

# Hamilton House Courier

## January/February 2026



### 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.

#### – SPECIAL EVENTS –

*The Membership and Special Events Committees*

##### **Film & Feast: Iceland**

January 23, Friday 11 am-2 pm | DR

**Cost: \$15 pp.** Sign-up and pay at the Front Desk  
**Deadline:** January 16th

This cinematic & culinary event was curated by member Jerry Deschepper, who selected the film *Kona fer í stríð* (Woman at War, 2018), and Chef Sandra Gifford, who will be serving an Icelandic menu of Khotsupa (Icelandic lamb & vegetable soup), Fiskibollur (fish balls) and Hjonbandssaela (marriage bliss dessert cake).

##### **Valentine's Day Party**

Friday, February 13 at 12 pm- 2 pm (DR)

**Cost: \$15 pp.** Sign up and pay at Front Desk. **Sign up**  
**Deadline:** February 6  
Max seating: 36

Share your love story with friends over a delicious lunch prepared by Chef Sandra Gifford, finished with sweet treats. Crooner Norm Paquin will serenade everyone with love songs.

*Reminder: Please bring a nonperishable food item to support the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.*

##### **Lunar New Year Celebration & Lunch**

Brown University Lion Dance Troupe  
Speaker: John En Wong, Rhode Island Chinese history scholar  
Wednesday, February 18 at 12 pm - 2pm (Gallery Hallway & DR)

2026 is the Year of the Horse. Celebrate with a traditional, playful (and loud) Lion Dance as it

parades from the hallway to DR. Afterwards lunch will be served, followed by a presentation. John En Wong will bring a local and global perspective to the holiday. He will also discuss the Chinese heritage community and its culture in Rhode Island.

**Special Lunar New Year Lunch Menu:** The cafe will only be serving a catered prix fixe Chinese lunch. This special plate will be priced comparable to the regular menu.

*Many thanks to the Special Events Committee for teaming up with the Program Committee for this celebration!*

##### **Coffee, Tea & Conversation**

2nd Wednesday of each month at 10 am (DR)  
January 14 & February 11

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

##### **Monthly Friday Social**

4th Friday of each month at 3 pm - 5 pm

January 30th\* & February 27

\*5th Friday of the month due to Film & Feast on Jan 23rd

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

#### – TRAVEL –

Sign up is required at the Front Desk for Trips. Any payment due must be made when signing up. Trip details will be posted on the bulletin board in the Reception Area.

##### **Let's Go Bowling!**

BreakTime Bowl & Bar  
Thursday March 26 at 12 pm - 3pm

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**Cost: \$45pp** (includes three hours of bowling and a catered lunch) | **Sign up at Front Desk** | **Bowling limit: 24** | **Sign up Deadline: February 6.**

Note: Transportation is self-drive or sign up for the van. Van seating limit: 14

Enjoy an afternoon of good old-fashioned fun at this retro duckpin bowling alley, with original features. Located in Pawtucket's historic Hope Artiste Village, BreakTime Bowl & Bar was opened in the Roaring Twenties for the mill workers.

Duckpin bowling balls are small, and no bowling experience or special shoes are necessary.

Details are on the bulletin board. For more information contact member Gwen Edwards at [gwenythedwards@yahoo.com](mailto:gwenythedwards@yahoo.com).

The Travel Committee is looking for a new Chairperson. Contact member Gail R. if interested: [romanovich.gail@gmail.com](mailto:romanovich.gail@gmail.com)

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– LUNCH & LEARN –

**Talking About Art Series: Husbands, Wives and Lovers**

*Instructor: Suzanne Lewis*

**Wednesday, February 4 at 12:30 (DR)**

Explore the relationships of 5 artists and their significant others: Rembrandt and the two loves of his life: Saskia, (his first wife) and Hendrikje, (his common law wife); the sculptor Auguste Rodin, and his young protégé Camille Claudel; and Elaine and Willem de Kooning who encouraged and supported each other's careers.

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

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– PRESENTATIONS –

**Sushi-Making Demo**

*Member Evelyn Blum*

**Thursday, January 8 at 10 am (DR)**

**Limited to 10. Sign up at Front Desk.** Learn the technique of sushi-making from Hamilton House's resident sushi master! Evelyn has it down to a science with the proper ingredients to use, how to prepare, and the best way to roll and store the sushi. Tasty samples of the finished product will be served.

**Holocaust Remembrance**

*Lilliane Birch, Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center*

**Monday, January 12 at 12:30 pm (DR)**

"Lilliane Birch stands as a beacon of remembrance and resilience, dedicated to ensuring that the stories of her parents, Holocaust survivors, are not forgotten." (City of Pawtucket, RI)

Thank you member Charlene Kneath for suggesting and helping to secure this speaker.

**Elections Explained**

*Deputy Secretary of State Rob Rock*

**Wednesday, January 14 at 12:30 pm (DR)**

The deputy secretary will present an overview of elections in Rhode Island, the election process, the ways to vote, and important key dates and deadlines for 2026. He will also discuss rank choice voting and civics. A Q&A will follow.

*Thank you member Mary Buczynski for suggesting the topic of Rank Choice Voting*

**Conversations in Science Series**

**Designated Tuesdays & Thursdays at 12:30 pm (Oak)**

The speakers' names and topics will become available in late January/early February and announced in the weekly ebuletin.

**Thursday, January 29: TBA**

**Tuesday, February 3: TBA**

**Thursday, February 26: TBA**

*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)*

**Treasures of the RISD Museum**

*Charlann Walker, museum docent*

**Friday, January 16 at 10 am (DR)**

An armchair tour led by a Rhode Island School of Design Museum (RISD) docent will offer a visual presentation of some of the highlights of the museum's collection.

The selections from 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century American galleries and contemporary galleries will include sculpture, paintings, decorative arts and design, and textiles. They will also reflect Ancient

Egyptian, Ancient Greek, Ancient Roman and Asian galleries.

### **Creating a Campus: The 19<sup>th</sup> Century College Architecture of the Pioneer Valley**

*Gretchen Pineo, Senior Architectural Historian, The Public Archaeology Laboratory*

**Wednesday, January 21 at 12:30 (DR)**

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Frederick Law Olmsted is recognized as the founder of American landscape architecture and the nation's foremost landscape designer.

While best known for Central Park and The Emerald Necklace, he was involved in countless projects, including the landscape design or plan for four campuses in the Pioneer Valley of western Massachusetts: Smith, Amherst, and Mount Holyoke Colleges, and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

### **Tech Help Desk: Beware of Tech Scams!**

*JD Stettin, Tech Help Desk volunteer*

*State Representative David Morales, Innovation and Technology Committee*

**Thursday, January 22 at 11 am - 12:15 pm (DR)**

Note: JD's presentation will replace his weekly Tech Help Desk session

JD will show examples of common email and text scams and review basic principles of self-protection.

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A handout of simple tips will be provided. Rep. Morales will share what the state senate and other officials are doing to monitor scams and protect internet users.

Thanks JD for arranging Rep. Morales' participation.

### **Fire Safety & Prevention for Seniors**

*Providence Fire Department Public Education*

**Friday, January 30 at 11 am (DR)**

Don't take fire safety for granted! Everyone needs reminders and to think about handling an emergency. The Providence Fire Department was established in 1854 and is the second oldest continuously operating paid professional fire department in the United States.

Thank you member Jen Rosen for coordinating this presentation.

### **How Seniors Can Prevent Falls**

*Member Jennifer Rosen (LICSW)*

**Monday, February 9 at 1 pm (DR)**

Jennifer facilitated an award-winning fall prevention program in Northern Virginia for four years. Her presentation will address what members can do to prevent, or at least, decrease the chances of falling with fall risk and prevention strategies. There will be a Q&A and take-home handouts.

### **The History of Palagis Ice Cream Company**

*Alejandro 'Alex' Arteaga, owner (and former newspaper boy)*

**Wednesday, February 11 at 12:30 (DR)**

The Pilagi family's ice cream delivery has been a Rhode Island summer tradition since 1896. The family-owned company passed from one immigrant family to another when Alex purchased the business after working there for years. His heartwarming story is one of preserving and continuing a proud family and business history.

Thank you member Helen Litterst for suggesting this speaker.

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## **– CONCERTS –**

### **Pipe Organ Concert & Tour - Central Congregational Church**

*Patrick Aiken, Organist and Choirmaster*

**Wednesday, January 28 at 1 pm (CCC)**

Explore the resonance and grandeur of this rare Aeolian-Skinner organ, a design that mingles French and German organs, and has 3,456 pipes of various sizes! Patrick will explain the history of this organ, along with its sound-effect stops, 3 keyboards, foot keyboard, etc., and treat everyone to a delightful concert that brings it all together in sound.

Thank you member Marilyn Edwards for arranging this concert.

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## **– LITERATURE –**

### **Silent Reading Book Group:**

*Coordinator: Member Catherine Goldhammer*

Alternating 2nd and 4th Fridays at 1 pm - 2:30 pm (Library) (January 9 & 23. February 13 & 27)

Prefer to be in a book group where everyone gets to read whatever they want? Here it is! Bring a book of choice and read in the company of others.

The group will begin by everyone giving a brief overview of their books, reading for 45 minutes (or an hour), and wrapping up by saying how it went. This is a fun way to get to know other people and talk about all kinds of books

This group is similar to the internationally popular Silent Book Club. There are meet ups in cafes and libraries, etc., where people sit together, read their own books, and discuss them.

### **From The Page to The Personal**

*Instructor: Maggie Miles*

**Thursdays: January 15, 22 and 29 at 11 am (DR)**

**Class Size: 13 | Sign up at Front Desk**

This three-week course uses the Personal Essays from the “Lives” column of the New York Times Magazine Archives. The class will help sharpen students’ critical reading skills, and illustrate the techniques writers use to engage their readers. These 800-word, or one-page essays will educate and entertain as well as spark personal connections.

The first essay will be at the Front Desk in early January.

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### **– WRITING –**

### **Writing (and Reading) Memoir Workshop**

*Instructor: Member Maureen Reddy*

**Wednesdays at 10 am (Mural)**

**(January 7 - February 25)**

**Sign up at the Front Desk | Class size: 8**

Everyone has stories to tell about their lives. This class offers the opportunity to write one or more such 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 sufficient printed copies of

that writing for the whole class.

### **Writing Together**

*Coordinator: Member Catherine Goldhammer*

**Alternating 1st and 3rd Fridays at 1 pm-2:30 pm (Oak)**

**(January 2, 16 & 30. February 6 & 20)**

Engaged in a writing project and want to work in the company of others? This is a low pressure way to get together with other writers and get some writing done.

The session begins with everyone briefly describing their project, then writing for 45 minutes, and wrapping up by saying how it went.

All experience levels are welcome.

Note: This is not a critique group. Work will not be read or shared.

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### **– HISTORY & CULTURE –**

### **Professor Charlotte Carrington-Farmer Lectures.**

Dr. Carrington-Farmer is a Professor of History, specialising in early American History.

### **Mary Williams Exhibit Tour & Talk**

John Brown House Museum

**Wednesday, February 25 at 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Sign up at Front Desk. Limited to 20.\***

Professor Charlotte will lead a tour of the exhibit she curated about Mary Williams, Roger Williams’ wife, at John Brown House Museum. The exhibit was developed around her latest book *Roger Williams and His World: A History in Documents*, and also follows her lecture about Mary Williams here at Hamilton House a few months ago.

The museum will also be open on a limited basis for members to tour on their own or with a docent.

The museum is owned by the Rhode Island Historical Society.

\* Transportation details are still being coordinated regarding a van or carpool. Details will be noted in the weekly ebulletin.

# Ongoing Activities

Please note any RSVP requirements or payment details

## – LANGUAGE –

### Beginner French

*Instructor: Member Susan Rubin*

**Mondays at 9:45 am (Mural)**

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

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

### French: Conversation and Culture

*Instructor: Member Sheila Zompa*

**Mondays at 9:50 am (DR)**

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)**

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

### Spanish I & II

*Instructor: Member Alicia Elwin*

**Tuesdays (Mural)**

Class size for I & II: 10 max

[Sign up for both classes at Front Desk](#)

#### – Spanish I: 10 am

This is a class for beginners and continuing students. Grammatical concepts will be explained in both English and Spanish. In addition, students will begin reading Spanish short stories that increase in difficulty.

#### – Spanish II: 11:30 am

A comfortable knowledge of Spanish grammar and verb usage is advisable. This is an advanced Spanish conversation class. Reading material for discussion may include novels, short stories or articles written in Spanish.

## – LITERATURE/POETRY/WRITING –

### Book Club

*Coordinator: Member Sylvia Danforth*

**Last Monday of the month at 1 pm (DR)**

**Monday, January 26**

*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet, by Jamie Ford*

This book explores the age-old conflicts between father and son, the beauty and sadness of what happened to Japanese Americans in the Seattle area during WW II, and the depths and longing of deep-heart love.

**Monday, February 23**

*My Friends, by Fredrick Backman*

Four teenagers find solace in each other's company and their friendship blossoms into a powerful bond that changes a stranger's life twenty five years later. Happy endings don't always take the form expected in this stunning testament to the transformative, timeless power of friendship and art.

### Poetry Writers' Workshop

*Coordinator: Member Nancy Cherico*

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

(January 12 & 26. February 9 & 23.)

(Mirror)

These sessions will 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. Bring a poem (or 2) to be work-shopped. This workshop is now closed.

### 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.

**January Poet of the Month: Wallace Stevens**

Discussion leader: John Stevenson

**February Poet of the Month: Elizabeth Arnold**

Discussion leader: Sylvia Danforth

## 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.

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### – 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 ebulletin.

## Current Topics

*Facilitator: Member Rick Tropper*

**Alternating Fridays at 12:30 pm (DR)**

**Note: January 23 Current Topics will be meeting at 2 pm -3 pm.**

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.

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### – ART/FILM/MUSIC –

## Friday Flicks

**Alternating Fridays | 10 am - 12 pm (Mirror)**

2nd & 4th Fridays

Members gather for a movie and popcorn!

**January 9: Nouvelle Vague (2025) 106 minutes**

**January 30: Left-Handed Girl (2025) 108 minutes**

**February 13: Train Dreams (2025) 102 minutes**

**February 27: The Outfit (2022) 105 minutes**

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

### – VISUAL ARTS –

## Watercolor Studies

*Instructor: Anne Wert*

**Tuesdays at 1 pm - 3:30 pm (DR)**

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)

**Materials Fee:** \$25 to be paid directly to the instructor at the **first** class of this new eight-week session. The fee covers the cost of clay and firing the electric kiln.

## 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.

## Open Art Studio

All members are welcome to use the studio 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.

*The Art Studio is located in the basement. An automated 'stair chair' is available.*

## The Joy of Acrylic Painting

*Instructor: Robert Ramspott*

**Fridays, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 9:30 am - 11 am (Art Studio)**

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This beginner friendly class welcomes all levels and will cover the basics: Color mixing, brush techniques, layering and tinting, as well as types of canvas and brushes. Students will also learn how to prepare surfaces, use tools, and create simple compositions using line, color, shape and form. The class will end with a portfolio of still life, landscape, abstraction and more.

Please bring the following materials to class. Items can be purchased at craft and discount stores, or online.

- A complete acrylic paint set
- Canvas board, pad or stretched 11"x14"
- Acrylic brushes
- Water jar, paper towels

### **Mixed Media**

*Instructor: Robert Ramspott*

**February Fridays at 9:30 am - 11 am (Art Studio)**  
(February 6 - 27)

Class size: 12. Sign up at Front Desk.

Part of the exciting world of mixed media is transforming ordinary everyday objects into unique works of art. Students will learn techniques like assemblage, decoupage and collage to breathe new life into objects. Imagine an old cigar box becoming a jewelry box, or an old tray transformed into a charming French cafe scene. Explore the utilitarian and visual aspects of decorative art to complete a collection. Students will create their own 3-D masterpiece!

Required materials will be announced.

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### **– HANDICRAFTS –**

#### **Card Making Workshops**

*Instructor: Member Ann Thomas*

**First Monday of every month at 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**  
(Art Studio) January 5 & February 2

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](mailto:annthomas8432@yahoo.com), 303-619-7622.

### **– HEALTH, WELLNESS & COMMUNITY –**

**NOTE:** Non-member adults 55+ are welcome to attend as a 'drop-in' at **Tai Chi & Yoga**. The fee is \$5 to be paid at Hamilton House Front Desk before class. A liability waiver is required.

#### **Yoga**

*Instructor: Sara Davidson Flanders*

**Mondays at 11 am (Chapel Hall & Zoom)**

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 ebulletin.

#### **Zoom Exercise Class**

*Instructor: Jodie Piccerelli*

**Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 am (Zoom)**

Link is in the weekly ebulletin. 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.**

#### **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.

#### **Women's Circle**

*Coordinator: Member Janice Arsenault*

**Alternating Thursdays at 1 pm (Mirror)**  
(January 8 & 22. February 5 & 19)

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

#### **Women's Health & Wellness Group**

*Facilitator: Member Pat Donovan*

**Alternating Thursdays at 1 pm (Mirror)**  
(January 15 & 29. February 12 & 26)

**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.

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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](mailto:elmgroveavenue25@gmail.com)

### **Men's Group**

*Coordinator: Member John Stevenson*

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

(January 2, 16 & 30. February 13 & 27)

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](mailto:jstevenson@uri.edu)

### **Horticulture Therapy At-Home Kits**

*Certified Horticulture Therapist: Sally Gruber*

#### **January: "Swiss Delight"**

To be delivered: Tuesday, January 20

Cost: \$24.00 per participant

**Order by: Tuesday, January 13**

#### **February: "Falling in Love with Flowers"**

To be delivered: Tuesday, February 17

Cost: \$25.00 per participant

**Order by: Tuesday, February 10**

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](mailto: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**

Wingate East Side, 1 Butler Ave, Providence, RI 02906

A waiver will be required. Members must sign in and out at the Wingate East Side Front Desk.

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!

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

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## **– GAMES –**

### **Scrabble**

**Mondays at 12:30 pm (Mural)**

All player levels are welcome.

Contact member Charlene Kneath with questions: [chark46@aol.com](mailto:chark46@aol.com), 401-339-6922

### **Contract Bridge**

**Thursdays at 1 pm-3 pm (Mural)**

All levels welcome.

Bridge is looking for new players! If interested in joining or would like more information, contact member Joan Breen: [jjj606@verizon.net](mailto:jjj606@verizon.net) or 401-521-0276

### **Backgammon**

**Fridays at 11 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.

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## **Technology Help-Desk Hours**

*Tech Volunteer: JD Stettin*

**Thursdays at 11 am - 12:15 pm**

**By appointment only. Sign up at the Front Desk.**

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## **Genealogy & Family History Explorations**

*Researcher: Member Helen Litterst*

**Appointments required.** Contact Helen at:

[helenlitterst@gmail.com](mailto:helenlitterst@gmail.com)

## Staff Messages

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### - Executive Director's Note -



Dear Members,

It is hard to believe that 2025 is coming to an end, and a new year is upon us! What I appreciate about the turn of the calendar is that it offers us an annual opportunity to reflect and renew. In that spirit, I recently revisited our Values statement (located on our website under the 'Mission & History' tab!) and wanted to take a moment to share the principles that guide Hamilton House in carrying out our mission and vision, as we enter a new year.

**Integrity:** We act to carry out our mission and vision with respect, accountability, responsibility and transparency in all our interactions; **Collaboration:** Working together as a diverse and inclusive membership to plan and participate in programs and activities, we stay active, pursue growth, find purpose, and build trust and friendship; **Community:** Committed to learning and building relationships we find our lives enriched and affirmed by the sense of belonging that drives physical and mental wellbeing, joy and healthy aging; **Excellence:** We provide high quality programming in keeping with our mission and vision, actively seeking feedback in order to improve; **Stewardship:** We are responsible in the planning and management of our social, financial, and physical resources.

These values reflect our shared commitment to Hamilton House as a vibrant place of learning, connection, and belonging. As our community continues to grow and we welcome new faces and new ideas, I look forward to the many ways we will continue living these values together in the year ahead— *and beyond!*

I am grateful to be a part of this inspiring community. Thank you & best wishes for a joyful 2026.

Warmly, Chloe

### - Program Manager/Editor's Note -

Happy New Year! 2026 is off to a brisk start (both outdoors and our busy schedule!) with at least four new classes, eight speakers, a continuation of Conversations in Science, a sushi making demo, Film & Feast (Iceland), two or three concerts – including a pipe organ, a history exhibit tour by Prof. Charlotte at John Brown House Museum, old school duckpin bowling in a historic, restored 1920s venue, Lunch & Learn, Lunar New Year celebration, Valentine's Day party, monthly socials....food and socializing—seems to be 'a thing' here!

See you soon, Liz Kelley

## House Information & Announcements

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### 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. Parking decals are available at the Front Desk for *members only*.

### House Closure Dates:

- Monday, January 19 – *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
- Monday, February 16 – *Presidents' Day*

**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. A notice will go out via email, social media and on our website when the building is closed.

### 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 popularity!*

## More Kitchen Volunteers Needed!

Please consider signing up for a one or two-hour shift on occasion or regularly. The ebulletin will list the types of tasks needed, many that 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.

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### Hamilton House Staff

**Chloe Clasper-Torch**, Executive Director  
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**Patty Tanalski**, Kitchen Assistant

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### Hamilton House Board of Directors 2025-2026

Charlene Kneath, *President*

John Setevnson, *Vice President*

Jerry DeSchepper, *Secretary*

Rob Distefano, *Treasurer*

Elissa Arffa

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Herman Dekoe

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### 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](mailto:fcapecci@aol.com)

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#### **Governance Committee**

Sylvia Danforth, [sdanforth42@gmail.com](mailto:sdanforth42@gmail.com)

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#### **Finance Committee**

Carl Romanovich, [carlromanovich@yahoo.com](mailto:carlromanovich@yahoo.com)

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#### **Kitchen Committee**

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#### **Membership Committee**

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#### **Personnel Committee**

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#### **Program Committee**

Elissa Arffa & Charlene Kneath  
[earffa@cox.net](mailto:earffa@cox.net)  
[chark46@aol.com](mailto:chark46@aol.com)

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#### **Property Committee**

Collin Mills, [collin.n.mills@gmail.com](mailto:collin.n.mills@gmail.com)

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#### **Special Events Committee**

Merle Wolfgang & Janet Bryant  
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#### **Travel Committee**

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Thank you to everyone who helps with the catalog, from proofreading and fact checking to printing and folding:  
Garro, Ginny, Lucy Ann, Sylvia, Greg, Aida, Rosemary, Elissa, Judith.

January2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<div><div>Room Abbreviations KEY: Dining Room - DR Mural Room – Mural Mirror Room - Mirror Oak Room – Oak Central Congregational Church – CCC next door (entrance on Diman PL)</div></div>			<div>1</div> <div>Closed</div> <div>Happy New Year!</div>	<div>2</div> <div>9:30 am – 11 am -Joy of Acrylic Painting (Art Studio) 11 am - Backgammon (Mural) 11 am-Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 12:30 pm -2 pm Men’s Group (Mural) 1 pm – Writing Together (Oak)</div>
<div>5</div> <div>9:45 am – Beginner French (Mural) 9:50am - French Conversation (DR) 10:45 am - German - Intermediate (Mirror) 11am - Yoga (CCC) 12:30pm - Scrabble (Mural) 1 pm – 3 pm – Cardmaking Workshop (Art Studio)</div>	<div>6</div> <div>10 am-Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 10am – Spanish I (Mural) 10:30am - Poetry Group (Oak) 11am - Exercise (Zoom) 11:30am – Spanish II (Mural) 1pm -Tai Chi (CCC) 1 pm-3 pm Pottery (Pottery Studio) 1 pm – 3:30 pm Watercolor Studies (DR)</div>	<div>7</div> <div>10 am – Writing &amp; Reading Memoir Workshop (Mural) 11 am - Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 11am - Readings &amp; Discussion (DR)</div>	<div>8</div> <div>10 am-Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 10am - Art Studio Group (Art Studio) 10 am – Making Sushi Demo (DR) 11am - Classic Novels (Mural)   Exercise (Zoom)  Tech Help. (By Appt.) 1pm - Bridge Club (Mural)   Watercolor: Intermediate (DR)   Women’s Circle (Mirror)</div>	<div>9</div> <div>9:30 am – 11 am -Joy of Acrylic Painting (Art Studio) 11 am - Backgammon (Mural) 10 am-12 pm Friday Flicks (Mirror) 11 am-Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 12:30 pm – Current Topics (DR) 1 pm – Silent Reading (Library)</div>
<div>12</div> <div>9:45 am – Beginner French (Mural) 9:50 am - French Conversation (DR) 10:45 am - German - Intermediate (Mural) 11am - Yoga (CCC) 11 am – 12:30 pm – Poetry Writers' Workshop (Mirror) 12:30 pm – Speaker: Lilliane Birch – Holocaust Remembrance (DR) 12:30pm - Scrabble (Mural)</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Deadline to order floral therapy home kit</div> <div>10 am Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 10 am – Spanish I (Mural) 10:30am - Poetry Group (Oak) 11am - Exercise (Zoom) 11:30am – Spanish II (Mural) 1pm -Tai Chi (CCC) 1 pm – 3 pm Pottery (Pottery Studio) 1 pm – 3:30 pm Watercolor Studies (DR)</div>	<div>14</div> <div>10 am – Coffee, Tea &amp; Conversation (DR) 10 am – Writing &amp; Reading Memoir Workshop (Mural) 11 am - Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 11am - Readings &amp; Discussion (DR) 12:30 pm– SPEAKER: Dep. Sec. of State Rob Rock - Elections Explained (DR)</div>	<div>15</div> <div>10 am-Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 10am - Art Studio Group (Art Studio) 11 am – Maggie Miles: Page to Personal (DR) 11am - Classic Novels (Mural)   Exercise (Zoom)  Tech Help. (By Appt.) 1pm - Bridge Club (Mural)   Watercolor: Intermediate (DR)   Women’s Health &amp; Wellness (Mirror)</div>	<div>16</div> <div>9:30 am – 11 am -Joy of Acrylic Painting (Art Studio) 10 am – SPEAKER: RISD Museum (DR) 11 am - Backgammon (Mural) 11 am-Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 12:30 pm -2 pm Men’s Group (Mural) 1 pm – Writing Together (Oak)</div>
<div>19</div> <div>Closed: Martin Luther King, Jr., Day</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Delivery Home Floral Therapy Kit</div> <div>10 am - Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 10 am – Spanish I (Mural) 10:30 am - Poetry Group (Oak) 11am - Exercise (Zoom) 11:30 am – Spanish II (Mural) 1pm -Tai Chi (CCC) 1 pm – 3 pm Pottery (Pottery Studio) 1 pm – 3:30 pm Watercolor Studies (DR)</div>	<div>21</div> <div>10 am – Writing &amp; Reading Memoir Workshop (Mural) 11 am - Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 11am - Readings &amp; Discussion (DR) 12:30 pm– SPEAKER: Gretchen Pineo- Frederick Law Olmsted Creating a Campus (DR)</div>	<div>22</div> <div>10 am-Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 10am - Art Studio Group (Art Studio) 11 am – Maggie Miles: Page to Personal (DR) 11am - Classic Novels (Mural)   Exercise (Zoom)  11 am – 12 :15 pm – SPEAKER: JD Stettin - Beware Tech Scams! 1pm - Bridge Club (Mural)   Watercolor: Intermediate (DR)   Women’s Circle (Mirror)</div>	<div>23</div> <div>9:30 am – 11 am -Joy of Acrylic Painting (Art Studio) 11 am – Backgammon (Mural) 11 am-Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 11 am – 2 pm – Film &amp; Feast: Iceland (DR) 1 pm – Silent Reading Group (Library) 2 pm – Current Topics (DR) *time change* 3 pm – 5 pm Monthly Friday Social</div>
<div>26</div> <div>9:45 am – Beginner French (Mural) 9:50am - French Conversation (DR) 10:45 am - German - Intermediate (Mirror) 11am - Yoga (CCC) 11 am – 12:30 pm – Poetry Writers' Workshop (Mirror) 12:30pm - Scrabble (Mural) 1 pm Book Club ”Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet” (DR)</div>	<div>27</div> <div>10 am - Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 10 am – Spanish I (Mural) 10:30 am - Poetry Group (Oak) 11am - Exercise (Zoom) 11:30 am – Spanish II (Mural) 1pm -Tai Chi (CCC) 1 pm – 3 pm Pottery (Pottery Studio) 1 pm – 3:30 pm Watercolor Studies (DR)</div>	<div>28</div> <div>10 am – Writing &amp; Reading Memoir Workshop (Mural) 11 am - Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 11am - Readings &amp; Discussion (DR) 1 pm – Pipe Organ concert (CCC)</div>	<div>29</div> <div>10 am-Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 10am - Art Studio Group (Art Studio) 11 am – Maggie Miles: Page to Personal (DR) 11am - Classic Novels (Mural)   Exercise (Zoom)  Tech Help. (By Appt.) 12:30 pm- Conversations in Science (Oak) 1pm - Bridge Club (Mural)   Watercolor: Intermediate (DR)   Women’s Health &amp; Wellness (Mirror)</div>	<div>30</div> <div>9:30 am – 11 am -Joy of Acrylic Painting (Art Studio) 10 am – 12 pm Friday Flicks (Mirror) 11 am - Backgammon (Mural) 11 am-Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 11 am – SPEAKER: Fire Prevention (DR) 12:30 pm -2 pm Men’s Group (Mural)</div>

**Room Abbreviations KEY:**  
Dining Room - DR  
Mural Room – Mural  
Mirror Room - Mirror  
Oak Room – Oak  
Central Congregational Church – CCC  
*located next door (entrance on Diman Pl.)*

# February 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<div>2</div> <div>9:45 am Beginner French (Mural) 9:50 am French Conversation (DR) 10:45 am German – Intermediate (Mirror) 11am Yoga (CCC) 12:30 pm Scrabble (Mural) 1pm -3 pm - Cardmaking Workshop (Art Studio)</div>	<div>3</div> <div>10 am-Wingate Water Aerobics -Wingate Residences on East Side 10 am-Spanish I (Mural) 10:30am-Poetry Group (Oak) 11am-Exercise (Zoom) 11:30am-Spanish II (Mural) 1pm-Watercolor Studies (DR) 12:30 pm – Conversations in Science (Oak) 1pm-Tai Chi (Chapel Hall) 1 pm – 3 pm-Pottery (Pottery Studio)</div>	<div>4</div> <div>10 am – Writing &amp; Reading Memoir Workshop (Mural) 11 am - Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 11am - Readings &amp; Discussion (DR) 12:30 pm - Lunch &amp; Learn: Talking Art (DR)</div>	<div>5</div> <div>10 am-Wingate Water Aerobics-Wingate Residences on East Side 10am - Art Studio Group (Art Studio) 11am - Classic Novels (Mural)   Exercise (Zoom)  Tech Help. (By Appt.) 1pm - Bridge Club (Mural)   Watercolor: Intermediate (DR)   Women’s Circle (Mirror)</div>	<div>6</div> <div>9:30 am-11 am – Mixed Media (Art Studio) 11 am - Backgammon (Mural) 11 am-Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 12:30 pm -Current Topics (DR) 1 pm – 2:30 pm – Writing Together (Oak)</div>
<div>9</div> <div>9:45 am – Beginner French (Mural) 9:50am - French Conversation (DR) 10:45 am - German - Intermediate (Mural) 11am - Yoga (CCC) 11am-12:30 pm Poetry Writers' Workshop (Mirror) 12:30-pm - Scrabble (Mural) 1 pm – SPEAKER: Jen Rosen- Fall Prevention (DR)</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Deadline to order Floral therapy home kit 10 am-Wingate Water Aerobics -Wingate Residences on East Side 10 am-Spanish I (Mural) 10:30am-Poetry Group (Oak) 11am-Exercise (Zoom) 11:30am-Spanish II (Mural) 1pm-3:30 pm -Watercolor Studies (DR) 1pm-Tai Chi (Chapel Hall) 1 pm – 3 pm-Pottery (Pottery Studio)</div>	<div>11</div> <div>10 am – Writing &amp; Reading Memoir Workshop (Mural) 10 am-Coffee, Tea &amp; Conversation (DR) 11 am-Wingate Water Aerobics-Wingate Residences on East Side 11am - Readings &amp; Discussion (DR) 12:30 pm – SPEAKER: Alex Arteaga - History of Pilagis Ice Cream (DR)</div>	<div>12</div> <div>10 am-Wingate Water Aerobics-Wingate Residences on East Side 10am - Art Studio Group (Art Studio) 11am - Classic Novels (Mural)   Exercise (Zoom)   Tech Help. (By Appt.) 1pm - Bridge Club (Mural)   Watercolor: Intermediate (DR)   Women’s Health &amp; Wellness (Mirror)</div>	<div>13</div> <div>9:30 am-11 am – Mixed Media (Art Studio) 10 am- Friday Flicks (Mirror) 11 am - Backgammon (Mural) 11 am-Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 12 pm – 2 pm - SPECIAL EVENT: Valentine's Day Luncheon (DR) 12:30 pm -Men’s Group (Mural) 1 pm – 2:30 pm – Silent Reading Group (Library)</div>
<div>16</div> <div>Closed for Presidents’ Day</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Delivery of floral therapy home kit 10 am-Wingate Water Aerobics -Wingate Residences on East Side 10 am-Spanish I (Mural) 10:30am-Poetry Group (Oak) 11am-Exercise (Zoom) 11:30am-Spanish II (Mural) 1pm-Watercolor Studies (DR) 1pm-Tai Chi (Chapel Hall) 1 pm – 3 pm-Pottery (Pottery Studio)</div>	<div>18</div> <div>10 am – Writing &amp; Reading Memoir Workshop (Mural) 11 am-Wingate Water Aerobics-Wingate Residences on East Side 11am - Readings &amp; Discussion (DR) 12 pm – 2 pm – Lunar New Year Celebration &amp; Lunch (Gallery Hallway/DR)</div>	<div>19</div> <div>10 am-Wingate Water Aerobics-Wingate Residences on East Side 10am - Art Studio Group (Art Studio) 11am - Classic Novels (Mural)   Exercise (Zoom)   Tech Help. (By Appt.) 1pm - Bridge Club (Mural)   Watercolor: Intermediate (DR)   Women’s Circle (Mirror)</div>	<div>20</div> <div>9:30 am-11 am – Mixed Media (Art Studio) 11 am - Backgammon (Mural) 11 am-Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 12:30 pm-Current Topics (DR) 1 pm – 2:30 pm – Writing Together (Oak)</div>
<div>23</div> <div>9:45 am – Beginner French (Mural) 9:50am - French Conversation (DR) 10:45 am - German - Intermediate (Mural) 11 am -12:30 pm Poetry Writers’ Workshop (Mirror) 11am - Yoga (CCC) 12:30pm - Scrabble (Mural) 1 pm- Book Club “My Friends” (DR)</div>	<div>24</div> <div>10 am-Wingate Water Aerobics -Wingate Residences on East Side 10 am-Spanish I (Mural) 10:30am-Poetry Group (Oak) 11am-Exercise (Zoom) 11:30am-Spanish II (Mural) 1pm-Watercolor Studies (DR) 1pm-Tai Chi (Chapel Hall) 1 pm – 3 pm-Pottery (Pottery Studio)</div>	<div>25</div> <div>10 am – Writing &amp; Reading Memoir Workshop (Mural) 11 am-Wingate Water Aerobics-Wingate Residences on East Side 11am - Readings &amp; Discussion (DR) 1:30 pm -3:30 pm – TOUR: Prof Charlotte tour and discussion of Mary Williams Exhibit at John Brown House</div>	<div>26</div> <div>10 am-Wingate Water Aerobics-Wingate Residences on East Side 10am - Art Studio Group (Art Studio) 11am - Classic Novels (Mural)   Exercise (Zoom)   Tech Help. (By Appt.) 12:30 pm – Conversations in Science (Oak) 1pm - Bridge Club (Mural)   Watercolor: Intermediate (DR)   Women’s Health &amp; Wellness (Mirror)</div>	<div>27</div> <div>9:30 am-11 am – Mixed Media (Art Studio) 10 am- Friday Flicks (Mirror) 11 am - Backgammon (Mural) 11 am-Wingate Water Aerobics (Wingate Residences on the East Side) 12:30 pm-Men’s Group 1 pm – 2:30 pm – Silent Reading Group (Library) 3 pm – 5 pm – Monthly Friday Social</div>