

the **Whistler**  
 Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council  
*April '07*

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**ANC News**

**NOTES FROM THE MAR. 21 MEETING**

**Making "History" on Mass. Ave.**

Take a peak through the windows of "History" and you might spot a polka dot smock, a rack of vintage t-shirts, a leopard print coat, one small dog relaxing in the sun, and Rachel Hirsch at the check-out counter, waiting to welcome you in. Don't walk by! Stop in and shop a bit at Ms. Hirsch's new vintage clothing boutique "History", located at 1693 Mass. Ave. You may even learn a thing or two.

Ms. Hirsch joined the council on Wednesday the 21st to introduce herself and the shop. She has a history with history. Raised in Belmont, Ms. Hirsch attended high school in Cambridge and spent her formative years shopping Mass. Ave. for great clothing deals. Although she considered going into fashion design after college, she chose instead to pursue her dual interests in history and teaching. Following seven

years of teaching high school level history, Ms. Hirsch has recently embarked on a new path to combining her passions for fashion, history, and yes, even education, by opening "History" with her brother and co-owner.



The shop offers clothing for both men and women and, as an added treat, shoppers are invited to sit and enjoy a library of history books at the back of the store. Ms. Hirsch, who intends to turn the collection into a lending library, also informed the council, "I plan to host lectures at History in the future, touching on subjects like textile and social history." Of course, let's not overlook the clothing, affordably priced pieces from the 1950s to the 1980s; each a picture of the past and featuring clothing tags with short vignettes penned by Ms. Hirsch herself.

To experience a little "History" first hand, drop by the shop at 1693 Mass. Ave. and don't forget to say hello to Johnny Cash, the pup in the window.

**NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING**

**APRIL 25 - 7:30 PM**  
 Baldwin School Cafeteria - 28  
 Sacramento Street  
 (Press buzzer for entry)



**AGENDA**

**Join us to discuss:**

- A Lesley Working Group meeting report
- Harvard Law School traffic & parking updates
- Mail service and longer lines at the post office
- City street and sidewalk maintenance and rebuilding

**Lesley University Names New President**

Dr. Joseph B. Moore has been named the next president of Lesley University. Dr. Moore has served as the President of Empire State College in New York since 2000, and previously served as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania. He will assume his new role at Lesley on July 10, 2007.

**Lesley Selects Architect for AIB**

Lesley University has selected an architectural firm for the renovation of North Prospect Church, which is to become the new home of the Art Institute of Boston (AIB). Bruner/Cott, based in Cambridge, MA, specializes in urban restoration and sustainable design.

The interior of North Prospect Church will be renovated to include studios, classrooms, galleries, and office, exhibition, and storage space. The university also plans to add a new building in the open space beside the church. Currently, approximately 500 students are enrolled at AIB. The university has no plan to increase this number. Residential AIB students are already integrated into Lesley's on-campus housing and have been for several years.

George G. Smith, Director of Operations and Campus Planning Operations for Lesley, told the council, "Lesley has initiated the programming process with AIB. The university will hold a series of meetings with various departments and, if all goes as planned, is looking at a possible 2011 move-in. The biggest hurdle, of course, will be finding funding."

Agassiz and Porter Square residents voiced a number of concerns, including:

- Neighbors are deeply concerned that Lesley will drastically change the façade of North Prospect Church
- Neighbors request that the architectural firm take the scale of the neighborhood into account when considering designs for the building
- Neighbors are unsure if Lesley is fully aware of residential zoning constraints at

North Prospect Church property

- Neighbors insist that Lesley not wait until the architect has created preliminary plans to approach the community. They would prefer to be kept abreast of plans and feel they can offer valuable input during the process

Additionally, ANC meeting chair Stephen Diamond noted that both he and Fred Meyer sit on the Lesley/City Working group. Although these meetings are not public hearings (conversation is restricted to those on the committee), anyone can attend. Interested parties should contact the City Manager of Community Development's office at (617) 349-4611 for meeting dates and times.

**Overview of Changes to Porter Exchange**

Lesley University will be making a number of changes to the interior and exterior of the Porter Exchange building on Mass. Ave. See below for details:

- 1.) The Parish Café will take over the space on the first floor of Porter Exchange that was vacated by Rustic Kitchen. Parish Café, known for its signature sandwiches inspired by Boston-area chefs, has prices that compare with nearby restaurants, like Cambridge Common. They plan to utilize the outdoor seating and will also have a full liquor license. Said Mr. Smith about the restaurant; "We look forward to welcoming them into the neighborhood."
- 2.) After over a decade in Porter Square, the Gap has left the building. Lesley will convert the space previously occupied by the clothing store into four glassed-in suites. Mr. Smith noted that they expect one tenant to be



Starbucks Coffee, and hope to identify additional shops soon. Mr. Doncaster added that the university hopes that people who patronize Starbucks will also frequent the small eateries and shops in the back of Porter Exchange.

- 3.) The building will be renamed "University Hall."
- 4.) The "Sears" name will remain on the face of the building.
- 5.) New metal canopies, consisting of Lesley University signs, will replace the existing structures over the entrances to the building. Also, the university plans to add plantings and seating at the back of Porter Exchange.
- 6.) Lesley will add a series of tall multi-colored fabric banners to the front of the building and intends to change them seasonally.

**Agassiz Community Supports Lesley's Grant Application**

The council has approved a letter, drafted by ANC meeting chair Stephen Diamond, intending to support Lesley's application for cultural facilities support. The letter will accompany Lesley's grant proposal to the Massachusetts Cultural Council Facilities Fund. Such a grant would provide financial support towards a facilitated community process for the university as it begins to design the new AIB space at the site of North Prospect Church.

**Follow-up on Harvard Law School Traffic & Parking Discussion**

Following the February 28th\* ANC meeting, Agassiz resident Willie Bloomstein contacted neighbors, prepared a list of concerns, and sent a memorandum to Sue Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation for Cambridge, and Mary Power, Director of Community Relations at Harvard. Additional information on this topic can be found in the March 2007 Whistler.


\*Harvard has begun work to relocate two wood frame houses and one carriage house to the North Hall site to make room for a new Law School building that will be constructed at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Everett St. A new 700-car underground garage will replace the current garage at Everett. Additionally, part of Everett Street will be converted to two-way to allow cars exiting the garage to access Mass. Ave. directly.

**Agassiz Preschool Update**


Gillien Todd and Natalie Beaumont-Smith of Agassiz Preschool, a co-op program that has occupied the basement of North Prospect church for 30+ years, joined the council to provide an update of their relocation progress. They are considering a building near Kenmore Square. However, a lot of money will need to be spent to meet code compliance for the building to house a preschool. It remains uncertain if the location will work out. When questioned, Lesley University indicated that providing space for the preschool is not part of the university's plans for the recently purchased church.

**Correction from March Whistler**

Last month, in the article, "Neighbors Discuss New Harvard Garage's Impact on Traffic & Parking," we accidentally omitted the following concern discussed by residents: Does the city intend to keep the right turn on red (RTOR) from Wendell Street to Mass. Ave? We regret the error. Additionally, some neighbors, feeling RTOR to be dangerous for pedestrians, urged the Traffic Department to eliminate their use at the Everett and Mass. Ave. and Wendell and Mass. Ave. intersections.



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# ANC Community

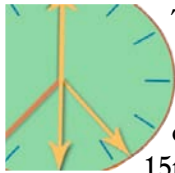
## LOOKING TO GET FIT THIS SPRING?



ANC is considering offering classes based on Miriam Nelson's "Strong Women," a program that "envisions a worldwide community of women who are fit, strong, and healthy." The classes, which would meet twice a week, will focus on strength, balance, and maintaining bone mass and muscle strength. They are for the mature body, but all ages are welcome, as are men. Interested residents should contact Phoebe Sinclair, ANC Community Liaison at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org for more information.

## City Wide

### TIME TRADE CIRCLE MEETING



The Time Trade Circle of Cambridge/Somerville would like to invite you to attend our introductory meeting on Sunday, April 15th. This meeting is meant to give our current members an opportunity to meet each other, as well as to introduce the concept of 'Time Banking' to the residents of the Cambridge/Somerville area.

#### Who We Are:

We are a local bank—but we do not operate on paper money. We keep track of time. When you spend an hour of your time performing a service for somebody else, we credit you with one Time Dollar. You can cash in that Time Dollar on a service provided by another member of our bank.

Whether you give a piano lesson, give legal advice, clean up trash in your community, or provide some much-needed company to an elderly citizen, one hour equals one Time Dollar.

The Meeting will be held at Cambridge College, 1000 Mass Ave in Cambridge, on the 1st floor, on Sunday, April 15th at 2pm. We will have food and refreshments to munch on, and we will be there to answer your questions and hear your ideas.

Contact Director Katherine Ellin at (617) 254-0964 x2032, (617) 868-9855 or email her at k.ellin@verizon.net. You may also visit us online at [www.timetrade.org](http://www.timetrade.org).


### COMPOST THAT STUFF IN CAMBRIDGE!

Over 30 Cambridge locations such as universities, supermarkets, hotels, restaurants, florists, and coffee shops have cleaned up their trash by separating organic waste for composting. Participants include Harvard, Whole Foods, Harvest Coop, Shaw's on Sidney Street, Sheraton Commander Hotel, Genzyme, Museum of Science, Irving House at Harvard, Oleana Restaurant, Rendezvous, Cambridge Common, Central Square Florist, Charlie's Kitchen, Hong Kong, Formaggio Kitchen, Redline, Kabloom, 1369, Veggie Planet, and Dunkin Donuts on JFK Street.

The City received a MassDEP grant to work with its business-recycling hauler Save That Stuff, Inc. to offer organics collection to businesses and institutions. Composting preserves landfill space and reduces climate change by avoiding methane emissions from organic decay

### Fresh Pond Ballet

- \* Classical Ballet
- \* Dance for 2 & 3 Year Olds
- \* Pre-Ballet for 4 Year Olds
- Youth \* Teen \* Adults
- \* Sprung Floor & Marley for Safety



Studio: 1798A Mass. Ave.,  
Cambridge,  
Nina Alonso Hathaway

**Register Now!**  
[www.freshpondballet.com](http://www.freshpondballet.com)  
 617-491-5865



in landfills. The materials are turned into nutrient rich soil at Rocky Hill Farm in Saugus and used to grow fresh food.

10-15 tons are collected daily from large, medium and small-scale generators of organics. Several generators outside of Cambridge participate and help achieve optimal route density. Look for Save That Stuff's new colorful composting truck!



For example, Whole Foods on Prospect Street used to need its large trash compactor emptied twice weekly.

After separating their food waste, they save money on hauling costs because they only need a trash pickup once every few weeks. Charlie's Kitchen in Harvard Square recycles and composts almost all of their trash and used cooking oil fuels their old station wagon. At Ming's Supermarket in Boston, out of date produce is picked up six days per week and they've saved money doing it.

During Cambridge Science Festival, the week of April 21-29 visit the composting businesses as many are holding a drawing for a chance to win something!

For more information visit [www.cambridgema.gov/recycle](http://www.cambridgema.gov/recycle). To sign up for organics collection service call Save That Stuff at (617) 241-9998.

**CALLING ALL SCIENTISTS FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL**



Celebrate Science in the City at the first annual Cambridge Science Festival, presented by the

MIT Museum. This public celebration showcasing Cambridge's contributions to science and technology features 9 fun-filled, action-packed days of science-and technology-related events including creative exhibitions, plays, animals, robots, concerts, lectures, debates, and demonstrations.

This multifaceted event is based on themes including Innovations, Science & the Arts, Energy & the Environment, and Science of Everyday Life. The festival makes science accessible, interactive and FUN, and highlights the excitement of discovery and the impact of science in all our lives.

**When is it?**

April 21-29, 2007. Mark your calendars!

**Where is this crazy Science Festival being held?**

The Science Festival will be held in different locations all over Cambridge. While our opening event – Science Carnival – will be held in Central Square, over 100 other events will take place in different venues in Cambridge. Please see our calendar/schedule of events to find exact locations, dates and times.

**Why do we need a science festival?**

Cambridge is a "science city" of international distinction, home to numerous academic and commercial institutions that are heavily invested in science and technology. Yet much of Cambridge's science and technology is unknown to those who are not professionally

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<p>MJKIDD2002@YAHOO.COM WWW.DMBOSTON.COM</p>	

involved; the festival reveals Cambridge's hidden science treasures to the community and celebrates Cambridge's achievements.

**So what would I actually do at this Festival?**

Well, at different events, you'll do different things. Some events (like plays and performances), you'll just sit and watch and be entertained. But at most of our events, you'll be participating, creating, and interacting. This is no "show and tell." It's show and do!

**Is this going to be boring?**

Please! Would we do that to you? It will be lots of fun! And lively! With plenty of entertainment and refreshments. Most of our events, especially the ones for children and families, will be interactive so you're not just watching, you're actually doing!

For more information, visit the Cambridge Science Festival online at [www.cambridge-sciencefestival.org](http://www.cambridge-sciencefestival.org).

**NOCA ALL ARTS OPEN STUDIOS**

North Cambridge Arts (NoCA) celebrates the 10th Anniversary of its annual All Arts Open Studios on Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29, from 12:00 - 6:00 PM each day. NoCA includes



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painters, sculptors, photographers, jewelry makers, mixed-media artists, poets, performance artists, and many others.

More than 50 artists throughout the 02140 zip code will be participating, including Agassiz resident and photographer Rick Blumsack, who will be exhibiting his work at the Brickyard Atrium on Sherman Street.

In addition, an Artists Preview Party, open to the public, will be held at Circle Furniture Showroom on Alewife Parkway on Friday, April 27, 6:00 - 8:00 PM.

All events are free. Maps will be available at a number of area locations, including Porter Square Books and the NoCA kiosk outside the Porter Square T Station. Come to browse or buy - it's art within walking distance, but never pedestrian!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rick Blumsack at (617) 497-0368 or [rickblumsack@earthlink.net](mailto:rickblumsack@earthlink.net).



"November," copyright Rick Blumsack 2003



**Agassiz School Programs**

**AGASSIZ AFTERSCHOOL HEATS UP!**

Prepared by Jackye Larkowich, Afterschool Teacher and HEAT Club Leader

Our after school program has adopted an excit-

ing new children's health curriculum called the HEAT Club, which stands for the "Healthy Eating and Active Time" Club. Through this fun, interactive program the children will be learning about and engaging in healthy eating and physical activity. The activities include active games, cooking lessons, crafts, and more.

Our program will be doing HEAT Club activities once a week, on Mondays. We are very excited to be doing the HEAT Club this year and we expect that the children will love it too!



Heat Club Members Enjoy Yoga

### PRESCHOOL INTRODUCES TRAVELING TEDDY BEAR PROGRAM

Prepared by Katrina Frongillo, Sacramento St. Preschool Site Director

The Traveling Teddy Bear program is a fun way to learn about our friends and what they enjoy doing outside of school. One child is chosen each week to bring Teddy home. While the child and family are spending time with the bear, they write in a journal about how they are sharing their time.

Upon returning to school, the child shares Teddy's adventures and the journal with the group during circle time. Some of our friends have taken pictures and made musical instruments and other presents for Teddy to bring along on his travels. He is a wonderful addition to our classroom this year and we plan to host a birthday party/potluck for Teddy and preschool families on Friday, May 25.

### NUTRITION WEEK RECIPE

Please enjoy the recipe below, courtesy of Agassiz Afterschool K-Program's Nutrition Week!

#### Apricot Glazed Chicken with Sage

Submitted by Nikki

- 4 (or however many in your family) chicken breasts with skin/bones
- 1 12oz. jar of apricot preserves
- 10 crushed garlic cloves
- 15 - 20 torn fresh sage leaves
- 2 tbsp white vinegar
- 15 dried prunes
- Salt and pepper

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients together in a bowl. Pour glaze over the chicken in a roasting pan. Bake for 30 minutes. Serve over rice with a side of salad or steamed broccoli.



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# Community Calendar

## April 2007

Sunday, April 1		April Fools Day
Friday, April 6		Good Friday Baldwin School closed, Afterschool & Preschool closed
Wednesday, April 11	6:00 - 7:30 PM	ANC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Monday, April 16		School Vacation Week, Baldwin School & Sacramento St. Preschool closed through Friday, April 20
Wednesday, April 25	7:30 - 9:00 PM	ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St. All are welcome

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### THE WHISTLER APRIL 2007



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