Dear MIT Women,

Welcome to the beginning of the new academic year and upcoming Women’s League events! After the warmth of the summer, the cool autumn air is a grand backdrop for the many activities and programs planned. This year promises to be a full and busy one, culminating next spring with the Sesquicentennial Celebration of MIT!

The fall events described in this newsletter include the opportunities for international spouses to register for English Conversation Classes on September 14 and for women new to MIT to attend our Fall Reception on September 29. League members are encouraged to bring a new colleague or neighbor that day and introduce her to the League and to other MIT resources. Interest group monthly meetings begin in September, providing opportunities to pursue interests and meet congenial women. In addition, the Outings Committee plans a wide array of adventures and tours.

Volunteer opportunities are many and we welcome additional hands. The October Fall Fashion Free For All to benefit students is fast approaching and volunteers are needed to prepare and participate in the event. We sponsor two ESL programs: for international spouses and significant others and for MIT Facilities Department service employees. Both are in need of teachers, tutors and substitutes. (The link to the MIT News Office July article about the Facilities ESL program is included in an inside story.) The MIT Furniture Exchange, now over 50 years old, benefits the pocketbooks of students and staff at MIT and three other universities while its proceeds support undergraduate women’s scholarships. Volunteers help shoppers find household items or pieces of furniture at reasonable prices.

“The MIT Women’s League has a diverse membership, one that spans ages, cultures and roles; that enriches the individual and strengthens the fabric of the League.”

Information about our Critical Issues lectures, “Women in the Academe” Breakfast Series, as well as other fall events can be found on our website in our bimonthly newsletter and online calendar, or in an “Of Interest” email. To learn more about League programs, please contact the office to receive our communications. We are happy to answer questions and connect you with the various coordinators.

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The MIT Women’s League is located in Building 10-342 under the dome. Membership is free. I look forward to seeing you at a League event this Fall!

Warm regards,

Sandra Boynton
Chair

Reception for New MIT Women

Wednesday, September 29 • 4:30 to 6 pm
Bush Room (10-105)

Each 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. These newcomers have arrived at MIT from around the country and around the world as new faculty, staff, and graduate students or as spouses and significant others of the same. They are looking for ways to meet others and participate in all things MIT.

During the reception, an informative short program will be presented by representatives from Human Resources, spouses@mit and the MIT Police. Guests will have the opportunity to talk with them as well as with members of the various interest groups and with the organizers of the service projects sponsored by the League. Representatives from other helpful offices at the Institute will be on hand also. They’ll be happy to explain and answer questions about their activities.

We encourage League members to attend and renew their membership and to greet these newcomers. If you know of a newcomer in your neighborhood or department invite her to come with you. 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.
### English Class Registration

**Tuesday, September 14 • 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 under the guidance of dedicated Women’s League teachers. These classes provide a warm venue for practicing “survival” English, increasing vocabulary and engaging in conversations with others in an increasing variety of subjects. In addition to learning about American culture, the women also share their own cultures and interests. Information about MIT and Boston and help accomplishing everyday tasks is provided by the teachers and fellow students. The students share stories and experiences in the process of increasing speaking and listening abilities.

The classes offer women of all cultures and countries the chance to learn or improve English skills, to make new friends, and to gain confidence in 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.) We provide three levels of classes (Basic to Advanced) 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.

### Cambridge Public Library Tour

**Wednesday, September 22 • 11:00 am**

Please join us for a “Friends of the Library Guided Tour.” The new ‘green’ (bamboo roof) main library is not only an architectural and environmental wonder, it is also an inviting civic space at the heart of our Cambridge community. If you’re a frequent visitor and have found yourself wanting to know more about the building itself and the artwork it houses, or if you have needed a reason to make your first visit, this guided tour could be just what you need! Free!!

The Main Library is located at 449 Broadway, in the geographic center of Cambridge. It still sits as it did in the last century. It consists of two major facilities built between 1889 and 1902, and is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Library is within an easy walk from Harvard Square, where bus service from the north and west terminate; on a direct bus line from East Cambridge; and a two-block walk from the Central Square bus. Contact the League office to register: 617.253.3656 or email: wleague@mit.edu

Parking information:  
The new Main Library has a 70-car underground parking garage with access from Broadway that is open when the library is open. It costs 25 cents for every 15 minutes of parking. You may pay by coins or credit card — no bills.

There are lots of restaurants in the area for a snack after the tour if your time permits!
Meet Frederick Law Olmsted at Jamaica Pond

Saturday, October 2 • 10:00 am

Join us and meet Frederick Law Olmsted, founder of American landscape architecture and the nation’s foremost park maker, in the form of Gerry Wright, founder and president of the Friends of Jamaica Pond. Mr. Wright holds a BS from the forestry school at the University of Maine and a MS in wildlife conservation from Cornell University. He has written a one-man play, *Frederick Law Olmsted; Passages in the Life of an Unpractical Man*, to celebrate his legacy.

Olmsted’s better known landscape designs include Central Park in New York City, the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC, Mount Royal Park in Montreal, Canada and his work at the Columbia Exposition in Chicago, IL. Locally, we know him as the designer of Boston’s Emerald Necklace, a seven-mile continuous linkage of parks: the Public Garden, Commonwealth Mall, the Back Bay Fens, the Riverway, Olmsted Park, Jamaica Pond, Arnold Arboretum and Franklin Park.

As we walk around the Jamaica Pond park, “Frederick Law Olmsted” (a Brookline resident) will describe his efforts to preserve land as parkland at the local as well as the national level. He’ll talk about his designs and plans, the execution of those plans, and how they influenced landscape architecture. This promises to be a fun and educational walk around Jamaica Pond.

We’ll meet on the corner of Perkins Street and the Jamaica Way. If you drive, parking may be available on Perkins Street. If you go by “T” you can take the green line “E” train to Heath Street, the end of the line. You can either walk to Perkins Street (7 minutes) or take the bus on So. Huntington Street to Perkins Street. Turn right and walk to the Jamaica Way. We will begin promptly at 10:00 am. (Rain date: October 9.) A $5.00 donation per person is requested.

To register, email wleague@mit.edu or call 617.253.3656.
Breakfast Series with Sara Seager

Wednesday, October 6 • 8:00 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 informal, early morning get-togethers explore the role of women in the academy, with guest speakers from the academic and administrative sides of the Institute sharing personal accounts of their professional accomplishments. Our speaker for the Fall series this year is Professor Sara Seager, the Ellen Swallow Richards Professor of Planetary Science. Professor Seager leads a scientific research program on finding and characterizing exoplanets. She has been recognized in the media by Popular Science Magazine’s Fifth Annual “Brilliant Ten” in 2006 and Discover Magazine’s “Best 20 under 40” in 2008.

Her recent focus has been on writing detailed computer models and using them to both guide and interpret observations of extrasolar giant planet atmospheres. One of her predictions led to the first extrasolar planet atmosphere detection in 2001. She is involved in many planned and proposed space missions, including NASA’s planned Terrestrial Planet Finder, which is being designed to detect and characterize Earth-like planets orbiting nearby stars. One of Seager’s long-term goals is to find signs of life, via extremely remote sensing of Earth-like planet atmospheres.

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 — email wleague@mit.edu or call 617.253.3656. Breakfast is served promptly at 8:00 am.

King’s Chapel Concert and Tour

Tuesday, October 12 • 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

We invite you to join us for a very special noontime concert featuring internationally acclaimed flautist Alan Weiss at King’s Chapel in downtown Boston. Mr. Weiss will present a 35-minute program of classical flute music in the serene and historic surroundings of King’s Chapel located at 58 Tremont Street on the corner of School Street, a short 3-block walk from the Park Street T station.

Immediately following the concert we will enjoy a 30-minute talk/tour of the history of this remarkable and unique church founded in 1686 and of the burying ground adjacent to the building. The church, a jewel in our midst, is steeped in Boston history and is the fifth stop on the Walking Tour of Boston’s Freedom Trail.

Suggested donation for the combined concert and the tour is $6.

We strongly suggest that you take the T or walk to King’s Chapel. Parking can be difficult and expensive!

If you wish to join us in taking the T, we will meet you at 11:20 am on the inbound platform of the Kendall Square T station (Red Line) for the short ride to Park Street Station. Together we will walk the last 3 blocks to King’s Chapel.

Please let Sis know at wleague@mit.edu or 617.253.3656 by Friday afternoon, October 8, if you plan to join us. We are looking forward to seeing you.

Connections

September 16 • October 14
Meets from 4 to 6 pm on the second Thursday of each month during the academic year with occasional exceptions.

Connections is a monthly informal open house with conversation and light refreshments. The first two of the 2011 academic year will take place on Thursday, September 16, and Thursday, October 14, in the Emma Rogers Room (10-340). These occasions offer opportunities for the League to meet newcomers and to stay in touch with members. Don’t hesitate 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.
ESL Pilot Program

Changing Lives — Making a Difference

The Women’s League volunteer-based pilot program offering ESL classes to MIT custodial and grounds-service employees is changing lives and making a difference. Nancy Kelly, co-founder of the program, described a perfect example to her fellow coordinators.

Chris Gile, one of the daytime custodial supervisors, emailed Kelly that at a recent Facilities Department meeting ESL student Maria Brum nominated her boss for an award. She went up on the stage and did the presentation herself and said she would never have done this if it had not been for the ESL classes, Gile wrote. Among the guests at that meeting were Theresa Stone, MIT Executive Vice President and Treasurer, and John Di Fava, Director of Facilities Operation and Security, who has been a champion of this program from the very beginning.

The increased confidence of the students taking these classes is as enormously pleasing to Gile and his staff as it is to the program’s teachers and tutors. After hearing from Gile, Kelly said she returned to her office “with a smile on my face and a bounce in my step. Sure makes it worthwhile!”

This summer Morgan Bettex, a writer with the MIT News Office, met with the ESL coordinators to learn about the program. Her in-depth story, “A win-win across the board,” can be found on the MIT News Office website at web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2010/english-classes-0722.html.
Transition House

Located in Cambridge, Transition House is a shelter for women and children victims of domestic violence. It has been serving the community for over 20 years and the MIT Women’s League is very pleased to support its mission and help them with monthly contributions. The economic downturn has contributed to increased numbers of calls for intervention and support. Ironically, as the needs rise, the resources in such an economy diminish and more help is needed from outside sources.

The Women’s League and the MIT community have been making monthly contributions by bringing specified items each month. At the present time, there is an urgent need for gift cards from Shaw’s and Market Basket, as women can buy food as well as supplies at both of these stores. Charlie Cards with added value help those women going to school or to jobs by bus or subway. Gift cards to Rite Aid, Target and CVS are also welcome, as the women can get a variety of items at these stores — from school supplies for children to personal care items to diapers for babies.

These are the requests for the following months:

**September:** Toiletries

**October:** Towels and sheets — mostly twin

**November:** Women’s hats and gloves

**December:** Gift cards to stores like Macy’s

All of these items are greatly appreciated and monetary donations are always welcome to take care of unexpected needs of the shelter.

In addition, there are several opportunities for volunteers as interpreters of Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic for document translation services, and as babysitters while the women attend various training classes and counseling sessions. To find out about other volunteer opportunities there and to learn more about Transition House and its various services, please visit its website at http://www.transitionhouse.org.

Save these Dates

**Tuesday, November 4 • 4:00 pm**
Lecture on Critical Issues
Leigh Hafrey, MIT Sloan ethicist with a global practice and reputation, will moderate a panel discussion on corruption, an increasingly critical issue at every level from local to international.

**November 17 • 12:30 pm**
MIT Wright Bros. Wind Tunnel Tour

**December 4 • 1:00 pm**
Holiday Tea at Gore Place
Waltham, MA

Watch for more details for these events in the next newsletter.

Notable

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| 10/27 *Ship Fever* by Andrea Barrett | New members accepted through 9/30

General Information

The MIT Women's League newsletter is published four times during the academic year. The deadline for the Nov/Dec/Jan 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**
Sandra Boynton

**Honorary Chair**
Priscilla Gray

**Design**
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