



## 2017 Annual Letter

Dear Friends and Family of WeCanRow-Boston,

We had yet another successful season on the water, with an enthusiastic group of new rowers, beautiful weather (fabulous sunshine!), and great times together. Our newbies always inject us with new energy and remind us why we love rowing so much; this season was no exception.

### *Membership*



This year brought a committed group of 4 new members! Our membership is currently at about 35. Many joined us during our "Meet the Tanks" session in March, as well as a gorgeously warm day in May for our Saturday "Learn to Row" session at the DeWolfe Boathouse. We continue to have a waiting list for the upcoming season, which is a testament to the wonderful work we all do together. We are a member run organization, which would not be possible were it not for everyone's active and enthusiastic participation.

### *Additional Rowing and Wellness Activities*

Empowered by their experience with WeCanRow-Boston, some of our members connected with the wider rowing community in greater Boston and beyond, and participated through these organizations and races:

- USRowing Masters Nationals in Tennessee
- San Diego Crew Classic
- CRI Fall Classic Regatta
- Avalon's Rowing Camp in Texas
- Head of the Charles Regatta
- Thursday rows at MIT
- Community Rowing, Inc.
- Avalon Rowing Club
- CRI's annual Celebration of Women in rowing



Congratulations to those rowers who stepped out of their comfort zones to row with non-WCR-B'ers, or to race for the first or multiple times!

In February, a group of us enjoyed an evening of women's basketball at the Play4Kay cancer awareness event at BU. We were recognized at half time by their team, and continue to enjoy our connection with the larger BU community.



In March, we joined with Wellness Warriors for a workshop on nutrition for athletes with Noreen Gallo, Licensed Dietitian. It was very informative and we enjoyed connecting with some fellow Charles River rowers. Also in March, members joined Score for a Cure at their annual event in Plymouth to show our appreciation of their generous support of us year after year.

In September, many of us, again joined by Wellness Warriors, participated in a yogalates workshop lead by Ann Marie Turo, Occupational Therapist and Yoga/Pilates Instructor. Ann Marie focused on yoga for rowers who have been treated for cancer.

This fall we also held our special tradition of bringing together BU's Women's Rowing team and WCR-Boston members at the Scarlet and Blue row. We were able to welcome and introduce ourselves to the new Women's Rowing Coach, Madeline Davis.

In November, we held our annual auction, closing dinner and member meeting. It is always wonderful to gather together at the end of the rowing season to celebrate our successes, welcome newbies, thank our coaches and coxswains, and enjoy our friendly bidding rivalries at our auction.

In December, as our final event for the year, we will gather together for a viewing of "Losing Sight of Shore", an inspiring documentary about four women and their challenges of rowing across the Pacific from San Francisco to Australia.



### ***Fundraising***

**Score for a Cure:** We are truly indebted to the generosity of the Score for a Cure organization for continuing to keep WeCanRow-Boston as a recipient of funds from their charity soccer tournament. Many thanks to SFAC who donated **\$5,000** to us again this year! We look forward to cheering them on at their tournament next March.

**Athleta:** In November, we teamed up with Athleta at the Newbury Street store, to participate in Shop-for-a-Cause. This one day event earned us a percentage of the sales in the store during the busy Saturday after Thanksgiving. We are grateful to Athleta for welcoming us and supporting our efforts.

**Acton Fair:** A long standing tradition to be a vendor at the mini fair held at the Acton Library raised funds through sale of baked goods and raffle tickets.

There are many generous independent contributions from members, friends of members and alumni to which we are indebted and grateful.

As most of you know, membership fees do not cover all of our ongoing costs, so we are dependent on outside funds to keep paddling. We are grateful for all these funds which help us provide six months of membership at no cost to new members, as well as a sliding fee scale for members who have financial limitations.

### ***Thank You***

No year would be complete without acknowledging all the people who contribute their time to making WeCanRow-Boston a safe, healthy and enjoyable wellness program. We are fortunate to have the support of our new head coach Emma Ransom, as well as our other coaches, Alice Taggart, Jen Bailey, Alicen Shaw and Ellie Wierzbowski. Many thanks to our Physical Therapist, Abbie Jamula. She has been a knowledgeable resource to keeping us healthy and injury free, and offers us support and guidance We could not get out each week without our coxswains, Erin Semagin Damio and Jessica Lieu.

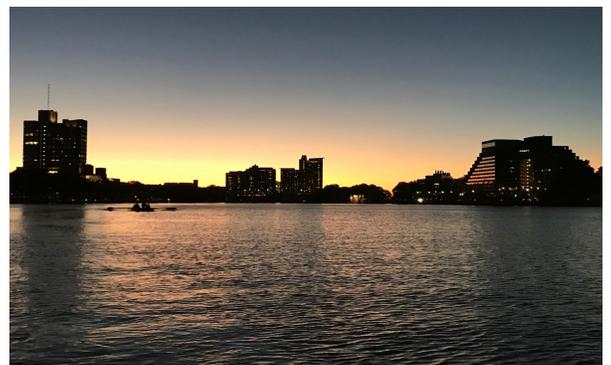


We would not have boats to row or a place to launch from without the generosity of Boston University's Women's Rowing Team, DeWolfe Boathouse, and Head Coach Madeline Davis and her coaching team. Thank you for making BU such a welcoming home for WCR-B. We are also thankful for the opportunity to continue "rowing" during the winter at BU's indoor tanks!

We also had a return visit from coxswain Sally O'Connor who flew up from DC to be with us!! She coxed a boat of 8 WCR-B women, and pushed us to feel what it's like to give it our all and row as one in an 8. We are so fortunate to have this opportunity to row with this wonderful coxswain and friend.

As always, our members have leaned on each other and pulled together not only on the water but off as well. We thank all of you in our wider community for supporting our program and its transformative power.

Sincerely and in Good Health for 2018,  
The Members of WeCanRow-Boston



**WeCanRowBoston is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization**

***Women Enduring Cancer Row!***

**Please follow us on Facebook.**

**Donations may be made to Paypal via our website.**

**[www.wecanrowboston.org](http://www.wecanrowboston.org)**

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