

# In League...



October 2014 – January 2015

A quarterly newsletter

## Andy Pritchard Artist in Cloth

**Wednesday, November 5 • 10:30 am  
88 Washington Avenue, Cambridge**

Come see and hear the *Soul Stories* as told by artist Andy Pritchard at her carriage house studio in Cambridge.

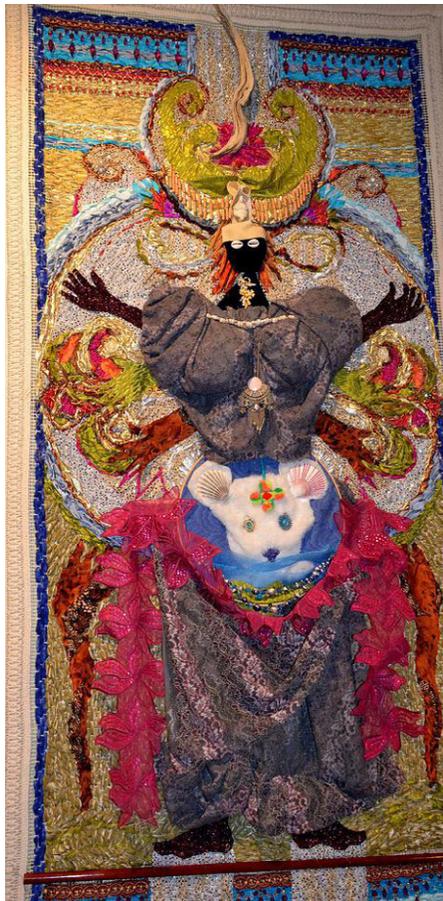
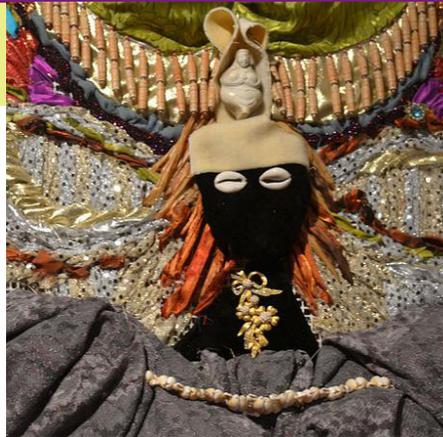
There on display are many of her large wall hangings, each more than 4' x 7', crafted from an assortment of fabrics, ribbons, tassels, sequins, fringes, feathers, and laces woven and stitched to rug backing. Using combinations of these materials she projects some of her life experiences and feelings in her dreamscape murals. To some her images evoke paintings by Russian-French artist Marc Chagall and Austrian artist Gustav Klimt.

Andy explains, "I find that my soul delights in finding ways to tell these stories — using beautiful fabrics in bas-relief and novel ways suggested by the story, or the material or the composition."

You may have your own interpretation of what her pieces recall for you — we'll have time to explore all of that!

Please contact the league office by Monday, November 3rd, to reserve your place on the studio visit at 617.253.3656 or [wleague@mit.edu](mailto:wleague@mit.edu). Due to space constraints in her studio, she cannot accommodate children under ten years old. The studio sits behind the house at 88 Washington Avenue and on street parking is available for those with Cambridge parking stickers.

To get there by public transportation, take the Red Line to Porter Square, cross Mass. Ave. to Upland Road, and follow to Washington Avenue. Turn left and proceed to #88.



## Lunch with Sgt. Vossmer

**Wednesday, November 19 • 12:30 pm  
Spofford Room, 1-236**

Cheryl Vossmer, a Sergeant with the MIT Police, is a well-known member of the community and a resource of the MIT Police. She is known as "Cheryl" or "Sarge" to many of us who have gotten to know her over her 30 years of service to MIT. As you can imagine policing has changed in 30+ years, especially for females. So bring your lunch and come learn not only what made Cheryl change careers to become a police officer, but also training, funny events, historical events or just plain questions.

You may know that Cheryl is an MIT Excellence Award recipient. But did you know that she is an honorary member of the MIT Alumni Association? Or that she founded "Flapjacks for Finals" to help students make it through their exams? It's been said that Cheryl "is not only the face of MIT Police for many, she also the smile of MIT Police."

Join us and meet this remarkable member of the MIT community. The hour will fly by!

To reserve your seat, contact the League office at 617.253.3656 or [wleague@mit.edu](mailto:wleague@mit.edu). Feel free to bring your lunch. Coffee and dessert will be served.



## Holiday Wreath Making

**Wednesday, December 3**  
**9:00 am to 11:00 am**  
**Student Center, W20-407**

Since the 1930's League volunteers have come together at the beginning of December to make the three large evergreen wreaths that hang above the doors at the 77 Mass. Ave. entrance.

This year new and experienced wreath makers are needed to help with the greenery design and assembly of the wreaths on their 4-ft and 5-ft wooden frames. Once again League member Brenda Blais will be our guide through the creative process and several seasoned volunteers will assist her.

If you've never done something like this before, it's a wonderful opportunity to learn how and a fragrant way to begin the holiday season. Please contact the League office at 617.253.3656 or [wleague@mit.edu](mailto:wleague@mit.edu) to learn more and to volunteer. Come and help for as long as your time permits.



## Chorale Holiday Concert

**Sunday, December 6 • 6:00 pm**  
**Harvard-Epworth United**  
**Methodist Church**

Continuing our exploration of music written for women's and treble voices under the direction of Kevin Galiè, the MIT Women's Chorale will perform the St. Aloysius Mass of Johann Michael Haydn, with string ensemble and organ. The concert will also include a portion of a Bach cantata and a lovely opera excerpt appropriate to the season. We are particularly pleased to be performing a "blues-y" piece by a local musician who is an MIT graduate, and we are most excited to be giving the first performance of a work by our own conductor, written for the Chorale in commemoration of Hanukkah.

The Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church is located at 1555 Massachusetts Avenue (Harvard Square), Cambridge. Admission is FREE. A reception will follow. See our website for directions, including directions for discounted Harvard parking, [web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale/](http://web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale/)

Rehearsals will begin for our spring concert in late January 2015, and singers from throughout the MIT community are welcome to join us.



## Nichols House Museum Outing

**Thursday, December 11 • 1:00 pm**  
**55 Mt. Vernon Street • Boston**

We invite you to join us for our December outing to the Nichols House Museum, when this Beacon Hill architectural jewel will be decorated for the holidays.

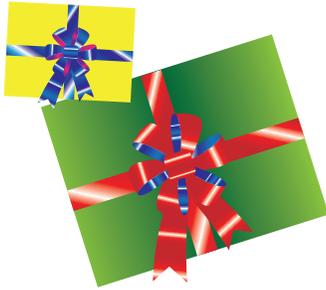
Constructed in 1804, the design of this four-story Federal Period brick townhouse is attributed to Boston architect Charles Bullfinch. It is one of the four connected townhouses built for businessman and state senator Jonathan Mason's four daughters.

In 1885, the house became the home of Dr. Arthur Nichols, his wife Elizabeth, and their three daughters. Like their social activist mother, the daughters worked to improve the status of women and the working class and lobbied for peace and for women's suffrage.

Rose Standish Nichols, the eldest daughter, was a garden designer, a writer, a suffragist and a peace advocate. She lived in the house until her death in 1960 when she left it and its furnishing to become the Nichols House Museum.

Since 1961 the house, a National Historic Monument, has served as a window into the everyday life of Bostonians in the early 20th century. Antique furniture, tapestries, paintings, table settings, porcelains, portraits, and lacquer boxes attest to the eclectic aesthetic of the family.

To reserve your place on this holiday tour please contact League office at 617.253.3656 or [wleague@mit.edu](mailto:wleague@mit.edu). The fee for the tour is \$8.00. Please meet the group at the house at 12:50 pm. If you prefer to travel with a group from MIT, meet at the Kendall T Station on the inbound platform at 12:30 pm.



## Holiday Community Craft Fair

**Thursday & Friday, December 18 & 19  
Lobby 10 • 9 am to 5 pm**

Come to browse. Come to shop. The perfect gift may be as close as Lobby 10!

Hand-knit scarves, hand-made cards, jewelry of all types, specialty gifts and more, may be found for sale at the annual Holiday Craft Fair sponsored by the MIT Women's League Community Crafters.

If you are a crafter and would like to sell your creations at the fair log on to the Women's League website. From "Get Involved," go to "Community Craft Fairs" to learn about fair policies and to fill out the online application form. Applications should be submitted by November 21. The Women's League Craft Fair Committee will review all applications.

## Notable

**12/10**

Book Discussion:  
*Travels with Charlie  
in Search of America*  
by John Steinbeck

**1/28**

Book Discussion:  
*Team of Rivals:  
The Political Genius  
of Abraham Lincoln*  
by Doris Kearns  
Goodwin



**From left, ESL program co-founders Marlyse Lupis and Nancy Kelly sit on either side of program champion John DiFava.**

## ESL Program for Service Employees moves to HR

Under the auspices of the Women's League, the ESL for Service Employees Program began in 2009 in the Facilities Department. John DiFava, Director, Campus Services and Chief of Police, its first champion, immediately saw the program's value and was first on board to give two hours release time to his employees and to fund the program. He gave the program its start and, along with the Women's League, has been a strong supporter ever since.

On October 1, 2014, five and a half years later, the ESL program moved from Facilities and is now part of the Human Resources Department. We hope this move will allow the program to expand in the future and to offer more service employees, in more departments, an opportunity to learn English and to gain additional skills.

*ESL for Service Employees  
Coordinating Team*

## League Interest Groups and Classes

### LEARN MORE

#### Book Discussion

Barbara Donnelly  
781.646.4617  
Nancy Hollomon  
nancyredsox@gmail.com

#### Chorale

Kristin Griffin: kgg8663@comcast.net  
Sally De Fazio: de\_fazio@alum.mit.edu  
web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale

#### Looking Together

Ann Allen  
857.259.6007  
acallen@mit.edu

### EXPAND YOUR WORLD

#### 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

### WORK WITH YOUR HANDS

#### Informal Needlework

Beth Harling  
781.749.4055, oharling@mit.edu;  
Claudia LaBolitta-James  
cljames@mit.edu

#### MIT Gardeners' Group

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

#### Women's League Community Craft Fairs

Brenda Blais  
bmblais@mit.edu

### MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND CONTACTS

#### CitySide Dining

League Office  
wleague@mit.edu

#### 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.



From left: PSC Fellow **Claudia Bode** poses with League Chair **Ellen Stordy** and PSC Fellow **Sara Dolcetti**

## Meet the 2014 Rebecca Vest Summer Fellows

The Rebecca Vest Fellowship, established in the Public Service Center (PSC) in 2005 to honor the former MIT First Lady, enables a woman undergraduate or graduate student to propose and implement a service project to benefit women and their families. This past summer **Sara Dolcetti** and **Claudia Bode** received funding as Rebecca Vest Fellows and traveled to India and Tanzania to work on their projects.

**Sara**, a graduate student in Engineering Systems Division, went to India to accelerate the development of a low-cost mobile phone-based thermal imaging camera. The device is designed to assist healthcare workers in the developing world to screen for severe pneumonia. While there she visited hospitals to observe healthcare practices and met

with healthcare workers to talk about their processes. Her meetings will help her team develop a cost/benefit analysis to demonstrate effectiveness of a point-of-care device that meets the clinical and environmental requirements for the effective diagnosis of pneumonia.

**Claudia**, a graduate student in Architecture, and her project partner worked at the Olive Branch for Children, an organization that supports vulnerable children in Tanzania. These architecture students designed a children's home for the organization. One that will not only provide them shelter in a child-friendly space but also one that will help them build community. While there they worked with the organization and its contractors to refine the design and prepare the site for construction.

League Board officers Ellen Stordy and Suzanne Collins attended the PSC Fall dinner and met Claudia and Sara and heard first-hand about their experiences. The young women expressed their thanks to MIT for making such opportunities available to the them and to the Women's League for making these opportunities possible. Suzanne and Ellen were impressed with the desire of these young women to make a difference in the world and by their humility.

## Connections

November 13 • December 11 • January 8

Meets from 4 to 6 pm on the second Thursday of each month during the Academic Year.

**Connections**, our informal open house, is held in the Emma Rogers Room (10-340), next door to the League office. With a cup of coffee or tea and a cookie in hand, conversation flows as League members welcome newcomers and greet each other.

We invite you to come to our November Connections and meet the staff of the International Scholars Office. Feel free to bring a newcomer or colleague with you. Come when you can and stay for as long as you wish.



## MIT/American Cancer Society Update

As most of you may know the American Cancer Society (ACS) stopped sponsoring their springtime fundraiser Daffodil Days; 2013 was the last year it ran. During the sixteen-year campaign effort coordinated by the Women's League, MIT raised over \$421,000.

When the core coordinators of the Daffodil program looked into running some form of a daffodil program in 2014, it was deemed not feasible for many reasons. One of those coordinators then reached out to learn more about the student-run "MIT's College Against Cancer," an ACS Relay for Life (RFL) program. She found out that last year the MIT Relay for Life student-run initiative raised over \$80,000.

With the League board's approval the five daffodil core coordinators (Mary Curtin, Sis de Bordenave, Gracie Dorneus, Shelagh Joyce, and Marcia Tench-Mora) will be reaching out to the 100+ departmental daffodil

coordinators in the next 60 days to see if there is interest among the institute's employees in supporting and contributing to MIT's RFL through the purchase of luminaria bags to remember loved ones lost to cancer and to honor those battling it.

At every Relay for Life event, the luminaria bags (small bags anchored by sand and illuminated from within) are lit and displayed after dark. They can be personalized with names, photos or messages. At MIT, the luminaria bags are displayed around the indoor Johnson track. Those not interested in buying a luminaria can simply donate; just like the Daffodil program allowed.

So stay tuned. Hopefully the Institute's coordinators will be available and interested in sponsoring the Relay program in their work areas.

Shelagh Joyce

### General Information

The MIT Women's League newsletter is published four times during the academic year. The deadline for the Feb-Mar 2015 issue is January 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**  
Ellen Stordy  
**Honorary Chair**  
Christine Reif  
**Design**  
Tim Blackburn Design

## MIT IAP

During the month of January, MIT runs a special four-week term, Independent Activities Period (IAP for short). For over forty years members of the MIT community (students, faculty, staff and alums) are provided the opportunity to organize, sponsor and participate in a wide range of activities: from how-to sessions, to forums, athletic endeavors, lecture series, to films, tours, recitals, and contests.

Listings for the January 5–January 30, 2015 term will become available in November at [web.mit.edu/iap/](http://web.mit.edu/iap/). We encourage you to take part!

## Email update

If you have recently become an email user and would like to receive our notes and reminders **OR** if your email address has changed, please advise the League office at [wleague@mit.edu](mailto:wleague@mit.edu).



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