to exchange ideas, philosophies, language, and traditions with these folks – we are enriched by the experience. On a daily basis I find myself pondering communication and the English language – stopping to think about idiomatic expressions (something we don’t ordinarily focus attention on) and how difficult it

is to fully learn a language that’s not our mother tongue. Bili Mason has been compiling a list of these expressions and will pass these along to our volunteer instructors - hitting the nail on the head, there is a method to our madness!

Our dedicated teachers and tutors offer help negotiating the process of feeling confidence in holding conversations in English – these volunteers are very special to us and always are telling us how pleased they are to show up here on a weekly basis to offer their brand of expertise. We would 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 be able to offer instruction at least one evening per week. If you think you might be interested in getting involved please contact our Volunteer Coordinator – Gregory Wakszulski at volunteer@ihouserir.org.



Nicholas Winn, Ann Akroyd, Nancy Borden, & Alicia Elwin

Each year we host a special luncheon to express our deep appreciation for the volunteer force that keeps us going – we adore this group of dedicated folks who help to keep our organization growing.

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This is also the season when we are 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. Our members help international visitors learn about our American culture, food, shopping, the environment, sports, etc. Again, please be in touch as soon as possible, check out the application form on our website (www.ihouserio.org - "Get Involved - Friendship Program") or give us a call to let us know that you may be interested in participating in this program for this academic year.

This also seems to be the season for new life at the House - 3 of our associates were expecting babies within days of each other in early August - welcome to our world babies Luca (parents from China); Louise Enith (parents from Germany and Chile); and Lydia Collette (parents from Pawtucket, our Linda Breslin's brand new granddaughter!) - we are hoping to grab a group shot soon - we never get tired of welcoming the bambinos into our midst - reminding of us to fully appreciate the cycle of life.

And we are saddened by the passing of several of our members who have been deeply involved with International House over the years - our sympathies to the families of Yvonne Marie Shilling (one of our former Directors); Sonia Galletti (a long-time Board member) and Katherine Hegedus (a long-time member).

Special thanks go to members Ina and David Woolman for donating their beautiful upright Sohmer and Company piano to our House. This generous gift replaces the spinet piano that we had (whose sounding board was broken and never survived attempts to tune it). We will be looking for programs to make use of this perfect new addition.



Executive Director Risa Gilpin & Ina Woolman

We're still struggling to come up with funds to bring our building into proper code compliance - we will be hosting a second annual "Save Our Building" fundraising event on November 9th to raise money for this extensive project - thanks in advance for whatever help you can provide.

Our successful World of Thanks event, that took place on May 6th, to honor our Founding Directors, Bili and Gil Mason, along with volunteers Dedda DeAngelis, Aida Sahakian, and Shirley Schreiber raised \$6,700 for our House - thanks so much for all of your heartfelt generosity. We will be celebrating our 55th year of connecting with folks from around the world - what an amazing and always rewarding effort!

For the fiscal year - June 2016-July 2017 - we raised \$53,200 though our Annual Appeal including generous donations from the McAdams Charitable Foundation and Brown University Provost's Discretionary Fund.

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.

Friday, August 25, 2017, two seatings 11:30 am and 1:15 pm

- Brown University Graduate Student Orientation Luncheon - welcoming 300 new international graduate students to Rhode Island. **4:00 pm** - Parents and Partners Tea - a chance for some social networking with international graduate student's parents, partners, and children - welcoming them to Providence. If you are interested in participating as a volunteer for any of these session please be in touch.

Saturday, September 9, 2017, 2:00 pm (and every Saturday at 2:00 pm throughout the Fall)

- Joyce Sunday, Brown University; Chef Natasha Daniels, Johnson & Wales University; Daniella Willocks, Queens College; and Nathan Miller, RISD will offer CHE! HUT - a program geared to teaching participants about healthy gourmet food options. Che! Hut is a movement that is challenging what's on your plate. Using plant-based ingredients and extra virgin olive oil to create healthy and affordable recipes, this program provides gourmet recipes for fresh fruits and vegetables making them tasty and easy to prepare. At each event a 3-course meal will be served - for September

9th the menu includes summer vegetable pot stickers with soy sauce (appetizer); creamy polenta with tomato relish and spinach (main course); and seasonal berry trifle (dessert) with a Chel drink. \$10.00 for students and members; \$15.00 non-members. RSVP - risa@ihouser.org or joyce_sunday@brown.edu or by calling 401-421-7181 - there will also be a link to registration on our website at www.ihouser.org

Wednesday, September 13, 2017, 5:30 pm - Annual Meeting - all members welcome.



Bili Mason, Gladys Corvera Baker, Carole Monteiro, Nancy Patino, Risa Gilpin, Julia Ma, Querida Balandran, & Ryo Horii

Friday, September 15, 2017, 6:00-8:00 pm - A Meal from the Levant - featuring foods from the Eastern Mediterranean, which includes Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, Syria, Iraq and Palestine - Menu: Maqluba (eggplant, chicken, cauliflower, caramelized onions, rice); Mujaddara (rice and lentils with crispy onions); Arabic salad/bread; Harissa (dessert). Tickets are \$25.00 for members; \$35.00 non-members; \$15.00 students.

Wednesday, September 20, 2017, 5:30 pm - Two Poets and a Bard - featuring Lisa Starr and Larry Kripps, poets; Jon Campbell, bard

Friday, October 13, 2017, 6:00-8:00 pm - Dovre Lodge (Sons of Norway) presents a concert including the piano music of Edvard Grieg and other nationalist composers of the late nineteenth century, along with background commentary. Refreshments included - free and open to all.

Sunday, October 22, 2017, 1:00-4:00 pm - Rental event - Baha'is around the world are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of the founder of their faith, Baha'u'llah. There will be an

open house at International House with displays, short videos, children's activities, and refreshments. Baha'u'llah's teachings promote the unity of all people and all religions. According to their beliefs, there is only one human family and only one earth. This event is free and open to the public.

Saturday, October 28, 2017, 6:00-9:00 pm - Rental event - Argentinian Association presents: Tango/New Tango: from Gardel to Piazzolla, a discussion on the 100 years history of Tango's evolution, based on the lives and works of its two best known figures: Carlos Gardel and Astor Piazzolla. The presentation includes multiple video clips of performances and interviews, as well as the relevance of Tango in our times. Live Music and Tango Performance. Traditional Argentinean food and wine will be served. This is a fundraiser for the Asociación Argentina RI, all friends of International House of RI are welcome. Contact: argentinosri@gmail.com or Analia Alcolea at 401-390-0076- tickets are \$50.00 per person.

Friday, November 3, 2017, 6:00-8:00 pm - Italian dinner - region and details forthcoming. Tickets are \$25.00 for members; \$35.00 non-members; \$15.00 students.

Thursday, November 9, 2017, 6:00-8:00 pm - Save Our Building fund-raising event, part II - help us celebrate our architectural magnificence and help us raise funds for our major code-compliance issues. Tickets \$50.00; sponsorship opportunities available.

Saturday and Sunday, December 2nd and 3rd, 2017 - Saturday - 9:00 am (members) 10:00 am-4:00 pm; Sunday - 10:00 am-1:00 pm - Annual Holiday bazaar - Reminder - please drop off your slightly used or new items for the sale - we're accepting donations now. We especially love jewelry, great household items, antiques and holiday décor.

MEMBERSHIP AND CLASSES

Help us to spread the word about our International House and it's 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.

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Wednesday, December 13, 2017, 5:30 pm – Annual Winter Solstice poetry program featuring poet Margie Flanders, with Mike Laureanno on guitar, Mary Mueller, M.C. – participants are invited to bring their favorite winter poems (their own or those of others) to share with the group – frighten cold winter away!

Weekly offerings:

Thursdays at 12:30 pm - Potluck luncheon – bring a small dish and join in on the fun

Thursdays at 2:00 pm - Socrates Café (gatherings around the world where people from different backgrounds get together and exchange thoughtful ideas and experiences) – practice your English and critical thinking skills. These are some of the questions (created each week by the assembled group) that this weekly lively discussion group has grappled with:

- What are the things we should preserve and remember as a people or civilization?
- What things hold you back from doing the things that you really want to do?

- What are the most important attributes to have?
- What can we do against stereotypes, prejudices, racism, and intolerance?
- Is technology a blessing, a curse, or both?
- What makes the spirit of a person resilient to hardships of life?
- What is time?
- How powerful is our imagination?

Our group is always changing, always respectful, always stimulating – please come and check it out – all are welcome to participate.

English for Speakers of Other Languages Classes – weekly on Tuesdays and Thursday; French, Italian, and Spanish conversation groups – we also have several new and wonderful volunteers willing to start a beginning Spanish class – if you're interested, please be in touch – check our website at www.ihouser.org for details

Welcome to our new members!

Jenny Anderson & Tom
Pizzuti
Bruce & Janice Ganek
Carl Henschel & Brian
Masefield

Eugenia Marks Family
Stephen Murphy
Eleonora Sordoni
Peter Woodberry

STAFF: 401-421-7181

Risa Gilpin, Executive Director
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SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2017



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