

In League...

MIT
WOMEN'S
LEAGUE

February ~ March 2009

A quarterly newsletter



Group photo, from left: Katherine Ingle, Sis de Bordenave, Kate Baty, Kay Stratton (seated).

Top photo: Wendi Li.

Wiesner Awards

This past May, the Institute's annual Awards Convocation paid tribute to the recipients of the Laya Wiesner awards. The former MIT First Lady, an ardent supporter of the League, endeavored to make MIT a place where individual contributions that improved the Institute's quality of life were valued and acknowledged.

The Laya Wiesner Award honors an undergraduate woman who has enhanced community life while maintaining a good academic record. The 2008 award was presented to two seniors. Katherine Ingle was honored for her exemplary public service work in conceiving, planning and implementing a pandemic flu exercise as part of an Air Force ROTC training exercise. Wendi Li was cited for her leadership role in the MIT Society of Women Engineers and for her engineering outreach work with middle school and high school girls.

The Laya Wiesner Community Award recognizes a member or friend of the MIT community for service that reflects Mrs. Wiesner's concerns for enhancing life at the Institute and the world. League Staff Associate Sis de Bordenave was honored with this award for her service to the League and to the MIT community.

We applaud the 2008 award recipients for their achievements and invite League members to take part in nominating candidates for the 2009 awards. Each award carries a financial prize. Letters of nomination, briefly describing the candidate's qualifications, should be sent to the League office, Room 10-342, or via email to wleague@mit.edu by March 13. For further information, please call 617.253.3656.

More events coming . . .

At the time of publication, details of several March programs had yet to be confirmed. We will update you about those programs via email and our online calendar.

English Class Registration

Tuesday, February 3

Spring term registration will take place in the Student Center (W20), Room 491, from 9 am to 11:00 am. At that time, students will meet individually with teachers to determine their class levels—beginning, intermediate, or advanced. Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:15 am to 11:00 am. The class fee is \$80 and includes the cost of books, a weekly refreshment hour, and an end-of-term party. Babysitting is available during class time at a cost of \$150 per child. Childcare spaces are limited and are offered on a first come-first served basis. Classes will begin on Thursday, February 5, when all students will meet in Room 407 in the Student Center at 9:15 am for their class assignments.

These popular classes offer international wives the chance to learn or improve their English, make new friends, and grow more confident coping with life in the U.S. In addition, they learn about American life and about the cultures of their classmates. Please telephone Jan Kirtley at 617.277.2628 if additional information is needed.



Musical Interlude for a Busy Week

Thursday, February 12

This noontime concert in the MIT Chapel (W15) will feature Paula Downes, soprano; David Tripett, harpsichord; Jenn Bliss, recorder; Hanna Thomas, cello. Music by Purcell, Andrew Downes, Monteverdi, and Handel will be performed. We'll meet inside, in the hallway leading to the chapel, at 12:00 noon to hear the concert. Please tell us if you'd like to join us by contacting the league office, 617.253.3656 or wleague@mit.edu. And, if you have time and would like to have lunch afterward in the Student Center and talk about the music, please let us know.



Daffodil Days at MIT 2009 ~ Shelagh Joyce is New Chair

As the Women's League celebrates its Twelfth Year Anniversary, Janet Plotkin is stepping down and Shelagh Joyce, the Daffodil Days Coordinator at MIT Medical, has assumed the job of Chair of Daffodil Days at MIT! Under Shelagh, a dedicated group of women who are department coordinators have come forth to organize and oversee the various parts of the project. Marcia Tench-Mora, Jen Cook, and Gracie White have helped Shelagh organize the almost 100 department coordinators. Phyllis Collymore is handling the emails that are sent to the Daffodil Days Coordinators during the month of February. Linda Arduino, Kimberly Balkus, Fran Chaput, Judith Freeman, Margaret Killough, Olga Parkin, Whitney Rokui, Maggie Sullivan, and Meg Westlund are helping organize the Daffodil Days order packets and the flower delivery.

The League started MIT's Daffodil Days campaign with sixteen departments in 1998 and has continued to add departments, labs, and offices to the campaign each year. Last year, over \$38,000 was raised for cancer research, treatment, and education and over 500 vases of daffodils (Gifts of Hope) were delivered to MGH and Mt. Auburn Hospital cancer patients. In addition, the delivery of Teddy Bears to children being treated for cancer at

MGH and Children's Hospital was added to the campaign's donation options. During the eleven years of Institute-wide participation, MIT faculty, staff and students have raised a total of \$253,000.

March 16 has been designated as Daffodil Delivery Day this year. The flowers, trucked to Cambridge from Washington state, will arrive on Friday, March 13. Volunteers are needed that day to organize bouquet bundles for delivery. On Monday morning, March 16, we need more volunteers to help deliver the flowers to each department across the MIT campus.

If you would like to join this team of volunteers please call Sis de Bordenave in the League office at 671.253.3656 as soon as possible. This has become a very joyful and enriching happening at MIT of which the Women's League is rightfully proud. Consider becoming one of those people who makes it happen!



Connections

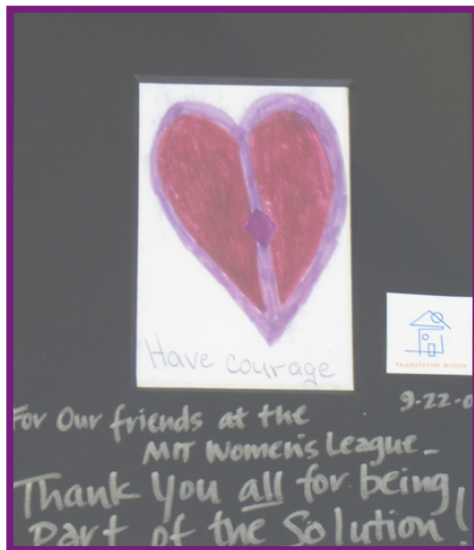
February 12 • March 12

Connections can make your day! These informal open house gatherings from 4 pm to 6 pm offer opportunities for conversation with other women affiliated with MIT while enjoying light refreshments.

As you know, there are remarkable women in the MIT community and this is a wonderful way to meet some of them. While many live locally, others from around the nation and the world are making MIT their home for a period of time.

Come when you can and stay as long as you can. You never know who will attend. More often than not, our monthly Thursday afternoon gatherings introduce you to people you might otherwise never meet.

We look forward to seeing you.



New Furnishings for Transitional Living Facility

There is something new hanging on the wall in the MIT Women's League Office. It's a drawing by a child, one of the residents of **Transition House**, a shelter for victims of domestic abuse. It is more than a child's drawing, however, as it was presented to the MIT Women's League by Cambridge Mayor Denise Simmons at an award ceremony in the fall that honored organizations for their outstanding contribution in Cambridge. The Women's League was recognized for its efforts last spring to find baby cribs and supplies for the newborn babies of three residents of Transition House. Through the generous outpouring of the MIT community and friends, the babies were well supplied and are thriving.

The Women's League's latest project in support of Transition House is that of furnishing the living room in a transitional living facility—the intermediate step between the emergency shelter and permanent living. Three women and

their children live there. Each family has a bedroom and shares a common living space sparsely supplied with mismatched and less-than-comfortable furniture.

Our Furniture Exchange seemed like the perfect place to begin investigating furnishing possibilities and we were successful! We were able to find some lovely items—all in great condition, color-coordinated, and comfortable. We were very pleased to be able to provide these items for the women and their children. It is our hope that they will enjoy their comfortable and attractive surroundings as they prepare to move on in their lives to independent living.

The requested monthly donation items listed below can be dropped off at the League office, 10-342, before the end of each month.

February — Comforters/sheets (full and twin) and Charlie Cards with added value

March — Diapers (size 4 and 5) and Charlie Cards with added value

April — Lightweight blankets and Charlie Cards with added value

May — Flip-flops (all sizes) and Charlie Cards with added value

Gift cards to Stop & Shop, Market Basket, CVS or Walgreens are always welcome. Transition House is happy to provide tax receipt letters for donations.

Notable

2/25

Book Discussion:
*She's Not There:
A Life in Two Genders*
by Jennifer
Finney Boylan

3/25

Book Discussion:
Roadwalkers
by Shirley An Grau

League Interest Groups and Classes

LEARNING MORE

Book Discussion

Nancy Hollomon
farmthe@opifce.com

Chorale

Elizabeth Parr
617.253.4252, eaparr@mit.edu
web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale

Looking Together

Ann Allen
617.527.7292
annallen@rle.mit.edu

INTERNATIONAL

Ikebana — Japanese Flower Arranging

Mabel Nevins
781.272.1556
mrnevins@comcast.net

Japanese Tea Ceremony

Kyoko Wada
chado@mit.edu
web.mit.edu/chado/www/index.html

Middle Eastern Dance

Loni Butera
617.491.5657, loni@mit.edu

WORKING WITH YOUR HANDS

Informal Needlework

Lillian Alberty
617.491.3689
Beth Harling
781.749.4055

MIT Gardeners' Group

League Office
617.253.3656, wleague@mit.edu
web.mit.edu/womensleague/gardeners

Scrapbooking & Card Making

Teri Chung
tchung@mit.edu
web.mit.edu/scrapbook

Tech Community Crafters

Brenda Blais
bmbalais@mit.edu

NEW FRIENDS AND CONTACTS

Adventures in Eating

Judi Babcock
781.275.1183

CitySide Dining

League Office
617.253.3656, wleague@mit.edu

MIT Japanese Wives Group

Kimie Shirasaki
781.721.2517

Suburban Diners

League Office
617.253.3656, wleague@mit.edu

Groups meet weekly, semi-monthly or monthly. Call or write to learn more about their groups.



Spring Cleaning?

Find New Homes For Clean, Gently Used —

- **Winter Clothes**
Coats, Jackets, Hats, Gloves, Mittens, Scarves
- **Interview Clothes**
Women's and Men's Suits, Blouses, Shirts, Ties
- **Formal Wear**
Dresses, Gowns, Tuxedos, Accessories

For over fourteen years, the Clothing Service Program of the MIT Women's League has held an annual September event to supply free clothing to our international undergraduate students whose budgets are constantly stretched.

- Donations are welcome all year.
- Your donation is tax deductible and we supply a receipt for income tax purposes.
- Clothing items may be brought to the Women's League Office.

Please contact Sis de Bordenave before you bring your donation: 617.253.3656 or <esdeb@mit.edu>.

Gibson House Museum Tour

Wednesday, February 18 — 1:00 PM

Join us for a one-hour guided tour of the Gibson House, a Victorian Boston time capsule. This historic house museum, a National Historic Landmark, was built in an area that was once the "Mud Flats." To accommodate the fast-growing city, Boston undertook the ambitious redevelopment of that area by filling it in and reclaiming 400 acres of new land—the largest public works project of its time. We know that new land today as Boston's Back Bay.

In 1861, widow Catherine Gibson and her son Charles made the pioneering move from the top of Beacon Hill to their four-level brownstone and red brick house designed by Boston architect Edward Clarke Cabot in the newly developing Back Bay. *MIT, with the nation's first School of Architecture, also made Back Bay its home at this time.*

Three generations of Gibsons lived in the house before it officially became a museum in 1957. The house is a treasure trove to students and lovers of late 19th- and early 20th-century architecture, decorative arts and social history. Senator Edward Kennedy has said: "The Gibson House is a rare gem of a building. Its interiors and family belongings remain intact."

General Information

The MIT Women's League newsletter is published four times during the academic year. The deadline for the April/May issue is March 1. All items should be sent to the Women's League office.

Please call the League office for a hard copy of the newsletter and for answers to questions you may have. The office can also arrange for your membership.

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MIT Women's League Office



The museum, located at 137 Beacon Street, between Arlington and Berkeley Streets, can be reached from the Arlington Street T stop on the Green Line. Walk from the Berkeley Street exit four blocks to Beacon Street and turn right to #137.

We'll meet at the museum at 1:00 pm. For those not familiar with the area, a group will meet at 12:30 pm at the Kendall T station, downstairs on the inbound platform ready to go together to the museum. Please contact the League office at 253.3656 or wleague@mit.edu to reserve your place. Admission is \$7.00 (seniors, \$5; children \$2).



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Contact
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