Greetings from our new Chair

Dear League Members and friends,

I am honored to be the new chair of the MIT Women’s League. As a member of the League since 2006, I’ve always been impressed with the history and resiliency of this group. From its founding in 1913, the Women’s League has been a tremendous resource for women at MIT -- adapting repeatedly and rising to the challenges of the times.

Whether staffing MIT convalescent homes during the 1918 pandemic, supporting the Red Cross during WWII, welcoming international students and families, offering an array of fun and intellectually stimulating activities, and supporting students with scholarships and a winter clothing drive, the MIT Women’s League continues to evolve and thrive.

This year, we will carry on with the roll out of in-person programming and the work of defining a post pandemic future -- rich with opportunities for learning, networking, service, friendship, and fun. Please join us on October 5, as we kick off the season with a celebration of our 110-year history at MIT. On October 13, we will welcome Kaija Langley, as the first Breakfast Series speaker of the year. Kaija is a long-time staff member at the MIT Libraries and a published author of children’s books. This event, which includes a full breakfast, is offered in the iconic Emma Rogers Room – a must see especially if you are new to MIT.

We are also thrilled to announce that the annual Craft Fair is back! Join us in Lobby 10 on December 13th and 14th for a chance to shop in person and purchase unique holiday gifts from local artists and artisans. Check out our website at http://wl.mit.edu/ for a full list of our upcoming events and follow us on Instagram and Facebook for the latest news.

As we move forward post pandemic, one thing is abundantly clear: Neither the past nor the future of this great organization would be possible without our dedicated members and volunteers. I look forward to working with all of you as we build on our 110-year legacy of community building and service, all while moving toward the future with creativity, resilience, and relevance to the lives and experiences of all women at MIT.

Yours sincerely,
Nancye Mims
Chair

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Events at a Glance

**September 13**
Chorale rehearsals begin

**September 26**
Walkthrough of the Collier Memorial with John Ochsendorf

**September 27**
Book Discussion: Monthly meetings begin

**October 5**
110th Anniversary & Open House

**October 11**
Breakfast Series with Kaija Langley

**October 18**
Public Art Tour with the List Center

**October 19**
Honorary League Luncheon

**November 8**
Coffee Social

**November 29**
Wreath-Making & Coffee Social

**December 13 & 14**
Community Craft Fair
Every year, the Women’s League hosts an Open House to welcome newcomers to the MIT Community, and to reconnect with friends and colleagues as we kick off the new semester. This year it’s an extra special event, as we are turning 110!

Join us in the Bush Room for lunch, a chance to see our Fall offerings, sign up for events and interest groups, as well as meet representatives from MIT Libraries, MITAC, MIT Center for WorkLife and WellBeing, and MIT Spouses and Partners Connect.

You can learn about the League’s history with a timeline of major events since our founding in 1913, and sign our Anniversary card (we’re hoping to make it to 110 signatures!) and grab some celebratory swag. We will be serving a full buffet lunch, and hearing from members of the Women’s League Board. This event is open to all. Please RSVP through our website, wl.mit.edu.

Join us for a **Coffee Social**

**Wednesday November 8**

8:30am-9:30am

Emma Rogers Room (10-340)

Just as it sounds! Stop by and get your morning coffee (or tea!), with delicious pastries, all on us! this is a chance to connect with colleagues, meet new people, and get to know the League.

Please register at wl.mit.edu, so we know how much coffee to brew.
Tour the Collier Memorial
with John Ochsendorf

Tuesday September 26
1:30pm-2:15pm
Sean A Collier Memorial

Commissioned to honor Officer Sean Collier, who was shot and killed in the line of duty on April 18th, 2013, the Sean Collier Memorial at MIT marks the site of tragedy with a timeless structure—a form that embodies the concept of strength through unity. The design of the memorial follows basic principles of masonry construction, however its complexity required a specialized team of engineers, consultants, installers, and contractors. Designer J Meejin Yoon enlisted masonry-vault expert John Ochsendorf, building technology and civil engineering professor at MIT.

This event will be hosted by Cheryl Vossmer, retired Captain from the MITPD, former Women’s League Board Chair and colleague of Sean Collier. Cheryl served on the MIT Committee that worked together to conceptualize how to honor Sean’s life and service.

Join us for a walkthrough of this beautiful structure with John Ochsendorf. This event will last for 20-30 minutes, with time for questions at the end. Attendance is capped at 30.

John Ochsendorf is an engineer, educator, and designer on the MIT faculty since 2002. He is the MIT Class of 1942 Professor with appointments in the departments of architecture and civil and environmental engineering. Trained at Cornell, Princeton, and the University of Cambridge, he is known for creative research at the intersection of structural engineering and architecture with a particular interest in masonry and historic masonry. John and his students have contributed to numerous design projects, including the Mapungubwe Interpretive Centre in South Africa, the MIT Sean Collier Memorial, several projects at the 2016 Venice Biennale of Architecture, and multiple sculptures with leading artists. He served as the director of the American Academy in Rome from 2017–2020, and is the founding director of the MIT Morningside Academy for Design. John was awarded a Fulbright fellowship to Spain in 2000. In 2008 he received the Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome and a MacArthur Fellowship. He is author of “Guastavino Vaulting: The Art of Structural Tile” (2010). At MIT, he was named a MacVicar Faculty Fellow in 2014 for exceptional teaching, and he received the Gordon Y. Billard Award for exceptional service in 2016.

Register for this event via our website, wl.mit.edu, from September 5th.
MIT Women’s League
110th Anniversary Celebration & Open House
Open to All
Thursday, October 5th
12:00-2:00pm
Bush Room (10-105)
Breakfast Series with Kaija Langley

Wednesday October 11
08:00-9:30pm
Emma Rogers Room (10-340)

Our ever-popular Breakfast Series returns this October. This is a chance to hear from women at the Institute as they talk informally about their life, work and careers.

A full plated breakfast will be served, prepared by Chef Patrick Campbell.

Our Fall speaker is 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).

To register for this event, please email Women’s League Manager Kirsty Bennett (kbennett@mit.edu) to reserve your place. The cost for this event is $10, payable by check or cash.

Campus Art Tour with the List Center

Wednesday October 18
12:00-1:00pm
List Visual Art Center (E15)

The MIT campus is dotted with stunning original art, and MIT’s List Visual Art Center will host a tour for the Women’s League this Fall. If you’ve ever walked past a piece and wondered about the story behind it, this is the tour for you! This tour is free. Register via our website, wl.mit.edu. We will meet at the List Center (E15) at 12:00pm to start the tour.
When First Lady Christine Reif stepped down in December 2022, the Women’s League started an annual award in her honor - the Christine Reif Development Award.

Jiin Kang arrived in Boston in March 2022. We’re delighted to share this account from Jiin on the impact of the award.

"I am so grateful that I have this opportunity by the MIT Spouses & Partners Connect Professional Development Fund. I would like to share how it affected me career-wise as a professional photographer.

I was confident in my talents but as a foreigner, starting a business in the US was not as easy as I thought. There were so many things that I had to know regarding the business such as tax returns, contracts, payments and so on. It was like entering a whole new world. Besides, I had no connection to anyone who is in the same situation around me so I had to start from scratch. When it had been three months since I started my business, I gradually felt anxious about running the business. I was able to get some clients but was not extremely confident whether I was doing right or not. At that time, I found this fund program from MS&PC newsletter and thought this would be the perfect opportunity to build a solid foundation for my business.

With the fund program, I took a private class for a professional development program of Boston Photography Workshops and I think that was the best decision I could make. First of all, I feel better prepared in terms of running my own photography business. For example, I got to learn how to write a contract and set a price for my service. I also got many valuable practical tips from the instructor from marketing point of view. Now I’m not feeling worried anymore.

Second, I was able to learn new skills. In the beginning I was doing outdoor portrait photography mostly because I never used flashlights before and I was afraid of not making perfect result.

Through a class, I learned how to use them so I could expand my work to event photographs. I’ve already done several event photography even for one of the department from MIT School of Engineering. I found myself enjoying the job so I’m now considering doing more event photo shootings in the future.

Most of all, I got local connections in photography field which I think is the most important as self-employed person. The professional fund gave me opportunities to meet many people in the same industry so I could build the connection and develop it to a new career opportunity.

Thanks to the Women’s League and MS&PC, now I’m not afraid of running my own business in the US. Thank you again for this amazing program and for supporting spouses and partners!"

You can visit Jiin’s website here https://jiinlights.com/ and find her on Instagram https://www.instagram.com/jiinlights/
Volunteer with the English Partner Program!

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

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

Pairs typically meet weekly or biweekly for about an hour. You and your partner choose a meeting time and location that works best for both of you. Reach out to Kendel Jester (kjester@mit.edu) with any questions you have.

Come sing with the MIT Women’s Chorale

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 13 for our December concert.

Women from throughout the MIT community are invited to join this remarkable community, the longest continuously-meeting Women’s League interest group since 1933 – 90 years! The Women’s Chorale is a concert choir focused on music for women’s and treble voices, is led by a talented and enthusiastic music director, Nhung Truong. At each rehearsal she re-acquaints us with the particular joy that can be had in singing together.

For the Fall of 2023, rehearsals will be held in Building 4 at MIT on Wednesdays from 7-9 pm. We ask that prospective singers contact us through the MIT Women’s League, wleague@mit.edu. Further details are available on our website: https://web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale/

Looking for an interesting read?

The Book Discussion group will host virtual meetings via Zoom. Please write to Maxine Jonas (jonas_m@mit.edu) to be added to their mailing list.

**September 27**
The Memory Keeper of Kiev
Erin Littleken

**October 25**
A Room of One’s Own
Virginia Woolf

**December 6**
An Indigenous History of the United States
Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

**January 24**
Demon Copperhead
Barbara Kingsolver

**February 28**
Rough Sleepers: Dr Jim O’Connell’s Urgent Mission to Bring Healing to Homeless People
Tracy Kidder

**March 27**
Slaughterhouse Five
Kurt Vonnegut

**April 24**
The Lioness of Boston
Emily Franklin

**May 22**
Born a Crime
Trevor Noah
Save the Date: Annual Wreath-Making & Coffee Social

Every year, the MIT Women’s League creates the huge holiday wreaths that hang above 77 Mass Ave. Volunteer wreath decorators of all ages are always needed to continue this joyful tradition. No experience necessary—just bring your holiday spirit!

As always, we will have coffee and delicious bakery items to fuel the morning's activities. An email invite will go out to our mailing list soon.

Wednesday November 30
9:30am - 11:30am
Stratton Student Center
W20-407

Call for Vendors: Craft Fair

We’re thrilled to be able to bring back the Women’s League Community Craft Fair this year, on Wednesday, December 13 and Thursday December 14, in MIT’s Lobby 10. The last time we were able to hold this event was 2019, so it’s been a long time!

This is the perfect place to stop by for gifts for the holiday season. We’re currently accepting applications from all crafty people, so please apply or help us spread the word to anyone who is ready to share their creations with the world!

The fee for a table is $100, which covers two days, and parking is available for an additional fee. All proceeds from the fair fund the Women’s League Scholarship Fund, which offers scholarships to undergraduate women.

Apply via our website: wl.mit.edu or email wleague@mit.edu.
The October Honorary League Luncheon will be held as an in-person event. Invitations will be sent out mid-September, and Amy Brand, Director & Publisher of MIT Press, will be presenting.

League Interest Groups

BOOK DISCUSSION
Maxine Jonas
jonas_m@mit.edu

CHORALE
Nancye Mims
nmims@mit.edu
web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale

FIBER ARTS
Claudia LaBollita-James
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Olimpia Cacares-Brown
olimpia@mi.edu

COMMUNITY CRAFT FAIRS
Brenda Blais
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CITYSIDE DINING
Jennifer Fleming
jfsousa@mit.edu

MIT JAPANESE WIVES GROUP
Kemie Shirasaki
mitjwg@mit.edu

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

Deadline for submission for the November Newsletter is October 1.

Manager Kirsty Bennett
Chair Nancye Mims
Visual Identity Ink Design

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