Gmail

Evan Balikos <evanbalikos@gmail.com>

Updates from the Greater Boston Tenants Union

1 message

GBTU <info@bostontenants.org> Mon, Feb 17, 2025 at 8:54 PM
Reply-To: GBTU <info@bostontenants.org>
To: evanbalikos@gmail.com

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What's Happening with GBTU

The Greater Boston Tenants Union is a collective of tenants across the Boston area who have chosen to remain independent of nonprofits, big foundations, and government funding to build tenant power.

Notable Moments of Tenant Power



GBTU Out and About in Boston

On Feb. 5th, GBTU member Willow gave a speech at Warm Up Boston's Rally to Stop the Sweep, where protesters marched along Commonwealth Ave. to demand an end to homeless encampment sweeps by the Department of Conservation & Recreation.

"We don't have control of our housing, and that's why we are here today," Willow said to the near one-hundred participants joining in the rally, "even though our living situations look very different right now than the people at this encampment, we know. We know it's just a couple bad months away."

The rally was successful in preventing the sweep, though some organizers stayed with the residents of the encampment to help them move their belongings to a new spot in preparation for a new sweep. Unfortunately, this sweep occurred last Tuesday morning in Goose Park, though, thankfully, a few of Warm Up Boston's organizers were on the scene for support.

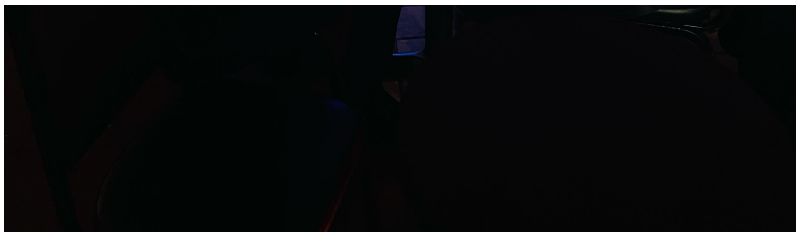
Warm Up Boston is a radical survival program serving the unhoused community on occupied Massachusett and Wampanoag land. T**heir next meeting will be at the North American Indian Center of Boston in Jamaica Plain on Saturday, February 22nd from 4-6pm**. More information can be found here.





GBTU members tabled at DIYorDIE: Boston Drag Punk Show in downtown Boston at the legendary Jacques Cabaret. GBTU member Mirabeau gave a drag performance as Jaggs Ramone.









Many GBTU members filled the club and were provided with new merch. Many attendees became new members. Some signed up for our newsletter, and made purchases of t-shirts and pins. Halfway through the event, GBTU member Rob (pictured on bottom left) gave an on-stage speech about GBTU's mission and praxis. GBTU North member Nic (pictured on bottom right) talked about their experience canvassing the Boston Housing Authority building, where all tenants were served eviction notices for being unable to pay the rent increase.

What's Happening Next?

Eviction Defense Canvass

The Eviction Defense Canvass happens every second Saturday of the month. This is a great opportunity to engage with the community in educating tenants facing eviction of their rights in court, the logistics of acquiring and utilizing a lawyer, and to see if they're interested in organizing their building.

GBTU Member Evan L. had this to say about the previous Canvass event held on **Feb. 8th:**

"It went great! There was 12-15 people there and there were 5-6 groups. … There were a ton of evictions at a big public housing building with 22 evictions. … When people are facing eviction, the biggest danger is that they miss their court date and automatically lose (default). We're not lawyers, but we make sure people know their rights, know a bit about the eviction process, and connect them to free legal services like Greater Boston Legal Services."

The next Eviction Defense Canvas event is scheduled for Saturday, March 8th at 12pm. Members will meet at Dudley Cafe in Roxbury (15 Warren St. Boston, MA 02119).

General Meetings



GBTU General Meetings take place every third Saturday of the month. They are held at one of the Boston Public Library branches. You can join in person or via Zoom.

You can find notes from our January General Meeting here.

The next General Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, March 15th at 12PM**.

Local Meetings

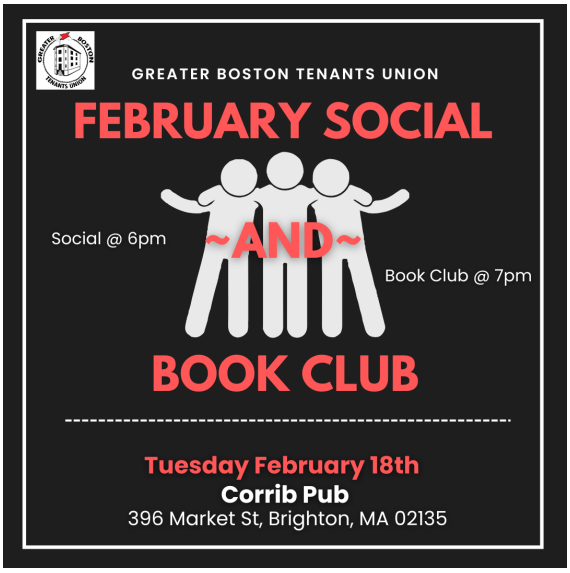
Connecting with one of the local unions is a great way to meet members in your neighborhood and start organizing your building! GBTU holds meetings in North Boston and Allston-Brighton. As our membership in other Boston neighborhoods grows, we will be holding local meetings in Jamaica Plain and Dorchester.

GBTU North meets every other Wednesday at Somerville Public Library West Branch. **The next GBTU North Local Meeting is scheduled for Feb 26th, from 7-8pm.**



GBTU Allston-Brighton meets once a month at the Presentation School Foundation in Brighton or at Jackson Mann Community Center in Allston. **The next GBTU Allston-Brighton Meeting will be on February 20th, from 6-8pm at Jackson Community Center.** The event is open to the public so bring your friends, neighbors, or both!

Reading Group and Monthly Social



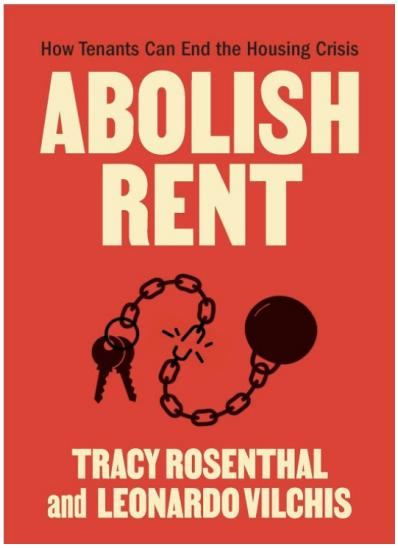
Join us on **Tuesday, February 18th** for our monthly social and book club meeting! We are meeting at Corrib Pub (396 Market St., Brighton, MA).

We will host a social hour from 6-7pm, where members can chat, mingle, and unwind. Afterwards, from 7pm onwards, we will discuss Chapter 2 of *Abolish Rent* by Tracy Rosenthal and Leonardo Vilchis.

Please join us even if you have not had a chance to read the chapter. **Your lived experiences as a tenant are valuable to the discussion!**

Here is a brief summary and some discussion questions for this month's meeting.

If you need a copy of *Abolish Rent*, Kelly will be bringing extra copies that GBTU purchased for members ($5-10 suggested donation).



Other Upcoming Events:

- GBTU Palestine Solidarity meeting - **Feb 19th, 6:30pm on Zoom**
- GBTU Organizing Committee Meeting - **Feb 27th, 7pm on Zoom**
- Fineberg Tenant Union Flyering - **March 1st, Location TBD**

Recommended Reading

In an issue of *Jewish Currents*, *Abolish Rent* co-author Tracy Rosenthal and Rose Lenehan provide a comprehensive, step-by-step guide for organizing your building. The article explains tenant rights in clear and concise language and includes resources for tips and strategies on organizing.

In solidarity,

Greater Boston Tenants Union

bostontenants@protonmail.com



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Updates from the Greater Boston Tenants Union

1 message

GBTU <info@bostontenants.org> Tue, Mar 18, 2025 at 1:20 PM
Reply-To: GBTU <info@bostontenants.org>
To: evanbalikos@gmail.com

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What's Happening with GBTU

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Notable Moments of Tenant Power

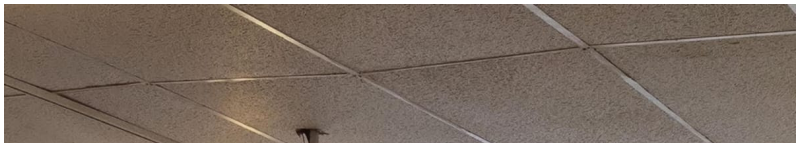


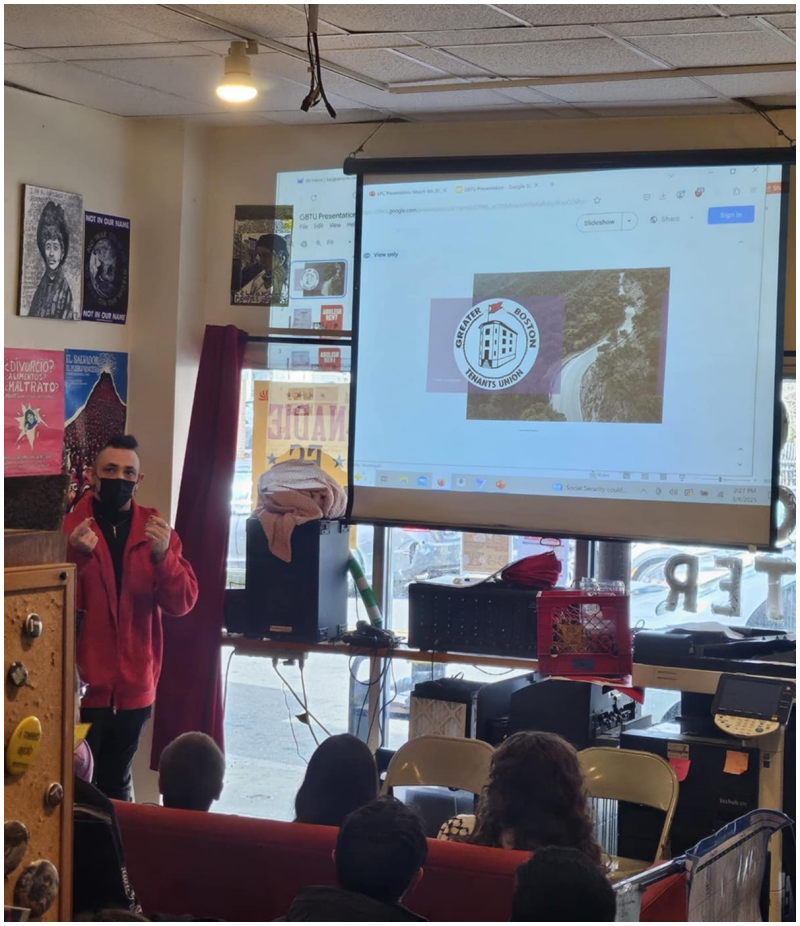
GBTU Out and About in Boston

GBTU Member Travis presented at Lucy Parson Center as part of a Practical Organizing Panel. Warm Up Boston, MA Bail Fund, and MAAP also participated in the panel. Travis said there was a high turnout for this event. They were able to speak with interested tenants and help connect them to GBTU:

“Two tenants interested in organizing their complexes followed up after a 15 minute-long presentation on GBTU and tenant organizing. One lives in low income HUD housing in JP and wants help knocking on doors of her 60-unit complex. Another tenant living in Arlington wants to knock on doors in their building too. Their landlord has a union in their building already that is company-led, so totally coopted. They were interested in organizing an actual autonomous union to make demands because building conditions aren't being addressed through this council.”

Warm Up Boston performs critical direct action work to help end homelessness by protecting those living in the encampments that are targeted by the city and its enforcers. Because homelessness and tenant organizing go hand-in-hand, GBTU anticipates the opportunity to participate in their future events. We are looking forward to collaborating with them and aiding in their mission!





On March 6th, The Allston-Brighton local hosted a social at The Model Cafe.

Many new members have joined them local recently. This social provided an opportunity for new

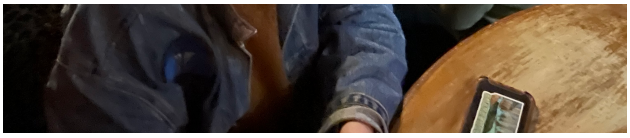
and old members to

get acquainted.

GBTU members filled

the bar and spent the evening chatting.









What's Happening Next?

Eviction Defense Canvass

The Eviction Defense Canvass happens every second Saturday of the month. This is a great opportunity to engage with the community in educating tenants facing eviction of their rights in court, the logistics of acquiring and utilizing a lawyer, and to see if they're interested in organizing their building.

The next Eviction Defense Canvas is scheduled for Saturday, April 12th at 12pm. Members will meet at Dudley Cafe in Roxbury (15 Warren St. Boston, MA 02119).

General Meetings



GBTU General Meetings are held every third Saturday of the month at one of the Boston Public Library branches. You can attend in person or via Zoom.

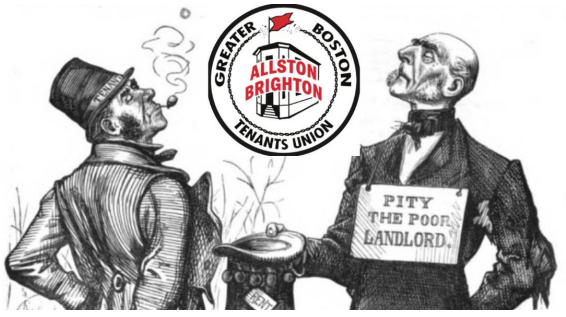
You can find notes from our March General Meeting here.

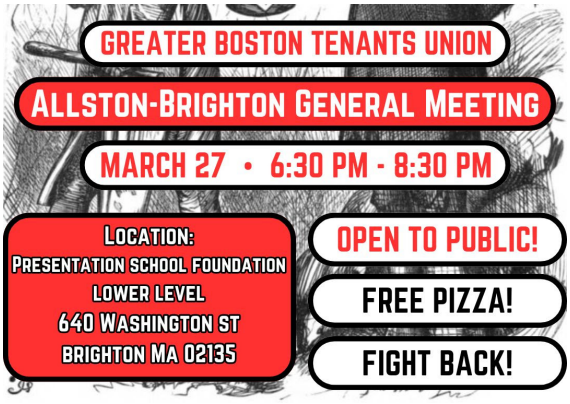
The next General Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, April 19th at 12PM**.

Local Meetings

Connecting with one of the local unions is a great way to meet members in your neighborhood and start organizing your building! GBTU holds meetings in North Boston and Allston-Brighton. As our membership in other Boston neighborhoods grows, we will be holding local meetings in Jamaica Plain and Dorchester.

GBTU North meets every other Wednesday at Somerville Public Library West Branch. **The next GBTU North Local Meeting is scheduled for March 26th, from 7-8pm.**





GBTU Allston-Brighton meets once a month at the Presentation School Foundation in Brighton. **The next GBTU Allston-Brighton Meeting will be on March 27th, from 6-8pm at Presentation School Foundation.** The event is open to the public so bring your friends, neighbors, or both!

North Social



GBTU North is hosting a social on **Sunday, March 23rd from 2p-4p.**

Join your fellow union members for some barbecue at Redbones!

(55 Chester St, Somerville, MA 02144)

Reading Group



Join us on **Tuesday, March 25** for our



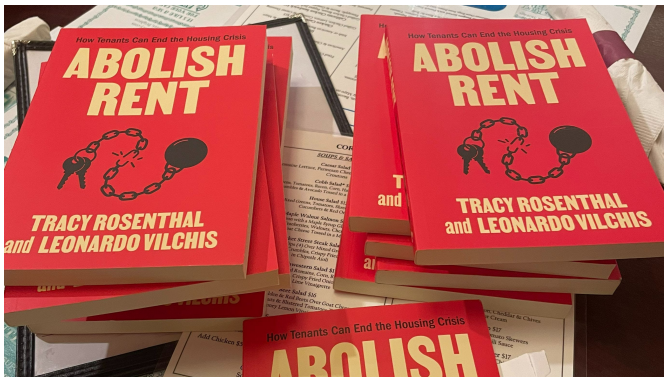
next book club meeting! We are meeting at Corrib Pub (396 Market St., Brighton, MA).

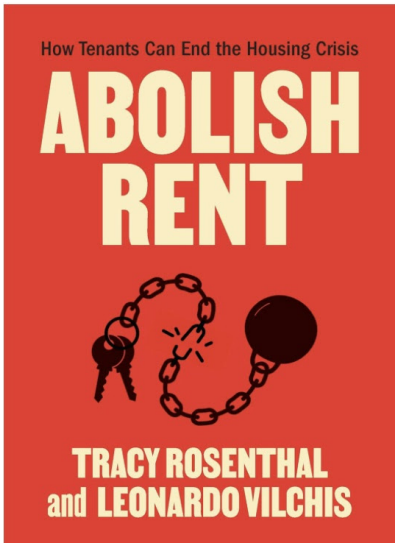
Starting at 7pm, we will socialize discuss Chapter 3 of *Abolish Rent* by Tracy Rosenthal and Leonardo Vilchis.

Please join us even if you have not had a chance to read the chapter. **Your lived experiences as a tenant are valuable to the discussion!**

Here is a brief summary and some discussion questions for this month's meeting.

If you need a copy of *Abolish Rent*, Kelly will be bringing extra copies that GBTU purchased for members ($5-10 suggested donation).





Other Upcoming Events:

- GBTU Organizing Committee Meeting - **March 27th, 7pm on Zoom**

Recommended Reading

“The Future of Housing Organizing: Tenant Unions”

Written by Rose Lenehan, an organizer within the LA Tenants Union, and Tara Raghuvheer, the founding director of KC Tenants and the National Tenant Union Federation, this article for ***In These Times*** vividly details the national struggle between tenants and the present opposition from landlords, property managers and housing developers.

They illuminate a clear crisis of homelessness in America—in, fact the rate is higher now than it was at the time this was written: “Around 23 out of every 10,000 Americans — 771,480 people — experienced homelessness in January 2024 according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Lenehan and Raghuveer paint a thrilling portrait of hope embodied by the rise of tenant union victories in our corrupt, consolidated housing market, but they also provide clear instructions on how we can strengthen our reach and increase our power to fight back against displacement:

”What’s emerging is an understanding that, for tenants to be able to contest for our homes and against our landlords and the powerful forces that enable them, we need to build big, militant organizations with deep roots in poor and working-class neighborhoods.”

Most importantly, they illuminate helpful strategies for strengthening tenant power—how we can build those structures and detail those processes that increase our collective muscle both in organizing buildings and picking broader, structural fights against the opposition. Lenehan and Raghuveer explain that “rigorous evaluation” afterward is key to retaining that muscle:

“What did we learn? How did this shift our position? What new organizational ability did we create? Who did the fight bring in, and how can we keep them?”

In solidarity,

Greater Boston Tenants Union

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Updates from the Greater Boston Tenants Union

1 message

GBTU <info@bostontenants.org> Wed, Apr 30, 2025 at 9:35 PM
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What's Happening with GBTU





The Allston/Brighton Organizing Committee for GBTU has begun gathering volunteers to plan the Second Annual Tenants Fest!

Tenants Fest is both a celebration and rally dedicated to organizing our communities to amplify their fight against landlords and the real estate market as a whole.

Through electrifying musical performances, delicious offerings of food and drinks, and riveting speeches delivered by GBTU members, the festival will bring tenants and neighbors together as one, with the goal of breaking down individual barriers and discovering buildings of tenants that need to organize against their landlord!

For an event this size, organizing will include elements of planning, reservation of spaces, contacting catering companies, making and distributing flyers, and much, much more.

If you're interested in helping in any way, please message Rob F. or request to join the Allston/Brighton Organizing Committee through GBTU's WhatsApp.

Even if you're not interested in organizing for the event, please message Rob if you have any ideas regarding location, activities, partnerships/tabling with other orgs., etc.

What's Happening Next?

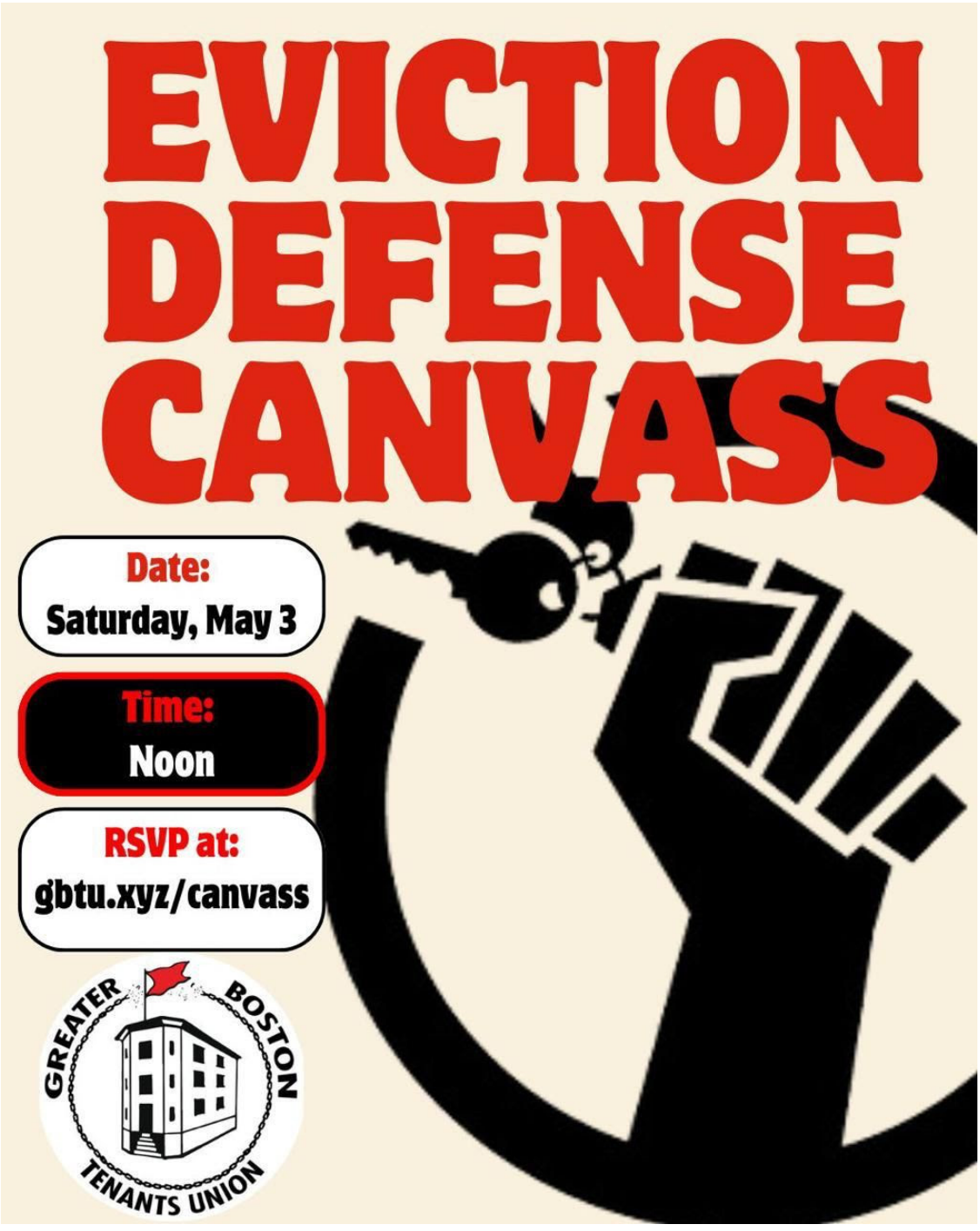
General Meetings

GBTU General Meetings are held every third Saturday of the month at one of the Boston Public Library branches. You can attend in person or via Zoom.

You can find notes from our April General Meeting here.

The next General Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, May 17th at 12PM**. The location for this meeting is still being determined.

Eviction Defense Canvass



The Eviction Defense Canvass happens every second Saturday of the month. This is a great opportunity to engage with the community by educating tenants facing eviction about their rights in court, the logistics of acquiring and utilizing a lawyer, and see if they're interested in organizing their building.

Members meet at Dudley Cafe in Roxbury, where they mingle, learn about best canvassing practices, and then receive directions on following their customized routes. Participants then break into pairs and embark on their canvassing journeys, with newbie canvassers ***always*** being paired with members who have done it before.

The next Eviction Defense Canvass will take place on **Saturday, May 3rd at 12PM.**

Local Meetings

Connecting with one of the local unions is a great way to meet members in your neighborhood and start organizing your building! GBTU holds meetings in North Boston and Allston-Brighton. As our membership in other Boston neighborhoods grows, we will be holding local meetings in Jamaica Plain and Dorchester.

GBTU North meets every other Wednesday at Somerville Public Library West Branch.
The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 7th at 7PM.**

Recommended Reading

Tenants on the March: An Interview with Cea Weaver - Andrew Elrod, *Dissent Magazine*

In solidarity,

Greater Boston Tenants Union

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