

## SPRING IS ALMOST HERE!



March 20<sup>th</sup> marks the first day of spring. I know that with Chicagoland weather, the difference between spring and winter is a little arbitrary, but hey! Still nice! Hello Volunteers! Welcome to this month's Volunteer Newsletter. Every month I'll fill you in on:

- **News at the Trust**
  - Updates from the Trust regarding events or operations
- **Upcoming Events**
  - Events in the Chicagoland area related to art, history, architecture, and of course, Frank Lloyd Wright
- **Other News**
  - Any other updates and pieces of news that are relevant to our volunteers

As always, please submit any suggestions, events, or news to me at [cjansen@flwright.org](mailto:cjansen@flwright.org).

## **CHICAGO'S WEST LOOP, THEN AND NOW**

Our very own **Connie Fairbanks** has written a book, ***Chicago's West Loop, Then and Now: People, Businesses, and Buildings***:

'Against the backdrop of a bustling and dynamic global city, cranes dot the sky, jack hammers demolish "solid as a rock" walls, and bulldozers move tons of bricks out of the way on The Near West Side of Chicago, now known as (The West Loop). The transformation of this area over time has been nothing less than captivating. Vacant parking lots, once home to vaudeville acts, became glossy 19-story apartments. Empty buildings that once housed cutlery stores, meat packing rooms, printing companies, and multi-level office buildings have been demolished-common brick by common brick. Some of these bakery supply buildings (or other businesses) have been re-purposed into opulent condos, luxury sofa stores, or restaurants with owner-chefs calling upstairs home.

'What once was a manufacturing and wholesale warehouse area in the late 1890's -1950's, a fashionable place to live on Ashland Avenue for the "movers and shakers "of Chicago, and later Skid Row on Madison Street, is again where we want to live, work, and play. Corporate America has set up shop in The West Loop, and many of the Union headquarters have stayed put for decades. Meet the pioneers of then and now, learn about a variety of businesses that supplied products during war time, help protect us at the 911 Emergency Communications Center, train our policemen, and see the eye-catching architectural wonders still standing in The West Loop. Read these engaging and timeless stories by Chicago-based researcher Connie Fairbanks in a new 246-page book complete with a collection of more than 150 photos that capture the essence of this areas transformation and brings you back in time in this most dynamic part of the city.'

Check it out: <https://www.conniefairbanks.com/>

## **Barbara Ballinger and the Legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright: A History and a Tribute**

Our own Bob Trezevant wrote this wonderful tribute to the great Barbara Ballinger. Ballinger passed away November 14, 2022, after leaving an indelible impact on Oak Park and beyond. Her role in preserving Frank Lloyd Wright's legacy in Oak Park is significant and vital and Bob does a lovely job of celebrating it.

Please read Bob's tribute here: <https://www.utrf.org/barbara-ballinger/>