

In League...

MIT
WOMEN'S
LEAGUE

A quarterly newsletter

February – March 2010



English Conversation Class Registration

**Tuesday, February 2 • 9 am – 11 am
Stratton Student Center, Room 491**

Spring term registration will be held in the Student Center (W20), Room 491, on February 2 from 9 am to 11 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 am. The class fee is \$80 and includes the cost of books 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 4, when all students will meet again in Room 491 in the Student Center at 9:15 am for their class assignments.

These popular classes offer international women at MIT 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.

Painting Conservation

**Friday, February 5 • 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Bush Room (10-105)**

Painting conservator Theresa Carmichael will lecture on the art of painting conservation and will focus on the restoration of paintings to preserve and extend the life of an artwork as well as the owner's investment. This will be done through a Power Point presentation, which will give us an understanding of the process of preserving a painting and some ideas for preserving one's own paintings.

Carmichael, owner of Carmichael Art Conservation, is a Bedford resident and member of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works and the New England Conservation Association, among other professional conservation societies. She received diplomas in painting conservation from the Courtauld Institute of Art in London, the International University of Art in Florence, Italy, and the Center for Conservation and Technical Studies at the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University.

Her conservation work has been performed for numerous private and public clients, including Boston College, Brandeis University, the Trustees of Reservations, the Massachusetts Historical Society, Plimouth Plantation, the Cambridge Historical Commission, the Concord Art Museum, and the Peabody Essex Museum.

The Women's League invites members of the MIT community to bring their paintings to the talk for her expert examination. Carmichael will happily answer questions posed regarding the care of artwork, in general, as well as the pieces that are brought to the lecture. Carmichael Art Conservation specializes in **oil on canvas or panel, acrylics and tempera only**. They do not handle watercolors or other art items on paper.

The lecture is free and open to the MIT community.



“Let that Stress Go!” Lunchtime Relaxation for Women

**Two Mondays: 2/1, 3/15
12–1 pm, Emma Rogers Room (10-340)**

Back by popular demand! Please join us for two more relaxation sessions to soothe the mind and body led by Lynn Roberson. Her gentle approach through easy-to-do breath techniques, a guided imagery journey, and comfortable seated movement stretches is a very calming and enjoyable way to unwind.

You will take home relaxation tools, and most importantly, you will receive an hour of giving yourself much deserved TLC (tender loving care). Beginners and experienced relaxation enthusiasts are welcome. No prior experience necessary.

Come to one session or come to both! Contact the League office at 617.253.3656 or wleague@mit.edu to make your reservation. **Free.**

About the Presenter:

Lynn Roberson has supported women’s well-being at the Institute for over 20 years and has offered various forms of relaxation programs to the MIT community. Through the Women’s League, Roberson is very pleased to offer this lunchtime program again.



Focus on the Arts • Composer Elena Ruehr

**Friday, February 12 • 12:00 noon
Emma Rogers Room (10-340)**

Please join us for our annual Focus on the Arts program and hear composer Elena Ruehr talk about her exciting new fifth string quartet, *Bel Canto*, based on Ann Patchett’s novel of the same title. This is a unique opportunity to learn more about the quartet and meet its accomplished composer before the work’s East Coast premiere at Wellesley College on Wednesday, March 17, at 8 pm.

Elena Ruehr has been called a “composer to watch” by *Opera News*, and her music has been described as “stunning... beautifully lighted by a canny instinct for knowing when and how to vary key, timbre, and harmony.” Dr. Ruehr studied at the University of Michigan and the Juilliard School of Music and has been a faculty member at MIT since 1991. She has also had commissions, awards and residencies with leading ensembles and presenters across the country including the Shanghai, Borromeo and Cypress Quartets, the Washington Chorus, the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Opera

Boston, the Metamorphosen Chamber Ensemble, and the Rockport Chamber Music Festival—to name a few, When commissioned by the San Francisco-based Cypress String Quartet this year to create a piece inspired by literature, she immediately chose *Bel Canto*, saying “This quartet is like an opera distilled to its essence. The characters and themes of the book are explored through 9 short miniatures. In the final movement, there is a development of the musical ideas that follows the internal trajectory of the story in a way that music can describe and words cannot.”

The March 17 concert performed by the Cypress String Quartet will be a really interesting, cross disciplinary concert for music and literature fans. Along with Elena’s new quartet, the Cypress will also play arrangements of songs that diva Roxanne Cass sang in the novel *Bel Canto*, with Wellesley Soprano Andrea Matthews playing the title role. In addition, Ms. Matthews will perform Schubert’s song “Death and the Maiden” and the Cypress Quartet will then perform the string quartet based on his song. Where else but through the combination of music and words can one find oneself traveling from modern day Boston to 18th century Vienna to the midst of a terrorist plot in Latin America, all in the course of one evening?

You are welcome to bring a bag lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Call the League office at 617.253.3656 or email wleague@mit.edu to save your seat for this occasion.

The Wellesley College concert organizers invite book clubs to celebrate the novel by attending the Cypress String Quartet’s performance on March 17. Book clubs that participate have the chance to attend a post-concert reception with the artists of the Quartet and composer Elena Ruehr.

Connections

February 11 • March 11

Our informal monthly gatherings from 4 pm to 6 pm offer opportunities for conversation with other women affiliated with

MIT, while enjoying light refreshments. 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 like. You never know who will attend.

More often than not, these afternoon occasions introduce you to people you might otherwise never meet.

We look forward to seeing you.



Photo: Ed Quinn

Breakfast Series

Wednesday, March 10 • 8:00 am
Emma Rogers Room (10-340)

The Women's League is planning its Breakfast Series program for women in the MIT community. These popular, twice-yearly "breakfast talks" are informal, early morning get-togethers that explore the role of women in the academe. Guest speakers are drawn from the academic and administrative sides of the Institute to share personal accounts of their professional accomplishments.

The first speaker for 2010 is **Professor Mildred Dresselhaus**, Institute Professor and Professor of Physics and Electrical Engineering. She is one of MIT's pioneers in advancing opportunities for women in science and engineering. A US National Medal of Science awardee, Professor Dresselhaus's research interests are in electronic materials, particularly in nano science and nanotechnology. Her talk will touch on what led her to MIT, the importance of her mentors, and the influences that helped to steer her towards her current path of academic exploration.

Professor Dresselhaus has greatly enjoyed her career in science. On her experience working with MIT students, she says, "I like to be challenged. I welcome the hard questions and having to come up with good explanations on the spot. That's an experience I really enjoy." Thus far, she has graduated over 60 Ph.D. students.

Breakfast seating is limited. Tickets are available on a "first-come, first-served" basis at a cost of \$12.00 and can be purchased from Sis de Bordenave in the League office, 10-342. Breakfast is served promptly at 8:00 am



MIT Women's Chorale Winter/Spring Term

Come Sing with the MIT Women's Chorale!

Together with our director Kevin Galiè, we welcome new singers into a 77-year old tradition of music and community. Our spring program includes the Fishermen's Mass, co-authored by Gabriel Fauré and to be performed with chamber orchestra, Chinese folk songs, and the Gypsies' Chorus from Verdi's *La Traviata*.

The last day to join is February 4.

The first rehearsal for our concert in May is January 21st at 7:15 pm in 10-340.

For more information please visit web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale or email eaparr@mit.edu.

Notable

2/24
Book Discussion:
The Senator's Wife
by Sue Miller

3/24
Book Discussion:
*Saving Fish
From Drowning*
by Amy Tan

League Interest Groups and Classes

LEARNING MORE

Book Discussion

Barbara Donnelly
781.646.4617
Judith Lippard
jacs@mit.edu

Chorale

Elizabeth Parr
617.324.1487
eaparr@mit.edu
web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale

Looking Together

Ann Allen
617.527.7292
annallen@rle.mit.edu

INTERNATIONAL

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

Tech Community Crafters

Brenda Blais
bmblais@mit.edu

NEW FRIENDS AND CONTACTS

CitySide Dining

League Office
wleague@mit.edu

MIT Japanese Wives Group

Kimie Shirasaki
781.721.2517
jmitjwg@yahoo.co.jp

Groups meet weekly, bi-monthly or monthly. Contact the above women to learn more about their groups.



Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez Director, North Bennet Street School

Friday, March 19 • 12:30 pm
Emma Rogers Room (10-340)

The North Bennet Street School enjoys a distinct reputation for excellence. It's a "place that sustains tradition in craftsmanship." Training people for employment since 1885, it pioneered the concept of intensive instruction for the purpose of learning a trade. Today, those trades include bookbinding, cabinet and furniture making, carpentry, jewelry making and repair, locksmithing, piano technology, preservation carpentry, and violin making as well as repair.

Please join us for a special talk with Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez, Executive Director of the North Bennet Street School in Boston's North End, in preparation for our tour of this special school in April.

Mr. Gómez-Ibáñez combined his career practicing architecture with his North Bennet Street School training as a cabinetmaker to become a nationally recognized designer and maker of studio furniture. He has contributed articles and essays on furniture and design to a number of books and magazines, including *Fine Woodworking*, *Woodworker's Journal*, and *Furniture Studio*. His work has also been featured in *House and Garden*, *Good Housekeeping*, *American Craft*, and *Accent* magazines and has been exhibited in galleries and museums across the country.

It will be a wonderful occasion to hear from him and have the opportunity to ask questions at this "bring your lunch" talk about his work and the North Bennet Street School.

Please contact Sis de Bordenave at 617.253.3656 or wleague@mit.edu to let her know you wish to attend.



Custodial Services supervisor Paul Pino and instructor Tara Walor present students from the Wednesday class with certificates of completion for the first semester. (l to r) Maria Frias, Paul Pino, Man "Tommy" Wong, Tseten Chodon, and Tara Walor. Students not in photo: Aguinalda Fernandes and Dolma Tsering.

Facilities ESL Program

Follow-up stories featuring the new ESL program sponsored by the Women's League and one of its teachers have appeared in the Facilities newsletter *The Foundation* and the Sloan School publication *News@MITSloan*. We learned from the Fall 2009 issue that Facilities service staff whose first language is not English are greatly benefiting from the ESL program. The "Did You Know..." section of the October 19 issue of *News@MITSloan* focused upon program teacher Tara Walor, Director of Sloan Educational Services, one of the 27 volunteers involved with this program.

The success of the summer pilot program for day shift employees, led to additional training for those students and to a second pilot program for evening shift employees this fall. The third semester, begun in January, has continued the training for the employees of both shifts. Now under consideration is the possibility of extending the basic ESL instruction to beginning work on pre-GED material.

The teachers, students, and their supervisors are captured in the photos above and below.

To read the articles in both publications, visit http://web.mit.edu/facilities/about/newsletter/Facilities_newsletter_Fall2009.pdf and http://mitsloan.mit.edu/pdf/NewsAtMITSloan_Issue156.pdf



Director of Operations and Security John DiFava and instructors Ellen Stordy and Laurie Scott present students from the Tuesday/Thursday class with certificates of completion for the first semester. (l to r) John DiFava, Joseph Damaso, Treva Sheets, Karma Lama, Maria I. Brum, Karma Nyimotsang, Ellen Stordy, and Laurie Scott. Students not in photo: Karma Mulug-Labrang, Tsering Mulug, and Fernanda Freitas.



l to r: Barbara Smith, Fiona Hughes and former League Chair Kate Baty.

Wiesner Awards

Former MIT First Lady, Laya Wiesner, 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. To honor her, the League created two awards in her memory that are presented annually in May at the Institute's Awards Convocation.

The Laya Wiesner Award honors an undergraduate woman who has enhanced community life while maintaining a good academic record. The 2009 award was presented to senior Fiona Hughes for her combination of academic prowess, thoughtfulness and caring, and her willingness to go above and beyond as demonstrated in the leadership roles she played in the Women's Independent Living Group to effect positive change, her work to expand and enhance the experience of the Solar Electric Vehicle Team, and her tutorial role with the Wheelchair Design for Developing Nations seminar.

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 in the world. Barbara Smith, in the Department of Mechanical Engineering was presented the 2009 award for her community building efforts to enhance the life of Support Staff employees — for making MIT a welcoming, nurturing, and supportive environment for individuals inside and outside of MIT.

We applaud the 2009 award recipients for their achievements and invite League members to take part in nominating candidates for the 2010 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 12**. For further information, please call 617.253.3656.



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 fifteen 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>](mailto:esdeb@mit.edu).

Catherine Stratton Portrait

To honor former First Lady Catherine Stratton on the occasion of her ninety-sixth birthday, the Women's League Executive Board voted unanimously to move her portrait to the Emma Rogers Room. Her portrait has long resided in the lounge bearing her name on the second floor of the Stratton Student Center. Mrs. Stratton's request was to "join the other ladies." The other First Ladies whose portraits hang in the Emma Rogers Room include Elizabeth Johnson, Laya Wiesner, Priscilla Gray, Rebecca Vest, and Emma Rogers as a young girl.



This decision was made with the full agreement of Phil Walsh, Director of the Campus Activities Complex; the approval of Joan Whitlow, Registrar and Collections Manager of the MIT Museum; and the Office of the President. A replica of the portrait, which was made to replace the original, now hangs in the Catherine Stratton Lounge in the Student Center.



Daffodil Days 2010

This year the Women's League celebrates its thirteenth year of participation in the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days fundraising effort. Shelagh Joyce, Chair of Daffodil Days at MIT, has once again drawn together a dedicated group of women to plan the MIT campaign. Shelagh, Marcia Tench-Mora, Jen Cook, Gracie White, and Phyllis Collymore (all Daffodil Days department coordinators themselves), as well as former Daffodil Days chair Janet Plotkin, will organize the Institute's 100+ participating departments, labs, and offices and oversee this project

The League started MIT's Daffodil Days campaign with sixteen departments in 1998 and has continued to add to that number each year. Last year, over \$33,000 was raised for cancer research, treatment, and education. Over 200 vases of daffodils (Gifts of Hope) were delivered to MGH and Mt. Auburn Hospital cancer patients and 400 Teddy Bears were delivered to children being treated for cancer at MGH and Children's Hospital. During the eleven years of Institute-wide participation, MIT faculty, staff and students have raised a total of \$288,588.

March 15 has been designated as Daffodil Delivery Day this year. The flowers, trucked to Cambridge from Washington state, will arrive on Friday, March 12. Volunteers are needed to bundle daffodil bouquet orders at the Cold Storage Warehouse on March 12 and to sell bouquets in Lobby 10 and the Student Center, Thursday and Friday, March 18 and 19, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

If you would like to join this team of volunteers, please contact the League office at 617.253.3656 or wleague@mit.edu. Over time, 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!



Transition House

Our affiliation with Transition House is one we value and wholeheartedly support. The Women's League collaboration began in February 2006 and since then, with the help of League members, we've developed a strong partnership. One of the ways we help is to give monthly contributions of specified items for the shelter. MIT family and friends continue to generously donate to the monthly requests of Transition House.

The items requested for the months of **February and March** are:

- Twin size sheets
- Charlie Cards with added value
- Pots and pans

Always needed are gift cards to Market Basket and CVS; and monetary donations are always welcome.

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.

Staff Associate
Sis de Bordenave
League Chair
Sandra Boynton
Honorary Chair
Priscilla Gray
Design
Tim Blackburn Design

Thank you!



Dear MIT Women,

We are very grateful and thank so many of you who have generously replied to our annual appeal letter of December 2009. During these economic times, we sincerely appreciate your understanding that maintaining our existing programs and having options to create new ones for the enrichment of the MIT community is necessary and has value.

If you have not already responded, you should know that we welcome continued contributions throughout the year and, once again, invite you to support the work of so many dedicated women here at the Institute. These are the volunteers who lend their time and energy to the service projects, programs and social activities, which are at the heart of the League's mission and goals.

A new option for online giving will become available March 1, making donating to the League as easy and quick as a few clicks on our website. As soon as this option becomes available, we will advise you by email.

This winter issue of *In League...* offers you many wonderful opportunities to learn, explore and participate so, as always, please join us.

Sandra Boynton
Chair



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