



# INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF RHODE ISLAND

...through friendship, a world of understanding

## NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR - RISA GILPIN

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of our Friends at International House of Rhode Island - our annual wishes for peace, joy, love and hope, and resolution to work to ensure these prized dreams in our lives.

We are always counting blessings here at the House - we are so fortunate to get to know (even if only for a short while in some cases) curious citizens from around the world interested in exchanging ideas, curiosity, talents, language, and warmth. What a pleasure.



We had a busy fall and early winter - welcoming hundreds of newly arrived international students and their partners, employees and visitors, along with new Board members (a heartfelt welcome to Gladys Corvera-Baker, JP Couture, Thierry Gustave, Mehdi Moutahir, Jason C. Preciphs, and Anne Shaw). Our monthly "Rediscover Latin American Literature" programs (thanks to Gladys Corvera-Baker for organizing this series!); bimonthly poetry series (thanks to Mary Mueller for organizing); classes and tutoring sessions (thanks to all of our wonderful volunteer teachers and tu-

tors); nationality dinners (impossible without Gil Mason's expertise); potluck lunches; and Socrates Café gatherings - all memorable. Our Annual Holiday Bazaar was an outstanding success - not only did folks have fun finding hidden treasures and delicacies (thanks to ALL of the volunteers and particularly to Shirley Schreiber, Francinne Weffort, Leticia Medeiros da Silva, Catalina Guerrero, Erika Minelli, Jan Schiavino, Doug Irwin, Ilda Franco and Dotty McCulloch) but we also raised \$5,800 for the House - HOORAY!



A highlight in the zeitgeist of our small piece of the world, was the arrival of new staff member John Walker, Development and Financial Manager who completes our strong team. John and his family recently moved to the area from San Diego (his wife, Maria, is actually from Sweden) and we are fortunate to have his valuable skill sets working to the benefit of International House. John's previous work in San Diego was developing the nonprofit Insight Vision Center; project manager at DEP Developers - for an international student housing facility; and as Marketing Manager at Argo Scientific. If you haven't already met him, please stop by anytime to say "hello." Don't forget to join us, if you can, for potluck lunch every Thursday at 12:30 - this is followed by the Socrates Café at 2:00 pm - both great opportunities to socialize, have great conversations, delicious food and get to know all of the "regulars."



### **Fundraising & Development**

With the assistance of our excellent Fundraising/Development Committee, chaired by Kate Richardson, along with Bill Shuey, Paul Mooney, Charley Otto, Ruth Otto, and Barbara Seidenath, we sent our first official annual appeal letter in honor of National Philanthropy Day. By year's end we received \$6,100 – thanks to all of you for your donations large and small – and, of course, the opportunity to give is ongoing. John Walker found a great article in the Boston Globe recently, written by Marjorie Ringrose, “It’s easy to think that your giving is a drop in a bucket, that small donations don’t really matter. They do... every person counts. Of the \$360 billion that Americans gave to charity last year, more than 70 percent came from individuals like you and me...your giving has an impact.” It sure does! THANK YOU SO MUCH!

### **Donors to Annual Appeal (as of January 2016):**

Dr. Dharam V. Ablashi; Gladys Corvera Baker; John and Patricia Biasuzzi; Virginia Bradley; Letitia M. Carter; Alice Eichenbaum; Alicia Elwin; Timothy M. Empkie; Roberta A. English; Hank Gilpin; Risa Gilpin; Thierry Gustave; Mark and Joyce Halloran; Elizabeth A. Havrylik; Susan and H. David Hibbitt; Jane L. Ingle; Kirk Kimmerling; Kristin Loomis; Henry Majewski; Elizabeth Q. Nacar; Connie Parker; Judith Queen; Winthrop B. Reed; Craig and Sarah Richardson; Katherine D. Richardson; Joseph R. Scott; Stephen and Eileen Scullin; Kekin A. Shah; William A. Shuey; Lora Splat; Grace Tagliabue; Edith and Jeremy Weinstein; Judith B. Wilson.

### **PROGRAMS**

The Program Committee, chaired by Nadia Jensen, along with Christina Bertoni, Joyce Clements, Gladys Corvera Baker, Mary Mueller, and Pamelee Murphy has put together an exciting series of events at our House:

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS January-April 2016**

#### **Friday, January 22, 6:00 - 8:00 pm**

Celebrate Scottish poet Robert Burns, “the Bard of Caledonia” at our annual Burns Night event – Joe Scott, MC; Debbie Kane, piper; Scotch whiskey tasting – Campus Fine Wines. Dinner=haggis (including a vegetarian version), scotch broth, salmon, neeps n’ tatties, salad and shortbread. Tickets, \$15.00 students; \$25.00 members; \$35.00 nonmembers – call early to reserve a spot.

#### **Monday, February 1, 7:00 pm**

French Club – The Ballets Russes – powerpoint presentation by Dominique Gregoire, Director, Alliance Francaise – in French.

#### **Wednesday, February 17, 5:30 pm**

Bimonthly Poetry series – Humor in Poetry

#### **Wednesday, February 24, 5:30 pm**

Personal Shrines/Altars – with RISD Professor Emeritus Christina Bertoni - this hands-on workshop will explore personal shrine-making, producing your own personal item and finding the place to connect with your own spiritual dimension, whether it is within a faith or intuitive connection. Beginning with a brief discussion of “the Sacred” we then move on to making a personal altar. You are welcome to bring images, photos, and materials you already have, and we will also provide some materials. Call to let us know you’ll be participating – 401-421-7181.

#### **Sunday, February 28, 3:00 pm**

Wisdom East and West: Reflections in Music and Poetry – an artistic and educational presentation of sacred wisdom literature from various world spiritual-philosophic traditions. The music and spoken-word program draws from the Hebrew Psalms, Zen/Taoist haiku, and Rumi and Hafiz’ Islamic Sufi poetry – interspersed with singing and instrumental music on the violin, cello, piano and Chinese stringed-instrument “erhu” – Tickets, \$5.00 students; \$8.00 members; \$12.00 nonmembers

**Wednesday, March 9, 5:30 pm**

Neuroscience and Music: a Harmonious Composition – Daniele Q.M. Madureira, a student here at International House who is from Brazil. In this talk, Ms. Madureira demonstrates the beautiful and profitable dialogue between the neuroscientific and the music worlds. By presenting ideas from both fields, she discusses why neuroscientists are so interested in brain mechanisms underlying the musical experience - be it performance or listening - and how neuroscience may contribute to musical education.

**Friday, March 11, 6:00 - 8:00 pm**

Singer/songwriter Mike Laureanno performs his “old-school songwriting, a slice of Americana through the eyes of the quint-essential everyman.” The genre is folk music created by Mike who grew up in the south end of Fall River, MA, the Portuguese section. Many of Mike’s songs reflect his ethnic background – and are recorded on his CD “Pushing Back Wintertime.” He is joined by native Rhode Islander Mary Ann Rossoni, singer, songwriter and acoustic guitarist. Her CD’s include “half slips and garters” and “Downcity.” - \$10.00 contribution requested

**Wednesday, March 16, 5:30 pm**

**Woven in Time: the Narragansett Salt Pond Preserve**, presented by Marc Joel Levitt, RI Filmmaker, radio host, and storyteller. Documentary film about a small piece of seemingly ordinary land located on the southern coast of RI. In the 1980’s, archaeologists, working for a local developer, unearthed the remains of New England’s only undisturbed Pre-Contact Period (1100-1400 AD) Native American coastal village. **Woven in Time** is the story of this site and of the stories that emerged from it.

**Wednesday, March 23, 5:30 pm**

Socrates Café

**Friday, March 25, 6:00 - 8:00 pm**

Fiesta de Mexico – Mexican dinner and cultural event - Tickets, \$15.00 students; \$25.00 members; \$35.00 nonmembers

**Wednesday, March 30, 5:30 pm**

**Humans, Dogs and Civilization** – a talk about dogs and culture, from her book of the same name by Elaine Ostrach Chaika

**Wednesday, April 13, 5:30 pm**

Reception with Mayor Jorge Elorza – speaking about international connections for the City of Providence

**Wednesday, April 20, 5:30 pm**

Bimonthly Poetry Series (April is National Poetry Month) – Spoken Word Artists

**Wednesday, April 27, 5:30 pm**

Meal and a Spiel – simple Italian cooking demo with Elana Horwich

**Friday, April 29, 6:00 - 8:00 pm**

Cena Italiana - Italian Dinner and cultural event



**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)

## INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF RHODE ISLAND

As many of you have experienced, one of the beautiful features here at International House of Rhode Island is getting to meet wonderful people from around the world, but, this also means having to say “farewell,” seemingly WAY TOO OFTEN! Ana Ilievska, one of our tenants here at the House, is a perfect example of a recent bittersweet goodbye. Ana, a doctoral student from the University of Chicago by way of Macedonia, was studying at Brown University for a semester. She was gracious enough to share her thoughts about her stay with us:

**“In an age when the belief in international organizations such as the United Nations seems to wane, and when Comparative Literature departments are starting to lose ground to national literatures, places such as the International House of Rhode Island seem to be one lighthouse standing firm and bold on the edge of a storming ocean with plenty of travelers in need of its light. My experience at the International House of Rhode Island, however, was much more than a metaphor that might seem overdone or dishonest: during my semester at Brown University, this architectural trea-**

**sure was my scholar’s refuge, a home full of mystery and inspiration with its beautiful furniture and wooden floors, and a community of which I felt part immediately, and in which I could participate according to my needs and interests. I believe that I made friends for life in that place. Precisely as imagined by those people who believe in cultural and linguistic exchange and cooperation among the nations of the world, I made friends from Brazil, India, Turkey, and Italy. Underneath splendid New England chandeliers, we listened to poetry from Bolivia, saw films from Japan, and cooked Indian food. I am proud and thankful to have been part of this wonderful place that I hope will host many different people from different parts of the world in the future. And I also hope that it will continue - even stubbornly - to represent and work towards an ideal that, as I see it, becomes reality every time Risa or Linda send out an e-mail to the Brown mailing list looking for a new resident.”**

Blagodaram od se srce,  
Ana

### Welcome to our new members!

Dharam Ablashi  
Juliana Anderson  
Nomy Arpaly  
Nancy Carlson  
Tanja Carroll  
Ruth Fain  
Liliana Fijman  
Linda Fitzgerald

Cynthia Fredricks  
Thierry Gustave  
Nancy Hood  
Jane Lancaster  
Nancy Loney  
Pilar Lorente  
Julia Ma  
Anju Mishra

Mehdi Moutahi  
Paul Mooney  
Jessica Murphy  
Elizabeth O’Connor  
Yurly Romero  
Robert Vachon  
Ellen Walsh

### STAFF: 401-421-7181

Risa Gilpin, Executive Director  
risa@ihouserri.org

John Walker, Development & Financial Manager  
john@ihouserri.org

Linda Breslin,  
Administrative Coordinator  
lindai@ihouserri.org

JANUARY - APRIL 2016

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PROVIDENCE, RI  
PERMIT NO. 332

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE  
OF RHODE ISLAND  
8 Stimson Avenue, Providence RI 02906  
www.internationalhouseofri.org 401-421-7181

