

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

March 2011

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ANC News

NOTES FROM THE FEB. 8 MEETING

Update on Art Institute of Boston

Residents discussed the relocation of the Art Institute of Boston (AIB) to Porter Square at the site of the North Prospect Church, corner of Mass. Ave. and Roseland Street. Lesley University's plans include repositioning the church by moving it to the south, closer to the sidewalk and lower to the ground than it stands currently. They will also construct a new building (on the north edge of the lot) and a glass atrium that connecting the new building to the church.

The Cambridge Historical Commission has approved the project and, in March, Lesley will meet again with the Cambridge Planning Board (continuation from a meeting in January) to acquire a new special permit.

Bourbon Coffee

Bourbon Coffee, a Rwandan company, plans to open on the first floor of University Hall (formerly Porter Exchange) this April. The company, featuring a type of coffee bean called "bourbon," was created to support the need for a cash crop in Rwanda.

Single Stream Recycling

Four months in, residents shared their experiences with Cambridge's new single stream recycling program. Everyone present agreed that the process was either an improvement or non-obtrusive, although one person admitted that new rolling toter is a larger bin than he'd prefer. Most reported recycling more.

Fred Meyer, long-time resident and ABC Board Director, stated, "I love the new system! It's convenient and so easy to load; the volume of what we've been recycling has gone way up. You don't even need to crush boxes! I haven't seen any issues with people collecting returnable bottles and I think there's even less trash on the street because it's a cleaner lift."

Another resident stated, "Originally I had a

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



MAR. 8 - 7:30 PM

Maud Morgan Arts
20 Sacramento Street, rear
2D Studio, 2nd Floor

AGENDA

- Introducing the **Men's Health League**
- **NSTAR Electric** discusses power outages
- **New retail tenant** at Mass. Ave. and Wendell St. (Lesley University dorm) seeks parking waiver

lot of questions, but now I like it a lot. I didn't expect to!"

Ted Live added, "I went on a tour of the Casella recycling facility in Charlestown and it's amazing. They take a truckload of mixed recycling and, with very little human intervention, funnel it into various types of almost pure material, which they compact into huge bales. It's an eye opener to see how effective the system is."

Following the discussion, the council voted to send a letter to the city applauding the program.

Take A Tour

Learn how your recyclables get separated by visiting Casella Recycling in Charlestown. Groups of twenty-five city employees and Cambridge residents meet at the Department of Public Works (147 Hampshire St) and carpool to the site. The tours last about two and a half hours. To sign up, email recycle@cambridgema.gov.

Spring Schedule

April 13 at 2 PM
 May 19 at 9 AM
 June 14 at 9 AM

Learn more at:
<http://bit.ly/where-your-recycling-goes>.

Snow Removal Discussion, Continued

The council continued its discussion of problems related to snow removal in the city. Issues included:

- Difficult or impossible passage due to snow and ice build-up in certain areas, including the sidewalk in front of the Alden Tot Lot on Sacramento Street between a utility pole and the street corner
- Wendell St. near Mass. Ave., a key intersection, narrowed to less than two full lanes, causing traffic backup
- Snow deposited at corners and crossings by plow trucks
- Letters from ANC and the Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities to the city requesting cost estimates for plowing all sidewalks or for just plowing pedestrian crossings/corners

- Limited options for where to place removed snow
- Snow build-up when trucks don't plow to the curb, reducing streets to one lane
- Decreased fire truck access due to narrower roads and parked cars
- The signs along Hammond St. preventing parking during snow emergencies have disappeared, and the street is no longer listed on the online "No Parking During Snow Emergency" list
- Possibly expanding the number of snow emergency streets in the Agassiz neighborhood
- How the city prioritizes which streets to plow first and the frequency (residents reported that some streets, such as Wendell, are cleared multiple times per day whereas other streets, like Sacramento, appear to be cleared just once)
- Instituting a year-round one-side-of-the-street no-parking schedule that accommodates snow clearing in winter (January-March) as well as street sweeping in April-December
- Vehicles abandoned in snow banks

The council voted to write a letter to the city with the following requests:

- Calculate the cost of clearing pedestrian

	Peter G Meyersohn, CFP Financial Advisor
	
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- ways at corners and intersections
- Repost snow emergency signs along Hammond St.
- Equalize the plowing (in particular, review the schedules for Wendell at Mass. Ave. and Sacramento St.)
- Plow to curb as close as possible to widen vehicle lanes

The council welcomed City Councilor Leland Cheung to the evening's discussion. Additionally, several council members participating in ABC's Living Well Network Snow Removal Program reported positive experiences.

Mass. Ave. Master Plan, Continued

The group working on creating a master plan for Mass. Ave. has scheduled a meeting with business owners that will include Stuart Dash, Director of Community Planning for Cambridge, Ron Axelrod of Neighborhood Nine, and Denise Jillson of Harvard Square Business Association.

Electrical Power Interruptions

Following a discussion of issues with power outages –both planned and unplanned- the council decided to invite a representative from NSTAR Electric to an ANC meeting. In particular, they seek a list of planned outages and the approaches NSTAR will take to decrease the need for them.



Community

**WHITNEY COFFIN COLBY II
REMEMBERED**

Whitney Coffin Colby II, an Agassiz resident whose children attended the Maria L. Baldwin (then Agassiz) school, died this past January in Maryland. Mr. Colby is remembered for volunteering at the Agassiz Cooperative Pre-school when his daughter was a toddler and for running a neighborhood pickup basketball program. He will be missed by family and friends.

**LWN YOGA AND MINDFUL
RELAXATION**

Join our “boomer” yoga class for people over the age of 50, taught by teacher Christine Palamidessi, a dedicated yogini since the early 80’s.



Students practice:

- Classical yoga postures to build both strength and flexibility
- Range of motion series for joints
- Body alignment for shoulders, hips and knees
- Breathing techniques from both yoga and Aikido traditions
- Centering exercises from Aikido to access inner power and stability
- Balance poses to build confidence
- Meditation, or the practice of turning inward, to enrich inner awareness

Saturday yoga dates: March 5, 12, 19, 26

Time: 9:30-10:30 AM

Location: Lesley’s University Hall, 1815 Mass. Ave., room 4-004 (4-040 on 3/26)

Cost: \$10 per class

Monday relaxation dates: March 7, 14, 21

Time: 4-5 PM

Location: ABC Community Room, North Hall, 1651 Mass. Ave.

Cost: Free!

RSVP to Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org.

**LWN COMPUTER LOUNGE CLASSES
BEGIN IN MARCH**

Mark your calendars! Our first LWN Computer Lounge class of the season will be held in two weeks.

Class Topic: **What is the Internet and what is a Web Page?**

Where: Community Room, North Hall,
1651 Mass. Ave.

When: Wednesday, March 9th

Time: 1:00-3:00 PM

For more information, contact Colin Barr,
Computer Lounge Coordinator, at (617) 349-
6287 x10 or cbarr@agassiz.org.

**PARENTS FORUM FOUNDER
RECEIVES AWARD**

Eve Sullivan –former long-time room parent coordinator at the Maria L. Baldwin (formerly Agassiz) school and founder of the Parents Forum– has been named the Arminta Jacobson Parenting Education Professional of the Year by the Texas Association of Parent Educators.

The award recognizes service to the profession of parenting education at the state, national and/or international level and will be presented at the 19th Annual International Conference on Parenting Education and Parenting at the University of North Texas.

Ms. Sullivan is a long-time Cambridge resident and a graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Learn more about the Parents Forum at www.parentsforum.org.



“ANIMA MUNDI, FUNDY & CUBA”

Prepared by Diane Norris, artist

The Chandler Gallery is proud to present “Anima Mundi, Fundy, & Cuba,” a compelling show that brings together three photographers and many worlds to share a common theme on the underlying essence of place.

Through the eyes of a painter, **Rosalie Post** transforms ordinary places, like the surface of water or the bark of a tree into “Anima Mundi,” an ethereal spirit diffused through nature. Her work is intuitive and unexpected following “the spell of seeing, the call of wild images, and the compelling poetry of light . . .” One of the most stirring images is of a dispersing sand mandala as it is floated onto the Charles River.

In her large format images, **Susan Lapides** presents the bounty of a coastal environment on the Bay of Fundy. One image captures a scuba diver floating in deep meditative relaxation and another sparkles with the moment a swimmer’s head emerges from the refreshing cold waters in a pristine cove. Another photograph shows the unloading of an enormous catch of the day, stunning yet unsettling as it raises questions about the current state of farm raising and harvesting marine riches.

Neil Goodwin’s images of evocative, nearly empty street scenes of Cuba in strong tropical light are captivating. His sparkling images of a glass bottle forest off Route 66 in the Mohave Desert of California invite comment on rare cobalt blue glass, the tradition of the spirit bottle tree, and collectors of enormous quantities of recycled “junk.”

The images are stunning as they reveal Neil’s pivotal influence of studying at Yale in the 1960’s under Walker Evans, an American photographer known for his photos of the Great Depression, with a comprehensive vision as an accomplished filmmaker, architect, and writer.



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For your buying and selling needs.

Join us for an opening reception on **Thursday, March 10, 2011** from 5:30-7:30 PM.

Show dates: March 3–April 1, 2011
Gallery hours: Monday–Friday, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM

To learn more, visit: www.susanlapides.com,
www.neilgoodwinphotography.com.



Blue Door Cuba by Neil Goodwin



Sands of Change by Rosalie Post

MMA SPRING SESSION CLASSES

Sign up for Maud Morgan Arts Spring Session classes or for our April Vacation Week offerings. Find full class descriptions and register online at www.maudmorgan.org.

A sample of classes:

- Sketching the Agassiz Neighborhood for adults taught by Claire Leslie Walker and Erica Beade
- Printmaking Sampler for adults taught by

Jan Arabas, Debra Olin, Christiane Corcelle-Lippeveld, and Lynne Johnson

- Storytelling with Art for grades K-2 during April Vacation Week, taught by Dolores Cuccovia
- Puppet Theatre: Invention and Improvisation for grades 3-5 during April Vacation Week, taught by Phyllis Ewen



Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs

PAN LOCO STEEL BAND

ABC Introducing Art and Club Passim Culture for Kids present Pan Loco Steel Band, bringing the sweet sounds of the Caribbean to New England since 1991.



Pan Loco Steel Band is an authentic, mixed ethnic ensemble consisting of two steel drummers, an electric bass player, and an electronic or acoustic percussionist. They perform year-round at formal and informal venues.

When: Tuesday, March 8, 2:00-3:00 PM
Where: Maria L. Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street
Tickets: \$2 per person, \$5 per family group, free for Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool and Sacramento Street Preschool families, other afterschool groups free with RSVP
Contact: (617) 349-6287 x11 or email jedelman@agassiz.org

MARCH PRESCHOOL UPDATE

Prepared by Priscilla Browne, Preschool Director

The month of February was fun here at Sacramento Street Preschool. We enjoyed celebrating



Valentine's Day together. The children had a nice time decorating heart pictures/paintings, singing songs about love, and then sharing how they celebrated the day at home. Other exciting projects for the children included: making cars out of recyclable materials, experimenting with clay (in art class), and using flubber (and taking some home.)

Our plans for March:

- Preschool will take a deeper look at the weather outside to see what is happening. We will try some experiments related to this topic.
- The Monday, Wednesday, Friday group will finish up our transportation unit, creating a large vehicle out of boxes and other recyclable materials.
- Since we have a friend in our classroom learning sign language, preschool teacher Kim Lambert and I plan on teaching sign language to the whole class. We'll learn basic signs, sing and sign some songs, and listen to/watch stories in sign language.
- Kim and I will be cooking with the children.

RECAP OF HIP HOP FESTIVAL 2011

The 15th Annual Hip Hop Festival featured returning favorites Jam'nastics, Floorlords, Art Center Dance Crew, R&B singer Daye, Deborah Mason School of Dance, and Grooversity Percussion Ensemble.

Master of Ceremonies Naheem Garcia charmed the crowd to a background of beats spun by DJ Luke Duke, and we were also treated to a performance by two young poets rapping positive messages to a crowd of over 400!

Many thanks to Jacy Edelman, Maria Laine, Micah Eglinton-Woods, Phoebe Sinclair, and the Agassiz Baldwin Children's Program team for pulling together this year's showcase.



City Wide

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

To Yell or Not To Yell: Expressing and Managing Anger

Children get frustrated, angry and act out. Do you wonder how to handle it when your children misbehave? This workshop, led by Families First Educator LaVerne R. Saunders, helps parents and childcare providers learn strategies for managing anger in healthy and productive ways.



Date: Wednesday, March 2
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Main Library, Children's Room, 449 Broadway, Cambridge

Free childcare will be provided, but is limited. Registration is required. For more information or to sign up, please call (617) 349-4409.

Family Night with Kevin Henkes

Join award-winning author and illustrator Kevin Henkes, whose many beloved mouse books include *Lilly and her Purple Plastic Purse*, *Owen*, and *Chrysanthemum*, for a reading and celebration of his latest picture book, *Little White Rabbit*.



In 2005, Henkes's picture book, *Kitten's First Full Moon* was awarded the Caldecott Medal. He is

Consulting and Design



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also the author of eight award-winning novels including, *Olive's Ocean* and *Sun & Spoon*.

Date: Wednesday, March 30
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Main Library, Children's Room, 449 Broadway, Cambridge

The event is for children age five and up! Registration required, and pizza will be served. Books will be available for purchase from Porter Square Books. To register or for more information, please call (617) 349-4409.

LOCAL BUSINESS COUPON BOOK

Cambridge Local First has joined forces with Somerville Local First for their first ever Coupon Book, producing a high quality collection of savings to all of your favorite local shops! In addition to saving you hundreds of dollars, the book achieves the following important goals:

- Provide much needed capital to our growing nonprofit networks
- Stimulate the local economy by shopping locally and keeping more of those dollars here in our community
- Support entrepreneurs who run businesses that are invested in and contribute to the community
- Demonstrate that "local doesn't stop" at city limits and that the local movement is about supporting independent businesses that are around you, wherever you are

The books will be sold in the following retailers:

- Harvest Co-op
- Cambridge Naturals
- Porter Square Books
- Greenward
- Harvard Book Store
- Twinkle Star Baby
- Stellabella Toys

Learn more at:
<http://cambridgelocalfirst.org/resources/coupon-book/>.

Community Calendar

March 2011

Saturday, March 5, 12, 19, 26	9:30-10:30 AM	LWN "Boomer" Yoga, 1815 Mass. Ave.
Monday, March 7, 14, 21	4:00-5:00 PM	LWN Mindful Relaxation class, 1651 Mass. Ave.
Tuesday, March 8	2:00-3:00 PM	Introducing Art presents "Pan Loco Steel Drums" Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street
Tuesday, March 8	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) -All are welcome! Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio
Wednesday, March 9	1:00-3:00 PM	LWN Computer Lounge Class "What is the Internet and What is a Web Page?" North Hall Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave.
Wednesday, March 9	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Thursday, March 10	5:30-7:30 PM	"Anima Mundi, Fundy & Cuba," Opening Reception, Chandler Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street
Thursday, March 17		Evacuation Day holiday, ABC programs closed, Office open

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Baldwin Community, distribution 2,000. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by mail or e-mail. The newsletter is also posted each month online at www.agassiz.org. Items of interest to the neighborhood may be submitted for consideration no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

The Whistler March 2011



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DO NOT FORWARD

DID YOU KNOW?

- **ANC meetings are now held on the second Tuesday of the month.** Join us in the 2D studio at the Maud Morgan Arts Center, 20A Sacramento Street.