Dear League Members and Friends,

I suspect I feel like so many of you with a void in our lives. The pandemic has created an absenteeism of gathering, family, friendship, hugs, being able to pay respect at the loss of life and the list could go on and on. Through all this there is the positive outlook that our brilliant professors, students, and dedicated staff have persevered. Persevered to be creative, to discover and yet be kind of Mind and Heart. Yes, these are trying times and thank you for being a part of the MIT Women’s League.

The 2020-2021 will be unlike anything that we've experience before. Thanks to technology we will still be able to virtually meet but you will have to bring your own lunch!

Thanks to Kirsty with her ingenious idea of Skillshare programs which have been a huge success. She has teamed up with Spouses and Partners and will be offering more this Fall. If you have a skill that you would like to share please be in touch with Kirsty to develop a program. Thanks to Zahida for continuing with the Breakfast Series – reimagined.

Thank you to Pamela Schickling Buckley and Danielle Reddy for continuing to serve another two years on the Board. I always appreciate our board members but our treasurer with the financial crisis this year, we appreciate your continued guidance.

To all members of the board, we hope that you will stay creative and involved. The WL plays an important role at MIT.

We would like to offer congratulations to Elise Perkins-Noel in the birth of her son. We hope that you have been able to treasure this time with him. I also have the sad news that our longtime friend and founder of the WL English Conversation Classes, Jan Kirtley, passed away suddenly on July 2.

So, as we head into September without the prospects of seeing the bustling hallways, the WL Open House, and the many other wonderful fall programs we offer, remember we are the Women’s League and we can do this! See you on Zoom soon.

Cheryl Vossmer, Chair

In Memoriam: Jan Kirtley

It’s with great sadness that we share with you the news of the July 2 death of Jan Kirtley, the longtime coordinator of our English Conversation Classes. Established in 1963, the classes were created to help ease the language and cultural difficulties the wives of international students and visiting staff. Jan began her involvement with this project first as a teacher and then in 1981 as the coordinator.

Over 4,000 students have participated in the classes since they began, studying and practicing the language while enjoying a warm and friendly introduction to American culture with the help of their volunteer teachers. Jan once remarked that she was “thrilled when someone from MIT tells me how much a person they met overseas enjoyed the English Classes.”

How fortunate the League has been to have had her leadership and devoted volunteer service for so many years — nearly forty to the English Conversation Classes and even more to other League tasks and collaborations since she became a member in 1971. Quite a testimonial to her enthusiasm and commitment to our organization.

Whether helping to host the annual International Wives Dinner, testing recipes for the League cookbook, selling daffodils for the American Cancer Society’s ‘Daffodil Days’ fundraising campaign, baking for the World AIDS Day Chocolate Buffet, or serving on the League Board, Jan’s presence was welcomed. Her smiling face, her sense of humor, and her thoughtful caring nature will be missed.

The League is a richer community of women because of her involvement.

- Sis de Bordenave
A collaboration between MIT Spouses & Partners Connect and the MIT Women’s League

We’re home. For a while. So let’s get together, learn something, make new friends and meet old friends. Join us on Zoom for one of our upcoming skillshares, where a friend or colleague will invite you to their homes to share their passion, present a workshop, or teach you a new skill. If you have a good time, please consider a small donation to one of our presenter’s chosen local charities.

Learn a little, give a little.

For more information on these events, and invites to register, please sign up for the WL mailing list via our website, wl.mit.edu. You can also email wleague@mit.edu and ask to be added.

Tuesday September 8, 12:00pm
Food for Thought: Fun with English Language
Laurie Scott & Mariana Castro

Tuesday, October 15, 12:00pm
Beginning Embroidery
Julie Parker

Tuesday, September 15, 12:00pm
Introducing Gretchen Rubin’s Four Tendencies
Jennifer Recklet Tassi

Tuesday, November 3rd, 12:00pm
All About Houseplants
Sudha Oberoi

Tuesday October 6, 12:00pm
Children’s education without school: Make it work and benefit from it
Aleka Molokova

Thursday, November 19th, 2:00pm
Making a holiday wreath for your door
Brenda Blais (in collaboration with MITAC)
Prior to joining the meeting, please visit zoom.us and download the app to your phone, ipad or computer. All are welcome!

Looking for an interesting read?
The Book Discussion interest group will host virtual meetings via Zoom this semester. Please let Nancy Holloman (nancyredsox@gmail.com) know if you’d like to be added to their mailing list.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 23</td>
<td><em>Long Petal of the Sea</em></td>
<td>Isabel Allende</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 21</td>
<td><em>Between the World and Me</em></td>
<td>Ta-Nehisi Coates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td><em>Lost Garden</em></td>
<td>Helen Humphreys</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td><em>Deep South</em></td>
<td>Paul Theroux</td>
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Fiber Crafts Group
It's a good time to get creative and finish that project you've been meaning to get to. The Fiber Crafts Group offers the space to craft online with friends. Meetings will be held throughout the Fall semester via Zoom. Feel free to sign in at any time over the two hours, and stay for as long as you like. For a Zoom invite, please email Claudia James (nonnajames@gmail.com).

All events are held 12-2pm.

Tuesday, September 15
Tuesday, October 20
Tuesday, November 17
Tuesday, December 15

The MIT Women’s Chorale: Fall Season via Zoom

In the spirit of continuity, community, and, especially, the love of choral singing, the Women’s Chorale will be experiencing a version of its fall season via Zoom.

Our sessions will include both choral skill building and socializing, under the leadership of our Music Director, Daniel Mahoney, on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30pm, beginning September 9. While the delay inherent in the internet means that we will not be able to sing the usual sorts of music together, the emphasis in our sessions will be on trying to achieve in other ways a sense of singing together.

New members are welcome. For further details, please contact us at sdef@mit.edu.
Behind the scenes at the MIT Furniture Exchange

Retail is reopening across Massachusetts, but the MIT FX is in a unique position, being a retail outlet on MIT’s campus. Part of MIT’s strategy to keep campus safe for essential personnel is to severely limit the number of outside visitors to campus. For that reason, we can’t safely reopen the FX to the public at this time.

FX Manager Julie Parker is taking this closure as a chance to brighten up the FX and start projects that have been on hold - painting the space, reorganizing inventory, and prepared for an eventual reopen.

One of the FX’s most popular offerings is their re-finished furniture. Over on social media, Julie will be showing the step-by-step process she uses to take a piece from drab to dreamy. Stripping veneer, sanding, painting, stencils and decoration - check out the FX’s accounts for more.

Check out some of Julie’s handiwork - before and after on a vintage school desk!

A step-by-step on a bureau Julie is refinishing. She starts by removing the old veneer so it can be spruced up for sale. She takes an iron that’s seen better days (don’t use one you currently use for your clothes!), and applies it to the surface with wet towels. Next, a little elbow grease with a scraper, and voila! A new surface, ready for painting. For more, check out the FX’s social media accounts!

@mitfx  @mitfx
The October **Honorary League Luncheon** will now be held as a webcast. Invitations will be sent out mid September with details about how to access the talk by our speaker, Ritu Raman. We hope to be able to hold an in-person event again soon.

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.

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