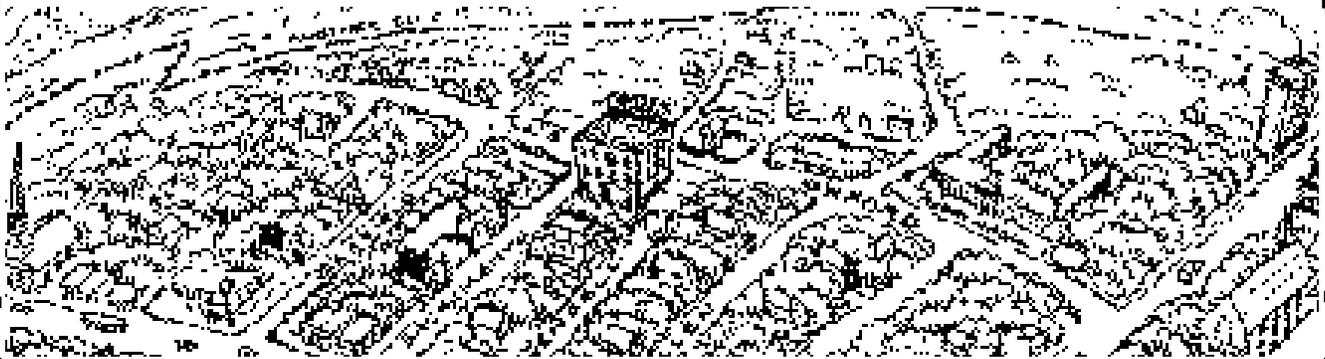


The Whistler

February 2002



Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council provides a forum for discussion and action in the community through monthly neighborhood council meetings and other committee meetings. Without consensus the ANC will not take a position on any issue, allowing all points of view to be posed and aired. In cases of neighborhood conflict on issues, the ANC will make every effort to provide a process that includes all points of view and works toward a solution that is acceptable to the majority.

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v ANC News v

ANC Meeting January 15

Harvard/Community Planning Begins

The meeting was opened by ANC Chairman **Joan Squeri** who explained to the audience of approximately 75 the new on-line presence being developed by the ANC. She suggested that folks go to discussion boards currently being offered at the **ANC web site (www.agassiz.org)** that will allow discussion between meetings among community members on issues of importance. One discussion board is for general Agassiz issues, the other discussion board is devoted to Harvard development issues. Others may be added if necessary.

Joan introduced **Willie Bloomstein** who has helped organize the community-based group response to Harvard development. He outlined the meeting format: first neighborhood residents would speak for five minutes each on the areas of concern to them and request specific information from Harvard. This block of time would be uninterrupted. Next, Harvard would respond and finally present an overview of the development that has been taking shape since last spring.

Officials attending:

State Representatives: **Alice Wolf** and **Jarrett Barrios**
Cambridge City Councillors: **Anthony D. Galluccio**, **Timothy Toomey, Jr.**, **Henrietta Davis**, **E. Denise Simmons** and **Brian Murphy**; and Cambridge Public Health Department **Sam Lipson**- Agassiz neighborhood speakers: **Willie Bloomstein**, **Dan Gilden**, **Liz Peoples**, **Shelly Krimsky**, **Kate Frank** and **Amelie Roarty**, Speakers from

Harvard University: **Mary Power**, **Dennis Carlone**, **Jim Batchelor**, **Charles Studen**, **David Zewinski**, **Phil Enquist** and **Dan Meltzer**.

Areas of Community Concern

1. Willie Bloomstein-community concern regarding the proposed new underground garage with access at Everett Street.
2. Daniel Gilden-Concerns on dismantling the cyclotron
3. Shelly Krimsky-Soil contamination and excavation
4. Liz Peoples-Impact on school area and students
5. Kate Frank-Public Health Issues
6. Amelie Roarty-Concerns with future North Campus projects

There were specific informational hand outs that will be mailed to interested community members on request by calling Jon McMullen, (617) 349-6287x23 or emailing him at jmcmullen@agassiz.org. [The cyclotron concerns appear later in *The Whistler*.]

Willie Bloomstein opened with serious concern over the underground garage plan that calls for only one egress from the garage. He mentioned traffic, parking and construction-related issues associated with this project. Harvard later responded that possibilities of egress at the Divinity School/Kirkland area could be investigated. **Daniel Gilden** expressed concern that the cyclotron demolition so far had been dictated by the deadline of removal, rather than com-

Agassiz Neighborhood Council

Next Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, February 12

7:30 p.m.

Agassiz School Dining Hall
28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Agenda:

Harvard Planning: the discussion continues. Go to our website at www.agassiz.org, and click on Harvard Discussion Board to see the latest information.

pleting a study first. [The application for the demolition of the Cyclotron was postponed until 2/7/02. For information on the Historical Commission meeting, see the calendar on page 8.] Dan suggested that permitting and licensing should be reviewed with the Department of Public Health.

Shelly Krinsky said this community-based group was created because no one at the city or state level is looking at the overall picture, just individual projects. The newly formed committee consists of concerned Agassiz residents who are looking at all current and future Harvard-related projects to get a better idea of what is truly happening. Shelly asked for the names and addresses of licensed site professionals who will oversee the projects.

Liz Peoples said that at the next School Advisory Council meeting in February (2/12/02 at 6:00 p.m.), they will discuss removal of the cyclotron and its effect on Agassiz school.

Kate Frank felt it was important to use this time and the future to look at establishing a policies for application of permits while looking at the public health aspect of the developments being permitted in the City.

Mary Power Responds for Harvard

Mary Power expressed support for the new Agassiz web page, and all the communication it can offer. She explained that while there have been many conversations about university planning over the past two years, this was the first of many discussions that would address university planning in a more comprehensive way. It was stated that the city council is creating a standing university/city group.

Harvard speakers provided an overview of the development to be discussed in upcoming meetings. **Dennis Carlone** explained the transitional zoning along the

Hammond/Gorham/Museum Streets edge that was planned with Agassiz neighbors. The zoning increases setbacks, provides pathways and open areas and reduces allowable heights for future development on Harvard property so that future buildings will respect the neighborhood scale. It will include a mixture of buildings that transition from heights similar to residents homes at the street to higher buildings after 100 feet.

Jim Batchelor provided an update on the underground garage. The only above ground features of this garage will be an elevator, emergency stairwells, and air intake/exhaust equipment.

Preliminary Principles for Urban Design were created for North Campus with respect to academic need expressed by faculty of the Law School and the Faculty of Arts & Sciences. They are mindful of the historical preservation, wish to increase and encourage pedestrian traffic. They are considering additional retail and improving the quality/character of the area visually.

At this point the urban design is extremely preliminary but they wish to eliminate surface parking lots, internalize service and loading whenever possible.

David Zewinski of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences discussed the need to increase the faculty for a better student/faculty ratio that will be more comparable to other Ivy League Schools. Additionally there are 5 centers that will be created: Center for Imaging and Viso Scale Structure (to increase computers speed dramatically); the Center for Genomic Research (in place of Gibbs Hall); the Neuroscience Center, the Computer Sciences Center and the Center for Studies on the Environment

Phil Enquist said that that the following buildings need to be replaced: Dunbar, Cyclotron, the Greenhouse, and the Substation.

Dan Meltzer of the Harvard Law School discussed the needs of the law school faculty. They wish to increase the faculty by 15, again to improve the student/faculty ratio, to create more of a social center for the students. It is possible to increase retail at North Hall, to create additional housing and to remove the garage at Everett Street and put the parking underground.

State Rep. Alice Wolf asked Mary Power if Harvard intended to take no action and develop no other buildings until a formal plan has been presented.

Mary responded that Harvard is interested in engaging the community in a discussion about long range plans in the North Yard area while proceeding with plans to replace parking



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Myra von Turkovich (Agassiz School Parent)
Jan Devereux (Agassiz School Parent)

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underground. Based on community discussions that began in 1998, Harvard would like to begin to design buildings at the Hammond edge to improve the attractiveness of the edge and establish a buffer.

Councilor Davis announced that the Gorham/Hammond plan can be commented on at the next public meeting 1/28.

State Rep. Barrios noted that Allston (going through similar woes) has input on what happens before the process starts, and that this should happen in Cambridge also. Harvard must understand that conversation matters before anything else is done.

Mary Power said that Cambridge and Boston are set up differently in terms of their planning: Boston requires only a relatively broad overview of individual projects to ensure consistency with the institutional master plan, whereas Cambridge requires specific project review before many boards that address very specific design and planning details.

Councillor Denise Simmons said that she is hopeful that the new town gown committee will work with all the universities in the area. She likes to think of Cambridge housing Harvard, rather than vice versa. She hopes for more interaction between neighborhoods (not just Agassiz neighborhood), since this is actually a citywide issue.

v More Harvard Development v

Concerns Regarding the Cyclotron Demolition

The decommissioning and demolition of the Harvard cyclotron facility is being planned for the immediate future in order to allow for the construction of an underground parking garage. The safe removal of the cyclotron is a complex procedure that requires great care in its planning and execution. The cyclotron has become significantly radioactive over the period of its operation and secondary contamination of the instrument's protective concrete vault may also have occurred. There is a concern that the requirements of the Harvard construction schedule is accelerating a process that should only be undertaken with due deliberation. The cyclotron is located directly adjacent to a residential neighborhood and any mishap or miscalculation in the removal process would have consequences for the health and safety of the people living in the area.

Cyclotron as a Radiation Source

The cyclotron is a nuclear research facility that uses radioactive materials to generate focused proton beams to study the effects of radiation on materials and devices. The radioisotopes that are used for the beam source are highly radioactive and the beam targets become radioactive in the course of the experiments. Over the fifty years of its operation parts of the cyclotron instrument have become contaminated. Furthermore radiation scattered from the beam's target area has led to an undetermined amount of contamination in the protective concrete vault. The background radiation in the neighborhood generated by the storage of radioisotopes in the building and internal secondary contamination has probably not been measurably elevated by the contamination. However, the demolition process poses containment problems since contaminants that are now well shielded in a monitored environment will be disturbed.

Removal Hazard

The three types of exposures that are of concern are associated with: 1) the removal of the highly radioactive instrument from the protective vault; 2) the transport of inventoried radioactive materials and wastes from the site; 3) the releases of activated concrete dust (specifically Cesium, Europium and Cobalt isotopes) and other un-inventoried forms of contaminated waste in the course of the demolition. The risks and process controls associated with each of these hazards needs to be well documented and be based on data on the levels of contamination. So far the neighborhood has not been given access to detailed plans of the demolition process that address the removal hazard. A developed plan would include: 1) a full site survey of radioactive contaminants; 2) a description of

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proposed protective protocols; 3) contamination release monitoring plans; 4) remediation plans and estimates of health and environmental impact if accidental releases occur.

Passive Decontamination

The half-lives of many of the contaminants in the cyclotron facility are relatively short. A 'cool-down' period of 5-10 years would not be inappropriate to allow for the natural decay of these materials to decreased radioactive levels. A demolition process that occurs after such a period would lead to lower risks to the community. The question should be posed to Harvard that if it were not for the desire to proceed immediately with North Campus development would the cyclotron decommission schedule include the immediate demolition with no cool-down period.

∨ **Neighborhood News** ∨

New City Councillors, Mayor, School Committee

Congratulations to City Councillors Henrietta Davis, Marjorie C. Decker, Anthony D. Galluccio, David P. Maher, Brian Murphy, Kenneth E. Reeves, E. Denise Simmons, Michael A. Sullivan and Timothy J. Toomey Jr. During the ceremony at an Inaugural Meeting on January 7, conducted by City Clerk Margaret Drury, the new City Council voted in a new **Mayor, Michael A. Sullivan, and Vice Mayor, Henrietta Davis.**

School Committee members for 2002 are Alan Price, Fred Fantini, Joe Grassi, Nancy Walser, Mayor and Chair Michael Sullivan, Vice Chair Alice Turkel, and Richard Harding.

Traffic and Transportation

EZRide Shuttle Service to North Station

Do you commute from north of Boston into Cambridge? If so, the EZRide Shuttle Service is for you. Starting January 14, the EZRide will connect the MBTA Commuter Rail and the MBTA Green and Orange Lines at North Station with Kendall Square, Cambridgeport, and other Cambridge destinations (including Technology Square, and University Park). Service will operate every 15 minutes from approximately 6:30am to 10:30am and 3:30pm to 8:30pm, Monday through Friday (except holidays). Look for a new and improved EZRide web site in the very near future, featuring full schedule, route, and stop information. You can also call the EZRide hotline for more information at 617-8EZINFO.

EZRide Sneak Preview Extended To 2/8

The Free Sneak Preview of the EZRide shuttle service has been extended until Friday, Feb. 8. Bright blue EZRide buses have been running since January 14, connecting North Station with Lechmere, Kendall Square, and Cambridgeport, with stops along the way. Starting on Monday, February 11, the EZRide will begin charging a fare. More information about the EZRide is available online at <http://www.ezride.info> or by calling 617-8EZRID (617-839-7433).

∨ **City Wide** ∨

Cambridge Water

Cambridge's new water treatment facility at Fresh Pond was in operation from Mar 9, 2001 until a major failure in early October. Since then, Cambridge has been on MWRA water. The Cambridge Water Department reports that the treatment plant should be back online at some point during January or February of 2002. Prior to the failure (triggered by an electrical disturbance in Everett) the Cambridge plant was producing remarkably high quality water. Financial responsibility for the plant failure and the cost of buying MWRA water in the interim is still unsettled.

From the *Cambridge Civic Journal* 1/20/02 online at <http://www.rwinters.com/>

Mid-Cambridge Street Tunnel Easement

At two recent public forums, neighborhood residents voiced vigorous, specific objections to Harvard University's request for an easement to build a tunnel on city land under Cambridge Street between Sumner Road and Prescott Street. Their objections centered on the impact of construction, risks to city utilities, and the project the tunnel would serve: the university's proposed Center for Government and International Studies (CGIS), formerly known as the Knafel Center. The first forum was a "community meeting" held by City Manager Robert Healy in City Hall Dec. 8, and the second was a Jan. 8 public hearing of the Cambridge Planning Board. Both meetings are part of the city's established process for considering sale of public land. This process will also require a hearing and a vote by the City Council.

Courtesy *Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association web site*. For more information on this issue, go to the website at <http://www.mcna.org/>.



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Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center News

New Volunteers Join Friends of the Art Center

There are many new people helping the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center in a variety of ways. They include Kathy Born, Joan Nordell, George Hein, Fay Chandler, and Amy Poorvu. They join other committee members in raising funds for the new building and planning programs for the new art center.

There was a Prentiss Street Open House on Sunday afternoon, February 27, at the home of Arlene and Daniel Holtzman. Terry DeLancey, Executive Director of the ANC and Wendy Prellwitz, architect, talked to the neighbors about the building and program plans. Neighbors plan to organize a special gift to the center from Prentiss Street. To host a small coffee or party on your street and introduce your neighbors to the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center, call Terry DeLancey at (617) 349-6287x17.

Look for a show this spring at Stanhope Framers Newbury Street location that will feature prints by Maud Morgan. Owner David Murphy will donate half of the proceeds from the sales to the building fund.



Agassiz Community School Programs

Middle School (6-8th Grade) After School Classes begin in early February. To receive a registration form, call or email Jenna Webster at (617) 349-6287x19 or <jwebster@agassiz.org> or to download a form go to <<http://www.agassiz.org/childrensprogram.html>>.

Courses:

COOKING Mondays, 3:30-5:00 PM

February 4-April 29, 2002 \$86

DRAMA Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 PM

February 5-April 23, 2002 \$86

VIDEO PRODUCTION Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30 PM

February 6-April 24, 2002 FREE

MODERN DANCE Thursdays, 3:30-5:00 PM

February 7-April 25, 2002 \$86

COMPUTER WORKSHOP 3:15-5:00 PM

Day To Be Announced No charge

For registration information or to visit Sacramento Street Preschool, Agassiz Afterschool or Outback Summer Program, call or email Jenna Webster at (617) 349-6287x19 or <jwebster@agassiz.org>

∨ Announcements ∨

Municipal Firefighter Exam April 27

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts will hold a Civil Service examination for Municipal Fire Fighter opportunities on Saturday, April 27, 2002. The deadline to file an application has been extended to Friday, February 15. If you or someone you know is interested in pursuing a career in firefighting, please encourage them to apply. Applications and information are available in the City of Cambridge Personnel office and at local fire stations.

To be eligible to take the exam, you must be 19 years of age by the February 15 filing deadline. At the time of appointment, you must have a high school diploma, G.E.D. certificate or have served for three years in the U.S. Armed Forces with an honorable discharge or release. The City of Cambridge is an Affirmative Action Employer. Women, people of color, veterans and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply. For more information on this opportunity, call the City of Cambridge Personnel Department at (617) 349-4332.

Become a Cambridge School Volunteer

Make a New Year's Resolution this year that really makes a difference! Resolve to tutor an elementary or high school Cambridge public school student. Cambridge School Volunteers, Inc., needs people of all ages and background to help in elementary classroom, libraries, homework centers and to tutor high school students. Tutors are needed immediately for Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School in all subjects and for after-school Learning Centers at each of the city's 15 elementary schools.

Just two (2) hours a week before, during, or directly after school CAN make a difference in a student's life as well as in yours. Call Cambridge School Volunteers, Inc. TODAY at 617-349-6794 or e-mail us at <CSV@cps.ci.cambridge.ma.us>.

Tutors Needed at Community Learning Center

Volunteers are needed to teach reading, writing, math and English to adults on mornings and evenings at the Cambridge Community Learning Center, a program of Cambridge Department of Human Services. The next training class will be held on Feb. 9. For more information, call Teresa at (617) 349-4481.

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Cambridge Receives Design Awards

The City of Cambridge received two Gold Awards for design from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts (ACEC/MA) on two of its largest capital improvement projects: the Walter J. Sullivan Water Purification Facility by Camp Dresser and McKee, and the **Crescent/Carver Neighborhood Sewer Separation and Storm Water Management Program** by S E A Consultants Inc. and Montgomery Watson Harza.

City Manager Robert W. Healy accepted the awards on behalf of the City at an ACEC/MA awards banquet held in January at the Newton Marriott Hotel.

Susan Glazer, New Deputy Director

Susan Glazer joined Cambridge Community Development Department at the beginning of the year. Before coming here, she was with an environmental and planning consulting firm for several years and with the City of Newton's Planning and Development

Department for 13 years prior to that. She also served on the Town of Needham's Planning Board for eight years and is still an associate member of their Zoning Board of Appeals.

**WINTER IS STILL HERE -
BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND
SHOVEL YOUR WALK!**
There are families with small children, people with infirmities and older residents that do not leave their homes if the sidewalks are not clear. IT IS THE LAW that homeowners clear sidewalks. If you see neighbors who disregard the law, you can call the hot line (617) 349-4903, and the DPW will give the neighbor one warning before issuing a \$25 ticket each day the sidewalk is not cleared. Sanding is not recommended because it clogs sewer pipes.

Thank You to everyone who supported our community with a donation to our End of the Year Fund 2001. Gifts support this free newsletter, children's program scholarships and other services, events and programs.

Donors - Special Thanks

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Maud Wilcox

v Cultural



Sacramento Street Gallery Presents
"Big Babies" Elijah Mirochnik
 A show of large format PHOTOGRAPHS
 February 15 - March 15

20 Sacramento Street, Open Weekdays 9-5

The Sacramento St Gallery is proud to present a show of photographs by Elijah Mirochnik. The artist says, "I chose to print these nine baby photographs 100 times larger than the size of the typical snapshots as a way of questioning the 'cute innocent baby' stereotype that is traditionally held ..." "My intention was to use advertising technology to portray, in large scale, each baby's features" Mr Mirochnik challenges the mythology that charming smiles, cuddly gestures and darling poses unite all children.

These photos have been taken over the last three years and are an extension of the photographic portraiture work that was started in the early 1980s when Mr Mirochnik studied visual arts and architecture at UC Berkeley, Columbia and the University of Maryland.

Sophia and Dad



Artists Reception Friday February 15 5 - 7 PM
Free - Public Welcome

7th ANNUAL HIP HOP FESTIVAL
Thursday, February 21

2 PM (doors open at 1:30)

Agassiz School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street

This program is designed for a school age audience

Boston-based **Origination** celebrates the influence of African dance on present traditions under the direction of choreographer Shaumba Yandje Dibinga, Origination specialize in hip-hop, jazz, tap, step, and Caribbean dance.

Boston-based **All Stylz Crew** is a breakdance hip-hop group featuring African-American and Asian American youth that combine different cultural backgrounds and dance styles

with old school fundamentals, acrobatic air and power moves. The group is led by George Lumpkins and David Shallow.

The Cambridge-based **Jam'nastics** performs a unique combination of high-energy and acrobatic urban dance influenced by Latin, African, jazz, and modern traditions.

Agassiz Afterschool students have been studying hip hop dance and will also perform. General Admission Tickets \$1. Cambridge School Groups Free. For information contact Jenna Webster, 617-349-6287 ext. 19.



Breakdancing on the Agassiz stage



Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

Sing Out!

UNITY, Lesley University's multi-cultural gospel choir, will hold an open gospel sing in celebration of Black History Month on Wednesday, February 6th, 2002 at 7:00 pm in Marran Theater (47 Oxford Street) on the main campus. All are invited to learn about the history of this music, and to join us in song! For more information about how you might join UNITY or about this event, contact the Division of Student Affairs at Lesley University, 617-349-8530 or Dr.Katherine Barone, UNITY faculty coordinator, at 617-349-8159.

Ford Hall Forum

Winter/Spring Series of Free Public Lectures

ALAN DERSHOWITZ AND HARVEY SILVERGLATE
 DEBATING CIVIL LIBERTIES POST 9.11
 Tuesday, February 12, 2002 at 6:30 p.m.

Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington Street, Boston

It has been said that September 11, 2001 changed everything. Civil libertarians are deeply divided by some elements of the government's response to the large-scale arrival of terrorism on our shores. The two basic poles of thought within the civil liberties community are represented by Alan Dershowitz, who says some compromises can and should be made, and Harvey Silverglate, who believes the Bill of Rights is a timeless document, suitable for all seasons.

Debating Civil Liberties Post 9.11, a public lecture and discussion led by Alan Dershowitz and Harvey Silverglate, will be presented by the Ford Hall Forum on Tuesday, February 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Old South Meeting House, located at 310 Washington Street in Boston. This program is free and open to the public.

Alan Dershowitz is a professor at Harvard Law School and a noted appellate lawyer and columnist. He has represented such clients as Claus von Bulow, O.J. Simpson, Anatoly Shcharansky, Michael Milken, Mia Farrow, and Mike Tyson. He lectures widely on legal and religious issues, appears frequently on television and radio, and is the author of numerous books, including Chutzpah, Reversal of Fortune, and the recently published Shouting Fire: Civil Liberties in a Turbulent Age.

Harvey Silverglate, a partner in the Boston law firm of Silverglate & Good, has specialized in the defense of criminal prosecutions - white collar, blue collar, and no collar - and the litigation of civil liberties matters for over 30 years. He writes a long-running criminal justice and civil liberties column for The Boston Phoenix and is the regular civil liberties columnist for The National Law Journal. He is also the co-author with Alan Charles Kors of The Shadow University: The Betrayal of Liberty on America's Campuses.

Community Calendar February 2002

Thursday, February 7	6:30 p.m.	Meeting to discuss demolition of cyclotron Cambridge Historical Commission Cambridge Senior Citizen 's Center, 806 Mass. Ave.
Friday, February 8	9-5 weekdays	String Theory by Joan Ryan - Drawings - Last Day of Show Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street
Tuesday, February 12	6:00 p.m.	ANC Board Meeting - Public Welcome 20 Sacramento Street, 2nd floor
Tuesday, February 12	7:30 p.m.	Agassiz Neighborhood Council (See agenda page 1.) Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento Street entrance
Friday, February 15	5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Artist 's Reception Big Babies by Elijah Mirochnik - Photographs Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street (See page 7.)
Monday, February 18 February 19-22		No School - President 's Day School Vacation
Thursday, February 21	2:00 p.m.	7th ANNUAL HIP HOP FESTIVAL (See page 7.) Agassiz School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street

For more events, meetings and details, go to the ANC website www.agassiz.org and click on the calendar

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, distribution 2,000. Call 349-6287 to be on the mailing list. Items of interest to the neighborhood may be submitted for consideration to address below, no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

The Whistler February 2002



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