

## Noise Study Raises Red Flags on Concerts' Health Impacts

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

Is the Fenway being adversely affected by noise pollution? The resounding answer is yes. Local researchers have been studying the effects of noise in the Fenway area, and the results are alarming.

In a well-attended meeting at the Fenway Community Center on Feb. 24, Dr. Erica Walker, founder and principal investigator of the Community Noise Lab at Boston University's School of Public Health, presented her findings. Her basic hypothesis is that noise is harmful to human health. In her study, Walker, who holds a doctorate in environmental health from Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health, conducted real-time sound monitoring at 14 sites throughout the Fenway from March through September of last year during off hours, baseball games, and concerts at Fenway Park.

Conclusions were dramatic. Sound levels during concerts proved statistically significantly higher than sound levels measured during both baseball games and times of no activity at Fenway Park. All concerts registered sound levels higher than World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations, and distance to Fenway Park proved a significant predictor of nearby sound levels after adjusting for other noise contributors, such as proximity to major roads. WHO recommends a noise level of 53 decibels for daytime and 45 decibels for nighttime. Concerts measured at Fenway Park ranged from 62 to 63.8 decibels, with the highest levels recorded on Aug. 31 (Zac Brown Band), and July 5 and 6 (Phish).

Walker also explained the health impacts of sound levels. Studies she cited showed an increased risk of anxiety, sleep disruption, cardiovascular disorders, and diabetes. Current epidemiological research, she explained in a study summary, suggests that sound may begin to affect health negatively at levels as low as 33 decibels, a level associated with light rain;

serious health impacts may begin with sounds at 65 decibels and above, a sound associated with a vacuum cleaner.

In general, data collected during concert hours showed that the concerts elevated the exposure of Fenway residents to levels of sound that previous research has associated with negative health impacts. Some Fenway residents contributed data by measuring sound levels during concerts the NoiseScore smartphone app developed at B.U. with the Community Noise Lab. Residents using the app reported that concert noise created a significant issue, describing sound levels during concerts as "loud, noisy, and unbearable" and as causing feelings of irritation, anxiety, frustration, and anger.

As members of the audience pointed out, these conclusions are disturbing in the wake of Fenway Sports Group's (FSG) request to the City to issue licenses for three more concerts (the Licensing Board approved 12 dates in late December). Kristen Mobilia, a West Fens resident, noted that approval could lead to FSG's booking nine concerts in August. Recommendations from the study included monitoring sound levels from each concert in 2020, establishing sound guidelines for each concert, and having future licenses make staying below those levels mandatory.

To continue exploring health impacts, another presenter, MGH cardiologist Michael Osborne, asserted that stress leads to heart disease, and that environmental noise causes stress. He said that stress from noise exposure is on a par with smoking, high blood pressure, and diabetes. Stress activates physiological systems that can contribute to heart disease, including inflammation and the sympathetic nervous system (the "fight or flight" response). Osborne said that stress drives inflammation and that this is reflected in the amygdala, a bilateral structure in the brain that is part of the limbic system



PHOTO: STEVE WOLF

Residents and elected officials filled the Fenway Community Center on February 24 as Dr. Erica Walker presented her study of noise levels during Fenway Park concert. Other speakers described the impacts of noise on human health.

In a recent study examining the effects of noise exposure on human health, Osborne used positron emission tomography (PET) scans performed after an injection of radioactive sugar that becomes trapped in cells. He said that PET imaging can be used to evaluate inflammation of arteries. Of 500 patients he studied who did not have heart disease or cancer, those with higher amygdala activity and more inflammation were at risk for heart disease. His conclusion: noise exposure increases the activity of the amygdala, is related to cardiovascular disease, and occurs even after correcting for socioeconomic factors, air pollution, psychiatric history, or quality of healthcare.

The meeting also presented the findings of four middle school students from Sharon, The Galaxy Decoders, who took on a science project measuring noise levels in urban schools. In four elementary schools near West Roxbury, they took measurements on weekdays and Saturdays and surveyed the children who attended those schools. The

Sharon students found research showing that the effects of noise pollution on young subjects included hearing loss and a decreased ability to learn. They also explored remedies to the problem and decided that acoustic panels would help as well as sealing cracks in the walls. Raising awareness about the effects of noise was their key solution.

In the evening's final presentation, Ian Adams, a second-year law student at Suffolk University, discussed noise ordinances and good neighbor agreements (GNA).

He said that a community nuisance becomes a public nuisance when it interferes with the exercise of a public right by encroaching on public property or by causing common injury. A GNA with the source of a public nuisance has to be initiated by the community, which he suggested was a course that Fenway residents might pursue.

To obtain a copy of the Community Noise Lab study, contact Dr. Erica Walker at edw@bu.edu.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

## Pioneering First Fenway Co-op Celebrates Forty Years

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Forty years later, some people think the block is still gritty, but what advocates preserved for future generations is historic and unique for the downtown neighborhoods. Like Jane Jacobs's Greenwich Village, it feels different here. Mixed uses on the ground floor, affordable apartments above, longtime residents, and lots of students on the sidewalk: There's life here.

Across from Berklee College of

Music, architect Arthur Vinal's inventive brick bowfront at 143-149 Massachusetts Ave., labelled a "tenement building" in the original 1894 permit, is officially the First Fenway Cooperative, created in 1980. It was named "First" because it was, and the the founders hoped to create a model for others to follow.

The late Sandra Brant, one of FFC's key cooperators, as they're called, wrote a thesis on the Massachusetts Avenue and Boylston Street block running from Haviland Street to Hemenway

Street, labelled Parcel 13 in the 1960s Fenway Urban Renewal Plan. Her paper presented an almost anthropological study of who lived there and what happened in the tumultuous years between 1973 and 1977. Today, T.C.'s Lounge is Love Art Sushi; the storefront at Mass. Ave. and Boylston Street was one of Starbuck's first Boston locations; the parking lot on Haviland is now an underground garage; Berklee bought the former Fenway Health building; and the Hamilton Company owns many

of the eclectic historic Boylston Street buildings. Change happens.

But in the 1970s the turmoil of urban renewal surrounded 143-149 Mass. Ave., and the tenants wanted to stay in their homes. When they learned the landlord was going to sell, they went to work, ultimately creating a limited-equity cooperative. Nine of the original 12 residents purchased shares for \$1,670 (equivalent to about \$5,225 today). Residents don't own their apartments. Instead, they jointly own the entire building, and their corporation pays the mortgage, taxes, and maintenance expenses.

According to Karla Rideout, Bob Case, Rosario Salerno, and Steve Harnish, who all live in the building today, saving 143-149 Mass. Ave., birthing the Fenway Community Development Corporation, and pursuing affordable housing on Hemenway Street was an amazing community effort.

To battle the Boston Redevelopment Authority's Fenway Urban Renewal Plan, residents held demonstrations and engaged in organizing to prevent wholesale demolitions for a planned 25-story tower. Later, there were lawsuits and negotiations. The state's Community Reinvestment Act, which regulates banks, played a key part in making the finances work for the residents to buy their building from the landlord. Other critical success factors were resourcefulness (staging a fake funeral on the Christian Science Church plaza

## FENWAY HIGH HOOPSTERS WEAR CITY CROWN

PHOTO: PATRICK O'CONNOR



The Fenway High School girls basketball team, current city champions, prevailed against perennial foes New Mission, 49-40. High scorers included junior Omariah Ashley and sophomore Kayana Armbrister. Senior Janyeh Gulley, who has committed to Caldwell University for next year, had 17 rebounds and 11 points. The game took place at Madison Park High during school vacation week. But the players weren't done: They tore through their first three games in the MIAA state tourney, moving on to the Division North 4 finals on Friday, March 6, after beating Maimonides 58-44 in the semifinal game.

# A Surprise Guest and Air Rights Reports Highlight FCA Meeting

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

The 58th annual meeting of the Fenway Civic Association (FCA) took place Feb. 5 at the conference room at 401 Park. Mayor Marty Walsh, State Senator Will Brownsberger, State Representatives Jon Santiago and Jay Livingstone, and newly elected City Councilor Kenzie Bok all attended.

Unexpectedly, as he wasn't on the agenda, Mayor Walsh gave a 40-minute speech with a glowing review of the Fenway, then answered several questions from the audience. Walsh said that he was "a great supporter of the Fenway" and complimented FCA on "the great work you do protecting the neighborhood." He said that at the beginning of his political career, he was active in his civic association in Dorchester, even serving as its president.

Walsh said that since 2014, 3,000 units of housing have been approved to be built in the

Fenway. He said that the city is working on building dedicated bike lanes and lauded the Fenway for allowing designated Uber and Lyft pick-up and drop-off areas and the upgrade of the Westland Avenue gateway.

During the Q&A period, Walsh was asked about restoration of rent control. He said that it was worth a conversation but wasn't sure that it would really protect people or solve the supply-and-demand problem. When asked how we can reduce cars in the city when a lot of institutions provide free parking, Walsh replied, "the bigger question is what is our transportation plan moving forward. We need to improve public transportation. The system needs a whole overhaul. We've been doing patchwork." He noted that dedicated bus and bike lanes as well as better pedestrian walking areas would help.

After the mayor's impromptu speech, FCA president Tim Horn reviewed the

highlights of 2019. These included four park events, 21 weeks of free park fitness sessions, nine licensing reviews, advocacy for off-campus housing and curtailment of short-term rentals, and coordinating the Fenway's Porchfest with the Fenway Alliance and Fenway CDC. Fenway Civic also received \$25,000 through the Fenway Park Demonstration Fund toward the return of the Robert Burns statue to the Fess and \$35,000 from Community Preservation Act funds for improvements at Harry Ellis Dickson Park.

The keynote speakers were developers John Rosenthal of Meredith Management and Abe Menzin and Peter Sougarides from Samuels & Associates, who updated the audience about their respective Mass. Pike air rights projects.

Rosenthal, who is developing Fenway Center, Phases I and II above the turnpike between Beacon Street and Brookline Avenue

said, "I would not be here today without the support of this neighborhood." He noted that it is very challenging to build above the turnpike, because you can't have a slurry wall or underground parking. He said that it generally costs about \$500 a square foot to build on land but more than \$1,000 a square foot to build over the turnpike. Air rights projects have to have land on either side of the roadway. The mixed-use—housing, offices, and labs—Fenway Center Phase I is near completion. Phase II, which will have office, lab, R&D, and life sciences uses, is due to start in June (See CAC meeting article in the February 2020 issue of *The Fenway News*).

Menzin and Sougarides spoke about another air rights project—Parcel 12 on the northwest corner of Mass. Ave. and Boylston Street. Menzin called it "engineering challenged," as the infrastructure near the intersection is in disarray. Accommodating pedestrians, cyclists and bus riders equitably was also a complicated requirement but absolutely necessary. In addition, for safety reasons, the project will move the turnpike on-ramp further west along upper Newbury Street. The project, which begins construction in the spring, features a hotel and an elevated park atop the highway, with a tunnel beneath Mass. Ave. to the Hynes T station, and an office building facing Boylston. Menzin said that the permitting was done and that they were completing the drawings for the project.

After eight years of planning, the design dramatically changed in 2019 and now includes the public plaza. After much negotiation with alternative energy advocates, Samuels promised to go all-electric for the office building and use air-source heat pumps. Fenway Center community benefits include new traffic signals and crosswalks at Beacon and Mountfort streets and a \$650,000 contribution to the Fenway Community Center.

A key concern with both developments is coordination with MassDOT. The state highway engineers want to see minimal lane closures and want the two projects working in tandem so that the schedule for closing the turnpike lanes is as short as possible.

*Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.*

> **FIRST FENWAY** from page 1  
for example) and access to a network of neighbors, including many seniors.

In the 1970s, U.S. cities received federal aid to clear out neighborhoods, and if a community happened to hold a good number of institutions, then its buildings were much more likely to be targets for demolition. In the East Fens, Northeastern and the First Church of Christ, Scientist, were the beneficiaries of a partnership with Ed Logue, the influential head of the powerful Boston Redevelopment Authority (now the BPDA). Spending by institutions reduced the local cash requirement, greatly favoring institutional growth. Bob Case, an original founder of FFC, thinks that's why the urban renewal plan didn't include West Fens, as the hospitals and schools in the East Fens and the Longwood seized on institutional credits for facilities improvements.

The twelve six-room apartments on Mass. Ave. have remained a successful resident-owned cooperative since 1980. But—and it's a significant but—there are only twelve, and the reason they can survive is because of the income from commercial tenants on the ground floor: 7-Eleven, Starbucks, and Love Art Sushi. (Co-ops don't get resi-

dential property tax exemptions like other owner-occupied housing in the city; that's something the new city council could take on.)

Celebrating the legacy of the activism that preserved their building is important, but the model hasn't been easy to follow. It has been a spiritual journey for some of the original founders, who are involved in multiple community efforts dedicated to the common good. At First Fenway, they keep one apartment open for someone who might be displaced and need a place to live.

What the residents in the 1970s



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS  
**The entry to the First Fenway Cooperative at 143-149 Mass. Ave.**

wanted was to stay in their neighborhood. Case, Salerno, Rideout, Brant and their fellow advocates went to battle for their block and their building. Fittingly the plaque outside 149 Mass. Ave. quotes Margaret Meade "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

*Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.*

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## GOING VIRAL: LECTURE TACKLES COVID-19

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

**O**n Feb. 20, Boston University presented “Emerging Infectious Diseases in a Connected World,” an informative and well-attended lecture on the coronavirus. In it, Ronald Corley, chair of Microbiology at BU’s School of Medicine, traced the history of coronavirus and other infectious diseases. The coronavirus, or COVID-19, was so new, he said, that he had never given this talk before.

Corley defined newly emerging infectious diseases as diseases that are recognized in humans for the first time. He explained that these newly discovered viruses are occurring more frequently: a new virus used to appear about every 18 months, but now one appears every 6 to 12 months.

Other examples include Ebola, severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, and Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS. Mostly RNA-based, these viruses evolve quickly and find natural hosts in the animal kingdom. “As we encroach on the animal habitats, we come into contact with [more] wild animals,” said Corley.

Bats seem to be the leading hosts of infectious viruses, but they transfer viruses to intermediary animals—civets for SARS, camels for MERS—which then may spread the virus to humans, likely through airborne particles of feces that humans breathe in.

Historically, the large coronavirus family infects a number of different species. For a period, scientists knew of only four that infected humans—the two that cause the common cold and two that cause mild respiratory disease. But in 2003, SARS, which affected both humans and animals, appeared for the first time.

Corley also traced the origin of COVID-19. On Dec. 31 of last year, 27 people, most stallholders at a seafood wholesale market in Wuhan, China, were treated in the hospital for an unknown illness. By Jan. 3, the number of cases had risen to 44, then to 59 three days later. All cases were within Wuhan. On Jan. 7, a new coronavirus was detected,

and the entire genome was sequenced and put online. On Jan. 13, one person traveled to Thailand from China and was determined to be the first case outside of China. On Jan. 30, the new coronavirus was declared an emergency by the World Health Organization.

As of late February, there were over 78,000 known cases in China, which include over 3,000 health care workers. Outside China, the highest numbers of cases have occurred in South Korea, on the Diamond Princess cruise ship (where many believe a quarantine of passengers helped spread the virus), and Italy. People have also left China without being tested for the virus. Corley said, “There may be a bunch of people floating around in Southeast Asia who might be infected.”

The good news is that viruses do not treat every person equally. Most early deaths involved people with underlying conditions, as the virus attacks lung cells. In general, within China, 81 percent of patients have mild symptoms while 14 percent have critical symptoms. Only five percent are in critical condition, and the fatality rate has been about three percent.

Corley said that the common flu is more of a concern than the coronavirus. He also noted that the most widely spread contagious disease in the world is measles and that Ebola is still a public health emergency of international concern.

Corley advised proper hand-washing, including thumbs and between fingers. When asked about masks, he said they wouldn’t hurt but aren’t necessarily effective. Most masks won’t filter out viruses but do reduce transmission distance when someone sneezes or coughs. When asked about where to sit on an airplane, he said that an infected person can spread the virus over three seats, so it is hard to know what the best seat is. He cautioned that the dirtiest place on an airplane is the tray table.

For more information, visit [newscentrist.com/articles](http://newscentrist.com/articles).

*Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.*

## What Lies Beneath: Ghost of Community Haunts \$1M Condos



A view into The Pit at 4 Charlesgate East, back in the day.

BY BETTE KEVA WITH MARTY RISKIN

“You’re cheap. You know that, Keva?” grated Marty as he shelled out some twenties for our meal.

“No, I just don’t spend money unnecessarily.”

“Yeah. Like when you lived in that Boston rooming house! I call that cheap,” he said.

“Let me explain,” I offered.

I moved to Boston in April 1978 and looked for the least expensive accommodation, which was 4 Charlesgate East. The imposing eight-story, 260-room structure near Kenmore Square had once been Boston’s finest hotel. Built in 1891, it curves like a horseshoe from Beacon Street to Charlesgate East and around the corner to Marlborough Street. Inside the horseshoe lay The Courtyard, where guests would take a stroll on a summer’s eve.

Nearly 100 years later, things were different. It was a study in diversity—every race and nationality was represented by the building’s 300 inhabitants. Anyone who could pay the \$28 to \$45 per week could get a furnished room and enjoy the luxury of a 60-watt lightbulb, a narrow bed, a desk, a hard chair, a bureau, a half refrigerator, and a communal bathroom.

Among the lodgers were 23 food servers, 53 cab drivers, an opera singer, 10 female impersonators, four ballet dancers, 32 distant cousins to princes, one stand-up comic, 52 heiresses (according to them), a Chinese violinist, two escaped Czechoslovakian jazz musicians, one Olympic gymnast, three body builders, three punk rockers, and 13 arsonists.

When lodgers couldn’t endure their four walls, we would congregate in the marble-tiled lobby which had chairs, a TV, a Coke machine, and the office.

CHARLESGATE on page 6 >

## WRITERS’ WEEK 2020: WRITING, ANTI-RACISM, AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

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# FENSVIEWS

## Kenzie Bok Lays Out Goals in First Council Speech

BY KENZIE BOK, DISTRICT 8 CITY COUNCILOR

**Editor's note: this is an abbreviated version of Bok's original speech, which focuses on the current state of cooperative housing in Boston and strategies for its further expansion.**

Thank you, Madam President and colleagues. I'm thrilled to be speaking here today for the first time as the Councilor for District 8—representing the West End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Fenway, and Mission Hill—to call for a hearing on housing cooperatives.

I ran for city council because I felt that we face urgent challenges that we have to meet with a corresponding urgency of action. From housing, to transportation, to climate change, to economic inequality, to education, we're often doing good incremental work, but not always on the trajectory that you need when a problem becomes existential, when the situation calls for transformation and imagination, bold action or bust.

But I'm a historian, and what I found so encouraging about Boston's history, as I ran for this office, is that we've done things at that transformational scale before, time and time again. What is past is prologue. In District 8, the Esplanade and the Fens represent the creation of major new parkland in order to manage storm water — a kind of terraforming we must learn to do again. We also created a new neighborhood in the Back Bay, then invented the Groundwater Trust as a sustainable way to manage a shared precious resource. Further back, we expanded our idea of a public good, founding the nation's first public school and its first public library, both radical statements about the kind of education we thought was owed free to all. When we were beset with intolerable street traffic a century ago, we dug beneath the Common, itself Boston's original shared public treasure, to build America's first public subway — the birth of a system that now could address our traffic woes again — if we could see our way to making it more extensive, fast, reliable, and free.

And in housing, one of the proud Bostonian traditions which encouraged me most was the cooperative housing which dots the landscape of District 8. Over the last 60 years, we have again and again found opportunities to create these mixed-income self-governing communities that now anchor their respective neighborhoods.

In the East Fenway, people like Mat Thall, who is also here today, had the vision to take an old "Little City Hall", formerly a trade school, and made it into Fensgate, a 46-unit mixed-income cooperative that's now one of the most tight-knit communities I know. And in 1960, we broke ground on BRA land on Charlesbank, a 276-unit cooperative filled with people who enliven and help out at every Mission Hill occasion. Toni Komst is with us today from Charlesbank, for example, who organizes Mission Hill's monthly neighborhood crime meetings. But I'll return to Charlesbank in a moment.

We have a tension in this country between housing as a form of shelter and community, and housing as a form of capital-holding, as a commodity. The equity-building aspect of housing has always been key to our middle-class, in the form of homeownership, but lately the scale is tipping too far in favor of housing as capital, to a point that threatens to hollow out that first and primary purpose — housing should house people.

Limited-equity cooperatives are particularly special because, perhaps better than any other type of housing, they resolve that tension. They enable people to buy into a housing ownership structure at a much more modest price than a traditional down-payment, plan their lives around predictable housing costs, and then sell their share back when they depart to recover their equity with some appreciation, albeit not a market windfall. In a society where capital is increasingly

concentrated in a few hands, cooperatives put capital into many hands. In a society where capital too often calls the tune for government, cooperatives subject capital to shared community governance. In other words, they're a mechanism for seeding a true economic democracy.

Cooperatives also have a way of cultivating civic culture. When I knock a door at a coop like Fensgate, I know that if I come back the next day and knock the neighbor's door, she'll have already heard about me from her fellow resident.

Through their practices, cooperatives instill in residents the pride of self-governance, the knowledge that each of us can join with others to shape the environment we live in, but without the hubristic myth of self-sufficiency. I cannot think of a better way to summarize the ethos that we need today for healthy civic life.

We can create more cooperative housing through the use of public land — as the [Department of Neighborhood Development] is currently doing for a new 23-unit limited-equity coop in the Highland Park neighborhood — or through parcel assembly, or potentially through a revolving line of city credit to help tenant groups execute an original purchase. All of these are methods I'd like us to explore.

That future is also about preserving our past, because cooperatives steward our living history. They are home to some of our greatest citizens. Today, I want to end by highlighting Enoch Woodhouse, or "Woody," a resident of the Charlesbank cooperative who turned 93 just a couple weeks ago, and is here with us today. As we enter Black History Month in 2020, we could stand to learn a lot from a man born in the 1920s, someone who still gives so much to our community.

Woody was involved in 1960 when Charlesbank was first built — not without a fight! — as a limited-equity coop of 276 units stretching 24 stories tall. It was done on BRA land, and I think it's very important to note — since we're living in a time when the federal government has really stepped back from its commitment to housing — that Charlesbank was one of the very first redevelopment projects in all of Boston not funded by federal money. Now 60 years later, it has housed thousands of people from all walks of life, and it's one of the most vibrant residential communities I know.

And Woody is its most treasured resident — content mostly to sit back and let others run the meetings these days, but always there if you need historical context, or a warning about the little course corrections required to keep a diverse, equitable, self-governing community on track. He's the conscience of the place, a blessing and example to all who know him — whether at Charlesbank, or at Trinity Church where he and I worship together, or at one of the many other places that he astonishes at age 93 with his mix of infectious energy, lawyerly wit, and deep personal wisdom.

People might look at Charlesbank where Woody lives, right on Huntington Ave, and see a tall tower. It looms so high, it might not occur to anyone to call it "human scale". But human scale is not just five-to-six feet tall. Human scale is relational, so architecture that creates a home for community — that's human scale. And human scale is temporal — the human scale of time is a lifetime. So cooperatives are really housing on a human scale — the right economic scale to allow ordinary people to build equity, the right temporal scale to house someone for a lifetime, the right civic scale to nurture the seeds of democracy. That's why I'm filing this hearing order, to look at how we can support and expand this form of housing.

What we need to create together is a Boston where people can live full lives in diverse communities, a Boston that's really human scale. Even when, as with Woody, the humans in question are larger than life.

*Kenzie Bok is the City Councilor for District 8. She lives in Beacon Hill.*

## GUEST OPINION

### Hardly 'Modest,' Changes in Project Needed A Much Fuller Description

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you for the paper's coverage of projects in the Fenway area, and the February edition's report on Phase 2 of Meredith Management's Fenway Center project over the turnpike.

The article's description of the project tracks the proponent's revised project description; that is, that the Phase 2 modifications will be a "modest increase" in the dimensions of the two new buildings. This

is not, however, entirely accurate. The total square footage will not significantly change, but the height of the building on Brookline Avenue is to double (from 80 feet to 159 feet), and the height of the building on Beacon Street is 345 feet (including mechanicals), making it about four stories higher than the

## LETTERS

Pierce building. Since the February article, review by the Boston Civic Design Commission has resulted in some positive changes to the buildings' dimensions and massing, but the changes will not significantly diminish the buildings' impact

on the skyline. Note too that the open space accessible to the public will be along a street-level pedestrian corridor located between the Center's buildings. The one half acre of "outdoor, landscaped roof terrace space" will be accessible to building tenants only.

There has been a lot of praise for the reduction in parking spaces to be built as part of the project, anticipating that this will reduce driving to the site. Even with less parking, however, the Notice of Project Change (NPC) reports that the project will generate about 5,000 daily new vehicle trips, a significant increase in an already congested traffic area that worsens with the completion of each new development project. How the streets around the Fenway Center will absorb this new infusion of traffic is not described in the NPC. Also not described is how the lane reductions on the Pike to accommodate construction of this (and the Parcel 12 air rights) project will affect traffic in and around the city.

I raise these points because the size and scale of this project will radically change the skyline in our part of the City as well as the way our neighborhood feels at the street level. The descriptions of the project need to be accurate to properly inform those who will walk, drive, live, and try to feel at home in its shadow.

DOLLY BOGDANIAN  
AUDUBON CIRCLE

## REMOVING REEDS OPENS HIDDEN OLMSTED VISTAS

**Boston Parks and Recreation continued to test mechanical cutting of the phragmites last month. After struggling to secure a permit from the commonwealth (the reeds grow in a protected wetlands zone), the City hopes multiple harvests will help clear the reeds. In the 1990s, a City plan to spray the reeds with herbicides sparked heated neighborhood opposition.**



PHOTO: STEVE CHASE

## Fenway News

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### "Comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable."

The founders of The Fenway News adopted this motto to express their mission of exposing and opposing the dangers the neighborhood faced in the early 1970s—rampant arson, predatory landlords, and a destructive urban renewal plan. If the original motto no longer fits today's Fenway, we remain committed to its spirit of identifying problems and making our neighborhood a better and safer place to live.

### > FREQUENCY <

The Fenway News reaches distribution sites on the Friday closest to the first of each month. Our next issue will appear **Friday, April 3.**

### > DEADLINE <

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is **Friday, March 27.**

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## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

A LOT HAPPENED IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SINCE THE LAST ISSUE, INCLUDING...

The change in the program for Phase 2 of the Fenway Center air rights project reflects a market shift, as the Fenway continues to draw life-sciences firms because of proximity to Longwood hospitals (and stratospheric rents in Kendall Square). A California investment firm bought a nondescript lab and office building at 109 Brookline Ave. for \$270 million. ➡



**Last November's advisory vote on renaming Dudley Square, which lost narrowly citywide but won handily in precincts closest to the square, persuaded the Walsh administration to move ahead with renaming the area Nubian Square. In December, the Public Improvements Commission—the same obscure body that allowed Yawkey Way to revert to Jersey Street—officially approved the switch. The**

**Globe reports that Google Maps followed suit in January and that the City will provide design support and funding for businesses that need new signage. Last month the MBTA officially renamed Dudley Square Station, although it hasn't yet started integrating the name into maps, schedules, and signage. And the Herald reports that activists have set their sights on getting the BPL to change the name of its Dudley**

**branch.** ➡ Boston Conservatory at Berklee will formalize its long relationship with SpeakEasy Stage, feeding theater students into the small professional troupe at the Boston Center for the Arts. The conservatory will give students academic credit for performing, taking on backstage tech work, or working in arts administration for SpeakEasy. For its part, SpeakEasy will create more internship slots and pay students for their work, according to the *Globe*. ➡ **A one-day conference drew 150 healthcare professionals to the LMA to discuss the public-health impacts of the global climate crisis. From heat-induced heart attacks and kidney stones, to diseases like cholera and dengue fever, to a drop in the effectiveness of widely used medicines when exposed to prolonged heat, a warming planet presents serious risks. the symposium, which kicks off an 18-month series of meetings in the US and Australia.** ➡ Gov. Baker's proposed new budget would hand control of Storrow Drive over to the state's highway agency. Currently overseen by the Department of Conservation & Recreation, the shift could mark a turn away from treatment of the road as a parkway and toward its management as a high-speed highway. ➡ **Following an "extensive" search, MASCO hired a new executive director. Dave Sweeney, a 36-year-old Dorchester resident, comes to the LMA service organization after serving as Mayor Walsh's chief of staff. Previous experience included a stint as the city's Chief of Administration and Finance and in similar roles for the legislature.** ➡

## Neighborhood Newsline

### ***New Information Changes Calculations on Air Rights Parcel 13***

Peebles Corporation "re-introduced" itself to Fenway and Back Bay residents at a meeting of the Turnpike air rights Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) on Feb. 11. The meeting capped a years-long rewrite of the proposal for air rights Parcel 13, at Mass. Ave. and Boylston Street, after MassDOT chose the Peebles proposal in 2015. Peebles has spent the intervening time studying the site's tricky engineering requirements and negotiating with the agency. The meeting delivered some big news: Peebles said that new information about Parcel 13 forced it to revise its proposal. The project only works financially with a 17-story tower at Hereford and Boylston Streets, the development team said, which would let Peebles carry out the massing and design strategies CAC members asked for. The developer said the long "due diligence" period turned up several new factors that forced change. First, the parcel turns out to be smaller than MassDOT advertised; new sustainability requirements shrink the area available for critical infrastructure; the 60-year-old Turnpike tunnel needs to be brought up to current safety standards; and MassDOT wants the parcel's infrastructure built at the same time that Samuels & Associates builds its supporting structures for neighboring Parcel 12, in order to minimize lane closings on the Pike. The developer promised to review and discuss all the changes with the community as part of the City's Article 80 process, but that won't begin immediately: MassDOT and Peebles face another two to three months of negotiations over the terms of a lease, and the developer won't file a project notification form (PNF) with the BPDA until it has a lease in hand. Because only five CAC members could attend the meeting, co-chair Meg Mainzer-Cohen said the full committee would meet again prior to the PNF filing.

### ***Northeastern Picks Up Lease on Horticultural Hall for \$22M***

In mid-February, Northeastern University announced that it had purchased 300 Massachusetts Ave., Horticultural Hall, for \$22 million. This was not a deed transfer, but instead acquisition of a 99-year ground lease from Marcus Partners, a commercial realty company. The neighborhood behemoth, First Church of Christ, Scientist, holds the ground lease after acquiring the building in 1992 for \$1.6 million. According to the university's announcement, current tenants "include Boston Magazine, 829 Studios, and Small Army, all of which are using it for office space, and the Museum of Fine Arts, which uses the space for book storage." That last phrase, however, gives short shrift to the MFA's elegant William Morris Hunt Memorial Library on the second floor. In a 1985 article in *The Christian Science Monitor*, former Horticultural Society Director Richard Daley described the library as the centerpiece of the building and the pride of the society. Founded in 1879, the library has led a peripatetic existence due to museum renovations. However, Horticultural

Hall's elegant wood-paneled library has housed it since 2003. The art library is open to the public Monday through Friday, 1-5pm. its collection is included in the Fenway Library Organization catalog, a consortium of 37 academic and specialized libraries. A second nearby transaction received less media attention. The Midtown Hotel and the adjacent five-story building at 236 Huntington Ave. transferred back to First Church of Christ, Scientist's Church Realty for \$11.85 million from the Druker Company in January.

### ***Wentworth Institute of Technology***

*Impact advisory groups, citizen advisory committees, and task forces:* the nomenclature differs, but the goals are virtually identical—developers seeking approval of projects share presentations with group members, who review the proposals in meetings facilitated by city staff. With institutions, one difference is the longevity of the task forces; once appointed, members can stay on for years. This represents a strategy for building relationships with the community and for continuity with the typical 10-year master planning process. However, it also raises the risk of missing feedback from newer residents who might feel sidelined—which means public attendance at these meetings is important. At a Feb. 12 task force meeting, Wentworth Institute of Technology's Sandy Pascal introduced new members for the Wentworth Task Force: Toni Komst from Charlesbank Cooperative Apartments and Ellen Walker from Mission Hill Main Streets. City Councilor Kenzie Bok and Bok's staffer Henry Santana attended the meeting, as did a few Mission Hill residents and parishioners from the Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Parker Street, next to Wentworth's campus. Edward Carmody, the Boston Planning and Development Agency project manager for institutional developments, shared the school's proposal for a 13-story, 208-bed dormitory at a corner site where Ward Street, St. Alphonsus Street, and Huntington Avenue all meet. Wentworth's Dave Wahlstrom said WIT completed its last master plan in 2011. With a new president on board, planning is clearly on the Wentworth agenda. The school aims to beef up its residential campus, as a projected decline in the college-age population has fueled a push to make the school more competitive. The proposed dorm would not add new beds, but instead would replace existing ones at Edwards and Rogers, the vintage 1926 apartment buildings on Huntington Avenue next to the fire station. Wahlstrom called them "tired spaces." The school's on-campus housing percentage hovers around 75 percent, with 2,147 beds (100 of which are leased to MassArt). Wahlstrom explained that Wentworth has begun conversations with the City's Public Facilities and Fire departments because the school could create a major development once Edwards and Rogers are demolished, potentially building a new fire station into a new development by combining its property with the City's. That idea immediately generated questions that Wentworth deflected. Questions related to the current dorm design focused on its height, the entrances, the Ward Street façade, shadows, wind, deliveries, and traffic. Councilor Bok pointed out that although their residence sits closer to the site than other abutters, the seniors at 69 McGreevey Way weren't represented at the meeting. Komst noted that Charlesbank is also nearby and will be impacted. The design team for the new project are both Wentworth alums, Al Spagnolo and Amanda Vicari of SGA Architects. Subsequent to the meeting, Johanna Sena, Wentworth's director for community and government relations, announced that the filing date with the City had been postponed to later in March. The next Task Force and community meeting will take place March 18 at 6pm. Sena said she welcomes comments and questions at [senaj@wit.edu](mailto:senaj@wit.edu).

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## DASHBOARD

### ➔ TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UP

- **BACK BAY:** Trash and recycling on Monday and Thursday
- **FENWAY:** Trash and recycling on Tuesday and Friday
- **MISSION HILL:** Trash and recycling on Tuesday and Friday

Learn how to buy wine like a pro at **WINE WEDNESDAY**, a benefit for *The Fenway News*.

*The Fenway News* is delighted to host a wine seminar led by Steve Rubin of Huntington Wine & Spirits, a Fenway neighbor since 1936. Learn how to pick wines that suit your palate and to zero in on good values when you buy. Then, put what you learn to use at a post-seminar tasting while you snack and shmooze with friends and neighbors. A fun benefit for *The Fenway News*, Boston's oldest community-run newspaper.

**WINE WEDNESDAY: WINE SEMINAR & WINE TASTING A BENEFIT (WITH WINE AND FOOD) FOR THE FENWAY NEWS**  
Wednesday, March 25 • 6-8pm • 301 Huntington Avenue • \$40

HUNTINGTON WINE & SPIRITS

➔ Fenway News

# People & Places: Tracey Hunt

BY STEVE HARNISH

Those who have lived in the Fenway for any length of time likely know Tracey Hunt and are just as likely to have been assisted in some way by her community spirit. If you are a senior in the neighborhood you know her well. If you raised kids in the neighborhood you have crossed paths. If you step outside your door and walk around the Fenway, sooner or later you will run into her, and sooner rather than later you realize how much she embodies life in the Fenway.

She was brought up in Plymouth, but every time she visited Boston, she would leave thinking “I’m going to live there someday.” That came true in 1990 when she moved to the Fenway and has been here ever since.

“I love the sense of community in the neighborhood”, Tracey says as we talk in the appropriately named Community Room in the Fensgate Co-op. She has picked Fensgate as her favorite place in the Fenway because “there isn’t an Olive Garden in the Fenway,” she jokes. More seriously she says, “the building is beautiful” and it has allowed her a chance to live in a neighborhood she loves.

She moved into Fensgate in 1994 and promises me a tour of the building. She raised three kids in the building, mostly as a single mom, and that led her to her proudest accomplishment, helping to create the Fenway Family Coalition.

Lacking family close by and with three young children, she needed the help that family often supplied. She knew there was a great community here that just needed to be organized to help families take care of each other. She helped found the Family Coalition in the mid '90s and it's still going today. The Halloween program was her idea and she was instrumental in getting neighborhood residences and businesses involved in giving a safe space for local kids to go and trick-or-treat and host their annual Halloween party.

She currently works at the Peterborough Senior Center as a community coordinator. She loves it, as it gets her out in the neighborhood interacting with other people and agencies. It was her work at the Fenway CDC as support services coordinator that made her fall in love with human services.

We head out of the community room for a tour of the building. Fensgate is a beautiful structure built in 1905 and designed by Guy Lowell (who also



The chapel in the Fensgate.

designed the Museum of Fine Arts and the Johnson Gates, which stand next to the Fensgate at the top of Westland Avenue). It was originally five very large

PHOTO: STEVE HARNISH

“Paris flats” occupied by wealthy families. It became the Girls Trades High School in the 1920s, and in 1972 it became one of Mayor Kevin White’s “Little City Halls.” The Fenway CDC turned it into cooperative housing in 1986; with 46 units, it’s one of the largest co-ops in the Fenway.

Tracey clearly has a lot of affection for the building, as she proudly walks me around. And it is a stunning building. It has many artistic touches throughout: a beautiful grand staircase and a chapel with intricate carvings and an antique organ. Tracey points out there are also many fireplaces both in apartments and in the common areas.

She lives here with two of her children, Christopher and Alecia. Her oldest child, Melina, has recently moved to the Seaport. She is grateful for the co-op that allowed her to remain in the city, helping people and forming her own community here in the Fenway. I think it’s safe to say that the Fenway is grateful she stayed.

Chef and photographer Steve Harnish lives in the East Fens.

## > CHARLESGATE from page 3

There was a perpetual sense of wonderment amongst us. We lived on top of and below one another, shared bathrooms and the elevator, borrowed hotplates, exchanged furniture, and were in awe of our fellow lodgers’ idiosyncratic lives.

I lived in a room looking out onto The Pit (aka The Courtyard). Any night, one might hear the sounds of trash crashing to the pavement—beer cans, glasses, toasters; even whole doors might sail by my window.

The management regularly sent someone out with a hose and broom to clean it, and one day my friend George Vanderford helped out. After hearing what he said was 40 pounds of trash crash to the pavement, and knowing where it came from, George went out, put everything back in the trash bag, went up to the culprit’s room, knocked, and when the door opened, he said, “Here, you dropped this” and turned the bag upside down onto the fellow’s floor.

When windows were open in warm weather, you could often hear the voices of your fellow lodgers. When I first moved in, I recall hearing, “You f-ing garbage,” over and over again every evening.

I would often spend time in the lobby chatting with the office staff or fellow lodgers. Every dinnertime, a guy would slog through the entrance carrying some bizarre artifact. One day it would be huge truck tires under each arm. Another day I’d see him hauling in a discarded Christmas tree or armfuls of auto parts.

One night, it dawned on me when I heard the voice yelling, “You f-ing garbage.” It was him! He amassed trash during the day so he could berate it at night.

Ernestine was a middle aged, plump woman with snow-white hair and an elegant air about her. She’d come to the lobby and complain bitterly of being lonely. But then 65 Middle Eastern students moved in. When one befriended her, she fell in love.

“Oh, my Mohammed,” Ernestine would moan when he was away. But once he learned a little English, he abandoned her.

All was lost until Francine moved in. She was a Roy Orbison look-alike with jet-black, slicked-back hair, shades and all-black clothes. In no time, she and Ernestine became inseparable.

James Deering, an accomplished artist, who would do portraits of the office help to cover

his rent, once observed, “Roman Polanski should come here for a week. He’d see enough to keep making horror films past retirement.”

Almost from the moment anyone moved into Charlesgate, gallows humor gripped us and brought us together. There was camaraderie, group therapy, romances, marriages, and babies born.

Those days are gone. The era when anybody could live inexpensively in a great city like Boston is a thing of the past. Charlesgate was sold, our rents tripled, we tenants organized and attempted to stay but we lost our heroic battle.

Today, as I Google “4 Charlesgate East,” I see that there are still units available. Condo #405, on the floor where I lived, is going for \$1,089,800.

“So, yes, Marty, you can call me cheap. But I wouldn’t trade those Charlesgate years for anything.”

Bette Keva is a former editor of *The Fenway News*.

## Fenway CDC 47th Annual Meeting

**BUILDING(S) FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

**Thurs., March 26 | 5-8pm | Kings Dining & Entertainment**  
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**KEYNOTE: CHUCK COLLINS**  
Director, Program on Inequality & The Common Good  
at the Institute for Policy Studies

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Holly Berry • Rosaria Salerno • James Smith • Mat Thall

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Fenway Community Developing Corporation Improving Lives, Building Community

## ECO-TIP OF THE MONTH



The average person buys 60 percent more items of clothing every year and keeps them for about half as long as 15 years ago. The average lifetime of a piece of clothing is approximately three years.

That means most Americans toss 80 pounds of used clothing a year—and cities pay an average of \$45 per ton to dispose of it. Synthetic clothing sent to landfills may take hundreds of years to decompose.

95% of the nearly 230,000 tons of textiles Massachusetts residents throw out yearly could be reused or recycled. Businesses produce some of this waste, but you can definitely help decrease this staggering number.

Before you throw out used clothes, carefully check to see if any pieces are in good condition.

If so, consider selling them to a consignment shop or donating them to a thrift store. Newbury Street has several upscale consignment shops; Buffalo Exchange operates in Allston; and Goodwill has locations on Comm. Ave. near B.U. and off of Melnea Cass Boulevard.

If it can’t be reused, clothing can be turned into rags or other material. The City of Boston hosts textile-specific recycling drop-offs for proper disposal of clothes and linens. They won’t take carpets, rugs, oil rags, mattresses, or wet or mildewed items, but most clothing is fair game. Visit [www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/recycling-clothing-and-textiles](http://www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/recycling-clothing-and-textiles) for more information.

Better than any recycling program, to combat textile waste, limit your clothing purchases or buy used clothing when possible.

## MISSION HILL/FENWAY NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST

requests proposals from organizations seeking funding for projects and programs intended to serve residents of the Mission Hill and Fenway neighborhoods.

Please visit [www.missionhillfenwaynt.org](http://www.missionhillfenwaynt.org) to access the on-line application.



Proposals must be submitted no later than 5pm on March 31, 2020.  
Please email [hello@missionhillfenwaynt.org](mailto:hello@missionhillfenwaynt.org) with any questions.

# The Arts

## In Head-to-Head Match-up, Wheelock's 'Little Women' Musical Bests the Big-Budget Movie

BY ALISON BARNET

**H**ere's the rub. Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University's *Little Women*, *The Broadway Musical*, closed on Feb. 23 and *The Fenway News* doesn't come out until the beginning of March. So how can I let readers know that the show is excellent and they should by all means buy a ticket?

There's lots of talk about the current *Little Women* movie by Greta Gerwig, and how it was nominated for the Academy Awards for best picture, best actress, best supporting actress, and best costume design. In the end, it only won for best costume design.

But the truth is that the Wheelock production deserves an award for best play. As a friend says, "It has more substance." In the movie, it's often not easy to distinguish the four March sisters from each other; there's too much flipping of scenes and time frames. One minute Paris, next minute New York; Jo cuts her hair, and the next scene her hair is long again—it's disconcerting. But, at the Wheelock production, scenes made more sense and the characters were more fleshed out. Also, there was only one set and it was pretty amazing—the word *amazing* is heard throughout in songs—a lofty clutter of vintage furniture: desks, trunks, stuffed drawers, and a piano. Maybe best set design as well.

At Wheelock, the March sisters were more believable as a poor Civil War-era family. In the movie, despite that symbolic clothes line in the first

### DO YOU HAIKU?

Kaji Aso Studio in the East Fens has announced its annual haiku contest this spring. First prize is \$300, and deadline for submissions is April 15. For directions on submitting entries, go to [www.kajiasostudio.com](http://www.kajiasostudio.com).

PHOTO: NILE SCOTT STUDIOS



*Little Women* at the Wheelock Family Theatre.

shot of the house, I thought it was strange how well the March family ate. And so much hugging, kissing, and rambunctious, violent play doesn't seem typical of the 19th century. At Wheelock, I liked hearing the wisdom of statements like "Don't think of me as an enemy but as a sister," and "If you build a wall, you'll be the one who is hurt." Also, I think it worked better dramatically for the father to come home from the war at the train station offstage instead of routinely rejoining the family, as he does in the movie.

Feminism is strong in both the movie and play. Early in the musical, we hear harsh statements directed toward tomboy Jo (Serena Abalian)—"Go home and have babies!" In the movie, we hear that women should marry because they'll never be able to support themselves otherwise. But Jo's goal is to be "astonishing," and that's

what she becomes. As a friend says, "Jo steps up to the plate."

We love the Boston scenes in the movie: the Gibson House (a New York boarding house), Prescott House, and Arnold Arboretum, among others. Others include (although nowhere noted) the second floor of the Steinert Piano building. A friend walking down Boylston Street one day noticed a "Roberts Brothers Publishing" sign in the second-floor window, went in, and found himself in the middle of the *Little Women* movie set. I went in weeks later and was shown the corner where the set had been; the window still had traces of the sign. Roberts Brothers Publishing was Louisa May Alcott's publisher (and not located here). Little, Brown and Company bought the firm out in 1898. In both movie and book, it is where Jo—or is it Louisa May Alcott?—meets with Mr. Dashwood,

editor of *The Weekly Volcano*.

The last scenes in the movie are of Jo (or is it Louisa May Alcott?) laboring to publish *Little Women*, which hit the streets in 1868. I'm glad I'm able to self-publish!

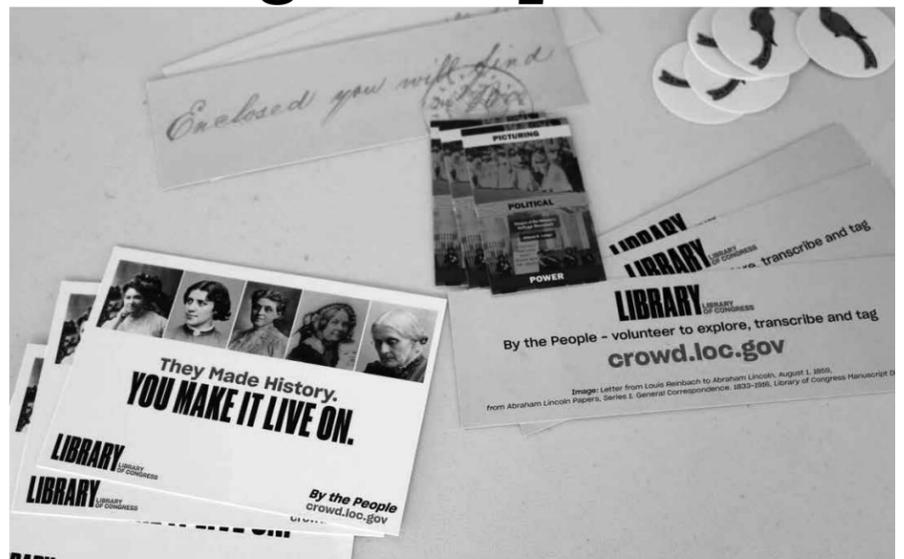
*Alison Barnet lives in the South End.*

### CITY SEEKS ARTISTS TO PAINT UTILITY BOXES

Working with the City's Transportation Department, the Mayor's Office of Arts + Culture has announced a new round of funding for its PaintBox program, which selects artists to paint their original designs on city-owned utility boxes. Winners receive \$200 for supplies and a \$300 honorarium. Proposals are due April 30. You can find details, guidelines, and applications at [www.boston.gov/departments/arts-and-culture/paintbox](http://www.boston.gov/departments/arts-and-culture/paintbox).

## Partying Like It's 1869 to Get Suffragists' Papers Online

PHOTOS: ERIC ROE, WENTWORTH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



The name could have been catchier, but the goal was worthy: On Feb. 25, Simmons University and Wentworth Institute of Technology marked the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in the U.S. at a "Transcription Party: Making Women's Historical Papers Accessible." Attendees transcribed letters, notebooks, and other papers of women's rights activists never before digitized, thanks to support from the Library of Congress's "By the People" initiative. Under a crowd-sourced project organized by the initiative, volunteers use open-source software to transcribe, review, and tag personal papers of suffragists. Beyond letters and notebooks, materials range widely, from speeches and legal documents to appointment calendars. The Feb. 25 party focused on the writings of Mary Church Terrell and Anna Dickinson. The daughter of formerly enslaved people, Terrell was an African-American activist who advocated racial equality and women's suffrage. In 1896, she co-founded the National Association of Colored Women with other African-American activists from Boston and Washington. The first woman to give a political address before Congress, Dickinson was an abolitionist and a strong voice for women's rights who delivered a series of lectures in Boston in 1862.

# March

## CALENDAR

**+** THIS SYMBOL INDICATES A FREE EVENT.

### arts+ ENTERTAINMENT

Now → Mon, 5/25

In a new MFA exhibit, **LUCIAN FREUD: THE SELF-PORTRAITS**, the renowned British figurative painter known for portraits of his acquaintances turns his gaze on himself over nearly 70 years. 465 Huntington Ave. The museum will also screen a new documentary with a nearly identical title, *Lucian Freud: A Self-Portrait*, four times in March: 3/7 and 3/8 at 10:30am; 3/12 at 5pm; and 3/20 at 5:30pm. Film \$10 member/\$13 nonmember. Details on all things Freud at [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org).

Thu, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26 & 4/2

The Friends of Symphony Park hosts **FREE CHAIR YOGA CLASSES** every Thursday at 10am at Morville House, 100 Norway St. Part of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department's Winter Fitness series, offered **+** in partnership with the Boston Public Health Commission. FREE.

Fri, 3/6 → Thu, 3/16

The MFA showcases a 1982 film that vanished for more than 40 years. Horace B. Jenkins wrote, produced and directed **CANE RIVER**, the story of a romance across the division between wealthier, lighter-skinned Creole families and their poorer, darker neighbors in Louisiana's Natchitoches Parish. The movie, newly restored, disappeared after Jenkins' premature death soon after production ended. 3/6, 5:30pm; 3/7 & 3/8, 12:30pm; 3/11, 8pm; 3/19, 5pm. Tickets \$10 members/\$13 nonmembers at the door or from [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org).

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LUDWIG!

To mark the 250th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven's birth, Fenway-area musical programmers have gone all in on the maestro's music.

- **SUN, 3/8:** New England Conservatory's Borromeo Quartet begins a six-concert series of every Beethoven work for string quartet. 8pm, Jordan Hall. Free tickets, but you must reserve at [necmusic.edu/beethoven250](http://necmusic.edu/beethoven250).
- **TUE, 3/10:** 75 NEC students and faculty members will play every Beethoven composition for piano. Five of thirteen concerts have already taken place, but catch this one at Williams Hall at 8pm. Free tickets, but you must reserve one at [necmusic.edu/beethoven250](http://necmusic.edu/beethoven250).
- **SUN, 3/22:** At the Gardner, pianist Christopher Taylor begins a heroic passage through **FRANZ LISZT'S TRANSCRIPTIONS OF ALL NINE BEETHOVEN SYMPHONIES** (Gardner, it turns out, was a big fan of both composers). The series begins with Symphonies No. 1 and No. 2. Order early, as Calderwood Hall sells out quickly. 3pm. Tickets \$15-36; call 617-278-5156, purchase at the door, or buy at [www.gardnermuseum.org](http://www.gardnermuseum.org). The series continues on April 26, May 17, and in the fall.

Sat, 3/7

Medical professionals from the LMA who happen to be accomplished musicians make up the **LONGWOOD SYMPHONY**. Tonight's program features Joan Tower's *Fanfare for the Common Woman*, Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*—with Sara Davis Beuchner on piano—and a tribute to Duke Ellington. All proceeds benefit the Partakers—College Behind Bars. Tickets \$19-46. 8pm, Jordan Hall. Details at <https://longwoodsymphony.org/>.

• Opening of **SMALL WORKS EXHIBIT AT KAJI ASO STUDIO**. Local artists exhibit smaller-scale art pieces in the annual show. Show runs March 7–April 8. Kaji Aso holds an opening reception with the artists on Sat, **+** 3/7, 6:30–8:30 pm, at 40 St. Stephen St. FREE.

Sun, 3/8

• The BSO's free **COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES** comes to the First Church in Roxbury, in John Eliot Square (near Madison Park High). The program begins at 2pm and includes the youth musicians of Project STEP a chamber ensemble of BSO musicians playing works by five composers. Reserve tickets (required) at [www.bso.org/](http://www.bso.org/). Scroll to the bottom of the landing page, find the "education" tab, **+** click on "community," then click on "Community Concerts." FREE.

• New England Conservatory launches **FREE WEEKLY JAZZ JAM SESSIONS** featuring faculty and staff, with area musicians invited to sit in. 7–9pm at the Bower Stage in the new Student Life building (255 St.

**+** Botolph Street). Open seating. More at [www.necmusic.edu/events/jazz-jam-session-march](http://www.necmusic.edu/events/jazz-jam-session-march). FREE.

### (Up All) Night at the Museum



surely have shocked the institution's genteel Brahmin founders. Buy tickets in advance and save \$5 [\$15 members/\$20 nonmembers]; add a food ticket for \$20. Details and tickets at [mfa.org](http://mfa.org).

On Fri, 4/3, MFA LATE NITES returns, as the museum continues its campaign to attract younger audiences. This edition celebrates the opening of a Jean-Michel Basquiat exhibit with a DJ, pop-up events, food and a bar—not to mention a 2am closing time that would

PICK OF THE MONTH

Wed, 3/11

WBUR Cityspace welcomes the **THE MOTHT STORYSLAM**, open to anyone with a story they can tell in under five minutes. Tonight's theme is "Celebration." Tickets \$15; doors at 6:30, program at 7:30pm. 890 Comm Ave. Details and tickets (also at the door, if available) at [www.wbur.org/events](http://www.wbur.org/events).

Thu, 3/12

Ron Henderso, who has designed landscapes in North America, Europe, and Asia, discusses his work in the museum's **LANDSCAPE LECTURES** series. 7pm. Reserve tickets (required); \$15-12-10, including museum entry) by calling 617-278-5156, at the ticket desk, or on [www.gardnermuseum.org/](http://www.gardnermuseum.org/).

Sat, 3/14

**UNHEARD-WOMEN COMPOSERS**, a student-organized chamber recital of works by female composers. Boston Conservatory **+** Studio 401 (at 31 Hemenway), 8pm. FREE.

Mon, 3/16

**CITY OF TREES** screening. This film provides a critical view into issues of urban forestry and social equity. 5:30pm. Central Library, 700 Boylston St, Commonwealth Salon. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/movie-night-with-speak-for-the-trees-boston-city-of-trees-tickets-94656517191> FREE.

Sat, 3/14 & Sun, 3/15

Boston Gay Men's Chorus presents **BORN THIS WAY**, a concert built around the theme of accepting differences and including the world premiere of a staged choral work based on *A Peacock Among Pigeons*, the award-winning children's book. Sat, 8pm; Sun, 3pm. At NEC's Jordan Hall. Tickets

\$25-100 at the box office, by phone at (617) 542-7464, or at [bgmc.org](http://bgmc.org).

Fri, 3/20 & Sun, 3/22

Tickets are selling fast for the **NCAA'S WOMEN'S FROZEN FOUR ICE HOCKEY FINALS** at Agannis Arena. Fri, 4pm, and Sun, 4:30pm. Tickets \$40. Details and sales at [www.agganisarena.com/events-tickets/calendar/](http://www.agganisarena.com/events-tickets/calendar/).

Thu, 3/26 → Sun, 3/29

Boston Conservatory at Berklee presents Benjamin Britten's chamber opera **THE TURN OF THE SCREW**, based on the Henry James novella. Conservatory Theatre, 31 Hemenway Street. Thu-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2pm. Tickets \$15-20. More at [bostonconservatory.berklee.edu/events/turn-screw?ss=18](http://bostonconservatory.berklee.edu/events/turn-screw?ss=18).

Sat, 3/28

**THE HISTORY AND COLLECTIONS OF THE MHS:** Take a 90-minute docent-led walk through the public rooms of the Massachusetts Historical Society, 10-11:30am, 1154 Boylston St. No registration needed. FREE.

Thu, 4/2

B.U.'s College of Fine Arts presents its **MOSAIC SERIES**, which draws on performers from across the school's disciplines to present programs that speak to current social issues. Today's concert marks the start of Armenian Genocide Remembrance Month. CFA building concert hall at 855 Comm. Ave., 12:30pm. More at **+** [www.bu.edu/cfa/news-events/events/?eid=234363](http://www.bu.edu/cfa/news-events/events/?eid=234363). FREE.

## @ THE CENTER

These highlights from the Fenway Community Center's calendar are free unless otherwise noted. Visit the center at 1282 Boylston or view the full calendar at [www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org/calendar](http://www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org/calendar)

- **Thu, 3/19 at 6:30pm: LOVE, FENWAY.** Join neighbors for a Community Center fundraiser with live music and food. The event honors Brenda Clark and pays homage to the late Stephen Sorkin. Tickets are available at [fenwaycommunitycenter.org/lovefenway](http://fenwaycommunitycenter.org/lovefenway).
- **Th, 3/26 at 6pm: COMMUNITY PAINT NIGHT WITH NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY.** All are invited for a free paint night in collaboration with students from Northeastern's Off-Campus House and Support Services Department. Register at [fenwaycommunitycenter.org/art](http://fenwaycommunitycenter.org/art).
- **Sun, 4/5 at 10am: FENWAY WELLNESS WEEKEND.** Learn about a range of health and wellness resources and take part in interactive workshops. Find the full schedule at [fenwaycommunitycenter.org/fww](http://fenwaycommunitycenter.org/fww).

### COMMUNITY meetings

**WED, MARCH 4 & MARCH 28** Fenway Fair Foods, 3pm to 5pm, Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 165 Park Dr. Get a bag of fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables for \$2. Everyone welcome! To learn more, contact Jas-

mine Vargas, [jvargas@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:jvargas@fenwaycdc.org), (617) 267-4637 x21.

**THU, MARCH 5, 12, 19 & 26** Free one-to-one financial coaching. 1-5pm. Fenway CDC, 70 Burbank St. To schedule an appointment, contact Kris Anderson at [kanderson@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:kanderson@fenwaycdc.org) or at (617) 267-4637 x 29.

**MON, MARCH 9** Meeting with representatives from Raices on the Hill LLC, which proposes to open a marijuana dispensary at 123 Terrace St. in Roxbury Crossing. 6:30pm, Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St.

**MON, MARCH 9** Community dinner, 6-7pm, Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 165 Park Drive, Boston. All are welcome! For inquiries, contact Jasmine Vargas at [jvargas@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:jvargas@fenwaycdc.org) or (617) 267-4637 x 21.

**TUE, MARCH 10** Join the Charlesgate Alliance for a discussion of a new playground. The alliance's design firm, Landing Studio, is developing ideas for the North Field area of Charlesgate. Join them for a conversation about this exciting project at 91 Bay State Road, starting at 7pm.

**THU, MARCH 12** Fenway CDC Organizing Committee Meeting. 6-7:30pm. Fenway

CDC conference room, 70 Burbank St. For more information, contact Jaya Aiyer at [jaiyer@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:jaiyer@fenwaycdc.org) or (617) 267-4637 x 16.

**THU, MARCH 12** City Councilor Kenzie Bok hosts office hours, 8-9:30am at Mike's Donuts, 1524 Tremont St.

**FRI, MARCH 13** City Councilor Kenzie Bok hosts office hours, 8-9:30am at Neighborhoods Coffee & Crepes, 96 Peterborough St.

**FRI, MARCH 21** City Councilor Kenzie Bok hosts office hours, 12-1pm at the Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St. and 2-3pm at Solid Ground Cafe, 742 Huntington Ave.

**THU, MARCH 26** Fenway CDC's 47th Annual Meeting. 5-8pm. King's Dining and Entertainment, 50 Dalton St. For more information, contact Jasmine Vargas, [jvargas@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:jvargas@fenwaycdc.org), (617) 267-4637 x21.

**MON, MARCH 30** City of Boston and Fenway Civic Association public meeting. Learn about updates of the Boylston Street transportation plan and view the changes under consideration. Comments will help the City refine this extensive project in the West Fens. Fenway Community Center, 6-8pm.

## SENIOR EVENTS

Events take place at the Peterborough Senior Center or Fenway Community Center. Find the Senior Center entrance by walking into the alley between 100 and 108 Jersey St. and looking left. For more information, call 617-536-7154.

- **Tue, 3/10 at 1pm: HYPERTENSION PRESENTATION** by the Faculty and Student Community Outreach Group at Mass. College of Pharmacy.
- **Thu, 3/19 at 12pm: Join SIMMONS STUDENTS** for a fun, social hour including exercise, relaxation, and a delicious snack.
- **Tue, 3/24 at 1pm: SPRING INTO HAPPINESS AND HOW TO ACHIEVE IT** presentation with Penina Adelman.