

## Letter from the Board

### Dear League Members and Friends,

Welcome back to a beautiful Fall! We're looking forward to a wonderful year ahead at MIT. Our student community will return in person, and the League will continue to offer a range of programming, both in person and virtual, over the next few months.

Our long-running English Conversation Classes will pause this semester, but the English Partner Program (EPP) will continue. Our friends at MIT Spouses & Partners Connect help us identify recently-arrived members of our community and then we pair them with

MIT staff and students for a chance to converse in English and share cultures. The EPP has been a beloved part of the League for many years, and we're thrilled to be able to offer it once again.

Last year, we partnered with MIT's Endicott House and MITAC to source recipes beloved by the MIT community and create a recipe book, which went on sale in late 2021, and raised money for Project Restore US, a local charity.

We're back at it this year – crowd-sourcing a gardening book from our green fingered members. The book, *Institute Roots*, will be published before the winter holidays

and will raise money for City Sprouts. Read on for how you can contribute.

We look forward to welcoming newcomers to our Open House, on October 4th, for a chance to meet League members and hear about our upcoming schedule for the Fall, learn about our interest groups, and find ways to get involved.

We welcome anyone who'd like to get involved with the League to drop us a line – let's find a way to build new projects and programs for all in our community.

Warmly,  
MIT Women's League Board



This Fall, the Women's League has joined forces with the ARM Coalition (Accessing Resources at MIT). The ARM Coalition was commissioned by Vice President and Dean for Student Life Suzy Nelson and Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart in fall of 2017 in response to work being done by CASE (Class Awareness Support and Equality) and aims to connect our students with the highest financial need to resources.

The Women's League's Fall Fashion Exchange, now in its 27th year, will be bolstered this year by a campus-wide clothing drive for winter items - coats, hats, gloves and scarves, in all sizes. Collection bins will be placed around campus and the items then stored in the Office of the First Year, to act as a drop-in closet for anyone who needs an item.

Stop by and drop off items, in person, in the following locations:

**Dewey, Hayden & Lewis Libraries**

**5-104 S3 Office**

**7-143 CARE Team**

**14N-213 Women & Gender Studies**

**7-103 OVC/SFS/OFY**

Look out for more news from the Fall Fashion Exchange as the season progresses!



inspiring resilience



## President Reif joins us for this very special event!

**FAIL: Inspiring Resilience**  
**Friday, October 21st 2022**  
**10-250**  
**5:30pm-7:30pm**



L. Rafael Reif, *President of MIT*



Chris Bourg, *Director of Libraries*

The Women's League is proud to announce a partnership with FAIL, a spoken word event that has been a part of MIT since 2018. Originally created by MIT VISTA, and supported by the GSC, FAIL is partnering with the WL this Fall. This event features talks from members of the MIT community and other prominent creators, entrepreneurs and researchers.

The premise is this: share a time that you failed, and what you learned from the experience. The hope is that by sharing these kinds of stories, the most successful among us can help destigmatize failure. MIT is a high pressure environment, and by acknowledging the role of failure in all of our lives, we can create a warm and

supportive community here on campus, for students, staff and wider community members.

This fall we are honored to be hosting President Rafael Reif as a speaker, prior to his departure from his role as MIT's President. He will be joined by speaker Chris Bourg, Director of MIT Libraries, and a full roster of speakers to be announced soon. After our speakers give talks about their experiences with failure and resilience, there will be a moderated Q&A, and the audience can ask questions.

Look out for an email with registration details in the next few weeks. Tim Tickets will be provided for those who need them to access campus.

# Open House

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4TH 2022**  
**12:00 - 1:00 PM**

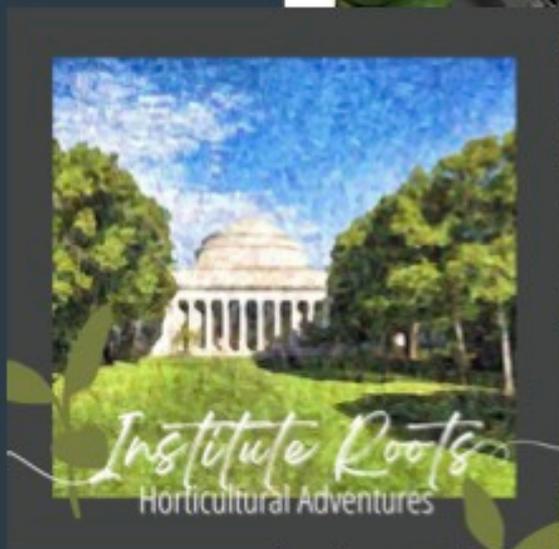


The Women's League Annual Open House will return this Fall, with a hybrid format we launched in 2021. We will host this event at our home on campus, the Emma Rogers Room (10-340). This event is designed to

welcome newcomers to MIT, and tell them all about what we have to offer. We will also provide refreshments to take away. For those off campus on the event day, we will open a Zoom for people to drop into

remotely. Invitations will go out in September to those new to our community. If you have a newcomer in your department, please drop us a line so we can invite them at [kbennett@mit.edu](mailto:kbennett@mit.edu).

# DIGGING UP GARDEN GURUS



## Help us create MIT's gardening book!

The MIT Activities Committee, MIT Endicott House and MIT Women's League are excited to introduce you to our next collaborative venture – a gardening book, “Institute Roots,” a publication in support of cultivating horticulture interests throughout our community. We encourage you to participate by submitting your favorite gardening endeavor – whatever it may be! Topical suggestions include: raised beds, box gardening, vegetables, perennial, annuals, harvesting, repotting, landscape design, fruits, greenhouse techniques, sustainability initiatives... all thoughts and ideas are welcome!

Submission formats could include: tips, tricks, advice, photos of your projects or even your favorite spot on campus!

We look forward to digging into your gardening explorations together! A compilation of entries received to be published for the institute community to share.

## Ready to get involved?

Head on over to the MIT Endicott House website to upload your submission and ideas via an online form. There's also a place to upload photographs of your gardens, plants, or a spot on campus you admire.

[mitendicotthouse.org/mit-garden-book/](http://mitendicotthouse.org/mit-garden-book/)



## Support outdoor learning

Book proceeds to support [citysprouts.org](http://citysprouts.org). For more than twenty years, CitySprouts has partnered closely with public elementary schools in Cambridge and Boston to provide opportunities for children to learn by exploring the natural world as part of their school journey. CitySprouts is committed to greater equity in science education and children's access to nature no matter where they live.

**citysprouts**  
Public school gardens for teaching and learning

# Volunteer with the English Partner Program!



Are you looking for a great volunteer opportunity? Join us as an English Conversation partner!

Every Fall and Spring semester, we pair recently-arrived members of the MIT Community to build a friendly and informal relationship and work on their English skills. You don't need teaching experience or speak your partner's native language. The idea is to help your partner build their English skills and be a warm and friendly presence as they settle into life in Cambridge and at MIT.

Pairs typically meet weekly or biweekly for about an hour. You and your partner choose a meeting time and location that works best for both of you. Reach out to Kara Cunningham ([kbcunnin@mit.edu](mailto:kbcunnin@mit.edu)) with any questions you have.

## Save the Date



### Breakfast Series

Our ever-popular Breakfast Series will return on October 19th, featuring an informal talk from women faculty and breakfast prepared by Chef Tim Healey. Get the story behind the story from those at the cutting edge of research. Look out for an email announcement in the coming weeks!



### Wreath-Making

Every year, the MIT Women's League creates the huge holiday wreaths that hang above 77 Mass Ave. Volunteer wreath decorators of all ages are always needed to continue this joyful tradition. No experience necessary—just bring your holiday spirit! Join us this year on Nov 30th, and lookout for an email invite soon.

## The MIT Women's Chorale

The MIT Women's Chorale is excited to welcome new singers for the fall semester. This will be a hybrid semester, combining weekly in-person rehearsals with Zoom access as we work toward our December concert. Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, October 5th from 7:30-9:00pm.

In-person rehearsals will be held in the sanctuary of Faith Lutheran Church, 311 Broadway, Cambridge, allowing us to spread out for safety. These rehearsals will also be live-streamed via Zoom.

Interested singers should contact us through the MIT Women's League: [wleague@mit.edu](mailto:wleague@mit.edu) , 617-253-3656 and read our Virus Safety Policy on our website before attending rehearsals.



# Creating a Graduate Regalia library

Graduating with a graduate degree from MIT is a crowning achievement, and one that should be celebrated in style! However, for some of our graduates, the cost of renting regalia is a considerable expense, especially those supporting young families. After receiving a donation of two set of robes, we got to thinking - what if we could create a library of graduate robes for those in financial need to borrow?

We're partnering with the Office of Graduate Education, and the ARM (Accessing Resources at MIT)

Coalition to create the first Graduate Regalia Library at MIT. Our collection will be housed in the Women's League office, and the Office of Graduate Education will help us identify students who would benefit from this service.

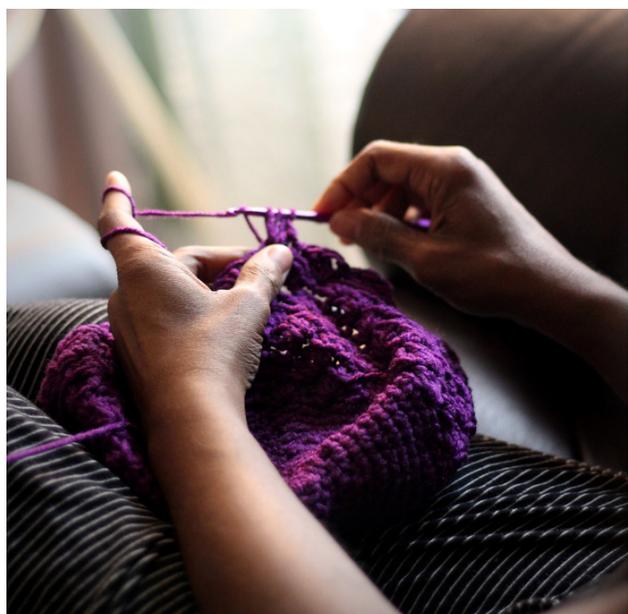
How can you help? If you, or someone you know, has an MIT graduate robe in the back of the closet, consider donating it to the Women's League. We will keep it clean, dry and laundered for those who will need it for years to come.

To find out more, email [kbennett@mit.edu](mailto:kbennett@mit.edu).

## Looking for an interesting read?

The Book Discussion group will host virtual meetings via Zoom. Please write to Maxine Jonas ([jonas\\_m@mit.edu](mailto:jonas_m@mit.edu)) to be added to their mailing list.

<b>September 28</b> <i>Buddenbrooks</i> Thomas Mann	<b>December 7</b> <i>South to America</i> Imani Perry	<b>March 22</b> <i>Finding the Mother Tree</i> Suzanne Simard
<b>October 26</b> <i>The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane</i> Lisa See	<b>January 24</b> <i>The Splendid and the Vile</i> Eric Larson	<b>April 26</b> <i>The Magician</i> Colm Toibin
	<b>February 22</b> <i>The Pavilion in the Clouds</i> Alexander McCall Smith	<b>May 24</b> <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> John Steinbeck



# Fiber Crafts Group

It's a good time to get creative and finish that project! The Fiber Crafts Group offers the space to craft online with friends. Meetings will be held throughout the Fall semester via Zoom. Feel free to sign in at any time over the hour, and stay for as long as you like. For a Zoom invite, please email Claudia James ([nonnajames@gmail.com](mailto:nonnajames@gmail.com)). All events are held 12:30-1:30pm.

### 2022

- September 20
- October 4 & 18
- November 1 & 15
- December 6 & 20

### 2023

- January 3 & 17
- February 7 & 21
- March 7 & 21
- April 4 & 18
- May 2 & 16
- June 6 & 20

# League Interest Groups

## BOOK DISCUSSION

Barbara Donnelly  
781.646.4617  
Nancy Hollomon  
nancyredsox@gmail.com

## CHORALE

Sally de Fazio  
de\_fazio@alum.mit.edu  
web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale

## MITELL STORYTELLING

Kirsty Bennett  
kbennett@mit.edu  
mitell.mit.edu

## FIBER ARTS

Claudia LaBollita-James  
nonnajames@gmail.com

## COMMUNITY CRAFT FAIRS

Brenda Blais  
bmbblais@mit.edu

## CITYSIDE DINING

Jennifer Fleming  
jfsousa@mit.edu

## MIT JAPANESE WIVES GROUP

Kimie Shirasaki  
mitjwg@mit.edu

The October **Honorary League Luncheon** will be held as an in person event. Invitations will be sent out mid September, and Professor Polina Anikeeva will be presenting.

The MIT Women's League Newsletter is published four times during the academic year. Please email the office for a hard copy of the newsletter or for any questions you may have.

Deadline for submission for the November Newsletter is October 1.

**Manager** Kirsty Bennett  
**Chair** Cheryl Vossmer  
**Honorary Chair** Christine Reif  
**Visual Identity** Ink Design



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### Find us online!

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