

In League...



September – October 2018

A quarterly newsletter

Dear League Members and Friends,

I write with an enthusiastic welcome to the 2018–2019 academic year and new and exciting ventures for the MIT Women's League. I am honored to assume the role of Chair after my many years of being involved or serving on the Board. We have such an important mission with this community and our support of both students and staff. We truly make a difference! I hope your summer was filled with sunny and memorable days and I doubt you idled your time away. I know those of us in the League don't let grass grow under our feet as there are too many things to do, places to visit and people to help!

Speaking of not sitting idling away, over the summer the Manager of the Women's League, Kirsty Bennett, and I have been busy also. We have updated the Women's League by-laws and reviewed and updated the job descriptions for our board members. Tremendous work by several members of the League continues for our new website, and we'll be updating you regularly on our progress.

We are also excited to welcome two new members to our Executive Board! After many years, Diana Strange stepped down as Treasurer, handing over the role to Pamela Schickling Buckley, Senior Director in the Vice President for Finance. Pam has been at MIT for 28 years, and has no signs of stopping any time soon! With a wealth of experience in financial management, Pam offers a steady hand and valuable expertise to this role. She is always enthusiastic about a way to give back to the MIT Community, which she cares so deeply about.

After serving out her term, Alison Hynd also stepped down as Officer for Social Programs. Danielle T. Reddy, Director of Student/Alumni Relations, will now fill this role. Danielle has worked for MIT for



almost five years, and is likewise excited to find ways to help women connect across the institute, and give back to the MIT Community.

We're also delighted to welcome Ellen Stordy back to the Executive Board as Nominating Officer. Ellen has worked tirelessly over the past year as the Women's League supports CASE students, those with greater financial need to ensure that they have food security over school vacation months.

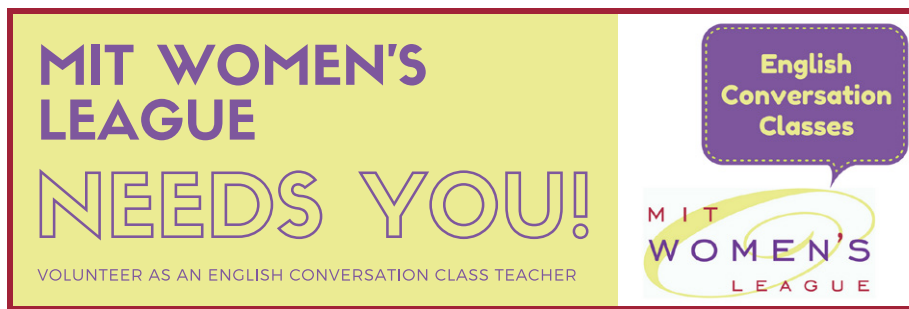
As we embark on this energetic new academic year, let us give a warm welcome to the many new students, faculty, or staff that fill our halls with creativity and life and are the foundation of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Let us build friendships and partnerships with this new opportunity. This year, our welcome reception will be called the Women's League Open House, welcoming all to join us, celebrate the start of the year and learn more about the League. We hope you can join us for this event, and many more over the coming year.

We're delighted to announce that two of our popular programs, the English Partner Program and CitySide Dining will continue with new leadership this year. CitySide dining will be guided by Jennifer Sousa and the EPP will be led by Kara Cunningham. Our thanks to Sofia Caloggero and Julie Atwood Drake for their years supporting these programs.

In reflecting on the past year I'd be remiss if I didn't extend a multitude of gratitude for the following 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 was so beautiful, the participants didn't even want to leave! 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 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, International Students Dinner, and a cohort of volunteers who made the FFFFA a *huge* success. Kim Watson's regular programming kept us delighted and informed. Our English Conversation Classes continue to flourish thanks to the dedication of the teachers who so kindly give their time. New successful projects from last year include the food totes for CASE students and the new storytelling program launched by Kirsty, MITell. 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 Women's League. 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 like to thank Srirupa Mitra for her leadership in the 2017–2018 year, as she was unable to complete her tenure as Chair. 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



We're currently seeking volunteers to join our team of dedicated English Conversation Class teachers.

For over half a century, our popular **English Conversation Classes** have been a signature service of the Women's League. They were created to assist international women arriving on campus from all over the world. These classes

offer the opportunity to learn or improve English skills, make new friends, learn about American customs and holidays, and gain confidence and comfort with life in the United States. Since the program began, more than 3,600 women from 76 countries have taken part, taught by 77 dedicated and enthusiastic League volunteers!

Offered only to those with MIT affiliations, classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:15am to 11:00am during both the fall and spring terms. Beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels are offered.

Classes are informal but not unstructured. No special academic credentials or experience are required of teachers, just time and enthusiasm. It does take effort to prepare and teach classes, but the teachers all say they love doing it and that they think they are learning as much about the world from their students as the students are learning from them.

If you are interested (or even just a little bit curious), please contact the Women's League Office: wleague@mit.edu or call 617.253.3656.



Conversational English Class Registration

Tuesday, September 11
9:00 – 11:00 am
Stratton Student Center, Room 407

The English Conversation Classes sponsored by the Women's League are ideal for international women 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. Babysitting is provided for children, age 6 months up to 4 years at a cost is \$200 a semester per child. Textbooks are provided and included in the class fee of \$120 per semester

An **English Conversation Partner Program** provides students additional practice in conversational English with fluent English volunteers. Since most Partners are MIT employees, these informal meetings usually take place on campus on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Participation is optional and subject to the availability of volunteer partners.



MIT Women's Chorale: Join us for our fall season!

First Rehearsal
Wednesday, September 12
7:15–9:30 pm
Emma Rogers Room, 10-340

The MIT Women's Chorale has a openings for new singers for our fall semester. Rehearsals with our inspired and inspiring director, Kevin Galiè, begin on September 12, and take place on Wednesdays from 7:30–9:30 pm in room 10-340.

The Chorale is filled with interesting and friendly women who are serious about making music and serious about enjoying making music. Our winter concert on Saturday, December 8th will feature the Vespers for the Feast of the Holy Innocents, by Michael Haydn, a selection from a Bach cantata, and two lively Latin American pieces.

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 de-fazio@comcast.net.

Please visit our website for more information:
web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale/



Come tell us a story!

Wednesday September 5 • 12–1pm • Chipman Room (6-104)
in partnership with the ICEO
Thursday November 1 • 12–1pm • Chipman Room (6-104)
in partnership with the ICEO
Monday December 10 • 12–1pm • Emma Rogers Room (10-340)

After a short hiatus in the summer months, MITell is returning this Fall!

All members of the MIT community are invited to come together to share stories from their lives. Whether you're completely new to the craft of live storytelling or a practiced public speaker (or somewhere in between) this is the space for you. Once a month we'll meet at lunchtime to meet and share stories on a theme. Come to tell your own story, workshop some ideas, or just listen to your friends and colleagues as they share theirs.

Twice this fall we will be partnering the Institute Community and Equity Office (ICEO) to introduce live storytelling, MITell and the Women's League to a broader audience on campus.

What is this exactly?

This is a live storytelling workshop space, where you can share a short, true story of an experience that happened to you, connected (as loosely as you like) to our monthly theme.

Do I have to tell a story if I come to the event?

No! We invite all attendees to come and listen, and give feedback to the speaker if they request it, or offer to answer questions. Being an engaged audience member is just as valuable as sharing a story.

I can't think of a story that connects to the theme.

That's no problem. The theme is only there to help spark an idea of what you might want to talk about, but if you have a story that doesn't fit the theme, you are most welcome to tell it.

How long should my story be?

There is no minimum time, but try to keep it to around 5–6 minutes so everyone who wants to has a chance to share their stories.

What should I talk about?

Anything you like! We set a theme in advance, and you should use that as inspiration if you're stuck for ideas. We only ask that the story be true, and that it happened to you. Stories can be funny, thoughtful, sad, life-changing, or even small anecdotes.

mitell.mit.edu

For more information or to register for our next meeting, contact kbennett@mit.edu

MIT Women's League Open House

Wednesday, September 26
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Emma Rogers Room, Room 10-340

Join us this fall as we kick off the semester with the first MIT Women's League Open House. An informal 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 to connect with friends new and old.

Interested in lectures and tours? Looking for a way to give back? We have it! Are you the creative type or a self-proclaimed foodie? Get crafty at the Furniture Exchange (FX) or with our knitting group. Explore book discussion, on-campus

artwork, or discover local restaurants with the Women's League. This is the time to learn about all we have to offer, and how you can get involved!

Women's League Chair Cheryl Vossmer and Women's League Manager Kirsty Bennett will welcome guests and encourage attendees to meet, mingle and learn about the League. Representatives from Human Resources, MIT Libraries, MIT Spouses & Partners Connect, the MIT Work-Life Center, MITAC, and MIT Police will be in attendance to share information about their services and resources.

Existing members are encouraged to attend and help welcome newcomers with a kind word or helpful guidance, and to reconnect with the League.



Hosted in our campus home, the Emma Rogers Room, this event will feature delicious treats from Chef Tim Healey and a welcoming introduction to life at MIT. All in the MIT community are welcomed to stop in and join us on Wednesday, September 26 from 11:30 am–1pm!

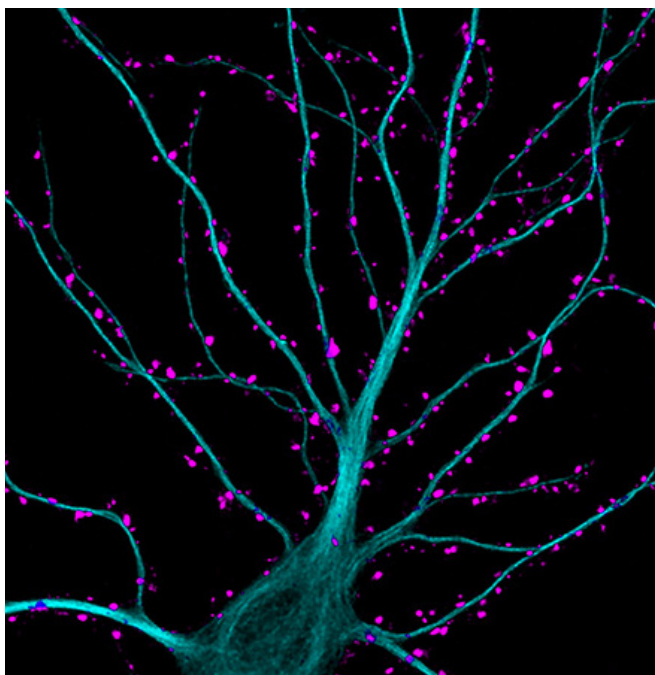
Synaptic Stories: An evening of personal tales as diverse as our unique brains

Thursday, September 20
6:00 pm Private viewing of MIT
Museum's Beautiful Brain exhibit
7:00 pm Stories begin
MIT Museum

\$5 tickets available from MIT Museum

Join us for a night of true storytelling! MITell has partnered with MIT Radius and the MIT Museum to create an evening of storytelling celebrating the myriad wonders of the human brain. The evening will start with a private viewing of the museum's Beautiful Brain exhibit, showcasing the drawings of Santiago Ramón y Cajal. We'll then gather in the main event space to hear five storytellers share true stories from their lives.

Refreshments will be provided.



Exploring ethics at the center
of science and technology





How many volunteers can you fit in a Gaylord?

Fall Fashion Free For All

Friday, October 19
West Lounge, 3rd Floor,
Stratton Student Center (W20)

A good idea whose time had come! True 23 years ago, true today — and going strong! Generous donors from the MIT community and enthusiastic League 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. And so, the program began and expanded... and has grown into a fabulous 'green' program, embracing recycling and generosity at its best!

This summer, our amazing volunteers sorted through 16 large cardboard gaylords containing 400 donated bags of clothing—around 3.5 tonnes!

The culmination of our clothing donation collecting is our Fall Fashion Free-For-All, an 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.

This fall, help us help the students stock up with just the right things for those cold winter days, interviews, and formal holiday occasions.

If you would like to participate:

Donate – We accept new and clean, gently used clothing, especially:

- **Winter Clothes** for women and men: Coats, Jackets, Hats, Gloves, Mittens, Scarves, (like new) Snow Boots
- **Men's Clothing – Small sizes!**
 Slacks: 30–32" waist, 28–29" length
 Suits: 38–40" regular
 Shirts: 15/15 ½/16 collar, 32–33" sleeve
- **Interview Clothes**
 For women: suits and dresses, jewelry, handbags
 For men: suits, dress shirts, neckties

Clean clothing may be left at the League office, Room 10-342, during business hours or you may mail them to us. Additionally, there is a drop box at the Furniture Exchange (FX) which is open Tuesday and Thursdays, 10 am–4pm. Your donation is tax deductible and we supply a receipt for income tax purposes. Please call League office beforehand (617.253.3656).

Volunteer

- Help the **Display Team** unpack, sort and display the clothing before the event — anytime from 1:00–5:00 pm on Thursday, 10/18, and from 9:00–5:00 pm on Friday, 10/19.
- Be a **Fashion Consultant** at our annual 'Fall Fashion Free For All' on Friday, 10/19, 5:00–7:00 pm.
- Join the **Prep Team** once a quarter to prepare donations for the annual event. Refreshments are served!

Ready to join the fun?

- Please call the League office, 617.253.3656, or email wleague@mit.edu or mdzurikdesprez@gmail.com if you have questions about donations or if you would like to volunteer.

League Interest Groups and Classes

LEARN MORE

Book Discussion

Barbara Donnelly
 781.646.4617
 Nancy Hollomon
nancyredsox@gmail.com

Chorale

Sharon Lin: hllin@mit.edu
 Sally De Fazio: de_fazio@alum.mit.edu
web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale

MITELL Storytelling

Kirsty Bennett: kbennett@mit.edu
mitell.mit.edu

WORK WITH YOUR HANDS

Informal Needlework

Carol Clark
cclark@med.mit.edu

Women's League Community Craft Fairs

Brenda Blais
bmbalais@mit.edu

MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND CONTACTS

CitySide Dining

Jennifer Sousa
jfsousa@mit.edu

MIT Japanese Wives Group

Kimie Shirasaki
mitjwg@yahoo.com

Groups meet weekly, bi-monthly or monthly. Contact the above women to learn more about their groups.



Save the date!

Stargazing

Thursday, November 15 : 4:00–6:30 pm
(Rain date: Friday, November 16)
Roof of Building 37

Friend of the League Dr. Amanda S. Bosh, professor in the Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences Department, is once again offering the rare chance to view the winter sky through MIT's telescopic equipment, atop Bldg. 37. More details as the date approaches.

Holiday Wreath-Making

Wednesday, November 28:
9:00–11:00 am
Student Center, 20 Chimneys
(W20-306)

Get into the festive spirit by joining our annual tradition of making the holiday wreaths for MIT's main entrance at 77 Mass Ave. League member Brenda Blais will guide the creative and crafting process. All are welcome! Please contact the League Office at 617 253 3656 or email wleague@mit.edu to volunteer. We welcome your assistance for as long as your time permits that morning.



Breakfast Series

Wednesday October 24
8:00 am–9:30 am
Emma Rogers Room (10-340)

Twice a year, we invite members to join us for breakfast, prepared by Chef Tim Healey in the Emma Rogers Room to hear women faculty and administrators explore the role of women in the academy. Our October speaker will be announced soon!

Notable — Books for discussion

Upcoming Book Discussion Meetings
11:30–1:00 pm

Books to be announced

September 26
Meeting in 56-302

October 24
Meeting in Emma Rogers Room
(10-340)

General Information

The MIT Women's League newsletter is published four times during the academic year. The deadline for submission for the **November 2018 issue is October 1**. All items should be sent to the Women's League office: wleague@mit.edu

Please call the League office for a hard copy of the newsletter and for answers to questions you may have. The office can also arrange for your membership.

Manager Kirsty Bennett
League Chair Cheryl Vossmer
Honorary Chair Christine Reif
Design Tim Blackburn Design



MIT Women's League
Massachusetts Institute
of Technology
 77 Massachusetts Avenue
 Room 10-342
 Cambridge, MA 02139-4307
web.mit.edu/womensleague

Contact

Kirsty Bennett
 617.253.3656
wleague@mit.edu

Find us online!

facebook.com/mitwomensleague
instagram.com/mitwomensleague