

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

May '06

## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>ANC News: Tree Committee First Planting &amp; Lesley Development</b>	<b>1 - 3</b>
<b>ANC Community: Upcoming ANC Annual Meeting</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ANC Community: Donations, Sacramento Garden and Cambridge Naturals</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ANC Community: Spring Flowers, ANC BBQ '06</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>ANC School Programs: Outback, Pre- and Afterschool, Intro Arts Photos</b>	<b>5 - 6</b>
<b>Citywide: JL Open House &amp; Cambridge City DanceMonth '06</b>	<b>6 - 7</b>
<b>Sacramento Gallery: Art Fresh Art Local '06</b>	<b>7</b>



The number of nodding heads indicated that this sentiment was shared widely by those who attended the April 26th ANC meeting to learn about Lesley University's development proposals and plans. The assembly included several distinguished attendees: City Councilor Henrietta Davis, State Senator Jarrett T. Barrios, and Luc Schuster of the Cambridge School Committee who proudly admitted to being an alumnus of Agassiz Preschool.

## ANC News

### NOTES FROM THE APRIL 15 MEETING

#### **Tree Committee's First Planting**

Joel Bard, spokesperson for the Agassiz Tree Committee, gave a brief summary of the committee's purpose, source of funds (\$50,000 in total as part of the Agassiz/Harvard MOU) and current project. He explained, "We'll be planting a tree in front of the Maria L. Baldwin Elementary School in honor of Arbor Day. Look for us at 11 AM on Friday, April 28th. Also, keep an eye on the *Whistler* for additional news about our meetings and upcoming projects."

#### **Lesley University's Development Proposals**

"When we heard that Lesley had won the bid to purchase the church, we didn't expect a fight," a resident told a crowd of over 100 Agassiz residents and supporters of the Agassiz Pre-school, which has resided for over thirty years in the North Prospect Church. "We rejoiced, we thought Lesley would swoop in and save the day."

Following an introduction by meeting chair Stephen Diamond, Mr. Barrios addressed the council, "Good evening! As the State Senator of the Agassiz neighborhood, also representing State Representative Alice Wolf who couldn't make it tonight, I'd like say that Alice and I are both committed to seeing the Agassiz Preschool remain in the neighborhood. We've spoken in depth with representatives of the preschool,

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING

**MAY 17 - 7:30 PM**

Baldwin School Cafeteria - 28  
Sacramento Street  
(Press buzzer for entry)



### AGENDA

#### **ANC Annual Meeting**

The Council will vote to approve the 2006 Board of Directors. All are welcome to attend, meet the ANC board members, and enjoy light refreshments

Also, ANC will announce the preliminary findings of a survey distributed to Agassiz residents over age 50

President Margaret McKenna of Lesley University, and city residents. We understand that a committee needs to be created for a formal dialogue with Lesley; Alice and I are happy to broker relations going forward. We will continue to advocate for the school – anything we can do, we’re here at your disposal.”

Next, Lesley’s Director of Public Affairs Bill Doncaster, accompanied by Vice President of Administration & University Centers & Institutes Marylou Batt, presented an overview of Lesley’s development process and plans. The highlights of the PowerPoint demonstration, an abbreviated version of the 2005 Town Gown annual report, are as follows:

Projects completed in the past year:

- Gutted and renovated student center
- Tech upgrades in classrooms
- Reclaimed White Hall for dorm space
- Sprinkler upgrade
- 900 square foot art gallery (for student and faculty work) opened on the first floor of the Porter Galleria

Property acquired:

- 57-41 Wendell
- 79-81 Oxford
- 19 Mellen
- North Prospect Church

Campus Plan:

- Enhance academic programs
- Relocate art school
- Leverage neighborhood input
- Meet athletic/recreation needs
- Update library and science labs

Undergrad Student Stats:

- Approximately 1000 undergrad students total
- 625 students reside on campus
- Expected increase of on-campus students to about 800

Concluding his presentation, Mr. Doncaster explained, “Of course we’re not looking to do everything overnight. We need to raise funds

before we can build or complete a project. Currently, we’re exploring the idea of turning the North Prospect Church into the doorway of Art Institute of Boston.”

Infused with energy, Agassiz residents and supporters of the Agassiz Preschool leapt forward with questions and concerns. One resident asked whether the university had plans for the North Prospect church before it was purchased, as it seemed unlikely to him that the university would purchase a building without some idea of its possible uses.



Mr. Doncaster replied, “The church was an opportunity that we seized because it made sense. Its proximity to our other properties allows us to create a cohesive community. There were no final decisions made about uses for the church before we bought it.”

Raising her voice above the flurry of raised hands and half-begun questions, Agassiz Preschool Director Tracy Kaplan confronted the university reps, “We want to preserve our space and our relationship with Lesley, but we’ve heard many opposing statements. My expectation was to negotiate, but we got the idea from

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your lawyer that there really wasn't anything to talk about! What we need at the very least, if we must leave, is a three-year lease extension to allow us time to raise money to move."

Henrietta Davis, a former director of the preschool, added, "You can't operate a preschool and get new enrollment without a stable location! There needs to be a reasonable plan between Lesley and the preschool. People are saying, "What's wrong with this picture? Lesley University is moving out a preschool?"

Ms. Batt of Lesley University responded, "We've received emails from neighborhood residents about the preschool moving out in three months, but we were indicating June 2007, not 2006! We're not against the preschool but we must also look at our own needs. We want to work closely with the preschool, just not in a forum like this."

Soon after, a young supporter wearing an Agassiz Preschool t-shirt, appealed to the Lesley reps, "I really don't want to see the school leave. I think you guys can help us and I think it would be great if you could."

Following his statement, Agassiz Preschool supporters championed the positive impact of the preschool in their individual lives and in the community at large. They proclaimed its prestige as one of the oldest parent co-op preschools in the state, and cited the number of elected officials connected to the school (four).

Agassiz neighborhood resident and advocate Joel Bard summarized their position, "The dialogue has to start all over with Lesley. Much of we're discussing here tonight wasn't mentioned at the Town Gown meeting. You come and listen to us and then we don't see results, but universities around the country have learned it's better to negotiate. It seems to me there's room for everyone."

As the meeting drew to a close, the feeling of crisis calmed to one of determination. ANC Board member Miriam Goldberg asked about

the chain of command at Lesley, "Who at the university makes the final decisions on development plans? We need to have key decision makers attend these meetings."

Neighborhood advocate Willie Bloomstein ended the discussion, first applauding the council for their passion and tenacity, "Thank you for taking the time to come to this meeting. This is what makes our community great," then appealing to the representatives of Lesley University, "We're asking you to engage with us, think about coming at us a different way, shift on how you plan on proceeding."

To continue the conversation and for more information on Lesley's development plans, contact Mr. Doncaster at (617) 349-8525 or [wdoncast@lesley.edu](mailto:wdoncast@lesley.edu) or visit Lesley online at [www.lesley.edu](http://www.lesley.edu).

To learn about the Agassiz Preschool, visit them on the web at [www.agassizpreschool.org](http://www.agassizpreschool.org).

To get involved with a Lesley/Porter working group, contact Phoebe Sinclair via phone (617) 349-6287 x10 or web, [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org).

## ANC Community

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### ANC ANNUAL MEETING

The ANC Board of Directors Nominating Committee has announced a slate for the Board of Directors 2006. Each will serve a two year term:

Burton Doo, Co-Chairperson  
 Andrea Walsh, Co-Chairperson  
 Denise Dussault, Treasurer  
 Miriam Goldberg  
 Fred Meyer

Board members in mid term are:  
 Hull Fulweiler, Clerk  
 Stephen Diamond  
 Ellen Friedman  
 Arlene Holtzman  
 Emily Sample

The council will vote to approve the slate at the next ANC Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 7:30 PM at 28 Sacramento Street.

**All are encouraged to attend!**

**DONATIONS**

The ANC would like to extend warm thanks to the community members who answered our call for donations. There are still a few items we're seeking (see list below) for our office and school programs. To donate, please contact (617) 349-6287 x10 or email Phoebe Sinclair at psinclair@agassiz.org. Thank you for your time and generosity!

- Filing cabinets
- Oven mitts
- Mac-friendly digital camera
- Pre-owned refrigerator in good condition

**GARDEN PLOTS AVAILABLE**

Sacramento Street Community Garden, in alliance with the Cambridge Conservation Commission, still has a couple of plots available for Cambridge residents who have the interest and time to devote to gardening this season. Annual dues are \$10.00. For more information, please contact Sheila by e-mail at smirvine2003@yahoo.com or by phone at (617) 576-1658.

Also, three gardens cultivated as a part of Sacramento Street Community Garden will be included in the Secret Garden Tour of Cambridge on June 8! They are as follows: Anna Farrington #55, Lisa Sjostrom #21, and Shelley Loheed #28.



**CAMBRIDGE NATURALS MOVES TO PORTER SQUARE**

When asked how he got his start in the health food business, affable co-owner Michael Kanter summed it up as, "Well, my girlfriend at the time dumped me and so I moved to Boston and started Cambridge Naturals with my brother and Elizabeth." Although his brother stayed

with the business only briefly, the store blossomed and so did relations between Michael and Elizabeth, who eventually married and grew Naturals into the haven of health it is today.

Michael notes that, over the years, business has changed in that more people are seeking herbal and nutritional remedies as well as information and supplies for yoga, meditation support, and healthier body care products.



Just as their customers seek a healthful community, Cambridge Naturals thrives better in a locale that includes friendly retail partners, hence their move to the Porter Square shopping plaza. When Tags Hardware and Porter Bookstore invited the shop to join them, Naturals went.

Michael explained, "It's true we'll miss our Mass. Ave location; people have said we've been an institution there. Still, we had better energy to move than to stay. We've good synergy with Tags and Porter books. Also, Healthworks is there. We'll have a better leasing situation and 30 to 40% more space!"

Visit the bigger, brighter Cambridge Naturals at their new location in the Porter Square Shopping Center, right next to Porter Square Books or check them out online at [www.cambridgenaturals.com](http://www.cambridgenaturals.com).

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**Many References in the**  
**Agassiz Neighborhood,**  
**Cambridge**  
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**(617) 354-6872**

### ANC NEIGHBORHOOD WELCOMES SPRING

The following photos were submitted by Agassiz resident Stephen Diamond. Local businesses and residents celebrate the arrival of spring with flowers!




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### ANC BBQ

Join us at our Annual Backyard Bar-”Bee”-Que on Wednesday, June 7th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.

Everyone is welcome!



Hotdogs, hamburgers, veggie options and drinks are provided. Feel free to bring the following: side dishes, fruits, salads, desserts, chips.


BBQ will take place “outback” of the ANC community center at 20 Sacramento Street. Children must be accompanied by adults. For more information, call (617) 349-6287 x10 or email psinclair@agassiz.org



## Agassiz School Programs

### OUTBACK SUMMER PROGRAMS

Enrollment for Outback Summer Program ‘06 is full, with the exception of week one! Families hoping to enroll may contact the ANC to have children’s names placed on the wait-list. We’re also pleased to report that all Counselor in Training (CIT) positions have been filled.



**KOTOBUKIYA**  
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Market (617) 354-6914  
Sushi Bar (617) 492-4655  
Fish Dept. (617) 492-5330  
Fax (617) 864-1313

Contact the ANC for an application form at (617) 349-6287 or download it from the web at [www.agassiz.org/OutbackSummerProgram.asp](http://www.agassiz.org/OutbackSummerProgram.asp).

**PRESCHOOL JOINS NAEYC**

Prepared by Preschool Director  
Michelle Quinlan

Sacramento Street Preschool is proud to announce that we are in the process of becoming a member of the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children). NAEYC is a voluntary system that serves over 1 million children nationwide and is the world's largest organization working on the behalf of young children. Membership requires following ten standards of excellence in early childhood education. When we demonstrate that our program adheres to these standards, we further validate how our preschool provides excellent quality care for children. In addition, parents have an added sense of security when they send their child(ren) to a program recognized by the NAEYC. Sacramento St. Preschool looks forward to our journey of becoming part of such a prestigious association.

**AFTERSCHOOL TALENT SHOW**

Prepared by Afterschool Director  
Barb MacEachern

The Agassiz Afterschool children put on a fantastic talent show during April vacation. The children were the creative force behind this two-hour event. They spent a month developing and rehearsing with several of our talented and patient staff members: Kelly Lynch, Steve Mayone and Sarah Bortner. We had several singing acts involving children, staff and parents! The show ended with a bang with a number by our afterschool hip-hop dance crew!

This talent show is a unique example of the power of listening to the voice of the children as well as recognizing their talents and interests. Our fantastic staff served as supportive guides to assist the children in reaching their final goal. We send a big thank you to the family members who came by to support their children, especially to Paula Parham, the inspirational voice behind the show's conception.

**INTRODUCING ARTS - WILD SNEE GOBLIN!**

The final early release day Intro Arts perform-

ance of the year was a hit with Agassiz Afterschool kids. With the Wild Snee Goblin as instructor, the children practiced laughing, silly dance moves, and singing rollicking songs with imaginative words reminiscent of Dr. Seuss. Thanks to Rushad Eggleston for leading such a fun and wacky show!



**City Wide**

**JUNIOR LEAGUE OPEN HOUSE**

The Junior League of Boston and their team of leading designers invite you to tour the 34th Annual Decorators' Show House at the Richard Henry Dana Jr. House in Harvard Square. See this stunning 7,700 square feet, 155 year-old home come alive.

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Show House to occur at the Dana House on its  
99 Brattle Street, Cambridge campus.

**Preview Tours:** May 1 -  
May 4  
**General Admission:**  
May 5 - June 4

For more information  
call the Junior League  
of Boston at (617) 536-  
9640 or visit [www.jl  
boston.org](http://www.jl<br/>boston.org)



**DANCEMONTH '06**

**Tuesdays @ Noon**

Part of DanceMonth, the Tuesdays@Noon  
luncheon and performance series is The Dance  
Complex's invitation for folks to partake in a  
healthy serving of food and culture and return  
to work doubly energized. Three diverse con-  
certs and lunch with the artists.

**Dates:** May 9, 16 and 30      **Time:** Noon

**Fresh Pond Ballet**

- \* Classical Ballet
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617-491-5865



**Place:** The Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave,  
Central Square, Cambridge  
**Tickets:** \$12 each lunch or \$27 for a transferable  
ticket

For more info on both this and other events call  
(617) 547-9363 or visit [www.dancemonth.com](http://www.dancemonth.com).



**Sacramento  
Street Gallery**

**ART FRESH ART LOCAL**

The Sacramento Street Gallery presents: Art  
Fresh Art Local, Emerging Artists in Cambridge.

- Laurent Husson
- Jessica Lander
- Anne Peramaki
- Rachel Phillips
- Anne Soulet

**Opening reception:** Friday, May 19, 5-7 PM  
**Exhibition:** May 19 - June 16, 2006  
Open weekdays 9-5 PM



Images counter-clockwise from top left: Laurent  
Husson, Jessica Lander, Anne Soulet, Rachel Phillips  
and Anne Peramaki.

# Community Calendar

## May 2006

Tuesday, May 9		Early Release Day, Baldwin School School will be dismissed at 12:55 PM
Sunday, May 14		Mother's Day
Wednesday, May 17	6:00 - 7:30 PM	ANC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento Street, 2nd Floor Public Welcome
Wednesday, May 17	7:30 PM	ANC Annual Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Baldwin School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento Street All are welcome
Friday, May 19	5:00 - 7:00 PM	Art Fresh Art Local Gallery Reception Sacramento Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street
Monday, May 29		Memorial Day Holiday Baldwin School and ANC Closed

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### THE WHISTLER MAY 2006

**anc**



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