

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

November '06

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ANC News

NOTES FROM THE OCT. 18 MEETING

Cambridge Codex Revealed

The "Cambridge Codex" is a community art project designed by Lesley University artist/faculty Kerrie Bellisario. Although Ms.

Bellisario was unable to attend the council meeting, she explained via email how the project was conducted.

Over a two-week period, from September 11 to September 23, a small group of Lesley students chalked out messages along Mass Ave from Harvard Square to Porter Square. Ms. Bellisario then documented code messages for inclusion in the official project archive that will become the impetus for a new body of artwork investigating themes of art, voice, and social democracy.

While the public portion of the project has concluded, those interested in participating can still

send written code dialogues directly to Ms. Bellisario. She can be contacted at kbellisa@lesley.edu. For more information about the project visit www.cambridgecodex.com.

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[Detail of Code Card](#)

Addis Red Sea Casts for Success in Cambridge

Addis Red Sea Ethiopian restaurant Addis Red Sea has been operation in Boston's South End at 544 Tremont Street for 18 years. Encouraged by the restaurant's fans and patrons, co-owners Misrak Assefa and her husband are looking to expand into Cambridge. Ms. Assefa, accompanied by attorney Kathleen E. Lombardi of the firm Adams & Rafferty, visited the council, bringing along several steaming trays of Ethiopian fare. She explained how she and her husband hope to purchase the Indian Club restaurant located at 1755 Mass Ave. No stranger to Cambridge, Ms. Assefa explained, "I lived in Cambridge for ten years during the 1980s and 90s, and I would estimate that 30% of our customers live here as well. Many tell us that eating at the restaurant is like leaving the U.S. and traveling someplace new!"

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



NOVEMBER 15 - 7:30 PM

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

AGENDA

Community Discussion of Status of Harvard Law School Planning

Cambridge Agassiz Harvard (CAH) Fund update

Agassiz Crimewatch Network update

New Trees For Fall

The Agassiz Tree committee has been in existence for little more than a year, but they have big plans for the neighborhood's foliage. This subcommittee of the ANC, formed following the Harvard/Agassiz Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that donated \$50,000 to the neighborhood to plant trees, includes a number of neighborhood notables:

- Environmental lawyer and chair Joel Bard
- Landscape architect Cynthia Smith
- Realtor and ANC Board member Fred Meyer
- Janet Burns, who volunteers with a city tree support group
- Lynne Reiss, concerned neighbor
- and naturalist/artist Clare Walker-Leslie

Initially, money from the MOU tree fund helped plant two Japanese maples in front of the Agassiz Community Center with some additional landscaping. The next planting, organized by the Agassiz Tree Committee, was scheduled for April 28th, Arbor Day, and placed a red maple in front of the Baldwin School (see Whistler, April 2006.)

Cynthia Smith joined the council to explain the committee's newest project, "We will soon embark on a modest but significant planting that begins tomorrow. Our plan is to place more trees at the gateways to our neighborhood."

The tree committee will be planting at these sites:

Wendell Street, moving towards Mass. Ave:
 -3 Honey Locusts and 2 Yoshino Cherries on the left side of the street
 -1 Honey Locust and 1 Yoshino Cherry on the right

Oxford Street:
 -2 Yoshino Cherries near Lesley U's Reed House
 -2 Yoshino Cherries adjacent to 43 Wendell St.
 -2 Yoshino Cherries opposite the two near 43 Wendell St.

Mass. Ave. and Everett St., near Looks boutique:
 -1 Honey Locust

Mass. Ave. near University Wine:
 -1 Honey Locust
 Mass. Ave./Forest Street, near Judy Jetson:
 -1 Honey Locust on Mass Ave and 1 on Forest St.
 Mass. Ave. near Barefoot Books:
 -1 Honey Locust
 Also, there are plans to plant coniferous plants, trailing vines, and seasonal plantings in pots at the Gulf station located on the corner of Mass. Ave. and Garfield St.

Cynthia concluded her report, stating, "Although we've exhausted most of our funds, we're getting a big bang for our buck! We're also developing a wish list for future projects. Phoebe Sinclair of the ANC has organized us and been our fearless leader; don't hesitate to contact her if you have questions or concerns."

Ms. Sinclair can be reached at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org.

Crimewatch Update

Jen Lacroix of the Agassiz Neighborhood Crimewatch Network (ANCN) offered three quick updates.

- 1.) An ANCN meeting will be held on Sunday, Oct 29th behind the ANC Community Center at 20 Sacramento Street. Attendees should feel free to bring pumpkins for a carving and neighborhood meet 'n greet that will run from 2 to 3 PM.
- 2.) Interested residents should contact either Jen Lacroix or Phoebe Sinclair of the ANC to sign up for a defense-training course (RAD System).

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I strive to exceed your expectations.

3.) Ms. Lacroix is encouraged by how many new groups are organizing around Boston and Cambridge. She hopes to continue networking and requests that anyone with a contact names or information about neighborhood or condo associations please email her at cambridge_neighborhood@yahoo.com.

Agassiz Preschool Update

Gillien Todd, parent and Agassiz Preschool board member, and acting-director Natalie Beaumont-Smith provided an update to the council regarding their search for a new space for the Agassiz Preschool. Lesley University, which purchased the North Prospect Church that has housed the preschool for many years, has been assisting them.

Ms. Todd explained, "Recently we've run into problems surrounding zoning, so we can only look at commercial spaces. We've expanded our search to Somerville. We've also approached many churches in Cambridge, though most were too small to fit our needs. Additionally, we now have a loan guaranteed contingent on our raising a certain amount of money by the end of the year."

Ms. Todd and Ms. Beaumont-Smith went on to explain that the preschool will hold its first open house for prospective parents on November 8th, and that they are receiving questions about where the school will be located next year. Ms.

Todd and Ms. Beaumont-Smith explained that the preschool is currently investigating several properties (to rent or purchase) and asked the council to put out the word that anyone who knows of a suitable property should please contact them as soon as possible. They are searching for a space sized 3500 to 4000 square feet indoors (preferably on one level) and 5000 square feet outdoors.

In the meantime, Lesley University has narrowed their search for an architect down to two and hopes to have preliminary drawings of the space by January. However, even if the preschool can be built into the plans, they'll need to secure a temporary space for up to three years.

Aging in Place Breaks Ground in Agassiz Neighborhood

"There's been a lot of attention focused on what will happen with the Baby Boomer generation as it ages," said Miriam Goldberg, ANC Board member who also sits on a committee that is working to shape the ANC's aging in place initiative. "Various groups across the city seek to address this concern and many ongoing initiatives are coming together in exciting and dynamic ways. If Cambridge finds a good way to approach the concerns of people age 50 and older, we can provide a model for other places. We don't know what kind of ripple effects this new movement will have."

The ANC has long been interested in establishing a program that will help Cambridge residents remain in their homes as they age. More recently, the agency applied for a grant from the CAH Fund (funded by the Harvard/Agassiz MOU) to host a free lecture featuring representatives from Beacon Hill Village, a notable and pioneering aging in place program based in Boston. The grant also allowed the ANC to create and distribute a needs-assessment survey that revealed what people over the age of fifty felt to be their most pressing concerns. One item in particular, snow shoveling, was pinpointed as something older Agassiz residents wanted more access to immediately.

Fresh Pond Ballet

* *Classical Ballet*
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* *Pre-Ballet for 4 Year Olds*
* *Youth * Teen * Adults*
* *Sprung Floor & Marley for Safety*



Studio: 1798A Mass. Ave.,
Cambridge,
Nina Alonso Hathaway

Register Now!
www.freshpondballet.com
617-491-5865

Lynn Landon, ANC Assistant Director, spoke to this when she addressed the council on Wednesday, "We're hoping to have something of substance to offer to Agassiz and surrounding neighbors in a limited way this winter. Following the initiation of the snow shoveling program, we hope to offer home maintenance toward the end of the winter for residents over fifty."

Additionally, the ANC conducted an assets survey over the summer titled, "Gifts of Head, Heart and Hand" that targeted 250 residents in the Agassiz neighborhood and around Cambridge. Ms. Landon stated, "The focus was discovering what people felt they could give back to the community. We're hoping to support a civic engagement component in our initiative." She mentioned that one Agassiz resident is giving back by establishing a walkers group to help address older people's concerns about mobility.

Ms. Landon noted that other ideas for civic engagement include time banking and using technology to set up a citywide community bulletin board that can reach people who "can't get out of the house the way they used to."

As the discussion drew to a close, Ms. Goldberg noted, "Our goals are not minor ones and, in order to flush them out, we intend to host a whole series of activities and meetings. Expect to hear from us again at future ANC meetings."

Harvard Law School Development & LISE Gas & Chemical Storage

Law School Development

Agassiz resident Adriane Bishko informed the council that she and ANC meeting chair Stephen Diamond sent a letter to Harvard requesting that a new* Implementation Agreement be made regarding construction at the Law School.

Mr. Diamond added, "We understand that Harvard has the particulars worked out; we'd like to see them in writing. The letter that Adriane and I wrote stated that we should have

a written document on this second Implementation Agreement that is analogous to the first [agreement established in 2003]."

Mr. Diamond noted that while he is aware that Harvard works closely with the city's working committee to ensure that community concerns are addressed in the new building's design, he thinks it important to list, in writing, the elements that were incorporated into the design as a result of the community dialogue. He feels that such a document should be agreed to by the community before Harvard obtains permits and approvals.

Mary Power, Senior Director of Community Relations at Harvard stated that the project took shape as a result of the extensive community dialogue. She looks forward to continuing this community process with issues such as construction mitigation in the near future.

Additional comments supplied by Mr. Diamond: Harvard is in the process of requesting the following permit applications: Cambridge Historical Commission on November 2 and Cambridge Planning Board November 28th. Since the council meeting, Harvard sent a letter documenting the current planning of Harvard Law School, but it leaves unresolved the future of Mass. Ave. between Wendell and Everett Streets.

***Note:** The previous agreement was established in November 2003 and addressed three building projects on Harvard's campus: 1.) the Biological Research Infrastructure ("BRI"), the Laboratory for Integrated Science and Engineering ("LISE") and the North/West Science Building.

LISE

As Professor Sheldon Krinsky, PhD, ANC's community science advisor, is on sabbatical this year, the council is looking for a new advisor with regards to gas and chemical storage at Harvard's Laboratory for Integrated Science and Engineering (LISE) building. Harvard's application with the Cambridge License Board for the building has been on hold. The University is seeking a permit that allows storage of a particu-

lar chemical (arsine) on site and the community seeks assurances that the amounts in question are safe.

One resident asked if Harvard might pay for the independent consultant the council seeks. Ms. Power stated that Harvard does not see the need to do so. She clarified that the university has provided access to the project's consultants in the past, and intends to continue supplying comprehensive information in response to the community's questions. She added that she would bring the council's request back to Harvard.

Correction from Sept. Whistler: Last month, we listed the neighborhood crime watch group organized by Jen Lacroix as "Agassiz Crimewatch Network". The correct name of the group is Agassiz Neighborhood Crimewatch Network. Also, the group's email address was misprinted. The correct address is cambridge_neighborhood@yahoo.com. We regret the errors.

ANC Community

AGASSIZ WALKER'S GROUP MEETING MINUTES AND INVITATION

Prepared by Seddon Wylde and Phoebe Sinclair

The first Agassiz Neighbors Walker's Group meeting was held on October 26 in the ANC's community room at North Hall. A group of neighbors from Agassiz and other neighborhoods gathered to discuss how to assist others with walking for enjoyment and exercise. Many ideas were put forth, such as group walks, one on one walks, "zip" (on demand) walks, 15 minute walks, and 1 hour walks. While most wanted to remain in the Agassiz area, some offered to drive to Fresh Pond. There was a proposal to have an Agassiz Neighborhood Historical Walk in June and perhaps a walk for a benefit.



Here's how to get involved:

People of all shapes, sizes, and abilities who live in the Agassiz neighborhood and beyond are encouraged and invited to come out and walk! You needn't consider yourself a "walker" to participate. Effort will be made to match up groups of fast or slow, new or adventurous walkers, and everyone in between.



See the list below for people who are available to walk on specific days and times. Walks will begin in front of the Oxford Spa. Before attending, please contact a walker from the list below and confirm that you are coming. If you are interested in one on one walks at a specific time, please contact walkers@agassiz.org or call Chantal Fujiwara at (617) 661-6488. Thank you, and happy walking!

Mondays/Fridays 11 AM or 1 PM
Contact: Dinah Barlow at (617) 876-3932 or dhbarlow@gmail.com

Wednesdays (November only!)
Contact: Seddon Wylde at (617) 441-2122 or srwweaves@comcast.net

Saturdays 11 AM
Contact: Harriet Ahouse at (617) 588-4246 or hahouse@alwaysharriet.com

Sundays 10 AM
Contact: Jill Stearns and Umberto De Ros at (617) 945-1350 or jstearns@ILRD.com



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ANC WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEE

Administrative Assistant

The ANC is happy to introduce Ms. Tigist Gizaw of Ethiopia. Tigist has over ten years of progressively higher responsibilities in secretarial, administrative, and accountant positions at various private, commercial, and non-governmental organizations. She has a diploma in office management and a university degree in English Language & Literature. Currently, she is studying part time at Cambridge College for a masters in management. Tigist's mother tongue is Amharic, but she also learned a little Arabic while living in Amman for more than two years prior to moving to the US three months ago. Tigist likes traveling and has traveled to 14 countries and aspires to visit many more.



Feel free to welcome Tigist via email at tgizaw@agassiz.org, phone at (617) 349-6287 x19, or by simply dropping by our 20 Sacramento Street office.

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK FEAST

Join us for our 35th annual event! ANC families and neighbors are welcome to bring a side dish and join this unique and long standing community celebration.

We're looking for volunteers to cook a turkey (we will deliver a free turkey to your home) and carve turkey on the evening of the event. To volunteer, contact Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org

Thanksgiving Potluck Feast 2006



Tuesday, November 21
6 - 8 PM, Baldwin School
28 Sacramento Street
(at the corner of Oxford and
Sacramento Streets)



**Share a meal and celebrate
the Agassiz-Baldwin community
as the holiday season begins**



**Agassiz School
Programs**

**INTRODUCING ARTS EVENT: THE
DANCING CHICKENS OF VENTURA
FABIAN**

Join us in the Baldwin School cafeteria at 2pm to learn about Oaxacan woodcarving, an art form rooted in rural Mexican folk traditions, and watch Mr. Ventura Fabian carve a figure from wood right before our eyes! Following the event, children will enjoy working on a craft of their own. This event is co-sponsored by Club Passim's Culture for Kids program.



When: Thursday, November 9, 2:00 PM
Where: Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28
Sacramento Street, Cambridge, MA
02138

How Much: \$2 per person, \$5 per family, after-school groups free. Because this event is a workshop, rather than a performance, we must limit the number of participants. Please RSVP with Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10.

Kids-Only Holiday Sale

Sale held at
20 Sacramento Street in the Gallery
Weekdays starting Dec. 5, ending Dec. 14
3-6 PM

Proceeds Benefit ANC Scholarship Fund

**Fun and inexpensive gifts for
kids to purchase for family and
friends in a safe environment
with the help of Agassiz
Afterschool staff.**

2006

City Wide

REMEMBER TO RECYCLE!

Recycling reduces climate change and saves the City money. For a free blue bin or brochure, call 617-349-4800 or visit www.cambridgema.gov/recycle.



See www.mfa.org for more information. View his stencil monotype "Untitled, 2004" at the Sacramento St. Gallery.

Gallery Hours: M - F, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturdays: Noon - 5:00 PM

Special collectors appointments available! For more information, contact Gallery Director Anne Hyland at ahyland@agassiz.org or Community Liaison Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org.



Sacramento Street Gallery

SMALL WORKS '06

Don't miss your chance to view and purchase the art of 46 Cambridge artists on display at the Sacramento Street Gallery! Small Works '06 will run until Friday December 1, and 50% of all proceeds benefit the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Building Fund.

Special Note: Small Works artist **Michael Mazur**'s work will be exhibited this December at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts in a show titled: **Michael Mazur: The Art of the Print**.



"Untitled, 2004"
Michael Mazur



"Moth, Beyond Words"
Vaughn Sills



"Circulation"
Toby Atlas

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Community Calendar

November 2006

Wednesday, November 8	6:00 - 8:00 PM	ANC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public Welcome
Thursday, November 9	2:00 PM	Introducing Arts Event: <i>The Dancing Chickens of Ventura Fabian</i> - Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St
Friday, November 10		Veteran's Day - Cambridge Public Schools, Agassiz Pre- and Afterschool Programs, & ANC Closed
Wednesday, November 15	7:30 - 9:00 PM	ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St. All are welcome
Tuesday, November 21	6:00 - 8:00 PM	35th Annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Feast
Thursday, November 24		Thanksgiving

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THE WHISTLER NOVEMBER 2006



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DO NOT FORWARD