



INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF RHODE ISLAND



Bili with Ederson, from Brazil

A Message From Our Executive Director

I hope this finds you and your family well as we welcome the longer days and warmer weather. After more than a year in quarantine there is a feeling of hope. As vaccinations increase, many of us are starting to carefully venture out to see friends and family. We can't wait to see more people back at International House in the months ahead.

While we are navigating timelines and plans for a full re-opening, we have started to host select in-person activities. In April, we welcomed over 30 people - in safe, socially distanced and small masked groups - to *Exchange: Stories from International House of Rhode Island*, an art exhibit curated by Deborah Krieger (Brown University MA in Public Humanities '21), that focuses on the stories of friendship, cross-cultural learning and community that make IHRI such a special place. **Private and small group visits are available throughout the spring and early summer.**

We envision the upcoming months as a transition to a full re-opening. As we plan for more in person activities we will continue to host a variety of on-line classes, lunch programs, tutoring and events.

Lastly, and most importantly, we are including a letter from our founders, Bili and Gil Mason. We'll be saying "Aloha" to them at a **special virtual lunch on May 26th** as they embark on a new adventure - please join us to honor these incredible individuals who have stewarded International House for nearly 60 years! We plan to continue virtual activities post-Covid, so Bili, Gil and many others can stay connected to International House from all over the world. To make a donation in honor of Bili and Gil and support our re-opening campaign, please visit ihouserio.org.

Sincerely,


Alex Holt



Gil with Michaela & Zita from the Czech Republic

A Message From Our Founders

It is with genuine sadness that, by the end of May, we must depart from what has been an essential element of our lives for more than sixty years.

We leave Rhode Island with the major part of our memories in Providence—but the major part of our hearts at Stimson Avenue. Thousands of precious friendships from every corner of the earth have touched us, moved us, and molded us beyond words.

Second only to our family, our greatest gifts have come from International House—gifts of friendship, of love, of satisfaction, and of pride.

We are little more than a compendium of the happiness, the sadness, the setbacks, and the successes we have shared with International House.

However, as the Good Book says: There is a time for all things; the Good Book also grants us three score years and ten—we have exceeded this by an extra score and so the time has come for us to join our flock.

We will be leaving Rhode Island to relocate closer to our daughters, their families, and our grandson. However, this last year has taught that miles alone cannot distance us—we have zoom, skype, google, etc. etc. etc.!

Alas, International House must now find a new kitchen tyrant named Gil and a new conscience named Bili . . . and so

Aloha, Au Revoir, Avajo, Arrivederci, Adios, Auf Wiedersehen, Zaijian, Paalam, Kwaheri, Dosvidaniya, Sayonara, and Salaam!

Bili and Gil Mason



INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF RHODE ISLAND

A SNAPSHOT

International House Happenings



Exchange: Stories from International House of RI

On Saturday, April 24th, International House presented a brand-new exhibition, *Exchange: Stories from International House of Rhode Island*. Curated by Deborah Krieger (Brown University MA in Public Humanities '21), *Exchange* focuses on the stories of friendship, cross-cultural learning and community that make IHRI such a special place. Featuring numerous art objects and gifts from IHRI's collection, masked and socially distanced visitors had the opportunity to share their impressions of, and reflections on, these works of art. The exhibit will remain in place into the summer months, please contact us to schedule a time to visit!

Virtual Lunch Series | Wednesdays, 12:30 - 1:30 PM

We will continue to host special Zoom events on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

May 26th: Aloha to Bili & Gil Mason

We'll be saying "Aloha" to Bili and Gil as they embark on a new adventure - please join us to honor these incredible individuals who have stewarded International House for nearly 60 years!

June 23, July 28, August 25th - Save the Date

Lunch Speakers & Topics will be announced via our weekly e-newsletter for the remaining summer schedule.

*For Links & Information
Go To ihouseri.org*

Other Events & Programs:

We anticipate hosting other events this summer and will provide updated information in our weekly e-newsletter.

International Friendship Program:

We are re-launching this program in the fall. Are you interested in being a host for an incoming international graduate student or scholar? If so, please contact us or visit our website.

Graduate Student Orientation Lunch:

We plan to resume this annual event this August. Details will be sent in July.

Thank you to our new garden team for their work transforming the entry to International House (see below). They continue to work on other projects, if you want to get involved, contact us!



Weekly Classes

Monday

9:30 - 11:00 am: French Salon De Conversation (Advanced)

2:30 - 4:00 pm: Italian Avanzato (Advanced)

Tuesday

9:30 - 11:00 am: English Conversation - Two Classes, Intermediate & Advanced

11:00 am - 12:30 pm: English Conversation - Two Classes, Intermediate & Advanced

Wednesday

9:00 - 10:20 am: Spanish Conversation Club

9:00 - 10:00 am: Meditation Class

12:30 - 1:30 pm: Virtual Lunch - Fourth Wednesday

Thursday

9:30 - 11:00 am: English Conversation - Two Classes, Intermediate & Advanced

11:00 am - 12:30 pm: English Conversation - Two Classes, Intermediate & Advanced

Friday

10:00 am - 3:00 pm: Drop-in Hours - Come by for a visit or volunteer every Friday this spring & summer



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. See our website for more information.

Get Involved

Donate to Our Re-opening Campaign

To support our re-opening campaign or make a donation in Bili and Gil's honor, please mail a check to 8 Stimson Ave., Providence, RI 02906 or visit ihouserri.org. For other ways to donate please contact John Walker at john@ihouserri.org or call (401) 421-7181.

*To Donate
Go To ihouserri.org*

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Language Tutors & Teachers

We are always looking to build our roster of available tutors and teachers. You can arrange a time to observe one of our classes and speak with a current teacher or tutor to learn more.

Salesforce and Data Management

We have implemented a new Salesforce CRM system. If you have experience with designing, administering or using Salesforce and would like to contribute your expertise to our efforts, let us know.

Multimedia

If you have specialized skills in this area, especially video editing, we can use your assistance.

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.

Friday Drop-in Day

Every Friday we welcome you to drop-in to say hello, visit the house, or volunteer on a project.

Student Story

Hui-Tzu Peng

Taiwan 



Hui-Tzu Peng arrived in Providence in August 2019 to join her fiancé, Cho-Tao Huang, who had been living here since 2013 when he came to study at Rhode Island School of Design.

“I was excited,” Hui-Tzu says, “but a little nervous and sad to leave my family, friends, and job in Taiwan.”

Although she had studied English for many years, it was always in formal settings that focused on grammar and test taking. “I had limited experience in conversation and socialization,” she explains.

“Finally, at International House, I’ve been able to learn English in a warm, comfortable, family-like setting. It’s been a great environment for learning and adapting to my new home. And I’ve met many wonderful people here, from all over the world.”

In addition to taking group classes, Hui Tzu has also signed up for one-on-one tutoring. “I’ve been matched with Mary Troeger, an IH volunteer, who also happens to be a RISD graduate and weaver. We meet once a week

to work on customized lessons, and we’ve developed a special friendship that I treasure.”

One day Hui Tzu noticed in the newsletter that International House was looking for volunteers with graphic design experience. She jumped at the opportunity. Joining the small committee involved with marketing and communications, she worked on several projects including the new logo which we’ve just unveiled.

“It’s been great to form new relationships and connect with others by using art!”

Cho Tao Huang and Hui Tzu got married at City Hall in October, 2019. She got her green card in March 2020.

“As I prepare to pursue work in this country, my experiences at International House are helping me tremendously. I started my first job with an American company in January 2021. I can’t imagine my time in America without the community and support I’ve developed here.”



INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF RHODE ISLAND

8 Stimson Avenue, Providence RI 02906
www.ihouseri.org 401-421-7181

