

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

February '07

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ANC News

NOTES FROM THE JAN. 17 MEETING

Citywide Programs Get Boost From CAH Fund Grants

The evening's Cambridge Agassiz Harvard Fund* (CAH) grant recipients were introduced by Miriam Goldberg, who serves on both the ANC board and CAH Fund committee. In attendance were Ginny Berkowitz, Program Director of Cambridge Educational Access; Terry DeLancey, ANC Executive Director; community member Kristina Snyder; and Cambridge Rindge & Latin School Counselor Betsy Bard.

Ms. Goldberg explained that the CAH Fund committee is currently working out a process whereby people or groups with non-profit status can learn about the fund and apply for grants. The committee has been meeting for over a year and has reviewed a number of projects, many from Agassiz residents and from the

Agassiz Neighborhood Council. She also noted that nearly all of the proposals submitted to the fund committee were awarded grants, and that current grant recipients are permitted to reapply for funding.

ANC board member and meeting chair Stephen Diamond added, "Although the Agassiz community originally negotiated with Harvard to generate the fund, the scope of the programs are citywide. ANC staff is putting in extra time for many of these programs."

*See page 4 for CAH Fund History & Overview.

Media Arts Studio Grant

Cambridge Public School's Media Arts Studio, opened in 2005, is a 5000 square foot studio located between Felton and Ellery Streets, right across from the Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School (CRLS). The studio is home to two local access television stations - Cambridge Educational Access and City TV8, the Rindge School for Technical Arts Media Technology Program, and several media programs for middle and high school students.

Ginny Berkowitz, Program Director, explained that while programs for high school and middle students are established and thriving, there was a distinct lack of programs that allowed 7th and

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



FEBRUARY 28- 7:30 PM

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

AGENDA

Welcome Rachel Hirsch of History boutique

**Lesley University seeking feedback from
community on Art Institute of Boston
design process**

8th grade students to stay connected or get newly involved with media arts before transitioning into high school. A 2006 grant from the CAH Fund helped bridge this gap by creating a part time staff position for a media arts instructor for a 7th and 8th grade afterschool time program, and by providing funds for networking, outreach, and new equipment.

This project, planned with the help of ANC's Terry DeLancey, seeks to share media, curriculum, and resources with others serving 7th and 8th graders, and has created a networking component to foster links to other programs across the city. At the start of the school year, eight students were recruited by reaching out to existing afterschool programs, and attracting kids in groups and individually via word-of-mouth. These students have worked with Media Arts Instructor Matt Landry to complete a unit on digital storytelling. Using still frames, artifacts, text, and video, short narrative pieces are created for showing on the channels or archiving on a web site.

Currently, the Media Production Program is working with the Middle School Collaborative located at the Gately Shelter, and a similar project is planned for March with the Frisoli Center. Also, an extensive outreach campaign is now underway to recruit 7th and 8th grade students directly from their classrooms. Working with 7th and 8th grade teachers, school principals and the middle school curriculum coordinator, Cambridge Educational Access hopes to convene a group of 12 students from schools across the city to begin an end-of-year project in April.

All projects created in the Media Production Program will be cablecast on Cambridge cable Channel 98 and will be screened at our annual Media Fair to be held in May at the Media Arts Studio. Stay tuned for more information about this screening event!

School Liaison Pilot Grant

"I'd like to begin with thanking Harvard and the Fund Committee," stated Terry DeLancey, ANC Executive Director. "The CAH Fund supports

small programs that cause a ripple effect in the community." Ms. Delancey went on to explain that, through working directly with Baldwin School Principal Mary Eirich, she was able to design a one-year pilot with the purpose of connecting day- and afterschool. The ways in which the program will connect the two school 'worlds' include:

- providing coordinated support for each child in all development areas all day
- extending learning with enrichment activities tied to CPS curriculum/state frameworks
- improving and streamlining communications with families

Internal ANC staff meet regularly to support this work, and the Afterschool Director, taking on the role of School Liaison, attends cluster meetings, faculty meetings, and has been invited to join Cambridge Public School (CPS) teachers at a workshop in March. The initiative also includes funding (supplied by a separate grant) for a school day field trip, currently being planned and chaperoned by Out of School Time and CPS staff.

Ms. Delancey added, "A significant ripple effect is that eight other initiatives, similar to ours here at the Baldwin School, have been funded." The Agenda for Children, with seed money from CAH and inspiration from ANC, will pilot eight additional liaison initiatives this year. Staff from all nine programs will meet regularly to discuss

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practices and challenges.

Although the School Liaison pilot program has received funding for one year, Ms. DeLancey intends to continue this important work in the future.

Aging in Place Grant

When Neighborhood Nine resident Kristina Snyder was injured in a fall several years ago, she was amazed and thankful for the friends and neighbors who came to her aid. She told the council, "Some neighborhoods have a support system already in place, and others don't." Ms. Snyder, who has a background in eldercare, began looking for new ways to expand support for elders in the community and discovered that, across the Ave, in the Agassiz neighborhood, the ANC was cooking up plans to do just that.

ANC's "aging in place" initiative broke ground in April 2006 with a free presentation, co-hosted by the City Council on Aging, featuring Judy Willett of Beacon Hill Village. Since that time, ANC has initiated a snow shoveling service for the Agassiz neighborhood and nearby community, seeks to create an on-line community bulletin board, and will host a time banking presentation on Thursday, February 15, 2007.

Involved in these efforts at an early stage, Ms. Snyder sits on the Over Fifty Task Force advisory board at ANC, and is also working on a project of her own. With the help of a grant from Cambridge Community Foundation, she is developing a booklet that will detail, in plain language, all the services available to elders in Cambridge.



Ms. Snyder noted several other programs in various neighborhoods, including "Cambridge at Home", an initiative that seeks to build a program similar to Beacon Hill Village, and a coop housing building being developed by group of academics from Harvard and MIT.

She added, "The Beacon Hill Village model, which contains memberships and fee-services, is not something everyone can afford. We're looking at other options, at ways to bond as a community. A program that connects elders with services is a work in progress."

"Justice" Summer Theater Project Grant

What can a group of high school students with no prior stage experience do with a single topic idea, a mass of interviews, no script, and no set in a month's time? Create incredible theater, with the direction and guidance of Agassiz resident Betsy Bard, and keep doing it, year after year!

Betsy Bard, counselor at CRLS, has been organizing summer theater programs for the past four years. She gathers a group of young people, employed by the Mayor's Youth Program, and imbibes them with tools and passion enough to meet an impressive challenge. The students, most with no acting or stage experience, work six hours a week for four weeks during the summer interviewing residents of Cambridge and Boston. The information they collect is formed into script, written by the director (Bard), that the students then memorize and perform for an audience.

In past years, the project tackled subjects such as the achievement gap, school spirit/climate, and crossing borders. Last summer's project focused on justice, in particular, loyalty versus "snitching" and how justice affects every day life. After showing the council several scenes from a DVD of last summer's performance, Ms. Bard explained, "These projects change kids and motivate them to step up. We sell out each show. The people whose words are being spoken attend (with identifying details changed, of course), and it's very interesting."

On the day of the hour-length performance, the audience is encouraged to get involved with the performers and ask questions. Additionally, videos of these performances are used to spark school wide/public conversations with middle and high school students during the school year. Ms. Bard added, "I'm not sure if we'll do another program next summer, but I'd be happy to show the last summer's video to people who are interested."

Lesley to Renovate 16/18 Wendell St. Bldg.

Lesley University will begin a renovation project this spring at 16/18 Wendell Street, converting a student residence/office space into housing for 40 people. An old addition at the rear of the buildings will be removed to create a new one that will reconnect the two buildings. The back of the unit, which faces Mellon St., will become the primary entrance and exit for students and will include an accessible ramp. The front exteriors of both houses will not change. The immediate neighbors of 16/18 Wendell Street are other Lesley properties.

In regard to North Prospect Church, Lesley University is still in the process of hiring an architect for the renovation of the church and development of the property next to it. The Agassiz Preschool's lease has been extended for one year.

Harvard Law School Construction Mitigation Negotiated

Agassiz resident Joel Bard gave a brief update of the community's response to Harvard's proposed new Law School building at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Everett Street.

He stated, "A group of Agassiz and Neighborhood 9 residents are now starting to meet frequently with Harvard about the Law School building, which will be a very large structure. We're reviewing a process to assure that all impacts, construction-related and long-term, will be mitigated. We're also meeting with some frequency among ourselves and talking about long range planning issues for Mass. Ave."

Harvard LISE License Approved

Representatives of the Agassiz neighborhood led by Fred Meyer, city safety officials, and a professional consultant worked diligently for a number of months with Harvard University to ensure that storage, delivery, and use of arsine gas will be handled in a secure manner at the Laboratory for Integrated Science and Engineering (LISE) Building, under construction at Oxford Street. Stephen Diamond, ANC meeting chair, reported that the Cambridge License Commission passed Harvard's license to store gas and chemicals at the LISE building with the addition of the safety conditions the neighbors requested.

***CAH FUND HISTORY & OVERVIEW**

Established by Harvard University following the 2004 Harvard/Agassiz Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) related to Harvard's north campus expansion, the Cambridge/Agassiz/Harvard (CAH) supports programs that benefit the greater Cambridge community. Additionally, Harvard contributed 50 thousand dollars to plant street trees in the Agassiz neighborhood.

The first payment, made to the fund during the 2005/06 fiscal year, totaled \$200,000. \$28,327 was granted to three recipients. In 2006/07, three more grants were given, totaling \$49,492, for the following projects:

- Cambridge School-Afterschool Partnership Initiative
- Fieldtrip for Baldwin School Students (connected to School/Building Liaison grants)
- Time Banking

Cambridge Community Foundation, the CAH fund's fiscal agent, provided the figures above.



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ANC Community

TIME BANKING WITH ANC

A Time Bank is formed when a group of individuals agree to treat time as currency as a way to build and sustain community. For every hour spent helping someone, a person earns an hour's help in return. Time Banks reflect their members – who they are, the dreams they have, and the choices and decisions they make.

Learn more about how Time Banks work and discover ways to get involved. Join the ANC at a free evening event on February 15 that might change your life! See below for details.

The **Agassiz Neighborhood Council** in collaboration with **Cambridge College** and **TimeBanks USA** invites you to an exciting evening on:

Time Banking

With Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Edgar Cahn**

Free and open to all Cambridge residents
*Youth encouraged to attend

Date: Thursday -February 15th

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Location: Cambridge College
1000 Mass. Ave, Cambridge, MA

ANC thanks Dr. Cahn, Cambridge College, and the Cambridge Agassiz Harvard Fund for supporting this event.

Also, sign up now for **Free Time Banking Workshops!** Cambridge residents are welcome and youth are encouraged to attend. To sign up for a workshop, contact ANC Assistant Director Lynn Landon at (617) 349-6287 x12 or email her at llandon@agassiz.org. See details below.

Wednesday, March 7 9:30 – Noon
Cambridge College, 1000 Mass. Ave.

Saturday, March 10 9:30 – Noon
Agassiz Community Room, North Hall 1651 Mass. Ave.

Thursday, March 22 7:00 – 9:30 PM
Cambridge Citywide Senior Center
806 Mass. Ave, 2nd Floor

Saturday, March 24 9:30 – Noon
Agassiz Community Room, North Hall 1651 Mass. Ave.

Tuesday, April 3 9:30 – Noon
Cambridge College, 1000 Mass. Ave.

Wednesday, April 4 7:00 – 9:30 PM
Cambridge Citywide Senior Center
806 Mass. Ave, 2nd Floor

ANC THANKS OUR 2006 END-OF-YEAR DONORS

Donors - Gifts of \$100 or More

- Peggy Badenhause and Tom Kelly
- Joel and Betsy Bard
- Steven Bonsey and Elisabeth Keller
- Janet Burns
- Jon and Lenore Cummings
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Become a Donor!

Donations to the ANC provide valuable funds for many programs and services, including this newsletter. Donations also fund scholarships, community events, and mailings.

Tax deductible donations can be sent to: Agassiz Neighborhood Council, 20 Sacramento St, Cambridge, MA 02138.



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City Wide

SHOP LOCAL, THINK LOCAL, BE LOCAL

On Tuesday, February 6th, a panel of local Cambridge business owners will discuss the importance of supporting local businesses. Frank Browning (Harvard Book Store), Sally Lesser (Henry Bear's Park) and Michael Kanter (Cambridge Naturals) will talk about the changing Cambridge business environment and the consequences that arise from where each of us decide to make our daily purchases.

The talk is being hosted by the Cambridge Center for Adult Education, in partnership with Cambridge Local First, a network of locally owned and independent businesses working to build a strong Cambridge economy and community. Laury Hammel, co-founder of the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE) will anchor the panel.

To register or learn more call (617) 547-6789 x1. Visit CCAE online at www.ccae.org

- What:** Panel discussion, open to public
- Where:** The Cambridge Center for Adult Education at 56 Brattle Street in Harvard Square
- When:** Tuesday, February 6th, at 8:00 PM.
- Cost:** \$5



Agassiz School Programs

DONATIONS

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council is seeking donations (see list below) for our school programs. If you would like to help, please call (617) 349-6287 x10 or email Phoebe Sinclair at psinclair@agassiz.org. We appreciate your time and generosity!

- Digital video camera (with any peripherals like cords, batteries, tripod, etc.)
- Mac-friendly digital camera
- Serving platter

VACATION WEEK PLANS

Prepared by Afterschool Director Alex Lewis

Plans are shaping up for the February and April vacation weeks. In February we are planning a trip to the Natural History Museum and in April we have tickets to see Winnie-the-Pooh at the Wheelock Family Theatre. We have limited space for both trips, so for the museum priority will be given to the 4th and 5th graders, and for the theater priority will be given to K-3rd grade.

We are also hoping to have our very own marde gras during February vacation week. This will include learning about marde gras and making masks to wear in a procession on Friday.

Agassiz Afterschool February vacation week runs from Tuesday, February 20th through Friday, February 23rd.



Sacramento Street Gallery

The Sacramento Street Gallery Presents

Around the World: A Collection of Aquagraphs* by Robert Gardner

Long-time community member M. Robert Gardner exhibits 58 original pieces, priced from \$150 to \$175. Don't miss out on this impressive show! All proceeds will benefit the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center.

Dates: January 28 – March 16, 2007
Times: 9:00 to 5:00 PM, Mon. - Fri.

*What is an aquagraph? It is an enhanced giclee (pronounced zheeclay). A watercolor is painted, scanned into a computer, modified, spray-printed on watercolor paper, and then completed with more watercolor.

Definition prepared by Mr. Gardner



Community Calendar

February 2007

Wednesday, February 14	6:00 - 7:30 PM	ANC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Wednesday, February 14		Valentine's Day
Thursday, February 15	7:00 - 8:30 PM	ANC Free Community Event: Time Banking Cambridge College, 1000 Mass. Ave, Cambridge 1st Floor, Room 152
Monday, February 19		President's Day Vacation Sacramento St. Preschool, Baldwin School & ANC closed
Tuesday, February 20		Baldwin School vacation week through Friday, February 23
Wednesday, February 28	7:30 - 9:00 PM	ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St. All are welcome

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, 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. 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 FEBRUARY 2007



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