

Huntington Chambers Building, 30 Huntington Avenue, Boston

(This building no longer exists. The Westin Copley Place Hotel is now located here.)



The Huntington Chambers Building. Photo dated Sept. 11, 1929, from the City of Boston's Public Works Department Photograph Collection © City of Boston. License Creative Commons.

Beginning on Sept. 25, 1921, Paramahansa Yogananda (then Swami Yogananda) held weekly advertised Sunday “Sat-Sanga” ¹ meetings in the Huntington Chambers Building. Weekly Sunday meetings continued at this location through July 1923, except during the summer months of 1922. After that, he held only a few more Sunday meetings at this location before he left Boston. All Sunday meetings were conducted at 7:30 p.m. in Faelten Hall, which seated 143 people, and were advertised in the local newspapers on Saturday, the day before.²

During 1922 and 1923, Paramahansa Yogananda also conducted advertised classes during the week in various rooms in this building. ²

According to personal notes written by Mildred Lewis, the wife of Dr. Minott Lewis, and one of the early disciples, Paramahansa Yogananda resided in the Huntington Chambers Building beginning in 1921 and until he left Boston. ³

In the first edition of *Songs of the Soul*, a book written by Paramahansa Yogananda, the title page states, “Published by Sat Sanga 30 Huntington Avenue, Boston 1923.” And in the back of the book it states, “For above Lessons or Books apply to ...Sat Sanga, 30 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Mass.” ⁴

¹ During the early years in Boston, Paramahansa Yogananda referred to his meetings and organization as “Satsanga.” (In the early years it was spelled three ways: Sat Sanga, Sat-Sanga and Satsanga.) The glossary on the SRF website <<https://yogananda.org/self-realization-fellowship-glossary#T-Z>> defines Satsanga in the definition of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India as follows: “*Satsanga* is composed of *sat*, truth, and *sanga*, fellowship.” Paramahansa Yogananda further explains satsanga in his book *The Second Coming of Christ: The Resurrection of The Christ Within You* (Self-Realization Fellowship, 2004), on page 1399: “During times of divine fellowship (satsanga) such as Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples, those who are receptive feel transported into a higher consciousness of God-perception pouring into their hearts and minds as the Master speaks. This attunement imbues the devotee’s consciousness, in the highest way, whenever he summons the guru’s grace in the inner temple of deep, worshipful meditation.”

² Advertisements and articles in the Boston Post, a newspaper published from 1831 to 1956, the Boston Evening Transcript, an afternoon newspaper published from 1830-1941, the Boston Traveller, which in the 1920’s was the evening newspaper published by the Boston Herald, and the Boston Globe.

³ John Rosser, the husband of Brenda Lewis Rosser, the daughter of Dr. Minott and Mildred Lewis, provided transcribed notes written by Mildred Lewis about Paramahansa Yogananda’s early years in Boston to a devotee in 2006. These notes are now part of the Boston Center of SRF archives.

⁴ *Songs of the Soul*, Swami Yogananda, A.B. of India, (Sat Sanga, 30 Huntington Avenue, Boston, 1923).