



Dear Friends of ISH:

Happy New Year!

I am pleased to announce the launch of ISH's new website designed to keep residents, prospective residents, alumni, supporters and others informed of our activities and encourage participation in our programs. [\(Click here to view.\)](#)

This January issue of ISHues brings news of anniversaries, ISH alumni and current residents, all testifying to the fact that even after 75 years the International Student House community is as lively, interesting, and strong as ever.

We include a profile of a current resident, Amir Kamergi, from Tunisia on a Fulbright cultural exchange. Amir comes to the House from the barricades on the streets of Tunis, where the Arab spring began in early 2011.

Deborah Hefferon, former board member, had the good fortune to interview three alumni for this issue: Miralini Jasani Vogeler, from the 1950s, Ila Jasani Good, from the 1960s, and Bill Stubbs, from the 1970s. We will continue to look at the House through the eyes of alumni in future issues.

Finally, we encourage you to stay in touch with ISH. Join our mailing list and look us up on Facebook. Welcome back.

Tom O'Coin  
Executive Director



ISH Celebrates 75th in Style

**In This Issue**

- Happy 75th!
- Amir Kamergi
- The Jasani Sisters
- Bill Stubbs
- HOUSE CENTENNIAL!!
- New Board Members
- Keep in Touch!

**We want to keep in touch with you...**

More than 150 people attended the International Student House's 75th Anniversary Gala in October, dining and dancing and wishing ourselves a happy 75th in a glittering hall at the National Geographic Society's headquarters in Washington DC. From its beginnings in 1936 as an inspiration of the Washington Quaker Meeting, ISH has provided hospitality and community to over 10,000 graduate students, interns, and visiting scholars from more than 130 countries - and that's worth celebrating!

The evening began with cocktails in the exhibit hall, where guests enjoyed photographer Brian Skerry's exhibit "Ocean Soul." Some guests were treated to a special exhibit of historic photographs from the National Geographic archives, narrated by the evening's honoree, **Gilbert "Gil" Grosvenor**, chairman emeritus of the Society. Mr. Grosvenor was presented with the 2011 ISH Global Leadership Award, in appreciation of his distinguished work as a member of the international community, to promote intercultural dialogue and global citizenship. Mr. Grosvenor's award was presented by J. Willard Marriott, honorary patron of the event. Special thanks go to the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation for their generous sponsorship of the evening.

Also honored was **Jane S. Hart**, past president and longtime board member of ISH, who received the ISH Lifetime Service Award, recognizing her 40 years of dedicated service to ISH and her leadership of the board from 1987 to 1990.

Above photo: from left to right, Executive Director Tom O'Coin, Jane Hart, Bill Marriott, Gil Grosvenor, and Board Chair Put Ebinger.



Join the ISH Community! You can add your name to our mailing list by clicking on the link below, or keep in touch through our Facebook page.

[Join our email list!](#)

[Join us on Facebook!](#)

International Student House (ISH) is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to provide an exceptional residential experience to a highly diverse international community of graduate students, interns, and visiting scholars. The House promotes intercultural dialogue, encourages lifelong connections, and fosters global citizenship among the world's future leaders.

ISH receives support from corporations, foundations, and individuals.

We appreciate your support!

#### ISH Board of Trustees

Putnam Ebinger, President

Annette Aburdene,  
Vice President

Grace Tompkins,  
Vice President

Selby McPhee,  
Secretary

Lawrence Camp,  
Treasurer

Andrew Ammerman  
Adam Aulestia  
Malcolm Benge  
Nancy Buchanan  
William Crocker  
Lawrence Dunham  
Riaz Haider  
Richard Hall  
Kathryn Horlick

## Save the Date!

### Special Briefing: Netherlands Ambassador at ISH

Her Excellency Renee Jones-Bos, Ambassador of the Netherlands to the US, will brief the ISH community on international human rights and US-Dutch bi-lateral relations, on **Monday, February 13, 7 pm**. To RSVP, or for more information, call Judy Singer at 202-232-4007, ext. 210, or [jsinger@ishdc.org](mailto:jsinger@ishdc.org).



## Amir Kamergi Brings Arab Spring to ISH

ISH resident Amir Kamergi has been surprised at the level of curiosity residents have about each other's countries and cultures, how open everyone is to other perspectives at the House. For him, this is a special and invaluable quality of the environment of the International Student House. And he has had much to share with fellow residents and others.

Amir is in the U.S. this year, 2011-12, on a Fulbright cultural exchange program, working as a teaching assistant at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). There he teaches Arabic and Tunisian cultural history and this year, especially, that subject has been of particular interest to SAIS graduate students. Tunisia lit the spark that generated this year's extraordinary events in the Middle East, now known as the Arab Spring. At the beginning of each of his classes, he shows videos of the latest news from Tunisia, exposing students to the most current news while practicing their Arabic at the same time.

Amir, who earned his license in English literature and civilization at the Institute of Languages in Tunis, was the only member of his family to be involved in the protests and street fighting that brought down the repressive Tunisian government last January. He was one of thousands of young people who, inspired by social media, rose up in protest against

corruption and poor living conditions under the previous government. And he has burn scars on his shoulders to prove it. Now, he says, the general population of Tunisia is very involved in the country's politics. "Now that there is a new president, constitutional assembly, and president of parliament, Tunisia is more stable," he says. He is pleased to tell Tunisia's story to friends at ISH, and he has even made a documentary on the subject with another resident, Ani ?? from Armenia.

In addition to teaching at SAIS, Amir is taking a course on internet interaction, in preparation for his return to Tunis in May. There he hopes to teach English and technology, first in high schools and later at the university level. Meanwhile, while he is still here, he will continue to participate in his other favorite aspect of life at ISH - a richly talented musical community. He and fellow residents often play in Burling Hall on Sunday afternoons. A self-taught (left-handed!) guitarist, Amir particularly likes to play Flamenco music.

Ignacio Jauregui  
China Jessup  
Clifford Kendall  
Sherry Migdail  
Pam Mixer  
Robert Patterson  
Herbert Schmitz  
Jerrold Scoutt, Jr.  
Barbara Slavin  
Jessica Springsteen



## The Jasani Sisters Remember ISH

Miralini Jasani Vogeler, ISH resident in 1956, had such a memorable experience at ISH that she encouraged her sister Ila Jasani (now Good) to come to the House in her turn, from 1960 to 1962. More than 50 years later, they share their fond memories of their times here.

In her senior year of college, Mrinalini Jasani left Calcutta (now Kolkata), India and traveled to Allentown, PA to attend Cedar Crest College. She stayed with family friends. After graduating from Cedar Crest, Mrinalini was admitted to George Washington University for a one-year program in government and international relations, and was also enrolled in Institute of Languages at Georgetown for a semester. Her "so American" experience morphed into an international life when she found herself residing at the International Student House. "So many nationalities under one roof - it was like the United Nations! We didn't have problems living together because we had so much in common. We shared everything - we became like one. If we had visited each other in our own countries, we might have noticed differences, but at ISH, we were one."

Ila Jasani became acquainted with the House thanks to her sister, Mrinalini. As an undergraduate at Smith College, Ila visited her sister and hung out with her friends at I. House.

"In those days, ISH served as a nucleus for foreign students to hang out, a magnet. Being a foreign student was a very special thing then. People welcomed you and noticed you. They could not have been nicer. We were exotic, especially being female from India. The Friday night dances were very popular; students who were not residents but who studied at the surrounding schools also came. ISH was very accessible, a place to drop-in, feel at home, sort of a lonely hearts place. We could invite outsiders for Sunday dinners. People begged to be invited."

"Coming to the U.S. when a young, dynamic president had just been voted into office in 1961 gave us a sense of hope. Most of us at ISH were studying international relations or political science and we felt that we were part of something big and exciting. In addition to meeting JFK, we also met Supreme Court judges and senior statesmen - it was a special collection of experiences. ISH was the key to opening the door."

Ila adds, "The residents at ISH became our family because we came to Washington with no community. The other foreign students were our family."

## Architect Bill Stubbs '70-'71 Drew Life Design from ISH

William (Bill) Stubbs, International Student House (ISH) resident 1970-71, is a Houston-based, award-winning **American interior designer**, owner of William W. Stubbs & Associates, author, and television show host. He is recognized by **Architectural Digest** as one of its top 100 interior designers. While residing at ISH, he attended the International Institute of Interior Design (now incorporated with Marymount University, Arlington, VA)

As a sixth generation Texan growing up in a small town, Bill Stubbs surprised his family when he announced his decision to study interior design. His hopes were set on Parsons School of Design in New York City but his parents vetoed the school because of the location. Washington DC was deemed a more suitable city so Bill entered the International Institute of Interior Design (IIID) at 22nd & R Streets. (IIID shut its doors in 1990 and is now part of Marymount University.)

The International Student House (ISH) was the ideal place to live while Bill studied classical interior design with Wilhemina Boldt, the founder of IIID, in the early seventies. "I loved DC; I was in heaven!" He credits the combination of the academic program, ISH and being located in the heart of Washington DC as being a turning point in his life. His interests were broadened in ways he could not have imagined. "For a kid from a small town, DC was magnificent. I was awestruck."

"The history of the House, its permanence and presence, moved me. The architecture still influences me. I would stare at the details of the handrails, window moldings and other embellishments and try to imagine the long-ago conversations that took place among the designers. The House was rich with ornament."

Although Bill wasn't seeking an international living situation when he chose 1819 R Street as home, the impact of that cross-cultural year enriched his life almost as much as his academic program. He went on to work in Russia for 15 years and continues to travel for interior design assignments, global clientele and locations for "Moment of Luxury," the PBS series that he has hosted since its debut in April 2008.

To this day, the everlasting memory of "the passions of students from various world regions have helped me to understand the dynamics of world politics," Bill adds.

---

## A Centennial Anniversary in 2012

We're not finished with anniversaries! Next year ISH will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the historic Meserve/Lloyd House ([link to website for history of house](#)), the beautiful main building that serves as home to the International Student House. We are planning an event that will do justice to this Tudor-style mansion with its stunning medieval Burling Hall, built in 1912 by the American architect Wolcott Clarke Waggaman for the family of Henri Meserve, an international banker from Boston.

Look for more information from ISH about this event soon.

## Welcome New Board Members!

International Student House (ISH) is pleased to announce the election of six new members to the Board of Directors. This remarkably diverse and accomplished group of individuals increases the Board's level of expertise in business and finance, diplomacy and international affairs, education and the media.

**C. Andrew Ammerman** is President and CEO, CAA Consulting, LLC, a professional fundraising and marketing firm. Since 2006, Mr. Ammerman has served as Senior Executive Advisor of the Pentagon Memorial Fund and oversees its operations, fundraising efforts, and educational outreach activities.

**Adam Aulestia** is President and Principal of Aulestia Wealth Management, a financial planning and wealth management firm. Earlier in his career, Mr. Aulestia served in financial advisory positions with Morgan Stanley, Citigroup and the Federal Reserve Bank.

**Lawrence Dunham** is an Associate with the Washington Center for Protocol. He was previously Assistant Chief of Protocol with the US Department of State's Office of Protocol directing its Diplomatic Affairs Division which oversees relations with over 180 foreign embassies in Washington.

**Clifford Kendall** is the former Chairman and CEO of Computer Data Systems, Inc. (CDSI). Mr. Kendall currently serves as Chairman of the board of VSE Corporation, and on the boards of I360, Inc. and Burdeshaw Associates, Ltd. He and his wife, Camille, devote a great deal of his time and energy to higher education, and have endowed more than 50 scholarships.

**Barbara Slavin** is a Senior Fellow with the Atlantic Council of the United States. As a longtime journalist and media commentator, she has worked for the Washington Times, USA Today, the Economist, the New York Times and UPI. Ms. Slavin's work focuses on Iran, democracy promotion, the Arab-Israeli dispute and nuclear proliferation.

**Jessica Springsteen** is an Associate with the international law firm of Clifford Chance, LLP. Ms. Springsteen was previously with the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Finance Corporation. She is the wife of former ISH Board President George Springsteen, Jr.

### Contact Information

For more information about life at the International Student House, DC, contact Judy Singer, [jsinger@ishdc.org](mailto:jsinger@ishdc.org), 202-232-4007, ext. 212