

# In League...



September – October 2016

A quarterly newsletter

## Greetings League Members and Friends,

Seasons pass much too quickly, especially summer. As the song goes *"Those lazy hazy days of summer..."* We in Massachusetts experienced extreme drought conditions, burned grass, wilted flowers; however, our beaches were delightful along the coast and water temperatures were ideal — my own oasis of tranquility. Hope you had a joyful summer with family and friends!

### Beginning of a new academic year

2016–2017 has commenced and the Women's League sends warm regards to MIT academia — to new students, returning students, faculty — all in pursuit of new friendships, education, and research.

### Welcome to our loyal members

This year we have a vigorous calendar thanks to the spirited dedication within the League and community. The Women's League is second to none, and I look forward to the numerous activities and programs planned for us!

### Looking back

Last year was a wonderful memory. The Interest Groups and Program Committee never disappointed. The activities were boundless with tours on campus, visits to museums, CitySide Dining adventures, the Boston Ballet performance of *"Swan Lake,"* sensational speakers for our Breakfast Series and annual meeting, the Stratton Lecture on Aging Successfully, and the MIT Women's Chorale concerts, to name a few. Last but not least was the talk and demo by our Emma Rogers Room neighbor, Chef Tim Healey, a man with endless culinary expertise

- **Annual Spring Tea at Gray House** ~ the essence of friendship, brought together MIT women of all ages, from across our country and around the world. This event truly embraces the League's mission "to connect women in the MIT community."



Photo: Dominic Reuter

### MIT 2016: A Pageant, May 6

A sincere Thank You to Chris Reif and her staff for their generous and gracious hospitality!

- **MIT 2016 – Celebrating a Century in Cambridge** ~ the campus was full of energy with a wide range of activities planned for the greater MIT community. Attendance on campus was astonishing, with 40,000+ visitors sharing in the significance of this milestone.

### Upcoming year

The League's website is a wealth of information, one that captures the scope of the organization and showcases its past and present. Our rich history is only a click away at [web.mit.edu/womensleague](http://web.mit.edu/womensleague).

The fall events in this newsletter include an assortment of opportunities for you, our League members, to attend. Perhaps you're interested in volunteering. If so, we value and would welcome your participation and ideas. Please contact the League office for more details.

**103 Years and counting...** *"Mission Statement ~ MIT Women's League founded in 1913, strives to connect women in the MIT community through activities, interest groups and volunteer service opportunities, enriching their lives and the broader MIT community."*

On behalf of the Women's League I thank our members for their dedication and involvement. I encourage you to continue to spread the word about the League, *a hidden gem at MIT* — and, of course, membership is free!

I invite you to join us and bring a friend(s). All are welcome.

With my warm regards,

Ellen Stordy, *Chair*



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

**Wednesday, September 14**  
**7:15–9:30 pm**  
**Emma Rogers Room, 10-340**

The MIT Women's Chorale welcomes new singers from throughout the MIT community to join us for our fall semester, preparing for our winter concert on Saturday, December 10th. Rehearsals with our energetic director, Kevin Galiè, begin on September 14, and take place on Wednesdays from 7:30–9:30 pm in room 10-340. The Chorale is filled with interesting and friendly women who are serious about making music and serious about enjoying making music. Our featured work for this semester will be the *Dixit Dominus* of Baldassari Galuppi, which will be performed with string quartet and organ.

We ask that singers join by the second rehearsal, September 21, and that all prospective members contact us at [de-fazio@comcast.net](mailto:de-fazio@comcast.net).

Please visit our website for more information:  
[web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale/](http://web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale/)

## Conversational English Class Registration

**Tuesday, September 13**  
**9:00–11:00 am**  
**Stratton Student Center, Room 491**

The Conversational English classes sponsored by the Women's League are ideal for international women arriving at MIT whose first language is not English. There students meet and come together to practice and learn English with the guidance of dedicated Women's League teachers.

Providing friendly settings for practicing English, these classes offer students assistance with increasing vocabulary and engaging in conversations about a variety of subjects with their classmates. Not only do they learn about American culture, they also share their own cultures and interests with their class. Teachers, as well as classmates, provide information about MIT and Boston and offer helpful suggestions to accomplish everyday tasks. Speaking and listening competence improves as stories and experiences are shared.

In addition to learning or improving their English skills in these classes, students make new friends and 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 up to 4 years, at a cost is \$180 a semester per child. Textbooks are provided and included in the class fee of \$100 per semester. All questions will be answered by calling Jan Kirtley, coordinator of the English Classes, at 617.277.2628.

An **English Conversation Partner Program** provides students 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.

## Notable / Books for discussion

**9 / 28**  
Book Discussion:  
*Standing in the Sun*  
by Anthony Bailey

**10 / 26**  
Book Discussion:  
*The Last of the Wine*  
by Mary Renault



## Rose Kennedy Greenway Tour

**Wednesday, September 14 • 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

The Rose Kennedy Greenway, is a mile-and-a-half of contemporary parks in the heart of Boston that connect people and the city with beauty and fun. The Greenway Conservancy uses organic and sustainable landscape management programs to maintain the parks and the features of **The Greenway, Boston's only organically maintained public park** and one of a handful of organically maintained urban parks in the United States. Organic maintenance means no expenditures for toxic chemicals and lower water consumption. Plants are healthier, more resilient, and better able to withstand the wear of public use.

Our tour will begin in Boston's Chinatown in front of the famous Red Gate, at the corner of Essex and Surface Streets.\* The walking tour, about a mile and a half, will take us toward Boston's North End, viewing several sculptures currently on display which are based on this year's theme of The Chinese Zodiacs.

The tour will be entirely outside and will be held rain or shine. There is no fee for the tour but a donation to the Greenway Conservancy would be most welcome. See [www.rosekennedygreenway.org](http://www.rosekennedygreenway.org) for more details about the park and its features. After the tour you are encouraged to enjoy the shops and restaurants in the North End.

For those new to Boston, we will meet on the **inbound platform** at Kendall Square, Cambridge (MBTA: Kendall/ MBTA) at **9:45 am** and travel together to Chinatown.

Please register for the tour by **Friday, September 9**, with the League office at [wleague@mit.edu](mailto:wleague@mit.edu) or 617.253.3656 and indicate where you will meet the group. See you there!

## League Interest Groups and Classes

### LEARN MORE

#### Book Discussion

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

#### Chorale

Sharon Lin: [hllin@mit.edu](mailto:hllin@mit.edu)  
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 LaBollita-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  
[bmblais@mit.edu](mailto:bmblais@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.

## Reception for New MIT Women

**Tuesday, September 20**  
**4:30 – 6:00 pm**  
**Bush Room, Room 10-105**

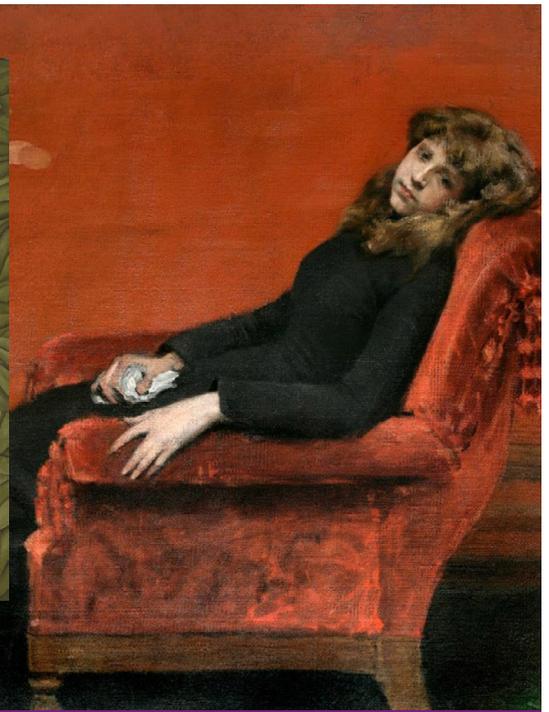
This fall the MIT Women's League will once again host its annual reception to welcome new women in the MIT community. These new arrivals, having come from around the world and across the country (as new faculty, staff, and graduate students, and as spouses and significant others of new faculty, staff, and graduate students) are looking for ways to meet others and participate in the community while here at MIT.

To ease their transition into our community, to make it a smooth and informative experience, the reception introduces newcomers to helpful MIT offices and services as well as to the activities, programs, and opportunities of the Women's League.

Women's League Chair Ellen Stordy and Vice Chair Srirupa Mitra will welcome guests and introduce a short informative program presented by representatives from Human Resources, MIT spouses&partners Connect, the MIT Work-Life Center, and MIT Police. There will be ample opportunity to talk with these representatives as well as with League members. Other helpful offices at the Institute will be in attendance too. All will be happy to explain and answer questions about their offerings.

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

**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.**



## Looking Together

**Fall 2016 • Museum of Fine Arts Boston**

The ideas, gallery changes and different goals of new MFA Boston Director Matthew Teitelbaum are keeping the study of art vibrant. To get on track for our fall **LOOKING TOGETHER**, we will incorporate some of his prerogatives as we see them presented.

Expanding and serving the Museum audience and broadening diversity in the exhibitions are two of the Director's major goals. To begin we can join this mission by focusing on five puzzling ethnic sculptures referencing the human body, which are set up along a large, empty, darkened neutral space.

Another objective invites us to bask in the strength of MFA's most celebrated collections such as late 19th century French, which is distinguished in part by the largest collection of Monet paintings outside of France, as well as multi-media works from our world famous Asian cache. Our American modern exhibition currently includes precursors, protagonists and photographers from international sources that together define the umbrella term, Modernism.

Featured within these themes are two solo exhibitions—one, a large American impressionist show of William Merritt Chase paintings (1849–1916), and the other an intimate introduction to Mexican modernist/surrealist Frieda Kahlo (1910–1954) which highlights two great influences in her life, artist Diego Rivera and photographer Edward Weston.

By the time we finish our four Looking Together sessions, we will have addressed a range of global artists, who are also coherent with other themes that we will pursue. This fall our MIT class will meet tentatively on **September 21, October 6 and 20, and November 3** at 12:45 pm in the Sharf Information Center so that we can be audio-equipped and in the galleries ready to go at 1:00 pm. There will be 4 sessions, each 1 ½ hours, for a fee of \$140.00. Please contact me as soon as possible if you would like to register, because the class will be limited to 16 members.

Ann Allen, *MFA Adjunct Instructor*  
acallen@mit.edu  
(Home) 857-259-6007  
(Cell) 617-777-2804

## Fall Fashion Free For All

**Friday, October 14**  
**Emma Rogers Room (10-340)**

A good idea whose time had come! True twenty-one years ago, true today — and going strong! Generous donors from the MIT community and enthusiastic League volunteers and friends have kept and continue to keep this program vibrant.

Back in 1996 when the program started, the Hosts to International Students Program (HISP) coordinator observed that many of her students were unprepared financially for the cost of fully outfitting themselves for both our harsh winters or for buying formal clothes suitable for interviews, internships or presentations. To solve that problem, she reached out to friends and colleagues and proposed that rather than giving away the good or almost new clothing in their closets they were no longer wearing or had never worn elsewhere why not give it to the students.

And so the program began... and has grown into a fabulous 'Green' program, embracing recycling at its best!

The culmination of our clothing donation collecting is our Fall Fashion Free For All, an annual event to supply **free** clothing to our international undergraduate students. As clothing needs are met, to the unexpected delight of the students, smiles appear on every face. On ours too!

This fall help us help the students stock up with just the right things for those cold winter days, interviews, and even 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 ½/16 collar, 32–33" sleeve
- **Interview Clothes**  
For women: suits and dresses,  
For 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 the office beforehand to arrange a drop-off time.



### Volunteer

- Help the **Display Team** unpack, sort and display the clothing before the event — anytime from 1 pm to 5 pm on Thursday, 10/13, and from 9 am to 5 pm on Friday, 10/14.
- Be a **Fashion Consultant** at our annual Fall Fashion Free For All' on Friday, 10/14, 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?

- Please 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.

## Connections

### September 8 • October\*

*Meets from 4:00–6:00 pm on the second Thursday of each month during the Academic Year in the Emma Rogers Room (10-340).*

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

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.

\*The October Connections has been cancelled due to room scheduling conflicts.

## Japanese Wives Group • Friendship Partner

This past year I met weekly with my Friendship Partner Sofia Caloggero, an MIT employee. Although I was looking for a partner in order to improve my English conversation, we gradually got talking about some things I was concerned about, such as child illness, education, and other issues about life in America. When I talked about my worry, Sofia always heard it kindly and earnestly, so I was relieved, relaxed, and came to talk about anything when we met.

Since I have two young children, it was interesting for me to share the differences between the United States and Japan in child care, discipline, education system, and parental leave, which widened my point of view. Sometimes we played an American board game while eating apple pies made by Sofia or read a trip magazine together or talked



about current topics, such as immigration, elderly care, insurance, election, and homeless people. I invited Sofia and her husband to my home and it is a beautiful memory. I was able to entertain them with my Japanese dishes, with the feeling of everyday thanks.

After leaving here, I will really miss Sofia. For one year, she spent her break time with me as a volunteer. Special time that I will always remember. When I came here to MIT, I couldn't understand English well and couldn't adjust to American culture. She gave warm kindness to me, someone who came to the United States without knowing anything. I am full of feelings of thanks to Sofia. I learned that a strong personal bond can be created in this way, even if language and culture are different. These experiences I will treasure the rest of my life.

In closing, I sincerely thank Kimie Shirasaki, head of the MIT Japanese Wives Group, for introducing Sofia to me. I saw that Kimie, Sofia, and other women who administer and manage events for the Japanese Wives Group always work hard for somebody, so now I strongly feel that I want to contribute to society after returning Japan.

— Asuka Yasutomi



## Breakfast Series with Anne White

**Wednesday, October 19 • 8:00 am**  
**Emma Rogers Room (10-340)**

Twice-yearly women in the MIT community are invited to informal “breakfast talks.” Known as the Breakfast Series, they are occasions when women faculty and administrators explore the role of women in the academy, sharing the pathways their professional lives have taken — the people and events that have influenced their direction.

**Anne White**, our Fall speaker is the Cecil and Ida Green Associate Professor in Nuclear Engineering in MIT's Plasma Fusion and Science Center. She has been fascinated by the complexities of turbulence, and its critical role in sapping power from fusion reactors, since she was an undergraduate. Since coming to MIT, where she earned tenure last year, she has made important progress toward unraveling aspects of that mystery.

White grew up in the parched desert landscape of Yuma, Arizona, and completed her undergraduate work at the University of Arizona, in Tucson, and her doctorate at the University of California

at Los Angeles. When she arrived in Cambridge to join the MIT faculty in 2010 it was quite a change, she recalls, to be in a place “where leafy green plants grow and water often falls from the sky!”

Even as a kid, White reflects, “I loved tinkering.” Over the years she would take apart and rebuild dirt bikes, motorcycles, and cars. Though her work at MIT has expanded to include more theory and simulations, “I still like tinkering,” she says. “One of my favorite things is building instruments” to enable new or better measurements, “and analyzing experimental data.” And now, working with her graduate students and postdoc, she is developing systems to carry out measurements of turbulence and other factors at four different research reactors.

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

Breakfast is served promptly at 8:00 am.

## Email update

If your email address has changed, please advise the League office at [wleague@mit.edu](mailto:wleague@mit.edu).

## Colonial Boston • Chocolate Making and Printing Learn how chocolate was made and printing was done

Wednesday, October 19 • 11:00 am – 12:00 pm  
21 Unity Street, Boston (adjacent to Old North Church)

Join us for this unique double tour inside the lower rooms of the historic Ebenezer Clough House (1712), the only local survivor of its era in the North End aside from its neighbor Old North Church.

### Taste the Sweeter Side of the Revolution!

Captain Jackson's Historic Chocolate Shop, the only shop of its kind in New England, explores the history of chocolate including how it was produced and consumed during the American colonial period, and its connections to Boston and the Old North Church.

Period costumed interpreters demonstrate how chocolate was made and enjoyed by some of Boston's most famous Revolutionary-era patriots as well as Captain Newark Jackson, mariner and merchant, for whom the shop is named.

### Visit the Printing Office of Edes & Gill

Hear about the American patriots in this 18th century print shop and see the wooden printing press that was used in history past to produce *The Boston Gazette and Country Journal*, "arguably the most influential newspaper the country had ever known."

Unique personal encounters with history and colonial printing are demonstrated. Visitors are invited to engage living historians working their printers trade in pre-revolutionary Boston. These same printers were at the vanguard of citizen

## Save the date!

**Stargazing at MIT**  
**Monday, November 14 • after dark!**  
**(alternate night: Wednesday, Nov 16)**

A rare opportunity to view the winter sky through MIT's telescopic equipment will be afforded member of the Women's League, atop Bldg. 37, with Dr. Amanda S. Bosh, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences Dept. More details as the date approaches.



angst over British governmental policies that Bostonians felt violated their rights as Englishmen.

As Boston's only colonial trade experience and only colonial living history interpretive experience, the historic equipment, live demonstrations, interpreters and historic setting enable new levels of understanding how colonial printing affected history. Print Master Gary Gregory, trained by the master printers at Colonial Williamsburg, is our guide.

The tour begins at 11:00 am at the building entrance. Those wishing to travel with a group from MIT will meet at the Kendall T Station at 10:00 am on the inbound platform. To reserve your place on the tour, please contact the League, [wleague@mit.edu](mailto:wleague@mit.edu) or 617.253.3656 and advise where you will meet the group. The tours are free but a modest donation is suggested.

## General Information

The MIT Women's League newsletter is published four times during the academic year. The deadline for the November-December-January 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.

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