

# In League...

MIT  
WOMEN'S  
LEAGUE

September – October 2015

A quarterly newsletter

## Dear MIT Women,

Spring gives way to summer and before you blink an eye the 4th of July has come and gone with Labor Day getting closer....

As I write this article I am still in summer mode. Admittedly, summer is my favorite season. The lazy hazy days of summer — with lightened schedules, beach days, and fun vacations — are happily a mindless time for me! Do hope you had a pleasant and relaxing summer!

Time and tide wait for no woman or man! The 2015–2016 academic year is upon us and the Women's League sends warm wishes to the MIT community as the year gets underway.

## Welcome to all

As I begin my second term as Chair of the League, I welcome you, our loyal members, to an anticipated busy year. Many new ideas and suggestions are percolating within the League and community and I look forward to working with the League Board and its volunteers and students — with their unique talents.



Chris Reif,  
Springtime Tea  
at Gray House,  
May 2015

## Noteworthy

Accolades to Christine (Chris) Reif. MIT's First Lady and Honorary League Chair, whose genuine interest and thoughtful commitment to the League have enriched its missions and as well as the experience of League Board members who serve with her. We thank her most sincerely for hosting events at Gray House, a special gift to the League and the MIT community.



## 2014–2015 Women's League Board

Back row, from left: Joanne Cohn, Diana Strange, Kim Watson, Jane Howard, Jan Kirtley, Chris Reif, Suzanne Collins, Cheryl Vossmer. Middle row: Srirupa Mitra, Paula Cronin, Zahida Taher, Sis de Bordenave, Keiko Kanda, Mary DesPrez. Seated: Sandy Boynton, Ellen Stordy, Kathryn Ham. (Missing from the photo are Deborah Liverman and Janet Plotkin.)

## Looking back

Last year our calendar was filled to capacity with over the top programs and activities that brought out the amazing talents of our many contributors during a robust year.

Tours on campus and visits to museums and historical homes increased our knowledge of the greater Boston area. The CitySide Dining group, in lieu of dining out one month, volunteered at the Greater Boston Food Bank, always a gratifying experience. A night at the Boston Ballet's performance of "Lady of the Camellias" was a sheer delight for those attending. The Emma Rogers Room, the heart of many League activities, hosted several marvelous talks, including the Breakfast Series, the Focus on the Arts, and a special program with our neighbor Chef Tim Healey whose culinary skills are seemingly boundless!

The Springtime Tea at Gray House and its garden welcomed many League members, including former First Ladies Priscilla Gray and Becky Vest. I had the pleasure of chatting with these two

gracious women whose contributions have left enriching imprints on the MIT community.

## Going forward

The League's website captures the essence of the organization. There, with a click, light is shed upon its rich history, programs and activities, and service projects as it strives to connect to MIT Women and to MIT as a whole.

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

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

With my warm regards,

Ellen Stordy, *Chair*



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

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

Do you enjoy singing choral music? Would you like to sing with a group of interesting and welcoming women, representing many cultures and a wide span of ages, and with an inspiring director who makes rehearsals great fun? The Chorale welcomes women from throughout the MIT community. Our December 5th holiday concert will include the *Magnificat* by Vivaldi, performed with string ensemble; a chorus from Rimsky-Korsakov's opera *Christmas Eve*; a lovely lullaby from New Zealand, and a new brand new Hannukah piece written for us by our music director, Kevin Galiè.

New members may join through the September 23rd 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/).

Prospective members are asked to contact us: [de-fazio@comcast.net](mailto:de-fazio@comcast.net)

*Ordering information for the Women's Chorale's first professionally-recorded CD can be found on its website.*



## Conversational English Class Registration

**Tuesday, September 15**  
**9:00 – 11:00 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 friendly settings 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.

**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.



*Transparent Horizon* by Louise Nevelson

## Let's explore our campus! Public Art Tour: MIT's East Campus

**Tuesday, September 15**  
**12:15 – 2:00 pm**

We'll meet at the entrance to the List Visual Arts Center, 20 Ames Street, (E15-109) and with a museum guide, we will view several sculptures in the area.

Our tour will consider works that include depictions of women in addition to works by women including Louise Nevelson and Beverly Pepper.

The tour will be accessible for those with mobility issues and strollers.

There is no charge but please call the League office: 617.253.3536, to **register by Friday, September 11**, to ensure that the museum staff is able to provide a meaningful experience for us.

This tour will be held rain or shine, so wear weather appropriate clothing.



*Trinity* by Beverly Pepper

## Reception for New MIT Women

**Monday, September 28**  
**4:30 – 6:00 pm**  
**Bush Room, Room 10-105**

This fall the MIT Women's League will 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 while at MIT.

To ease their transition into our community, making it smooth and informative, the reception introduces them to helpful MIT offices and services as well as to activities, programs, and opportunities with the Women's League.

Christine Reif, wife of MIT President Rafael Reif, Women's League Chair Ellen Stordy, and Vice Chair Srirupa Mitra will welcome guests and a short, informative program will follow 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 about our programs and activities, interest groups, and service projects. 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 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.**

## League Interest Groups and Classes

### LEARN MORE

#### Book Discussion

Barbara Donnelly  
781.646.4617  
Nancy Hollomon  
nancyredsox@gmail.com

#### Chorale

Sharon Lin: hllin@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  
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.



## Sean Collier Memorial Talk and Tour

**Thursday, October 8 • 12:00 – 1:30 pm**  
**Emma Rogers Room (10-340)**

Capt. Cheryl Vossmer, a 30-year veteran of the MIT Police and the first woman to hold a command staff position in 18 years, a Women's League friend, and friend to so many on the MIT campus, will give a lunchtime presentation about the Sean Collier Memorial.

"Situated on MIT's campus in honor of Officer Sean Collier who was shot and killed on April 18, 2013, the Collier Memorial marks the site of tragedy with a timeless structure— translating the phrase 'Collier Strong' into a space of remembrance through a form that embodies the concept of strength through unity."

The Sean Collier Permanent Memorial Committee, of which Cheryl Vossmer was a member, helped refine the design of the Memorial. We hope you can join us to see and hear about the memorial through her eyes and words — from conception through construction of the project — as the Project Design, Construction, and Project Management teams came together to create this stunning space for remembrance and reflection on MIT's campus.

The talk will begin at 12 noon in the Emma Rogers Room. Feel free to bring your lunch." Following the "visual and verbal" presentation there, we'll then walk to the memorial for a personal tour of the site with Cheryl.

Please contact Sis de Bordenave to register for this special talk at 617.253.3656 or [wleague@mit.edu](mailto:wleague@mit.edu) by Tuesday, October 6.

## Notable

**9/30**  
 Book Discussion:  
*All the Light We Cannot See*  
 by Anthony Doerr

**10/28**  
 Book Discussion:  
*The Zookeeper's Wife*  
 by Diane Ackerman



## Take a Tour Back in Time: Boston's Quincy Market

**Friday, October 23 • 10:45 am**

Step back in time with us to the 1700's and 1800's to learn about Quincy Market's central and ever-evolving role in Boston's history.

Discover how the market building was built over part of Boston Harbor (another of Boston's "territorial growth by landfill" projects). Explore Alexander Parris's thoughtful architectural design. Delve into the political maneuvering behind the market's creation, and understand the market's importance in establishing Boston as an international trading center.

This public works project, including the North and South Market buildings, was the largest of its kind at the time. In 1966, the entire complex was designated a National Historic Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Our free guided tour given by an informed guide takes about one hour. After the tour you may want to continue exploring the Market and have lunch at one of the many restaurants, food stalls or fast food spots — so many kinds of food to enjoy!

Please meet at the Kendall Sq. (Red Line) "T" station on the inbound platform at 10:00 am or meet us at 10:45 am at the Pulse Cafe (stand), on the South Market side of Quincy Market.

To register for the tour contact Sis de Bordenave at 617.253.3656 or email [wleague@mit.edu](mailto:wleague@mit.edu) by Wednesday, October 21



## 20th Annual Fall Fashion Free For All

**Friday, October 16**  
**Emma Rogers Room (10-340)**

A good idea whose time had come! Twenty years ago Women's League member Kate Baty proposed a clothing project to the League Board. As Coordinator of the Hosts to International Students Program (HISP) then, she observed that many of her students were aware but 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.

Knowing that she and her colleagues and friends had clothes in their closets they weren't wearing (because of size, color, style, etc.) but that were in good or almost new condition, she thought there might be a "fit" with student needs. Rather than giving that clothing away elsewhere, why not give it to the students? The Women's League thought the "fit" was a good one too and so the project began and grew into today's program — a fabulous 'Green' program that embraces recycling at its best!

Since 1996 the Clothing Service Program of the MIT Women's League has collected donations and held this fall event to supply **free** clothing to our international undergraduate students. Happily, from year to year, MIT community members generously support this event with clothing donations.

Join us to 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**  
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 15th, and from 9 am to 5 pm on Friday, the 16th.
- Be a '**Fashion Consultant**' at our annual 'Fall Fashion Free For All' (Friday, October 16, 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.

## Connections

**September 10 • October 8**

Meets from 4 to 6 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 and stay 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.



## Looking Together

Fall 2015 • Museum of Fine Arts Boston

'Objects of Our Affection' would be an appropriate title for our Looking Together this fall. In at least four new exhibitions, we will take a broad view of "things" that humankind has selected from near and far to live with and to live by — for daily use and for aesthetics, for the hand and for the spirit.

Coming out of the 18th and 19th centuries with the great retrospectives of Goya and Hokusai, we learned that the small provinces of the new Netherlands had already figured profoundly in the art histories of these two giants. The Dutch had blossomed quickly on all fronts after winning independence from Spain in the 17th century. Their mastery of the sea brought great riches from mercantile trade and the elevation of their Art to a pitch that has ever since been called their Golden Age.

In the exhibition **CLASS DISTINCTIONS: DUTCH PAINTINGS IN THE AGE OF REMBRANDT AND VERMEER**, we reverse ends with our telescope for a closer look at the detailing of this new Republic. Seventy-five intimate portraits and genre scenes, landscapes and seascapes come alive with a new more natural realism

than before. Current ideas of social stratification and material differences are revealed in gestures, clothing and the life, but also in period objects also on display.

Rapid globalization through the impact of colonization and foreign goods (including Asian) came early to the Americas via Spanish and Portuguese traders. In this first large scale Pan-American exhibition of its kind, **MADE IN THE AMERICAS: THE NEW WORLD DISCOVERS ASIA** explores the fashion of eastern style adaptations made by crafts-men in a wide range of media from the 17th to the early 19th centuries.

Moving on to the present, **CRAFTED: OBJECTS IN FLUX** offers a profusion of paradoxes. It bridges ancient traditions and state-of-the art technologies while blurring the borders between craft and art. It investigates new tools and materials, the connection between craft and performance, and the interaction of craft with space seen in surprising objects in flux.

And we won't forget snapshots as objects in **UNFINISHED STORIES**.

Ann Allen, *Instructor*

- MIT Group 122 meets Thursday afternoons October 22, November 5, 19, December 3 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm.
- Lexington Group 121 meets Tuesday afternoons October 20, November 3, 10, 24 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm.

The fee for 4 sessions has been raised from \$120.00 to \$140.00 this fall plus the \$3.00 processing fee. Register by calling the Box Office 800.440.6975 with credit card, instructor's name, and beginning date.

Questions on classes, [acallen@mit.edu](mailto:acallen@mit.edu) or call 857.259.6007; for all other concerns, Kristen Hoskins, [khoskins@mfa.org](mailto:khoskins@mfa.org) or 617.369.3587. You may exchange groups if you have a conflict in your schedule.



## MIT Spouses & Partners Connect

The dedicated network for the spouses and partners of the MIT community has a new name and logo: "MIT Spouses & Partners Connect". While we have a new identity and look, our mission remains the same – to support the personal, social and professional growth of all spouses and partners of MIT community members who relocate to the Boston area.

Our programs include weekly gatherings, orientation events for newcomers, a workshop series to prepare job seekers for a job search in the US, weekly drop-in hours with the MS&PC staff as well as weekly, monthly and one-time events for individuals, couples and families.

You can find detailed information about our programs on our website, [spouses.mit.edu](http://spouses.mit.edu), where you can also subscribe to our weekly email updates and find links to our Facebook and LinkedIn groups.

Join our activities to meet new people, develop new relationships, learn a new culture and explore new career and volunteer opportunities.

### 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 2015–Jan 2016 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



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#### Contact

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