

In League...

MIT
WOMEN'S
LEAGUE

April – May 2018

A quarterly newsletter



Brown Bag Lunch: Reverend Kirsten C. Boswell-Ford

Thursday, April 12
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Emma Rogers Room (10-340)

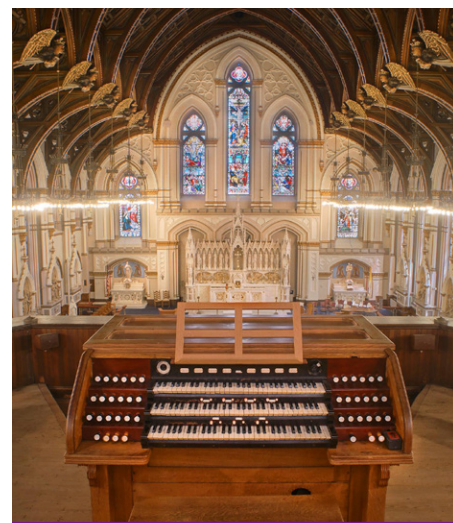
New to MIT in July 2017, Reverend Kirsten Boswell-Ford is the institute's new chaplain and director of religious life. Rev. Boswell-Ford comes to MIT from Brown University, where she served as associate university chaplain to the Protestant community. Prior to her service at Brown, Rev. Boswell-Ford worked both at Bentley University in Waltham, MA, and at the International Association of Black Religions and Spiritualities in Chicago. On working in a university setting, she cites the growth and development of individuals that makes her service so worthwhile. "You're looking at students that are going to be our next world leaders," she remarked, "and I love seeing them as they're just embarking on their careers."

While Rev. Boswell-Ford is new to MIT, she's no stranger to Cambridge. She has served as an associate pastor at Union Baptist Church in Central Square, where she worked closely with the congregation's Women's Fellowship and

provided pastoral care and counseling for community members. And prior to transferring to the University of Virginia, where she earned her degree, she studied at Wellesley College. There, she experienced her first interactions with the MIT community when she took some courses at the Institute. "I've always been very impressed with the school's mission and dedication to the sciences and engineering and technology," she says. "MIT really is a place where there's a lot of support for students, and that was really impressive to me."

"I think that there's a lot of room for putting my mark on the growth and the implementation of what religious life looks like at MIT, so that's very exciting to me," said Rev. Boswell-Ford. "I'm very excited for the challenge."

Rev. Boswell-Ford will be joining the MIT Women's League for a Brown Bag Lunch to talk about her work and role at the Institute. Seating is limited, so please RSVP to wleague@mit.edu if you plan to attend.



Spring Concerts, MIT Women's Chorale

Saturday, May 5 • 6:00 pm
St. Mary's Church
55 Warren Street, Charlestown

Wednesday, May 9 • 8:00 pm
St. Cecilia's Church
18 Belvidere Street, Boston

Join the Chorale for a joyful occasion as we mark our 10th anniversary under the direction of Kevin Galiè. We will celebrate by again presenting, in two venues with grand acoustics, the *Second Mass in A flat* (1905) by Charles-René. The Chorale performed the US premier of this lovely piece in 2012 and made it the centerpiece of our first professional recording.* Other pieces from that recording, by Gabriel Fauré and Cesar Frank will also be sung, as well as music by Boisdoffre and Chesnokov. Organist, Erica Johnson, will accompany the Chorale, playing the magnificent pipe organs of these two churches. To further acknowledge our talented director, Mr. Galiè will play organ solos by Gabriel Pierné. Both concerts are free, and the concert at St. Mary's will be followed by a reception. Parking suggestions will be posted on our website.

*store.cdbaby.com/cd/mitwomenschorale

31st Anniversary
Stratton Lecture on
Aging Successfully
Thursday, May 3, 2018
4:30 pm – 6:30 pm



All welcome

This program is free
and open to the public.

Wong Auditorium

The Tang Center
Building E51
70 Memorial Drive and
Wadsworth Street
Cambridge, MA



A source and resource for MIT women

Contact

Kirsty Bennett
617.253.3656
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Adapting to Aging with Confidence and Connection

MIT Aging Specialists Offer Matters to Consider Wherever We Live



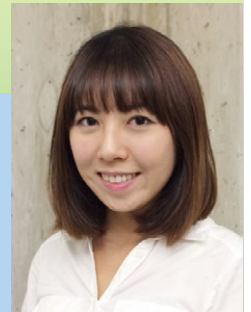
Maureen Johnston



Carley Ward



Samantha Brady



Chaiwoo Lee

A collaborative project of MIT's Medical Department, AgeLab and Women's League, the 2018 Catherine N. Stratton Aging Successfully Lecture brings together panelists from MIT's Medical Department and AgeLab whose work addresses fundamental issues facing older adults. This lecture will highlight three of these issues: household management, loneliness and isolation, as well as new and assistive technologies.

Though we are living longer, advancing years still mandate certain adjustments to changes affecting our daily lives. Housing options, economic situation, health, physical mobility, family, outside work and interests—all are determiners in our ability to adapt to these changes.

Moderator

Maureen Johnston, NP, MSN, Chief of Nursing and Adult Gerontology NP at MIT Medical, experienced in responding to the physical, mental and psycho-social challenges that come with aging, will outline our topic and introduce our panelists.

Panelists

Carley Ward, MA, a Research Associate at MIT's AgeLab will focus on the sharing economy, creative housing, managing household chores and on-demand services that may enable older adults to continue to age in place and maintain their independence as their needs change.

Samantha Brady MPA, a Research Specialist at MIT's AgeLab, will share her findings regarding the impacts of physical fitness and exercise on the well being of older adults, including the positive effects of reducing social isolation and loneliness through participation in group fitness programs and increased physical activity.

Chaiwoo Lee, PhD, a Research Scientist at MIT's AgeLab will present her experience with generational interactions to new technologies such as vehicle automation, virtual reality and robotics, as well as in-home assistive tools for care-giving as they enable staying connected and are supportive to independent living.

After the presentations and a short discussion among the panelists, Maureen Johnston will serve as moderator for audience questions to be answered by the panelists as time allows.

Adapting to Aging with Confidence and Connection continues the Catherine N. Stratton Lectures on Aging Successfully to honor Kay Stratton whose energy, grace and intelligence enriched the MIT community for more than seventy-five years. These lectures are designed to encourage attendees to become well-informed health advocates for themselves and their families.



Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 15 • 12:00 pm
Emma Rogers Room, 10-340

The Women's League holds its annual meeting in May, at which time a summary of the activities and business over the past academic year is given, returning Board Officers are introduced, and new officers for the election slate are presented.

This year, the MIT Women's League is pleased to announce David Randall, Senior Associate Dean for Student Support and Wellbeing, as our speaker for this event. As part of his role at MIT, David is currently heading up the Food Insecurity Committee, established in the Summer of 2017 to bring together students, faculty, and staff to address the issues of hunger and food accessibility on the campus. This is a topic that has only recently received the attention it deserves and has been highlighted in articles from both *The Tech* and *The Boston Globe*.

As you may be aware, the Women's League has been working closely with the student group; Class Awareness, Support, and Equality (CASE) in efforts to assist current problems. We have also learned the concerns from a student point of view. We look forward to hearing David speak on how the Institute tries to better understand this issue so that MIT as an institution may work towards a solution.

Following David's talk, enjoy a delicious lunch in the company of women with various affiliations in the MIT community. To reserve your place at the Annual Meeting, contact the League office. The cost of the luncheon is \$15.00. Seating is limited.



Springtime Tea

Thursday, May 24 • 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm
Gray House, E1
111 Memorial Drive, Cambridge

Christine Reif and the MIT Women's League invite you to celebrate the season at a Springtime Tea at Gray House, the residence of MIT presidents since 1917.

Designed by William Wells Bosworth '89, architect of the 1916 campus, the house was built as a gift for the MIT President by Charles A. Stone '88 and Edwin S. Webster '88 and appropriately named The President's House. Landscape architect Mabel Keyes Babcock '08 designed the walled garden at the back of the house.

It was there, in the lovely Italianate house, President Richard Maclaurin, his wife, Alice, and their sons became the first residents. Told to "plan a house as exactly to their taste as though they were to own it themselves," they took the responsibility seriously, creating a residence where the "President's family lives in it all, without any sense of echoing spaces; the guests, whether

hundreds at a time or only a handful, are conscious of being in a home." Exactly what the Maclaurins desired.

The house, renamed Gray House in 2002, in honor of former MIT president Paul Gray and his wife Priscilla, is the perfect setting for a spring gathering of League friends. Please join us and experience the sensibility created by the Maclaurins, amended over time by successive residents, and explore the garden.

Don't hesitate to embrace the spirit of the occasion and wear your favorite hat — cartwheel, cloche, toque, pillbox, turban, or fascinator!

Kindly **reply by May 14** to the League office if you plan to attend.



Ellen Stordy with Miri Skolnik and Bettina Arkhurst



Women's League Partners with Student Support Services

MIT's robust Women's League continues to be energized by a unique organization of women, working together since 1913. To you, our MIT Women's League members and friends, your generous support to the Women's League, helps us to execute our programs and inspire new ones:

Class Awareness Support and Equality (CASE) at MIT

The CASE is a student-run organization that was established in the fall of 2016. CASE's mission is to improve "community awareness of class disparities and knowledge of the social class system, [and to] also strive to be a resource and ally to low-income students on campus."

CASE had identified that food Insecurity was a major issue among lower-income students on campus, and MIT administrators were caught off guard last year when a student-life survey found that about 10 percent of undergraduates reported going to bed hungry because they lacked money for food. Miri Skolnik, Assistant Dean of Student Support Services, (SSS) and I met to discuss the opportunities for the Women's League to partner in a pilot program for students during 2018 IAP, when the University's standard meal plan service ceases over the winter break.

The pilot program we devised was to offer gift tote bags, each containing essential and nutritious food items for 20 CASE students. The process involved

a survey created by Bettina Arkhurst '18, with a very impressive outcome. In the survey, students identified their need for support over the winter break, and the food items that would be most useful to them. Kudos to both Miri and Bettina for all their behind the scenes efforts. I joined them January 8th and collectively we assembled the "gift totes" to be handed out to the students.

Feedback from the students was very positive — they commented that the food offered exceeded expectations, contained a variety of fresh produce, and was painless with minimal effort. One student expressed a concern that she wished it was available to more students — for this pilot program, it was limited to 20 participants to fit within the Women's League annual budget.

MIT has been stepping up its efforts to tackle the larger issue of food insecurity on campus. In December, a partnership between the Division of Student Life (DSL), Undergraduate Association (UA) and Graduate Student Council (GSC), launched Swipe/Share, a program that allows students with unused guest swipes on their meal plan card to donate that meal to a student struggling with food insecurity. In its first week, the plan received 673 donated swipes.

The Food Insecurity Solutions Committee, chaired by Senior Associate Dean David Randall, has been meeting throughout the fall semester. The departments

consisting of both students and staff are responsible for reviewing survey data and consulting with members of the MIT community. They are also researching how peer institutions address food insecurity and exploring the feasibility to implement similar models at the Institute. The committee's report is projected to be released at the start of spring semester.

Accessing Resources MIT (ARM), which is chaired by Miri Skolnik, who worked on the Women's League initiative, is a coalition of administrators, faculty and students from throughout the Institute. It will respond to work done by CASE, and address issues of financial hardship at MIT by connecting students with campus resources.

Quoted in *The Boston Globe*, Bettina Arkhurst, '18 commented that "Food is flowing everywhere when you don't need it, but when you need it, it's not anywhere." The feedback from the January pilot program was "The students were extremely appreciative of the Women's League for their generosity; the event was a huge success!" We hope to continue to support SSS in addressing this issue, and staying connected with the students in CASE who are working so hard to help their fellow students.

Ellen Stordy, *Outreach*
MIT Women's League
www.studentsonthecase.com



Cleaning? Downsizing? Weeding out?

The MIT Furniture Exchange (FX) can help. A win-win situation!

Win #1

Because we need donations to help keep our inventory robust, we would love some good, usable furniture, especially sofas, chairs, tables, bookcases, desks, and dressers, as well as lamps, small appliances, cooking utensils, and dishes. Your generous donations are tax-deductible and arrangements can be made for the pick-up of large items.

Win #2

Proceeds from those donations benefit the MIT Women's League Scholarship Fund, a growing endowment that provides annual financial support to undergraduate women at MIT. It now supports three students each year.

From its modest beginning in a Westgate Apartment in 1958, to its present location at 350 Brookline Street (WW15), the FX continues to sell used furniture and housewares at bargain prices to students with limited budgets for setting up apartments. Over time it has extended shopping privileges beyond MIT to the Harvard, Boston, and Suffolk university communities. A valid university ID from those universities is needed to make purchases.

Find out more!

Contact Manager Julie Parker at the Furniture Exchange at 617.253.4293, email fx@mit.edu, visit the FX on a Tuesday or Thursday anytime between 10 am and 4 pm or on the first Saturday of the month from 10 am to 1 pm. Go to our website at web.mit.edu/womensleague/fx/ to learn more about this wonderful organization.

Volunteer with the Fall Fashion Free For All!

The Fall Fashion Free For All (FFFA) is a Women's League public service project that provides gently used clothing to a targeted population of MIT undergraduates. By the end of March, we will be settling in to our new, specially designated space in the Furniture Exchange (FX). And we are looking for volunteers!

While the FFFA's big clothing event happens in the fall, preparing for the event is an ongoing, year-round effort of collecting, sorting and preparing donations. We are looking for assistance with sorting a veritable mountain of clothing that arrives in our space at the FX in early June. Shortly after graduation, we receive items donated from all of the dorms. Last year, we processed 3 tons of apparel, shoes, and accessories over four fun and busy weeks!

Additionally, we are looking for assistance with prepping the items that are set aside. This involves laundering, sewing on buttons, etc., and these tasks do not require being at MIT. We can deliver these times to you to be processed at times convenient for you prior to the event in mid-October. And, as always, we are looking for age appropriate clothing donations, specifically winter wear and business casual fashions. Donations can be dropped in the Women's League office, or at the FFFA drop boxes at the FX. Pick-ups at a mutually convenient time and place can be arranged.

Sorting clothing will take place at the Furniture Exchange (FX) 350 Brookline Street, MIT Building WW15-182.

Please contact Mary DesPrez, charlesbridge@comcast.net, for further information.

League Interest Groups and Classes

LEARN MORE

Book Discussion

Barbara Donnelly
781.646.4617
Nancy Hollomon
nancyredsox@gmail.com

Chorale

Sharon Lin: hllin@mit.edu
Sally De Fazio: de_fazio@alum.mit.edu
web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale

MITell — Personal Storytelling

Kirsty Bennett
kbennett@mit.edu
mitell.mit.edu

WORK WITH YOUR HANDS

Informal Needlework

Carol Clark
cclark@med.mit.edu

Women's League Community Craft Fairs

Brenda Blais
bmbalais@mit.edu

MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND CONTACTS

MIT Japanese Wives Group

Kimie Shirasaki
mitjwg@yahoo.com

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



The MIT Japanese Wives Group

Members' Activity in Japan

The MIT Japanese Wives Group continues to engage in its activities within and beyond Boston. As one of the activities, we had a luncheon meeting on February 4 in Tokyo, to discuss our future plans. Eight members of our group got together to share experiences and opinions. The time of their experiences at MIT ranges from 30 years ago to two years ago! It was exciting to talk with members from different generations, as it helps us think about things from different points of view.

The pictures were taken around the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, after the luncheon meeting. This area is known as one of popular places to enjoy cherry-blossom viewing in April.

— Chizu Ikeda

Connections

Monday, April 9

12:00–2:00 pm

Emma Rogers Room (10-340)

Connections is an informal social gathering encouraging women to take a break and simply drop in to connect with other women in the MIT community. Escape your desk or lab for a short break, meet some new people or catch up with friends. Come alone, bring a friend, or invite a campus newcomer. Feel free to bring your lunch, and as always, we provide the cookies (and the view!)

Drop in anytime and stay as long as you wish. All are welcome.

Notable — Books for discussion

11:30–1:00 pm

Wednesday, April 25

Emma Rogers Room (10-340)

Time Travel: A History
by James Gleick

Wednesday, May 23

Emma Rogers Room (10-340)

Crow Lake
by Mary Lawson

General Information

The MIT Women's League newsletter is published four times during the academic year. The deadline for submission for the **September 2018 issue is August 1**. All items should be sent to the Women's League office: wleague@mit.edu.

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 Kirsty Bennett

League Chair Srirupa Mitra

Honorary Chair Christine Reif

Design Tim Blackburn Design



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