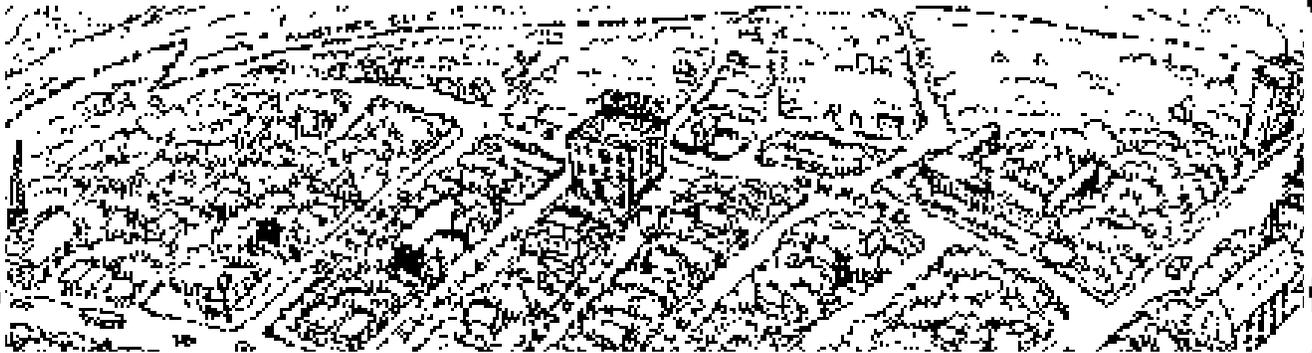


# The Whistler

June 2001



Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

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Artist Frank Stella speaks at the May 6 Gala. (See page 4)



## ∨ ANC News ∨

### Notes from the ANC ANNUAL Meeting May 22

The ANC elected Doug Varden as a new member of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council Board of Directors. Returning directors also elected were: Joan Squeri, Chairperson; Sal Sagarese, Treasurer; Sue Bergin, Clerk; and Paul Lenart, Parent Representative. Continuing directors are Helen Lambert, Vice Chairperson; Fred Willey, and Benadette Manning, Parent Representative.

Staff were honored for many years of service. Dawn Greene Brown, Afterschool and Outback Summer Camp Director, was honored for 20 years of service to the neighborhood council with a gold locket for herself and one for her baby daughter. Dawn began her career with ANC in 1981 as a work study student from Lesley College when she was a freshman. Terry DeLancey, Executive Director, was also honored with 20 red roses. She and Dawn began their careers at the ANC in the same year.

drain and sewer installation work, has proven more difficult than expected and is taking the contractor longer than he anticipated. We now expect that the work will be completed as follows:

- new sewer main line installation was completed on May 14,
- sewer services will be completed by June 1,
- new drain line and drain stubs to private property, catch basins and manholes will be completed by June 1.

Due to this situation, our original mid-May schedule cannot be met. What we now propose is that rather than returning in mid-summer to put the structural paving course

## ∨ Neighborhood News ∨

### Sewer Construction

(Taken from the internet. For more information on sewer construction, go to <[www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org)> and click on Links to Cambridge DPW for sewer construction or call 617 349.6287.) May 18, 2001

TO: Wendell Street Residents

RE: Construction Schedule Change

At the meeting held on Tuesday, April 24, we informed you that all the construction work on Wendell Street associated with the sewer separation and storm water management project would be completed by mid-May.

Unfortunately the work is taking longer than expected to complete. The removal of the support of excavation piles for the tank installation that is being done as part of the

## Agassiz Neighborhood Council

Next Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

7:30 p.m.

Agassiz School Dining Hall

28 Sacramento Street Entrance

**Agenda:** A representative of Lesley University will brief the neighborhood on plans to respond to the variance requirement that Lesley return its current dormitory at 10 Sacramento Street to community housing by the end of the calendar year. There was lengthy discussion of this issue -- both the university's plans and the neighbors' positions -- at the April 3 meeting. At that meeting, Lesley agreed to craft more specific plans and report back to the neighborhood.

(binder) on the street, we will do this immediately after the utility work is complete, thereby eliminating the need for more extensive construction work during the summer time. We expect that this work will be completed by June 22nd. Once this work is completed, all that will remain is the final paving course and the sidewalk reconstruction, which will be done in late summer. We will inform you as to when this work is scheduled for your street once the schedule details have been worked out. We understand and apologize for the frustration and disappointment that this notice engenders but feel it is important to share this news with you. However, the positive news is that, even with this schedule change, the overall completion schedule is still planned for November of this year. If you have any questions about the schedule change, please contact Ray Elie, Chief Resident Engineer for S E A Consultants Inc., (see box) or me at 617/349-4845. Sincerely, Owen O'Riordan, P.E City Engineer.

tee and to formulate recommendations for their solution. The Study Committee will address issues such as traffic, parking, housing affordability and home ownership, neighborhood commercial areas and employment, park maintenance, and rezoning of areas now inappropriately zoned. The Study Committee has taken a break for the summer and will resume meeting on September 12, 2000. The Study Committee meets twice a month on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM at the Agassiz School located on Sacramento Street. Members of the Committee include the following:

- \* Fred Meyer
- \* Willie Bloomstein
- \* Dave Wood
- \* Joel Bard
- \* Amy Barad
- \* Miriam Goldberg
- \* Deborah Galef
- \* Ross Hoffman

**SEWER CONSTRUCTION - CONTACTS**

Field Office	Eric Reed	661-7403
	Ray Elie	354-8216
Community Relations	Judy Kavanagh	498-4710

Block Captains:

Helen Lambert	Sacramento St.	661-0690
Chantal Fujiwara	Museum St.	661-6488
Kate Frank	Crescent St.	547-5174
Amy Barad	Eustis St.	492-6640

**DPW 24 hour emergency service 349-4860**  
 Check the kiosk at Agassiz or DPW Web Site for updates:  
<http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~TheWorks/>

❖ **Lesley University** ❖

**10 Sacramento Street Plan to be Discussed**

At a meeting on April 3, Agassiz residents learned that Lesley wished to delay the return of 10 Sacramento St. to community housing on the date of 12/11/01, a 1996 zoning variance requirement.

A letter was sent on May 4 to Lesley from R.R. Berssani, Commissioner of Inspectional Services asking Lesley to "provide to this Department a schedule of actions that are planned to insure these requirements (Lesley property at 10 Sacramento St. be converted into three residential units ) of the zoning variance will be met . . . "

**Agassiz Study Group Winds Up**

The group will likely provide the neighborhood with recommendations after their intensive study of the Agassiz neighborhood sometime in June. Call the ANC at 617 349-6287, and you will be informed when the meeting occurs.

The Agassiz Neighborhood Study Committee was formed in spring, 2000. The nine member Committee, appointed by the City Manager, is conducting a comprehensive planning study of the Agassiz neighborhood working jointly with the Community Development Department (CDD). The object of the neighborhood studies is to identify major planning opportunities through a joint CDD and community commit-



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**Carol Kelly**  
**Myra von Turkovich (Agassiz School Parent)**  
**Jan Devereux (Agassiz School Parent)**

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In a return letter dated May 17, Lesley responded that they "will be engaging in consultation with the immediate abutters and other members of the Agassiz neighborhood during the coming days. On the basis of those ongoing discussions, we expect to be in a position to brief your office, members of the Agassiz neighborhood and other interested parties within the next few weeks about Lesley's plans for the 10 Sacramento Street property."

There are several interested residents currently working on this issue. If you are interested in joining in on the discussions, please call the ANC and you will receive information and notice of any meetings.

The ANC meeting on June 19 will address this issue. See page one for details on the June ANC meeting.

## ❖ Harvard University ❖

### Harvard & Cambridge Summer School Partnership

Harvard University and Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) announced today a new partnership to create The Cambridge-Harvard Summer Academy, a summer school program for Cambridge students.

The academy, to be launched next month, will bring teacher interns from Harvard Graduate School of Education's (GSE) teacher education programs together with master teachers from Cambridge Public Schools to enhance the city's existing summer school program. The academy will offer smaller classes and more individualized attention for students by increasing the teacher-to-student ratio by 80 percent. In an effort to boost student learning and subject mastery, the academy will extend the current summer school program from four to five weeks and hold classes five, rather than four, days a week.

Harvard University, through the office of the President, is making a \$1 million commitment by providing programmatic support and academic services through the involvement of faculty, students, and administrators over a five-year period beginning this summer. "This is just the beginning of this kind of work," said Rudenstine. "It's now our job to let the people who really know how to do this design the program."

In its first year, the Cambridge-Harvard Summer Academy will offer courses in mathematics, English, and social studies to approximately 350 students who will benefit from additional academic support. In subsequent years the academy will expand in size and content and will aim to open its courses to all Cambridge high school students interested in advancing their studies over the summer.

## ∨ Announcements ∨

### Terry DeLancey to receive CCTV Leading Role Award

Cambridge Community Television has announced that the winner of the Leading Role Award for this year will be Terry DeLancey, Executive Director of ANC. This award honors those who work tirelessly behind the scenes on behalf of the Cambridge community. The award will be given on September 13 at the CCTV Annual Barbecue located in the backyard at 675 Mass. Ave. in Central Square.

For more information contact CCTV at 661-6900.

### Carpenter Needed

ANC is looking for a carpenter or handyman to provide labor on a monthly basis at the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento Street. ANC will provide materials, but person must have their own tools. Call Kelly Tyler at 617.349.6287 between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to discuss salary, etc.

This is an opportunity to serve your community and get paid for it!

### Tenants' Rights Workshop Tuesday, June 19

The Eviction Free Zone (EFZ) is presenting a free workshop on tenants' rights. Tenant lawyer Joe Carreiro and a representative from Cambridge/Somerville Legal Service (CASLS) will explain your legal rights and answer questions from the audience.

It will be held at the Cambridge Senior Center, 806 Mass. Ave. in Central Square, Cambridge from 5:45-8:00 p.m. Spanish and Kreyol translators will be available, and light refreshments will be provided. Call 617 354-1300 to reserve a space.

### Intergenerational Literacy

Are you age 55+? Consider joining the Intergenerational Literacy Program to give Cambridge Public School first graders a better start in learning to read and write. No teaching experience needed. Tutor the same student twice a week during the school year, and participate in a remarkable learning opportunity. Attend regularly scheduled training seminars with fellow volunteers to share effective tutoring strategies and materials. All ILP tutors are trained, supported and supervised by staff. Interviewing now for the fall. Call 617.349.6794 or email <CSV@cps.ci.cambridge.ma.us> for information.

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# May 6 Event a Great Success for the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center



The event was billed as a gala in the style and spirit of Maud Morgan, and it was just that. The former Busch Reisinger Museum, alive with lilacs and other spring flowers, created a special setting for the remarkable gathering of people who came to honor Maud Morgan and support the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center. There was jazz played in the garden, food and drinks enjoyed around the fountain, a photo display and film featuring Maud, roses handed to the guests from a flower girl's basket, and a May Sunday that could only have been arranged by Maud herself.

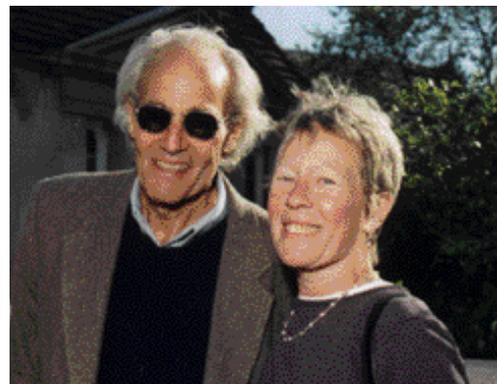
*Agassiz residents Ed Chase and Fred Willey chat in the sunshine at the May 6 event. Fred is a member of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council Board of Directors.*



*Betty Taymor talks with Alvene Williams as Brown Miller looks on in the garden of the former Busch Reisinger Museum, donated for the day by Harvard University*



Speakers at the May 6 event included artists Frank Stella and Mags Harries, State Representative Alice Wolf, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Director Anne Hawley, and ANC Chairperson, Joan Squeri. They remembered Maud Morgan as friend, mentor, teacher and generous spirit. They stressed the need for a visual arts center in Cambridge, and urged the guests to support the building fund for the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center.



*Left: David Murphy of Stanhope Framers at the April 27 Maud Morgan Exhibit and Sale, with one of the many Maud Morgan prints he donated to ANC.*

*Above: Lex Morgan and Vicky Benedict, children of Maud Morgan at the May 6th event who donated a variety of their mother's collages, drawings and paintings. Sales benefit the Maud Morgan Visual Art Center building fund. Over \$50,000 has been raised in art sales from the exhibit.*

Community School BBQ June 6  
See page 7 for details



## Agassiz Community School Programs

The final week for Sacramento Street Preschool is June 11-15. The final day of Afterschool is Tuesday, June 19.

### FALL AFTERSCHOOL, K-5

Registration is continuing for the 2001/02 school year. The Agassiz Afterschool program offers stimulating and enriching activities for children in a safe environment with experienced teachers, with a focus on activities and programs in the arts. This includes a performance series and special workshops by the performing artists. Children may register for one day (\$56 per month), two days (\$112 per month), three days (\$168 per month), or full time (\$299 per month) of after school care.

Get your registration form in soon, programs fill up quickly.

Call 617-349-6287 for an application or more information.

Parents are welcome to visit our programs. Please call 617-349-6287 for a visit or for more information.

### OTHER PROGRAMS

#### Basketball, Computer Classes and Baby Groups

These programs are planned to resume next fall. Check back in September or call the ANC for information.

### OUTBACK SUMMER DAY CAMP

Space is going fast for Outback. This fun-filled summer program (for children who will be entering the 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades in the fall) will run for eight weeks beginning June 25 and ending August 17. Outback is in session Monday through Friday from 8:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. with an extended day option available until 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$121 per week for regular day and \$158 per week for extended day.

### SACRAMENTO STREET PRESCHOOL

The Sacramento Street Preschool is fully registered for the 2001/02 school year but spaces sometimes become available. To place your child on a waiting list, call Diane DiMaina.

CALL 617 349-6287 for further information on any program.

## v Agassiz Public School v

### Forum to Renaming Agassiz School

On May 10, an open community discussion of the proposal to rename the Agassiz School in honor of former headmistress Maria Baldwin was held. The meeting was sponsored by the Agassiz School Advisory Council, and was attended by about 60 parents, students and neighbors of the school. Principal Sybil Knight opened the meeting and introduced City Councillor Ken Reeves, who served as moderator.

Several student presentations, including a video, gave an overview. Maria Baldwin (1856-1922) was the first African-American woman to head a public school; the student body of Agassiz at that time was 98% white. Born and educated in Cambridge, Baldwin taught at the school from 1882 to 1888, was principal from 1889 until her death, and was active in many other civic and cultural spheres. Louis Agassiz (1807-1873), a world-famous naturalist and educator, founded the Museum of Comparative Zoology and was the first to propose

an Ice Age as an explanation for discontinuities in the fossil record.

Four invited panelists addressed different aspects of the complex issue of renaming the school. Baldwin's remarkable life was summarized by Sarah Ann Shaw, President of the League of Women for Community Service (a position once held by Maria Baldwin). Agassiz parent Daria Donnelly gave a history of the whole Agassiz family, and raised the question of whether the present school might have been named for Louis' wife, Elizabeth Agassiz (first president of Radcliffe), or for the entire Agassiz family, rather than for Louis Agassiz. Astrid Dodds, longtime neighborhood resident, reviewed the history of a previous (1992) proposal to change the school's name. Leroy Cragwell, Chair of the Cambridge African-American Heritage Trail (on which the Agassiz School is one stop, in honor of Maria Baldwin), recalled that his own kindergarten teacher was the only black teacher in Cambridge that he knew of at that time, and noted that some of today's problems are caused by the environment we grew up in. Much interesting information was presented. Handouts were also available with biographical data on Baldwin and the Agassiz family, and a time line showing dates from their lives, and dates of the three Agassiz schools (the first one named in 1875, shortly after Louis Agassiz's death).

A question and comment period followed. Many speakers favored the name change, based on Louis Agassiz's stated belief that certain races were inferior (some excerpts from Agassiz's writings were read aloud). Others favored the change based on Maria Baldwin's achievements as an African-American woman, and on her historical association with our school. Some possible compromises were proposed and discussed: a hyphenated name (eg. Agassiz-Baldwin School) honoring both of the distinguished candidates; renaming Sacramento Field for Baldwin; and a year-long program for the school and community to learn more about both Baldwin and the Agassiz family before making any decision. No consensus was reached.

Some of those in attendance expressed concern about who would make the decision, especially since Cambridge has no prescribed procedure for renaming existing public schools. Councillor Reeves and Principal Knight stated that no decision had yet been made, and that the Agassiz School Advisory Council (which consists of parent and teacher representatives) will submit their recommendation to the Cambridge School Committee, which will decide on the next step. (Report courtesy Helen Lambert)

### May 24 School Advisory Committee Meeting

The follow-up Agassiz School Advisory Council meeting was held on May 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the Agassiz School. There was continued discussion, and it was agreed to have an extended comment period on the issue, and comments from the public, particularly those who have not communicated their thoughts on the subject, will be taken through June 15th. In September the School Advisory Council will meet to discuss a possible proposal for the Cambridge School Committee to change the name of the Agassiz School to the Maria Baldwin School. Due to summer vacation, the ANC has agreed to accept comments from the public who may send comments to: Agassiz School Name Change Committee, c/o ANC, 20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. All comments will be placed in a folder for review by the committee.



**Sacramento Street Gallery May 29 - June 29**  
**20 Sacramento Street - Open Weekdays 9-5**  
**Hiroko Okahashi "Memory"**



Sacramento Street Gallery is proud to present **Memory**, a show of photographs and silkscreens on watercolor paper by Hiroko Okahashi. Ms. Okahashi studied calligraphy and Sumi-e, a Japanese ink brush technique, and found that by using brush strokes she was able to combine these classical Oriental art forms with modern photographic techniques bringing a flowing movement to her pictures.

Her subject matter varies with time, but often brings mirrors into her work. The reflected images give the work a surreal quality, transcending time and space. Her model, often herself, is a woman in search of her lost identity. A mother, daughter, lover and deserted wife, torn between her traditional upbringing and her present life in a foreign land.

**Other Local Cultural Events and Programs**

**Club Passim Presents Culture for Kids**  
**47 Palmer Street, Harvard Square**

**June 11th - from 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

AMERICAN ROOTS, Ballads, songs and stories with singer-songwriters Mark Erelli, Lori McKenna, and Rob Laurens

**July/August** Kevin Ball - Cambridge Performance Project

Space is limited so call 617.491.2382 for information and reservations or email: <laura@clubpassim.org>.

**Music at Noon on Thursdays:**

**Summer Series at the Swedenborg Chapel**

A series of five concerts is planned this summer to celebrate the 13th season of the **Music At Noon Summer Concert Series at the Swedenborg Chapel**. The concerts take place from 12:10 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. each Thursday beginning on June 14th and continue through July 12th. Concerts are free, but donations are welcome. All concerts take place in the beautiful historic Swedenborg Chapel at the corner of Kirkland and Quincy Streets. The concert series features local professional performers in a variety of chamber music and solo performances.

**JUNE 14** - Carla Christfield, soprano; William Merrill, piano. Music by Durumsgaard, Grieg, Bernstein and Barber

**JUNE 21** - Susan Harris, mezzo soprano; Ronald Dynneson, harpsichord. Music by J.S. Bach, his Son & Contemporaries.

**JUNE 28** - Kelly Demers, soprano; Janna Bruene, piano. Music by Purcell, Musgrave, Thomson & British folk songs.

**JULY 5** - Miyuki Otani, piano. Music of Mozart, Rachmaninov, Ravel and Ginastera

**JULY 12** - Nedra Eileen Bickham, Baroque Flute; Dorothy Rocklin, viola da gamba; Ronald Dynneson, harpsichord.

'La Fete Musicale': Music of Couperin, Marais, Rameau and d'Anglebert.

Call 617.864.4552 for more information.

**Summer at MASS MoCA**

If you are in the Berkshires this summer, visit MASS MoCA, located in North Adams. You will find a wonderful mixture of events for both adults and children: dance and theater pieces (Yasuko Yokoshi's *Travel Theory*, Rinde Eckert's *And God Created Great Whales*), concerts (Nanci Griffith), exhibits, films (*Philip Glass Shorts*, *Cool Hand Luke*, *West Side Story*), dance parties (New Orleans Swing, Merengue), talks, a chess tournament, a beer tasting, Balinese puppets and cowboy cooking.

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complex in the Berkshire mountains of Western Mass into a multi-disciplinary center for visual, performing and media arts. More than a static display hall, MASS MoCA provides space, tools, and time for artists, cultural institutions and businesses working in sculpture, theater, dance, film, digital media and music. New work is created in partnership with high technology and new media companies.

International in scope, MASS MoCA presents exhibitions and performances by renowned artists and cultural institutions, but it also is a place where the process of creativity is explored; rehearsals, art fabrication shops, and production studios are open to public view, and the lines between 'backlot' work and front-of-the house are deliberately blurred.

MASS MoCA is a permanent work in progress, with the mission to maintain itself as a premier platform for creating, presenting, and distributing the best of the art of our time.

Call 413.662.2111 or visit <www.massmoca.org>.

**CCTV Offers Video and Computer Training**

Cambridge Community Television will hold its monthly orientation at 675 Mass. Ave. (Prospect St. entrance) on Tuesday, June 5 at 6:30 p.m. for all Cambridge residents. (You must have proof of your Cambridge residency at the orientation.) This two hour introduction will show you what CCTV has to offer, and how you can get involved in video production, computer training and cable radio operation.

CCTV has a well equipped video production spaces and a computer lab featuring Macintosh G4 and windows '98 PC computers. (Courses are also regularly taught at Agassiz School in the computer lab.)

There are a wide variety of short video production workshops at all levels and computer classes ranging from Introduction to Computers to Word, Excel and PowerPoint to Creating Web Pages using HTML and/or Dreamweaver, to Photoshop, QuarkXPress, and non-linear editing using iMovie, Premiere and Final Cut Pro.

For more information call 617 661-6900.

**Agassiz Community School Barbecue  
Wednesday, June 6  
20 Sacramento Street Backyard 6-8 p.m.**



*ANC will supply hot dogs and hamburgers, drinks and fixings.*

*Please bring salads/sides enough for yourselves plus*

*Everyone is Welcome -  
Call 617 349-6287 for info*

*All children must be accompanied by an adult.*



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**CAMBRIDGE RIVER FEST**



**BUZZ** **JUNE 16TH. 12-6**  
THE CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL

Join friends and neighbors at the 23rd Cambridge River Festival, a celebration of art and music featuring **6 musical stages (Folk, Jazz, World, Gospel, Dance and Children's Music)**; traditional folk and cyber arts; temporary public art; street chalk art; international food; imported crafts; and participatory activities for children of all ages. This year's theme, BUZZ, captures the energy and anticipation surrounding this premier New England festival.

**Vessels** will be the Folk and Traditional Arts theme. Ten artists will demonstrate traditional practices for creating containers and holding chambers including baskets, gourds, animal skins and clay pottery.

A **Magnetic Poetry Wall** will be available for creators of impromptu haiku. next to the Weeks Footbridge. **Chalk on the Walk** from Ash St. to JFK will transform the street into a giant work of art. An art installation, **Crowded River** by Dillon Paul, Jed Speare and Bart Uchida, will invite participants to take a journey through a meandering rive of chalk dust and netting interspersed with live video images of the festival crowds and pre-recorded street scenes and live sounds.

Visit the **Interactive Arts Tent** that will feature cyberartists who will engage computer experts and beginners alike in the marriage of art and technology.

**FREE**  
**Memorial Drive between JFK Boulevard and Western Ave.**  
**Wheelchair accessible**  
**For more information call 617.349.4380 (Rain date Sunday June 17)**

# Community Calendar June 2001

through June 29 daily	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Memory - A show of photographs and silkscreens by Hiroko Okahashi in Sacramento Street Gallery Sacramento Street Gallery 20 Sacramento Street
Wednesday, June 6	6-8 p.m.	Annual Community School Barbecue 20 Sacramento Street Backyard (See information on page 7.)
Tuesday, June 19	6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	ANC Board Meeting - Public Welcome 20 Sacramento Street, 2nd Floor ANC Monthly Council Meeting Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento Street Entrance
Tuesday, June 19		Last Day of Afterschool
Monday, June 25		First Day of Outback Summer Camp

Please Note: *The Whistler*, Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, and regular council meetings will be back in September. Summer meetings, newsletter editions and bulletins will be issued if the need arises. ANC offices will be open throughout the summer.

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 June 2001



AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
20 Sacramento Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
617 349-6287  
Fax and Hot Line 497-4388  
EMail [Agassiz@concentric.net](mailto:Agassiz@concentric.net)

**DO NOT FOR WARD**