

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

April 2010

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ANC News

NOTES FROM THE MAR. 24 MEETING

Candidates for Mass. State Senate

Michael Albano and Dan Hill are two candidates running to fill an open seat in Massachusetts State Senate for the Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk district. A special election (primary) will be held on Tuesday, April 13th. To learn more, visit:
www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm

Michael Albano

Michael Albano, who has never held a public office, is a realtor and small business owner. He considers himself a progressive candidate whose goals include protecting working immigrants and GLBT rights. Learn more online at:
www.electalbano.com.

Dan Hill

Dan Hill, also new to public office, is an attorney

who practices environmental law and lives with his family in Charlestown. His platform focuses on sustainability and creating jobs that will last. Learn more online at:
www.danhill2010.com.

View Plans for DPW Street Construction

The Cambridge Department of Public Works has started construction to improve the sewer and water lines along Prentiss, North Oxford, and South Frost Streets. Work begins this summer on new street paving, sidewalks, curbs, handicap access ramps, street crossing marking, tree pits, and trees. Residents concerned about what will happen to the street surfaces in front of their properties are invited to view the plans available in the Community Liaison's office at 20 Sacramento Street. The plans are also on the DPW web site at:
www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/projects/PrentissStreet.htm.

ABC Board Update

Hull Fulweiler, Clerk for the ABC Board, reported that the Board's largest current project is construction and planning for the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center. Construction is on target as well as on budget, and site work (such as landscaping) is about to begin. It is expected that the building will be completed by the end

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



APRIL 14 - 7:30 PM

Maria L. Baldwin School Cafeteria
28 Sacramento Street
(Please use Oxford St. entrance)

AGENDA

- ABC Board Report & Board Slate
- Lesley University Update
- Harvard University Update

of May. The grand opening for the art center is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6, 2010. In the meantime, the Board is occupied with programming, curriculum, and marketing.

The Board has also been renegotiating the lease for Tapestry Counseling, tenants located on the third floor of 20 Sacramento Street.

Additionally, the agency is planning to purchase a sign to better identify 20 Sacramento Street as Agassiz Baldwin Community. Related to this, the council requested that ABC add a subset of the sign to also identify the building as the home of Agassiz Neighborhood Council.

Update on Lesley's AIB

Bill Doncaster, Lesley's Director of Public Affairs, reported that the architects for the Art Institute of Boston (AIB) are working towards a design, including the building's façade. The university will soon choose an architect to plan for open space at the site. A more detailed report on planning for AIB will be presented by the architects of Bruner/Cott and representatives from Lesley University at ANC's April 14th meeting.

Mr. Doncaster concluded that Lesley has no particular time line for bringing AIB to Porter Square and that numerous steps and processes must be completed first.

Pedestrian Improvements Along Mass. Ave.

A group of residents from Agassiz, Neighborhood 9, and the Porter Square community have been working on creating a wish

list of pedestrian safety, traffic safety, and visual urban design improvements to the Mass. Ave. corridor between the Cambridge Common and Porter Square.

"I've lived here forty years and none of the intersections have been changed based on the street patterns," stated Ron Axelrod of Neighborhood 9, who has been working to address this issue since 2008. "We'd like to create a concept plan for the continuity of Mass. Ave."

The group includes Stephen Diamond, Carol Weinhaus, and Fred Meyer of Agassiz; Dennis Carlone and Ron Axelrod of Neighborhood 9; and Charlie Christopher, owner of the Cambridge Common and West Side Lounge Restaurants. They have had a number of meetings with City Councillor Sam Seidel and city officials Beth Rubenstein, Susan Clippinger, Owen O'Riordan, and Lisa Peterson. The group's suggestions include:

- Improvements and safer pedestrian crossings on Mass. Ave at Waterhouse Street, Shepard/Wendell Streets, and Garfield Street intersections (the city is currently reviewing plans for bump-outs and possibly a yellow crossing light at Garfield/Mass. Ave., construction for the improvements is scheduled for 2011)
- Relocate the bus shelter/stop to improve sidewalk width and sidewalk widening in front of Commonwealth Lock
- Possibly create a dedicated left turn down Upland Road (this was deemed not feasible due to width of Mass. Ave and additional traffic on Upland Road)
- Coordinate tree plantings with all improvements
- Consider improvements to the median strip

Mr. Axelrod reported that the city, which doesn't have funding to create a master plan for



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Mass. Ave., is very interested in residents' input and has been receptive to their ideas.

As a first phase of planning, the city will hold community meetings, possibly this summer, on the following Mass. Ave intersections: Waterhouse Street, Shepard/ Wendell Streets, and Garfield Street. Mr. Axelrod and Stephen Diamond invite the general public to weigh in with suggestions and comments sent to ronaldaxelrod@aol.com.

Council Letters

ANC meeting chair Stephen Diamond composed two letters on behalf of the council. The first addresses Sue Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking, and Transportation for the City of Cambridge, thanking the department for painting crossing stripes at the Wendell/Oxford intersection last fall and inquiring after plans for creating more permanent stripes.

The second letter, related to the MBTA's plans to improve handicap access at the Porter Square T station, asks that MBTA reconsider where they will relocate twenty-four bicycle parking spaces. Mr. Diamond's letter suggests, instead of moving the bicycle parking into the triangular-shaped space near the T's entrance, that they re-purpose the decorative posts along the edges of the plaza to accommodate bicycles.

The Council voted to send both letters.

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Community

2010/2011 ABC BOARD SLATE

The following officers and directors (see below) seek to renew their positions on the ABC Board for 2010-2011. There are no open positions on the Board at this time*.

The Board slate will be announced at the April 14th ANC meeting and accepted by a vote of the council at the May 19th Annual Meeting.

Officers for a one-year term:

Andrea Walsh, Co-Chair
Miriam Goldberg, Co-Chair

Directors for a two-year term:

Fred Meyer, Hammond Street
Anna Eckert Bryne, Kirkland Street
Adrienne Bailey, Cambridge Trust
Company

*The ABC Nominating Committee seeks 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.

TOUR THE NEW MAUD

Visit the newly constructed Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center on April 24th and 25th during Cambridge Open Studios for hard hat tours of the site.



At this time, the building is not accessible and people with limited mobility may not be able to take a tour. When the art center officially opens in September 2010 it will meet accessibility standards.

What: Hard hat tours
When: 12:00 PM-6:00 PM
Where: 20 Sacramento Street,
Cambridge, MA 02138

MMVAC RECEIVES CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL GRANT

ABC is pleased to announce that we have received a grant for \$2,000 from the Cambridge Arts Council to support artists who designed site-specific work for the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center. The new building will be a work of art in its own right, thanks in part to the funded work that will be installed in and around the art center.

The Cambridge-based artists are listed below with their pieces which are being fabricated for installation this spring:

- Gail Boyajian – mosaic design
- Nancy Webb – bronze bug inserts for paving and light switch plates
- John Tagiuri – paintbrush door pull
- Rhonda Smith – mosaic welcome mat
- Phyllis Ewen – backsplash for water fountain
- Linda Lichtman – glass transom entry panels
- Mitch Ryerson – outdoor bench
- John Devaney – indoor mural

The arts center was designed by Cambridge-based architects Prellwitz Chilinski Associates.

MAUD MORGAN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDIOS: SUMMER INTENSIVE

Calling all young artists and artistic youth to join us for an intensive studio experience. Designed for students entering 7th-9th grades looking to learn new skills or deepen their already existing skills, participants will explore a variety of media and complete original works.

The Summer Intensive will be the first class to take advantage of the brand new specialized studios of the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center.

Students will learn through hands-on projects and have the freedom to explore and create.

Schedule

The Summer Intensive offers five one-week sessions and will run 1:00 PM-5:00 PM. Weekly sign up is possible, but successive weeks will allow for deeper learning and exploration. Instructors will suggest one week, two week, and three week projects.

- Week one: June 28-July 1
- Week two: July 6-9
- Week three: July 19-22
- Week four: August 2-5
- Week five: August 16-19

Tuition

Tuition is \$260 per week.

To learn more or download an application, visit us online at www.agassiz.org or contact Micah Eglinton-Woods at (617) 349-6287 x19 or mwoods@agassiz.org.

LIVING WELL NETWORK RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE LLEWELLYN FOUNDATION

Living Well Network (LWN), ABC's initiative seeking to provide volunteer-based activities and services to area seniors, is happy to announce that we received a grant for \$10,000 from the Llewellyn Foundation to support the expansion and improvement of the Senior Computer Lounge.

CITYLINE FIX IT

Small Jobs



- Closets • Shelving
- Trim • Handrails • Grab bars
- Tile and Grout repairs
- Locks and Doors installed

Ellen Sippel esippel@gmail.com
Cambridge 617-491-5567

The grant will allow LWN to improve its computer software and facilities, expand its hours of operation, and pilot a home-assistance program.

The Lounge is located in Agassiz Baldwin’s Community Room space in North Hall at 1651 Mass. Ave. and is open every Wednesday from 1–3 PM. Learn more online at www.agassiz.org.

GARDENING DISCUSSION AT LWN TEA TALK

Join your green-thumbed neighbors for a great opportunity to ask questions and share advice at an Oxford Spa Tea Talk. Somerville resident and gardener Susann Wilkinson will lead the talk, discussing how to get started as the ground thaws in April and divulging tips on getting in peak physical condition for the rigorous demands of the garden.

- When:** Monday, April 5th, 10:00-11:00 AM
- Where:** Oxford Spa, 102 Oxford Street (corner of Oxford and Crescent)
- What:** Gardening Discussion, with free coffee and tea

To RSVP, contact Nathaniel Meyer at (617) 349-6287, x16 or nmeyer@agassiz.org.



Agassiz Baldwin Children’s Programs

SACRAMENTO STREET PRESCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAM

Sacramento Street Preschool Summer Program runs for six weeks and is specially designed for a group of twelve preschool-age children (ages 2 years, nine months through five years.)



Children will have an indoor home base with ac-

cess to a dedicated outdoor play space. Outdoor time will be maximized, including daily sprinkler play at Alden Park, walking trips to Cambridge Common Playground, games at Sacramento Field, and local field trips. Sacramento Street Preschool Lead Teacher/Director, Priscilla Browne, and an assistant teacher will lead the program with a 1:6 teacher to child ratio.

Schedule

July 6th–August 12th (six weeks)
Three days per week: Tues., Wed., Thurs.
8:30 AM–2:30 PM

Enrollment and Tuition

Enrollment is weekly at \$200 per week with a \$25 registration fee.


For more information contact Jacy Edelman, Director of Children’s Programs, at (617) 349-6287 x11. Visit us on the web at www.agassiz.org.

SCENES FROM AN AFTERSCHOOL STAGE PRODUCTION


Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool students in grades K through 5th performed “Why the Sky is Far Away” to a packed house of parents, siblings, teachers, and friends at the Maria L. Baldwin school stage on Tuesday, March 16th.

The play, based on a Nigerian folktale, told this story:

“In the beginning, the sky was so close to



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the earth that anyone who was hungry could just reach up, take a piece, and eat it. The sky was delicious, tasting sometimes of meat stew, sometimes of roasted corn. But the people grew careless with the sky's gifts, taking more than they needed to satisfy their hunger. The sky grew angry, threatening to withhold its gifts if the people continued to waste them."

All afterschool students participated in some way, whether with costume and set design, voiceovers and projections, or Nigerian folk dancing during the festival scene of the play.

Jennifer Vento, Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool Drama Specialist, had this to say after the play: "The stage really became a Nigerian jungle where the lights, sounds, and leaping animals created the world we envisioned when we chose this play. I was most proud when this world was brought to life on stage by the children."

Please enjoy these photos from the production:



City Wide

TAKE 10

Prepared by 2010 United States Census

We're asking all of America to "Take 10 Minutes" to complete and mail back their 2010 Census Forms. Census information affects the numbers of seats states occupy in the U.S. House of Representatives and helps to determine how more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funding gets spent each year on infrastructure and services like:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels, and other-public works projects
- Emergency services

Visit the 2010 Census "Take 10" web site to track and compare 2010 Census mail back participation rates: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/>.

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.

City squares are cleaned very early in the morning (between 4:00 AM and 8:00 AM.) Approximately 11,000 street miles are cleaned each year, collecting over 5,000 tons of refuse.

Residential streets have signs posted 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 online at:

www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks.

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

**LONGY FAMILY SERIES: HOURGLASS
– MUSICAL TIME MACHINE**

Join HourGlass for a whirlwind tour to the Middle Ages and back with stops in France, Portugal, Spain, and Brazil. Hear new pieces born from medieval love songs, bossa nova, or even suggestions from the audience! Fun for the whole family!

When: Sunday, April 11, 2 PM
Where: Longy School of Music,
Edward M. Pickman Hall,
27 Garden Street
Tickets: \$10 General Admission
\$5 Students & Seniors

For information email tickets@longy.edu or call (617) 876-0956 x1500.



**Sacramento
Street Gallery**

“GLACIER” BY DIANE CHARYK NORRIS

Sacramento Street Gallery is proud to present “Glacier,” paintings by Diane Charyk Norris, on display from April 16 to May 21, 2010.

The opening reception for this show will occur in conjunction with the 2010 Cambridge Open Studios on Saturday, April 24 from 4:00-6:00 PM. Please join us for light refreshments (stay after the reception to enjoy hard hat tours of the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center).

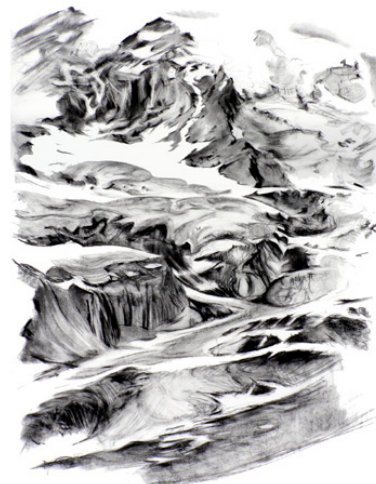
States the artist of her work:

My current work explores a landscape realm of water, ice, and glaciers. The pictures are based on a recent visit to natural places of extraordinary power, beauty, and timelessness, which are currently caught in a state of unexpected change and fragility. I am drawn to the immediate abstraction of line and space, multiple layers of seeing, enormous changes in scale, and the suggested meaning that this environment offers. I work in inks, charcoal, watercolor, oil, acrylics, and photography.

Gallery Hours: Weekdays 10:00 AM-5:00 PM



Grinnell and the Salamander



Nisqually

Community Calendar

April 2010

Monday, April 5	10:00-11:00 AM	LWN "Oxford Spa Tea Talk" on Gardening, 102 Oxford Street
Wednesday, April 14	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St., 2nd Floor Public welcome
Wednesday, April 14	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Maria L. Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St. All are welcome
Monday, April 19		Patriot's Day Holiday, ABC School Programs and Office closed
Saturday, April 24	12:00-6:00 PM	Hard hat tours of the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center 20 Sacramento Street, rear, continues through Sunday, April 25
Saturday, April 24	4:00-6:00 PM	Reception for "Glacier" at Sacramento Street Gallery

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. 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 2010



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