

In League...



April ~ May 2009

A quarterly newsletter



Slate of Officers Vote at Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 13

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of elective officers for the Women's League Board:

For two (2) years:

Sandra Boynton, Chair;
Kim Watson, Vice Chair for Programs;
Ellen Stordy, Vice Chair for Social Activities

Continuing their unexpired terms for one (1) more year are Deborah Liverman, Vice Chair for Service Projects; Diana Strange, Treasurer; Suzanne Collins, Nominating Chair. Additional nominations for the above positions may be made by endorsement in writing by twenty-five (25) active members and filed with the WL Secretary ten (10) days before the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2009.

New names may be added to the appointed Board and a complete list of all Board members will appear in the Annual Report at the May 13th Annual Meeting. For further information, please call Women's League Staff Associate Sis de Bordenave at the League office at 617.253.3656.

Suzanne Collins
Carolyn Parker
Nominating Committee

Wellesley College Greenhouses

Wednesday, April 15

On Wednesday April 15 at 11:00 am the MIT Women's League will visit the **Margaret C. Ferguson Greenhouses** at Wellesley College. The amazing set of greenhouses there offers a chance to experience plant life from the deserts of Mexico and Africa to the rainforests of Malaysia and Brazil. Seasonal displays combine with permanent collections to present an ever-changing immersion in the wonderful world of plants.

We are going to get a personal tour guided by members of the Wellesley Friends of Horticulture. Our guides will be headed up by Gail Kahn, an MIT graduate, and an active member of the Friends of Horticulture. We will be taken in groups of six to tour over 14 interconnected greenhouses.

The Wellesley College Botanic Garden (WCBG) is a campus treasure. In addition to the greenhouses, the **Alexandra Botanic Garden** has specimen trees and shrubs from around the world in a picturesque landscape. A tiny brook

winds through the garden from a waterfall to Paramecium Pond. The **H. H. Hunnewell Arboretum** has several different habitats, including a maple swamp, meadow, and fragments of different forest types, with mostly native species. Other specialized gardens include a green roof planted with native species, a dwarf conifer garden, and a butterfly garden.

To reserve your place on the tour, please contact Sis in the League office at 617.253.3656 or email wleague@mit.edu. If interested, we can arrange to go from MIT in carpools. For those of you who would like to meet us at Wellesley at the greenhouses at 10:55 am, let Sis know and she'll send you directions.





“Ask Your Doctor”... Medications, Marketing and Safety

Thursday, May 14 • 4 to 6 pm

Wong Auditorium in MIT’s Jack C. Tang Center, Building E51, will be the venue for the 22nd Annual Catherine N. Stratton Aging Successfully Lecture on May 14th from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. A collaborative project of MIT’s Medical Department, Age Lab and Women’s League, the 2009 lecture will address the issue of medications: how they are developed, tested, distributed/prescribed; the risks and benefits of these practices; and some innovative approaches to using them safely.

So many of us are tied to a few “pills” a day: perhaps vitamin supplements, cholesterol or hypertension-lowering meds. We seem to be bombarded in the media with newer drugs claiming arthritis-like pain reduction or breathing ease for our allergies. So we ask ourselves: Is newer better for me? And how would this new substance improve my plight, or interact with my current drug regime? Each of these ads comes with the warning “Ask your doctor.”

Our distinguished panelists will share their experiences in tackling this very current medical challenge.

Moderator:

William M. Kettyle, MD, Director of MIT’s Medical Department, Internist, Endocrinologist, and Geriatrician, well known for his award-winning teaching skills, will outline our topic and assure a fruitful discussion on the state of medication/drug development, marketing practices, delivery and safe and appropriate medical outcomes.

Marcia Angell, MD, former Editor-in-Chief of the New England Journal of Medicine, a board-certified pathologist, and Senior lecturer in Harvard Medical School’s Department of Social Medicine, is known for her forthright opinions on medical practices and their unhealthy shortcomings. In 2004, she published *The Truth About the Drug Companies: How they Deceive Us and What to Do About It*.

Leslie Jackowski, MBBS (MD), Visiting Scholar on Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences, is a physician experienced in evaluating the risks, benefits and costs of medications, and in developing/implementing programs to educate physicians about appropriate prescribing. His current work focuses on using educational outreach (“academic detailing”) to facilitate good clinical decision-making through the provision of independent, evidence-based information to physicians.

A question and answer period will follow the presentations.



Spring Crafts Fair

May 21 and 22 • 9 am to 5 pm

The Spring Craft Fair in Lobby 10 is the ideal place to find a birthday gift, hostess gift, graduation gift or any other type of gift. During this two-day sale, crafters will be selling beautiful handmade soaps as well as handmade wooden puzzles. Jewelry in a wide range of styles and material including dichroic glass, an amazing material developed for the aerospace industry, will be for sale as will scrapbooking supplies, and more. Don’t hesitate to stop by and browse.

If you are a crafter and would like to display your work at the fair, email craft fair coordinator Brenda Blais at bmblais@mit.edu. She will be happy to send you an electronic application and provide you with the particulars.

Connections

April 16 • May 21

Each month during the academic year, the Women’s League hosts **Connections** in the Emma Rogers Room (10-340) from 4 pm to 6 pm. These informal monthly open houses with coffee, tea and sweets began in 2001 and continue to provide ways for the

League to meet and welcome newcomers as well as stay in touch with its members.

We hope you can join us and encourage you to bring a newcomer, a colleague, or a friend along with you. Come when you can and stay for as long as you can. To accommodate other

calendar entries, our next Connections will be deferred a week, to April 16 and May 21. We look forward to seeing you!



Wilhelmina Cole Holladay, co-founder of the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 13 • 12 noon

The Annual Meeting of the Women's League will take place May 13 at 12:00 noon in the Emma Rogers Room, 10-340. You are invited to join us for our business meeting when a summary of the League's activities and business of the past academic year will be presented. Also, new and returning Board Officers for the slate will be introduced and presented for election. This year we are most fortunate to be welcoming Wilhelmina Cole Holladay, co-founder of the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., as our speaker. Please come and enjoy the company of women from all corners of the MIT community and enjoy a delicious luncheon at our annual meeting.

The National Museum for Women in the Arts is the only museum in the world dedicated exclusively to recognizing the contributions of women artists. Our guest speaker, Wilhelmina Cole Holladay, will be telling us about the founding of the museum and the importance of volunteerism. Mrs. Holladay and her husband,

Wallace, began collecting art in the 1960s and upon the realization of the under-representation of women artists in major art collections, committed themselves to assembling a collection to solely showcase women's art. The museum, incorporated in November 1981, operated for 5 years at their residence, and since 1983 is housed in a beautifully refurbished former Masonic Temple near the White House. A growing network of State Committees is being created to bring awareness of art in local communities. The website for the museum is www.nmwa.org.

Mrs. Holladay's passion for art and her drive to illuminate the talents of women artists, who have been largely transparent throughout history, impacts her work, which has been felt around the world. She is listed not only in Who's Who of American Women, but also Who's Who in American Art and in the World. She holds several honorary degrees. In 2006 she received the National Medal of Arts from the U.S. and the Legion d'honneur from the French Government. In 2007 she received the Gold Medal for the Arts from the National Arts Club in NYC.

To reserve your place at the luncheon meeting, please contact Sis de Bordenave at 617.253.3656 or email wleague@mit.edu. Cost for the luncheon is \$15.

Notable

4/25
Book Discussion:
The Omnivore's Dilemma,
Michael Pollan

5/27
Book Discussion:
China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power,
Rob Gifford
(rescheduled from January)

League Interest Groups and Classes

LEARNING MORE

Book Discussion

Nancy Hollomon
farmthe@opifce.com

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

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
bmblais@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 Concert

Sunday, May 17 • 3 pm

THE MANY FACES OF LOVE: From Magic to the Divine is the title of the spring concert that will be performed by the MIT Women's Chorale in Elizabeth Killian Hall (14W) at 160 Memorial Drive, Cambridge.

Under the fervent direction of Kevin Galiè and accompanied by Emily Taylor, the Chorale will perform Johannes Brahms: Four Songs for Women's Chorus, Two Horns, and Harp, op. 17; Eric Whitacre: Five Hebrew Love Songs; Music of Bach, Verdi, Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn, Lauridsen, and Abbess Hildegard von Bingen. The concert is free. A reception will follow the performance.

To learn more about the group and how to join, please visit: web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale/.



Tour of Fenway Park

Thursday, May 21 • 11 am

Please join the Women's League for a tour of Fenway Park, the most historic and beloved of all America's ballparks.

Though generations have come and gone, Fenway Park remains, much like it did the day it opened on April 20, 1912. On opening day the Red Sox defeated the New York Highlanders (later named the Yankees) 7-6 in 11 innings before 27,000 fans. Tris Speaker drove in the winning run.

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- Fenway Park has one of the last hand-operated scoreboards in the Major Leagues in the left-field wall. Green and red lights are used to signal balls, strikes, and outs.
- Fenway Park's peculiar dimensions were not intended to provide a tempting target for home run hitters, but to keep non-paying customers out of the park.
- No player has ever hit a home run over the right-field roof at Fenway Park.

Come on the tour to learn more about this old ballpark and the Boston Red Sox! We will meet at the Kendall Station at 10am to take the Red Line and then the Green Line to Kenmore Station. Then we will walk the short distance to Fenway Park. (Down Brookline Ave., left onto Yawkey Way and a few steps down to Gate A. where we will enter the park.)

Please come to celebrate spring and the Red Sox at Fenway Park!! Tour fees, to be paid at the ballpark, are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children. To reserve your place on the tour, contact Sis in the League office at 617.253.3656 or email wleague@mit.edu.

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### A few Fenway Park Ground Rules

- A ball going through scoreboard, either on the bound or fly, is two bases.
- A ball striking the top of the scoreboard in left field in the ladder below top of wall and bounding out of the park is two bases.
- A fly ball striking left-center field wall to right of line behind flagpole is a home run.
- A fly ball striking wall or flagpole and bounding into bleachers is a home run.



## Summertime FX Volunteers

The Furniture Exchange (FX) can use your help for 2 hours or more in the summertime:

- Tues & Thurs. 10 am – 4 pm (busiest from 2 pm – 4 pm)
- 1st Sat. of the month 10 am – 1 pm

You can come once, you can come more than once, but come and help (no heavy lifting). You will meet fascinating people!

Please think of us when you are spring cleaning this year. We are always in need of donations. Whether it is furniture, small appliances, glassware, decorative items or linens, we can find them great homes!

To learn more, please visit: [web.mit.edu/womensleague/fx/](http://web.mit.edu/womensleague/fx/)



## Spring Cleaning?

### Find New Homes For Clean, Gently Used —

#### • Winter Clothes

Coats, Jackets, Hats, Gloves, Mittens, Scarves, (like new) snow boots (Especially women's sizes: Small [Petite, XS, S] and medium)

#### • Interview Clothes

Women's Suits, Blouses & Dresses  
Especially sizes: Petite, XS, S, 0-8)

Men's Suits, White or Blue Dress Shirts & Neckties (Especially Small sizes):  
Slacks: 30–32" waist, 28–29" length;  
Suits: 38–40" regular, Shirts: 14–15 ½" neck, 32–35" sleeve)

#### • 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 email [wleague@mit.edu](mailto:wleague@mit.edu).

## Transition House Update

Transition House, a shelter for women and children victims of domestic violence located in Cambridge, is getting an increased number of calls since the economic downturn. Although there isn't a real correlation between socioeconomic status and violence, economic strife makes people feel more stressed and there are fewer resources available to help them. Our affiliation and support of Transition House is more important than ever, as they are receiving many calls for intervention. One of the ways we help them is to give monthly contributions of specified items for the shelter. MIT family and friends are a continuous means of resources, as each month the community members bring in either the specified items of something the member would like to give.

These are the requests for the following months:

**April:** Lightweight blankets and Charlie Cards with added value

**May:** Flip flops (women and children sizes) and Charlie Cards with added value

**Always needed:** Gift cards to Market Basket and CVS

Although we have not specified items for the summer months, items are still needed and of course 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 September/October issue is August 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

Kate Baty

#### Honorary Chair

Priscilla Gray

#### Design

Tim Blackburn Design

#### Photography

MIT Women's League Office



In our last newsletter, we mentioned the League had furnished the living room at a Transitional Living Facility. Please enjoy the photo of the finished product. Our thanks to all who support the Women's League and made this project possible. During the summer months, if your workload is lighter or you have a little more leisure time, Transition House can always use volunteers in various areas. Foreign language interpreters in Spanish, Chinese and Arabic are needed to provide document translation services and babysitting is always needed. To learn more about the organization, visit its website at [www.transitionhouse.org](http://www.transitionhouse.org).

## Looking Ahead

### September 15, 2009

English Conversation Classes Registration

### September 17, 2008

First Day of English Classes

Check the League calendar on its website at [web.mit.edu/womensleague/](http://web.mit.edu/womensleague/) to learn about programs scheduled during the summer months.



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