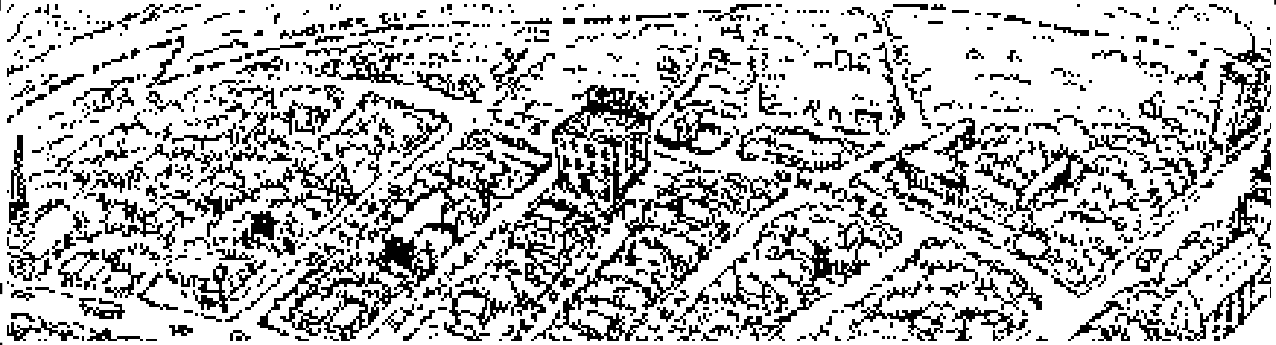


The Whistler

May 2002



Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

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∨ ANC News ∨

Notes from the April 23 ANC Meeting

ANC Board Chairperson Joan Squeri announced the Annual Meeting on May 21 (see box bottom right) and urged the community to attend and meet their board members.

Joan then introduced Vice President of Lesley University Affairs, Paul Karoff, who provided an overview for the Agassiz neighborhood on the Lesley University long-range planning currently underway.

A working group of Agassiz neighbors and Lesley staff was formed and met last fall. [It was agreed then that future meetings would be postponed until Lesley finished a marketing survey that could inform certain planning decisions.]

Paul mentioned the annual Town-Gown report that describes Lesley's community activities. Call him at (617) 349-8522 to receive their annual Town-Gown report, or to get further information on any subject.

New Acquisition

A few weeks ago, Lesley U. purchased the old Putnam Furniture building. They are planning on maintaining it as commercial space for the next several years.

Three Step Process

Paul described a three step process that included identification of university needs, consideration of property available and development of specific proposals to meet the goals. This process is currently underway.

1) Priorities/needs:

An internal process of long-range needs planning is underway. The assumption is that the university will grow significantly but outside of Cambridge. Currently

Agassiz Neighborhood Council

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday May 21, 2002

7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Refreshments

7:30 p.m. Election of ANC Board of Directors

8:00 p.m. Reception for Community and New Board Members

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Enjoy the company of friends and neighbors
while you meet new board members

there are 150 sites in 17 states, mainly graduate students in teacher training programs will fewer campus needs.

Arts Institute of Boston may come to Cambridge

Cambridge campus growth will be modest at most, and commuter student levels will remain the same. However, the Art Institute of Boston (AIB), acquired by Lesley several years ago is now one of Lesley's 6 schools, and it must find space when the lease on one of their two buildings is lost. Lesley must replace this leased building AIB currently occupies in Kenmore Square, either in Boston or elsewhere. Cambridge is a possible location.

SEWER WORK IS COMPLETED

for residents of Sacramento, Crescent, Carver, Museum, Wendell, Hammond, Howland, Gorham Streets and Gorham Street Extension.

These streets are now paved, and as sewer work continues in the neighborhood, these streets will not be dug up again. The work is finished for these residents!

In their marketing research, Lesley found that the AIB needs are not location specific but do include an excellent studio facility, good faculty, access to mass transit, and museums.

AIB offers both MFA and BFA degrees. It enrolls 550 students, 200 of whom must be housed. Currently AIB utilizes 60,000 square feet in its two buildings and makes use of dorms rented in Boston, with some students housed at Lesley.

Improvement and Consolidation

The School of Education is currently in 51 buildings between Porter Square and Everett Street. Lesley would like to consolidate the School of Education, increase/improve residence hall capacity consistent with enrollment planning, modernize and enhance library and classroom facilities, provide space for large-scale gatherings and events, address parking issues, improve accessibility of existing facilities and provide athletic facilities.

Lesley would like additional parking, possibly underground (it may be the only solution) to release pressure on both their campus and the neighborhood. Lesley would like to collaborate with Harvard on the parking problem.

All these needs may not be met, and some facilities may not be located in the Agassiz neighborhood. Athletic facilities and field needs may be satisfied with shared arrangements.

Space Options for Lesley in Cambridge

Lesley currently owns two large building lots on Mass. Ave. [across from the Porter Exchange from the White Hen Pantry to the large apartment building on the corner of Arlington Street. The property is intersected by Mt.Vernon Street]. It would likely include housing and first level retail

Another development parcel (once leases have expired) is the National Car Rental site at the corner of Wendell and Mass. Ave. Additionally, Lesley owns the parking lot behind the property.

On Lesley's Mellen Street campus there is property that Lesley is considering for development. It would mean the removal or relocation of several frame houses there.

Lesley will be considering these issues over the next 6-12 months.

Deadlines for Lesley development

Paul provided ANC with some important dates for Lesley in planning:

March 2005 AIB lease in Kenmore Square expires

December 2005- Smithsonian Astrophysics lab lease for 2nd floor of Porter Exchange (55,000 sq ft) expires

March 2006 - Lesley's lease at the Porter Square Galleria Mall expires

March 2006-Lesley's lease in Arlington on Broadway (25K square feet) expires

April 2006- 815 Somerville Ave lease expires

Community Concern

One resident stated that Lesley decided to acquire the AIB knowing the many space demands at Lesley. He questioned the wisdom of bringing more and larger demands that include housing and teaching. He suggested that Lesley keep the old buildings on campus where Lesley proposes possible new development.

Paul said the loss of AIB leases in Boston was unforeseen. Administration will not be duplicated, and Lesley is not looking to increase residences. Most of the growth will be outside of Cambridge (Allston, Brighton, and Somerville).

Concern was raised regarding the number of students who use cars to get to the Lesley campus. Paul did not know the number but offered to find out for the neighborhood. Paul ended by offering his phone number, (617) 349-8522, for Agassiz residents to be in touch on any of the planning issues currently on the table.


If you are interested in becoming part of the Lesley/Agassiz planning group, please contact Jonathan McMullen at (617) 349-6287x23.

Crime Watch

Crime Up in Cambridge


Sgt. Boyle, who is liaison to the Agassiz neighborhood, was unable to make it to a scheduled visit to the ANC at the April 23 meeting. He was going to report on the break in on Sacramento St. and other crime in Agassiz and Cambridge.

The following is taken from the Cambridge Police web site:
<www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CPD/crime/housebreak_new.html>



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Housebreaks 03/18/2002-04/18/2002

There were 32 housebreaks reported throughout the City in the past 30 days, an increase of 7% from last year. . . Of the eight housebreaks that have occurred within the past week, three had suspect descriptions including one event where maintenance workers were suspected of stealing the victims' purse, which contained a Palm Pilot, airline tickets, cash, and credit cards. An additional situation involved a roommate situation where one roommate has been breaking into another roommate's room and stealing several unnamed items. The remaining 5 breaks included four breaks that were categorized as 'professional', being that the breaks were successful and no evidence was left behind. The remaining incident was an attempted break that happened last night when a resident of an apartment complex on Linnaean St. noticed woodchips in front of the door and the door ajar. It was evident that the door had been damaged with a crowbar.

Sector 3/Cambridgeport & Riverside, accounts for a little more than one third of the total number of housebreaks, with 11. Previously identified in the housebreak pattern, this area is beginning to taper off. Clusters of breaks have been seen in East Cambridge on Third and Fifth Sts., as well as Inman/Harrington on Elm and Columbia Sts. Five breaks occurred in Riverside, three of which took place on Western Ave. The most likely time for these breaks in on a Thursday during the first shift. This has been the most frequent times for housebreaks. As in the past, perpetrators target high priced items such as TVs, computers, jewelry, cash, and valuables.

ANC will reschedule another visit in June with Sgt. Boyle. For more specific information, call him at 349-3383 or <fb Boyle@cambridgepolice.org>.

Harvard Development Update

Update on the Harvard Vivarium

There have been some reports into the ANC that Harvard has put plans for a vivarium on a fast track. Mary Power has provided this update for the neighborhood:

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences is designing an underground vivarium facility to be located below the courtyard

of the Biological Laboratories. The facility will be approximately 70,000 square feet and will replace the existing vivarium that is located (above-grade) in the Biological Laboratories building. The vivarium supports research groups conducting neuroscience research involving transgenic mice. The new facility will employ the latest technology and will comply with all zoning, building code, health, and safety requirements. Access improvements for persons with disabilities to the Biological Laboratories (through which the facility will be accessed) are part of the scope of work. Siting this important facility below-grade enables Harvard to make the facility very secure and preserve valuable campus open space by restoring the courtyard below which the facility will be located once it is constructed. Although designed to conform to current zoning regulations, the Vivarium project will require zoning relief from the BZA due to its connection to the Biological Laboratories. The Biological Laboratories is legally non-conforming for zoning due to a side yard setback, since it was built before the adoption of particular setback regulations. Advisory review by the Planning Board often precedes the BZA public hearing. The project could potentially go to a BZA public hearing in the late Summer or Fall of 2002.

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences is also planning a facility that would house research initiatives for the interdisciplinary study of mesoscale structures and materials. The building will be approximately 116,000 SF in size and would join other existing science buildings, including Gordon McKay and Cruft Laboratories. Zoning relief from the Board of Zoning Appeal ("BZA") due to the connections to existing buildings with legal non-conformities, will be required. Advisory review by the Planning Board often

precedes the BZA public hearing. The project could potentially go to a public hearing in the Spring of 2003.

Information about both of these projects has been shared with the Joint Committee for Neighborhood and Harvard consultation since late 2001, and was also described at the January 15, 2002 meeting of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council.

For further information about these projects, please contact Mary Power, Senior Director of Community Relations, at 617 495-4955 or email her at: <mary_power@harvard.edu >

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Harvard Law School Discusses Plans

At an April 9 meeting in Pound Hall, Agassiz residents met with Harvard Law School staff to discuss preliminary ideas regarding Law School development.

The Law School would like to take down Wyman Hall, a dormitory on Mass. Ave, and the Law School would like to take down the Everett St. Parking Garage (located at the corner of Everett and Mass. Ave.) and replace it with an underground facility in the same place. This would be replaced with a new academic quad that would present a more welcoming corner and open space on Mass. Ave.

Several frame houses owned by Harvard Law might also be moved to another location. Hammond Street was mentioned as a possible new site.

Much concern was raised about the future of the commercial strip (and its tenants) currently located between Everett and Mellen Streets, which is known as the Bence Site. This block includes Three Aces Pizza, Central Barbershop, Crimson Cleaners and Looks. Residents stated the importance of a vital residential strip along Mass. Ave. for safety and conveniences for residents who live behind it.

There was general concern regarding construction issues and the overall issues of both Harvard and Lesley squeezing the neighborhood from both sides with development. There was some agreement that the law school development would be preferred to the science centers and associated labs.

Agassiz residents were told about three options currently on the table for a Harvard move to Allston that would alleviate space pressure on the University. One would move administration and museums to Allston, and this was the least attractive. The two most likely scenarios are either to move the Law School with other professional (graduate) schools and some administrative services or site the five science centers with some administrative services.

Pressures on the Law School for space are so serious that Harvard President Summers has allowed erection of new Law School buildings in spite of the possible move. These buildings must be generic enough to change use if the Law School is moved.

This meeting was cordial with residents asking many important questions. Another meeting will be scheduled for late spring. One business tenant ended the session with concern for his business: he didn't know how to plan for the future, and hoped Harvard would have some answers soon.

**Slate for May Election at
ANC ANNUAL MEETING MAY 21**

Nominees for Board of Directors

Willie Bloomstein, Vice Chairperson	Crescent Street
Denise Dussault, Treasurer	Cambridge Trust
Andrea Walsh	Eustis Street
Burt Doo	Prentiss Street
Miriam Goldberg	Frost Street
Dave Wood	Gorham Street

Returning Directors in mid-term:

Doug Varden, Chairperson	Frost Street
Sue Bergin, Chairperson	Winter Street
Wendy Prellwitz, Parent Rep	Wendell Street

Sacramento Field Entrance Open

The Sacramento Place entrance to the Sacramento Field has been open for some time, and the original easement has been upheld in court. There is a sign at the entrance, and people who use the field are reminded to respect the posted regulations.

There are now once again two legal entrances to the field, although the main entrance, accessible through the parking lot next to 5 Sacramento St., is the only one accessible by a vehicle.

v City-Wide News v

**Cambridge Fire Department Alert:
Regulation change on LP-Gas Cylinders**

As of April 2, 2002, a new regulation on propane gas cylinders will take effect which requires all tanks to have an overfill protection device. All cylinders used for backyard barbecues will have to have an overfill protection device.

If your gas tank is more than a few years old you may not be in compliance. Refilling stations will not refill those tanks not in compliance. For questions, call Captain Lawrence Ferazani at the Cambridge Fire Department (617) 349-4944 or Public Works at (617) 349-4800.

Propane gas cylinders restricted to 20 Lb tank size and under will be accepted at the four Cambridge Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days scheduled for 2002. The next hazardous waste day will be on Saturday, June 22. The drop off area for hazardous waste is located in the back yard of the Concord Avenue Armory (450 Concord Avenue). For more information or questions, please call the Recycling Hotline/HHW Info Mailbox at (617) 349-4005 or the Cambridge Department of Public Works at (617) 349-4800.

Cambridge Receives \$21,832 Recycling Grant

Congratulations to the Cambridge Recycling Division of Public Works who was awarded a Municipal Recycling (in-kind) Grant valued at \$21,832 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The grant includes 54,838 consumer education mailers, 20 home composting bins, 400 home composting brochures, 4,200 multi-family education door hangers and 1,001 setout containers. Cambridge was selected for the grant because it has demonstrated a commitment to enhance its recycling program.

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OUTBACK SUMMER PROGRAM
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AGASSIZ RECEIVES \$25,000 LOYD GRANT

LOYD (Leadership Opportunities for Youth with Disabilities) had provided funding to help ANC with several initiatives that will improve and enhance ANC after school programs. Funded through private and public foundations and overseen by Boston's Disability Law Center, LOYD is a five-year project to help youth agencies better serve youth with disabilities.

With the guidance of the LOYD consultant, ANC staff identified six initiatives for improving accessibility. These six initiatives, each emphasizing sustainability, include:

1. Disability awareness training for Agassiz Afterschool supervisory staff, with emphasis on specific disabilities.
2. Updating of the Agassiz Afterschool staff manual, with creation of general guidelines for serving youth with disabilities.
3. Periodic specialist consultations for Agassiz Afterschool staff to address the needs of Afterschool children with identified and/or perceived disabilities.
4. In consultation with a specialist, review and reprinting of ANC youth program literature (brochures, registration papers, medical forms, etc.).
5. Strategic planning, including development of Agassiz Afterschool mission statement and five year plan and creation of an ANC policy statement on serving youth with disabilities.
6. Support of handicap accessibility improvements to the first floor of ANC's historic Victorian program and office building at 20 Sacramento Street

ANC staff are currently reviewing the timeline for these initiatives. If you have any questions or concerns about these efforts please do not hesitate to contact Jenna Webster, ANC Administrative Director, 617-349-6287, ext. 19, or email <jwebster@agassiz.org>.

Upcoming Event Dates

May 7, Tuesday 4:30 p.m. Agassiz School Stage
Agassiz Afterschool Dance Performances

May 8, Wednesday 4:30 and 6:00 p.m. Agassiz School Stage
Agassiz Afterschool Players (4th-5th grades)

v Announcements v

Alice Wolf Holds Office Hours in Agassiz

On Friday, May 17 from 8:30-10 a.m. Cambridge based State Representative Alice Wolf will hold office hours in the Agassiz neighborhood at the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento Street, on the second floor.

Anyone who is interested in meeting with her should call her offices at the State House and make an appointment, (617) 722-2070.

**Support Your Community and
volunteer with our friends at
MILLENNIUM
PHARMACEUTICAL**
ON SATURDAY MAY 18 from 10am-3pm
AT 20 Sacramento Street
**for a backyard and Community Center
spring cleaning and spring fix up**
Light breakfast at 10, come one hour or stay all day.
Call Kelly Tyler at (617) 349-6287x12
<kt Tyler@agassiz.org

Long Time Agassiz Resident Seeks Apartment

Agassiz resident will lose his apartment due to landlord renovations. Seeks new apartment in Agassiz neighborhood. Please contact Jonathan McMullen 349-6287x23 or <jmcmullen@agassiz.org> if you have an apartment to lease.

Radcliffe Seminars Relocate Programs & Close

Over the past year, Radcliffe has worked to transform itself into an outstanding Institute for Advanced Study. It was decided that the Radcliffe Seminars programs would no longer fit with the new mandate. It was also decided that closing the programs would be a great loss for the community which the programs served for over 50 years. It was necessary to find new homes for the Radcliffe Seminars programs.

On July 1 the landscape program will be transferred to Harvard's Arnold Arboretum and the arts and writing program will be transferred to Lesley University. Both institutions will be a good fit for the seminars.

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Sacramento Street Gallery

20 Sacramento Street Open Weekdays 9-5

Opening May 24, Friday 5-7 p.m.
Split Competition



"Paper Box" by James DeLancey

"Competition" by James Ransavage

University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth students James DeLancey and James Ransavage present a show of photography, painting, mixed media and design. The work reflects their years of study in the visual arts.

DeLancey majors in graphic design with a special interest in typography. His paintings display a spontaneity that can only be found in the creative ideas, not the final pieces of a designer.

Ransavage works mainly in photography. Many of the photographs that will be displayed depict scenes of the Massachusetts Southeastern shore around the New Bedford area both indoor and out.

Both artists are Seniors at UMass Dartmouth and will receive BFA degrees this year.

Through May 17, Friday NoCa:
Art from a Cambridge Neighborhood

Work by: James Banks, David Borrus, Marci Davis, Catherine Ezell, Jennifer Fuchel, John Heymann, Janet Hobbs, Kathy Jenkins, Daniel Kamman, Vicki Kocher Paret, Joan McCandish, K.D. Mernin, Jeannie Motherwell, Kaz Naganuma, Donald Quincy, Deborah Silverstein, and James Zell. NoCa Arts will be holding their **Fifth Annual All Arts Open Studios on May 4 and 5** where more than 20 artists will open their doors to the public. For more information, visit the website at <www.noca-arts.org>.



Thanksgiving 2000 by James Banks

Eighth Season

Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children Presents

Wednesday, May 15



The Brothers Grimy

2:00 p.m. Agassiz School Stage
28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Admission \$1.00

For information call (617) 349-6287

Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimy. Yes, that's right-Brothers Grimy! Posing as a janitor, puppeteer Preston Foerder takes a Brothers Grimm tale to a new level. Sponges, mops, and even garbage cans are transformed into characters and settings: toilet bowl scrubbers become a forest, a sopping sponge becomes an enchanted frog! Foerder's Fairy Tales is the final performance in the 2001-2001

Introducing Art Series, which has focused this year on the various forms and genres of the myriad art of puppetry.

The performances occur on Cambridge Public Elementary School "release days" at 2 p.m. on the Agassiz School Stage. Agassiz Afterschool students attend all performances free of charge, and performers are invited to work with the children in Afterschool in special workshops related to the events. Other Cambridge afterschool programs are also invited to attend these performances free of charge. This program is funded through a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The series will begin again next school year. Check in this fall at www.agassiz.org for more information on the upcoming season.





Maud Morgan
Visual Arts Center News

The Spring/Summer edition of the Maud Morgan News Update will be out early this month. There are many interesting events that will be reported on including a Capital Campaign Meeting held on April 4th, an elegant event at Barefoot Books that will provide a portion of funds to the art center, and a trip to Yale for an exhibit that featured a work by Maud Morgan.

We will also let you know about some wonderful upcoming events that will celebrate the arts and help with our fund raising efforts. As of now we have raised \$762,535.

The ANC Board has approved the architectural contract to begin the formal design process. This design work is well underway, and the architects, Prellwitz/Chilinski Associates,

should have updated designs by next month. This work will lead to full construction documents in the during the summer months.

Program work is still ongoing, and staff are visiting other art centers all over the northeast. In this way we will see both teaching and buildings that work well in an art center. It will provide the research so necessary to an excellent arts program.

If you would like more information or to receive future newsletters, please contact us at maudmorganarts@agassiz.org or call Jonathan McMullen at (617)349-6287x23.

Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

Cambridge Community Chorus Concert May 19

The Cambridge Community Chorus presents its annual spring concert on Sunday, May 19, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. at Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge. The concert will feature the North American Premiere of Luis Bacalov's MISA TANGO and a performance of J.S. Bach's MAGNIFICAT.

Misa Tango is scored for mezzo-soprano, baritone and bandoneón soloists with mixed chorus and orchestra. This performance, conducted by Music Director William Thomas, will feature Gale Fuller, mezzo-soprano, Robert Honeysucker, baritone and Hector Del Curto, bandoneón. The bandoneón, considered by many to express the soul of tango, is an accordion-like instrument often featured in Argentinean tango music.

Call (617) 496-2222 for tickets or information, or visit the web site at <www.cambridgechorus.org>. Tickets are \$10.

**May is DanceMonth in Cambridge
Kickoff Party May 4**

May is DanceMonth in Cambridge, a citywide celebration of the movement arts sponsored by the Mayor's Office and the Dance Complex. Now in its 10th year, DanceMonth focuses on the richness and diversity of this art as it permeates our town, from concert stages, to parks, to classrooms, then to unexpected venues with the much anticipated Dance Distractions.

The Kick Off Party is Saturday, May 4, from 8 p.m. - 11 p.m., at the Dance Complex, 536 Massachusetts Avenue. Find event information and a schedule on the web at: <<http://www.dancemonth.com/events.htm>>

Annual Dance Concert May 10 and 11

The Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School presents New Works by Student and Faculty Choreographers on Friday May 10 and Saturday May 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is free, and the event will be held in the CRLS Fitzgerald Theater at 459 Broadway. For more information, call (617) 349-6788.

Events At Sanders Theater

Call the Box Office for Tickets 617.496.2222. .

May 2- May 5 ARTS FIRST EVENTS.

Call (617) 495-8676 for schedules of all events and more information.

Sunday, May, 05 8:00 PM Anoushka Shankar

**Friday, Saturday May, 10/11 8:00 PM
Carl Orff: Carmina Burana-Harvard Radcliffe Chorus**

Sunday, May, 12 8:00 PM
Third Annual Benefit Concert for The Farm School

Thursday, May, 16 8:00 PM Coro Allegro

Friday, May, 17 8:00 PM Eileen Ivers

Saturday, May, 18 8:00 PM 25th Anniversary Concert:
Bach, Brahms, Ravel Harvard Learning in Retirement

Sunday, May, 19 3:00 PM Mostly Mozart with Shifrin -
Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra

**Sunday, May, 19 7:30 PM
Cambridge Community Chorus (announcement to left)**

Sunday, Jun, 02 3:00 PM Farewell to Cambridge Concert
Harvard Glee Club
Sanders is Located at 45 Quincy Street



Two Brattle Square, Cambridge, MA 02138

Carol Kelly

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

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Community Calendar May 2002

Saturday, Sunday May 4 and 5		NoCa Open Studios - See page 6.
Sunday, May 12		Mothers Day
Wednesday, May 15	2:00 p.m.	The Brothers Grimy -Puppet Performance - See page 6 Agassiz School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street Entrance
Friday, May 17	8:30-10:00	State Representative Alice Wolf Office Hours - See page 5 Agassiz Community Center 20 Sacramento Street 2nd floor
Saturday, May 18	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Volunteer Work Day to Spring Clean the Community Center 20 Sacramento St. - See page 5
Tuesday, May 21	6:00 p.m.	ANC Monthly Board Meeting- Public Welcome 20 Sacramento Street 2nd Floor
Tuesday, May 21	7:30 p.m.	ANC ANNUAL Meeting - See page 1 Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento Street Entrance
Friday, May 24	7:30 p.m.	"Split Competition" Work by 2 UMass Students James DeLancey and James Ransavage - See page 6 Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street
Monday, May 27		Memorial Day Holiday - Cambridge Schools Closed

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 May 2002



AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
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 www.agassiz.org email: whistler@agassiz.org

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