

## WHY JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF RHODE ISLAND?



Whether you have just arrived in the U.S. or have been here for years but have not learned to speak English, International House of Rhode Island has much to offer you. The International House is situated on Stimson Avenue, an elegant property on Providence's East Side, which is open to international students, professors, tourists, and Americans interested in meeting people of many different cultures. An independent, non-profit organization, the House is supported by annual membership, individual contributions, grants from private foundations, Brown University, fund raising events, English Classes, and guest room rental.

International House offers daytime (and 1 evening class at 5:30 P.M. Wednesdays) English language classes at Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced levels of conversation, grammar, and writing. Teachers are experienced, dedicated volunteers whose donation of time and energy to teaching, allow us to keep class fees minimal. In fact, classes meet twice a week for one and a half hours per class and cost \$35 per month. Each additional class is discounted by \$5. Classes are ongoing (rolling admission), so students are placed immediately at an appropriate level and move to the next level as they progress. No waiting for specific enrollment dates – students can start immediately. The classes are small, informal, non-intensive, and non-credit. The classes offer students networking and friendship opportunities, and insight into the American culture by caring teachers and American members.

With class registration, students may use our Language Laboratory at their convenience from 9 AM to 4 P.M. weekdays. Our students comprise internationals from various backgrounds and countries (92 different countries) and from all walks of life. Many are affiliated with local Colleges and Universities, as well as greater Providence community residents and tourists who come to Rhode Island for vacation and to learn English.

In addition to our English classes, we offer events and activities which support orientation of newcomers to the community. We serve as advocates for internationals as they sort out the overwhelming process of getting settled. We assist them in finding housing, using the public

transportation system, setting up telephone and internet services, registering their children in the schools, helping them apply for driver's license, buying a car, taking them on their first supermarket visit, and many other services that they request. This orientation service extends also to a special luncheon and brunch for the new Brown University foreign students along with extended monthly orientation programs for Exchange Scholars in conjunction with Brown's Foreign Student, Faculty and Staff Services Department.

We have six furnished guests rooms each with private bath, and a shared kitchen and laundry facilities. These rooms provide a safe, economical support system for a new visitor with limited knowledge of the area.

International House sponsors authentic, home-cooked Nationality Dinners followed by cultural and /or musical presentations. French Classes with native instructors are ongoing as are French and German Clubs. Knitting classes are free and occur Fridays from 9:30 AM to 11:00 A.M. For an informal but delicious lunch-time treat, attend our free Pot Luck Lunches, Thursdays from 12:30PM – 1:30 PM. Just bring a dish to share and enjoy the international cuisine that materializes.

Of great value to American elementary school children in Rhode Island, is our Project Classroom Discovery Program. At the teacher's request, International House arranges speakers from the various foreign countries to visit the schools and make presentations about their countries to the elementary students. This is a wonderful way to enrich the students' theoretical knowledge about the countries they are studying and to instill in them a personal and positive impression about other cultures. We usually provide one or two programs of the sort each year which both students, teachers, and presenters enjoy.

One of the earliest programs established at the House is the "International Friendship Program" in which we match incoming foreign graduate students at Brown University with American host families for the purpose of developing international friendships. Many of the relationships forged by this program have endured for many years after the foreign student has finished his/her studies, returned to his/her home country, or remained in the United States to work. This and many of our other programs create good public relations for America in the same way that Americans can broaden their understanding of other cultures through exposure to them.

Please visit International House of Rhode Island and experience international friendship and understanding in the making.

Marilyn von Kriegenbergh, Executive Director