

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

November 2010

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restoration elements of the exterior of the church.

The university has engaged landscape architect Richard Burck Associates (located in Davis Sq.) to design a plaza to be located at the front of the new AIB, which includes usable space beneath, one story down. The goals are to make the space comfortable and welcoming to the neighborhood, as well as to improve the green space along Roseland St. in front of the Lesley parking lot.

The next steps are to submit an application for a special permit to the Cambridge Planning Board by January 2011, and continue the process with the Cambridge Historical Commission

Council members inquired about opportunities for community input regarding landscaping and traffic studies for the area.

## ANC News

### NOTES FROM THE OCT. 20 MEETING

#### **Art Institute of Boston Update**

Bill Doncaster, Director of Community Relations at Lesley University, gave a brief update on the planning process for relocating the Art Institute of Boston (AIB) to Porter Square at the site of the North Prospect Church, corner of Mass. Ave. and Roseland Street.

Mr. Doncaster explained that since last updates, Lesley has been planning the interiors of the church and a proposed new building to be located adjacent. The first floor of the church will be a library, while the first floor of the proposed new building will be a gallery, both open to the public. They're also researching

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**NOV. 17 - 7:30 PM**

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

#### **AGENDA**

##### **NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME REPORT**

Cambridge Police Dept. presents  
neighborhood crime report

##### **SIDEWALK SNOW CLEARING**

Continued discussion

##### **SACRAMENTO FIELD/PARK**

Review letter to Cambridge Recreation  
Division requesting improvements to  
Sacramento Field

### **Lesley Community Garden**

Council members were treated to freshly prepared latkes made with potatoes, onions, and garlic harvested from the Lesley community garden, located behind 24 Mellon Street. Two students, Zoe Wyner and Erik Degiorgi, who are enrolled in the Science and Ethics of Gardening, presented the treats and described the garden and yearlong course.

“The program lets us get our hands dirty, learn the fundamentals of sustainable agriculture, and offer cooking support to the community,” stated Mr. Degiorgi.

### **Bourbon Coffee To Open At University Hall**

After a three-year absence, a new tenant will be moving into space vacated by The Gap and Kitty Haas Jewelry on the first floor of University Hall. Opened in 2007, Bourbon Coffee is a Rwandan fair-trade coffee shop with one other location in the United States. Bosco Munga and Margaret Scadden introduced the shop and its mission.

Rwanda, known as “the land of a thousand hills,” produces Arabica Bourbon coffee that is grown in high altitudes and washed to improve the flavor and value. After the genocide in 1996, a US school of agriculture helped vitalize the Rwandan coffee sector that, in the past, had been a nationalized industry.

“We’re also introducing coffee culture to Rwandans,” stated Mr. Munga, “Previously, most coffee was exported and the farmers never tasted it! In part, our goal is to present the world with a positive story for Rwanda.” Bourbon Coffee has received all the necessary

permits from the City of Cambridge and is currently designing the space. The shop will be open from 5:30 AM to 10:00 PM and offer coffee, pastries, and a lunch menu.

When asked if Bourbon Coffee will sell specific foods from Rwanda, Mr. Munga replied that ingredients aren’t specific to Rwanda as much as preparation styles. He concluded, “We plan to focus on and strengthen ties with the neighborhood. Bourbon generates good will.”

The Council voted to compose a letter of support for the coffee shop.

### **Help Improve Sacramento Field**

“Sacramento Field is badly neglected and deserves immediate attention,” stated Stephen Diamond, ANC Meeting Chair and Board Director, of the mostly hidden neighborhood park that is open dawn to dusk and includes a basketball court and tot lot.

The council reviewed a list of needed maintenance improvements that had been suggested by Agassiz Baldwin Community employees, Maria L. Baldwin School staff, and community members. Following community comment and prioritization, the list (below) will be sent to Paul Ryder, Director of Recreation, as suggested by Mr. Ryder at the June ANC meeting.

- Install signage at entrance to welcome visitors (incl. hours of operation, rules, and regulations)
- Re-grade the sloping entrance walk (icy and dangerous in winter)
- Install attractive/imaginative fence around tot lot and field
- Install a new decorative metal entry gate (remove vehicle gate)
- Improve access points for school and public
  - Regain access to locked easements on Oxford Street and Sacramento Place
  - Consider creating new access along the far edge of Sacramento Street Community Garden



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- Consider adding a community bulletin board
- Rehab field with grass or sod (remove rocks)
- Add seating/passive use areas
- Install shrubbery, curbing, and lighting along the entry
- Replace broken concrete and clear drains of foliage and debris
- Secure box next to street light controller
- Rebuild overgrown jogging path (if possible increase to two-person width)
- Install lighting throughout (low glare, pole mounted fixtures for safety)
- Add drinking fountain and irrigation for field
- Clean/repaint/update the tot lot - consider adding a gate
- Resurface and repair basketball court
- Install bike racks
- Provide recycling containers
- Consider offering off-leash hours for dogs

Jeff Roberts, a city planner with the Community Development Department (CDD), told the council, “We encourage the council to look at Sacramento Field as a whole in connection with other parks and fields in the city.”

Sacramento Field was acquired from Harvard University in 1980 and the tot lot added in the 1990s. Mr. Roberts explained that it is one of over seventy parks in the city, many of which have undergone or will be undergoing renovations. CDD has been reviewing Sacramento Field, which is on the city’s “medium range list” for improvements.

Mr. Roberts also described Healthy Parks and Playgrounds, a city effort to provide residents with outside access for health. To learn more about Healthy Parks and Playgrounds, visit CDD’s website at:  
[www.cambridgema.gov/healthyplaygrounds](http://www.cambridgema.gov/healthyplaygrounds).

A council member added, “Sacramento Field is a unique park in the city –it’s used regularly by the school, adult soccer leagues, as well as

by families and people with dogs. It’s the only open green space in our neighborhood.”

Please send suggestions and comments to Phoebe Sinclair, Community Liaison, at (617) 349-6287 x10 or [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org).

### **Snow Clearing on Sidewalks**

At a meeting last winter, the council watched a CCTV film describing the difficulties residents in wheelchairs face navigating Cambridge sidewalks following a snowstorm. The council decided to ask the city to investigate the possibility of clearing sidewalks “wholesale” rather than by individual property owners.

Mr. Diamond invited the council to consider next actions, “The city responded that it cannot plow all sidewalks but they might be able to take on the sidewalks along major streets and street corners. Even homeowners who do a good job clearing their sidewalks don’t shovel the corners.”

The possible next actions ANC can take include: research how comparable cities handle snow removal on sidewalks; request further calculation of tax increase of cost for city to clear sidewalks; propose that Cambridge estimate the cost of clearing major streets’ sidewalks and/or all street corners.

The council seeks volunteers to assist with researching comparable cities’ snow removal programs.

Mr. Diamond provided the chronology below.

**Ellen G. Friedman, PhD • Realtor**  
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**December 18, 2009**

Meeting of Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD): “Adopt a Sidewalk” and “Adopt a Corner” program proposed.

**February 19, 2010**

ANC watches CCTV film depicting difficulties encountered by persons with disabilities in negotiating snow on sidewalks. Letter proposed.

Letter sent to City Manager and City Department asking for cost estimation of having city take responsibility for clearing sidewalks.

**September 16, 2010**

At CCPD meeting, Department of Public Works representatives responded:

- City has approximately 200 miles of sidewalks
- Working 24/7, clearing snow on sidewalks would take seventeen days with present forty-five person crew
- Would need 1440 staff and forty-five supervisors to clear all sidewalks twelve hours after storm
- Cost would be \$750,000 per 10” storm
- At average of twenty-three storms per year, cost would be \$17,000,000
- Task is cost prohibitive and logistically extremely challenging, if not impossible

**Existing Clearing Methods**

1. Individual property owners clear sidewalks
2. “Adopt a Sidewalk” and “Adopt a Corner”
3. Street residents can organize to purchase snow blower and hire worker
4. Community can arrange for a group discount (i.e. ABC’s Living Well Network Snow Removal Program)
5. Individual owners hire contractor or students
6. If elderly, disabled, or handicapped – city will clear, call Council on Aging at (617) 349-6220

View the CCTV film at <http://bit.ly/aLZcB4>.

**ANC Meetings Move to Tuesday**

The council voted to move ANC meetings to the second Tuesday of each month, beginning January 2011 (allowing council members to attend Cambridge Planning Board meetings on the third Tuesday of the month if they choose.)

Additionally, the council seeks volunteers to assist with the responsibility of running monthly meetings. In particular, volunteers are needed for January 11 and February 8, 2011. For more information, please contact Phoebe Sinclair, Community Liaison, at [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org).



**Community**

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**WHISTLER CORRECTION**

In the October Whistler article titled “Remembering Mrs. Nagatomi,” we incorrectly reported that Mrs. Nagatomi is survived by her husband. It has come to our attention that Mrs. Nagatomi’s husband passed away some time ago, preceding her. We regret the error.

**ANNUAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK**

A long-standing tradition, the **39th Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Feast** welcomes everyone from the Agassiz neighborhood, Agassiz Baldwin Children’s Programs, and Maria L. Baldwin Elementary School communities to come together for an evening of celebration, good company, and delicious food.

We’ll supply the turkey, which is generously



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prepared by volunteers in their own homes.



Neighbors and friends are encouraged to bring a side dish ample enough for their families and a few more to share. We look forward to seeing everyone and enjoying food inspired by one another's family traditions.

**When:** Tuesday, November 23rd  
5:30-7:30 PM  
**Where:** Baldwin School Dining Hall,  
Maria L. Baldwin School, 28  
Sacramento Street

Note: Please remember that while we will host children's activities, parents are ultimately responsible for their children.

**LWN YOGA CLASS**

Have you signed up yet for Living Well Network Yoga class? Taught by Christine Palamidessi, classes will take place on Saturdays from 9:30-10:30 am in Lesley's University Hall, 1815 Mass. Ave.

Students should wear loose clothing and bring a yoga mat and beach towel. The class will feature alignment yoga with focus on shoulder, knees and hips, stress reduction, and a range of motion for the joints.

The fee for the full month is \$25 (\$6.25 per class)

or \$12 per class for drop-in participants.

Join now and invite your friends, family, and neighbors! To register or learn more, contact Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org.



**Agassiz Baldwin  
Children's Programs**

**PRESCHOOL FALL UPDATE**

Prepared by Priscilla Browne, Preschool Lead Teacher

October has been a fun-filled month of exploration and discovery. During the beginning of the month we learned and talked about apples, leaves, worms, and slugs. As the month progressed, we segued into pumpkins and, of course, Halloween.

The children have really enjoyed singing lots of fun fall songs such as "Grey Squirrel," "Big Eyed Rabbit," and "Five Little Pumpkins." Fun projects this month included leaf painting, baking apple crisp, creating masks, and making our own pumpkins out of paper bags.



Sacramento Street Preschool also participated in Jumpstart's Read for the Record program. Children all over the country read "The Snowy Day," by Ezra Jack Keats on November 7th to promote Literacy. Graeme's dad Dean came to read the story for us. (Thank you, Dean!) After the story, the children had a great time using shaving cream as "snow" and playing in it with toy people.

**PRESCHOOL OPENINGS**

Sacramento Street Preschool is accepting applications for a limited number of immediate Tuesday/Thursday openings. Please contact Emma Mrozicki at emrozicki@agassiz.org or

	<p><b>Peter G Meyersohn, CFP</b> Financial Advisor</p>
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(617) 349-6287 x14 for more information.

### **AFTERSCHOOL FALL UPDATE**

Prepared by Maria Laine, 1st-5th Site Director

1st-5th grade afterschool is off to a great start. We have lots of staff back from last year, some great new additions to our team, and more fabulous programming than ever!

We started offering folk guitar and Appalachian dulcimer lessons for the 4th and 5th graders, and it has been a big hit. In addition, students are enjoying piano lessons, taekwondo, dance, sports club, jewelry club, cooking classes, science club, and drama classes.

We hosted our first concert in the Artists of Color concert series. The Wicked Hanging Chads, a local Cambridge reggae infusion band, came to play and the cafeteria quickly turned into a dance party.

### **FOURTH ANNUAL FLYING ZUCCHINI CAFÉ**

Our Fourth Annual Flying Zucchini Café is scheduled for the evenings of December 8th and 9th. The Flying Zucchini Café is a two-night, student-run restaurant open for family members of the Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool and special guests. Last year our students served over 200 guests!

Kindergarten-5th grade students are involved in every way; from harvesting vegetables, to helping to design the menu, to cooking and serving the food, to taking the reservations. Our goal is to create a healthy restaurant, from conception to completion.



This year, we will continue to focus on the eating-and-buying local component of our curriculum. We will serve local bread, dairy, in-season produce, and the

international recipes used will be based on our diverse student body.

For more information on how to get involved or make a donation, please contact Jacy Edelman at jedelman@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x11.

### **INTRODUCING ART PRESENTS “WORLD OF WONDER”**

ABC Introducing Art and Club Passim Culture for Kids present Leland Faulkner’s World of Wonder.

Hear the classic Native American tale of “Coyote and the Night Time Sky.” Imagine a hat brim that is impossibly twisted into an infinite number of characters from around the world. See shadows come to life with



only a pair of hands. Laugh at the classic humor of Nasruddin, the wise fool of the Muslim world, as he encounters an invisible chicken. Journey to Old Japan in tales illustrated with magic and witness near miracles of illusion and storytelling, and much, much more.

- When:** Thursday, November 18, 2 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:** Jacy Edelman, Director of Children’s Programs, (617) 349-6287 x11 or email jedelman@agassiz.org

### **KIDS ONLY HOLIDAY SALE 2010**

Calling all kids! Calling all kids! Come to this December’s Kids Only Holiday Sale to buy fun and inexpensive gifts for your family and friends.

Need help picking out a gift? Just ask our staff. The sale will be held in the Chandler Gallery at 20 Sacramento Street. Mark your calendars!

**What:** Annual Kids Only Holiday Sale  
**When:** Weekdays, Thursday, December 2-Friday December 10, 3-6 PM

Proceeds from the sale benefit the Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs Scholarship Fund.

## City Wide

### HOW TO CHOOSE GOOD BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

Roger Sutton, Editor-in-Chief of *The Horn Book* and Martha V. Parravano, Executive Editor, have published a new book just for parents who are wondering how to choose good books for their children. *A Family of Readers* helps parents answer these questions: "How do I find just the right book for my child or teen?" "How can I help my child love reading?" and "There are so many books...how do I choose?" Join them for a presentation at the Cambridge Public Library.

**When:** Tuesday, November 16, 7:00 PM  
**Where:** Cambridge Public Library,  
Main Library Lecture Hall,  
449 Broadway  
**Contact:** (617) 349-4409

Books will be available for purchase from Porter Square Books.



### TAKE THE MAUD MORGAN ARTS SURVEY

Help Maud Morgan Arts improve our offerings for next term by taking our online survey! Visit: <http://conta.cc/bzLnhy>.

For more information, contact Catherine Kernan, Maud Morgan Arts Interim Director at (617) 349-6287 x15 or [ckernan@agassiz.org](mailto:ckernan@agassiz.org).

### TENTH ANNUAL SMALL WORKS SHOW SALE AND EXHIBITION

Stop by the Chandler Gallery to view the Tenth Annual Small Works Show featuring the work of fifty-two Cambridge-based artists, on display until November 27, 2010. Proceeds from this popular exhibition and sale go to support the new Maud Morgan Arts Center.

The gallery is open weekdays from 10:00 AM-5:00 PM and Saturdays from Noon-5:00 PM

Special appointments are available; call (617) 349-6287 for details.



*"Blue Field" by Julie Graham*



*"1010" by Paul Shakespear*

# Community Calendar

## November 2010

Wednesday, November 10	6:00-7:30 PM		ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St., 2nd Floor Public welcome
Thursday, November 11			Veterans' Day Holiday, ABC School Programs and office closed
Wednesday, November 17	7:30-9:00 PM		ANC Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio All are welcome
Thursday, November 18	2:00 PM		Introducing Art Presents: World of Wonder Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street
Tuesday, November 23	5:30-7:30 PM		39th Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Feast Baldwin School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento Street
Thursday, November 25			Thanksgiving Holiday, ABC School Programs and office closed through Friday, November 26

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](http://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 November 2010



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**DO NOT FORWARD**

### DID YOU KNOW?

- You can become a friend of Maud Morgan Arts on Facebook! Just enter "Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center" in the search field.
- Help Maud Morgan Arts improve our offerings for next term by taking our online survey. Visit: <http://conta.cc/bzLnhy>
- ANC Meetings have relocated to the Maud Morgan Arts Center, 20A Sacramento Street.