

Hamilton House Courier

May/June 2026



(1) Members enjoying a special workshop by Irish Step Dancers on St. Paddy's Day (2) Board President Charlene Kneath and Board Director Bill Irons share about 401Gives at the Community Meeting (3) Dancers from RIC Senior Dance Seminar class perform for Hamilton House members.

Programs & Special Events

Please note any sign up or payment requirements.

Please consider whether you will be able to attend most sessions before signing up for limited space activities.

Annual Garden Party

Friday, June 5 at 2pm-4pm

Rain date Friday, June 12

You're invited! Join fellow members at this annual community event on the lovely garden patio. There will be live music and light refreshments and delicious small bites by Wingate Residences on the East Side. Family, friends and neighbors are welcome!

Community Meeting

Wednesday, June 10 at 9:30 am-11 am (DR)

Join fellow members, the board, and the director, Chloe, to learn about the latest news at Hamilton House, and to share feedback and ideas. Light refreshments will be served.

All members are encouraged to attend. No other activities will take place during this time

– SOCIAL EVENTS –

High Tea at Hamilton House

Friday, May 8 at 3 pm

No cost, but Sign up at Front Desk is required

Max. 32 participants

zmanti
• LIVE WITHOUT LIMITS •

Join us for a special High Tea featuring a tasting of three teas from the **Dilmah Tea Company**, served with light snacks. The event will also include a brief visual presentation on Sri Lanka and the story behind Dilmah tea. **Members are encouraged to bring their own cup and saucer**—especially if you have a special one with a story to share!

This event is free to attend thanks to the generous sponsorship of **Zmanti**, a female-founded feminine health company developing innovative consumer products that provide modern solutions for timeless health needs, empowering all women to live without limits.

Coffee, Tea & Conversation

2nd Wednesday of each month at 10 am | DR

May 13 | (No conversation scheduled in June - Join us for our Community Meeting instead!)

Enjoy socializing with other members at this informal social gathering over tea and coffee. All members welcome!

Monthly Friday Social

4th Friday of each month

May 22 | June 26 | 3 pm - 5 pm (Patio)

Light fare will be served, but members are asked to bring a beverage of choice for themselves or to share. A snack to share is also an option. Members, neighbors, and friends are all welcome.

Ice Cream Social

June Date: TBA

No cost, but Sign up at Front Desk is required. Get inspired to style a favorite ice cream. There will be plenty of "cool" choices for DIY creativity and conversation.

– TRAVEL –

Trips: Sign-up is required at the Front Desk and payment due must be made at that time. Trip details are posted on the bulletin board in the Reception Area.

Roger Williams Park Botanical Center

May 13 at 10 am-2 pm

Cost: \$15pp (includes admission & sack lunch)

Sign up and pay at Front Desk | Senior Van Transportation—14 Max.

Lippitt House Museum Art Exhibit Tour

Friday, May 29 at 2:00 pm

"On Being American /Contemporary Artworks, Echoes of the Past." Five contemporary artists highlight the artistry and craftsmanship that shaped Rhode Island. This exhibit is part of Craft in America's Handwork 2026 initiative and RI 250's semiquincentennial celebrations.

Meet in reception area to walk over together.

Roger Williams Zoo

June: TBA

Cost: TBA (includes admission & box lunch)

Sign up and pay at Front Desk | Senior Van Transportation—14 Max.

One-hour walking tour of the zoo, led by member Jen Rosen.

Worcester Art Museum

June: TBA

Cost: TBA

Sign up and pay at Front Desk | Senior Van Transportation—14 Max.

The Worcester Art Museum houses over 38,000 works of art dating from antiquity to the present day and representing cultures from all over the world. The collection includes Roman mosaics, European and American art, and Japanese prints.

– CONCERTS –

Bamboo Rhyme Chinese Music

Bamboo Rhyme Chinese Music Ensemble, Brown University

Thursday, May 7 at 10 am (DR)

→ description in next column

Bamboo Rhyme Chinese Music Ensemble is a student group focused on learning and performing traditional and pop/fusion repertoire with Chinese instruments, including erhu, pipa, guzheng, dizi, suona, xiao, ruan, yangqin, guqin, and Chinese percussions. Seven musicians will perform!

PVD PorchFest!

High Planes & In Lieu of Flowers

Saturday, May 30 1:30 pm & 3 pm (Patio)

This third annual free, community-wide family event will feature High Planes and In Lieu of Flowers. In Lieu performed last year and returns with their newest musician, Cathy Clasper-Torch!

Pilagis Ice Cream truck will be on hand for cold, yummy treats!

Neighbor and partner, **International House of Rhode Island** will also host a concert. Stop by to hear Putnam Murdoch & Colin Bradley at 12 pm. A food truck will also be at their location.

Mary King & Sally Racket A cappella Singers

Friday, June 26 at 2 pm (Patio)

Mary King, an Irish harpist who recently performed here on St. Paddy's Day, is joined by five female singers who blend their voices in a cappella song. Their music comes from that glorious surf & turf tradition where the sacred beguiles, love songs are wild, and the drinking songs are as tender as dew....

– LUNCH & LEARN –

Cows, Cows Everywhere!

Instructor: Suzanne Lewis

Wednesday, May 27 at 12:30 (DR)

Spring is here. Celebrate cows depicted in art from Constable to Warhol. View artwork from the Netherlands, France, and America Impressionists from Lyme, Ct.

Talking About Art is a discussion group for those who want to learn more about Art and Artists.

Conversations in Science

Lectures will be slowing down during summer break. Stay tuned as speakers and topics are scheduled.

This series is in partnership with Brown University, and The the Voss Fellows Program at the Institute at Brown for Environment and Society (IBES), and The Department of Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences (DEEPS)

—Art/Film/Music—

New! All-Levels Watercolor Class

Instructor: Robert Ramspott

Fridays at 9:30 am – 11 am (Art Studio)

(May 1–June 26) NO class June 19.

Class size: 12. Sign up at Front Desk

Beginners are welcome, and more experienced painters will find opportunities to deepen their practice.

This all-levels watercolor class invites creatives to explore a wide range of techniques, including washes, layering, dry brush, and expressive mark-making. Through a variety of subjects--still life, landscape, and imaginative studies--participants will develop both technical skills and personal style. Emphasis is placed on experimentation, observation, and creative risk-taking. Demonstrations and examples will guide each session, with time for individual exploration and feedback.

Documentary Screening & Presentation:
Beneath the Polar Sun

Stephen Smith, biologist/expedition leader/filmmaker

Diana Kushner, organic farmer/member of expedition

Friday, May 8 at 10 am – 12 pm

Award winning wildlife and adventure photographer and film producer, Stephen Smith has been engaged in Arctic exploration and research since the late 1970s. *Beneath the Polar Sun* is his third documentary exploring a changing Arctic.

While leading his team on a rare mission to measure the world's oldest ice floes, the team struggled to follow a route that had been navigable only years earlier.

Thank you member Linda Kushner for making this presentation possible.

Let's Sing!

Member Cathy Clasper-Torch

Fridays May 8 & 22 at 1 pm (Mirror)

All voices welcome. Music provided. Join Cathy in an informal gathering to sing traditional and contemporary songs from a range of diverse sources. Bring a favorite song to share.

– Themed Series Presentations –

New! Better Health Series

When standard healthcare does not solve the problem, there are other alternatives to try. This series will continue to explore these options throughout the year.

My Personal Health Journey – Conventional & Alternative Medicine, Member Dr. Bob Heffron, MD
Wednesday, May 6 at 12:30 pm (DR)

Dr. Heffron will discuss his own experience after receiving a serious health diagnosis and deciding on a treatment that combined conventional and alternative treatments.

Chiropractic Care

Dr. Michael Zola, D.C.

Monday, May 11 at 1 pm (DR)

Chiropractors diagnose and treat musculoskeletal disorders. Dr. Zola will discuss the aspects of care, including the health problems chiropractors treat, what chiropractic manipulation/adjustment is and how it helps, etc.

Acupuncture: 5 Elements & 12 Meridians & Qi

Dr. Lori Gardner, DAOM, Dipl.Ac., L.Ac

Thursday, May 21 at 10 am (DR)

Ancient traditional Chinese Medicine uses acupuncture and herbs customized to each patient working in harmony with the body to correct inflammation and other imbalances. Dr. Gardner will explore how and why acupuncture is used, and its philosophy of self-healing.

Eating for Energy, Longevity, and Health: How Everyday Foods Can Heal or Harm

Jon Poyourow, Chef/Associate Professor

Friday, May 29 at 10 am (DR)

Assoc. Professor Poyourow is a food educator and sports and fitness nutrition expert. When he was an officer and a dietitian in the Army, he saw a direct link between diet, human health and physical performance. His work also involves teaching medical students the importance of diet.

250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence Series

This series will continue throughout the year to review events leading to the creation of the Declaration, analyze how this document stands the test of time, and highlight the roles of various players in a democracy.

The Declaration of Independence

Marilyn Harris, Docent-Smith's Castle

Friday, June 5 at 10:30 am – 12 pm (DR)

This lecture examines the grievances that led to its publication, the drafters, related documents and philosophies that influenced the drafters, and how the Committee of Five and the Continental Congress modified Thomas Jefferson's original draft.

Recommended: Read the Declaration of Independence available online.

Civics: A Republic If You Can Keep It

Gregg Amore, Rhode Island Secretary of State

Wednesday, June 10 at 12:30 pm

Sec'y Amore will discuss the importance of civic engagement to preserving democracy by integrating lessons from the founding documents, and the history of voting rights in Rhode Island and America.

Who Were the Powerbrokers Behind the Creation of the 'Founding Documents'?

Mark Burnham, Esq.

Wednesday, June 17 at 12:30 pm

Burnham takes a critical look at the "Founding Fathers and the Founding Documents" through the lens of the British Colonies in North America at the time of the Declaration of Independence and the creation of the US Constitution.

Note: Future topics will include the Role of the Courts and the Role of the Military in a democracy, The Bill of Rights, and local Rhode Island history, such as The Battle of Rhode Island, the Road to Yorktown (W3R), and notable Rhode Islanders.



Regional, State and Local Issues Series

This series will include renewable energy, transportation, smart growth development strategies, senior issues, and more.

Scott Wolf, Executive Director, Grow Smart RI

Monday, June 8 at 12:30 pm (DR)

Scott will explain the function of GrowSmartRI and how it organizes its activities, chooses issues and works with various constituencies.

Thank you member Barry Schiller for suggesting this series. Barry welcomes members' suggestions for both topics and speakers. Diverse views also welcomed.

– Cooking Demonstration –

Pizzas & Chili

Member Karen Pilla & Chef Gary Comella

Friday, May 15 at 10 am – 11:30 am (DR)

Karen will make two of her famous pizzas (broccoli & cheese, and mascarpone & caramelized onions), while her chef bro-in-law will whip up a Mexican chili dish. Small samples and recipes of all dishes will be available.

Gary was chef at the University Club and prepared dinner for Queen Elizabeth during one of her stateside visits!

– PRESENTATIONS –

Fall Prevention Workshop

Instructor: Pamela Rotondo, Yoga Instructor

Monday, May 18 at 1 pm (DR)

Toe strength and ankle flexibility are crucial to balance, and toe strength is the single most important predictor in fall risk, especially in older adults. This workshop will explore the anatomy of the foot, assess toe strength and mobility, and demonstrate easy exercises and strategies that will improve balance and prevent falls.

Please wear footwear that is easily removed and comfortable clothing. This will be an interactive presentation.

Thank you member Jenny Rosen for coordinating this workshop.

Emerging Technologies in Education and Society: AI, Robotics, and Design Thinking

Tracy Haswell, STEM educator

Monday, June 15 at 12:30 pm (DR)

Designed for curious lifelong learners, this interactive workshop invites participants to explore how emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, robotics, blockchain concepts, and 3D design and printing, are shaping learning, creativity, and everyday life across generations. No technical background is required.

Through hands-on demonstrations using devices and simple robots, participants will see how AI supports writing, research, and creative expression in the humanities, as well as problem-solving in STEM fields. Grounded in design thinking, the session emphasizes human-centered technology: tools that enhance curiosity, ethical reflection, and connection rather than replace it.

Thank you member Charlene Kneath for suggesting this speaker.

– LITERATURE –

Latin American Literature in Translation

Instructor: Member Flora Gonzalez

Tuesdays, May 5, 19, & 26 at 2 pm. No class May 12—makeup class June 2 (Mural)

Class Size: 10 | Sign up at Front Desk

The “Latin American Boom” in the 1960s was led by authors from an assortment of countries, such as Colombia, Peru, Argentina, Mexico, Brazil and Chile. The movement had a deep and far-reaching impact as it created a shared continental history and Identity. It also brought global attention to urgent topics affecting the Latin American people. More contemporary voices will also be represented.

The course will explore short readings in poetry and fiction.

Stealing Fire-Modern Poets & Greek Myths Ignite

Instructor: Maggie Miles

Thursdays, June 4, 11 & 18 at 11 am (DR)

Why do modern poets turn and return to Greek myths? How are they using various gods and goddesses to enlighten individuals as creative thinkers and readers? In this three-

week course, participants will study poems by Billy Collins, Louise Gluck, Rita Dove and others, and the myths that inspired them.

Think of this course as an introduction to a few Greek myths through the eyes of modern-day poets; and don't forget, major brands like Nike (victory goddess), Amazon (warrior women), and Pandora jewelry draw directly from these ancient stories!

Copies of the myths & poems will be distributed in class.

– WRITING –

Writing (& Reading) Memoirs Workshop

Instructor: Member Maureen Reddy

Wednesdays at 10 am (DR)

(May 6 - June 24) NO class June 10

Sign up at the Front Desk | Class size: 8

This class offers the opportunity to write one or more stories and get feedback from the class. Each session will begin by considering basic questions such as “What’s the difference between a memoir and an autobiography?” Participants will read brief selections from other memoirs as they begin crafting their own. This class will operate as a workshop, with members reading each other’s work and offering responses and suggestions.

Requirements: Bring looseleaf paper and a pen with dark ink to class.

Participants will also do some writing at home and will be asked to bring printed copies of that writing for the whole class.



Members learn all about the Aeolian-Skinner Organ, built in 1965, with Organist Patrick Aiken of Central Congregational Church during a special concert in April.

Ongoing Activities

Please note any RSVP requirements or payment details

– LANGUAGE –

Beginner French

Instructor: Member Susan Rubin

Mondays at 9:45 am (Mural) NO class May 25.

Class limit: 9. [Sign up at Front Desk](#)

Beginner French focuses on enhancing students' ability to understand and communicate in the language in a comfortably-paced and welcoming environment. Students are introduced to grammar, vocabulary, and basic conversation, including simple expressions for practical situations. The class practices language skills through activities with one another and the instructor.

French: Conversation and Culture

Instructor: Member Sheila Zompa

Mondays at 9:50 am (DR) NO class May 25.

Designed for intermediate French learners who have a basic knowledge of French grammar. Emphasis will be on speaking. French culture will often enhance the conversational experience.

German: Intermediate Study Group

Mondays at 10:45 am (Mirror) NO class May 25.

Join a self-directed gathering of studious German language students.

Spanish II & III

Instructor: Member Alicia Elwin

Tuesdays (Mural)

Class size for II & III: 10 max

Both classes require sign up at Front Desk

Intermediate Spanish II: 10 am

Students should have a knowledge of basic Spanish and verb usage, the ability to respond in Spanish to simple questions. Emphasis is on comprehension when reading simple short stories in Spanish and responding to questions. For the name of the most recent text, please contact Alicia at aliciaelwin@aol.com.

Advanced Spanish III: 11:30 am

Students should be able to communicate in Spanish (read, write, speak). Spanish conversations in this class may be on any topic. Presently students are reading novels written by a Spanish author Juan

Fernandez, but at times students also read or share articles. For the name of the text, please contact Alicia at aliciaelwin@aol.com.

Beginner Spanish I

Instructor: Perla McGuinness

Wednesdays, 10 am. No class June 10. (Mural)

This class is for anyone who has no background in Spanish. Students will learn fundamentals of Spanish, vocabulary, basic grammar rules,

– HISTORY/ARCHITECTURE/CULTURE –

"250th Local History": Riding to Revolution: New England's Horse Trade and the Road to Independence

Professor Charlotte Carrington-Farmer

Monday, May 4 at 12:30 (DR)

Most people know about the Stamp Act, burning of the Gaspee, Boston Tea Party, etc., however, there was another central element of the conflict that has been overlooked – horse trading.

Planters in the sugar colonies needed riding horses that went under saddle for travel and the militia, but most importantly, they needed horses to power the mills to crush the sugar cane. New Englanders received cheap molasses to make rum in exchange for the horses.

This talk will explore New England's equine trading networks during the buildup to the Revolutionary War, exploring how Britain's increasing efforts to regulate the horse trade were central to New England's decision to rebel in the 1770s.

– LITERATURE/POETRY/WRITING –

Classic Novels

Instructor: Member Joan Scheer

Thursdays at 11 am (Mural)

Classic Novels takes an in-depth look at a variety of novels that have stood the test of time, and explores novels and authors who may be en route to this distinction.

Book Club

Coordinator: Member Sylvia Danforth

Last Monday of the month at 1 pm (DR)

Monday, May 18 *2pm this month*

“Broken Country” by Clare Leslie Hall

This love story is a heart-pounding novel of impossible choices and devastating consequences. An unforgettable story of love, loss, and the choices that shape one's life, but it's also a masterfully crafted mystery that will keep the reader guessing until the last page.

Monday, June 29

“The Correspondent” by Virginia Evans

A gem of a novel about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people one might never meet in person. It is about the hubris of youth and the wisdom of old age, and the mistakes and acts of kindness that occur during a lifetime.

Poetry Group

Coordinator: Member Jerry Deschepper

Tuesdays at 10:30 am (Oak)

Each month a member will lead a discussion focusing on a poet's works and influence on the genre.

- **May Poet of the Month:** John Updike
- **June Poet of the Month:** Tracy K. Smith

Poetry Writers' Workshop

Coordinator: Member Nancy Cherico

Second and fourth Mondays at 11 am to 12:30 pm

May 11 (No class May 25) June 8 & 22 | Mirror

This workshop is now closed.

These sessions provide a supportive space to get feedback from other writers about how to enhance the work—the high points, what works, what leaves questions for the reader, and what might work better.

Writing Together

Coordinator: Member Catherine Goldhammer

Fridays at 1 pm–2:30 pm (Oak) ***This class is now weekly*** No session June 5 or 19.

Working on a writing project and want to work in the company of others? Whether the project is a novel, poem, report, letter or journal, this is a companionable way to get some writing done. The session begins with everyone briefly describing their project, writing for 45 minutes, and wrapping up by saying how it went.

All experience levels are welcome. This is not a critique group. Work will not be read or shared.

– DISCUSSION FORUMS –

Readings & Discussion

Coordinator: Member John Stevenson

Wednesdays at 11 am (DR)

Join a lively, weekly discussion group about a stimulating essay or short article. Titles and links to the readings are listed in the weekly ebuletin.

History Reading & Discussion

Member Mary Buczynski

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 1:30–3 pm (Oak)

(May 6 & 20. June 3 & 17)

This forum is open to any topic of history from World History to the history of an industry. Contact Mary with an idea for a topic or book recommendation and the group will vote on what to pursue. buczynski.mary@gmail.com

Current Topics

Facilitator: Member Rick Tropper

Alternating Fridays at 12:30 pm (DR)

(May 1, 15 & 29. June 12 & 26)

This is an opportunity for those who enjoy a good discussion to share their opinions about what they've been reading and hearing in the news. Bring a topic suggestion.

– VISUAL & MIXED MEDIA ART –

Hamilton House Art Studio

All members are welcome to use the art studio located on the basement level to explore their creativity in this quiet space. The studio is available when art classes are not in session. Please check the schedule. Please leave the studio in good order. *An automated 'stair chair' is available to reach the basement level.*

Watercolor Studies

Instructor: Anne Wert

Tuesdays at 1 pm–3:30 pm (DR) Class ends June 9.

The class will learn various watercolor techniques and touch on the basics of painting, including color, value, and composition. Each class will start with a demo or lesson and end with a group critique. Artists should bring their own reference images. Some watercolor experience is recommended.

NOTE: This class is now at capacity for this session.
There is a waiting list at the Front Desk.

Hand-Building Pottery

Instructor: Kate Champa

Tuesdays at 1 pm-3 pm

(Pottery Studio)

Cost: \$30 pp paid at the first class.*

All levels welcome. Similar to childhood days of forming playdough by hand, this class explores the joy of shaping clay and creating objects without a wheel. Students learn about shaping techniques, clay, glazes, and firing.

*The materials/kiln fee has increased to reflect actual costs.

Art Studio Group

Self-directed (assistance is available)

Thursdays at 10 am

This time is available for members who want to work on a project, but not necessarily be alone.

An artist volunteer will be in the studio to offer feedback or assistance if requested. A still life will be set up for inspiration. A few art materials will be available for anyone to use.

Intermediate Watercolor

Instructor: Anne Rourke

Thursdays 1:00 pm-3:30 pm (DR)

This is a class for students with previous training or experience in watercolor. Students will be able to explore a variety of techniques.

– HANDICRAFT –

Card Making Workshops

Instructor: Member Ann Thomas

First Monday of every month at 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

May 4 & June 1 | (Art Studio)

Class size: 10. Contact Ann directly the Friday before class to join.

\$10 materials fee to be paid directly to instructor at workshop. BYO glue and scissors. All other materials/envelopes will be provided. Contact Ann to join: annthomas8432@yahoo.com, 303-619-7622.

– FILM –

Friday Flicks

Alternating Fridays | 10 am - 12 pm (Mirror)

May: 2nd & 4th Fridays

June: Summer weekly Flicks begin

Members gather for a movie and popcorn!

May 22: The Swedish Connection (2026) Swedish Foreign Ministry bureaucrat Gösta Engzell, overlooked during WWII, rescued thousands Jews while turning supposedly neutral Sweden into a moral force, leaving a lasting humanitarian legacy.

June 5: The Outfit (2022) An expert cutter must outwit a dangerous group of mobsters in order to survive a fateful night.

June 12: Mississippi Grind (2015)

Two compulsive gamblers go on a road trip through the South to a high-stakes poker game in New Orleans.

June 19: Hamilton House closed for Juneteenth.

June 26: Montana Story (2021)

Two estranged siblings return home to the sprawling ranch they once knew and loved, confronting a deep and bitter family legacy against a mythic American backdrop.

Note: Films are scheduled at the time they are available on Netflix. Substitutions may occur.

– FITNESS, WELLNESS & COMMUNITY –

\$5 Drop-In Rate for Non-Members: Yoga & Tai Chi
Adults 55+ are welcome to attend! **A signed liability waiver is required. Payment and waiver form must be completed at the Front Desk prior to class.** *We encourage members to invite friends and family to join us!*

Yoga

Instructor: Sara Davidson Flanders

Mondays at 11 am (Chapel Hall & Zoom)

Note: May 4 class will meet in Fireplace Rm

NO class May 25.

These weekly sessions of Anusara Yoga bring attention to specific actions to hone awareness and open subtle channels of energy. Actively moving energy through the body cultivates steadiness, strength, and freedom. Classes are in-person and on Zoom; the link is sent in the weekly ebuletin.

Tai Chi

Instructor: Bob McManus

Tuesdays at 1 pm (Chapel Hall)

This ancient Chinese martial art is known for its slow, intentional movements, gentle exercise, and active meditation.

Zoom Exercise Class

Instructor: Jodie Piccerelli

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 am (Zoom)

Note: NO class May 5

This is a low impact class with upper and lower body exercises for active older adults. The class helps with balance, strength, preserving bone density, vitality, and mobility. **Zoom link is provided in the weekly eBulletin.**

Meditation Circle

Lee Clasper-Torch

Wednesdays at 9:30 am (Oak)

Note: Circle ends for the summer May 27

All members are invited to enjoy this quiet and welcoming space to learn about meditation, and discover their own inner calm, peace, and connection.



The Walking Group is back!

Coordinator: Sylvia Danforth

Thursdays at 9 am

The weather is nice and time to start this group back up! All members are welcome to walk at a comfortable pace. This group meets at the reception area and walks in the immediate area for 30-45 minutes. Wear walking shoes and bring water.

Women's Circle

Coordinator: Member Janice Arsenault

Alternating Thursdays at 1 pm (Mirror)

(May 14 & 28. June 11) June 25 is an offsite lunch.

Women will meet and share what is on their minds in a safe, supportive environment, without judgment, allowing bonds of friendship to form.

Women's Health & Wellness Group

Facilitator: Member Pat Donovan

Alternating Thursdays at 1 pm (Mirror)

(May 7 & 21. June 4 & 18)

Group limit: 11. The Women's Health and Wellness Group is an opportunity for women to explore life issues to share, discuss and problem-solve.

The group decides the topics. Consistent attendance is expected and essential to ensure commitment and confidentiality. Please contact Pat Donovan directly to inquire about joining: elmgroveavenue25@gmail.com

Men's Group

Coordinator: Member John Stevenson

Alternating Fridays at 12:30 pm-2 pm (Mural)

(May 8 & 22. June 5. NO meeting June 19)

All male members are welcome. Conversations explore ways in which men are dealing with aging and life choices, reflecting on things learned over the years about what makes life interesting, and gaining perspective on barriers and struggles (including some continuing) all from a perspective of being "men" in today's society. Please contact John with any questions: jstevenson@uri.edu

Horticulture Therapy At-Home Kits

Certified Horticulture Therapist: Sally Gruber

May: "Spring Basket Bonanza"

To be delivered: May 19

Cost: \$25.00 per participant

Order by: May 12

June: "Bounty in Buckets"

To be delivered: Tuesday, June 16

Cost: \$25.00 per participant

Order by: June 9

Members order the kits to construct at home. Each personally-delivered kit includes instructions, fresh flowers and greens, accents, container, thematic poetry or music, and an edible treat!

Call or email Sally directly to order: 401-823-8077 or flowersforeveryone@msn.com

The American Horticultural Association notes that horticultural therapy in its various forms helps improve memory, cognitive abilities, task initiation, language skills, and socialization.

Wingate Water Aerobics

Instructor: Jodie Piccerelli

Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10 am

Wednesdays & Fridays at 11:00 am

No class May 5.

Aquatic exercise is considered an effective, joint-friendly way to strengthen the cardiovascular system and muscles, and burn calories. The exercises will be similar to Jodie's Zoom class.

Locker and changing room available. Bring whatever personal items needed (i.e. bathing suit and towel)

This activity is generously provided at no charge by Wingate Residences on the East Side!

A waiver is required to participate. Members must sign in and out at the Wingate East Side Front Desk.

Wingate East Side is located 1 Butler Ave, Providence, RI 02906. Transportation is not provided. Wingate Residences on the East Side is a 6 min (0.9 mile) drive from Hamilton House. Members are encouraged to carpool.

– GAMES –

Scrabble

Mondays at 12:30 pm (Mural) NO class May 25.

All player levels are welcome.

Contact member Charlene Kneath with questions:
chark46@aol.com, 401-339-6922

Contract Bridge

Thursdays at 1 pm-3 pm (Mural)

All levels welcome.

Bridge is always open to new players! If interested in joining or would like more information, contact member Joan Breen: jjj606@verizon.net or 401-521-0276

Mahjong

Fridays at 11 am-12:30 pm (Library)

All learners/players welcome

Contact member Roberta Schwartz with questions at robertadcs@comcast.net

Backgammon

Fridays at 10 am (Mural)

All player levels are welcome.



Pool Table

The pool table is located in the basement and available for members to use at their leisure during the day. Please remember to leave the room as you have found it.

Technology Help-Desk Hours

Tech Volunteer: JD Stettin

Alternating Thursdays at 11 am - 12:15 pm

By appointment only. Sign up at the Front Desk.

Please note that JD will be away most of May. He anticipates being here on May 28 and June 11 & 25.

The Help Desk is now available on alternating Thursdays. Please check with Front Desk.

Genealogy & Family History Explorations

Researcher: Member Helen Litterst

Appointments required. Contact Helen at:

helenlitterst@mail.com

Staff Messages

- Executive Director's Note -



Dear Members,

I'd like to take a moment to **share my gratitude for our volunteers at Hamilton House**. As we continue to grow as an organization, the efforts of the volunteers so, too, increase. We have an incredible number of dedicated folks – both longtime *and* new members – who contribute their time and talents daily to help make Hamilton House the community we are. I have heard repeatedly from members that stepping into a volunteer role here made a meaningful difference in the way they engage with the organization, and that it provides a chance to meet more people and grow relationships. Whether it's supporting lunch service or the front desk, serving on a committee or on our board of directors, teaching a class or workshop, organizing a trip or social event, editing and collating this newsletter...there are so many avenues to get involved, ways to share your expertise, or, develop a *new* skill! ALL of these areas (and more!) make an incredible impact on how we are able to bring our mission to life. As a learning *exchange* we can't do it without you: **THANK YOU!**

Warmly, Chloe Clasper-Torch

- Note From the President of the Board -



I would like to thank everyone who made 401Gives a resounding success. We achieved 200% of our Goal of \$10, 276, raising an astonishing **\$20,901**. This enables us to provide the excellent programming and camaraderie we are known for.

While we value our longtime members, it has been my pleasure as President to meet all the new members of Hamilton House. This brings new skills and ideas into our midst. We are so glad you're here!

Enjoy your Spring!

- Charlene Kneath, Board President

- Program Manager/Editor's Note -

There's definitely something for everyone this semester, which is packed with a variety of special events and day trips, Lunch & Learn, a total of 11 speakers—including RI Sec'y of State Amore and the Dean of Academics at the U.S. Naval War College, dispersed throughout three presentation series, and other topics. Plus a fabulous film screening and discussion of *Under the Polar Sun* by the expedition leader/producer (who happens to be member Linda Kushner's son in law.) There are new classes in literature, memoir writing, and art; concerts by an a cappella group, and Chinese instrumentalists, as well as PVD PorchFest in late May featuring High Planes & In Lieu of Flowers—this year Palagis Ice Cream truck will be here selling treats, and around the corner, our neighbor International House will also host a concert. They will have a food truck selling an assortment of items. If you need more to do, weekly Friday Flicks is back for the summer with plenty of popcorn. And don't forget the community meeting on June 10, and that we'll be closed for Memorial Day on May 25 and Juneteenth on June 19.

- See you soon,
Liz Kelley

House Information & Announcements

May/June Closure Dates

- Monday, May 25: Memorial Day
- Friday, June 19: Juneteenth

Closure Policy: Hamilton House is closed on all Federal Holidays, when the Providence Public Schools are closed for weather-related events, or if there is a city-wide parking ban. Our priority in reopening is always safety and accessibility. Notices go out via email, social media, and on our website when the building is closed.

Parking Lot Reminders:

- Please do not park in the space that has the 'Reserved Parking' sign. This space is for our 2nd floor office tenant.
- Cars entering the driveway have the right of way. Cars leaving the driveway, MUST back up—even with cars behind yours.
- We ask that members who do not require accessible parking, please park on the street. Street parking decals are available at the Front Desk for members only.

Hamilton House Café

Soup | Sandwiches | Dessert | Snacks | Coffee | Tea **Open weekdays 11:30 am-1:30 pm**

Cash and checks are accepted at this time.

Non-member guests are welcome! The cafe menu is emailed to members every Monday. Please note that items are subject to change based on vendor availability and popularity!

More Kitchen Volunteers Needed!

Please consider signing up for a shift once a month, or more regularly. There are many types of support tasks and ways to help that don't only involve serving lunch, and often can be completed at flexible times. A benefit of volunteering is getting a free lunch from the cafe!

Donations for Rhode Island Community Food Bank

The Special Events Committee is encouraging donations for RI Community Food Bank at all special events. The donation box is located in the main entrance near the door.

Canned and boxed goods only. Please do not donate open, expired, or damaged items, nor include glass packaging, perishable, or prepared foods.

The collection of items will be ongoing. For any questions, please contact Special Events Chairs.

Hamilton House Staff

Chloe Clasper-Torch,
Executive Director

hamiltonhouse276@gmail.com or
chloe@historichamilton.org

—
Liz Kelley,

Programs & Outreach Manager
hamiltonhouseoffice@gmail.com

—
Collin Mills,

Facilities & Maintenance Manager
collin.n.mills@gmail.com

—
Patty Tanalski, Kitchen Assistant

Hamilton House Board of Directors 2025-2026

Charlene Kneath, *President*
John Setevnson, *Vice President*
Jerry DeSchepper, *Secretary*
Rob Distefano, *Treasurer*
Elissa Arffa, Kip Brott,
Frank Capecci, Herman Dekoe,
Pat Donovan, Bill Irons,
Maggie Kuriakose, Sue Pandit,
Dee Dee Witman

Hamilton House Committees & Chairs

Interested in becoming involved with one of our active standing committees? Members are welcome to reach out to committee chairs with questions and interest. Please find their contact information listed below.

Development Committee

Frank Capecci, fcapecci@aol.com

Governance Committee

Sylvia Danforth,
sdanforth42@gmail.com

Finance Committee

Carl Romanovich,
carlromanovich@yahoo.com

Kitchen Committee

Jenny Rosen, jedgehthco@yahoo.com

Membership Committee

Sylvia Danforth,
sdanforth42@gmail.com

Personnel Committee

Pat Donovan,
elmgroveavenue25@gmail.com

Program Committee

Elissa Arffa & Charlene Kneath
earffa@cox.net | chark46@aol.com

Property Committee

Collin Mills, collin.n.mills@gmail.com

Special Events Committee

Merle Wolfgang & Roberta Schwartz
mwwolfgang47@gmail.com |
robertadcs@comcast.net

Travel Committee

Chair Vacant

Thank you to everyone who helps with the catalog, from proofreading and fact checking to printing and folding: Lily, LucyAnn, Garo, Sylvia, Ginny, Helen, Greg, and the entire folding crew!



Get Social! Search [@hhlearningexchange](https://www.facebook.com/hhlearningexchange) to Follow and Like our Organization Page on Facebook! If you aren't on Facebook, consider leaving us a review on Google. This helps us greatly when members of our community look us up online. Click the icons or scan the QR codes provided.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday				
Room Abbreviations KEY: Dining Room - DR Mural Room – Mural Mirror Room - Mirror Oak Room – Oak Central Congregational Church – CCC <i>located next door (on Diman Pl.)</i>				9:30am - New! All Levels Watercolor (Art Studio/DR) 11am-12:30pm- Mahjong (Library) 10am - Backgammon (Mural) 11am - Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences East Side) 12:30pm - Current Topics (DR) 1pm - Writing Together (Oak)				1
4 9:45am - Beginner French (Mural) 9:50am - French Conversation (DR) 10:45am - German: Intermediate (Mirror) 11am - Yoga (Fireplace Rm) 12:30pm - Scrabble (Mural) 12:30pm - SPEAKER: Prof Charlotte "250th Series" (DR) 1pm - Cardmaking Workshop (Art Studio)	5 10am - NO Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences East Side) 10am - Spanish II Intermediate (Mural) 10:30am - Poetry Group (Oak) 11am - NO Exercise (Zoom) 11:30am - Spanish III Advanced (Mural) 1pm - Tai Chi (CCC) Pottery (Studio) Watercolor Studies (DR) 2pm New! Latin American Literature (Mural)	6 9:30am - Meditation Circle (Oak) 10am - Writing & Reading Memoirs Workshop (DR) 10am - Spanish I Beginner (Mural) 11am - Readings & Discussion (DR) 11am - Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences East Side) 12:30pm - Cribbage (Mural) 12:30pm - SPEAKER: "Better Health Series" - Dr. Bob Heffron (DR) 1:30pm - History Reading & Discussion (Oak)	7 9am Walking Group 10am - Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences East Side) 10am - Art Studio Group (Art Studio) 10am - CONCERT: Bamboo Rhyme Chinese Music (DR) 11am - Classic Novels (Mural) NO Tech help Exercise Class [ZOOM] 1pm - Bridge Club (Mural) Watercolor- Intermediate Level (DR) Women's Health & Wellness (Mirror)	8 9:30am - All Levels Watercolor (Art Studio) 11am-12:30pm- Mahjong (Library) 10am - SPEAKERS/MOVIE SCREENING "Under the Polar Sun" (DR) 10am - NO Friday Flicks (Mirror) 10am - Backgammon (Mural) 11am - Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences East Side) 12:30pm - Men's Group (Mural) 1pm - Let's Sing! (Mirror) 1pm - Writing Together (Oak) 3pm-HIGH TEA				
11 9:45am - Beginner French (Mural) 9:50am - French Conversation (DR) 10:45am - German: Intermediate (Mirror) 11am - Poetry Writers' Workshop (Mirror) 11am - Yoga (Chapel Hall) 12:30pm - Scrabble (Mural) 1pm - SPEAKER: "Better Health Series" - Dr. Mike Zola, DC (DR)	12 <i>Deadline: Order floral home therapy kits</i> 10am - Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences East Side) 10am - Spanish II Intermediate (Mural) 10:30am - Poetry Group (Oak) 11am - Exercise (Zoom) 11:30am - Spanish III Advanced (Mural) 1pm - Tai Chi (CCC) Pottery (Studio) Watercolor Studies (DR) 2pm - NO Latin American Literature (Mural)	13 9:30am - Meditation Circle (Oak) 10 am-DAYTRIP: RW Botanical Ctr 10am - Writing & Reading Memoirs Workshop (DR) 10am -Coffee, Tea & Conversation (DR) 10am - Spanish I Beginner (Mural) 11am - Readings & Discussion (DR) 11am - Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences East Side) 12:30pm - Cribbage (Mural)	14 9am Walking Group 10am - Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences East Side) 10am - Art Studio Group (Art Studio) 11am - Classic Novels (Mural) NO Tech help Exercise [ZOOM] 1pm - Bridge Club (Mural) Watercolor- Intermediate(DR) 1pm - Women's Circle (Mirror)	15 9:30am - All Levels Watercolor (Art Studio) 11am-12:30pm- Mahjong (Library) 10am - COOKING DEMO: PIZZA-Karen Pilla & MEXICAN CHILI-Chef Comella (DR) 10am - Backgammon (Mural) 11am - Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences East Side) 12:30pm - Current Topics (DR) 1pm - Writing Together (Oak)				
18 9:45am - Beginner French (Mural) 9:50am - French Conversation (DR) 10:45am - German: Intermediate (Mirror) 11am - Yoga (Chapel Hall) 12:30pm - Scrabble (Mural) 1pm - SPEAKER: Fall Prevention Workshop- Pam Rotondo (DR) 2pm - Book Club, "Broken Country" (DR)	19 <i>Delivery: Floral home therapy kits</i> 10am - Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences East Side) 10am - Spanish II Intermediate (Mural) 10:30am - Poetry Group (Oak) 11am - Exercise (Zoom) 11:30am - Spanish III Advanced (Mural) 1pm - Tai Chi (CCC) Pottery (Studio) Watercolor Studies (DR) 2pm - Latin American Literature (Mural)	20 9:30am - Meditation Circle (Oak) 10am - Writing & Reading Memoirs Workshop (DR) 10am - Spanish I Beginner (Mural) 11am - Readings & Discussion (DR) 11am - Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences East Side) 12:30pm - Cribbage (Mural) 1:30pm - History Reading & Discussion (Oak)	21 9am Walking Group 10am - Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences East Side) 10am - Art Studio Group (Art Studio) 10am SPEAKER - "Better Health Series" -Dr. Lori Gardner, DAOM, Dipl.AC (DR) 11am - Classic Novels (Mural) NO Tech help Exercise [ZOOM] 1pm - Bridge Club (Mural) Watercolor-Intermediate Women's Health & Wellness (Mirror)	22 9:30am - All Levels Watercolor (Art Studio/DR) 10am -12pm-Friday Flicks (Mirror) 11am-12:30pm- Mahjong (Library) 10am - Backgammon (Mural) 11am - Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences East Side) 12:30pm - Men's Group (Mural) 1pm - Writing Together (Oak) 1pm- Let's Sing! 3pm-5pm Monthly Friday Social				
25 CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY	26 10am - Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences East Side) 10am - Spanish II Intermediate (Mural) 10:30am - Poetry Group (Oak) 11am - Exercise (Zoom) 11:30am - Spanish III Advanced (Mural) 1pm - Tai Chi (CCC) Pottery (Studio) Watercolor Studies (DR) 2pm - Latin American Literature (Mural)	27 9:30am - Meditation Circle (Oak) 10am - Writing & Reading Memoirs Workshop (DR) 10am - Spanish I Beginner (Mural) 11am - Readings & Discussion (DR) 11am - Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences East Side) 12:30pm - Cribbage (Mural) 12:30pm - Lunch & Learn/Talking About Art "Cows, Cows Everywhere!" (DR)	28 9am Walking Group 10am - Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences East Side) 10am - Art Studio Group (Art Studio) 11am - Classic Novels (Mural) Tech help Exercise [ZOOM] 1pm - Bridge Club (Mural) Watercolor- Intermediate (DR) Women's Circle (Mirror)	29 9:30am - All Levels Watercolor (Art Studio) 10am SPEAKER: "Better Health Series" - Chef/Assoc. Professor Jon Poyourow (DR) 11am-12:30pm- Mahjong (Library) 10am - Backgammon (Mural) 11am - Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences East Side) 12:30pm - Current Topics (DR) 1pm - Writing Together (Oak) 2pm-DAYTRIP: Lippitt House Art Exhibit & Tour ----- Tomorrow: PVD PorchFest! 1:30pm - 4pm (Patio)				

June 2026

[illegible]