



INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF RHODE ISLAND

...through friendship, a world of understanding

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR - RISA GILPIN

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." - Desmond Tutu

Here at International House of Rhode Island our thoughts always run towards this sentiment - so yes, let's overwhelm the world with kindness and good. Lexi Lerner, one of the student speakers at Brown's Commencement last May asked graduates, when confronted with angry differences of opinion to reach out to each other and say "Let's make this world better, and let's do it together." Exactly right! Every single person, no matter where we come from, no matter what our culture teaches us, craves love and wants to feel connected and that is what this House stands for - "through friendship, a world of understanding."

This season we were so sad to say farewell to two folks with long-time relationships to our House - our dear Board member and friend Carole Monteiro passed away in July 2018. She was faithful in her attendance at each Thursday's potluck luncheon and Socrates Café. She was a stalwart fixture at our Holiday Bazaar, and volunteered at many of our functions throughout the years. Her family designated our House as recipient of memorial gifts in her honor, and we hope you will consider a donation in support of their request.

Ruth Prager also passed away, in May this year - Ruth had been very active at the House teaching English to beginner level learners - her eyesight failed in her later years and she was unable to attend more recently.

Both of these folks may be gone but their memories live on in this House of love and peace. We continue to offer Eng-



Carole Monteiro with Prannath, Heema, and
Piyusha Jhagdambi-Moolchand

lish classes, cross-cultural programs that help to bring greater understanding to our world - celebrating the vast potential of our human spirit through music, food, poetry, and conversation.

As you already know, we also are focusing a lot of our attention on our glorious, but aging building. We continue to work on plans to begin our Code Compliance alterations. Working with LLB Architects, who have a good sense of preserving our historic space, we will be ready to begin the project in Spring 2019. The BEST news is that one of our longtime, exceptionally philanthropic members, has generously decided to match our \$50,000 Cultural Facilities grant, so that now the handicap accessibility project and the fire code remediation will become one huge construction project and our building will come up shining. We have had a beautiful plaque made by the Jim Forte Co. to acknowledge our \$1,000+ donors to our Save Our Building efforts. We would welcome you to become part of this effort (the project is estimated at approximately \$500,000!) to help pay for this project in order for International House to move forward with safety in place, into the future.

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As many of you know, we have 6 rooms in the House that we typically rent to international visiting scholars, graduate students and faculty. Herman Chenwi, who comes from Cameroon, and who is studying Public Health at Brown, spent time in Africa during his break working on Mercy Ships. We thought you would be interested in reading about his experiences there: "As a volunteer with the Mercy Ships organization, I had the opportunity to see people who were very much in need of emergency surgery. With tumors so big, that it was suffocating patients or preventing them from eating or living a normal life. Most of the patients were fairly young so it made me think of my childhood and what I would be doing when I was their age. The answer is, I would be playing soccer. But what if I had a tumor that prevented me from playing or even making friends? To this day, it is hard to understand why they felt so happy and cheerful whenever we met and exchanged high-fives. Perhaps it is because they were about to receive the best quality of care or because they trusted God, as most of them believed, that they will be made well."

During my time with Mercy Ships, I also had the opportunity to visit and volunteer with local rehabilitation centers and orphanages. It was an honor to visit the "Orphelinat Nouvelle Destinée" in Douala, Cameroon. The orphanage is special to me because I grew up not too far from the location but never knew what was going on inside its gates. It turns out the orphanage is run by a woman who decided to turn her house into an orphanage. She adopted all the children that came to her and they all call her "maman", which is mother in French. She absolutely cares for each and everyone of them and they love her."

Thank you Herman for sharing this remarkable experience – once again, we feel so fortunate to be around people who are so filled with compassion and caring and contribute to these "little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

In collaboration with Brown's International Student Experience office we are forming a new group for international spouses and partners – it will be called the RIISP Association (Rhode Island International Spouses & Partners) which is open to all spouses and partners of Rhode Island community members who are international students, post-docs, visiting fellows and other affiliates who currently reside in our small state. We hope to provide many opportunities for folks to connect with each other, make friends, share experiences, practice English,

and share information about living in Rhode Island. All are welcome to join. Look for our Facebook group (search RIISP Association) or contact Long Jiao for further information 601287697@qq.com. We will plan a meeting in September or early October so be sure to let us know of your interest in getting involved.



Bili Mason, Linda Breslin, Gil Mason, John Walker, Risa Gilpin, Dharam V. Ablashi, & Carole Monteiro,

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...

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

Sunday, September 2, 7:00 PM - Redwood Tango Ensemble

in Concert – this outstanding group from California, will be touring the Northeast and stopping here in Providence to play for us, thanks to Oscar Ballester and his Con Raices Lationo Americanas/With Latin American Roots. A contemporary tango sextet led by composer and bandoneonist Charles Gorzynski, the ensemble has developed their signature style writing honest and imaginative music that bends conventional notions of the genre and musical identity. Members include Elyse Weakley, piano; Anton Estaniel, cello; Ishtar Hernandez, violin; Mia Bella D'Augelli, violin; and Daniel Fabricant, double bass. Tickets are \$15.00, members and students; \$20.00, non-members.

Friday, September 21, 2018, 6:00-8:00 pm – Cena de Puebla

- Dinner from Puebla - food from the Central region of Mexico - presenting a menu of Mestizaje - the fusion of Indigenous and

European cultural cuisines. Menu includes Guacamole; Radish and Onion salad; Mole de Pollo (chicken mole); Mole de Setas (Oyster Mushroom mole); Rice; Tortillas; Flan Dulce; Agua de Jamaica. Our Chefs are International House member Sara Dorsch, and student Andrea Colorado (from Veracruz, Mexico). **Tickets are \$25.00 members; \$35.00 non-members; \$15.00 students**

Wednesday, October 10, 2018, 5:30 pm - Evan Villari – What Have They Done With Our Water? A Talk with Great Concern for the Scituate Reservoir. Over a century ago, the residents from the now lost villages of Scituate had their way of life taken from them, for the greater good. Join filmmaker, professor and life-long resident of the state, Evan Villari, as he shares research for an upcoming documentary film on the true history of the Scituate Reservoir. The original owner of 8 Stimson Avenue, B. Thomas Potter, was on the Board that helped create the reservoir. This talk has been funded in part by a grant from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities.

Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 5:30 pm – Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees. All members are invited to attend.

Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 5:30 pm – Richard Gillerman presents photographs from the Galapagos. These protected islands off the coast of Ecuador bring science to life with impressive views of volcanic geology, rare wildlife found nowhere else on earth, and evolution in action. In addition, learn a bit of history about Charles Darwin, the father of evolution. International House members Richard Gillerman and Nadia Jensen recently visited the Galapagos. Richard Gillerman is a physician at Lifespan, an amateur photographer, and a naturalist.

Friday, October 26, 2018, 6:00-8:00 pm – Dovre Lodge (Sons of Norway) presents a concert featuring music of Norway and of Spain, with background commentary. The broad theme is “local color,” with a primary focus on traditional Norwegian folk songs by Edvard Grieg and others. Piano music by Joaquin Turina will round out the program. Piano played by Craig Noll, accompanied by vocalist Mary Hanchar.

Thursday, November 8, 2018, 5:30-7:30 pm – SAVE OUR BUILDING - 3rd annual fund-raising event – help us celebrate architectural magnificence and help us raise funds for our major code-compliance issues. Appetizers/wine, speaker, music. Tickets \$50.00; sponsorship opportunities available, including the GOLD KEY SOCIETY sponsorships, \$1,000+ (with name recog-

nition on permanent plaque).

Friday, November 16, 2018, 6:00-8:00 pm – Venezuelan dinner prepared by La Arepa Restaurant (Pawtucket) with musical entertainment. Details to follow.

Saturday, December 1, 2018 (10am-4pm) and Sunday, December 2, 2018 (10am-1pm) – Annual Holiday Bazaar. Please note – you may bring in your contributions for this annual fundraising event at any time this fall – most treasured items would be international themed items, jewelry, unusual gifts for the season, all in good shape – THANKS!

Wednesday, December 19, 2018, 5:30 pm – Annual Winter Solstice Poetry gathering, led by poet Margie Flanders, with Mike Laureanno on guitar, Mary Mueller MC. Bring a poem (yours or one you admire) to read for this annual celebration welcoming the return to light.

Weekly and Monthly programs:

French Club – meeting on the **first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm** during the academic year, and beginning on **Monday, October 1, 2018**, 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. Our Board Member Henry Majewski has been running the Club for about a decade, and now another Board Member Thierry Gustave, Lecturer in French at U Mass Boston, will be taking over. We will include specific notices of these meetings in our e-mail news.

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

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

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

Knitting Group – 2nd 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, \$12.00 per class

Italian Avanzato – Mondays, 3:00-4:30 pm, with instructor Dedda DeAngelis – Italian conversation group, \$12.00 per class

From our friend Dan Kahn – a request – **Weekend Lodging sought for British Scholars attending the North American Conference on British Studies**, October 25-28, 2018 in downtown Providence. (Locations within walking distance of downtown preferred). If interested please contact Giles Darkes (the cartographic editor of the Historic Towns Trust) giles.darkes@

talktalk.net – guests would be willing to pay a small fee and this would be a lovely opportunity to meet intriguing folks from across the pond.

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@ihouser.org – thanks for considering International House of Rhode Island as a recipient of your bequest.

Mock Job Interviews

If any of our international visitors are looking for work and feel a little intimidated by the interview process, we now have a member willing to work with you by going through a “mock interview,” asking typical questions, helping to frame answers, etc. This would be part of our one-on-one tutoring services. If interested, call us at 401-421-7181 to set up a session.

Welcome to our new members!

Nancy Descrochers
Coppelia Kahn
Ellen McBreen and
Idir Ben Bouazza
Judith Stillman

STAFF: 401-421-7181

Risa Gilpin, Executive Director
risa@ihouser.org

John Walker, Development & Financial Manager
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Linda Breslin,
Administrative Coordinator
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SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2018

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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