

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

September 2009

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## ANC News

### NOTES FROM THE JUNE 17 MEETING

#### **Volunteer to Chair an ANC Meeting**

In addition to serving on Agassiz Baldwin Community's Board of Directors, resident Stephen Diamond has chaired ANC community meetings for the past several years. Going forward, he would like to share this responsibility. Mr. Diamond explained, "I think it's important that there's consistency and that all issues of concern to the neighborhood are discussed."

Interested Council members should contact Phoebe Sinclair, Community Liaison, at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org to volunteer or learn more.

#### **Cambridge Community Television**

"A lot of people say they don't want to be on TV," explained Nilagia McCoy, Membership, Outreach, and Promotions Coordinator for Cambridge Community Television (CCTV).

"CCTV is more than a public access television station, it's a media center."

CCTV, which operates channels 9, 10, and 22 on Comcast cable, has a wide variety of offerings in addition to video production. Members can learn to use video cameras, edit video, host their own TV shows, sign up for computer classes, learn web design, and/or take advantage of staffed computer labs.

In particular, CCTV offers a civic journalism program called Neighbor Media that trains ordinary Cambridge residents to produce stories about their neighborhoods –everything from development issues to neighborhood issues to short documentaries about their own families.

While CCTV fundraises and charges member fees, most of their funding comes from Comcast cable subscriber fees. Memberships, open to both Cambridge residents and non-residents, start at just \$55 for the whole year, including some classes. Residents over age fifty can join for \$25.

Ms. McCoy stated, "Becoming a member of CCTV is a good way to get involved in your

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**SEPTEMBER 16 - 7:30 PM**

Baldwin School Cafeteria  
28 Sacramento Street  
(Press buzzer for entry)

### AGENDA

- **Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center Construction Update and Groundbreaking Event: Please join us for a Q&A with the project's building contractors**
- **Additional agenda items TBA**

community, share what's on your mind, and express yourself through the use of media and video production."

To learn more, visit [www.cctvcambridge.org](http://www.cctvcambridge.org).

### **Cambridge Local First**

Cambridge Local First (CLF) is a four-year-old business-to-business network focused on sustaining local independent businesses. Its founders include Frank Kramer of Harvard Book Store, Si Shapiro of Tags Hardware, and Laury Hammel, Cambridge resident and the co-founder of the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies.

Dan Meyers, CLF's Administrative Coordinator, explained, "Local businesses can contribute to a more robust local economy for residents. For instance, businesses share the property taxes with homeowners. Residents also benefit from shopping at smaller, more specialized stores that can offer a better diversity of product choices. In addition, local businesses support non-profits and local charities 300% more than non-local businesses."

The \$100 membership fee to join CLF includes a listing in a paper directory and an online directory of local businesses, two monthly newsletters, and networking events hosted by a different business every month. Community members who are not business owners can sign up for an emailed newsletter.

#### **Fred Meyer, Realtor**

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### **Help Sustain Local Businesses**

CLF believes the following core values contribute to a healthy local economy: healthy environment, strong community, meaningful employment, fair trade, and buying local first.

Residents who want to help can speak with their city representatives about better supporting CLF in its mission. Other ways to support the local economy include taking the 10% Shift Pledge where residents commit to shifting 10% of their spending to local businesses, purchasing a vegetable subscription from a nearby farm, and volunteering for organizations like Clean Cambridge ([www.cleancambridge.org](http://www.cleancambridge.org)).

To learn more, visit:

[www.cambridgelocalfirst.org](http://www.cambridgelocalfirst.org).

### **Neighbors Discuss Lesley Development in Porter Square**

Fred Meyer, ABC Board Director and Council member, summarized residents' recent reactions to Lesley's development plans for Porter Square. Lesley has two proposals currently: landmarking the North Prospect Church (future home of the Art Institute of Boston) and creating a new zoning overlay district in Porter Square that will include all of Lesley's buildings and the two parking lots on Mass. Ave.

Objections to the project:

- Immediate abutters, residents of Arlington St., and residents of Oxford Court (whose homes are located behind Lesley's parking lots on Mass. Ave., across from University Hall), will have blocked, reduced, or otherwise altered views
- Residents of Newport Road are concerned about increased parking difficulties on their street
- There are general concerns about open space (some feel that a large building will block the sky) and publicly accessible open/green space
- Residents worry that Lesley will eventually build another large building behind University Hall, making the area feel more congested

- Some residents believe Lesley hasn't offered many incentives to the community and doesn't have residents' best interests at heart
- Residents want Lesley to commit to giving priority to local businesses (in its retail spaces) and contribute to healthy street life

Support for the project

- A collaboration between the Art Institute of Boston and the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center is important to many members of the community
- Local artists could potentially benefit from an arts district in Porter Square
- Some residents feel Lesley is making the best use of the North Prospect Church property
- Some residents believe moving the church south will make it more visible and that Lesley's plan will allow the church to be better preserved as well as open to community/public use

Bill Doncaster, Director of Community Relations for Lesley University responded, "Lesley presented a petition to the Council that we were pretty proud of. It includes long term planning for all our property. Also, we can't compete with Harvard University in terms of fiscal benefit for the community. Most of our involvement with Cambridge residents/community is quiet. We work a lot with Cambridge Public Schools."

### **Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center Update**

George Hein, ABC Board Director, told the Council, "From the beginning we were interested in space and programming/collaboration with Lesley's Art Institute of Boston. However, the space issue has changed dramatically in the last couple of months as the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center won its case in court and we received a very large grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund."

Mr. Hein added that, although ABC will complete the art center behind 20 Sacramento St, there's some concern about temporary space for

the fall 2009 classes in the meantime. ABC has approached Lesley about space in Porter Exchange and is still in discussions about this possibility.

## **ABC Community**

### **MAUD MORGAN VISUAL ARTS CENTER GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION**

Please join us on Tuesday, September 29, for our groundbreaking celebration for the long-awaited Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center, which will be built behind 20 Sacramento St. and is expected to be completed by June 2010. The ceremony will be followed by a barbeque. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

**What:** Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center Groundbreaking Celebration

**When:** Tuesday, September 29, 5:00-7:00 PM

**Where:** 20 Sacramento Street

For more information about the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center, building construction, and programming, visit our website at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org) and click on "Maud Morgan Arts."



### **ABC'S NEW WEBSITE**

Coming soon to an Internet web browser near you, ABC is rolling out our fresh, new website with more up-to-date information, interactive features, and, at long-last, a search function!

Our site's beta launch begins this September. To see the new site, just visit our old website at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org) and click the link "View our newly redesigned website and let us know what you think!"

### **ABC THANKS VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHER**

ABC thanks our volunteer photographer Nicolai Cauchy for snapping many beautiful photos of our program spaces and students. Mr. Cauchy's photos will be among those utilized by ABC for our newly redesigned website. Mr. Cauchy is employed as a general contractor (MIT engineer) and real estate agent in the Agassiz neighborhood. To learn more, visit Mr. Cauchy's website at [nicocauchy.com](http://nicocauchy.com).

### **MAUD MORGAN TEACHER WINS ARTADIA AWARD**

Raul Gonzalez, whom many of us know through his work at Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool, Outback Summer Program, and Maud Morgan Visual Art Programs, was recently awarded an Artadia Award for 2009. Recipients were selected by three internationally known jurors who conducted studio visits with fifteen artists drawn from nearly six hundred applicants in the metro Boston area. Congratulations, Raul!



To learn more about the Artadia Award, visit [www.artadia.org](http://www.artadia.org).

### **LIVING WELL NETWORK WALKS**

Prepared by Nathaniel Meyer, LWN Volunteer Coordinator

ABC's Living Well Network (LWN) is pleased to present three wonderful opportunities to get out into the fresh air, get to know your neighbors, and take advantage of the natural beauty and history of our area. All Cambridge residents are welcome to take part in these events!

### **Bird Walk on Sunday, September 13th**

Please join Susan Coe and others for a two-hour bird walk at Great Meadows National Wildlife Reserve in Concord, where we will look for early fall migrants. Great Meadows offers a good opportunity to see a wide variety of shorebirds without driving two hours to a beach. The walk is easy, with benches along the way to sit and observe bird behavior.

Bring a bird book, binoculars, a snack, water, and bug spray. We will meet at the tower in the Great Meadows parking lot at 8:00 AM.

**Date:** Sunday, September 13th  
**Time:** 8:00 AM-10:00 AM  
**Location:** Great Meadows, at the end of Monsen Road (off of Route 62) in Concord, MA.

### **Agassiz Neighborhood History Walk on Sunday, September 27th**

This Sunday historic walk around Agassiz Neighborhood will be lead by Charles Sullivan of the Cambridge Historical Commission.

The Agassiz neighborhood originated in the 17th century as an agricultural area. When the neighborhood developed in the 19th century, each cross street assumed a different character. The tour will discuss the development of each farm and explore today's diverse urban fabric.

**Date:** Sunday, September 27th  
**Time:** 2:00 PM-3:30 PM  
**Location:** Meet at the Mellen St./ Mass. Ave. Corner

### **Promote Energy Efficiency in the Agassiz Neighborhood**

Living Well Network is partnering with Cambridge Energy Alliance (CEA) to help promote energy efficiency at home in the Agassiz neighborhood. CEA has been working with volunteers all over Cambridge to walk around their neighborhood, hand out energy-efficient CFL light bulbs, and provide advice on how to reduce energy bills and help the planet. In their last outing into the Riverside neighborhood,



twenty-five volunteers were able to distribute 442 CFL light bulbs in three hours!

Please let us know if you are interested in participating in this joint venture with CEA, and we will have details on the specific date and time shortly. We hope to schedule the event for a Saturday in October.

**How to RSVP**

Please contact Nathaniel Meyer at (617) 349-6287, x16 or nmeyer@agassiz.org to sign up for the walks or CEA project.



## Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs

### OPENINGS FOR PRESCHOOL STUDENTS

Sacramento Street Preschool for children age two years and nine months through four years begins on Wednesday, September 9th. We currently have openings for full or part-time enrollment. Please contact Emma Mrozicki, Early Education Site Director, to schedule a tour: (617) 349-6287 x14 or emrozicki@agassiz.org

### REGISTER NOW FOR AGASSIZ BALDWIN AFTERSCHOOL

Prepared by Jacy Edelman, Program Director

Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool is currently enrolling for the 2009/10 school year. Our popular out-of-school time program for children entering kindergarten through fifth grade will begin on Wednesday, September 9th.



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### Fall Afterschool Specialist Offerings

In addition to the many choices offered by our afterschool teaching staff, children may sign up for classes with our specialist teachers for an additional fee. Children must be enrolled in Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool in order to participate in these classes.

- Mondays:** Cartooning and visual arts with Raul Gonzalez
- Tuesdays:** Drama Club
- Wednesdays:** Dance with Sunny Hitt
- Thursdays:** Taekwondo with Brett Schuchshereba
- Tues. & Thurs.:** Piano or cello with Sarvi Moshfegh

To register for afterschool, sign up for dance, or piano/cello lessons, or learn how you can apply for a scholarship, visit our website at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org) and click on "Afterschool." Enrollment is on a first-come-first-served basis and spaces are limited.

We hope to see you this fall!



### A MAYOR'S YOUTH REFLECTS ON OUTBACK SUMMER PROGRAM 2009

Prepared by Jamila Smith-Dell

Another fun-filled summer on the Outback front has ended with a bang. Camper and counselor alike issued their goodbyes as they closed the door behind them and stepped



out into the hot August afternoon. Their minds were still racing, replaying the events of the day, of the week, of the summer.

You wonder how I know all of these things? Well, I, Jamila Smith-Dell, was there. As a Mayor's Youth, I worked from 8:30 until noon, Monday through Friday. I and about nine hundred others worked for the City of Cambridge through the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program (MSYEP).

Ranging from ages 14 to 18, Mayor's Youth were selected from all parts of Cambridge to work at various locations. Four of us, including Jamie McCann, Ian McCann, Imani Smith-Dell, and myself, were chosen to work at the Outback Summer Program.

Although I must speak for myself, I know we all enjoyed every minute of it. Working alongside my older sister was a joy. From assisting with activities to biking to work every morning, we had an overall great time together.

Another plus, among many others, was working with the McCann brothers. Having another sibling set at Outback made it a more family-oriented environment. Outback welcomed all kinds of people and introduced many new activities the kids enjoyed. From the Chinese Lion Dancers to the Hawaiian Luau, this summer was surely one to remember.

As the school year comes upon us and the summer begins to close, I would like to thank all of

those who made Outback possible this summer and wish you all much happiness in the year and years to come.

**OUTBACK 2009 PHOTOS**

Please enjoy this selection of photos snapped at Outback Summer Program 2009.



**INTRODUCING ART PRESENTS  
STORYTELLING WITH ANDREA  
LOVETT**

Agassiz Baldwin Community Introducing Art and Club Passim Culture for Kids will open our 2009/2010 performance series with Andrea Lovett's "Tales of Tails: Stories of Tricksters, Tyrants, and Talkers."

Animal characters have been used throughout the history of stories to learn lessons. "How The Leopard Got His Spots" is just such a tale. It's about a poorly behaved leopard that disregards the rules of the jungle resulting in some ridiculous situations and some spots that leopards still wear to this day!

**When:** Tuesday, September 22, 2:00 PM  
**Where:** Baldwin School Stage,

|                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                 | <b>Peter G Meyersohn, CFP</b><br>Financial Advisor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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**Tickets:** 28 Sacramento Street  
Afterschool groups free, \$2 per person, \$5 per family. School groups please RSVP

For more information, call (617) 349-6287. We hope to see you there!

## City Wide

### THE FIRST ANNUAL URBAN AGRICULTURAL FAIR IN HARVARD SQ.

Attend the first Annual Urban Ag Fair on the historic site of the first marketplace in Newtowne (1630's)! The 2009 Urban Ag fair will bring to market some of the most incredible locally grown fruits and vegetables ever seen! All events are free, open to the public, and family-friendly.

**What:** Annual Urban Ag Fair in Harvard Square  
**When:** September 20, 2009  
11:00 AM-4:00 PM  
**Where:** Winthrop Street and Winthrop Park

### REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT, WALK/RIDE IN CAMBRIDGE

Prepared by Green Streets Initiative

Join commuters and other friends in Boston, Cambridge, and surrounding cities in celebrating monthly Walk/Ride Days. These events, which occur on the last Friday of every month, provide an easy way to do something that's positive for the environment and good for your health.

Anyone can participate. All you have to do is use green transportation that day: traveling by foot, bike, bus, or train all count! If you wear something green to show your support, you can also get free promotional items and discounts from our many sponsoring businesses.

Walk/Ride Days are supported by the Green Streets Initiative –a grassroots organization

advocating the use of alternative modes of urban transportation.

Green Streets seeks individuals in businesses, schools, and state and local governments to help spread the Walk/Ride Day concept. For more information, visit us online at: [www.gogreenstreets.org](http://www.gogreenstreets.org)



## Sacramento Street Gallery

### "IT'S IN THE MAKING/EXPERIMENTS ON A LOOM"

Sacramento St. Gallery is proud to present "It's in the Making/Experiments on a Loom" with sculpture by Kathleen Finlay.

Says Ms. Finlay of her work, "It's in the Making/Experiments on a Loom" is a continuing of my interest in simple making as essential activity. Meaning lies in this activity of creating both the loom/tool (a large version of a child's potholder loom), and the object that will be made with the tool."

Please join us for an artist reception on Friday, September 11 from 6:00-8:00 PM. Light refreshments will be served.

The show runs from Friday, September 4 to Friday, October 9, 2009.

Gallery Hours: Weekdays 10:00 AM-5:00 PM.



# Community Calendar

## September 2009

|                         |              |                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, September 7     |              | Labor Day Holiday, ABC Closed                                                                                                                        |
| Tuesday, September 8    |              | First Day Cambridge Public Schools                                                                                                                   |
| Wednesday, September 9  | 6:00-7:30 PM | ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor<br>Public welcome, First Day Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool and<br>Sacramento Street Preschool           |
| Wednesday, September 16 | 7:30-9:00 PM | ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda)<br>Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St.<br>All are welcome                                        |
| Tuesday, September 22   | 2:00 PM      | Introducing Art Performance & Club Passim's<br>Culture for Kids present "Storytelling with Andrea Lovett"<br>Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento St. |
| Tuesday, September 29   | 5:30-7:00 PM | Maud Morgan Groundbreaking Ceremony and BBQ                                                                                                          |

*The Whistler* is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Baldwin Community, distribution 2,000. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by mail or email. The newsletter is also posted each month online at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org). Items of interest to the neighborhood may be submitted for consideration no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

### THE WHISTLER SEPTEMBER 2009



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