Dear League Members and Friends,

At this time last year, I wrote “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.” In June of 2021 there appeared to be glimmers of smiles, to be seen without masks, and a sense of normalcy returning. That seemed to be short lived with the Delta variant taking a gripping hold on this country. Mask mandates are returning to become the norm again which leads us to thinking of what 2021-2022 will look like for the MIT Women’s League. I would be remiss if I go any further in this letter without giving a huge note of acknowledgement to our Manager, Kirsty Bennett. Honestly, without her there would be nothing. Please join me in thanking Kirsty!

We had many meetings, Skillshare programs, Breakfast Series and English Conversation Classes, all virtually. One thing we were unable to accomplish virtually was the making of the wreaths which adorn 77 Mass. Ave. With lots of coordination the MIT Ground Crews assembled and installed them! Let’s hope we don’t have to call on the Grounds Crew again this year!

There seems to be a returning to campus for those fully vaccinated but time will tell, and Kirsty and I will do our utmost to keep you safe and informed. For the time being WL meetings will be held via Zoom.

The coming year, regardless if we meet in person or virtually, will hold lots of challenges and changes. There are several WL Officers positions which will require to be filled. Thank you for those of you whom have served an extra year to your term. This is such a rewarding opportunity to give back to the MIT community, and the surrounding Cambridge community, if you are a woman who loves community, philanthropy, meeting others, learning new skills, and diverse opportunities and have a little amount of time then this is where you should focus. Students, staff, and retirees all have a seat at the table. Please consider serving with the WL. To all members of the board, we hope that you will stay creative and involved. The WL plays an important role at MIT.

So, as we head into September our first Executive Board meeting will be held via Zoom. As I mentioned, we will listen to the science and the recommendations of the Institute on whether we can gather. I’m sure we all miss the in-person meetings, the hugs, the personal connections and of course the delicious food used to share, but time will tell what’s next. So, without the prospect of seeing the bustling hallways, we have many other wonderful fall programs to offer and remember we are the Women’s League, and we can do this!

See you on Zoom soon.

Cheryl Vossmer, Chair

Join our English Conversations Classes

While we dream of being reunited in person, the WL is committed to keeping all of our members and volunteers safe. English Conversation Classes will return on Zoom, and are free!

We will be holding basic, intermediate, and advanced classes for the Fall 2021 term. We hope to be back in person for the Spring 2022 term. We welcome international visitors with an MIT connection, whether as students, scholars, alumni/alumnae, or their partners.

Students must have an MIT affiliation, either currently or in an earlier year. The signup website has a question about your MIT link. Please let us know if you are a returning student or if you are new to MIT and/or our classes.

We normally charge $100 for a semester of our classes, but will waive the fee this term. If you’re able, please consider a donation to support the Women’s League and programs like this.

Thank you to our amazing teachers!

Register online: wl.mit.edu
The Women's League is proud to be partnering this semester with WISDM, the Women in Innovation and STEM Database at MIT. WISDM is in an initiative aimed at promoting the visibility of women within the MIT community. The goal of WISDM is to provide a curated searchable online database of MIT women in STEM, making it easier to find talented and diverse speakers for conference talks, panels, news stories, outreach events and podcasts.

This Fall, we will be hosting four women graduate students giving talks about their careers and research, all held via Zoom.

Register for these events at wl.mit.edu.

**WISDM** was founded by Ritu Raman, a previous speaker at an Honorary League Luncheon. Professor Raman is the d’Arbeloff Career Development Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at MIT. Her lab is centered on engineering adaptive living materials for applications in medicine and machines. Prof. Raman has received several recognitions for scientific innovation, including being named a Kavli Fellow by the National Academy of Sciences and being named to the Forbes 30 Under 30 and MIT Technology Review 35 Innovators Under 35 lists. She is passionate about increasing diversity in STEM and has championed many initiatives to empower women in science.

### Meet our Speakers

#### Kayla Storme

Kayla Storme grew up believing she would be an artist. When reflecting on her achievements in high school, she made a decision to pursue Biochemistry instead. She will speak with honest reflection on the achievements, mistakes, awards, and traumas that fuel her curiosity and brought her to designing and synthesizing polymers for membranes used to reduce industrial energy consumption and our carbon footprint.

#### Jessica Ingabire

Jessica Ingabire is a Master’s Student in MIT’s Technology and Policy Program, where she investigates the potential impact of emerging technologies on the healthcare workforce. Prior to joining MIT, Jessica worked as a Policy Analyst in the Strategy and Policy Council (SPC) of the Office of The President in Rwanda. Jessica holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Mathematics and Statistics from West Virginia University.

#### Krista Pullen

Krista Pullen is a PhD student in the MIT Biological Engineering program. As a member of the Lauffenburger Lab, she is developing machine learning pipelines that will allow translation of immunological data across studies for infectious disease vaccine development. She will talk about how these innovative methods can be adapted to allow us to better understand how vaccines work and for earlier and more accurate prediction of vaccine candidate efficacy.

#### Mara Freilich

Mara Freilich studies the ways that physical oceanographic processes, including fronts and eddies, affect ocean microbial ecology, carbon cycling, and nutrient distributions. She uses a range of methods from numerical ocean models to observational work at sea. She also does interdisciplinary work to understand the ways that science can be used to inform socially just responses to climate change.
The Furniture Exchange Reopens!

It’s been a long wait, but we’re thrilled to announce the reopening of the FX since August 10th, 2021. FX manager Julie Parker has been working away over the past 18 months to refinish furniture and spruce up the store, so it’s looking marvelous.

Since reopening it’s been busy! Julie and her team have welcomed visitors from all over the world - Costa Rica, Singapore, Switzerland and more.

for many, the FX is their first stop when arriving to MIT. We’re happy to be able to welcome our students once again!

As always, we’re committed to keeping everyone safe, first and foremost.
- Masks are required for entry
- All customers must give their names and contact information, for contract tracing purposes
- Capacity is limited, so you may experience a short wait.

The FX is also readily accepting donations. You can find out what they are looking for, and how to donate, at fx.mit.edu.

Hours
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10-4pm
First Saturday of the Month, 10-1pm

The Book Discussion group will host virtual meetings via Zoom. Please write to Nancy Holloman (nancyredsox@gmail.com) to be added to their mailing list.

**Looking for an interesting read?**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>Do Not Say We Have Nothing</td>
<td>Madeleine Thien</td>
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<td>October 20</td>
<td>When Breath Becomes Air</td>
<td>Paul Kalanithi</td>
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<td>December 1</td>
<td>Elinor Oliphant Is Completely Fine</td>
<td>Gail Honeyman</td>
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<td>January 19</td>
<td>Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent</td>
<td>Isabel Wilkerson</td>
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<td>February 16</td>
<td>Sing, Unburied, Sing</td>
<td>Jesmyn Ward</td>
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<td>March 16</td>
<td>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</td>
<td>Betty Smith</td>
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<td>April 20</td>
<td>Klara and the Sun</td>
<td>Kazuo Ishiguro</td>
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<td>May 18</td>
<td>The Greater Journey - Americans in Paris</td>
<td>David McCullough</td>
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Fiber Crafts Group

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

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<td>June 21</td>
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**League Interest Groups**

**BOOK DISCUSSION**
Barbara Donnelly  
781.646.4617  
Nancy Hollomon  
nancyredsox@gmail.com

**CHORALE**
Sally de Fazio  
de_fazio@alum.mit.edu  
web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale

**MITELL STORYTELLING**
Kirsty Bennett  
kbennett@mit.edu  
mitell.mit.edu

**FIBER ARTS**
Claudia LaBollita-James  
nonnajames@gmail.com

**COMMUNITY CRAFT FAIRS**
Brenda Blais  
bmbiais@mit.edu

**CITYSIDE DINING**
Jennifer Sousa  
jfsousa@mit.edu

**MIT JAPANESE WIVES GROUP**
Kemie Shirasaki  
mitjwg@mit.edu

**The October Honorary League Luncheon** will be held as a webcast. Invitations will be sent out mid September with details about how to access the talk. 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.

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

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**Contact**
Kirsty Bennett, Manager  
wleague@mit.edu

**Find us online!**
w.mit.edu  
facebook.com/womensleague