

MIT Women's League



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

MIT WOMEN'S LEAGUE

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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

Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024
Emma Rogers Room
Room 10-340



Helen Wang

Helen Wang's student affairs journey began at her alma mater, Carnegie Mellon, where innovation, connection, and community sparked a lifelong vocation for student support in the meta-curricular experience and twelve years of progressive leadership opportunities. She is currently the Senior Associate Dean of Residential and Community Life at MIT where she oversees undergraduate and graduate residential life, fraternities, sororities and independent living groups, student conduct, and the dean on call system. Prior to joining MIT, Helen served as the Associate Dean of Residential Life and Community Development at Wellesley College. An academic by training, Helen's work blends interdisciplinary approaches to racial and cultural studies with current research in student identity

development to shape strategies that support complex cultures within college-aged students. Her lived experience as an Asian American woman, her upbringing as an immigrant from Taiwan, and her everyday encounters as a person of color influence and inspire her commitment to inclusive practices that center historically obscured voices. Beyond Higher Ed, Helen is a yoga teacher and practitioner and a lover of all things sourdough. At the center of her orbit is her husband Don; who is an architect and developer and her nine-year old, Oliver; who is a "new-thing-hater" and a Minecraft lover.

Program

- 12:00 pm Welcome: Nancye Mims, *Chair*
 Presentation of the Laya Wiesner Community Award
 Election of Officers
- 12:20 Lunch
- 1:00 Remarks from Helen Wang
- 1:30 Q&A
- 2:00 Event end

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear friends,

Welcome to the pages of our 2024 annual report. I'm pleased to say that we have had a great year! Starting with our 110th Anniversary Open House last fall, we have seen a record-breaking turnout and enthusiasm for our events across the board. It has become clear that members of the MIT community are ready to return to in-person meetings and events – and we have met them at the door with new and updated programming. Not only are we seeing a return of old friends, but we are making new ones as well.

Another reason for celebration this year is our renewed focus on collaborations across campus. During the holidays, our annual wreath making event was infused with new life through a partnership with the International Scholars Office. In our relaunch of the Stratton Lecture in March, we joined forces with Association of MIT Retirees and the MIT Press around the topic of Women and AI. Both events saw record attendance and interest.

In between, we have offered tours of various spaces on campus including MIT's Nuclear Reactor; the iconic basement tunnels with GetFit from MIT Health; and a well-attended pop-up training session on Slack, a widely used messaging App used by staff and students in collaboration with IS&T. Our interest groups like the MIT Women's Chorale, Book Group, and Fiber Arts have also flourished this year and seen an influx of new participants.

But perhaps the most exciting development of all this year is the addition of six new members to the Women's League Board. These dedicated women, represent a variety of departments at MIT and many new skills and expertise. As we are starting to think about and plan for next year, we are thrilled to welcome them to the Board.

I hope you will enjoy reading in more detail about all our programs and accomplishments in the pages of this annual report. None of this would be possible without the hard work and support of so many, including our manager Kirsty Bennett, our Board, and the President's office – and of course our many members across MIT who attend our programs and bolster our work at every turn.

With friendship and appreciation,

Nancye Mims, *Chair*

SCHOLARS AND AWARDS

PKG Women's League Scholars

The Becky Vest Fellow

Lily Chen

Undergraduate '25. Mathematics

During the summer, Lily worked with girls from her hometown of Newark, New Jersey. She focused on teaching underserved girls hands-on mathematics, machine learning, and STEM concepts. She helped a cohort of girls unleash their love for STEM, built a supportive community, and shared resources for STEM academic and professional development. Her aim is for this program to provide a pathway into STEM careers for girls who have traditionally been under-represented in these fields.

The Betty Johnson Fellow

Barbie Duckworth (they/them)

M-Eng in Computer Science, EAPS

A sixth mass extinction event is ongoing, with studies from the World Wildlife Foundation reporting a 69% loss of vertebrate populations since 1970. This is in part driven by the introduction of non-native, often invasive, plant species by humans. Invasive plants have not evolved alongside the local insect population, so they do not support key species that in turn support birds, reptiles, and mammals. Over the summer, Barbie planted gardens at Somerville schools filled with native plants and hosted workshops aimed towards children and the general public about local ecology and how to make and maintain their own native gardens. The main goals of this project were to: provide pollinators with an essential source of resources over the course of this season; engage and educate the community about native plants, pollinators, and nature stewardship. Barbie partnered with Groundwork Somerville, a local urban farming organization.

Laya Weisner Awards

The 2024 Laya W. Wiesner Award
is presented to:

Grace Sun

The 2024 Laya Wiesner Community Award
is presented to:

Amy Levin

Our warmest congratulations to all
of our awardees!

PROGRAMS 2023–2024

Board Retreat

July 12

Interest Group Chair's Meeting

September 13

Walkthrough of the Collier Memorial with John Ochsendorf

September 26

Winter Clothing Drive

October – December

Open House & 110th Anniversary

October 5

Breakfast Series with Kaija Langley

October 11

Public Art Tour with the List Center

October 18

Honorary League Luncheon

October 19

Coffee Social

November 8

Slack Workshop

October 14

Wreath-Making & Coffee Social

November 29

Community Craft Fair

December 13–14

Board Retreat

January 31

Coffee Social

February 14

Sunday at the Movies

February 25

WISDM Speaker Series: Duhan Zhang

February 28

Stratton Lecture: How will AI impact women?

March 6

Tour of MIT's Nuclear Reactor

March 12

Breakfast Series with Professor Sally Haslanger

March 13

Coffee Social

March 21

Coffee Social

April 24

Honorary League Luncheon

April 25

Appreciation Lunch

May 9

Annual Meeting

May 22

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2023–2024

Nancye Mims Chair
Cheryl Vossmer Vice-Chair
Elise Perkins-Noel Officer for Programs
Jennifer Fleming Officer for Social Activities
Tanni Kuo Officer for Service Projects
Pamela Schickling-Buckley Treasurer

Sandra Boynton
Elizabeth Cogliano Young
Alison Hynd
Deborah Liverman
Kendel Jester
Arti Kothari
Lisa Maxwell
Morgan Middlebrook
Minerva Tirado

WOMEN'S LEAGUE OFFICERS 2024–2026

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

For two (2) years
Vice-chair
Jennifer Fleming

Officer for Programs
Arti Kothari
Morgan Middlebrook

Office for Social Activities
Lisa Maxwell

We are pleased to welcome Elizabeth Cogliano Young and Kendel Jester to the board.

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

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

On Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 12pm our Annual Meeting took place at capacity in the Emma Rogers Room. The event opened with remarks by outgoing Women's League Chair Cheryl Vossmer and introducing the new Board Chair, Nancye Mims. We are grateful for all the dedicated time and hard work given from both of these women to ensure the MIT Women's League continues to grow and thrive. We also took a moment to recognize our 2023 Weisner Award winners. A plated luncheon was served by our new chef Patrick Campbell and his team, following the retirement of long-time chef Tim Healey. Following lunch, we welcomed our featured speaker, Dean of Admissions Stu Schmill, who gave an entertaining presentation and offered a peek into the admissions experience at MIT. Stu was able to answer several questions from attendees before the event concluded.

On Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 12pm, we returned to a full in-person Open House format in central campus' Bush Room. Several board members were present, along with interest group leaders, to represent the programs and events we offer. The room was full with new faces learning about the League and cherished long-time members reconnecting with one another. This year's event also marked a celebration of the 110th anniversary of the Women's League with giveaways and a poster display showing a visual timeline of the League's history. Catered light lunch refreshments were served for all.

Jennifer Fleming

Marketing and Promotion

This year has seen tremendous growth for the League in our online and social channels, and we've greatly expanded our reach on campus and beyond.

We now have active Instagram, Facebook, Slack and LinkedIn channels, with additional marketing via our email list, newsletter and website. This year we also began advertising select events on the Atlas front page and in the Infinite Corridor display. Our 110th anniversary was featured in MIT News, and Women's League Instagram posts have been shared several times on the community-wide *MIT Daily* email.

Our Instagram following is up by 105% since September 2023, and our Facebook following increased by 20%. There has been consistent growth in engagement month by month, with more followers interacting with posts and clicking through on links. Our reach among staff has been improved by creating a dedicated Slack workspace for the Women's League, that now has over 100 members.

Kirsty Bennett

PROGRAMS

Breakfast Series

Every year, we invite members to hear from women in the Institute as they describe their career paths and work at MIT. We were delighted by the warm response for this event.

Our Fall 2023 speaker was Kaija Langley. Kaija is currently the Director of Development for the MIT Libraries. Her role encompasses all facets of fundraising for the library system. Prior to arriving to MIT in 2013, she worked as a major gifts officer for The Nature Conservancy, Massachusetts Chapter and in the Annual Fund for the Museum of Science, Boston. In addition to her work at MIT, she serves as the Trustee Chair of the Cambridge Public Library and is the author of two children's books, *When Langston Dances* (2021) and *The Order of Things* (2023).

Our Spring 2024 speaker was Sally Haslanger, Ford Professor of Philosophy and Women's and Gender Studies at MIT. She has published works in metaphysics, epistemology, feminist theory, and critical race theory. Broadly speaking, her work links issues of social justice with contemporary work in epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of language, and philosophy of mind. A collection of her papers that represent this effort over twenty years was collected in *Resisting Reality: Social Construction and Social Critique* (Oxford 2012), and

it received the Joseph B. Gittler award for outstanding work in philosophy of the social sciences. She has co-edited three books that further reflect the breadth of her interests: with Elizabeth Hackett, *Theorizing Feminisms: A Reader* (Oxford 2005); with Charlotte Witt, *Adoption Matters: Philosophical and Feminist Essays* (Cornell 2005); with Roxanne Marie Kurtz, *Persistence: Contemporary Readings* (MIT Press 2006).

The Breakfast Series will return in the fall of 2024.

Kirsty Bennett

The Stratton Lecture

It was a longstanding ambition to bring back The Stratton Lecture to our annual calendar after the program went on hiatus in 2020 during the pandemic. At our 2023 summer retreat, we formed a Stratton Committee comprised of Nancye Mims, Tanni Kuo, and Kirsty Bennett to plan for this year's relaunch.

The committee convened in the fall of 2023 and settled on the subject *How Will AI Impact Women?* We sought speakers who might speak specifically about the ways that the AI revolution will affect women's lives.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Marzyeh Ghassemi, is an Assistant Professor at MIT in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) and Institute for Medical Engineering & Science (IMES). Her entertaining and compelling talk addressed how AI might assist the medical profession in triaging patients and managing care.

Dr. Ghassemi was followed by Kade Crockford, Director of the Technology for Liberty Program at the ACLU of Massachusetts. Kade's talk cautioned the use of AI in public surveillance, and addressed how local Cambridge government and State government bills will impact all of our lives.

Finally, Puja Balaji, an MEng student in the lab of Professor John Guttag at MIT and Co-President of MITxHarvard Women in AI, talked about her

experience starting out in a career in the AI field, and the challenges women face in those professions.

The event was hosted and the Q&A moderated by Dr. Amy Brand, Director and Publisher of MIT Press, whose thought-provoking introduction set the stage for an event that challenged us to consider the myriad ways our lives might change in the coming years.

In opening remarks, Nancye Mims, Chair, reminded the audience of the history of the Stratton lecture, and Kay Stratton's impact on MIT and the League. Around 170 people joined us in person at the Wang Auditorium, with 158 people tuning in remotely from eight different countries. Feedback on the event was very positive.

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to our partners on this project — MIT Press and the Association of MIT Retirees, who offered complementary parking for the lecture. The League provided a Lunch for attendees, prepared by Seasons Catering, for takeaway.

We are actively planning for and looking forward to the 2025 event!

The Stratton Committee

Kirsty Bennett

Tanni Kuo

Nancye Mims

WISDM Speaker Series

We hosted a WISDM Speaker event in the Spring of 2024. We heard from Dr. Duhan Zhang, a scientist and engineer, and an active member of the League. Dr. Zhang is aiming to tackle the urgent challenges at the energy-climate-sustainability nexus, focusing on understanding and implementing chemically and electrochemically mediated processes. She is a Postdoctoral Associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, honored with MIT Energy Initiative (MITEI) Fellowship

Kirsty Bennett

SERVICE PROJECTS

For over 100 years, service to the MIT community has been, and continues to be of primary importance to the League. As always, service was a particular focus, and 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 make time to make significant contributions to our community.

English Partners Program

The English Partner Program (EPP) returned for the 2023–24 academic year. Over the course of the academic year, 16 pairs of volunteers and students were introduced to practice conversational English. There were 13 conversation pairs matched in the fall and three new conversation pairs matched in the spring. While the number of students requesting a partner remains low compared with pre-pandemic numbers, the significance of the EPP in fostering support and meaningful connections cannot be overstated.

Partners and volunteers meet weekly or biweekly, virtually or in person, at a time that works well for both participants. The option of meeting either in person or virtually allows those with limited or no time on campus the flexibility to still participate in the program. Each semester, a list of community and language resources are shared with volunteers. This allows volunteers to serve as resources themselves and answer questions their partner may have about life in Cambridge.

We continue to receive positive feedback from both EPP volunteers and students, underscoring the value of the program. In addition to meeting regularly for English conversation practice, conversation pairs have shared meals together, explored the greater Boston area, and many continue to stay connected as friends beyond the program.

As we look ahead to the next academic year, I hope to continue to grow the network of both volunteers and students involved in the English Partner Program. It has been a privilege to step into the role as English Partner Program Volunteer Coordinator, and I look forward to further collaboration with the individuals comprising the EPP community and the MIT Women's League.

Kendel Jester, *English Partner Program
Volunteer Coordinator*

Furniture Exchange

The mission of the Furniture Exchange (FX) continues to serve the communities we encompass — MIT, Harvard, Boston University, Suffolk, Tufts, and Emerson — while promoting sustainability and raising funds through our sales to support the MIT Women's League Scholarship Fund.

There is never a time when there is not some eager customer in the FX, ready for a treasure hunt and browsing through the housewares and furniture. We have received some wonderful donations like Herman Miller tables and West Elm couches. August continues to be our busiest month when we sell out of almost all the furniture, making our floors bare (giving us the chance to get to all those dust bunnies). Both our social media platforms grew about 35%, with our Facebook and Instagram followers at 5,300 and 1,560 respectively. Please visit our sites at mit.edu/womensleague/fx and facebook.com/MITFX.

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 rehab furniture. They are: Noreen Hagerty Ford, Bette Johnson, Keiko Kanda, Shannon McCord, Fran Miles, Natasha and

Lisa Paltseva, Gloria and Irwin Pless, Ronan Reynolds, Kelly Nagle, Ken Finegan, Amanda Siow, and Carolyn Truant. And we are of course very grateful to our loyal customers and generous donors.

A special thank you to Zarrin Foster, the world's friendliest and kindest assistant manager. Another shout-out to Kirsty Bennett, who is always a huge help and bright guide to me and to MIT FX. Thanks, too, to Cheryl Vossmer and Nancye Mims for their inspiring words, generous donations, and sage advice, and to all the members of the Women's League for their help and support. We are hoping the busy shopping and sales continue and we can make a large donation to the MIT Women's League Scholarship Fund.

Warm regards,
Julie Parker, *Manager*

Winter Clothing Program

The 29th year of the FFE (Fall Fashion Exchange) was another wonderful year supporting students in need of warm winter attire. We continued to support these students by mailing donated winter clothing to those in need.

The ARM (Accessing Resources at MIT) Coalition helped to distribute a winter clothing request form to students who identified as having the greatest financial need. Students filled out the form and their data anonymized. An email went out to WL members and friends with a link to a spreadsheet of requests. Those who were interested signed up on the spreadsheet and then connected directly with a student to mail them what they needed.

This program continues to be a success. Our members shared the email asking for donors around their various departments, and many responded to the call for help. In total, we were able to provide over 100 winter items to 40 students.

To supplement the program this year, we worked with the ARM Coalition to coordinate donation boxes placed around campus. Items were collected, sorted, and stored permanently in the Office of the First Year. Any student who needs winter clothing can stop by and take what they need.

Kirsty Bennett

INTEREST GROUPS 2022–2023

INTEREST GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

During the 2023–24 scholastic year the Women’s League Interest Groups have been emerging from the pandemic years. Meetings of some groups continue with a hybrid mixture of in-person and virtual meetings. Members enjoy coming together through shared interests.

The Women’s Chorale, the oldest Interest Group singing together for 90 years, continues to hold a Fall and a Spring concert. Both MIT and Harvard women practice on Wednesday evenings in Building 4 under the directorship of Nhung Truong.

The MIT Book Group has now enjoyed three meetings in-person at member’s homes — very welcome gatherings to enjoy the discussions together. The rest of the meetings have continued by Zoom, with several new members joining. The book selections are varied and always interesting.

The Fiber Arts Group has continued meetings by Zoom where members work on projects with friends. Cityside Dining is in the process of changing its focus and has evolved to offer different kinds of social opportunities.

In addition, the Women’s League Winter Craft Fair returned this past December to Lobby 10. This is always a wonderful chance for holiday shopping. The Japanese Wives Group continues to offer a Pen Pal Program to sustain friendships between those at MIT and in Japan.

The League is very appreciative of all the leaders of these groups that bring women of MIT together. An annual early Fall meeting and luncheon is an occasion to plan and participate in the Women’s League September Open House. This event brings so many long-time and new MIT women to learn more about League offerings.

Sandra Boynton,
Interest Group Coordinator

Book Discussion Group

The Women's League Book Discussion group meets eight times each academic year from September to May, traditionally on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 11:30am–1:00pm. We choose books for discussion in the year ahead through a group vote — a mix of fiction, nonfiction, and classic titles, written by authors from all over the world — and participants take turns volunteering to lead each discussion. In 2023–2024, three of our meetings were held in-person, in the splendid and elegant Emma Rogers room on MIT campus or at a member's home, while the others were just as good-humored and lively over Zoom. About nine to fifteen members attended each gathering.

All are welcome to join and contribute their impressions and opinions as one-time visitors or enthusiastic regulars! Our membership comes from diverse backgrounds and nationalities, which enriches the discussions with the expression of many viewpoints and interpretations.

Occasionally, we invite authors to present about books we have read. It's a unique opportunity to learn about their technique, construction, and research. Sometimes, we also gather in the summer, for instance to visit a site related to a book or to watch a movie adaptation of a book we

have read together. These additional interactions strengthen the conviviality, warmth, and trust within our Book Discussion group.

Maxine Jonas
jonas_m@mit.edu

MIT Women's Chorale

This academic year, 2023–2024, the Chorale returned somewhat to normalcy. We resumed weekly on-campus rehearsals in the fall, grew the number of singers back to the pre-pandemic level, and held two concerts. Throughout the year we were led by our remarkable music director, Nhung Truong, and by our talented accompanist, Leona Cheung.

In December 2023, the Chorale performed a concert at Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church in Harvard Square, 'Songs of Admiration,' including the *Hildegard Motets* by Maria Löfberg, *O Magnum Mysterium* by Cristobal De Morales, and *I Will be Earth* by Gwyneth Walker. We were accompanied on the piano by Ms. Cheung.

In May 2024, we also performed at the church. Our concert, 'Transcendence,' featured the Messe breve of Leo Delibes, and included music of Handel, *By Night* by Elaine Hagenberg, *Flight* by Craig Carnelia, and *El Humo* by Eduardo Cota.

To top off our year of singing together, the chorale gathered for fun and fellowship in the home of one of the singers, sharing a delicious potluck dinner.

We continue to connect members in the MIT community who are interested in making friends and music together. We look forward to meeting more new friends in the fall.

Kathy Hess

CitySide Dining

As of January 2024, the formal CitySide Dining group has been retired. This is primarily due to the shifting priorities and interests of members. We have found people are spending their time and money differently post-pandemic, and community dining will now be part a wider variety of social and cultural opportunities to gather. Throughout the year, members will host outings to restaurants, movies, museums, local activities, and more. We hope this will foster more connections among our membership

Honorary League

The Honorary League held two events this year. On Thursday, October 19, 2023, we were delighted to host Amy Brand, Director and Publisher of MIT Press as our speaker. Amy spoke about MIT Press' unique work and driving mission to mobilize knowledge for the MIT community and the world. Amy's lively and engaging talk delighted our attendees.

The spring gathering held on April 25 featured Professor Andrea Campbell, Arthur and Ruth Sloan Professor of Political Science. She presented *The Unravelling of the New Deal: Financial Security for Seniors in the 21st Century*. We were delighted to host 35 guests, bringing us in line with pre-pandemic levels of attendance.

I welcomed Bette Davis and Mary Leen as co-Chairs to the Honorary League Committee this year, and I am grateful for their support and partnership. The committee held a lunch in March as we made plans for the coming year.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Office of the President for its ongoing generosity and support of the Honorary League.

Nancye Mims, *Honorary League Chair*

Fiber Crafts Group (FCG)

The Fiber Crafts Group met once a month via Zoom during the past academic year. We answered requests to join our meetings, sent welcoming emails, and still, only few of those interested women attended any of our meetings. On the other hand, those who replied and attended the meetings liked the group and the camaraderie of the members. Members shared their fiber crafts projects while much networking took place. At one meeting, our group included the RLE (the Research Laboratory of Electronics) Tuesday knitting group.

Although this type of group is best in an in-person setting, it is really not feasible due to members' on-campus schedules, members remote working and never on campus or rarely on campus, and the lack of parking for those who no longer work at MIT. For our last meeting this June, we are going to have a pot-luck lunch on campus as we used to have yearly before Covid.

We plan to continue to meet via zoom on the third Tuesday of each month during the upcoming year.

Claudia LaBollita-James, *Co-Chair*
Olimpia Estela Caceres-Brown, *Co-Chair*

Wreath Making

Our thanks this year to the International Scholars Office for sponsoring our annual wreath-making tradition. Every year, with thanks to our sponsors, we are able to gather and make the large wreaths that hang at the 77 Mass Ave entrance to MIT.

This year we welcomed volunteers to the Stratton Student Center in November to assemble the wreaths. It was a chance for old friends to join, celebrate, and welcome newcomers to our annual tradition.

We once again offered refreshments and made the event part of our ongoing Coffee Social mornings. With coffee and delicious pastries and holiday music playing, it took around two hours to build the wreaths that were then hung by the wonderful team at Buildings and Grounds. Our thanks to them for all their support for this program.

Many thanks to Brenda Blais for making sure we had all the necessary materials on the day, to Jennifer Fleming for helping make the event such a success, and to Cheryl Vossmer for teaching us how to make those beautiful bows! And finally, to every volunteer who showed up and helped out, thank you so much. We're looking for a larger space next year to welcome more volunteers to this event.

Kirsty Bennett

MIT Japanese Wives Group

Friendship is like a flower. It is essential to take care of it every day to make beautiful flowers bloom. Thoughtful consideration to others fosters stronger friendship.

Our group is always thinking of friendship. The MIT Japanese Wives Group organizes the Friendship Partner Program, arranging introductory meetings for our members to exchange their culture with that of their partners.

During the pandemic when in-person meetings were not possible, we 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.

We have learned how important it is to feel close to each other through this program. We hope this will give our members many options and opportunities to help build lasting international friendships. Through this program, we were able to make strong ties even in difficult times. And now, no matter how far apart we are, we will always remember each other.

Building friendships is hard, but having a long-term friendship partner is a treasure in life. In addition to MIT Japanese Wives Group specific activities, we also will enjoy contributing to MIT

activities throughout the year. Megumi Enokido, Asuka Yasutomi, and Kimi Shirasaki will donate origami. 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 Sandra Boynton, Sofia Caloggero, Tseh-Hwan Yang ,Sharon Lin, Keiko Kanda, Sis de Bordenave, Ellen Shapiro, Megumi Enokido, Asuka Yasutomi, Kyoko Maruyama, Etsuko Hasegawa, Kimi Shirasaki, and Kirsty Bennett for their advice and counseling.

Kimie Shirasaki, *Chair*

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 offered 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 Open House 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.” Pamela Stark was honored with the award last year.

The Laya Wiesner Community Award, established by the League in 1999 to honor Laya’s legacy at MIT, 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.” Julie Uva was honored with the award last year.

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 Series. 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 support lecture series on contemporary issues of global concern in the world. It also supports the Christine Reif Professional Development Award which was created in 2023 in collaboration with our friends at MIT Spouses & Partners Connect to honor Mrs. Reif’s legacy with an annual award in her name. Funds in excess of the amount necessary for the lectures and the award may be used to support other activities and programs in the MIT Women’s League.

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 was established in 2013 by the League during its 100th anniversary to honor 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 (PSC), and was an active advocate for its work. The PSC was renamed the Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center in 2015.

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 FY2024 is expected to support up to four undergraduate women.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The annual budget for the MIT Women's League in FY 2024, less personnel related expenses, totaled \$71,900. Sources of funds included an MIT allocation of \$6,366, allocations of \$60,534 from expendable balances in League endowed fund accounts, and \$5,000 from the Leagues Programs and Activities Fund. This year at the end of the third quarter, the annual appeal had raised \$9,634 in gifts for the Women's League. The League is extremely grateful to all donors for their generous support and confidence in the League's programs and services offered to the MIT community.

Through these funds, the League provides many benefits to the Institute including a contribution of \$11,250 to the Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center for the Rebecca M. Vest and Elizabeth W. Johnson Fellowships, and the awarding of the annual Laya Wiesner Awards of \$2,500 each to an MIT undergraduate student and a long-time staff member. In FY2024 we increased our in-person activities for the League. This included our annual Fall Open House celebrating our 110th anniversary, Coffee Socials, the return of the Stratton Lecture, Breakfast Lecture Series, Interest Group gatherings, the Winter Clothing Drive, and our annual tradition of assembling the holiday wreaths to decorate MIT's main entrance at 77 Massachusetts Avenue.

At the end of the third quarter of FY2024, the combined fund value of the League's seven endowed funds was \$381,990, which includes \$86,125 in the Priscilla King Gray Fund. Expendable income from these endowed funds supports the Wiesner Awards, both the Vest and Johnson Fellowships in the Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center, the Christine Reif Professional Development Award, the MIT Women's Chorale, and the League's annual operations.

This data reflects third quarter results for FY2024. The final Women's League Treasurer's Report will be available in the Women's League Office, soon after the MIT fiscal year closing on June 30.

Pamela Schickling Buckley, *Treasurer*



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