

the **Whistler**  
 newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council *November 2002*

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 The Whistler can be downloaded [www.agassiz.org/Whistler.html](http://www.agassiz.org/Whistler.html)

**ANC News**

**October 15 ANC Meeting**

Willie Bloomstein, ANC Vice Chair, welcomed residents. He informed them that Harvard would describe construction mitigation plans for the underground garage.

Mary Power and Michelle Kang from Harvard's Office for Community Affairs were on hand as was Charlie Connor, of William A. Berry & Sons, new Mitigation Management Director. Mary introduced others from Harvard in attendance including Lois Stanley, Andrea Shen, Bob Mitchell and Robert Mortimer.

Mary Power described Harvard's commitment to making sure that garage construction goes as smoothly as possible and emphasized the importance of communication and understanding neighborhood concerns. Charlie Connor, Harvard's Mitigation Management, Director summarized Harvard's mitigation plans for the garage project:

Work hours:

- Monday through Friday, 7 a.m to 6 p.m.
- Saturday hours will be scheduled (with advance notice to residents) between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. when absolutely necessary
- No Sunday and Holiday construction

Noise:

- On-site monitoring of noise from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- On-site monitoring by the project managers.
- All equipment will be certified before arriving on-site (relating to noise level).
- The noise level is a maximum of 85/95 dba's (this is an estimate) depending on the type of project assigned for that day/time period/activity

Dust Control

- Process includes covering, wetting, and ground covers
- The site is enclosed with 20 foot high permanent fence (necessary for buffering)

*(Continued on page 2)*

Harvard Construction Mitigation Call Center  
 Monday to Friday, 6 AM to 6 PM  
 617-496-0857  
 For emergencies during non-work hours, please contact:  
 Harvard University Operations Center 617-495-5560

**Harvard Construction Issues Update**

Palfrey House moves to its temporary location

Palfrey House will be moved to its temporary location behind Conant Hall on Oxford Street on Saturday, November 23. In order to maximize the use of daylight hours, the move will begin at 7 AM and will be completed by nightfall. Once the garage project is complete, Palfrey House will be moved to its permanent location on Hammond Street.

University Information Systems building nearing completion

Construction of the University Information Systems (UIS) building at 60 Oxford Street is nearing completion and will be partially occupied beginning on November 12. Updates about the schedule and work on the UIS building can be obtained through the website [www.sixtyoxford.harvard.edu](http://www.sixtyoxford.harvard.edu) or on the information board on Hammond Street. A community open house is planned for later this year to welcome neighbors to the new building.

The Oxford Street Parking Facility

Harvard has now begun construction of the underground Oxford Street Parking Facility and has met with neighbors regarding construction planning. The 20-foot tall wood fence to be built around the perimeter of the garage site will be put into place in mid to late November. All truck traffic related to work on the Parking Facility will be required to go south on Oxford Street.

North Campus planning

In the next year, Harvard would like to engage neighbors in a discussion about the planning framework for the north

*Continued Page 3*

**NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING**



**NOVEMBER 19**

**7:30 p.m.**

Baldwin School Dining Hall - 28 Sacramento Street  
 Oxford Street Entrance - press buzzer for entry  
 AGENDA: S.E.A. will provide a presentation on the upcoming sewer work on Beacon Street. (See page 3.)

October 15 ANC Meeting Continued from page 1

- Planting will be this season (depending on weather) or next
- Mandatory/required street sweeping
- Regular perimeter monitoring

Vibration

- Drilling in lieu of hammering
- Crushing in lieu of "dropping"
- Monitoring of all vibration activity

Trucks

- No trucks in the neighborhood. Trucks are allowed south bound on Kirkland, Quincy and Cambridge Streets. Bright orange signs will instruct trucks. Drivers are also informed by supervisors of this rule via phone, fax, email

Parking

- No contractor will park on site and will be ticketed
- Shuttles for staff
- Scheduled policing of the area

Contact Harvard when problems occur

- Advise Harvard immediately when promises are broken
- CONSTRUCTION MITIGATION CALL CENTER is available at 617 496-0857, Monday-Friday, 6am-6pm.
- After hours call 617 495-5560 Harvard Operations Center
- Website for updates: <www.construction.fas.harvard.edu>.
- Call the Cambridge Traffic & Transportation Department at 617.349.4700

There will be weekly updates by Friday of the week before on the website. There are also the same postings on boards at Hammond Street. To receive copies of handouts with

**Tuesday, November 5**  
**VOTE**  
**in the General Election**

Polls are open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Most Agassiz residents live in Ward 7, District One or Two and vote in the Baldwin (formerly Agassiz) School, 28 Sacramento Street

For more information, call the Election Commission at (617) 349-4361

more specific contact information, please be in touch with Jonathan McMullen at (617) 349-6287 or <jmcmullen@agassiz.org>.

Other Projects:

Over the course of the coming year, Mary Power stated that Harvard would like to discuss its planning framework for the north campus and the completion of the Hammond Street edge with a building that will be built atop the underground garage when it is completed (the North Sciences Building). In addition to the planning framework that was discussed at the ANC meetings last Winter, the Law School will study the feasibility of putting the Everett street garage parking underground to create an attractive quadrangle at the Mass. Ave./Everett corner. Mary Power stated that the new Agassiz-Harvard-City North Campus Planning Committee, to be appointed by the City, will play a major role including the review of new plans and the impact of development. Mary emphasized that Harvard will work with the ANC, the working committee and ACID to coordinate meetings with the community.



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Special Permit Again Continued

The ANC has requested a continuance in order to discuss the new Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center program further with abutters prior to the meeting. As *The Whistler* went to press, the new date was not finalized. Call Jonathan McMullen (jmc-mullen@agassiz.org/ 617 349-6287 x23) for the date of the rescheduled hearing, or for more information.....



Two Brattle Square, Cambridge, MA 02138

Carol Kelly  
Myra von Turkovich  
Jan Devereux

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www.carolandmyra.com  
(617) 497-4400

*Harvard Update Continued from Page 1*

campus and completion of the Hammond Street edge that will be consistent with the new transition zone language adopted earlier this year by City Council. Harvard welcomes input from neighbors and looks forward to meeting with Agassiz neighbors in the upcoming months.

**Concerns about Construction**

Harvard has hired William A. Berry & Son, Inc. to assist with construction management in the North Yard. They have set up a call center and are available to respond to any construction concerns that may arise.

*Update courtesy Michelle Kang Harvard Community Affairs*

**SEWER CONSTRUCTION**

**Beacon Street Sewer Work Begins in New Year  
Cities of Cambridge and Somerville Improvements Project  
Project Overview**

Beacon Street Contract VI-3C project area is located in Cambridge and Somerville. The contract area includes Beacon Street between Oxford Street and Museum Street. The project proposes construction of stormwater management storage structures and storm drainpipe improvements to help reduce the severity and frequency of area street flooding. This project is a joint effort of the Cities of Cambridge and Somerville and is a continuation of the City of Cambridge efforts in the Agassiz area to eliminate combined sewer overflows to the Charles River and Alewife Brook and to reduce flooding impacts by improving drainage collection and discharge.

**Why is this project necessary?**

When stormwater flow exceeds the drainage system capacity, combined sewer overflows and street flooding occur. Flooding of surface roads and buildings containing both stormwater and sewage is a pervasive problem throughout the Agassiz area of Cambridge and Beacon Street in Somerville.

Several of the lowest topographic elevations within the City of Cambridge are located in this area.

**What is being done to fix the problem?**

Three years ago, the Cambridge Department of Public Works (CDPW) initiated a stormwater management program to provide improved drainage service throughout the Agassiz area for storms up to a 25-year, 24-hour storm event. This amounts to a total of 5.5 inches of rain falling over a 24-hour time period. The essential features of the City of Cambridge program include the construction of underground stormwater storage tanks combined with new storm drains.

Work in the area of Crescent/Carver Streets; Wendell/Hammond/Museum Streets; and Scott Street have already been finished. The next contract to be built is Contract VI-3C:

Beacon Street. This project will include installation of two underground stormwater storage tanks under Beacon Street in the vicinity of Miller Street and Museum Street. As part of this project, new catch basins will also be installed on both sides of Beacon Street to collect street runoff from Prentiss Street to Museum Street. Raised crosswalks will be placed at the intersections of Beacon, Forest, Prentiss, Sacramento, Oxford and Museum Streets to direct street runoff to catch basins.


Localized street runoff collected from the catch basins will be discharged into the existing 48-inch diameter storm drain. Once the 48-inch diameter pipe is full, excess flows will be conveyed and stored in the two underground storage tanks. After the storm event, as capacity in the drainage system becomes available, the stormwater contained in the tanks will be pumped back into the Beacon Street 48-inch diameter pipe by two small underground pumping stations.

Following construction, the surface features on Beacon Street will be returned to pre-construction conditions. The City of Somerville will be proceeding in the near future with complete restoration (new pavement, curbs and sidewalks) of Beacon Street from Somerville Avenue down to Inman Square. Who is responsible for the Beacon Street Drainage Project?

Both the Cities of Cambridge and Somerville are responsible for the Beacon Street project. The Cities have entered into an agreement to construct a stormwater management system that will minimize the flooding that occurs along this area of Beacon Street and in the adjacent areas of Cambridge.

Come to the ANC meeting on November 19 (see box on page 1) to learn more about this project, or Call Owen O'Riordan, Cambridge Assistant Commissioner of Engineering at 617/349-4845 for information. (Information can also be found at the Dept of Public Works website: <[www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~TheWorks/sewerstormrev/mainsewerstorm5.html](http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~TheWorks/sewerstormrev/mainsewerstorm5.html)>. Other community meetings will also be scheduled in the upcoming weeks.

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### LESLEY UNIVERSITY

Next Planning Group Meeting to combine Representatives  
Lesley has agreed to meet with neighbors in January when their plans are clearer. Since the Porter Square property to be developed by Lesley is adjacent to both neighborhoods, it seemed appropriate to have representatives from both Porter Square Neighbors Association and Agassiz Neighborhood Council meet together with Lesley at that time.

Paul Karoff has informed ANC that the City has scheduled Lesley's Town-Gown report to the Planning Board for Jan. 12.

Workday at 20 Sacramento Street on November 16

As part of their community service component, students from Lesley will participate in a workday on Saturday, November 16 to do yard work and painting. Thank you Lesley students!

### Thanks to **TAGS HARDWARE**

**for once again providing  
ALL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS  
for the Lesley-Agassiz Workday**

### CITY WIDE

Superintendent's Plan to Consolidate Cambridge Schools  
*excerpts from a letter to parents outlining the plan by Bobbie D'Alessandro*

As you are all aware, during the past year I have been working with my cabinet to develop an elementary school consolidation plan. The recommendation to consolidate comes about after several years of declining elementary school enrollment. From school year 1997-1998 to school year 2001-2002 enrollment at the elementary school level declined by 681 students or 11.8%. Enrollment declines are further projected to continue for the next several years. This declining enrollment has led to the inefficient use of our facilities, and drains valuable financial resources from our classrooms and educational programs. Today at a student-teacher ratio of 20:1, there are 2,019 empty seats at the elementary level.

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In order to keep you informed of our plans, I would like to let you know that I will be forwarding my elementary school consolidation and improvement plan to the School Committee on October 15, 2002. The major recommendations included in that plan to take effect September, 2003, will be as follows:

- The Longfellow (minus the Intensive Studies Program), Amigos and King Schools will be merged at the King School building to form a new International Magnet School.
- The King Open School will move to the Longfellow School building.
- The Intensive Studies Program will move to the Kennedy School building where it will remain intact as a part of the Kennedy School.
- Other program improvement initiatives will occur at selected other elementary schools. These initiatives will be undertaken with the goal of strengthening the education program and retaining or increasing elementary school enrollment.

Public meetings will be held:

Thursday, 11/ 7 at 7:00 PM Public Forum

Tuesday, 11/ 12 at 7:00 PM Public Hearing

Thursday, 11/14 at 7:00 PM Public Hearing

Tuesday, 11/19 at 6:00 PM School Committee Vote

(All are held at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School)

It is our goal that the School Committee will vote on the proposed elementary school changes at the School Committee meeting of November 19, 2002, so that work on the implementation of this plan could begin to ensure an orderly opening of school next September.

#### Cambridge Family and Children's Services Mentorships

Volunteers are needed by CFCS for their Mentor Programs. Mentors are needed to spend time with either families in shelters or children from the Kennedy School in East Cambridge. Volunteers commit to build a relationship with a family over the course of a year, and spend on average 3-4 hours a week with the family.

The Parent-to-Parent Project matches mentors with families living in shelters. These volunteers should have experience working in a social service capacity, child care experience and have knowledge of the community or the state. The focus is on the parent, and mentors provide emotional support and encouragement.

The Kennedy School program seeks to create positive, long term relationships between mentors and at risk children.

For more information on these volunteer opportunities, please call Sean Pelkey, Mentor Coordinator at (617) 876-4210 x14 or go to <[www.helpfamilies.org](http://www.helpfamilies.org)>.



## Agassiz Community School Programs

### BASKETBALL HAS BEGUN

Drop in basketball will be held in the Baldwin gym on Tuesday nights for teens from 6 to 9 p.m., and Wednesday nights for adults from 6 to 9 p.m. run by Jermaine McKenzie. Cost is \$1.00 for the teens, and \$2.00 for adults per night.



Use the Oxford Street door at the corner of Sacramento Street.

Participants must be buzzed in and must sign in prior to playing ball. Contact Jonathan McMullen at (617) 349-6287 x23 or <jmcmullen@agassiz.org> for information.

### BABY GROUPS NEED A NEW RUG

The baby groups need a new rug in good condition, 10' x 12' is preferred but smaller is okay. Contact Diane Dimaina at 617 349-6287x11 or <ddimaina@agassiz.org>.

### AGASSIZ AFTERSCHOOL

Check out the 6-8th grade activities from the Agassiz Afterschool for your middle school age children. Some of the special activities include fashion design, modern dance, improvisational theater, video production and computer html language.

There are some spaces available in the school age Afterschool Program. Call in to see a schedule of activities and days they are available.

Contact Amy King at (617) 349-6287 x19 or <aking@agassiz.org>

### BABY GROUPS

Groups for Babies and their Moms (or Dads) are running now in North Hall at the corner of Wendell Street and Mass. Ave. Come and enjoy the company of other parents and their babies. Contact Jonathan McMullen at (617) 349-6287 x23 or <jmcmullen@agassiz.org> for more information on groups, meeting schedules and special events.



Groups are coordinated by Emily Winston.

### AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

#### 31ST ANNUAL THANKSGIVING

#### POT LUCK FEAST

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

6 - 8 p.m.

#### BALDWIN SCHOOL DINING HALL

Turkey and cranberry sauce will be waiting. Bring your favorite family Thanksgiving side dish to share with other community families.

(Ethnic favorites are always the most popular.)

Activities are available for kids,

but they must be accompanied by an adult.

We will deliver a fresh medium size turkey to you on Monday, November 25 if you will cook it for the dinner on Tuesday evening.

Call Jonathan at 349-6287x23

for information or to cook turkey.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

COME EARLY -

FOOD GOES FAST!

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CULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Sacramento Street Gallery

Small Works - November 15 - December 20

Cambridge Artists Support the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center

50% of all profits benefit the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center Building Fund

20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge, MA

Gallery Hours: Weekdays 9-5

Artist's Reception: Friday, November 15 from 5-8 pm

Call Jonathan for information on extended hours or to volunteer as a Gallery sitter: (617) 349-6287 x23.



Aparna Agrawal
Toby Atlas
Peggy Badenhausen
Joseph Barbieri
Nancy Berlin
Maggi Brown
Barbara Cohen
Nike Demaskos
John Devaney
Ellen Driscoll
Alicia Dwyer
Jane Ehrlich

Aileen O. Erickson
Phyllis Ewen
Paul Gray
Peter Haines
Noa Hall
Marcia Halperin
Mags Harries
Lillian Hsu-Flanders
Jane Kamine
Karen Klein
Diane Lam
Lori Lander

Claire Walker Leslie
Marja Lianko
Linda Lichtman
Jack Lueders-Booth
Andrew Magdanz
Joan Mark
Michael Mazur
Jeannie Motherwell
Judy Motzkin
Barbara Norfleet
Marian Parry
Kitty Pechet

Wendy Prellwitz
Daniel Ranalli
Jeanee Redmond
Mitch Ryerson
Paul Shakespear
Susan Shapiro
Jill Slosburg-Ackerman
Rhonda M. Smith
Brenda Star
Ellen Stutman
Thalia Tringo
Tabitha Vevers
Nancy Webb



Ninth Season INTRODUCING ART: A PERFORMANCE SERIES FOR CHILDREN PRESENTS NOVEMBER 14, THURSDAY



JAZZ-A-MA-TAZZ

Drawing on improvisation and call and response, this unique quartet of bass, saxophone, drums and keyboard will show kids how jazz tells an expressive musical story. Through active listening, everyone participates in a lively journey of dance, scat singing, interpretive sound and bebopping to jazz. Learn more at the web site: <www.hayesgreenfield.com>.

2:00 p.m. on the Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street Admission \$1.00.

Groups must reserve in advance. All Cambridge after school programs admitted at no charge. Contact Amy King at 349-6287 x19 or <email aking@agassiz.org>.

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## OTHER LOCAL CULTURAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

### Cambridge Symphony Performs at Baldwin School

The Cambridge Symphony would like to welcome residents of the Agassiz neighborhood to three public concerts at the Baldwin School: on Sundays November 24, March 2, and June 1 at 3:00 p.m.

The November 24th concert will include music by Mussorgsky, Mozart, Berlioz and Vaughan Williams. Details and background on the music can be found at the website: [www.cambridgesymphony.org](http://www.cambridgesymphony.org).

Concerts are free, and appropriate for older children. The annual Children's Concert will be performed at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School on Saturday March 22 for children of all ages.

Old time Agassiz residents may remember the Little Orchestra of Cambridge, as the Cambridge Symphony was once called. It was started in the old Agassiz school with rehearsal space donated by the Agassiz Community School program on Monday night when the school was open and the custodian was on duty. At early concerts, families would come with kids already in pajamas so they could fall asleep at the concerts and be dumped into bed when they got home.

### Morning Star by Sylvia Regan

Directed by Suzanne Bixby

at the Theater Cooperative, 277 Broadway, Somerville

Nov 15 - Dec 14, 2002

Fridays & Saturday 8 pm

Sundays Nov 24 & Dec 8 at 2 pm

(No performances Thanksgiving weekend)

Becky, her three daughters, and 13-year-old son are Jewish immigrants living in New York City at the turn of the last century. We watch them as they celebrate a bar mitzvah, fall in love, get married, and generally live their lives amid the great historical events of their time. We see how they are personally affected by the Triangle Shirtwaist fire and the Labor Movement, the rise of Communism, and World War I. Morning Star is the story of real people-their struggles and triumphs in a world fraught with change.

From the Theatre Cooperative website:

<<http://www.theatrecoop.org/>>

Purchase tickets online at [www.theatrecoop.org](http://www.theatrecoop.org) or make reservations by calling the box office at 617-625-1300.

### Meghan McLyman and Dancers November 22/23

Green Street Studios presents Meghan McLyman in their Emerging Artists Series on Friday November 22 and Saturday November 23 at 8:00 p.m. Green Street Studios are located at 185 Green Street in Central Square Cambridge.

*Moving a modern dance concert* mixes dance pieces with video, interviews from family, friends and strangers; playing on the interchangeable meanings of the word "moving." The work is set to circus music by Yann Tiersen and excerpts from Chopin.

Tickets cost \$12. Call (617) 864-3191 for information and reservations.

### Children's Art and Literacy Festival November 16

The Child Care Resource Center will host its Second Annual Children's Art and Literacy Festival throughout the month of November to celebrate National Family Literacy Month. The Festival is designed to celebrate children's learning through expressive art and offers participatory drawing and reading activities for children, parents and teachers in child care centers and after school programs, libraries, senior centers, bookstores, and art centers in Cambridge and Somerville.

*Sidewalk Stories* will be held at the Cambridge Public Library on November 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children will draw stories about animals on the sidewalks surrounding the library and will be guided by students from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. There will be a Storytelling Tree featuring Sergeant Kathleen Murphy of the Cambridge Police, who will be accompanied by Officer McGruff, the mascot for the "take a bite out of crime" campaign. There will be also children's games and other activities.

For more information call Caryl Lattof at (617) 547-1063x206

### November at Longy

Longy Chamber Orchestra November 8, Friday 8 pm  
Guest Conductor Isaiah Jackson: Haydn, Wagner, Falla  
Admission: Free; Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden Street.

St. Lawrence String Quartet November 11, Monday, 8 pm  
Mozart, Murray Shafer, Tchaikovsky; Admission: \$25;  
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden Street.

For information on Longy events, call (617) 876-0956 x500 or check the website at <[www.longy.edu](http://www.longy.edu)>.





# Community Calendar November 2002



|                          |                |   |
|--------------------------|----------------|---|
| November 11, Monday      |                | Veteran's Day/Cambridge Public Schools Closed   |
| November 14, Thursday    | 2 p.m.         | Jazz A Ma Tazz - children's performance<br>Baldwin School Stage - See page 6 for more information   |
| November 15, Friday      | 5-8 p.m.       | SMALL WORKS ARTISTS' RECEPTION<br>49 Cambridge Artists Support the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center<br>Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street through December 20<br>See page 6 for more information |
| November 19, Tuesday     | 6 p.m.         | ANC November Board Meeting - Public Welcome<br>20 Sacramento Street, 2nd floor  |
|                          | 7 p.m.         | ANC Monthly Meeting - See page 1 for more information.<br>Baldwin School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento Street  |
| November 26, Tuesday     | 6-8 p.m.       | THANKSGIVING POT LUCK FEAST - See page 5 for information<br>Baldwin School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento Street  |
| November 27, Wednesday   |                | Cambridge Public Schools Half Day, Thanksgiving Recess Begins   |
| November 28/29 Thurs/Fri |                | Thanksgiving Recess/Cambridge Public Schools Closed   |
| December 3-6             | 12-6:30 p.m.   | KIDS ONLY SALE Opens Tuesday, December 3 - Saturday December 7  |
| December 7, Saturday     | 10 a.m.-4 p.m. | in Porter Exchange, 1815 Mass. Ave., our NEW LOCATION<br>See box below for information.   |

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, distribution 2,000.  
Call (617) 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 2002



AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
20 Sacramento Street Cambridge, MA 02138  
617 349-6287 Fax and Hot Line 497-4388  
www.agassiz.org email: whistler@agassiz.org

**DO NOT FORWARD**

**ANNUAL KIDS ONLY Holiday Sale**  
**Opens Tuesday, December 3**  
**through Saturday, December 7**

Weekdays 12-6:30pm/Saturday 10am-4pm

**NEW LOCATION - Porter Exchange**  
**1815 Mass. Ave. MAIN FLOOR**

Gifts on sale for children to give family and friends for the holidays. Most gifts under \$5, many less expensive items.

Send your child with a list; staff will help them pick gifts and do the math. Call (617) 349-6287 x23 for information. Take the Lesley U. shuttle!