

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

February 2011

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can be completed over time, in association with other city projects.

At year end, the City Manager's office appointed a steering committee, consisting of neighborhood representatives; Stuart Dash, Director of Community Planning; Susanne Rasmussen, Director of Environmental and Transportation Planning; and a consultant. In addition, Harvard and Lesley Universities have donated funds towards the project.

Mr. Axelrod believes the consultant should be especially helpful in reviewing standards beyond those currently used in Cambridge. He stated, "One of our questions is how to advance the standards so that they're more sustainable than they are now."

The group also wants to highlight the unique

## ANC News

### NOTES FROM THE JAN. 11 MEETING

#### **Mass. Ave. Master Plan**

Continuing the previous meeting's discussion of revitalizing Massachusetts Avenue from the Cambridge Common to Porter Square, Ron Axelrod of Neighborhood 9 gave a brief overview of the project and provided details about the next steps.

#### **Background**

In January 2010, a group of residents, including three architects/urban planners, from the Agassiz Neighborhood and Neighborhood 9 collaborated to develop ideas on how to revitalize and enhance Mass. Ave.

Over the course of the year, the group engaged Cambridge Mayor David Maher, City Councillor Sam Seidel, and various city departments in dialogues about improvements that

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**FEB. 8 - 7:30 PM**

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

#### **AGENDA**

##### **COMMUNITY UPDATES**

- Art Institute of Boston: report on Lesley University's community meeting and Cambridge Planning Board hearing
- Singlestream recycling

##### **SNOW REMOVAL IN THE CITY**

- Share your feedback on the state of streets and sidewalks

##### **YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

- Are we covering the issues that are important to you? Let us know!

aspects of Mass. Ave., including historical details and developing an “arts district” with Maud Morgan Arts and the Art Institute of Boston.

### **Next Steps**

Over the next eight to nine months, the steering committee will work on gathering data and developing a proposal. Several community-wide meetings are planned for the spring and project documents will be posted online, accessible to everyone. The committee intends to present a draft plan to the community in summer and a finalized plan come fall. The final plan will then be sent to the city manager’s office for approval.

The initial steps to this process have involved surveying the community in terms of what people want. Agassiz resident Carol Weinhaus, stated, “We’re looking at the very basics. We don’t expect complete consensus on things like aesthetics, which are a matter of taste. We want to consider what ordinary people think could be made better, such as pedestrian safety and tree plantings. This is a very open process and we want everyone’s input.”

Fred Meyer, who will serve as the steering committee member representing Agassiz, noted, “Our area can serve as a demonstration of what can be done for the rest of the city.”

City Councillor Seidel added, “I look forward to the work. I think it will be very interesting.”

### **Get Involved**

Residents are encouraged to send comments and suggestions to Mr. Meyer at [cambridgefred@comcast.net](mailto:cambridgefred@comcast.net) or Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org).

For more information, see pages 2-3 in the January 2011 edition of The Whistler newsletter, available online at:

<http://bit.ly/whistler-archives>

Download the report “Massachusetts Avenue, Harvard Square to Porter Square: A Proposal

for Sustainable Improvements” from ABC’s website at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org) by clicking on the Neighborhood Council tab.

### **Lesley University Updates**

Bill Doncaster, Director of Community Relations at Lesley University, told the council that the University’s community wide meeting regarding relocation of the Art Institute of Boston to the site of the North Prospect Church (corner of Roseland Street and Mass. Ave.) had been rescheduled due to an impending blizzard.

Lesley presented to the Planning Board on January 18 for a Special Permit. The Planning Board continued the meeting to mid-February.

“The plans have gotten more detailed,” explained Mr. Doncaster. “Although the general shape of the buildings has stayed the same, we have a better idea of the interior layout. The landscape architect, Burke Associates, has worked out concepts for the landscape, including on Lesley’s property along Roseland Street.”

Mr. Doncaster also reported that Lesley will soon be signing a lease with a business moving into the retail space beneath the new dorm at the corner of Wendell Street and Mass. Ave. More information will be available shortly.

### **Street Corner Snow Removal**

Fred Meyer, Agassiz resident and ABC Board Director, chairing the evening’s meeting, reported that the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities might be discussing snow removal (a previous Council topic) at its upcoming January meeting.



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Similar to the ANC, the Commission had asked the Department of Public Works (DPW) to estimate the cost of plowing all sidewalks (once each snowstorm) as a regular city service. That cost was reported to be prohibitively expensive. Mr. Meyer added that, at the Commission's upcoming meeting, he planned to ask them to consider requesting that the DPW provide another cost estimate for an alternate service: plowing corners, as access for all pedestrians can become limited due to piled up snow.

In a related matter, the Council voted to send a letter to the City and to Harvard University requesting that a path be plowed through the snow on the Cambridge Common to assist pedestrians traveling between Waterhouse Street and Appian Way (including between the campuses of Harvard Law and the School of Education.)

**Update:**

Subsequent to the council meeting, Carol Weinhaus called DPW about clearing a path between Waterhouse Street and Appian Way. The walking path is now being plowed.



*Even with the good intentions of property owners to clear their portions of sidewalks, corners and pedestrian crossings are often neglected. Photos courtesy of Stephen Diamond.*



# Community

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## LWN MINDFUL RELAXATION

Chill out on Mondays! Join our yoga teacher Christine Palamidessi for two free breathing, meditation, and movement classes for “boomers.”

What: Mindful Relaxation  
Where: Community Room, North Hall, 1651 Mass. Ave.  
When: Monday, February 14 and Monday, February 21  
Time: 4:00-5:00 PM

RSVP to Phoebe Sinclair at 617-349-6287 x10 or [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org) for details, or just show up.

## LWN MOVIE NIGHT AND DISCUSSION SERIES

Prepared by Colin Barr, LWN Computer Lab Coordinator

Stay tuned for our upcoming Movie Night and Discussion series. We will show films at the Maud Morgan Arts Center that we hope will lead to interesting and rousing discussion. For more information, please contact Colin Barr at [cbarr@agassiz.org](mailto:cbarr@agassiz.org) or (617) 349-6287 x10.

## AGASSIZ BALDWIN COMMUNITY THANKS DONORS

Thank you to our supporters from 2010!

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**Become a Donor!**

Donations to Agassiz Baldwin Community provide valuable funds for many programs and services, including this newsletter. Donations also fund scholarships, community events, and mailings.

Tax-deductible donations can be sent to: Agassiz Baldwin Community, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA 02138.



# Maud Morgan Arts

## TAKE AN ART CLASS THIS FEBRUARY

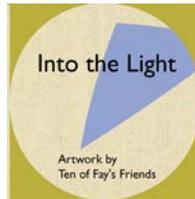
This February, you can sign up for Maud Morgan Arts Winter Session classes and February Vacation Week offerings. Find full class descriptions and register online at [www.maudmorgan.org](http://www.maudmorgan.org).

A sample of classes:

- **Printmaking Tutorial** –for adults, taught by Jan Arabas and Debra Olin
- **Preschool Open Studio** –for preschool age children, taught by Sarah Garcia and Dolores Cuccovia
- **Making Books** –for grades K-2 during February Vacation Week, taught by Heather Zeiden

### “INTO THE LIGHT: ARTWORK BY TEN OF FAY’S FRIENDS”

We are pleased to present “Into the Light: Artwork by Ten of Fay’s Friends,” on display now in the Chandler Gallery. Join us for the opening reception and film screening on **Thursday, February 3 from 6-8 PM.**



As in life, so in art, Fay Chandler casts a wide net of friendship and generosity. For this exhibition, she has selected the work of ten artists who deserve recognition for their dedication

to making art. They have all been involved in art over many years. Some have extensive and impressive resumes. Others are self-taught and latecomers to the making of art, after successful careers in fields as diverse as psychotherapy, banking, and strategic planning.

- **Appy Chandler** is a talented and powerful photographer, with a long and varied career in documentary production, foundation, and museum work.
- **Tom Baker** is also an accomplished photographer whose images of Paris barges are rich in innuendo.
- **Mary Coogan** integrates art and psychotherapy in her career, finding inspiration in the “human condition.”
- **Faith Hyde** brings a light touch of humor and whimsy to her drawings.
- Observation and the play of light are also at the core of **Elizabeth Coxe’s** plein air and figurative paintings.
- **Sunny Dupree** responds to the natural world in a painterly, intuitive way.
- **Aileen Erikson’s** constructed paintings pair the seemingly naive and sophisticated, the flat against the dimensional.
- **Judith Felton’s** delicately abstract constructions invite close appreciation of overlapping shapes and textures.
- **Frances Pratt** has a long record of commissions and exhibitions of her abstract sculpture.
- **Ken Clark’s** presentation of a DVD of fireworks he orchestrated promises to be a highlight of the opening reception.

As anyone who has encountered Fay Chandler’s magic “circle of friendship” can attest, it is a luminous, mischievous, and delightful place where humor and intuition reign. In this show, Fay has chosen to shine her light on ten very fortunate artists.

Show dates: January 15- February 28, 2011  
Gallery hours: M-F, 10-5 PM

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## Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs

### JOIN A PARENT/CHILD PLAYGROUP

Agassiz Baldwin Parent/Child Playgroups provide a place for children to play, meet, and grow, and for parents and caretakers to interact, socialize, and share ideas. The groups meet in ABC's North Hall Community Room (1651 Mass. Ave.) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM, as well as on Tuesdays from 3 to 5 PM.

Interested families should contact Emma Mrozicki, Early Childhood Education Site Director, at [emrozicki@agassiz.org](mailto:emrozicki@agassiz.org) or (617) 349-6287 x14. Learn more online at <http://bit.ly/abc-parent-child-playgroups>.

### 15TH ANNUAL HIP HOP FESTIVAL

Introducing Art Performance and Club Passim's Culture for Kids Performance Series present a legendary event for school age children – the 15TH ANNUAL HIP HOP FESTIVAL, a showcase of hip hop dance performed by local professional and youth performers.

Master of Ceremonies Naheem Garcia will prep the crowd for returning favorites:

- The Floor Lords
- Jam'nastics
- CAC Kids
- Deborah Mason School of Dance
- DJ Luke Duke



- What:** 15th Annual Hip Hop Festival
- When:** Thursday, February 18 at 2 PM
- Where:** Maria L. Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento St.
- Tickets:** General admission is \$2 per person and \$5 per family group.

Afterschool programs enter free with RSVP.

Contact Jacy Edelman, Director of Children's Programs at [jedelman@agassiz.org](mailto:jedelman@agassiz.org) or (617) 349-6287 x11, with your program name, number of students, and number of adult chaperones.

See you there!

### ENROLL AT SACRAMENTO STREET PRESCHOOL

Sacramento Street Preschool has provided high quality childcare to preschool age children (ages two years, nine months through five years) for over thirty years. If you are looking for an inviting, social, and stimulating environment for your child, look no further!

Through a curriculum of sensory exploration, dramatic play, music, and visual arts, our primary emphasis is on the social and emotional development of children.

Children can attend two, three, or five days a week. Program hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM-12:00 PM, with the option for an extended day until 2:30 PM.

Sacramento Street Preschool has open enrollment until all available slots have been filled and is licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC.)

### Visit Our Program

We encourage families to come visit with their children. If you have questions about Sacramento Street Preschool, or would like to



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schedule a visit, contact Emma Mrozicki, Early Education Site Director, at (617) 349-6287 x14 or emrozicki@agassiz.org. Visit our website at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org) to download the 2011-2012 preschool registration form.

### **REGISTER FOR OUTBACK SUMMER PROGRAM**

Families from all neighborhoods of Cambridge, the Greater Boston Area, and beyond are invited to sign up for Outback Summer Program. Beginning on July 5 and running through August 26, Outback 2011 promises to keep children engaged and inspired through a variety of arts and physical activities in our shady backyard.

Outback is open to students entering kindergarten through sixth grades in September of 2011. Children will enjoy dance, drama, the visual arts, and sports, as well as several special events and performances and weekly field trips to area beaches.

Weekly tuition rates for the Outback 2010 Summer Program are as follows (rates for 2011 will be forthcoming):

<b>Regular Day:</b>	8:30 AM-2:30 PM \$240.00 per week
<b>Extended Day:</b>	8:30 AM-5:30 PM \$300.00 per week

The registration fee is \$50 per family and 50% of tuition for registered weeks. The remainder of tuition is due April 30th, 2011. Outback registration fills quickly, so we encourage families to send in their registration forms and deposits as soon as possible.

To learn more about the program and to download an application, visit our website at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org). For program questions, please contact Jacy Edelman, Director of Children's Programs, at (617) 349-6287 x11 or [jedelman@agassiz.org](mailto:jedelman@agassiz.org).

## City Wide

### **CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY PARENTING WORKSHOPS**

#### ***Engaging Cooperation***

Disagreements are a part of family life. This workshop will give you practical ways to work with your children to solve problems and gain cooperation!



Presented by Milly Arbaje, Director of the ABCD Parker Hill Neighborhood Service Center in Roxbury, MA.

**Date:** Wednesday, February 2  
**Time:** 6:30-8:00 PM  
**Location:** Children's Room, Main Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge

Free childcare will be provided, but is limited. Registration is required. For more information or to sign up, please call (617) 349-4409.

#### ***Helping Your Child with Asperger's Syndrome Make Friends***

A workshop for parents and caregivers of elementary and middle school children. In this workshop, Ms. Stern will discuss ways that you can support your child with AS in learning and practicing friendship-making skills.

Jean Stern is the former Director of Children's Services for the Asperger's Association of New England and has a family member with AS.

**Date:** Wednesday, February 16  
**Time:** 6:30-8:30 PM  
**Location:** Children's Room, Main Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge

Free childcare will be provided, but is limited. Registration is required. For more information or to sign up, please call (617) 349-4409.

# Community Calendar

## February 2011

Thursday, February 3	6:00-8:00 PM	"Into the Light: Artwork by Ten of Fay's Friends" Opening Reception, Chandler Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street
Tuesday, February 8	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio All are welcome
Wednesday, February 9	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Monday, February 14 & Monday, February 21	4:00-5:00 PM	LWN Mindful Relaxation class, North Hall Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave.
Thursday, February 18	2:00-3:00 PM	15th Annual Hip Hop Festival, Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street
Monday, February 21		President's Day Holiday, ABC School Programs and office closed

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 February 2011



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Cambridge, MA 02138  
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**DO NOT FORWARD**

### DID YOU KNOW?

- **ANC meetings are now held on the second Tuesday of the month.** Join us in the 2D studio at the Maud Morgan Arts Center, 20A Sacramento Street.