

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

September '07

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## ANC News

### NOTES FROM THE JUNE 20 MEETING

#### Introducing Greenward, Eco-Boutique

Scott Walker of Greenward, an eco-modern goods boutique located at 1776 Mass. Ave. (beneath Susanna), introduced his shop to the council. He told residents, "I encourage you, if you have an interest, to stop in and check out the shop."

Mr. Walker, whose background is in city planning, opened Greenward with his partner/ local crafter/ fiancée Simone Alpen in April 2007.



The shop specializes in earth-friendly goods constructed from recycled, organic or sustainable materials that are handmade, energy-efficient, biodegradable, or educational. Among other items, Greenward's inventory includes

housewares, stationary, baby gifts, bike accessories, reusable shopping bags, books, and more.

Greenward is open six days a week and offers a discount on Cambridge Green Street Initiative's Walk/Ride days. You can visit the store online at [www.greenwardshop.com](http://www.greenwardshop.com).

#### Neighborhood Crime Stats

Community Policing Sergeant Paul Oppedisano joined the council to present and discuss the neighborhood's crime statistics. Stats from January 1 to June 19, 2007 are as follows:

- 2 aggravated assaults
- 0 drug related incidents
- 3 street robberies
- 2 housebreaks
- 39 motor vehicle breaks, 28 of which involved entry gained by breaking car windows. GPS units were stolen in more than half of the larcenies
- 8 incidents of malicious destruction to property

Sgt. Oppedisano reported that, overall, the Agassiz neighborhood is, "very well-kept and neighbors look out for each other." He did,

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**SEPTEMBER 19 - 7:30 PM**

Baldwin School Cafeteria

28 Sacramento Street

(Press buzzer for entry)

#### AGENDA

- Community review of **Harvard Law School Implementation Agreement**
- Update on **Lesley University development planning**
- **New name for Agassiz community organization**, discussion forum retains "ANC" name

however remind residents to be mindful of how they install window fans and air conditioning units to prevent people from breaking into their homes, "If you're going to use fans or A/C units, I suggest you take two penny nails and nail the window shut."

For more information, please call Cambridge Community Policing at (617) 349-3236. You may also visit the Cambridge Police Department online at [www.cambridgema.gov/CPD](http://www.cambridgema.gov/CPD).

**Report on Lesley Plans**

Council members voted unanimously to send a letter to Lesley University detailing Agassiz neighborhood's "first response" to the Lesley Community Meeting held on June 6, 2007 in the Porter Exchange building. The letter, composed by ANC meeting chair Stephen Diamond, addressed a number of issues related to Lesley's development of the North Prospect Church site for the Art Institute of Boston (AIB).

Many residents expressed satisfaction with the community meeting hosted by Lesley. During the meeting, community members were invited to relay their concerns and views directly to the architectural team hired to convert the North Prospect Church site into a multi-purpose space for AIB. Residents of several abutting Cambridge neighborhoods discussed issues surrounding the relocation of Agassiz Preschool, undeveloped Lesley-owned properties, and parking.

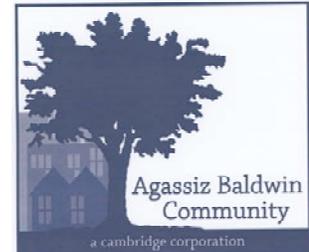
Interested residents may request a copy of the letter by contacting Community Liaison Phoebe Sinclair at [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org) or by calling (617) 349-6287 x10.



# ABC Community

## ANC ANNOUNCES NEW NAME

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council would like to announce that we have officially changed our name to **Agassiz Baldwin Community, A Cambridge Corporation (ABC)**. The Board is proud to include the name of long-time Agassiz School Headmistress Maria Louise Baldwin as part of the agency name.



All of the services and programs will retain their usual names.

Please see below for the full list:

- Agassiz Neighborhood Council is our neighborhood association
- Agassiz Afterschool Program is our afterschool program for children grades K-5
- Sacramento Street Preschool is our program for children 2 years, 9 months to kindergarten age
- Sacramento Street Gallery is our visual arts gallery space
- Outback is our school age summer program for children entering 1st through 6th grade

## ATRIBUTE TO MAHBUB HUSAIN

### *Dedicated and Inspirational Afterschool Teacher*

Prepared by Alex Lewis, School Age Director

We were very sad to hear the news that Mahbub Husain passed away at the beginning of the summer after his battle with cancer. Mahbub worked for the ANC as an Afterschool teacher with the



1-5th grades between 2001 and 2007. He had a magical affect on every aspect of the Afterschool, from his relationships with children, staff, and parents to his unique activities.

Children gravitated towards Mahbub's Indian cookery activity, which nurtured the whole Afterschool community as children, staff and parents alike enjoyed his food. Mahbub also had an amazing presence in the gym where he ran safe and fun soccer games. Additionally, he used his engineering background to teach the children how to build bridges and catapults, and explained the science behind them.

Afterschool parent Ana Vaisenstein reflects on her son's experiences with Mahbub,

Martin, my son, did not want to miss a single activity Mahbub led! He was so excited to build bridges and make ramps for toy cars, build and fly balsa wood airplanes, play soccer, and of course cook Indian food on Fridays.

Martin instructed me to not pick him up earlier when Mahbub ran activities. And why would I? On Fridays it was a treat to enter the Baldwin School and smell Indian spices, go down the stairs into the Hawaii Room and see happy, tired children eating every bit of the food they had cooked together with Mahbub. He spontaneously created a sense of community by sharing with all of us the foods he liked. As a mother I felt afterschool became an extension of family life and Mahbub was an important part in making that happen.

We will miss Mahbub. He fought his illness with great courage and strength, and left Martin and I with many wonderful memories!

Mahbub's generosity was always evident as he brought in food and materials to use for his activities. He went out of his way to welcome new members to the Agassiz Afterschool community. Michael Landon Murray, who worked with Mahbub as an Afterschool teacher, speaks about his experience,

The children and staff at Agassiz were truly enriched by their time with Mahbub. His interest and empathy for others was constant and sincere. Mahbub always devised new and involved activities to challenge kids that greatly enhanced their experiences.

His commitment to his colleagues and friends was equally strong. I felt that I had a special connection and friendship with Mahbub. His humor and energy were unflagging, and he helped me to think through some critical decisions about school and careers. And though I do think that Mahbub took a special interest in me, I think it's just as likely that he took that same interest in everyone around him.

Another staff member adds,

Teachers, parents, and children all felt a special relationship with Mahbub due to the sincerity of his intentions. Most importantly, Mahbub had a laugh that was so deep and filled with love. His laugh helped to make tough situations lighter.

Mahbub was a linchpin at Agassiz Afterschool and will be sorely missed. **Please join us for a celebration of his time at Afterschool on Wednesday, September 12th at 4:30-5:30 PM.** We will cook some of Mahbub's recipes and fill card filled with our special memories of Mahbub

## Fresh Pond Ballet

- \* Classical Ballet
- \* Dance for 2 & 3 Year Olds
- \* Pre-Ballet for 4 Year Olds
- Youth \* Teen \* Adults
- \* Sprung Floor & Marley for Safety



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

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for his family. Please ensure that an adult accompanies children who are not enrolled in Afterschool that day.

Please find below an example of one of Mahbub's delicious recipes.

**Peas Palau**

- 4 cups Basmati rice
- 2 tbs Vegetable Oil
- Onion
- Cumin Powder
- Ginger Powder
- 2 Bay Leaves
- 1 cup Red Lentils
- Sweet Peas
- Garlic
- Coriander Powder
- 1/4 tsp Turmeric Powder
- 1/4 tsp Salt

Pre-heat oven to 300 degrees. Cut onion into thin slices. Peel and chop raw garlic. Heat oil in a large pot. Cook onion, garlic, and



bay leaves over medium heat until the onion starts to turn brown. In a separate pot, boil red lentils in warm water until soft.

Add turmeric powder, salt, and a pinch each of cumin, coriander, and ginger powders. Stir the paste for about 5 - 7 minutes over low heat. Wash the rice and stir in soft lentils. Stir in paste and mix well. Add exactly twice the amount of water to rice in the pot (if you decide to cook four cups of rice, the quantity of water should

be eight cups.) Add the sweet peas to the mix. When you notice the water has totally evaporated, place the pot with lid in pre-heated oven. Remove the pot from the oven after 15 minutes. Peas Palau should be ready to serve.

**AGASSIZ BALDWIN "AFTER 50" FALL PROGRAMS 2007**

Thursday Lecture Series

"Aging in Community," presented by Ann Bookman of MIT Workplace Center

Date: Thursday, October 11  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Location: Lesley University Amphitheater  
1815 Mass. Ave, 2nd Floor

"Aging and Wellness," presented by Rebecca Seguin of Tufts Strong Women Program

Date: Thursday, November 8  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Location: Lesley University Amphitheater  
1815 Mass. Ave, 2nd Floor

Sunday Fall Walks

Historic Walk around Agassiz Neighborhood

Date: Sunday, October 28  
Time: 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM  
Location: Meet at Mellen St/Mass. Ave. corner

Description: The Agassiz neighborhood originated in the 17th century as an agricultural area. When the neighborhood developed in the 19th century, each cross street assumed a different character. The tour will discuss the development of each farm and explore today's diverse urban fabric.

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**Mt. Auburn Bird Walk**

Date: TBA  
Time: Early AM  
Location: Mt. Auburn Cemetery  
Description: This walk will be conducted by a member of the Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary in Mt. Auburn Cemetery. Call or email us regarding your interest and we will provide the specific date, time and other details as they are known.

**Sunday Walking Group**

Date: Sundays  
Time: 10:00 AM  
Location: Meet at the Oxford Spa  
Description: Walk in a loop to the river and back. Please join or email us at walkers@agassiz.com. We'll walk with you when you want.

**Choose A Book!**

Workshop presented by Cambridge Librarians  
Date: Wednesday, October 10  
Time: 10:00 AM  
Location: Cambridge Main Library  
359 Broadway  
Description: Find out what's new in literature for all ages. Workshop designed for adults only.

**Tai Chi Classes**

Date: Begins week of September 24  
Mondays, 12:00-1:30 PM - Ten sessions \$100  
Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 PM - Ten sessions \$100  
Location: Meet on porch at  
20 Sacramento Street

Description: Taijiquan, often referred to as "Tai Chi" in the west, is a more than 400-year-old system of life force cultivation and martial art. The martial movement practice is infused with Daoist and Buddhist energetic and breath methods, and operates in accordance with traditional Chinese medicinal principles. There will be two beginner sessions. For information or a registration form, call us at (617) 349-6287 x10 or email psinclair@agassiz.org.



**Agassiz Baldwin On-Line Community**

We are organizing a non-commercial virtual community intended to keep members informed of community news, needs, and opportunities. Email us to become a member. We will send you an application form to fill out and return. We intend to make the virtual community very easy to join and use, and will help you get started if you need it. You will need a computer with an Internet connection.



**Agassiz School Programs**

**SCHOOL PROGRAMS WELCOME NEW DIRECTORS**

***School Age Director***

Prepared by Andrea Bellomo

Andrea Bellomo is the new School Age Director for Agassiz After-School. Andrea, who will collaborate with Alex Lewis until Alex's departure in October, has worked both as a teacher and supervisor in a wide variety of educational settings, including afterschool, pre-school, and summer programs. She holds a Masters degree in Education in Creative Arts in Learning from Lesley University, and focused her graduate work on arts-based curriculum development and afterschool arts programming.



Andrea has a strong passion for the arts and fills up most of her free time with painting, digital

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photography, digital video, and dancing. She is excited to begin the new school year and is looking forward to being a part of the Agassiz Afterschool team!

**Preschool Site Director**

Prepared by Jessica Simons

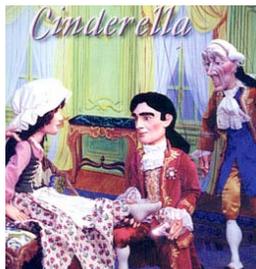
Hi, my name is Jessica Simons and I am looking forward to being the Sacramento Street Preschool Site Director for the upcoming school year. I am originally from Burlington, MA, but now reside in Bedford, MA. I graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 2003 with my B.S. in Early Childhood Education. I am EEC Director qualified, as well as Lead Teacher certified.



In my spare time, I love to spend time with my Maltese Bentley as well as with my family and friends. I love to travel and recently visited Alaska, which was my most memorable experience thus far. I'm sure that my first year here at Sacramento Street Preschool will be exciting and rewarding for the children and their families as well as for myself.

**INTRODUCING ARTS - TANGLEWOOD MARIONETTES**

“Cinderella,” performed by Tanglewood Marionettes, a nationally touring marionette group, is set in the eighteenth century and features a dozen lavishly-costumed marionettes. The telling is based on the original beloved tale, but with a few new surprises.



A classic fairy tale told with wit and style, Tanglewood Marionettes’ production is sure to please audiences of all ages! Join us at the Baldwin School stage at 2:00 PM for this exciting event and enjoy the compelling combo of puppets and storytelling!

When: Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2:00 PM  
Where: Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street, Cambridge,  
Ticket Price: Afterschool groups free  
\$2 per person, \$5 per family

School groups please call ahead. For more information, call (617) 349-6287 x10.

**City Wide**

**SPECIAL STATE PRIMARY SEPT. 11**

Prepared by the Cambridge Election Commission

This election is being held to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Jarrett Barrios and will be conducted in the following Cambridge polling precincts: Ward 3, Precinct 2, Wards 6 and 7, Ward 8, Precincts 1 and 2, Ward 9, Precinct 1 and Ward 10, Precinct 2.

For additional information, please call (617) 349-4361 or visit our website at [www.cambridge-ma.gov](http://www.cambridge-ma.gov).

**2007-2008 MASS. AVE. RETAIL MAPS**

“Shop & Eat on Mass. Ave.” retail maps, compiled by the Porter Square Neighbors Association, has been re-printed for 2007/2008 with help from Agassiz Baldwin Community, Harvard University, Lesley University, and other local organizations and businesses. Find them at locations around Cambridge, including the foyer at 20 Sacramento St.



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### HARVARD RELOCATES HOUSES

On Saturday morning, June 23, 2007, three houses rolled down Mass. Ave. These historic wood-frame houses, property of Harvard University, were relocated to Harvard's North Hall site to make room for a new Law School building to be constructed at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Everett St. Many neighbors and Cambridge residents turned out to see the event. Please enjoy these photos submitted by ANC meeting chair Stephen Diamond.



### GREAT GLASS PUMPKIN PATCH @ MIT

Visit MIT on the evening of Friday, October 5 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM to preview the complete installation of 1,000 hand-blown glass pumpkins, created by artists from the MIT Glass Lab. Pumpkin sales are Saturday only, with a rain date on Sunday.



Proceeds from this event benefit the MIT Glass Lab, where the MIT community can learn and practice the art of glassblowing.

Preview Opening: Friday, October 5, 5:00 - 8:00 PM

Pumpkin Sale: Saturday, October 6, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Rain Date: Sunday, October 7, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

For more information call (617) 253-5309 or visit [web.mit.edu/glasslab/sales\\_pumpkin.html](http://web.mit.edu/glasslab/sales_pumpkin.html).

### HARVARD COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

harvard happenings • Fall 2007



Harvard University Museums Community Day September 16, 2007, 1-5 PM



Allston-Brighton Football Day October 13, 2007  
Cambridge Football Day October 27, 2007

All seven Harvard University Museums open their doors for free on Sunday, September 16 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. Enjoy a wide selection of exhibits, tours, and events. For more information, visit [www.harvard.edu/museums](http://www.harvard.edu/museums).

Also, Harvard will host free Football Days on Saturday, October 13 and Saturday, October 27. For tickets or to learn more, call (617) 495-4955.



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# Community Calendar

## September 2007

Monday, September 3		Labor Day Holiday, ABC Closed
Tuesday, September 4		1st Day Cambridge Public Schools
Wednesday, September 5		1st Day Sacramento St. Preschool & Agassiz Afterschool
Thursday, September 13		Rosh Hashanah Holiday, Sacramento St. Preschool & Agassiz Afterschool closed
Wednesday, September 12	6:00 - 7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Wednesday, September 19	7:30 - 9:00 PM	ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St. All are welcome
Tuesday, September 25	2:00 PM	Introducing Art Performance "Cinderella" at Agassiz Afterschool, 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 SEPTEMBER 2007



Agassiz Neighborhood Council  
20 Sacramento Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
P: (617) 349-6287 F: (617) 497-4388  
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