

# In League...



September – October 2014

A quarterly newsletter

## Dear MIT Women,

The seasons pass much too quickly but, ah, the joys of summer... I savor the summer months and do hope yours were enjoyable, with lightened schedules and fun vacations!

New beginnings await us at the start of the 2014-2015 academic year. MIT is bustling with excitement as freshmen, returning students, and faculty arrive on campus. The Women's League sends warm wishes to the MIT community as the year gets underway.

### Warm Welcome

On behalf of the League, I welcome you, our loyal members to another robust and busy year. As I begin my second year as Chair, I look forward to working with the League Board and its volunteers and students — all with their unique talents.

### Looking Back

Last year our cup ran over with a wealth of programs and activities. Kudos to all committee members for your successful efforts to bring these about and, of course, to our League members, for your support and interest.

Noteworthy last fall was the launch of the pilot English Conversation Partners Program (ECP) with one of our intermediate English classes. The pilot was so successful it was also offered to students enrolled in basic and advanced classes during the spring term. Receiving positive feedback from both students and partners, the program will be offered to our students this fall.

On January 18th Catherine (Kay) Stratton, wife of MIT's 11th President and Honorary Chair of the MIT Women's League celebrated her 100th birthday. Kay received an abundance of birthday cards, enjoyed several intimate parties and toasts, and invited everyone to return next year for her 101st!



Ellen Stordy, Women's League scholars Alyssa Napier and Christy Rogers, and Sis de Bordenave were among the guests at the annual spring Scholarship Brunch.

During the year we toured the campus and the greater MIT area. We visited sculptures on MIT's grounds and exhibits at its museum, traveled to neighboring towns to see historic homes and a television studio, and we were entertained in the Emma Rogers Room by marvelous speakers, including our neighbor Chef Tim Healey.

Sadly, we lost a longtime member, friend and Honorary Chair of the Women's League last year with the death of Elizabeth W. Johnson, wife of Howard Johnson, MIT's 12th president. To honor Betty, the League established a fellowship in her name with the Public Service Center in 2006. At her request, the fellowship provides for students working on environmental projects.

### Going Forward

Our website continues to be the gateway to the League — showcasing and linking our programs, service projects

and social activities — capturing its essence. Our newsletter, timeline stories and photos shed light on who we are and reinforce our mission **to strive to connect to MIT Women and to MIT as a whole.**

We encourage members to spread the word about the League. Share your experiences. The opportunities to make new friends, embrace a challenge, and learn something new are endless — and membership is free!

I look forward to seeing you at a League event this Fall.

Warm regards,

Ellen Stordy, Chair



## MIT Women's Chorale: First Rehearsal for the Fall Season

**Wednesday, September 10  
7:15–9:30 pm  
Emma Rogers Room, 10-340**

*Note that the second rehearsal, and only that rehearsal, will occur on a Thursday evening, September 18.*

Come sing with us! The Chorale welcomes women from throughout the MIT community. Our members, who represent many cultures and a wide span of ages, are serious about making music and serious about having fun while they sing. Our December 6th holiday concert will include a spirited mass by Michael Haydn, music of Bach and Giordano, a Hannukah piece written especially for us by our wonderful music director, Kevin Galiè, and an original and amusing piece by a local musician who is an MIT alum.

New members may join through the September 24th rehearsal. No audition is required, although new members are encouraged to come at 7 pm on their first night so that we may place you into the appropriate vocal part. For further information see our website: [web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale/](http://web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale/).

To be placed on our email list contact: [de\\_fazio@alum.mit.edu](mailto:de_fazio@alum.mit.edu).

Ordering information for the Women's Chorale's first professionally-recorded CD can be found on its website: [web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale/](http://web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale/).



## Conversational English Class Registration

**Tuesday, September 9 • 9 to 11 am  
Stratton Student Center, Room 491**

Conversational English classes sponsored by the Women's League are a perfect home away-from-home for international women arriving at MIT whose first language is not English. Students meet women from around the globe and come together to practice and learn English with the guidance of dedicated Women's League teachers.

These classes provide a friendly venue for practicing "survival" English, increasing vocabulary, and engaging in conversations about a variety of subjects with classmates. In addition to learning about American culture, the women also share their own cultures and interests. Teachers, as well as fellow students, provide information about MIT and Boston and offer helpful suggestions to accomplish everyday tasks. As stories and experiences are shared, speaking and listening competence improves.

The classes offer women of all cultures and countries the chance to learn or improve their English skills, to make new friends, and to gain confidence while living their new life in the United States. The focus is on functional "how to" English conversation and student interests vs. grammar. Grammar instruction, however, is provided and reviewed at the Basic and Intermediate levels.

Classes are held from September to December on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:15 am to 11:00 am. (A second semester is offered in the spring.) Four levels of classes (Basic to Advanced) are offered and after a brief interview with one of our teachers, each student is placed in an appropriate level class. Babysitting is provided for children, age 6 months to 4 years at a cost is \$150 a semester per child. Textbooks are provided and included in the class fee of \$80 per semester. All questions will be answered by calling Jan Kirtley, coordinator of the English Classes, at 617.277.2628.

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**An English Conversation Partner Program** is provided to students for additional practice in conversational English with fluent English volunteers. Since most Partners are MIT employees, these informal meetings usually take place on campus on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Participation is optional and subject to the availability of volunteer Partners.

## Reception for New MIT Women

**Monday, September 29**  
**4:30 pm – 6 pm**  
**Bush Room, Room 10-105**

This fall the MIT Women's League will once again host its annual reception to welcome new women in the MIT community. These newcomers, having arrived from across the country and around the world — as new faculty, staff, and graduate students, and as spouses and significant others — are looking for ways to meet others and participate in all things MIT.

On this occasion, they are introduced to helpful MIT offices and services as well as to the Women's League, to ease their transitions into our community, making them smooth and informative.

During the reception, Christine Reif, wife of MIT President Rafael Reif, Women's League Chair Ellen Stordy, and Vice Chair Srirupa Mitra will welcome guests and an informative short program will be presented by representatives from Human Resources, MIT spouses&partners, the MIT Work-Life Center, and MIT Police. There will be ample opportunity to talk with these representatives as well as talk with League members about its programs and activities, including interest group and service project organizers. Other helpful offices at the Institute will be present as well. All participants will be happy to explain and answer questions about their activities.

League members are encouraged to attend and renew their membership and to greet these newcomers. For someone who knows very little about MIT, Cambridge, or the United States, a warm greeting, informal conversation, and helpful information make a very welcoming difference.

**We hope that you can be part of this annual social event. The Women's League welcomes all women of the MIT community to join us.**



## Habitat Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary

**Wednesday, October 1**  
**10:30 am – 12:00 pm (Rain or Shine)**  
**10 Juniper Road, Belmont, MA**

Join us for our October outing to the Habitat Education Center and Wildlife Center located six miles from downtown Boston in Belmont Center, just off Concord Avenue. There gentle trails wind through deciduous and evergreen forests, across meadows, and around ponds and vernal pools. A long-standing center for environmental education, Habitat offers year-round programs for all ages. To get directions and learn more, visit [www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/habitat](http://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/habitat).

We will meet at Habitat at 10:30 am for light refreshments and an overview of the 88-acre property. Following the talk we will explore some of the trails and features with a staff guide. Wear comfortable, weather appropriate clothing.

Cost: \$8.00/adult (**children free and welcome!**). To register and arrange for transportation if you should need it, please contact the League office by **Friday, September 26**, at [wleague@mit.edu](mailto:wleague@mit.edu) or 617.253.3656

## League Interest Groups and Classes

### LEARN MORE

#### **Book Discussion**

Barbara Donnelly  
781.646.4617  
Nancy Hollomon  
[nancyredsox@gmail.com](mailto:nancyredsox@gmail.com)

#### **Chorale**

Kristin Griffin: [kgg8663@comcast.net](mailto:kgg8663@comcast.net)  
Sally De Fazio: [de\\_fazio@alum.mit.edu](mailto:de_fazio@alum.mit.edu)  
[web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale](http://web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale)

#### **Looking Together**

Ann Allen  
857.259.6007  
[acallen@mit.edu](mailto:acallen@mit.edu)

### EXPAND YOUR WORLD

#### **Japanese Tea Ceremony**

Kyoko Wada  
[chado@mit.edu](mailto:chado@mit.edu)  
[web.mit.edu/chado/www/index.html](http://web.mit.edu/chado/www/index.html)

#### **Middle Eastern Dance**

Loni Butera  
617.491.5657, [loni@mit.edu](mailto:loni@mit.edu)

### WORK WITH YOUR HANDS

#### **Informal Needlework**

Beth Harling  
781.749.4055, [oharling@mit.edu](mailto:oharling@mit.edu);  
Claudia LaBolitta-James  
[cljames@mit.edu](mailto:cljames@mit.edu)

#### **MIT Gardeners' Group**

League Office  
617.253.3656  
[wleague@mit.edu](mailto:wleague@mit.edu)  
[web.mit.edu/womensleague/gardeners](http://web.mit.edu/womensleague/gardeners)

#### **Women's League Community Craft Fairs**

Brenda Blais  
[bmlblais@mit.edu](mailto:bmlblais@mit.edu)

### MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND CONTACTS

#### **CitySide Dining**

League Office  
[wleague@mit.edu](mailto:wleague@mit.edu)

#### **MIT Japanese Wives Group**

Kimie Shirasaki  
[mitjwg@yahoo.com](mailto:mitjwg@yahoo.com)

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



## Breakfast Series with Dr. Maxine Jonas

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

Twice-yearly the Women's League hosts its popular Breakfast Series program for women in the MIT community. At these informal "breakfast talks" the role of women in the academy is explored by women faculty and administrators who share personal accounts of their professional accomplishments.

Our Fall guest speaker is Maxine Jonas, Ph.D., Instructor of Biological Engineering. Seeing herself primarily as a teacher of engineering, her focus is on establishing hands-on lab environments that are pertinent and comprehensive to quantitatively examine, analyze and understand biological systems.

Dr. Jonas was drawn to Biological Engineering (BE) because of the richness, energy, and relevance of the field's applications, along with the cross-disciplinary and collaborative mindset its research entails. "BE is evolving under my eyes, redefined as new technologies are invented and have a concrete human impact on society; this is very stimulating to me, and empowering to my students."

Born in France, she completed her undergraduate studies at École Polytechnique near Paris before coming to MIT for graduate school. She earned her Ph.D. from MIT's then-Division of Biological Engineering (now a Department).

After graduation, she stayed in Boston, her new-found hometown, and worked for a large multinational, working hand-in-hand with scientists and engineers at top pharmaceutical and biotech companies, installing instruments worldwide in their labs, teaching them how to get the best out of them, and accompanying them through hardware, software, and applications troubleshooting steps.

Six and a half years later, realizing how gratifying the teaching component of her work experience was, she returned to academia — to MIT (summer 2013) and her home department — "to embrace the fulfilling and stimulating richness of the ever evolving discipline of biological engineering."

Please join us and meet Dr. Jonas. Breakfast seating is limited. Tickets are available on a "first-come, first-served, basis" at a cost of \$12.00 and can be purchased in the League office, 10-342.

Breakfast is served promptly at 8:00 am.



## The Furniture Exchange

### Who We Serve

Recognizing that university students needed to furnish their living spaces on a minimal budget, the MIT Student Furniture Exchange (the FX) began in 1958 to address this basic necessity. Located at 350 Brookline Street (WW15) in Cambridge, the FX sells used furniture and housewares at bargain prices and is open to the communities of MIT, Harvard University, Boston University, and Suffolk University.

Customers must show a valid university ID from the previously named universities in order to make a purchase.

### How You Can Help • Donate

#### Fall Cleaning!

*Are you doing some (much needed) seasonal cleaning? Donations are needed to help keep our inventory robust!* We were busy this August and would love some good, usable furniture, including sofas, chairs, tables, bookcases, desks, dressers, and cabinets, as well as lamps, rugs, small appliances, cooking utensils, dishes, children's items, and bikes. If you are moving and can't take everything with you, or if you are just in the mood to purge, we will happily accept donations — large or small — in good condition. All donations are tax-deductible and arrangements can be made for the pick-up of large items or a substantial donation.

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept used mattresses, box springs, drop-side cribs, used stuffed animals, and older style televisions.

**All proceeds benefit the MIT Women's League Scholarship Fund, a growing endowment that provides annual financial support to undergraduate women at MIT.**

## Notable

**9/17**

Book Discussion:  
*My Beloved World*  
by Sonia Sotomayor

**10/22**

Book Discussion:  
*The Round House*  
by Louise Erdrich



## 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, or go to our website at [web.mit.edu/womensleague/fx/](http://web.mit.edu/womensleague/fx/) to learn more about this amazing organization.



Our summer intern Owen works on a project with some leftover wood pieces with the plan to transform them into the card catalog pictured in the CAD (Computer Aided Design) drawing on the computer screen in the background.



## Looking Together

### Fall 2014 • Museum of Fine Arts Boston

The focus of the fall Looking Together interest group is on the enigmatic, multifaceted work of Francisco y Goya Lucientes (1746–1828), the leading Spanish artist during the collapse of the Enlightenment and the Age of Reason at the turn of the 18th century. During this tumultuous period of war and human suffering, he became Principal Painter to the King, but grew to become a revolutionary figure in the greater history of western art.

On October 12, a joint department exhibition from the MFA Print Collection and the Art of Europe Department together with outside loans will open with approximately 160 works by Goya. Included are some 45 of his drawings never displayed due to their sensitivity to light. There will also be paintings and drawings by Goya never before seen in the United States.

Our discussion of Goya's break-through styles and depth of meaning beyond the show itself will expand into the broader context of Spanish and European art, and into the ways in which he came to forecast the modern era. The theme of Spanish realism will be contrasted with American realism in the concurrent show of Jamie Wyeth — the difference of cultures and two plus centuries.

Later sessions will continue the rich mining of the Spanish genre, or jump to the opposite shores from realism to the visual puns and puzzles of Jasper Johns, or the abstract landscapes just hung in the Linde Wing that have never known Mother Nature.

There are four Looking Together sessions:

- MIT Group (122) meets Thursday afternoons on October 23, November 6, 13, 20 from 1:00 to 2:30.
- Lexington Group (121) meets Tuesday afternoons on October 28, November 4, 11, 18 from 1:00 to 2:30.

*You may occasionally shift groups if you have a conflict in your schedule.*

To register please call the Box Office 100.440.6975 with your credit card; the fee is \$120.00 for the four sessions. They will ask you for your beginning date and your Instructor. Any questions call Kristen Hoskins, 617.369.3587 or [khoskins@mfa.org](mailto:khoskins@mfa.org). For questions about the classes, call Ann Allen 857.859.6007 or [acallen@mit.edu](mailto:acallen@mit.edu).

## Connections

### September 11 • October 9

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

Connections is an informal monthly open house with light refreshments and conversation. These occasions offer opportunities for the League to meet newcomers and stay in touch with members.

The first gatherings of the 2014–2015 Academic Year will take place:

- **Thursday, September 11, in the Emma Rogers Room (10-340)**
- **Thursday, October 9, in the Maclaurin Room (10-300)**

Join us for conversation and camaraderie — and feel free to bring a newcomer or colleague with you. You meet the nicest people!

Come when you can and stay for as long as you wish.



## 19th Annual Fall Fashion Free For All

**Friday, October 17**  
**Emma Rogers Room (10-340)**

The MIT Women's Leagues hosts its  
**19<sup>th</sup> annual 'Fall Fashion Free For All'!**

Since 1996 the Clothing Service Program of the MIT Women's League has held the event to supply **free** clothing to international undergraduate students who arrive unaware of the rigors of our local winters and unprepared to enter the local business communities. From year to year MIT community members generously support this event through clothing donations.

Join us to help the students stock up with just the right thing for those cold winter days, business interviews and formal holiday occasions!

If you would like to participate:

**Donate** – We accept new and clean, gently used clothing, especially:

- **Winter Clothes** for women and men: Coats, Jackets, Hats, Gloves, Mittens, Scarves, (like new) Snow Boots
- **Men's Clothing – Small sizes!**  
Slacks: 30–32" waist, 28–29" length  
Suits: 38–40" regular  
Shirts: 15/15 1/2/16 collar, 32–33" sleeve
- **Interview Clothes**  
(Women: suits and dresses, Men: suits, dress shirts, neckties)
- Clean clothing may be left at the League office, Room 10-342, during business hours or you may mail them to us. Your donation is tax deductible and we supply a receipt for income tax purposes. Please call League office beforehand (617.253.3656).

### Volunteer

- Help the **Display Team** unpack, sort and display the clothing before the event (anytime from 1 pm to 5 pm on Thursday, the 16th, and from 9 am to 5 pm on Friday, the 17th).
- Be a '**Fashion Consultant**' at our annual 'Fall Fashion Free For All' (Friday, October 17, 5 pm to 7 pm)
- Join the **Prep Team** once a quarter to prepare donations for the annual event. Refreshments are served!

### Ready to join the fun?

- Call the League office, 617.253.3656 or email [wleague@mit.edu](mailto:wleague@mit.edu) if you have questions about donations or if you would like to volunteer.

## Save the date!

**November 19, 2014**  
**Brown Bag Lunch with MIT Police Sgt. Cheryl Vossmer**

## 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).

## General Information

The MIT Women's League newsletter is published four times during the academic year. The deadline for the Nov-Dec 2014–Jan 2015 issue is October 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 Women's League Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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### Contact

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