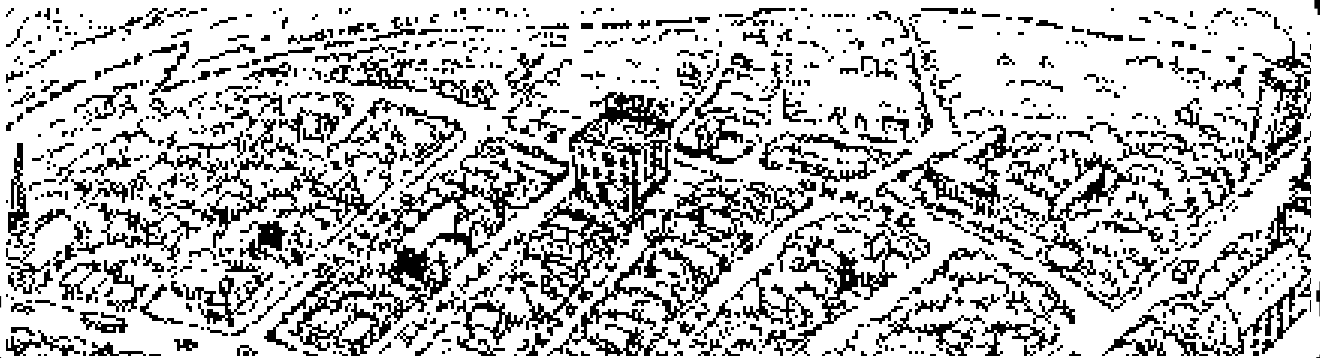


The Whistler

November 2000



Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

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v ANC News v

Notes from the October 17 ANC Meeting

The ANC welcomed members of the Agassiz Study Group, coordinated by **Venita Mathias** of Cambridge Community Development Department. This meeting was a report presented by members of the Study Group that includes residents **Debbie Galef, Ross Hoffman, Joel Bard, Willie Bloomstein, Dave Wood, Miriam Goldberg, Fred Meyer, and Amy Barad**. Institutional members include Harvard (**Travis McCready**) and Lesley (**Dave Erlandson**).

Deb Galef provided a report from a meeting with **Charles Sullivan** who provided history of the Agassiz neighborhood. Agassiz began as Pine Swamp, bordered by Indian paths that were Mass. Ave. and Kirkland St. Early in history it was divided into estates owned by Foxcroft, Frost and Jarvis. Bridges to Boston and a railroad to Porter Square helped to develop the area, as did public transportation up and down Mass. Ave. The noisy transportation of Mass. Ave. ended its

history as residential housing for well to do Bostonians, and several important homes (Center for High Energy Metaphysics, Mary Prentiss House, Frost House) were moved to side streets to escape the noise.

Places of note include Garfield St. which is on the National Register of Historic Places due to the Victorian homes. Another is Norton Woods, formerly called the Shady Hill estate, home of Charles Eliot Norton that was demolished by Harvard in 1955. It is now the site of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, long term leased from Harvard. Sacramento Field was formerly a reservoir that served a bleachery in Somerville, and it was covered in 1957.

Ross Hoffman highlighted some demographics provided by **Cliff Cook**. There will be a new census released soon, but Ross provided some interesting comparisons between Cambridge in 1950 (population 121,000, 95% non-minority) and 1990 (population 96,000, 75% non-minority). The 1950 median income (adjusted for inflation) was \$18,000, and in 1990 it was \$40,000. In 1950 only 14% of Cambridge residents over 25 had a Bachelor's degree or better, by 1990 the figure was 54% (in Agassiz it was 83% and the national average was 20%).

The 1990 Agassiz population was 5,100 (one third of that number represents Harvard and Lesley students). There are 650 family households (two or more related people living together).

There has been a steep increase in car ownership since

SEWER CONSTRUCTION - CONTACTS

Construction Issues	Earl Ross	661-7403
Field Office	Eric Reed	661-7403
Community Relations	Judy Kavanagh	498-4710
Block Captains		
Helen Lambert	Sacramento St.	661-0690
Ellen Friedman	Mellen St.	491-4290
Kate Frank	Crescent St.	547-5174
Claudia Goldin	Scott St.	588-0356
Jane Thomas	Holden St.	876-4401
Jenny Glaeser	Hammond St.	491-4454
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/>

Agassiz Neighborhood Council

Next Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, November 14
7:30 p.m.

Agassiz School Dining Hall
28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Agenda:

- 1), Sewer Construction Update - 7:30 p.m.
- 2). Boston Hops Inc. will present plans for a French Bistro at the site of the Cottonwood Cafe in Porter Exchange to open in April. (The Boston Cottonwood Cafe remains in business) - 8:30 p.m.

1970 when the vehicles registered were 28,000 versus 42,000 in 1998. This single factor may explain why the City seems to be more congested than ever before.

Miriam Goldberg reported on housing issues. In 1995 Cambridge began a housing strategy and has put \$20 million into direct subsidy for housing initiatives. The Affordable Housing Trust is run by an independent board, and it grants loans and makes funding policy decisions. This Trust has received \$6 million from Harvard for housing. There are 8 units of public housing, and there are 89 affordable units in the Agassiz neighborhood. The City has developed many other housing initiatives including incentives and training and, there are federal subsidies.

Joel Bard discussed zoning issues, an important and timely topic right now in Cambridge, since there is currently a zoning petition being considered by the City. (See below for more information on that issue.) Joel referred people to *The Zoning Guide* published by Cambridge Community Development Department, which is a good guide to understanding basic zoning terms and ideas.

Agassiz has mostly residential zoning, and the main difference in these zones is density or FAR (floor area ratio). Most zones limit height to 35', but there are exceptions in Agassiz. The property Harvard owns at the corner of Oxford and Hammond Street has a 120' height limit, and several years ago, before very recent changes, there was no height limit. Last year Agassiz residents and Harvard worked out concepts for transitional zoning, an area that would provide a transition between the 35' residential and the 120' institutional heights.

Over ten years ago there was a citizen initiative that down-zoned the Mass. Ave. corridor based on two concepts: restraint of traffic and preservation of scale and character of a neighborhood. This changed much of Mass. Ave. from 80' to 35' heights (except in the commercial squares), it allowed increased FAR for housing, and it recommended commercial activity on street floors. No longer can builders create park-

ing at street level without screening, and there are regulations regarding materials and percentages of glass that might be used.

The new zoning being discussed currently in Cambridge includes major housing incentives, a reduction in FAR, project review for all development over a certain threshold, and parking revisions. See *Rezoning Petition Submitted* below.

v City Wide v

Rezoning Petition Submitted

The information below was taken from a letter submitted 9/5/00 by the Planning Board to the City Council in order "to manage growth and enhance the livability of Cambridge while preserving its urban diversity and economic health."

A series of meetings has begun to provide more information to citizens and to listen to citizen input. The Planning Board held one public hearing on October 17 and will hold another on November 28. The City Council Ordinance Committee public hearings are scheduled for November 14 and November 29, December 6 and December 13. Community Development Department held a citywide rezoning workshop on October 19 and will hold another on November 9 at the Harrington School, 850 Cambridge St. at 7:30 p.m. For information on any of these meetings, call 349-4600 or go on the web to: <http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CDD/commplan/zoning/cityrezoneprop/index.html>

The Citywide Rezoning Petition includes the following components (described on the attached summary sheets and zoning text);

- I. Incentives for Housing
 - A. Creating 17 Residential Districts
 - B. Conversion of Non-residential Buildings to Residential
- II. Adjustments to Amount of Development Allowed
 - A. Changes to FAR and Height Provisions
 - B. Inclusion of Structured Parking in FAR
 - C. Limiting Mechanical Equipment on Roofs
- III. Project Review
- IV. Revisions to Parking Requirements

The petition results form an extensive dialogue among the Citywide Growth Management Advisory Committee, which as met twice a month since Fall 1997; the Planning Board, which as been considering these specific

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proposals since Fall 1999; and the public, many of whom attended numerous committee and planning Board meetings as well as seven public workshops since June 1998. In addition, this petition has benefited from input received from the City Council at two round table discussions in March and May 2000.

We recognize that the proposed changes will initially modify the development potential of numerous individual properties. It is our assessment that these changes are warranted to achieve the long-term citywide vision and goals articulated through the growth management planning.

Vision

- * A richly diverse population.
- * An intermixture of living and work.
- * Diverse neighborhood with access to jobs, open space and shopping.
- * Traffic growth restrained.
- * Continued appropriate economic development.
- * The scale and character of the City and its neighborhoods preserved.
- * An ongoing public voice in development.

Goals and Objectives

- * Encourage a mix of uses to enhance vitality
- * Encourage transit-oriented development.
- * Encourage residential use and affordable housing.
- * Encourage appropriate retail use.
- * Encourage the creation of new open space
- * Lower allowed density and bulk across the City through change sensitive to context.
- * Reduce traffic growth and traffic impact.
- * Encourage institutions to house their graduate students, develop core campuses, and control parking.
- * Require design review and public input for large projects.

The elements of this package are designed to work together to attain this vision. For example, new residential zoning districts will promote the production of new housing, but because housing generates less traffic than commercial uses, this use change will also help limit the growth of traffic congestion, along with other provisions such as limits on parking and overall commercial density. Similarly, the density limits and project review standards will promote preservation and enhancement of our human-scaled urban environment, as will inclusion of structured parking in calculation of building bulk and limits on rooftop mechanical equipment.

In the future, the Planning Board will study additional measures such as incentives for green building design, tools to encourage open space creation, a process for review of university master plans, and transfer of development rights. With staff and the Citywide Growth Management Advisory Committee, we will also continue to recommend appropriate changes in transition zones. You will note that some techniques to address transitional areas and open space creation have already been incorporated into the attached Project Review proposal.

Given the complexity of this proposal, we welcome the suggestions for improvements that will likely emerge during the public hearing process. We expect that future studies, including the current Eastern Cambridge planning study, will result in additional, innovative zoning recommendations for specific areas. We encourage such future detailed study and any recommendations that may result.

For the petition itself, go on the web to: <http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CDD/commplan/zoning/cityzoneprop/index.html> or you may contact the ANC at 349-6287, and we will make a print copy (17 pages including maps and charts) and we will send it to you.

City Manager Wants to hear from YOU

The City Manager has sent out a questionnaire to Cambridge residents to rate services in Cambridge. It asks about schools, trash collection, parking and traffic, hospitals, etc. If you have not received a survey, you can get in touch on the web at:

<http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/special/survey2.html> or call the City Manager's Office at 349-4300.

v Agassiz Neighborhood News v

Crime Report

Agassiz Residents a "Soft Touch"?

Long known as a neighborhood with soft hearts and deep pockets among "con artists" throughout the area, the Agassiz neighborhood ranks among the highest in the city for scams and cons. Two recent incidents have been reported. Con artists are always very personable and convincing in their stories. They are adept at tugging at your heart strings and taking advantage of your kindness. They rely on the victim's embarrassment and shame at being "taken" to not report the crime, which allows these criminals to operate an area for weeks or months before the police even become aware of their presence.

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Scam Artist On Sacramento St.

This "scam artist" has been primarily working the Sacramento and Oxford Street area. The con goes like this: The poor fellow stops you on the street and says he has just been informed that his wife has been (pick one) injured/gotten sick in (pick one) Springfield/Worcester and he needs money for (pick one) bus fare/train fare to get to her side. Could you loan him a few dollars because (pick one) the bank is closed/he just ran out of checks. He promises to pay you back, after all, he just lives down the street (points to a nearby house). He usually waits until early evening to stop people on the street to make his story even more convincing. So far this criminal has gotten quite a few "donations" to his emergency fund, getting as much as \$150 out of one person. He has been described as a white male about 6 feet tall with sandy hair, a medium build, and dressed as a "construction worker" type.

Fortunately, an alert resident of Sacramento Street realized what this criminal was doing and found out where he was staying and the police were notified.

Watch Your Bag in Harvard Square

Three thefts of diners' property from Christopher's Restaurant in Porter Square in the past month highlight an ongoing problem that is usually exclusive to Harvard Square.

In the most typical scenario, a female diner leaves her purse under, beside, or slung over the back of her chair while she eats. During the meal, a fast-fingered thief lifts the wallet from the purse or, in some cases, steals the entire purse. This crime also befalls men who leave wallets or cellular telephones in their jacket pockets, then hang their jackets over the backs of their chairs. Sometimes, the target is not a purse or wallet, but a backpack, laptop computer case, or shopping bag.

Over half of these crimes occur within the Harvard Square business district, but Central Square, Porter Square, the Galleria, and Kendall Square are occasionally targeted. Some restaurants are targeted more often than others.

∨ Harvard University ∨

Art Museums Free with Cambridge Library Card

It has recently been announced that the Harvard Art Museums will waive their entrance fees for Cambridge residents who present a Cambridge Library Card.

This is a wonderful benefit for all Cambridge residents. The Harvard University Art Museums are widely acclaimed for the quality of their extensive collections, including European and North American painting, prints, and photography (Fogg Museum); ancient, Asian, Islamic, and Indian arts (Sackler Museum); and German Expressionist painting (Busch-Reisinger Museum).

Harvard has recently published a guide for residents that provides additional information regarding programs of Harvard that are open to the public including information on the art museums, but much more. It was recently mailed to Cambridge residents.

Call the Office of Government and Community Affairs at 495-4955 for information on that guide.

∨ Announcements ∨

Barney Frank at Ford Hall Forum

Election 2000: A Review and Forecast

Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA)

Wednesday, November 15, 2000 at 6:30 p.m.

Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St.

Downtown Crossing, Boston (at State Street Station MBTA Orange and Blue Lines)

The Land That Could Be: Environmentalism and Democracy in the Twenty-First Century

William Shutkin, Lawyer, Environmentalist, and Founder and President of New Ecology, Inc.

Wednesday, November 29, 2000 at 6:30 p.m.

Raytheon Amphitheater in the Egan Center at

Northeastern University, 120 Forsyth Street, Boston (at Ruggles Station, MBTA Orange Line)

The Ford Hall Forum is a nonprofit educational organization committed to promoting and facilitating the thoughtful exercise of our First Amendment rights of freedom of expression through the presentation of free public lectures that actively engage diverse audiences in discussions and debates about timely issues. Since 1908, the Ford Hall Forum has presented prominent speakers and provided unique opportunities for diverse audiences to explore a broad range of political, social, and cultural issues. Some of the women and men presented throughout the years include, Maya Angelou, Robert Frost, Albert Gore, Jr., Martin Luther King, Jr., Henry Kissinger, Eleanor Roosevelt, Margaret Sanger, and Malcolm X, to name only a few.

For more information, contact the Ford Hall Forum, 716 Columbus Avenue, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02120. (617) 373-5800 Telephone.

Update on Carriage House Renovation

Dear Arts Friends,

Many exciting things are happening in preparation for the new art center. Right now a jury of artists are about to choose approximately ten Cambridge artists to design artifacts for our new visual art center. We will award each artist \$500 for a design that we will eventually fund for construction. These designs will be driven by the artist chosen, but we have suggested pieces such as stained glass, a clock, furniture including stools and tables, a weathervane, doors, windows, outdoor benches and tiles.

In December we will preview the artists who have been selected. In that way everyone can "meet" the artists who will create works of art specifically for the new visual art center.

Once the artists have created their designs, we will provide another opportunity for you to see each individual design. We expect these to be previewed in March.

I think that soon everyone will become as excited as I am about this project! It will make our art center a very special spot for art, and it will be a wonderful place for artists and aspiring artists to work. Look for more information next month!

Sincerely,

Terry DeLancey

AGASSIZ THANKSGIVING FEAST

Tuesday, November 21 - 6-7:30 p.m.
Agassiz School Dining Hall - 28 Sacramento St.

29TH ANNUAL



Turkey and cranberry sauce will be waiting. Bring a pot luck side dish (ethnic or family favorites are most welcome) big enough for your family plus. There will be activities for kids, but all children must be accompanied by an adult.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO COOK 12 TURKEYS!

We will deliver a fresh turkey to volunteers doors on Monday. They will cook the bird and bring it to the dinner Tuesday evening. Call Kelly at 349-6287 for information or to cook a turkey.

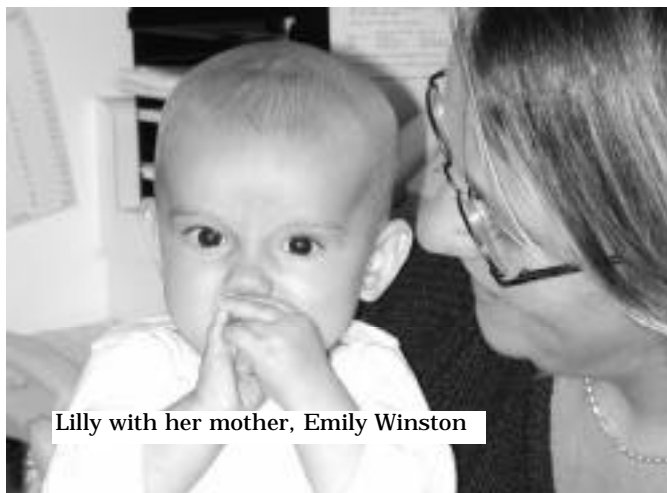
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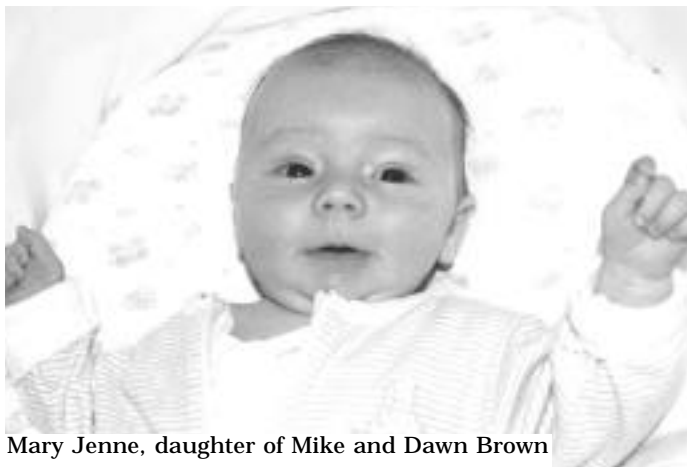
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Lilly with her mother, Emily Winston



Mary Jenne, daughter of Mike and Dawn Brown

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Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento Street
Open Weekdays 9-5

Canonical Hours by Jodi Hays Gresham
Reception Friday, November 3 from 5-7 p.m.
Through November 20

The Sacramento St Gallery is proud to present a show of paintings by Cambridge artist and neighborhood resident Jodi Gresham.

Gresham calls her work "a hodge-podge of mixed references. I use the Coptic Book of Hours as the stepping off point. In the Orthodox Christian Church, nine hours in each day are named and set aside for directed prayer. Quiet and discipline create these hours of respite from the workday. After hours of work, my paintings too are mediations. These paintings are derivative from thought on the still life, color, prayer, abstraction, Renaissance drawings, and my tendency to daydream. The marriage of these influences is 'canonical hours'."



Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children Presents



November 16, Thursday

Seventh Season

National Marionette Theater's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

2:00 p.m. Agassiz School Stage Admission \$1 - Groups Welcome For information call 349-6287

The classic story told with an interesting twist, this production is sure to please the whole family. Set in the Renaissance period, with special effects, beautiful costumes and scenery, and music by Bartok and Easdale, National Marionette Theatre's lavish production will long be remembered for its stunning visual beauty and sensitive retelling. This classic tale of a maiden who learns to love a beast for what he is and not what he appears to be is filled with mystery, magic and enchantment. This version is based on the original story, not on the movie.

In existence for more than 35 years, NMT has long been a favorite with Cambridge audiences. David Syrotiak, the company's Artistic Director, will be touring with this production. The show will be followed by a special "Curtain Down" presentation during which the puppeteers will show the audience how the marionettes are manipulated, and how the special effects are accomplished. It will conclude with a short Q & A session. Don't miss this special ANC presentation. On the web you will find photos at www. Dover.net/~nmt/bbpg1.htm

Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

Sanders Theater
NOVEMBER 2000

- Nov. 1 Wednesday 7:30 pm Whirling Dervishes of Turkey
- Nov. 3 Friday 8:00pm Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra
Britten, Bartok, Berlioz
- Nov. 4 Saturday 8:00 pm Patty Larkin and David Wilcox
- Nov. 5 Sunday 3:00 pm The Boston Camerata
- Nov. 6 Monday 7:30 pm Beethoven: Symphony #9
- Nov. 10 Friday 8:00 pm Natalie MacMaster-Cape Breton
- Nov. 11 Saturday 8:00 pm Harvard-Radcliffe Veritones
- Nov. 12 Sunday 3:00 pm J.S. Bach: Mass in B Minor
- Nov. 17 Friday 8:00 pm The Harvard and The Yale Glee Club -
The 101st Annual Harvard/Yale Football Concert.
- Nov. 18 Saturday 8:00 pm Harvard-Yale Concert
- Nov. 19 Sunday 3:00 pm Boston Philharmonic
Mozart: Piano Concerto in G; Bruckner: Symphony No. 7.
- Nov. 19 Sunday 7:30 pm Boston Chamber Music Society
Stravinsky, Borodin, Faure
- Nov. 25 Saturday 8:00 pm Capitol Steps, political satire
- Nov. 26 Sunday 3:00 pm Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra

Call 496-2222 or visit the web page
at:<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~memhall/cal97.html#NOVEMBER>

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Agassiz Community School Programs

Fall Programs

Grades K-5:

The Agassiz Afterschool program offers stimulating and enriching activities in a safe environment with experienced teachers and specialists in the arts. Children may sign up for 1, 2, 3, or 5 days of afterschool care. Monthly fees are \$279 for 5 days, \$156 for 3 days, \$104 for 2 days or \$52 for 1 day. Very limited space is available, but you may be placed on a waiting list to be called when spaces open.

Sacramento Street Preschool:

The Preschool is currently filled. To be placed on the waiting list, call Diane DiMaina at 349-6287. Children must be two years and nine months of age to enter, and they may be on the waiting list before that time.

Middle School:

A new schedule of activities after school will be available for students in grades 6-8 beginning in January. Watch out for our brochure, or call to be on the mailing list.

Parents are welcome to visit our preschool and after school programs. Please contact Vicky Ragsdale Boulrice at 349-6287 who can answer your questions, connect you with the appropriate staff member for a visit, or advise you on availability of program spaces for your child.

v Agassiz Public School v

PTO BOARD 2000-2001 is Announced

NOVEMBER 8th will be the next monthly PTO Meeting - Agenda TBA. Call 349-6525 for more information. Board members are listed below:

- Chair/Michael Alpert
alpertm@earthlink.net
- Secretary/Heather Doyle
hdoyle@thesky.com
- Treasurer/Paul Antonopoulos
ama1@gis.net
- PR/Deb Bacci
bacci@massed.net
- Events/Liz Peoples lizpeoples@mediaone.net
- Tech Committee/Ioana Bortnovsky-Barry
ioana@mediaone.net
- Science Committee/ Carlos Semino
csemino@mediaone.net
- Family Liaison/ Seija Hälvä
seija_halva@cps.ci.cambridge.ma.us
- Principal/Dr. Knight
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Babies Groups

Baby & Toddler Groups We're Back!

North Hall is open (at last!) and our baby groups are set to begin again in November. Please drop in to visit on Monday, Nov. 6, Wednesday, Nov. 8 or Thursday, Nov. 9 between 10:30 am and 12:00 pm.

You can sign-up for a group or receive more information about the program. Children from birth through 2 years, nine months of age are welcome. Each baby must be accompanied by a parent or caretaker. Siblings of the appropriate age are welcome.

North Hall is located at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Wendell Street. For more information, call Emily Winston at 349-6287. Emily is not in the office all day, but she will get back to you right away.

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ANC Thanks TAG'S HARDWARE for their generous donation of materials for the City Year Work A Thon Day

Community Calendar November 2000

Friday, November 3	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Artist's Reception - Jodi Gresham "Canonical Hours" Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street
Tuesday, November 7		Election Day - Agassiz Residents Vote at Agassiz School
Friday, November 10		Veteran's Day Celebrated - Schools Closed
Tuesday, November 14	6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	ANC Monthly Board Meeting - Open to the Public ANC Monthly Meeting - See Page 1 for Agenda Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento St. entrance
Thursday, November 16		Cambridge Elementary School Half Day
Thursday, November 16	2:00 p.m.	Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children Presents: National Marionette Theater's "Beauty and the Beast" Agassiz School Stage, 28 Sacramento St. entrance - See page 6
Tuesday, November 21	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Feast - See page 5 Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento St. entrance
Thursday and Friday November 23 and 24		Thanksgiving Vacation - School and Afterschool Closed
Tuesday, November 28-30 (Saturday hours)	3:00-5:30 p.m. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Kids Only Sale-through Saturday, December 2 Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento St.

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 November 2000



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

DO NOT FORWARD



Call Kelly at 349-6287
for more information

Kids Only Holiday Sale
GIFTS FOR FAMILY
GIFTS FOR FRIENDS
Opens November 28

HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Most gifts are \$3-5, many are less expensive than that. If you send kids in with a list of names, staff will help with choices and math.

KIDS ONLY - PARENTS MUST WAIT AT THE DOOR !!!

**Sacramento St. Gallery 20 Sacramento St.
November 28-December 2**

Weekdays 3-5:30 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Gifts for grandma, grandpa, mom, dad, sister and brother.

