Dear League Members
and Friends,

I write with a passionate welcome to the 2019-2020 academic year and new and exciting ventures for the MIT Women’s League (WL). I am honored to accept the role of Chair after last year’s election. We will continue to fulfill our roll in the MIT community with our support of both students and staff. We truly make a difference! I hope your summer was filled with memorable days. Over the summer the Manager of the Women’s League, Kirsty Bennett, and I made two updates to the Women’s League bylaws which were an oversight last year, and now corrected. I’ve seen a sneak preview of the new WL website, and all I can say is fantastic! The team hit a few snags, which delayed it a bit, but it was worth the wait.

We are also excited to welcome two new members to our Executive Board! Mary Linan and Elise Perkins-Noel will share jointly as Program Officers from 2019-2021. Mary is currently Manager of Special Initiatives for Housing and Residential Services and Elise is Director of Class Programming for the Alumni Association. Thank you to Kim Watson for her years of arranging programs. She left the programs in the good hands of Bette Davis who fulfilled the remainder of her tenure.

As we embark on this energetic new academic year, let us give a warm welcome to the many new students, faculty or staff that fill our halls with creativity and life and are the foundation of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Let us build friendships and partnerships with this new opportunity. Last year, our Open House was a huge success and we’ll continue to build on it. The 2019 Women’s League Open House will be held at from 11:30am-1:00pm on September 26 as we invite all women to learn more and become involved with the WL.

The Tuesday after Thanksgiving is known as “Giving Tuesday” and members of the WL handed out over 300 cookies in Lobby 10 this past year in a matter of minutes. I hope you will join us in this new tradition. CitySide dining, guided by Jennifer Sousa, will continue to bring the diversity of the WL and community together for lunch or dinner.

In reflecting on the past year I’d be remiss if I didn’t extend a multitude of gratitude for our Spring events. A lovely Springtime Tea at the Gray House, thank you Chris for your unending support and bright and cheery smile. The weather and the Gray House garden were so beautiful. It was a little disheartening that many women acknowledged to attend yet many never arrived or notified Kirsty otherwise!

With commencement moving up a week to May 2020, and this year’s low attendance, we are reviewing this event for the coming year. I wish to thank the many members of the League for their participation in our many events, from making the beautiful Christmas wreaths that every year that adorn the grand entrance to MIT, to Jane Howard for her work on the spectacular Stratton Lecture on Aging Successfully. We also hosted the Breakfast Series twice, and held two brunches for our English Class Students. A whole cohort of volunteers made the FFFFA a huge success. Our English Conversation Classes continue to flourish thanks to the dedication of the teachers who so kindly give their time. The food totes for CASE students were replaced with gift cards which is easier for the staff and students. MITell has taken on new horizons and provided an expanded perception of the WL, thanks Kirsty. We are thankful for what we’ve accomplished and know there is more for us to take on to support the sustainability of the MIT WL. There are many additional events, programs and groups that I did not listed but are no less important. We may be a small group, but we are mighty!

I would be remiss for not acknowledging Ann McNamara and Kirsty Bennett for all their endless work to support the WL. This December the WL will be without the guiding hands of Kirsty for a few months, but we will graciously be supported by Renie Pavilion, whom you might recognize from the Gray House. I look forward to serving as the Chair of the Women’s League, but I can’t do this without all of you, and the wonderful contribution that you make. Thank you! I will encourage each of you to invite a potential new member participate in an event with you as we look to grow our presence at MIT and support our wonderful community.

Cheryl Vossmer
Chair, MIT Women’s League
Women's League 2019 Open House

Thursday September 26 • 11:30am-1:00pm
Emma Rogers Room
(10-340)

Join us this fall as we kick off the semester with the second annual Women’s League Open House!

This is a social event designed to bring together new members of the MIT community with Women’s League members and friends. This is a chance to get to know the League, find out about the programs, activities and volunteer opportunities we offer, and connect with friends. Longing for Book Discussion? Nifty with knitting and looking for a crafting group? Interested in lectures and tours? Looking for a way to give back? This is the place to come and learn all about what we have to offer.

Women’s League Chair Cheryl Vossmer and Officer for Social Activities Jennifer Sousa will welcome guests and encourage attendees to meet, mingle and learn about the League. We will also have representatives from Human Resources, MIT Libraries, MIT Spouses & Partners Connect, the MIT Work-Life Center, and MIT Police on hand to share information about their services.

Existing members are encouraged to attend to help welcome newcomers and reconnect with the League! Hosted in our home on campus, the Emma Rogers Room, this event will offer delicious treats from Chef Tim Healey and a welcoming introduction to life at MIT. Register via the MIT Events Calendar or at our website, wl.mit.edu.
The English Conversation Classes sponsored by the Women’s League are ideal for those arriving at MIT whose first language is not English. There students meet and come together to practice and learn English with the guidance of dedicated Women’s League teachers.

Providing friendly settings for practicing English, these classes offer students assistance with increasing vocabulary and engaging in conversations about a variety of subjects with their classmates. Not only do they learn about American culture, they also share their own cultures and interests with their class. Teachers, as well as classmates, provide information about MIT and Boston and offer helpful suggestions to accomplish everyday tasks. Speaking and listening competence improves as stories and experiences are shared.

In addition to learning or improving their English skills in these classes, students make new friends and gain confidence while living their new life in the United States. The focus is on functional “how to” English conversation and student interests vs. grammar. Grammar instruction, however, is provided and reviewed at the Basic and Intermediate levels.

Classes are held from September to December on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:15 am to 11:00am. (A second semester is offered in the spring.) Four levels of classes (Basic to Advanced) are offered and after a brief interview with one of our teachers, each student is placed in an appropriate level class. Materials are provided and included in the class fee of $120 per semester.

Want to give back and connect? 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 students enrolled in our English Conversation Classes with a member 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 Kara Cunningham (kbcunnin@mit.edu) with any questions you have, or visit wl.mit.edu to register online to be a volunteer this Fall!
Seeking volunteers for the Fall Fashion Free-For-All!

Volunteer with us!

For 24 years, the WL has been offering winter clothes and interview-ready outfits for the students who need it most. More than anything this year, we need a few extra hands to help us sort and organize our mammoth collection of donations ready for our October 18 clothing giveaway event! This is a great opportunity to work with a fun team in the coming weeks, right up to and including the even itself.

- Our sorting team meets every Tuesday and Thursday at the MIT Furniture Exchange (350 Brookline Street) between 10am-3pm. Drop by any time, even for half an hour, to jump in and help! Lunch-hour volunteers are more then welcome!

- Help the Display Team unpack, sort and display the clothing before the Fall Fashion Free-For-All, anytime from 1pm - 5pm on Thursday, 10/17, and from 9am - 5pm on Friday, 10/18 in W20-307.

- Be a Fashion Consultant at our annual Fall Fashion Free-For-All on Friday, 10/18, 5pm - 7pm in W20-307.

Ready to lend a hand? Please email Mary DesPrez (charlesbridge@comcast.net) if you have questions, or just to let us know you’re coming. Thank you - we can’t do this without you!

A little history...

For 24 years, the Fall Fashion Free-For-All (FFFFA) has made sure students are ready and prepared for the tough New England winter. This year is no exception. Generous donors from the MIT community and enthusiastic volunteers and friends have kept and continue to keep this program vibrant.

Back in 1996 when the program started, the Hosts to International Students Program (HISP) coordinator observed that many of her students were unprepared financially for the cost of fully outfitting themselves for both our harsh winters or for buying formal clothes suitable for interviews, internships or presentations. To solve that problem, she reached out to friends and colleagues. She proposed that rather than giving away the good or almost new clothing in their closets they were no longer wearing or had never worn, why not give it to the students! In 2017, the League expanded the program to include students affiliated with the CASE, Questbridge and Pell grant programs. The FFFFA has grown into a fabulous green program, embracing recycling and generosity at its best!

This summer, our amazing volunteers sorted through 22 large cardboard gaylords containing 400 donated bags of clothing – around five tonnes! The culmination of our clothing donation collecting is our annual event to supply free clothing to our targeted population of undergraduate students. Students are delighted to get the clothes they need for the year ahead, and volunteers are thrilled to see their work come to fruition.
Join us for our fall season!

First Rehearsal:
Wednesday, September 11 • 7:15pm - 9:30pm
Emma Rogers Room 10-340

The MIT Women’s Chorale has openings for new singers for our fall semester. Women from all parts of the MIT community are welcomed. Rehearsals with our new director, Daniel Mahoney, begin on September 11 and take place on Wednesdays from 7:30-9:30 pm in the Emma Roger’s room, 10-340. Our winter concert on Saturday, December 14th will feature Britten’s Ceremonial of Carols, with harp. While we do not require an audition, members are expected to be able to sing on pitch and tone-match. Prospective members must contact us at wleague@mit.edu. Please visit our website for more information: http://web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale/

Save the Date

Our ever-popular Breakfast Series will return on October 23rd, featuring an informal talk from women faculty and breakfast prepared by Chef Tim Healey. Get the story behind the story from those at the cutting edge of research. Look out for an email announcement in the coming weeks!

Breakfast Series

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! Join us this year on Nov 20th, and lookout for an email invite soon.

Wreath-Making

Events at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 10</td>
<td>English Conversation Class Registration W20-407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00am - 11:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 11</td>
<td>Chorale First Rehearsal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emma Rogers Room (10-340) 7:30pm - 9:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 7</td>
<td>MITell hosted by the ICEO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W20-306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm - 1:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 17-18</td>
<td>Fall Fashion Free-for-All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W20-307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See article for timing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 23</td>
<td>Breakfast Series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emma Rogers Room (10-340) 8:00am - 9:30am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
League Interest Groups

LEARN MORE

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

CHORALE
Sharon Lin
hllin@mit.edu
Sally de Fazio:
defazio@alum.mit.edu
web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale

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

WORK WITH YOUR HANDS

FIBER CRAFTS GROUP
Carol Clark
cclark@med.mit.edu

COMMUNITY CRAFT FAIR
Brenda Blais
bmblais@mit.edu

MAKE NEW FRIENDS

CITYSIDE DINING
Jennifer Sousa
jfsousa@mit.edu

MIT JAPANESE WIVES GROUP
Kemie Shirasaki
mitjwg@mit.edu

Moving in?

If you have just arrived and are looking to kit out your new home, the MIT Furniture Exchange (FX) has all you need! They stock sofas, chairs, tables, bed frames, new mattresses, bookcases, desks, and dressers, as well as lamps, small appliances, cooking utensils, and dishes - all at unbeatable prices.

Proceeds from these sales benefit the MIT Women’s League Scholarship Fund, a growing endowment that provides annual financial support to undergraduate women at MIT.

Visit fx.mit.edu to see opening days and times, and check out their current inventory @MITFX on Facebook and Instagram.

The MIT Women’s League Newsletter is published four times during the academic year. Our next newsletter will be November 2019, and submissions are due by October 1. All items should be emailed to the Women’s League Office, wleague@mit.edu.

Please call the office for a hard copy of the newsletter or for any questions you may have.

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