



# INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF RHODE ISLAND

...through friendship, a world of understanding

Beginnings and endings. They have a way of revealing things about ourselves that we often can't see as we move through the middle. It's a theme that has been on my mind recently as I start my own new beginning as Executive Director at the International House of Rhode Island.

So much of what I have experienced so far at the International House is tied to these rich moments of transition. Visitors walking into the house during their first days in the United States.. Others departing and saying goodbye as they venture back to their home country. In both moments of entry and exit, I've witnessed the power of community, connection and friendship.

The history of the International House is rich and we have been present for so many of these beginnings and endings. **Our mission of promoting friendship, connection, learning, and global understanding by bringing people together from around the world for cross-cultural exchange is as important and relevant today as it was in 1963 when the organization was founded.** Indeed, the focus on bringing diverse people together to foster greater understanding is what drew me to the organization and what will guide my approach to our work.

In my early weeks as Director I've been meeting many of the individuals that make up this community - alumni, students, board

members, tutors, teachers, committee members, residents, community partners and staff members. A common thread through these early interactions has emerged; the house is a uniquely important place for those who use it. Something special and important happens when people from different backgrounds and perspectives come together. This sentiment was captured by several participants at one of Risa's final Socrates Cafe sessions this summer:

"There are no limits here based on age, gender, nationality - we are all human beings coming together - this should be the way it is in all of the world!"

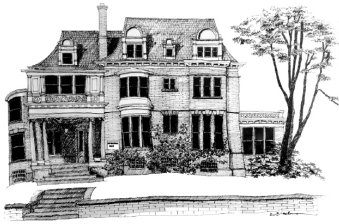
"This is a Museum of Beauty - I weep inside with joy and hope to bring this feeling back to my home country"

"All these cultures coming together and interacting - this gives us hope for the future - it is for everyone, not just one group"

And so it is with enthusiasm, as well as respect for the organization's rich history, that I enter this new beginning. I will be carrying forward these sentiments as I work with our staff, board and community at large to guide the future direction of the International House. **Please join us for our annual meeting on Wednesday, November 20th where we will provide an overview of the activities from the past year and outline a vision for the year ahead.** You will find information about the annual meeting, as well as all of our upcoming programs, events and ways to get involved in the rest of the newsletter. I look forward to seeing you at the house.

Alex Holt  
Executive Director





# Upcoming Events

## Special Events

**October 4th: 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The Power of Organized Resistance: Music, Film, Discussion**

Dovre Lodge presents an educational evening combining music, commentary and film focusing on the Norwegian response to the beginning of the German occupation in 1940.

Craig Noll, pianist, will present Harald Saeverud's "Kjempevisen-Slåatten" (aka "Ballad of Revolt") and the audience can join in on a few traditional Norwegian songs. This is a full program - light snacks, pastries and coffee will be served during intermissions.



**November, 20th: Annual Meeting: 5:30 p.m.**



Please come and join us as we present an overview of the activities from the past year and outline a vision for the year ahead. It's a great opportunity to learn more about the house, find ways to get involved in upcoming programming, and meet Alex, our new Director.

**Holiday Bazaar and Nobel Peace Prize (NEW!)**

**Dec. 7th, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Dec. 8th, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

Our annual holiday bazaar - with an added theme of the Nobel Peace Prize. The house will turn into a festive shop for the weekend. There will also be themed workshops and presentations connected to the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony - we will send further details closer to the event. (Please note that you may bring in your contributions for this annual fundraising event, but only bring items that are in good shape and have resale value - thank you!)

**December, 18th: Winter Solstice - 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**



Poet Marguerite Flanders and folksinger Mike Laureano will welcome Winter Solstice with bells, poetry and song. Bring a poem for Open Mic. Mary Mueller will MC. Refreshments will be served!

## Monthly Events

**French Club: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. First Monday of the month**  
**Upcoming Dates: October 7th, November 4th, & December 2nd**

The French club gathers to hear a talk, in French, about a range of topics. All level of French speakers are welcome to attend. We ask that you bring a refreshment to share, if possible. A committee of International House members picks the topic, speakers and organize the meetings.



RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL SPOUSES AND PARTNERS ASSOCIATION

**RI International Spouses, Partners, Family & Friends Association (RIISP+): 12:30-2:00 p.m. Third Tuesday of the month - Upcoming Dates: October, 15th, November, 19th, December, 17th**

The RIISP group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month for lunch, conversation and connection. Typically a group member makes a presentation about their country. Sometimes a topic is chosen for discussion. On Tuesday, October 15th, at 12:30 p.m. Ashlee will present on Peru. Please bring your own lunch. We will provide a special dessert for all to share. Open to all.

**October, 17th: Visiting Scholars Orientation - 3:00 p.m.**

Every month up to 30 new visiting scholars from Brown University come to learn about the house and resources for international visitors in the community. Most have just arrived from their home countries. If you would like to get involved in helping to welcome this group, please contact us for more information.





## Weekly Events & Classes

### **Thursday Potluck Lunch and Socrates Cafe: 12:30 p.m.**

Everyone is welcome to this weekly gourmet feast. Please bring a dish of food to share. Following potluck, stay for Socrates Cafe - a lively discussion using the Socratic method.

### **English Classes**

Classes are ongoing. You may join at any time. Class placement is made at the first session. All of our teachers are devoted volunteers.

### **Tuesday & Thursday**

**9:30 - 11:00 a.m.** - Beginner, Intermediate, & Advanced

**11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.** - Intermediate & Advanced

### **Foreign Language Classes**

### **French Salon De Conversation (French Conversation Group)**

Monday 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Instructor: Aida Sahakian

### **Italian Avanzato (Italian Conversation Group)**

Monday 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Instructor: Dedda De Angelis

### **Spanish Conversation Group**

Wednesday: 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Instructor: Sebastian Martinez

### **English & Foreign Language Tutors:**

Students and Tutors are matched one-to-one for an hour or an hour and a half meeting weekly with focus on the student's needs. Sessions scheduled according to students and tutors availability: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



## Get Involved

With a small staff, we wouldn't be able to do what we do without contributions from all of you. Thank you for your time, commitment and support. If you are looking for ways to get involved here are some upcoming and ongoing opportunities:

**ESL Tutors & Teachers** - we are always looking to build our roster of available ESL tutors and teachers. You can arrange a time to observe one of the classes or speak with a tutor to learn more. If you'd like to tutor in a foreign language or teach a foreign language class, please let us know.



**Projects at the House** - Between the holiday bazaar, Thursday potluck lunch and ongoing activity at the house we can always use volunteers to help with miscellaneous projects. If you are interested, please let us know.

**Committee Involvement** - If you have a specific area of expertise and you'd like to contribute it, you may want to consider joining a committee. Please follow up with Alex for more information about our current committees, how they work and committee needs.

**Graphic Design Projects** - We are looking to enhance some of our communications materials and we are working on a number of projects. If you have expertise to lend in this area, please let us know.

**Host or Create an Event** - Many of our program ideas come from the community. If you'd like to create an event or program with us, please send an overview of your idea. We'd love to hear more.

# Get Involved



**Philanthropic Giving** - There are many ways to support the house financially. We rely on the generosity of donors to support our programs and the capital improvement needs of the building. To make a donation please visit our website [www.ihouser.org](http://www.ihouser.org) or call us at (401) 421-7181.



## Become a Member



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.
- Join now and save on our events and classes (ESL or foreign language)



Call and join our global community  
401-421-7181



Visit our website at [www.ihouser.org](http://www.ihouser.org)

## Welcome to our new members!

Choon Shin  
Dorcas & David Haller  
Eunhee Seo  
Harriet Magen  
Hojat Heidaribafroui  
Hui-Tzu Peng  
Juliette Ju  
Leonardo Medina  
Margaret Diamond

Martha Arcila  
Mary S. Foote  
Nicole Courtemanche  
Pavithra Andrews  
Radiante de Beauieu  
Rebecca Preston  
Steven Kallick  
Sylvia Stipich

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