



MIT WOMEN'S LEAGUE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

## MISSION STATEMENT

The MIT Women's League, founded in 1913, strives to connect women in the MIT community through activities, interest groups, and volunteer opportunities, enriching their lives and the broader MIT Community.

# ANNUAL MEETING

**Tuesday, May 21, 2019**

Emma Rogers Room

77 Massachusetts Avenue, Room 10-340



## **Debbie Douglas**

*Director of Collections and Curator of Science and Technology, MIT Museum*

Debbie Douglas is the Director of Collections and Curator of Science and Technology at the MIT Museum. She oversees the MIT Museum's extensive science and technology collections. She received her A.B. in history from Wellesley College and holds A.M. and Ph.D. degrees in the History and Sociology of Science from the University of Pennsylvania.

## **Program**

- 12:00 pm Welcome: Cheryl Vossmer, *Chair*
- Election of Officers: Ellen Stordy, *Nominating Officer*
- 12:30 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Introduction of Speaker: Jennifer Fleming Sousa,  
*Officer for Social Activities*

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends!

Oh, what an exciting year for the WL! Don't you just love the new logo? It's been in the works for some time now, and the hard work and patience of our designer, writer and WL members continues on our new website (good things take time!) so watch for an announcement. There have been so many wonderful and exciting events this year including talks, classes, activities, and philanthropic events, and so many of you have given time to spread the joy and energy of the MIT Women's League to the greater MIT community — thank you all!

Here are some of our highlights from 2018–2019:

**Fall Fashion Free for All:** It's called Fall Fashion, but it really is a year-round project. Thanks to a greater awareness of the needs of our students, particularly our CASE students, the dedicated team of volunteers has made this event even more accessible this year. In addition to the event itself, there is now a small section in the WL office, called the Clothing Cube, where referred students can acquire a gently used coat, hat or interview clothes any time of year. With the guidance of Mary Desprez and compassionate hearts of everyone else involved, you all have made the WL a place of confidential compassion for those who need our help the most. One of our attendees reached out

to share the following: "I'm not sure, but I believe this organization was in charge of the Fall Fashion event yesterday. It had to be one of the best things that happened for me while at MIT. I come from a low-income family and clothing was just never a priority. Coming here and seeing all the clothes people wear with the boots and coats and sweaters made me aware of my socio-economic status. That event yesterday empowered me through clothing and I not only have a great winter gear, but clothing for interviews and dressy events. What you all have done for me and other MIT students is incredible. Thank you so much!"

**Springtime Tea:** Not just any tea, this event at Gray House is always delightful. As a longtime member of the WL, I had never attended this event. I didn't think that I'd fit in at a tea — well I was wrong! Thank you to the Honorary Chair, and First Lady Christine Reif for sponsoring this incredible event and hosting us in the splendid gardens at Gray House. Please join us this year on May 23, 2019.

**Giving Tuesday:** The Tuesday after Thanksgiving is known as "Giving Tuesday" so a few of us bagged 300 cookies, sealing them with WL labels and handed them out to passersby in Lobby 10. This small gesture was fun and well received.

**Open House:** Previously known as the Welcome Reception for New Women, this event was a redesigned to accommodate members of our community who found an evening event challenging to attend. It is now held at noon with no formal presentations. We're delighted that attendance was up from last year and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Being new at the role of Chair, and with new members on the Executive Committee, we had a small introductory luncheon over the summer for our newest members, Danielle Reddy (Service Projects) and Pamela Schickling Buckley (Treasurer) to meet Ellen Stordy (Nominating Officer), Jennifer Fleming-Sousa (Program Officer), Kirsty Bennett (Manager), and myself as we prepared for the year. In June 2019 we will hold a strategic planning meeting to plan for what lies ahead. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the approval of our updated bylaws, which will help us in our planning. Thank you all for your considerate and thoughtful feedback throughout that process. Look forward to seeing more wonderful events and giving opportunities in 2019–2020! A few months ago, I wrote the Annual Appeal letter. Let me take this opportunity to say how personally grateful I am for your generosity, thank you! If you missed the opportunity during our Annual Appeal, fear not, we'll always accept your donation. Please consult your tax advisor, and note that the MIT Women's League is a nonprofit organization.

The MIT Women's League is made up of the most dedicated, compassionate, caring, understanding and giving group of people, and I am humbled to be the Chair of this League of Women. Please join me in thanking each of you for putting compassion into MIT.

Warm Regards,

Cheryl

Cheryl Vossmer, *Chair*  
MIT Women's League

# SCHOLARS AND AWARDS

## **PKG Women's League Scholars**

### **Summer 2018**

**Yael Nidam** (G, Urban Studies and Planning) worked in Boston, Massachusetts, with the City of Boston Environment Department. She provided design, research, and coordination assistance for the City of Boston's climate resilience activities and collaborated with other members of the environment department and partners across city hall and the Boston resilience community. Yael was delighted to work with the Climate Ready Boston team and support their mission to prepare Boston for climate change. One of the main products of her work is a tool to enable the City of Boston to keep coastal neighborhoods informed about the intention and progress of climate remediation projects.

### **IAP 2019**

#### **The Betty Johnson Fellow**

(For environmental issues)

**Tessa Buono** (Master's, DUSP) interviewed various local organizations who actively bring historically underserved populations to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Through these interviews, she gained insight into the barriers that prevent this population from visiting outdoor space. By sharing this information with these local organizations and relaying their feedback to the National Park Service, she aims

to help make Santa Monica Mountains NRA more accessible and welcoming to its adjacent community in Los Angeles.

#### **The Becky Vest Fellow**

(For Women Working on Women's Issues)

**Melika Konjicanin** (Master's, Architecture) worked with the nonprofit organization Most Mira and architecture firm Project V Architecture on developing an architecture proposal for the Youth Peace Center in Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project aims to transform a war-ruined house into a vibrant arts destination for local youth and the peacebuilding charity, Most Mira. Melika produced the construction drawings for the landscape design around the proposed rammed earth building.

#### **Laya Weisner Awards**

The 2019 Laya W. Weisner Award and Laya Weisner Community Award were presented at the Academic Awards Convocation on May 13, 2019. The awardees are:

**Jessica Quaye**, *Laya W. Weisner Award*  
**Patricia Maria-Weinmann**, *Laya Weisner Community Award*

Our warmest congratulations to all of our awardees!

# PROGRAMS 2018–2019

**Luncheon for Interest  
Group Chairs**

September 12

**Synaptic Stories  
at the MIT Museum**

September 20

**Fall Reception for New  
Women at MIT**

September 26

**Honorary League Fall  
Luncheon**

October 19

**Fall Fashion Free For All**

October 19

**Breakfast Series**

October 24

**Tour of the  
MIT Media Lab**

November 7

**Wreath-Making**

November 28

**English Conversation  
Class Holiday Brunch**

December 6

**Chorale Holiday Concerts**

December 1 & 8

**Holiday Community  
Craft Fair**

December 13–14

**Tour of the  
Self-Assembly Lab**

February 5

**Ask the Chef**

February 15

**Breakfast Series**

March 13

**Tour of the Koch Center**

March 21

**Brown Bag Lunch – Ari Daniel**

March 26

**Aging Successfully**

April 16

**Honorary League  
Spring Luncheon**

April 18

**Appreciation Lunch**

April 25

**Chorale Spring Concerts**

May 4 & 11

**English Conversation  
Class Spring Brunch**

May 9

**Annual Meeting**

May 21

**Springtime Tea at  
Gray House**

May 23

# EXECUTIVE BOARD 2018–2019

**Christine Reif** Honorary Chair

**Cheryl Vossmer** Chair

**Kim Watson & Bette Davis** Officer for Programs

**Danielle T. Reddy** Officer for Service Projects

**Jennifer Sousa** Officer for Social Activities

**Pamela Schickling-Buckley** Treasurer

**Ellen Stordy** Nominating Chair

**Sandra Boynton**

**Paula Cronin**

**Mary DesPrez**

**Jane Howard**

**Alison Hynd**

**Dee Ippen**

**Keiko Kanda**

**Deborah Liverman**

**Janet Plotkin**

**Laurie Scott**

**Zahida Taher**

# WOMEN'S LEAGUE OFFICERS 2019-2021

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of elective officers for the Women's League Executive Board:

For two (2) years:

**Chair**

Cheryl Vossmer

**Officer for Social Activities**

Jennifer Fleming Sousa

**Officers for Programs**

Mary K. Casey

Elise Perkins-Noel

**Nominating Officer**

Ellen Stordy

The Board continues the League's tradition of nurturing the growth of new ideas, which, in turn, support the needs of MIT's community of women.

# BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

As the Officer for Social Activities, I have the pleasure of working on the two primary events that open and close the academic year for the Women's League. On May 15, 2018, we hosted our Annual Meeting. In addition to League business and over a delicious plated luncheon, we welcomed David Randall, Senior Associate Dean, Student Support and Wellbeing, and Miri Skolnik, Assistant Dean, Student Support Services as our guest speakers. David and Miri work in the Division of Student Life as leaders in the department of Student Support Services, or S3 as it is referred to around campus.

David Randall was chosen to speak in part due to his work on the Food Insecurity Committee, established in the Summer of 2017 to bring together students, faculty, and staff to address the issues of hunger and food accessibility on the campus. MIT CASE (Class Awareness Support and Equality), a group that has received the support of the Women's League and worked closely with our Nominating Chair, Ellen Stordy, is a champion of this cause, so the topic was of great interest to League members. David provided helpful insight into the attention being given to this issue and steps being taken at MIT to address students that are affected. Both David and Miri helpfully fielded a Q&A session from members at the end of the presentation.

On September 26, 2018, exciting changes came to our annual Newcomers Welcome Reception, which was rebranded as the MIT Women's League Open House. In an effort to reach more of the campus community, we held the event over lunch hours instead of the late afternoon, in the hopes that more folks would escape their office and explore what the Women's League was all about. We also moved the location from the Bush Room to our own Emma Rogers Room as a way to showcase part of the League's "home" on campus.

To highlight the feel of a social atmosphere, we kept formal remarks to a minimum and instead the opportunity to learn about the League and its campus partners was everywhere you turned! Upon arrival, guests were met just outside the room by representatives from Human Resources, MIT Libraries, MIT Spouses & Partners Connect, the MIT Work-Life Center to share information about their services. After a brief welcome by Women's League Chair, Cheryl Vossmer, attendees were encouraged to mingle amongst current League members and newcomers alike to chat and ask questions. A dedicated table for our FX was set up in the corner, and in the center of the room was a large table featuring information and sign-up sheets for our programs and interest groups. League members with experience in various areas wore nametags to identify themselves as a resource for anyone who wanted to learn more. As always, the event included delicious treats

from Chef Tim Healey. I'm so grateful to all the volunteers, representatives, and attendees for being open to these exciting changes. Overall, this new model was deemed a great success and we'll be moving forward with it for years to come!

An additional change that occurred this fall was the new format to celebrate the English Conversation Classes. As the Bush Room was closed for renovations this year, we had no home large enough for our annual International Wives Dinner. Instead, the English class teachers decided to have celebratory brunches at the end of term. They have decided this change was also such a success, they will continue it in the hopes of establishing a new tradition.

As the Women's League continues to grow, the success of our programs and events are owed to all those who volunteer their time, actively participate in person, as well as those who support us with donations from afar — thank you so much! Thank you also to Chef Tim Healey and his team for continuing to provide us with quality catering that, in my opinion, is unmatched anywhere else on campus.

Finally, as I continue to grow into my role with the Women's League, the support of Women's League Manager Kirsty Bennett, Chair Cheryl Vossmer, and the entire board continues to be invaluable. I'm lucky to be part of such a team and they have my

sincerest gratitude. Looking forward to working with them all on another successful year!

Jennifer Fleming Sousa, *Officer for Social Activities*

### **Communications**

League events are listed on our facebook page and the new MIT events calendar, which allow for engagement from a wider community on campus. With a more active facebook presence, we grew our online followers by 50% in the past year. We also use MailChimp for our email communications, allowing for bright designs and easy sign-up for events through Eventbrite.

Our new logo and color scheme rolled out in September 2018, and work on our new website is underway.

## PROGRAMS

Kim Watson, longtime Program Officer, stepped down in the middle of the year. Kim shared: “It is with grateful thanks to so many people over the years, in my tenure as Program Chair, that I have been able to present varied programs. This year I would like to thank Bette Davis for assuming the task of Programs. Thank you, Bette. Sincerely, Kim Watson.”

Our programs this year have all been on campus, and were very popular. Three of the programs were guided tours, and all were sold out, with waiting lists. (These tours had limited capacity. The Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research was able to provide two tour guides, so we could accommodate twice as many people.)

Programs included the following:

November 7, 2018 — Tour of the Media Lab

February 5, 2019 — Tour of the Self-Assembly Lab in MIT’s International Design Center

February 15, 2019 — “Ask the Chef,” with Chef Tim Healey

March 21, 2019 — Tour of the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research

Unfortunately, the stargazing event with Amanda Bosh that was planned in Fall 2018 had to be cancelled due to weather. A tour of the Wallace Observatory was considered for Spring 2019, but it was decided it might work better in a different season, and will probably happen next year.

I was happy to fill out this year for Kim Watson, who has planned so many wonderful programs for us for years, and am grateful to Kirsty Bennett for all her support.

Bette Davis

### **Breakfast Series**

Twice a year, we invite members to join us for breakfast, prepared by Chef Tim Healey, in the Emma Rogers Room to hear a woman from the institute describe her career path and work at MIT. Our October event speaker, Chris Bourg, is the Director of Libraries at MIT. Chris has a deep appreciation for the critical role of scholarly communication in a research university environment, and its links to education and service to the community. We were fortunate to hear Marcia Bartusiak, our spring term speaker, as she is retiring from MIT this year to pursue other passions. Marcia is an author, journalist, and Professor of the Practice of the Graduate Program in Science Writing. Combining her training as a

journalist with a graduate degree in physics, she has been covering the fields of astronomy and physics for more than three decades and has published in a variety of publications. Both events were well attended and garnered rave reviews that the speakers were authentic, engaging and inspiring.

Zahida Taher, *Chair*

**Catherine N. Stratton Lecture  
on Aging Successfully**

*Protecting Elders with Cognitive Impairment from Financial Vulnerability* was the title of the 32st Anniversary Catherine N. Stratton Aging Successfully Lecture on Tuesday, April 16 to honor former First Lady Kay Stratton whose energy, grace and intelligence enriched the MIT community for more than seventy-five years.

A collaborative project of MIT's Medical Department, AgeLab and Women's League, the 2019 lecture brought together panelists from the MIT Women's League's Aging Successfully Committee, MIT Medical Department and Massachusetts legal community to address fundamental issues underlying this vulnerability and ways to address it.

Moderator and speaker Dr. Stephanie J. Bird, PhD, outlined our topic, introduced the panelists and directed audience questions.

Geriatrician Shoshana Streiter, MD, Advanced Research Fellow at Beth Israel Medical Center, began the discussion by describing and illustrating the differences between normal aging, mild cognitive impairment and dementia.

MIT Medical Nurse Care Manager Cathleen A. Dwyer, MSM, presented examples from her experience at MIT Medical where elderly clients were subject to outside exploitation, thus reinforcing the extent of this occurrence among us.

Attorney John G. Dugan, Esq., experienced in representing elders and other victims exposed to financial exploitation in whatever form it occurs, provided advice and suggested ways to identify and address this form of abuse. He also provided two lists: Tips for Identifying, Preventing and Dealing with Financial Exploitation, and Elder Service Agencies in Massachusetts as resources.

A robust Q&A session of audience questions and speaker responses followed the presentations.

The committee also wishes to acknowledge the retirement of three physicians who have contributed so generously as planners, moderators

and speakers for many of the earlier Stratton Aging Successfully programs: John R. Anderson, MD; Michael A. Kane, MD; and William M. Kettyle, MD.

Current members of the Catherine N. Stratton Aging Successfully Committee planning for these lectures are Stephanie Bird, PhD; Cary Stratton Boyd; Joseph F. Coughlin, PhD; Jane L. Howard; Maureen Johnston, NP; and Shoshana Streiter, MD.

Jane L. Howard, *Chair*

## **SERVICE PROJECTS**

Service to the MIT community has been, and continues to be of primary importance to the League for over 100 years. This year, our volunteers were engaged in the following League service projects. We are proud and incredibly grateful to have had their support, dedication, energy, and enthusiasm. These are remarkable women who have made significant contributions to our community.

Danielle T. Reddy, *Officer for Service Projects*

## **CASE Partnership**

Class Awareness Support and Equality (CASE) at MIT is a student-run organization founded in 2016, dedicated to improving MIT's community awareness of class disparities and knowledge of the social class system.

**Food Care Package Event** Hosted by MIT Women's League, the Division of Student Life, Student Support Service (S3) and CASE (Class Awareness, Support and Equality).

In June, July & August 2018, the MIT Women's League partnered with S3 and CASE, offering food care packages to CASE and Questbridge students. It was a noteworthy success and the students who benefitted expressed their gratitude for the food care event!

In September 2018, MIT opened TechMart, an at-cost grocery for students, in collaboration with Rebecca's Cafe. TechMart offers staples like vegetables, fruit, rice, flour, pasta, soups, sauces, grains, spices, meats, and dairy at affordable prices, and is open 3pm-3:30pm, Monday through Friday, in Walker Memorial.

**IAP** In January 2019, the Women's League partnered with S3 and donated \$500 to be used by 20 CASE students for TechMart purchases and other vendors in the area.

In recognition of their dedication to their cause, CASE was recognized in 2018 with an Institute Bridge Builder Award and in 2019, the Women's League was delighted to support the nomination of CASE for the 2019 Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award. Members of CASE accepted the MLK award in February this year. Both these awards are a testimony to commitment and outreach of this valued organization, now embraced by the MIT administration. Congratulations to CASE on their success and recognition!

MIT Women's League hopes to continue to partner with S3 and CASE over the coming year.

Ellen Stordy, *Outreach*  
[www.studentsonthecase.com](http://www.studentsonthecase.com)

### **English Conversation Classes**

Through the English Conversation Classes, international visitors to MIT have the opportunity to improve their English, learn about the US, and make friends for life. The program is open to anyone with an MIT connection, whether students or visiting scholars themselves or family members of students, scholars, or employees. Notably, we have six men registered in the Spring term.

We had 60 students in the Fall 2018 term and 50 in Spring 2019, representing 12 countries. We offered five classes covering Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced levels.

Our numbers fall term were down a bit from recent years (2016:67; 2017:65). However, our spring numbers are similar to last spring (52) and considerably higher than 2016 (41). The spring numbers are encouraging, because this was the first term we did not offer babysitting during class. Some students were not able to enroll without babysitting, but others continued in class, finding other options for child care. This is especially important, since it is unlikely that we will offer babysitting in coming years.

Highlights of the year include end-of-term catered brunches for all classes in the Student Center, where we enjoyed games that helped bring everyone together. These brunches were in lieu of the International Dinner this year. They have been so well-received that we will continue this

instead of reinstating the dinner next year. Several of the classes also enjoyed a free tour of the MFA during class time, and the two intermediate classes joined together to dye Easter eggs at Fran Hutchinson's home.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our dedicated teachers, Joanne Cohn, Paula Dincer, Fran Hutchinson, Laura Mali-Astrue, Srirupa Mitra, Laurie Scott and Ellen Stordy and substitutes, Sandra Boynton, Liz Cabot, Mary Desprez, and Julia Whidden. Special thanks to Kara Cunningham, who is doing an incredible job matching students and MIT volunteers in the English Partner Program, which is open only to our students.

With regret, I note that Joanne Cohn will not be teaching next year, but thankfully, she will occasionally be available as a substitute. Joanne has added so much to the program in her eleven years with us. She has energized the teachers and the program with a research-grounded vision of how to teach English as a second language. Joanne also started the English Partner Program, which has become such an important part of our classes. Thank you, Joanne!

Respectfully,  
Laurie Scott, *Coordinator*

### **English Conversation — Babysitting**

During the fall semester 2018, we had 12 children: 10 were from Japan, 1 was from Turkey, and 1 was from China. Children ranged from 6 months up to 4 years old. The babysitting room was open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am to 11:15am in room 491 in the Student Center, while the mothers take English Conversation Classes in the same building. Our 12 children's average age was 1 year 7 months. Fall average attendance is 78%.

We worked with a baby circle and provided activities for groups of younger and older children. Natural, nutritious snacks and water were provided. We had 4 helpers every semester, depending upon the children's ages and numbers. Most of our helpers have been working with us for many years and they take care of children individually. Often when the mothers come to pick them up, some children do not want to go home. Children love the Babysitting Room.

Some families went back to their country before the semester ended, and we were sad to see them leave. For many of the children the MIT Women's League, Babysitting Room experience is their first community experience. They have learned a lot and we as helpers have enjoyed watching their growing process day by day. Children are amazing and they have unknown quantity of possibility in their future.

Unfortunately, we did not have a spring semester due to my retirement in December after 37 years of my position. I am so lucky to have wonderful, experienced staff who have been working for many years with me. I really appreciate Kirsty Bennett, Manager of Women's League, Laurie Scott, English Conversation Classes coordinator, and all other teachers who have been devoted to work so hard and helped us a lot.

*Keiko Kanda, Coordinator of Babysitting Room for the English Conversation classes.*

### **English Partners Program**

Last fall, the English Partner Program (EPP) matched 48 students with 44 volunteers from the MIT community. This semester 42 students were paired with 38 volunteers. Students and volunteers generally met pairs, however there were several triads (one volunteer and two students). Students across all levels, in both terms, elected to have an English conversation partner. Those who enrolled in both the fall and spring semesters generally continued to meet with the same volunteer.

Volunteers were recruited by word of mouth from previous/current volunteers and the EPP was also promoted to community members by MIT Employee Resource Groups, department newsletters, and Community Giving. Interested volunteers were asked to complete a Google

form that collected their contact information and availability. Their availability was later used to match them with a student who had compatible schedule.

This year approximately two thirds of EPP matches were introduced by email. Due to scheduling constraints on both the volunteer and student sides it was difficult to arrange for a matching day. Prior to the match day, I reached out to the students and volunteers to confirm whether or not they would be able to attend the matching session. Those who were unable to attend the matching day were introduced by email. The remaining pairs were introduced in person at the matching day.

Both volunteers and students have provided positive feedback for the EPP. The volunteers often enjoy sharing their knowledge of MIT and Boston/Cambridge while learning about another part of the world and helping someone new to the area navigate a new language and city. The students appreciate the opportunity to improve their English language skills while learning more about MIT and life in the United States.

Looking forward to next year, I intend to continue to expand the network for potential volunteers and refine the data collected in the Google form to ensure a smooth matching process for the volunteers and students. Several of the spring semester students have also expressed an interest

in volunteer opportunities at MIT and in Cambridge. I intend to maintain a list of resources at MIT and local nonprofit organizations as a resource for the for students and their partners.

The EPP is a fantastic program and it is a success because of the hours the volunteers spend with their students. It has been a wonderful experience getting to know each of the volunteers this year- their efforts inspire me.

Sincerely,  
Kara Cunningham  
*Volunteer Coordinator*

### **Furniture Exchange**

The mission of the Furniture Exchange (FX) continues to be serving the communities of the four universities we encompass — MIT, Harvard, Boston and Suffolk, promoting sustainability and raising funds through our sales to support the MIT Women's League Scholarship Fund. We will soon be adding Emerson College to our list of colleges who can use the services of the MIT FX.

We spend a lot of time re-painting, sanding and re-staining furniture that comes into the FX in less than "mint condition." Our painted furniture seems to fly out the door and we have a lot of volunteers who like to do this type of work. Last year the FX was awarded an Earth Day grant from the Office of Sustainability to continue this upcycling.

We feature one-of-a-kind pieces on our website and social media channels, and our Facebook page is now at 2,303 likes, up over 400 likes from last year. Every Tuesday, we update our inventory so that our customers can view our items from the comfort of their own home. Please visit our sites at [mit.edu/womensleague/fx](http://mit.edu/womensleague/fx) and [facebook.com/MITFX](https://facebook.com/MITFX).

We continue to run sewing workshops at the MIT FX every third Saturday of the month. These events have been very well-attended and to date we have made tote bags, aprons, toiletry kits, quilted potholders, tunics, and leggings as well as hosting open sewing hours. Some participants have gone on to become volunteers at the FX!

The FX has a wonderful, fun, clean new logo thanks to Wing Ngan and Kirsty Bennett and we are looking forward to a new website.

We are always grateful to the crew at Your Move, our movers extraordinaire. Donators often write in to say how great the movers were, which we love hearing.

The success of the Furniture Exchange stems largely from the support of our wonderful volunteers who keep the FX running smoothly, organize and clean the many pieces of inventory, wait on customers, and work on rehabbing furniture: Bette Johnson, Carolyn Truant, David Fitzgerald, Fran Miles, Gloria Pless, Jasper Weinberg Jay Piper, Joe Rios, Keiko Kanda,

Lisa Paltseva, Liz Torres-Rios, Natasha Paltseva,  
Nicole Piper, Reiko Miyagawa, Stephen Wetzzel,  
Virginia Pino de Colacelli, Yijia Wang,  
Yin Deascentis, Zahida Taler, and Zarrin Foster.

Noreen Hagerty-Ford, our Assistant Manager,  
is an invaluable contributor. She is upbeat and  
dedicated, and puts the service in customer  
service. She is so friendly and helpful with  
customers, they often return to just check in with  
her. She is a wonderful team member and we  
are lucky to have this Navy JAG on our team.

A special thank you to Kirsty Bennett, a rock star  
who has brought great insight and incredible  
energy to the FX and the whole Women's League.  
Thanks too to Cheryl Vossmer for her wise  
counsel and support and to all the members of  
the Women's League for their help in another  
successful year at the FX!

We will miss seeing one of our regulars and  
antiques expert, John Meneghini, who passed  
away this winter.

We are of course very grateful to our loyal  
customers and generous donors.

Thank you!  
Julie Parker, *Manager*

Every year, Julie writes a poem to thank all the  
volunteers to keep the FX running. We're delighted  
to share it with you!

There is a used furniture store in Cambridge  
called the MIT FX,  
Run by dedicated volunteers, they are simply the best  
Without them the warehouse would be dirty  
and unclean  
And no one would shop there, not even Reggie  
and Colleen

On Tuesdays in comes Fran Miles  
Full of ideas, selling plans, and big wide smiles  
She gets us big money like \$1600 dollars  
For 4 plates, it makes me wanna hollah

Gloria is the ultimate combo of brains and brawn  
we are always very sad when she is gone  
She can move a couch with only one hand  
She is the #1 Energizer bunny in the land

Virginia moves from city to city with her 3 kids  
and Hubby  
So positive, so helpful she keeps the FX from  
looking Grubby,  
We love having her and she takes sewing classes,  
We can't wait for her to teach mosaics to the Masses.

Carolyn can whip anything into shape  
She does it so well she leaves my mouth agape  
She starts out fast and just builds momentum  
She also makes our customers feel so very welcome

Lisa comes on Saturdays and in the summers  
When she is not in the day is a bummer  
she has almost finished her Freshman year at Lesley  
So very very proud of her are we

Nicole and Jay aren't able to come in as frequently  
A good reason — the best reason — It's their family  
Beautiful Fotene, so curious and bright  
Wait I can't say she's beautiful — I mean she's got  
executive might

David mans the checkout counter — at this he is the best,  
Fed by chocolate and coffee he never takes a rest  
Always Faithful, he shows up on our busy Saturdays  
In the heat of August, he sells couches, tables and chaise.

Reiko is a new addition this year all the way  
from Lexington  
She is a wonderful volunteer second to none  
She helps me with crafts and is always a dream  
In assisting me with some cockamamie scheme

Keiko arrives on Tuesdays with apron and gloves  
A pricing whiz, a cleaning machine, she gives the FX  
her love  
I don't think she has been to any hot springs of late-ing  
So this poem will maintain a pg-13 rating

Zarrin comes in on Thursdays carrying herself with  
such grace  
She often brings cookies with which we stuff our Face  
She is also the ultimate conversationalist  
Wonderful with customers, always there to assist.

The presence of Noreen has been a god |send,  
She works so hard and many a person she does befriend.  
The FX and I personally would be lost without her  
If she ever leaves I will have to start drinking Liqueur

And to Cheryl our wonderful leader  
As a supporter of the FX, no one can beat her  
Retired this year, yet still so involved at MIT  
She has donated a lot to us, we love her to  
the nth Degree

Kirsty is our amazing North star  
Guided by her, we will never wander afar  
She really helps us with so much  
With her gifted way with words she gives everything  
the right touch.

The FX would not be the place we all hold dear  
Without our loyal, dedicated, amazing volunteers  
So, I cannot thank you all enough  
You are all truly hot, hot stuff!

### **Fall-Fashion-Free-For-All (FFFFA)**

The FFFFA had another great year in 2018. Our annual event was on October 18th and 19th, with set up on the first day and the actual event on Friday, the 19th. We had our biggest turn out ever with approximately 190 students joining us in our large, give away boutique.

In 2018, the event moved to the Mezzanine Lounge in the Student Center to accommodate a growing list of recipients. The lay out and lighting conditions in the Mezzanine Lounge enhanced set up and flow of volunteer organizers and participants. The Campus Activities Center made available numerous pieces of equipment, i.e. clothing racks and movable partitions, which were greatly appreciated. In addition to international, Pell Grant, Questbridge, and CASE students, students from the First Generation Program in the Office of First Year joined us as well.

The annual October event is the culmination of many hours of work by close to 60 dedicated

volunteers. The annual cycle begins in early June when several tons of clothing are collected from the dorms by the Trash to Treasures program, a student-run volunteer program. MIT's Recycling department transports the clothing to Mail Services. From there, bags and boxes are emptied and sorted in the FFFFA space in the FX. Additional items are solicited from the MIT community. Over the summer, clothing for the event is separated and prepped. Remaining items are donated to a variety of clothing resource centers. This year, bags were distributed to MIT's Reduce to Reuse, Solutions at Work, the Goodwill, the Friend's Meeting in Cambridge, a church mission to Haiti, and an immigrant center in Somerville.

Another exciting expansion of the program was the creation of the Clothing Cube in the offices of the Women's League. The Cube is a small, seasonally edited inventory available throughout the year to referred students. We are delighted to expand the mission to become a year-round resource center.

The 2019 event will be held on October 17th and 18th. If you would like to assist with the program, please contact Mary DesPrez at [charlesbridge@comcast.net](mailto:charlesbridge@comcast.net). Clothing donations can be dropped off in the offices of the Women's League (10-340), and in drop boxes adjacent to the FFFFA space in the FX.

Mary DesPrez

# INTEREST GROUPS 2018–2019

## Interest Groups and Activities

Interest Groups sponsored by the MIT Women's League attract women of the Institute who have similar interests to gather, get acquainted and learn from each other. The Women's Chorale and the Book Group are two of the first that continue today. New members are always welcome to any meetings. Come for each meeting or come as you are able! This is a wonderful way to meet people, learn about the League and become involved.

This year, the annual Fall luncheon for contact people from each group, class, or activity was held on September 12th in the MacLaurin Room. We shared our past year experiences, asked questions, and prepared for the Women's League Fall Open House for new women at MIT. It was held in the Emma Rogers Room with a new format as the Bush Room was being renovated. I sincerely thank everyone who participated by representing her group or interest. You are very important and vital to the success of this event. (The Open House concept to welcome women new to MIT was very successful and the attendance was good.)

Changes continue and the groups evolve. The Chorale is as popular as ever preparing for their two annual concerts. As Kevin Galie, their conductor for 11 years will be stepping down, a search is on for his replacement. The Book Group continues with a strong core group which has attracted a few new attendees who have added much to the

monthly discussions. MITell Storytelling, under the leadership of Kirsty Bennett, is in its second year partnering with several offices and groups at MIT. The Informal Needlework Group is now called the Fiber Crafts Group moving from meeting twice a month to once a month this year.

Other activities included here are the Community Craft Fair held in December and the Wreathmaking event, ably arranged each year by Brenda Blais. Cityside Dining is chaired by Jennifer Sousa and provides an opportunity to join others at a local restaurant for dinner. This is a wonderful way to meet women from around the institute as well as enjoy a new restaurant or cuisine. The Japanese Wives Group continues under the guidance of Kimie Shirasaki enabling Japanese women to participate in MIT activities, cooking classes and so much more.

Continue on and read the annual reports below for each group the League sponsors. The contact people can be reached by calling Kirsty Bennett in the League office 617.253.3656, checking our website or the Women's League newsletter. New ideas, new groups or workshops are always a possibility. Let us know if you are looking for a way to become involved.

Sandra Boynton, *Coordinator*  
Interest Groups and Classes

### **Book Discussion Group**

The Book Discussion Group meets nine times over the year. Occasionally, we add a visit to a museum or location which is related to our book choice. Members take turns leading discussions and also in choosing the books we read. This year, we have enjoyed visitors to the Institute who bring new ideas and suggestions. We especially appreciate the times in which we have authors present to reveal the techniques of construction which they use. Some members who have moved away continue to receive our reading lists. All are welcome — for one time or regularly.

Nancy Holloman

### **MIT Women's Chorale**

This has been an unusual year the Chorale, marked by change and preparation for a major transition.

After a successful pair of concerts in May, detailed in the 2017–2018 annual report, Chorale members were invited to participate in an “extracurricular” activity, singing in the wedding of our Music Director, Kevin Galiè. His bride is a Chorale member. While not an official part of our season, our gathering for this event is a testament to the community-building function of the Chorale.

As our fall season began, we welcomed a new and highly accomplished accompanist, Leona Cheung. She holds a Master of Music

degree in Collaborative Piano from New England Conservatory (NEC).

In December, the Chorale's concert featured Joseph Michael Haydn's *Vespers for the Feast of the Holy Innocents* with lovely soloists selected from our ranks, and accompanied by a small string ensemble composed of young professional musicians who are studying at NEC. The piece also had our pianist playing the portable Baroque pipe organ that Kevin has often loaned to the group for our concerts. To take further advantage of this combination of instruments, Kevin led the string players from the organ keyboard, playing a Mozart *Church Sonata*. Our performance also included two very lively Latin American pieces, and a small ensemble of some of our singers performing, *a cappella*, an ethereal contemporary piece.

Between semesters, our members were invited to hold their mid-season potluck lunch at the Cambridge Boat Club, as guests of Kevin and Franziska Galiè.

As the season developed, it became clear that our group was facing a major transition: Kevin and Fran will be moving to Germany in the summer of 2019. Thus we began our search for a new Music Director. We held both conventional and “conducting” interviews, with the Chorale participating in the latter and giving feedback to our Search Committee. After reviewing the applications of 13 candidates, interviewing 5, and bringing 3 in

for conducting interviews, we have found our preferred candidate, one who received strongly favorable ratings from a remarkably high percentage of the singers who met and sang with him. As of this writing, we are hopeful of being able to make an official announcement about our new Director soon.

Meanwhile, we are preparing for our May concerts. One is an open dress rehearsal on May 4, a concept brought to us by Kevin — a performance in front of a small audience even before our main dress rehearsal. In naval terms, this is called a “shake down cruise.” While we have previously held these events in the MIT Chapel, this May we will perform for the first time in the new theater space on Vassar Street. For this and our May 11 concert, we have been rehearsing the beautiful *Stabat Mater* of the 18th century Maltese/Neapolitan composer, Girolamo Abos, with string ensemble and organ. The program will also include three French opera choruses, and an example of Gregorian chant. For the latter, Kevin has been teaching us how to read from the traditional chant notation. The repertoire for this concert provides a good illustration of the sorts of musical journeys Kevin has taken us on in his 11 years with us:

- Exposing us to an historically important form of music (Gregorian Chant)
- Finding and producing an edition for us of a remarkably beautiful but nearly unknown long work for women’s voices (Abos *Stabat Mater*); this work provides a showcase for some the

lovely solo-quality voices within the group.

- Because Kevin has the expertise to conduct orchestral instruments, we have the pleasure and experience of singing with string ensemble and organ.
- Choosing for us some musical fun and fresh content in the form of opera choruses written for women, pieces which are rarely performed.

We are hopeful that as the Chorale continues into its 2019-2020 season, that while it will be a different organization without Kevin Galiè, it will continue to be a group whose members are serious about making music and serious about *enjoying* making music.

Sally de Fazio & Sharon Lin

### **CitySide Dining**

Now in its 13th year, CitySide Dining group continues to explore interesting dining spots around town. As the new coordinator and with help from one former group leader, Sofia Caloggero, we’re working on slowly growing our group into 2019. Our group mission is to come together for lively socializing and networking over delicious food and beverages — some discovering new places, others enjoying familiar tastes, and everyone leaving satisfied!

Our criteria for choosing a destination remains constant: the price should be modest, the cuisine

unique, and the location within a reasonable distance from the MIT campus or a T-stop. Our core email list is about 90 members although the number of participants on any given CSD evening routinely includes from 6–10, with a slightly different grouping each time.

Traditionally, outings are weeknight dinners but we hope to expand to include possibilities such as the lunch hour, a mid-morning coffee run, or an afternoon snack (all local to MIT, of course).

As we work to build our frequency back up again, this winter we've visited:

- Shabu & Mein, Kendall Square: Asian ramen bowls & hot pot
- Sulmona, Kendall Square: food & drinks inspired by the Abruzzo region of Northern Italy

Newcomers are always welcome, and if you are a former diner who's been away, please come back and join us! If you'd like to get involved, please visit the MIT Women's League website for information or feel free to email me directly to be added to the list. You can always find our sign-up sheet at the Fall Open House in September as well. Thank you to all members and co-organizers who have participated and please feel free to send along restaurant suggestions and/or dining ideas any time!

I'm looking forward to what the next year can bring for CitySide Dining! And let's remember: "One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well." – Virginia Woolf

Jennifer Fleming Sousa  
jfsousa@mit.edu

### **Honorary League**

Two excellent speakers attracted a full house for our Honorary League Luncheons this year.

In October, Professor Rosalind W. Picard, founder/director of the Media Lab's Affective Computing Research Group spoke on Surprising Adventures while Building Computers with Emotional Intelligence. And in April, Nancy Kanwisher, Walter A. Rosenblith Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience and a founding member of the McGovern Institute talked on Functional Imaging of the Human Brain: A Window into the Architecture of the Human Mind. Both speakers were fascinating and well-received.

I thank my co-chairs Bonnie Jones and Chris Santos and the indispensable Kirsty Bennett for pulling everything together. And, of course, the MIT President's Office for making these events possible.

My term ended with the April luncheon. Chris Santos will take over as Honorary League chair for the next two years, along with new co-chairs Nancy Mims and Diana Garcia-Martinez.

Dee Ippen, *Honorary League chair*

### **Fiber Crafts Group**

During this past academic year, we met on the third Wednesday of the month. The group name was changed from Informal Needlework to Fiber Crafts Group as a way to attract new members but with even with the name change, attendee numbers remained low (less than 8 members most months). Difficulty in finding close parking spaces was a problem that long-time/commuting members brought up. Monthly email reminders are sent to approximately 35 people each month.

Co-chair Carol Clark represented the group at the September open house and nine people expressed interest in the group and were included in the monthly emails.

While there is no formal instruction, there is a wealth of “know-how” in our group that is generously shared. The group welcomes all MIT women; sometimes students have attended meetings, bringing a different crafting perspective to the group. Past and present fiber crafts that

group members have worked on include knitting, crocheting, cross stitching, embroidery, and quilting.

In June we will have our traditional potluck luncheon and discuss options for increasing membership for next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Clark  
Claudia LaBollita-James

### **Wreath Making**

On Wednesday, November 28, volunteers met in the Student Center to make the holiday wreaths that were later hung above the doors at MIT's main entrance at 77 Massachusetts Avenue. After a slight delay when our wreath frames were discovered missing, we were back in action when the crew from Facilities swiftly whipped up some new ones. Three gorgeous wreaths were created and looked delightful over the entrance to MIT.

Brenda Blais, *Chair*

### **Community Craft Fair**

The Holiday Craft Fair was held on December 13th and 45th in Lobby 10 from 9am to 5pm. A variety of vendors participated and shoppers found a wide selection of gift items on display to purchase. The fees collected from vendors went to offset the expenses associated with planning for the fair and to support the MIT Women's League Scholarship Fund. The holiday craft fair has always been a popular event, bringing people from across the campus to Lobby 10 for an interlude of very convenient holiday shopping!

Brenda Blais, *Chair*

### **MIT Japanese Wives Group**

This year, we organized 10 group events including meetings, parties, and other activities.

Our main activity is the Friendship Partner Program. This program arranges introductory meetings for our members to exchange their culture with that of their partners. Partners who established cultural links were: Sofia Caloggero with Michiko Yoshida, Sharon Lin with Mai Eto and Hiroko Matsuzaki, Bette Johnson with Norie Takada, Crystal Chang with Yoko Ishikawa, Jodi Swain with Saeko Fukuda, Roksi Freeman with Saho Nakajima, and Kimie Shirasaki with Tseh-Hwan Yong. We truly appreciate our partners' great hospitality and kindness.

During the year, Friendship Partners Sofia Caloggero, Sharon Lin, and Kristin Griffin gave informal talks to our group members. We also had a special appreciation party for our Friendship Partners in December.

In addition to fostering friendships through cultural exchange, we also enjoy sharing our passion and love of cooking with each other. One way we've done that is through our Joy of Cooking classes, under the guidance of our great teachers: Kate Baty, Mary Desprez, Frances Hutchinson, Dee Ippen, and Kristin Griffin. As an upcoming activity, we'd like to start having cake making classes, taught by Kristin Griffin. Classes will be held in one of the teachers' homes and attendees will experience the wonderful atmosphere there. We highly appreciate our teachers' enthusiasm for the classes.

The group also extended its activities in Japan. Two members, Chizu Ikeda and Megumi Enokido, carried out activities there, including luncheon meetings. One luncheon was held at the Okura Sky Carrot restaurant in Tokyo and another was held in Tokyo's famous shopping and dining district of Ginza. We had a wonderful time talking about future activities for the group and sharing unforgettable experiences from our time at MIT. We reminisced about attending the English Conversation Classes sponsored by the Women's League. We miss the teachers of the class. Our

experiences at MIT were extremely meaningful, and it is our pleasure to continue The MIT Japanese Wives Group activities in Japan.

Furthermore, we have launched a Pen Pal program between members both here at MIT and in Japan. Our members exchange emails and share experiences from their different environments, and we hope they can build meaningful friendships through this program. Our current Pen Pal members are: Chizu Ikeda, Megumi Enokido, Sofia Caloggero, Sharon Lin, Bette Johnson, Kristin Griffin, Kirsty Bennett, Crystal Chang, Wei-Tung Chen, Yuko Asano, Clare Lee, Tseh-Hwan Yong, and Kimi Shirasaki. We look forward to expanding the program this coming year.

While some people prefer email as a method of communication, others tend to prefer speaking over the telephone or via Skype. For that reason, as a next step we would like to establish the Tancho Link program, which will facilitate cultural and experience exchanges via phone or Skype. We hope this will give our members many options and opportunities to help build lasting international friendships.

In addition to MIT Japanese Wives Group specific activities, we also will enjoy contributing to MIT activities throughout the year. Megumi Enokido, Chizu Ikeda and Kimi Shirasaki donated origami for crane card making. Members in Japan are very

happy to continue supporting their MIT counterparts and look forward to continuing to foster international friendships.

I wish to express my thanks to Chizu Ikeda, Megumi Enokido, Etsuko Hasegawa, Ritsuko Koide, Harumi Takahashi, and Kimi Shirasaki for all of their help during the year.

Finally, I want to extend my special thanks to Sofia Caloggero, Kate Baty, Sandra Boynton, Fran Elliott, Dee Ippen, Keiko Kanda, Sis de Bordenave, Kirsty Bennett, Jan Kirtley, Dottie Mark, Srirupa Mitra, Carolyn Parker, Julie Parker, Ellen Shapiro, Jennifer Recklet Tassi, Kristin Griffin, Bette Johnson, Sharon Lin, Tseh-Hwan Yang, and our English class teachers for their advice and counseling.

Kimie Shirasaki, *Chair*

### **MITell — Storytelling**

MITell continued to grow in popularity this year. Twice a semester we partner with the Institute Community and Equity Office (ICEO) to offer Storytelling Lunches. These are always well attended by 20–30 people. Lunch is provided, and we offer an informal and friendly space for people to share stories from their own lives.

Workshops collaboration this year included MIT Museum, Office for Distinguished Fellowships, Global Education and Career Development,

GWAMIT Empowerment Conference, MIT Media Lab, School of Engineering Communications Lab, Designing Your Life, Teaching and Learning Lab, and SHASS.

I collaborated with MIT Radius and the MIT Museum in September 2018 to present Synaptic Stories, hosted by the museum as part of their Beautiful Brain exhibit, featuring 5 storytellers. The event sold out and was a great success. A further collaboration with the Office of the Vice Chancellor gave 3 staff members the opportunity to tell stories about what diversity means to them, in front of an audience of their peers. This was a moving and popular event.

We're looking forward to bringing the art of personal storytelling to even more members of the MIT Community in 2019–2020!

Kirsty Bennett, *Coordinator*

# ENDOWMENT AND OPERATING FUNDS

The MIT Women's League is administratively a division of the Office of the President, which pays the League's salaries and some office expenses. The League meets other expenses with income from its seven endowed funds, gifts to the annual appeal, and fees for programs and events throughout the year.

## ENDOWED FUNDS

### **Emma Moore Fund**

In 1916, Emma Moore, an Institute friend and board member of the Emma Rogers Association of Technology Matrons (the original name of the MIT Women's League), established the "Matrons Tea Fund" to underwrite teas offered to all women in the MIT community regardless of their ability to pay. Later she offered the income from the fund for "any use, social or otherwise" to be at the discretion of the League Executive Board. Today that income supports many League activities including the English Classes and the two League fellowships in the Priscilla King Gray (PKG) Public Service Center.

- Rebecca M. Vest PKG Public Service Center Fellowship
- Elizabeth W. Johnson PKG Public Service Center Fellowship

### **Margaret Compton Fund**

The Margaret Compton Fund was established in 1949 to honor Margaret Hutchinson Compton, whose husband, Karl Taylor Compton, retired that year as President of MIT. During her lifetime, Mrs. Compton allocated the fund's income to such activities as the Westgate Nursery School and the Technology Children's Center. MIT has since taken over the management of the Institute's childcare facilities. Today income of The Compton Fund provides unrestricted resources for League activities at the discretion of the League Executive Board. The fund has provided financial support for our Fall Reception for New Women at MIT, the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, Wreath Making, and the Student Clothing Program.

### **Laya W. Wiesner Fund**

Laya W. Wiesner, wife of Jerome Wiesner, thirteenth president of MIT, was an ardent supporter of women at MIT and of the League. Laya wanted to recognize the contributions of individuals who helped shape the Institute's quality of life. Upon Mrs. Wiesner's retirement as First Lady of MIT in 1980, the League established this fund to show its esteem for her. To express appreciation for her leadership and her many years of service to MIT, the fund's income supports two individual awards.

The Laya W. Wiesner Award is given annually to an undergraduate woman "who has most enhanced MIT community life, while at the same time

maintaining a good academic record.” At this year’s Academic Awards Convocation, Jessica Quaye was honored with the award.

The Laya Wiesner Community Award, was established by the League in 1999 to honor Laya’s legacy at MIT. This award recognizes “a member or friend of the MIT community for conspicuously effective service that reflects Laya’s concerns for enhancing life at the Institute and in the world at large.” At this year’s Academic Awards Convocation, Patricia Weinmann was honored with the award.

#### **Lucille M. Ravven Memorial Music Fund**

Dr. Robert Ravven established this fund in 1988 in memory of his wife Lucille, who conducted the MIT Women’s Chorale from 1968 until 1980. It supports the Chorale including the purchase of its music.

#### **Catherine N. Stratton Lecture Fund**

The Women’s League established this fund in 1994 to honor Kay Stratton’s fifty years of commitment to the Institute and her tireless work to establish and sustain the Stratton Lecture on Critical Issues (no longer held), and the Stratton Lecture on Aging Successfully held each spring. Mrs. Stratton, the widow of Julius Adams Stratton, the eleventh president of MIT, was an active member of the lecture committees and of the League as well as the MIT Council for the Arts (another of her initiatives). The fund has received generous

donations from current and retired MIT faculty members, the Green Foundation, the Exxon Foundation, and the MIT Women’s League itself. Income from the endowment supports the lectures, which are free and open to the public. Funds in excess of the amount required for the lectures may be used for other League activities as voted by the League Executive Board.

#### **Women’s League Discretionary Fund**

The Women’s League Discretionary Fund was established in 1999 by Cleo and Paul Schimmel to support activities of the MIT Women’s League at the recommendation of the chair. A former chair of the League Executive Board, Cleo’s fondest dream has been to strengthen the “ties that bind” among League members and with the rest of the MIT community.

#### **The Priscilla King Gray Fund**

The Priscilla King Gray Fund, established in 2013 by the League on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, honors Priscilla, wife of Paul E. Gray, MIT’s 18th president. Priscilla was honorary chair of the League at the time of this anniversary. Income from this fund has been used to supplement the two League fellowships in the Public Service Center. Priscilla, a co-founder of the Public Service Center, remains an active advocate for its work. The PSC was recently renamed the Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center.

## **SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

### **MIT Women's League Scholarship Fund**

Established in 1960 as the Technology Matrons' Student Aid Fund and later known as the MIT Student Loan Fund, this endowment is now the MIT Women's League Scholarship Fund. The interest from the fund provides scholarship aid annually for women undergraduate students. The fund benefits from the proceeds of the Furniture Exchange and the Community Holiday Craft Fair. The League Scholarship Fund now exceeds \$1 million and in 2019 it supported four undergraduate women.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The annual budget for the MIT Women's League in FY 2019, less personnel related expenses, was \$58,337. Sources of funds included an MIT allocation of \$8,000, allocations of \$39,737 from expendable balances in League endowed fund accounts, and \$10,600 from the League Programs and Activities Fund. This year at the end of the third quarter, the annual appeal had raised \$11,545 in gifts for the Women's League. The League is most grateful to all donors for their continued support and confidence in the League's programs and services to the MIT community.

Through these funds the League provides many benefits to the Institute including a contribution of \$8,800 to the Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center for the Rebecca M. Vest and Elizabeth W. Johnson Fellowships and the presentation of the 2019 Laya Wiesner Awards of \$1,500 each to an MIT undergraduate student and a long-time staff member at the Academic Awards Convocation on May 13. The Stratton Lecture on Aging Successfully featured a panel discussion on "Protecting Elders with Cognitive Impairment from Financial Vulnerability." Other League services in FY2019 included English language classes for spouses of international students, English Partners Conversation Program for these students, MIT Women's Chorale concerts, and number of receptions and tours open to the MIT Community.

During this academic year, four undergraduate women students benefited from the Women's League Scholarship Fund, which distributed \$132,984 in aid. The scholarship's endowment now totals \$1,063,105.

At the end of the third quarter of FY2019, the combined fund value of the League's seven endowed funds was \$375,029. This includes \$80,149 in the Priscilla King Gray Fund. Expendable income from these funds supports the Stratton Lecture Series, the Wiesner Awards, the Vest and Johnson PSC Fellowships, the MIT Women's Chorale, and League annual operations.

All these data reflect third quarter results for FY 2019. The final Women's League Treasurer's Report will be available in the Women's League Office, 10-342, soon after the June 30 closing of the MIT fiscal year.

Pamela Schickling Buckley, *Treasurer*

## COLOPHON

The design of this year's annual report reflects the visual identity of the MIT Women's League created by graphic designer Tim Blackburn. The type fonts used are Engravers Gothic BT and Myriad Pro.

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