

In League...



November 2015 – January 2016

A quarterly newsletter



Andy Pritchard, Artist in Cloth — Part 2

Wednesday, November 18 • 11:00 am

88 Washington Avenue, Cambridge

Last year we had a wonderful time in the carriage house studio of Andy Pritchard seeing and hearing about her "Soul Stories" wall hangings. On this visit she will tell us of her inspiration for these 4' x 7' works of art that are crafted from an assortment of fabrics, ribbons, tassels, sequins, fringes, feathers, and laces woven and stitched together.

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 of the composition."

Is it the piece of material that inspires Andy or does she have the inspiration first and then finds the materials? Come and learn from her. You will be inspired yourself.

To reserve your place on the studio visit please contact the League office by Monday, November 16, at 617.253.3656 or wleague@mit.edu. Due to space constraints in her studio, she cannot accommodate children under 10 years old.

The studio sits behind the house at 88 Washington Avenue. For those driving, on street parking is available for those who request it by noon on November 13. To get there by public transportation, take the Red Line to Porter Square, cross Mass. Ave. to Upland Road, and follow to Washington Ave. Turn left and proceed to #86 at the top of the hill. #88 and the carriage house are down the driveway beside 86 Washington Avenue.



Holiday Wreath Making

Wednesday, December 2

9:00 am to 11:00 am

Student Center, W20-491

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

Each year we welcome new and experienced wreath makers to help with the greenery design and assembly of the wreaths. On their 4-ft and 5-ft wooden frames, they make quite a statement. League member Brenda Blais will guide the creative process and seasoned League volunteers will assist her.

The morning activity provides a wonderful way to learn how to create this traditional holiday decoration — especially if you've never done something like this before. It's also a fragrant way to begin the holiday season! Please contact the League office at 617.253.3656 or wleague@mit.edu to learn more and to volunteer. We welcome your help for as long as your time permits.

Connections

November 12 • December 10 • January 7

Meets from 4 to 6 pm on the second Thursday of each month during the Academic Year in the Emma Rogers Room (10-340).

Our informal monthly open houses, **Connections**, are pleasing opportunities for League members to meet newcomers and to stay in with each other. So much can be learned, discussed, and laughed about when thoughts and information are exchanged—especially when enhanced with light refreshments!

Please join us for conversation and camaraderie as the new academic year begins — and bring a newcomer or colleague with you. You meet the nicest people!

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



Chorale Holiday Concert

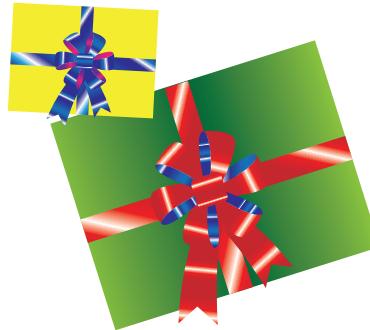
Saturday, December 5 • 6:00 pm

**Harvard Epworth United
Methodist Church**

Directed by Kevin Galiè, the MIT Women's Chorale is looking forward to performing the *Magnificat* of Antonio Vivaldi with string ensemble and organ. This piece was written for the women's choir of an institution for orphaned or abandoned children in early 18th century Venice. The Chorale will also present a chorus from Rimsky-Korsakov's opera, *Christmas Eve*, and a lullaby by New Zealand composer David Hamilton. We are particularly pleased to be performing another premier of a work by our own conductor, written for the Chorale in commemoration of Hanukkah and the winter solstice.

The Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church is located at 1555 Massachusetts Avenue (Harvard Square), Cambridge. Concert admission is FREE and a reception will follow the performance. See our website for directions, including directions for discounted Harvard parking: web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale/.

Rehearsals for our spring concert will begin in late January 2016 and singers from throughout the MIT community are welcome to join us.



Holiday Community Craft Fair

**Thursday & Friday, December 17 & 18
Lobby 10 • 9 am to 5 pm**

Come to browse! Come to shop!!

The perfect gift may be as close as Lobby 10 — from hand-knit scarves to hand-made cards, jewelry of all types, and specialty gifts. All can be found 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. The Craft Fair Committee will review all applications.

Notable

12/9

Book Discussion:
The Monkey's Wrench
by Primo Levi

1/27

Book Discussion:
At the Water's Edge
by Sara Gruen

League Interest Groups and Classes

LEARN MORE

Book Discussion

Barbara Donnelly
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Nancy Hollomon
nancyredsox@gmail.com

Chorale

Sharon Lin: hlin@mit.edu
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
bmlblais@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.



MIT IAP

January 2016

During the month of January MIT runs a special four-week term, Independent Activities Period (IAP for short). For over forty years, IAP has provided members of the MIT community (students, faculty, staff and alums) with a unique 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 4–January 29, 2016 term will become available in November 2015 at web.mit.edu/iap/. We encourage you to take part!



From left: Priscilla King Gray awards William Li G, Shilpa Agrawal '15, Sofia Essayan-Perez '15, and Stacey Allen SM '15 for their public service efforts at the 2015 MIT Awards Convocation. Photo by Justin Knight.

MIT Public Service Center celebrates 25 years

This year, the MIT Public Service Center is celebrating almost three decades of service to the local community, 25 years of offering public service fellowships to MIT students, 15 years of innovative IDEAS on campus, and a great new name!

In honor of the Center's cofounder, the Institute has renamed it the Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center (PKG Center). In a letter, President Rafael Reif wrote, "That future generations of MIT students will forever associate the name *Priscilla King Gray* with service, compassion, and humanity makes me extremely proud. The Center's new name is a tribute to your decades of loving dedication to the students of MIT, and it will be an inspiration to generations more."

In addition to helping start the PKG Center 27 years ago, Mrs. Gray has served as a member of its Leadership Council, advising the staff, supporting the programs, and advocating for the Center on campus. She also inspires the MIT student community and recognizes their contributions to service through the Priscilla King Gray Award for Public Service. Last year's award recipients worked on a diverse array of projects, including improving science and math

curricula in Nicaragua and developing assistive technologies for people living with disabilities here in the greater Boston area.

When asked in 2013 about why MIT students should do service, Mrs. Gray highlighted the transformative nature of service — to the communities and to students themselves. Not only is there a need for the service work of MIT students, but the commitment to service can last a lifetime. "If [students] can come to MIT and take the course load that they take, and still find time to do the things they do for the [Center], that experience will be hard-wired into their way of life," said Mrs. Gray.

Staff at the PKG Center are grateful for the continued friendship of Mrs. Gray and proud to carry on the MIT tradition of service for the betterment of humankind under her name. "We look forward to introducing ourselves anew to current and incoming students as the Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center," said Natalie Britton, director for strategic initiatives at the PKG Center. "In this way, the name Priscilla King Gray will continue to be synonymous with service."



Furniture Exchange's Major Milestone

A million dollars! That's the amount, from MIT Student Furniture Exchange (FX) profits, that has now gone into the Women's League Scholarship Fund to support women undergraduates at MIT.

The milestone was reached in October, as profits from the current year were transferred to the Scholarship Fund. "I am lucky my tenure at the FX is occurring during this great event," said FX manager Julia Parker when the transaction was announced.

Parker has set an Open House at the Exchange, during business hours on Saturday, December 5th, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm to celebrate.

"All of us in the League are so proud of Julie—and of ourselves too—for this great service project that has grown so dramatically—powered mostly by League volunteers," said League chair Ellen Stordy, on hearing of the million-dollar milestone.

When the FX was created in 1958, each year's profits of a few thousand dollars went directly to student aid. In the mid-'90s, when the FX moved to its current large quarters in WW15 and broadened its clientele to Harvard, BU and Suffolk, the enterprise expanded and income grew. At the same time, a dormant "Women's League Student Loan Fund" was renamed the "Women's League Scholarship Fund" and set up as an endowment into which the FX profits would be transferred, with the interest going to scholarships.

In just the last 20 years, the League has supported 21 young women with partial or full financial aid throughout their undergraduate years.

Success of the FX has most recently been thanks to Parker and her predecessor Judy Halloran, who have managed movers, a resident handyman, and an enthusiastic group of volunteers, including Japanese wives who work at the FX while improving their English.

The FX is located at 350 Brookline Avenue in Cambridge (Building WW15, just off the BU Bridge). It is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and the first Saturday each month, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The FX can be reached at 617.253.4293 or fx@mit.edu.

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.

General Information

The MIT Women's League newsletter is published four times during the academic year. The deadline for the February – March 2016 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.

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