

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

April 2009

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## ANC News

### NOTES FROM THE MAR. 18 MEETING

#### **Cambridge DPW To Begin Long Awaited Street Repairs**

Owen O'Riordan, Cambridge City Engineer, Rebecca Fuentes, Community Relations Coordinator for the Department of Public Works (DPW), and John J. Struzziery of SEA Consultants updated the Council on the repair schedule for streets along Agassiz's northern edge: Prentiss, Forest, Frost, and Roseland Sts. and Newport Road. These repairs will be completed in connection with the citywide sewer/storm water management project. DPW plans to repair at least one street per year as budgeting permits, and anticipates 15-18 months between projects. Each street is expected to take a year to complete.

In July/August, sewer/storm water separation work will begin on Prentiss Street. DPW will insert a new sewer line, storm drain, water

main, and NSTAR Gas will replace the gas main. Following this work, the roadway and accessible sidewalks will be reconstructed, and trees may be planted through a program that partners residents with the city to care for newly planted street trees. Following Prentiss Street's reconstruction, DPW will begin work on Forest Street.

Mr. O'Riordan conceded that street repair can be very disruptive to residents and explained that DPW will develop traffic management plans, host neighborhood meetings to discuss the upcoming repairs, and will notify residents about planned power outages whenever possible. Ms. Fuentes added, "You should see us soon, out in the neighborhood flyering and talking to people about the upcoming work."

DPW will attend a future ANC meeting to provide more details on the repairs and sewer/storm water separation work. Residents can also learn more about these projects online at [www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/departments/engnr/sewstrmgmt.html](http://www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/departments/engnr/sewstrmgmt.html).

#### **ABC Launches Living Well Network**

Miriam Goldberg, ABC Board co-Chair, joined by consultant Ann Bookman and Kristina

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**APRIL 15 - 7:30 PM**  
Baldwin School Cafeteria  
28 Sacramento Street  
(Press buzzer for entry)

#### **AGENDA**

Updates on:

- *Nomination for ABC Board Directors*
- *Lesley/Community Working Group Status Report on Proposed Zoning for Porter Square*
- *Other agenda items TBA*

Snyder, author of the “Living Well” guide for seniors, updated the Council about recent developments in ABC’s aging in place initiative.

**Living Well Network**

“This is a very innovative project. There’s been a long process with a lot of community input and dialogue,” stated Ann Bookman, social anthropologist and former Executive Director of the MIT Workplace Center. Ms. Bookman, who is currently a Fellow at the Community Innovators Lab at MIT, joined ABC’s project as a consultant in 2008. She explained that ABC plans to grow the initiative organically through grassroots activism.

“STICK” (the Staying in Cambridge Network) was renamed “Living Well Network” to reflect its connection to Kristina’s Snyder’s “Living Well” guide and ABC’s intention to include four bordering neighborhoods: Avon Hill/North Commons/Neighborhood 9, Porter Square, Mid-Cambridge/Longfellow, and parts of Somerville that border Agassiz. The program’s physical office will be located at 20 Sacramento Street.

Through the use of a second (web-based) survey, ABC discovered that residents, many of whom don’t currently require services, showed a strong interest in volunteering, particularly to help build a program that will support them as they age. Ms. Bookman explained that many aging in place initiatives are based on a consumer or client/provider model where individual seniors purchase services from stand alone

elder care agencies. ABC’s approach will be based on a community development model where seniors and people of all ages come together to create support systems that can help people age with dignity as members of a dynamic urban community.


The program will include:

- An inclusive intergenerational/neighborhood based network: volunteers will go block-to-block to learn residents’ needs, as well as discover how individuals are willing to contribute their skills, time, and talents. Participating residents will be paired up with peer-to-peer and cross-generational support for transportation, grocery shopping, meal preparation, visiting, and other needs.
- Information referral: a small group of access coordinators will be trained to connect people with existing services. ABC will tap into its existing partnerships with key agencies and service providers. Through the Living Well Network, these agencies and providers will be able to bring their programs into the neighborhoods.
- Volunteer opportunities: residents will be invited to volunteer in their areas of interest with a focus on community activism and building cross-generational relationships. Some ideas include volunteering with ANC and other neighborhood agencies, as well as in ABC’s child care programs.


With emphasis on volunteerism, ABC plans to begin with currently available resources, and then seek additional funding in the future, possibly in the form of grants and fundraising.

**History**

In 2006, ABC mailed a community survey to 200 households to learn about the challenges residents face as they age. The survey sought answers to questions such as “Do you wish to retire in Cambridge?” and “What kind of assistance do you need now and in the future?” Shortly after, and through the support of a grant from the Cambridge Agassiz Harvard (CAH)



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Fund, ABC co-sponsored a citywide meeting with the Cambridge Council on Aging that attracted more than 150 Cambridge residents to a presentation by Boston's Beacon Hill Village.

In 2006 and 2007 ABC rolled out a number of pilot programs aimed at addressing the needs of Agassiz residents over the age of 50, including a lecture series and snow removal pilot program. The agency received two additional CAH Fund grants, one to host a presentation on time banking and one to send key volunteers to a Beacon Hill Village conference. In addition, a team of volunteers, the Over Fifty Task Force, was organized to help focus the project. By way of a community-wide contest, ABC's aging in place initiative was named "STICK," Staying in Cambridge Network.

In 2008 ABC was awarded a CAH Fund grant that helped hire consultants from Executive Service Corps, a nonprofit group that works with community organizations, to further define the program's structure.

### **How to Get More Information**

On April 16, the Living Will Network will host five house meetings in Agassiz and surrounding neighborhoods in Cambridge and Somerville where residents will get a chance to talk at length about the new program, how they want to be involved, and their own hopes for aging in their neighborhoods.

For more information on a house meeting in

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### **Update on "Living Well" Guide to Senior Services**

"I don't think people know how much they need to know about aging," stated Kristina Snyder, author of "Living Well, A Guide To Senior Services in Cambridge." Ms. Snyder, whose professional background includes establishing the Hospice of Cambridge and working with frail elders at Cambridge Hospital, created "Living Well" with support from Agassiz Baldwin Community and a Cambridge Agassiz Harvard (CAH) Fund grant. Mt. Auburn Hospital provided funding to print 9000 copies, and Ms. Snyder is currently in the process of distributing them. Copies are available at:

- Agassiz Baldwin Community  
20 Sacramento St.
- Cambridge Senior Center,  
Central Square, 806 Mass Ave.  
(next to the central post office)

The "Living Well" guide can also be found online at [www.agassiz.org/LivingWell.asp](http://www.agassiz.org/LivingWell.asp) or [www.CambridgeSomervilleResourceGuide.org](http://www.CambridgeSomervilleResourceGuide.org) (click on the "Resource Link" section under the Elder Services category.)

### **Continued Community Discussion of Lesley Development in Porter Square**

Although many residents express continued support of Lesley University's goal to relocate the Art Institute of Boston (AIB) to Porter Square, residents and abutters to the proposed new buildings continue to wrestle with numerous concerns about the project. ANC members and guests from nearby Neighborhood 9 and Porter Square discussed:

- Size and massing of the buildings of the proposed new AIB, particularly in relation to what would be permitted by present zoning
- Loss of open and green space
- Removing the North Prospect Church from its historic position on the corner of Roseland St. and Mass. Ave.
- Potential structural damage to nearby

homes, noise, and light, as well as traffic, bike, and pedestrian congestion in Porter Square

- Lesley's reluctance to discuss traffic, parking, and construction mitigation this early in the project

Levels of comfort with the overall project varied, for example, abutter Sarah Farrington stated, "I'm not comfortable with the project the way it is planned. I want to support AIB coming to Porter Square, but I'd like to see other options," while Harriet Ahouse of Porter Square told the Council, "I believe the project will enhance the neighborhood, although there are many issues yet to discuss. The Ave. is starting to hurt and bringing more people in the neighborhood during the daytime will be a positive."

The discussion will continue at upcoming ANC meetings and we invite everyone to join us and make your voice heard. See below for a list of upcoming meetings:

### **Lesley University Proposed Zoning Overlay District and AIB Relocation**

**April 1** – Lesley/Neighborhoods Working Group meeting

**April 4** - Historical Commission – 6 PM, Cambridge Senior Center, 806 Mass. Ave. For information call: (617) 349-4683

**April 7** – Cambridge Planning Board - 7:30 PM, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, 2nd Floor Meeting Room For information call: (617) 349-4600

**April 14** – Cambridge Ordinance Committee – 4 PM, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway

Residents who would like to comment on Lesley's proposal are welcome to contact the Cambridge City Council at Council@Cambridgema.gov.

### **Harvard-owned Retail Shops Sit Vacant**

ANC meeting chair Stephen Diamond reported the current status of the collection of retail

shops, sometimes referred to as the "Bence Pharmacy site," located at the corner of Everett Street and Mass. Ave. Until recently, this Harvard University-owned property included the clothing boutique Looks, Crimson Cleaners, Three Aces Pizza, and Central Barber (the smaller building nearby that recently contained a nail salon has a different landlord).

Although Central Barber remains in its original location, Mr. Diamond reported that the owner, Fred Iannacone, has been asked to vacate in a year's time and that Mr. Iannacone declined Harvard's offer to assist with a more prompt move.

A group of residents met with Harvard representatives Mary Power and Tom Lucey on March 10 to discuss the future of the retail shops. The Harvard reps. explained that, in 2007 when dry cleaning solvents were discovered beneath the site during a pre-construction analysis for the new Law School building, the University hired geotechnical engineering firm Haley & Aldrich to study and begin to remediate the problem. Harvard believes that the remediation will be facilitated by a vacant building, and intends to begin to detoxify and flush out the contamination immediately.

Previously, community members had been told that Harvard had no plans to develop the retail strip and that the shops had held five-year leases, renewable for another five years. Ms. Power has confirmed that ". . . Harvard's desire is to resume commercial activity at the site when it is in suitable condition for re-occupancy."



# ABC Community

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## **SERVE ON THE ABC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Agassiz Baldwin Community (ABC) seeks candidates for our Board of Directors. There is currently one opening on the Board for next year: the position of Parent Representative. To qualify as a Parent Representative on the ABC Board you must be 1) a parent with children in the Agassiz neighborhood; 2) a parent with a child in the Baldwin School; or 3) the parent of a child in any program of Agassiz Baldwin Community.

Also, the Nominating Committee currently seeks good candidates who may serve in the future. Candidates should send a statement that explains their interest in the Board as well as relevant experience. A resume is optional. All submissions will remain on file with the Nominating Committee for consideration when future vacancies arise.

A slate will be announced at the April 15th Agassiz Neighborhood Council (ANC) meeting, and that slate will be accepted by a vote of the Council at the May 20th Annual Meeting.

### **About the Nominating Committee**

The role of the Nominating Committee is to recommend candidates for the Board who will:

- Bring expertise necessary to the work of the Board (e.g. financial, community relations, real estate, legal, educational, architectural) at particular points in time;
- Reflect the diversity within the community that we serve in our programs (e.g. age, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status);
- Exercise their fiduciary and legal responsibility to the nonprofit corporation with sound judgment;
- Be able to work collaboratively and successfully with others on sometimes difficult issues;
- Be available to attend regular monthly

meetings as well as participate in special meetings and monthly ANC meetings when needed.

The members of the Nominating Committee are appointed by the co-Chairs of the ABC Board of Directors. For over twenty years, the tradition has been that Board Chairs have appointed past Board Chairs and Board members, as well as others in the community, to serve on the Nominating Committee. After the Nominating Committee has been appointed, community members, as well as members of the Board, can recommend names for consideration for election to the Board to the Nominating Committee.

Thank you,  
ABC Nominating Committee 2009,  
William Bloomstein  
Joel Bard  
Hull Fulweiler  
Anna Eckert Byrne  
Terry DeLancey



## **Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs**

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### **FLYING ZUCCHINI CAFÉ A GREAT SUCCESS!**

Prepared by Alice Vogler, 1-5 Site Director

On March 11th and 12th the basement of the Baldwin School was transformed into our youth run restaurant/café. Parents and community members (including the Mayor!) started lining up around 5:30 PM waiting to be seated by one of the Kindergarten hosts. Delicious food began coming out of the kitchen soon after, plated by the hardworking 4th & 5th grade sous chefs and served by our awesome 3rd-5th grade wait staff.

It was wonderful to see every table filled with parents and kids from the Agassiz Afterschool program. Our K-5th graders participated in the Empty Bowl Project with Melanie Yuhl, our Afterschool Ceramics Specialist, where they made ceramic bowls and sold them with the proceeds going to the Boston Food Bank; we



raised \$460 in the two evenings!

All the teachers and kids did an amazing job putting everything together...from getting the food donations, to printing T Shirts for every child in the program, to making a big 3D flying zucchini, to planning the menu. Flying Zucchini Café couldn't have happened without everyone's teamwork and dedication to the project. Just wait 'til next year!



**FLYING ZUCCHINI CAFE THANKS DONORS**

Prepared by Jacy Edelman, Program Director

The Flying Zucchini Café was made possible with generous support and/or donations from:

- The Cambridge Mayor's Wellness Initiative Grant
- Capone Foods, Cambridge, MA
- Harvest Food Coop, Cambridge, MA
- Lizzy's Ice Cream, Cambridge, MA
- Taza Chocolate, Somerville, MA
- Zing Pizza, Cambridge, MA

Student workshops facilitated by:

- The Cambridge Department of Public Health
- Cambridge Common restaurant
- The Food Project, Lincoln, MA
- Lourdes Smith, owner of Fiore DiNonno

Thank you to the Maria Baldwin School for your support!

**INTRODUCING ARTS AND CLUB PASSIM CULTURE FOR KIDS PRESENT "INCA SON"**

Inca Son, since its earliest beginnings in the streets of Harvard Square has been a band with a mission: to preserve and instill appreciation for their cultural legacy through the international language of music and dance.



**When:** Thursday, April 23, 2:00 PM

**Where:** Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street

**Tickets:** Afterschool groups free, \$2 per person, \$5 per family. School groups please call ahead.

For more information, call (617) 349-6287.



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## City Wide

### CDD'S "AGING IN THE CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY" QUESTIONNAIRE

The Cambridge Community Development Department (CDD) is undertaking a study of aging in the Cambridge Community as it relates to their work in Land Use and Zoning, Open Space, Environmental and Transportation Planning, Housing, and Economic Development. To view a presentation on the study and fill out a questionnaire, please visit [www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/](http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/).

### STREET CLEANING

Prepared by Cambridge Department of Public Works

The City cleans each street in Cambridge once per month, April through December (weather permitting), through the use of a mechanical sweeper. Signs are posted on each residential street indicating the schedule. In order to ensure that streets are properly cleaned, cars must move off the side of the street being swept or the car will be tagged and towed. To receive a copy of the schedule by mail, please call the Operations Center at (617) 349-4800. You may also obtain a copy of the schedule on-line at [www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks](http://www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks).

In the Agassiz neighborhood, cleaning will occur on the "even numbered" side of streets on the third Monday of each month. The "odd numbered" side of streets will be swept on the third Tuesday of each month. See website for additional information.

### AFTER DARK WITH MILLER STREET OPEN STUDIOS

Miller Street Studios is a community of professional artists. This year's event is our largest ever, with over 30 artists participating. Works are on view and for sale, include: painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, animation, kinetic artworks, clay, bookbinding, letterpress printing, photography, a violin studio, and more.

We will be conducting our bi-annual sale of one-of-a-kind, handmade artist's books. New this year, a raffle on Friday night! This event is free and open to the public.

- What:** "After Dark" (a Miller Street tradition) featuring an evening of art, music and refreshments
- Where:** 11 Miller Street, Somerville MA 02143, the studio is a ten minute walk from Porter Square MBTA stop
- When:** Friday, April 24, 6-10 PM and Saturday, April 25, noon-5 PM

For more information on participating artists, directions, or parking call (617) 864-3192 or visit [www.technofrolics.com/MillerStreetOpenStudios](http://www.technofrolics.com/MillerStreetOpenStudios).



## Sacramento Street Gallery

### "A DRAWING SHOW"

Stop by the Sacramento St. Gallery to view "A Drawing Show," featuring works by Raul Gonzalez, Jane Sherrill, and Ellen Stutman. The show is open through Friday, May 1.

Gallery hours are Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM.



Starting top left:  
"Bison with Thorns" by Raul Gonzalez, "Rockface" by Ellen Stutman, "Redscape" by Jane Sherrill



# Community Calendar

## April 2009

Wednesday, April 15	6:00 - 7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St., 2nd Floor Public welcome
Wednesday, April 15	7:30 - 9:00 PM	ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St. All are welcome
Monday, April 20		Patriot's Day Vacation, ABC School Programs and office closed
Tuesday, April 21		School Vacation Week, Agassiz Afterschool open through Friday, April 24
Thursday, April 23	2:00 PM	Introducing Arts Performance & Club Passim's Culture for Kids present "Inca Son" Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento St.

*The Whistler* is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Baldwin Community, distribution 2,000. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by mail or email. 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 APRIL 2009



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