

In League...



September–October 2012

A quarterly newsletter

Dear League Members,

Welcome to a new academic year — one that will mark the 100th anniversary of the MIT Women's League in 2013. The February-to-April celebration will recognize the League's rich heritage and its contributions to life at MIT during the past century.

In September our new website will launch, as will our presence on Facebook. Many events noted there will highlight the celebration of the 100th anniversary and we extend an early invitation for you to take part in these special events. Our newsletter and our online Calendar of Events will advise you of those plans.

In addition to the fun social events the League plans each year, it offers many opportunities for community service. We value your time and energy and

donations in support of our on-going service projects:

- Clothing Program for Students culminating in our "Fall Fashion Free For All"
- Campus-wide Daffodil Days campaign to benefit the American Cancer Society
- English language programs for international wives and MIT service employees
- Partnership with Transition House, a Cambridge shelter for women and children

These activities and many others help fulfill the mission of the Women's League as it strives to connect women in the MIT community through programs, activities, and volunteer service projects of interest to them.

Please take time to peruse our newsletter and website so that you can choose those activities that fit into your schedule. And, if you have a suggestion or an idea



for an interest group, program or project offering that you think others would be interested in, please don't hesitate to contact us. We want to hear from you.

We look forward to seeing you,

Kim Watson
Chair

Reception for New MIT Women

**Wednesday, October 3 • 4:30 pm to 6 pm
Bush Room, Room 10-105**

Every fall the Women's League welcomes new women at MIT to the Institute community and introduces them to the League's various programs and activities. Having arrived from around the country and around the world — as new faculty, staff, and graduate students, and as spouses and significant others — these newcomers are looking for ways to meet others and participate in all things MIT.

During the reception, Christine Reif, wife of MIT's new President Rafael Reif, Women's League Chair Kim Watson and Vice Chair Ellen Stordy 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 to



League interest group members and service project organizers. Other helpful offices at the Institute will be present as well. All 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. A warm greeting, informal conversation, and helpful information make such a difference to someone who knows very little about MIT, Cambridge, or the United States.

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

Conversational English Class Registration

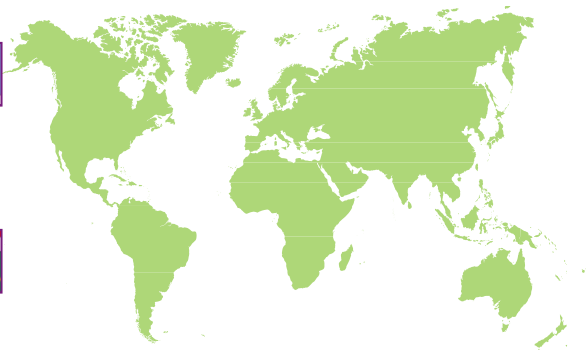
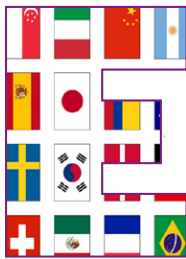
Tuesday, September 11 • 9 to 11 am
Stratton Student Center, Room 491

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 warm venue for practicing "survival" English, increasing vocabulary acquisition, 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.

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.) Three 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.



English as a Second Language (ESL) for Facilities Service Staff

Mission Statement — *The ESL Program for MIT Service Employees seeks to help these employees improve their English communication skills in order to be more productive in their jobs and to build their confidence and morale.*

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For the past three years, the MIT Women's League has sponsored the ESL Program for Facilities Department service employees whose first language is not English. Volunteers engaged from the MIT community by ESL Program Coordinators Nancy Boyce, Jim Eggleston, Nancy Kelly, Marlyse Lupis, Pam Manolakis, Claudia Secundy and Ellen Stordy teach English to employees both one-on-one and in small classes. Chief cheerleader and Director of Facilities John DiFava has and continues to support the need for the program.

The initiative began with a three-month pilot program for daytime service staff and 27 volunteers in May 2009 and expanded to include the evening staff the following year. The program received significant visibility in 2010 from MIT's News Office and Technology Review with the publication of a first-person story told by one of the volunteer teachers. Later, one of her ESL students was profiled in the "Sketches of MIT Staff" that appeared in *The Corridor* on the MIT150 website.

Last fall the ESL program was extended to the service staff on the night shift (11pm-7am) and eighteen interested employees registered. After skills' assessments, they were placed in four class groupings: one each in Beginner and Intermediate and two in Advanced. Four students were assigned to one-on-one instruction. In addition to graduate students, our nighttime teachers are

MIT staff and a retiree "friend of MIT." Just as most of the students continued from the fall to the spring semester, our teachers stayed the course as well.

To celebrate the program's third anniversary and to recognize the efforts of both day/night volunteer teachers/tutors and Facilities staff personnel, the Women's League sponsored an appreciation lunch in January for these generous individuals. Distributed at the lunch that day was the first issue of the ESL Program newsletter, highlighting two program students who received their US citizenship.

Always a work in progress, the program held its first training and informational workshops during IAP. They were well attended and well received. During the January class session, significant effort went into more accurately assessing students' current levels (using standard ESL assessment tools) as well as identifying materials that would be appropriate for each level.

The ESL program is driven by the needs of the students and we are very proud of their accomplishments. Its continued success can be achieved first and only by the commitment of the participating service staff employees and then by the dedicated volunteer coordinators and teachers. Looking ahead, future projections are to open the program to other departments whose employees would benefit.

If you are interested in volunteering for the ESL program, please email esl-admins@mit.edu.



Join us “At The Water’s Edge”

Wednesday, September 19 • 1:00 pm
Peabody Essex Museum

Come with us as we journey north to Salem to view the new Ansel Adams exhibit at the Peabody Essex Museum (PEM), 161 Essex Street, on September 19.

Ansel Easton Adams (1902–1984) was an American photographer and environmentalist, best known for his black-and-white photographs of the American West, especially those taken in Yosemite National Park.

As the Boston Globe wrote:

Ansel Adams’ appreciation for water was never far from the surface. He was drawn to the subject in all its forms, from rain, fog, mist and clouds to ice and snow. He also photographed water’s effects in tide pools, weathered buildings and erosion patterns. His fascination with surf and crashing waves fed his interest in waterfalls and rapids in the High Sierra. In Yellowstone, it fueled his photographs of ‘Old Faithful.’

We’ll meet inside the museum entrance at 12:45 pm for our 1:00 pm tour. The cost for our guided tour is \$15. To reserve your place please contact Sis in the League office at wleague@mit.edu or 617.253.3656 by Wednesday, September 12.

You may drive, or take the MBTA Commuter Rail from North Station (Newburyport/Rockport line) to Salem station then walk 3 blocks to the museum, or carpool with us from MIT. (Ask Sis about carpooling when you make your reservation.)

Lunch and snacks are available at the PEM café or nearby mall.

“HATS: An Anthology by Stephen Jones”
From wildly plumed bonnets, silk turbans, sequined caps, and embroidered crowns to fascinators... If you enjoy hats and are curious to know more about the delightful realm of millinery, you may

want to take in this exhibit currently on view at the PEM before you depart. After all, hats have been a fashion statement observed by women for years — League members included!

As described by the organizer – the Victoria and Albert Museum, London:

Revel among more than 250 hats — celebrity toppers, the finest couture, a 12th-century Egyptian fez — in an exhibition that explores the boundless creativity of millinery design and the universal joy of wearing hats.

There is no additional fee to view the HATS! exhibit. You may explore at your leisure.

Connections

September 13 and October 11

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

Connections is a monthly informal open house with conversation and light refreshments. The first two of the 2013 academic year will take place on Thursday, September 13, and Thursday, October 11,

in the Emma Rogers Room (10-340). These occasions offer opportunities for the League to meet newcomers and to stay in touch with members. Feel free to bring a newcomer or colleague with you for conversation

and camaraderie. You meet the nicest people! Come when you can and stay for as long as you wish.

We look forward to seeing you!



Glass Artist, Josiah McElheny's Show: Be Dazzled
The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston

Thursday, October 11 • 12:30 pm
100 Northern Avenue, Boston

"If Albert Einstein blew glass and Stephen Hawking had a thing for chandeliers, they might make art like Josiah McElheny's. Instead, McElheny's uses glass and metal to fabricate models of multiple universes that bring astrophysics into the Institute of Contemporary Art and dazzling art to the boundaries of infinity. With "Josiah McElheny: Some Pictures of the Infinite" at the ICA, the Boston-born sculptor has transformed his cosmological inquiries into dazzling original work that fuses science and art in pleasing, but also, teasing ways."

MetroWest Daily News by Chris Bergeron, Daily News Staff, posted Jun 24, 2012

Please join us for a very special tour of this compelling show currently at the ICA in the South Boston Seaport District. Built in 2006, the museum is a stunning destination itself.

Public transportation: The ICA is easily reached via the 'T' Red Line to South Station to the Silver Line — one stop and a short walk. Please meet us inside the Kendall T Station on the inbound platform at 11:35 am so we can travel together.

Driving: If you prefer to drive, there is a commercial parking lot directly in front of the museum.

Walking: Allow 10-15 minutes to walk from South Station to the ICA.

The one-hour tour will begin at 12:30 pm. The tour cost per person is \$12.00 (\$10.00 entry + \$2.00 docent fee). **If you have your own current MIT ID card, please bring it!** Your entry cost is then Free plus \$2.00 to cover the docent's fee.

To reserve your place on the tour, contact the League office at 617.253.3656 or wleague@mit.edu by Monday, October 1.

If you will have time after the tour to join us for a light lunch nearby, please let Sis know when you register and we will share details.



New Chorale Rehearsal Night: Wednesday
New singers welcome!

The MIT Women's Chorale welcomes new singers from all parts of the MIT community to join us in our fall season, as we prepare for our December concert. We are hoping our change to Wednesday evenings fits your schedule and that you will join our welcoming group of singers, representing a wide range of different cultures and ages. Our energetic and always-entertaining conductor, Kevin Galiè has chosen for us a varied and interesting program of music for the holiday season.

Our first rehearsal will be held in room 10-340 at MIT (the Emma Rogers room) at 7:15 pm on Wednesday, September 12, 2012. New singers may join through the September 26th rehearsal. For more information, please see our website <http://web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale/>.

To be placed on our mailing list, please contact the MIT Women's League office, wleague@mit.edu.

Notable

9/26
 Book Discussion:
Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee
 by Dee Brown

10/24
 Book Discussion:
My Name is Mary Sutter
 by Robin Oliviero



17th Annual Fall Fashion Free For All

Friday, October 19
Emma Rogers Room (10-340)

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

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. Members of the MIT community continue to support the event through generous clothing donations from year to year.

In anticipation of the October 19 event, we are looking for donations of winter clothing — coats, jackets hats, gloves mittens, scarves and (like new) snow boots — especially women's sizes small (Petite, XS, S) and medium.

- Donations are tax deductible and a receipt is supplied for income tax purposes.
- Clean clothing may be brought to the League office. Contact Sis before you bring your donation.

For the Fall Fashion Free For All, we would welcome volunteer help

- on the **Prep Team** — tagging and sorting donations
- on the **Display Team** — unpacking, sorting and displaying the clothing or
- as a **'Fashion Consultant'** — offering wardrobe suggestions

Ready to join the fun?

- Call the League office at 617.253.3656 or email wleague@mit.edu if you have questions about donations or if you would like to volunteer.



Breakfast Series with Lita Nelsen

Wednesday, October 24 • 8 am
Emma Rogers Room (10-340)

The Women's League is planning its Fall Breakfast Series program for women in the MIT community. These popular, twice-yearly "breakfast talks" are informal, early morning get-togethers that explore the role of women in the academy. Guest speakers are drawn from the academic and administrative sides of the Institute to share personal accounts of their professional accomplishments.

Our guest speaker, Lita Nelsen, is the Director of the Technology Licensing Office at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This office manages over 350 new inventions, negotiates over 100 licenses, and helps start up 10 to 15 companies every year

Ms. Nelsen is widely published in the fields of technology transfer and university/industry collaborations. She is a co-founder of Praxis, the UK University Technology Transfer Training Programme for which she was made a Member of the British Empire.

Her talk will touch on what led her to MIT, the importance of her mentors, and the influences that helped to steer her towards her current path of academic exploration.

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.

League Interest Groups and Classes

LEARN MORE

Book Discussion

Barbara Donnelly
781.646.4617
Judith Lippard
jacs@mit.edu

Chorale

Kate Fontanella
617.324.5931
kfontane@mit.edu.
web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale

Looking Together

Ann Allen
617.527.7292
annallen@rle.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
Nancy Sweeney
781.646.3107
n-j-sweeney@verizon.net

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
781.721.2517
jmitjwg@yahoo.co.jp

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



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

As students arrive for the fall semester and move into their new digs, donations are needed to help keep the inventory robust to aid this MIT service effort. Good usable furniture — including sofas, chairs, tables, bookcases, desks, bed frames, futon frames, dressers, and cabinets, as well as lamps, rugs, small appliances, cooking utensils, dishes, children's items, and bikes — are heartily welcomed. If you are moving and can't take everything with you, or if you are just in the mood to update some of your household furnishings, we will happily accept donations 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.

Find Out More

Contact 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/ to learn more about this amazing organization.

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

Email update

If you have 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 November–December 2012–January 2013 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

Kim Watson

Honorary Chairs

Priscilla Gray
Christine Reif

Design

Tim Blackburn Design



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