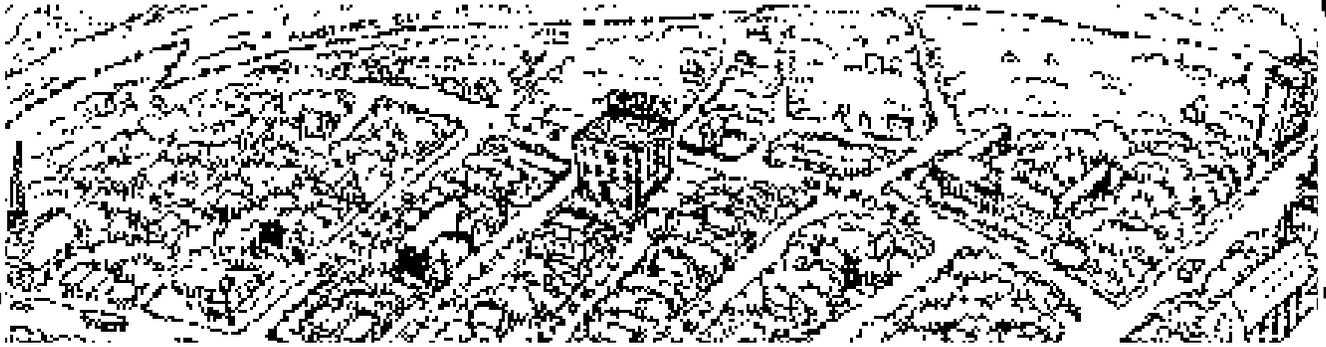


The Whistler

December 2001



Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

In This Issue

Barrios District Dismantled	2
Study Group Presents Recommendations	2
Street Enhancements Map	3
Harvard Seeks Garage Building Permit	4
Lesley/Agassiz Community Service	4
Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center Update	6
Cultural Happenings for December	6

Give to the ANC END OF YEAR FUND DRIVE 2001

Support the ANC with a donation that provides funds that keep *The Whistler* your free newsletter every month. Gifts are also used to fund the ANC website, scholarships for children and many other programs and services that make a participatory community.

Send a check to the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, 20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge, MA, 02138 now and your name will be listed in the next edition of *The Whistler*!

v ANC News v

Notes from the November 27 ANC Meeting

Willie Bloomstein introduced guests: from Community Development Department, **Katherine Watkins**; Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department, **Sue Clippinger** and **Owen O'Riordan**, Department of Public Works. They came together to present a plan that would mitigate traffic speed and increase pedestrian safety through a series of all-way stops and crosswalk enhancements that will be completed this May. (See the map on page 3 that shows where these enhancements will occur.) In addition to these enhancements, Harvard has agreed to work with the City to reconfigure certain crosswalks for better pedestrian safety.

Willie then introduced **Mary Power**, Director of Community Relations at Harvard, who announced a meeting for December 3 to address concerns regarding demolition of the cyclotron and other issues to make way for a new underground garage that will be placed under the vicinity of the

current surface parking that is accessed from a ramp inside the campus via Everett Street at Oxford Street. This construction is scheduled to begin in May. For details on this issue, see page 4.

Jarrett Barrios explained the state redistricting that had, unexpectedly to him and to Cambridge, completely removed his district, which includes a large portion of the Agassiz neighborhood. For more information on that issue, see page 2.

ANC Appoints New Board Member

In a vote taken by the ANC Board of Directors, Wendy Prellwitz has been named as a Director to fill the term vacated by Paul Lenart who resigned in September of this year. Wendy is an architect, an artist, a parent of two children in the Agassiz School and Agassiz Afterschool programs. She lives on Wendell Street.

Agassiz Neighborhood Council

Next Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, December 18
7:30 p.m.

Agassiz School Dining Hall
28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Agenda:

The Agassiz Neighborhood Study Group was convened in Spring of 2000, supported by the Cambridge Community Development Department. Since then members have worked to develop recommendations for the Agassiz neighborhood in areas that include zoning, housing and open space. They will present recommendations and seek community response to this initiative that will ultimately set the planning direction for Agassiz neighborhood. See page 2 for additional information on this process.

SEWER CONSTRUCTION - CONTACTS

Chief Resident Engineer	Ray Elie	354-8216
Community Relations	Judy Kavanagh	498-4710

Block Captains:

Helen Lambert	Sacramento St.	661-0690
Chantal Fujiwara	Museum St.	661-6488
Kate Frank	Crescent St.	547-5174
Amy Barad	Eustis St.	492-6640

DPW 24 hour emergency service 349-4860

Check the kiosk at Agassiz or DPW Web Site for updates:
<http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~TheWorks/>
For Gas Emergencies call NSTAR at 1-800 572-9337
For Electric Emergencies call NStar at 1-800 592-2000

v Neighborhood News v

Many Agassiz Residents Loose their District

In a move that surprised and alarmed many Cambridge citizens, Massachusetts redistricting has completely removed the district currently represented by State Representative Jarrett Barrios. He is now representative to much of the Agassiz neighborhood. Below is an excerpt from his website: <www.barrios.org>.

October 2001

Many of you may have heard that on Monday night, the 28th Representative District -- the district I have served in the State House since January 1999 -- was carved up in redistricting in a way that leaves Cambridge balkanized. I am saddened and dismayed by the way our City has been treated by the legislature. I am writing you now to explain how redistricting happened and ask your help in the next stage of the fight for Cambridge. Throughout the re-districting process, Representatives Wolf, Toomey, and I have worked to make sure Cambridge receives the representation we all deserve. Despite this extremely upsetting and disheartening setback in the State House, we will continue to work together as our struggle moves into the next phase, a lawsuit that the City of Cambridge will file under the Voting Rights Act and the Massachusetts Constitution.

Fighting For Cambridge

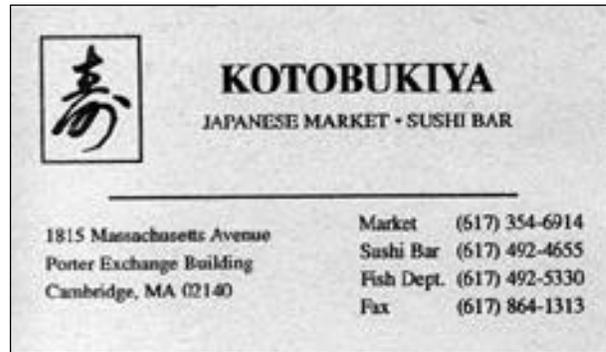
Prior to Monday's last minute maneuvers, Speaker Finneran's redistricting plan preserved the 28th Middlesex District. The map released last Thursday had lost Area 4, but kept the district. I worked through the weekend to restore Area 4. In the several meetings prior to this past week's fiasco, I had met with Rep. Tom Petrolati, the chairman of the committee. He and the Speaker had assured me personally that the district would remain intact. I was told over the weekend that they would be able to join Area 4 to the district.

Fighting the Speaker's Plan

The original did have drawbacks. Among other problems, the Speaker's plan pitted two progressive Representatives from Newton against each other in the same district. From the beginning, Representatives Toomey, Wolf and I spoke out in support of Newton and supported their motion to delay a vote. We believed then -- and still do -- that there was a way to preserve the two Newton seats and create a fair redistricting map without carving up Cambridge.

Cambridge and Minorities Cut Out

At midday on Monday, Speaker Finneran and Representatives Ruth Balsler and Kay Khan of Newton put



forward a new map that preserved Newton at Cambridge's expense. Representatives Wolf, Toomey, and I set to work immediately to defend our city. We developed an amendment that would protect the two Newton districts and still provide Cambridge with a third majority-Cambridge seat. This feat was accomplished by the modest act of adding two Cambridge precincts to Rep. Paul Demakis' district. That same amendment would also have succeeded in uniting Area 4 and Riverside, two historically African American communities who have been the basis for the "minority influence" district of the 28th Middlesex.

Somewhat inexplicably, Representatives Balsler, Khan and Demakis, along with Speaker Finneran, opposed this amendment -- even though it solved every problem they were seeking to resolve. Further, accepting this amendment would have respected the Cambridge community and the minority populations of this Commonwealth. I am proud that the Cambridge delegation chose to respond to the unfortunate situation of Newton not by seeking its elimination, but through collaborative effort to resolve our mutual problems.

Continuing the Fight

In the next step we will bring our fight to the courts. The City of Cambridge will make a case under the Voting Rights Act and the Massachusetts Constitution. The Mayor of Cambridge and the entire City Council have been very supportive of our efforts. Please feel free to call them (617) 349-4280 to thank them for their support of the lawsuit -- and of our district. You can also help by calling the Speaker's Office at (617)722-2500 to voice your opposition to his plan.

I will continue to work for all the constituents of the 28th Middlesex District until the end of my term -- and I hope to continue working with all of you to fight for the values we share -- for years to come.

Agassiz Study Results December 18

A forum will be held at the next ANC meeting on December 18 when recommendations will be presented by the group. Come and share your thoughts on the recommendations with the Agassiz Neighborhood Study Committee and the Community Development Department and participate in the neighborhood study process. A discussion period will follow a brief introduction of the topics that include:

- * Zoning, Urban Design Open Space
- * Housing, Transportation
- * Economic Development



Two Brattle Square, Cambridge, MA 02138

Carol Kelly

Myra von Turkovich (Agassiz School Parent)

Jan Devereux (Agassiz School Parent)

Thinking of Buying or Selling? Log onto

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(617) 497-4400

The Agassiz Neighborhood Study Committee was formed in spring, 2000. The initial Committee, appointed by the City Manager, conducted a comprehensive planning study of the Agassiz neighborhood, working jointly with the Community Development Department (CDD). The object of neighborhood studies is to identify major planning opportunities through a joint CDD and community committee and to formulate recommendations for their solution.

Agassiz neighborhood members of the Committee will present the recommendations, and they include the following residents:

- * Fred Meyer
- * Dave Wood
- * Joel Bard
- * Amy Barad
- * Miriam Goldberg
- * Deborah Galef
- * Ross Hoffman

For more information contact Stuart Dash, CDD, (617)349-4640.

v City Wide v

Get Your Parking Permits

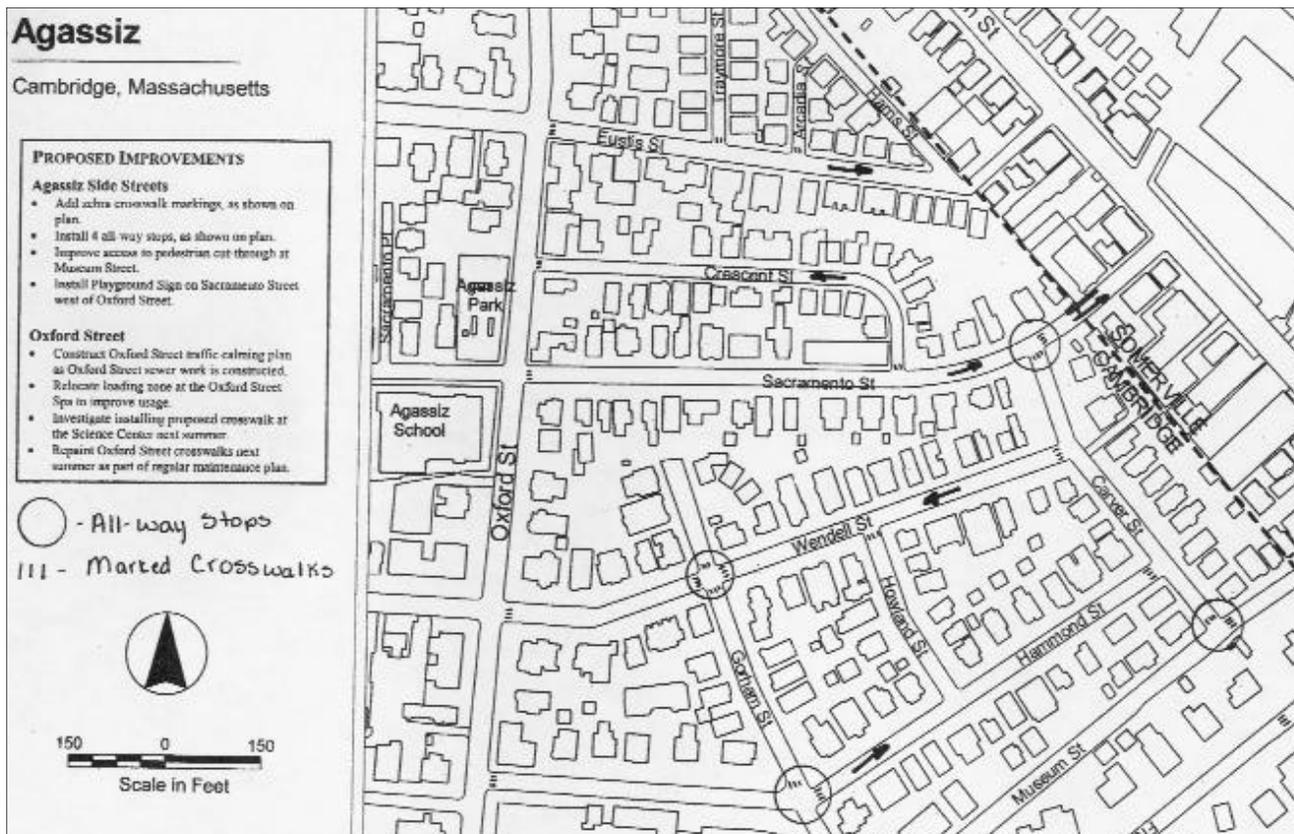
Remember to get your permits to park on Cambridge Streets by 12/31. You must be a resident of Cambridge whose vehicle, weighing less than 2.5 tons, is registered with the Registry of Motor Vehicles as principally garaged in Cambridge at your residential address. You must also present a current gas, electric, telephone, or cable bill dated for service at your residence within 30 days as proof of residency.

The bill must be in the same name as the automobile registration. When applying at the office, please bring your registration and proof of residency. The fee schedule is \$8 per car and that includes a guest permit, if you have no car, it will cost \$8 for a guest permit. No charge for senior citizens, HP or DV plates.

You may renew by mail or in person at 238 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139. Hours are from 8:30am to 5 pm Monday-Friday. Call for extended hours at (617) 349-4700. For a resident sticker you must fill out an application for each qualifying vehicle in your household. (Call or go to the website < <http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~Traffic/rpp/parkapp2002.html>>. Please print legibly. Mail this form along with the applicable fee in check or money order. DO NOT SEND CASH. Include a current gas, electric, telephone, or cable bill dated for service at your address within thirty days of your application as proof of residency. This bill must be in the same name as the automobile registration.

City Parking Fines to Increase Dec. 1

The City is increasing fines for illegally parking in a designated Handicapped space or blocking a handicapped ramp, as required by recently enacted State legislation. The legislature amended Chapter 40, section 22A to increase the handicapped fines to a minimum of \$100 and a maximum of \$300. Cambridge is increasing their fines from \$50 to \$100, effective Dec. 1. The fine for meter violations is being increased from \$10 to \$15, also effective Dec. 1. As an added convenience, fines can be paid online from the City's web site.





Lesley Students at Work

∨ Lesley University ∨

As many Agassiz residents may have noticed, on Wednesday, November 14th, there appeared at our doors or on our fence posts a community information bag entitled Communities of Pride and Service Getting Connected: The Agassiz Neighborhood Council and Lesley University. This fall, the annual, neighborhood drop-off was delivered by Lesley University students from the Class of 2005. The first year students at Lesley College (formerly the Women's College) participated in a community service event entitled *Understanding Our Home Community: Lesley University in the Agassiz Neighborhood*. The students first heard from a variety of individuals at Lesley who are engaged in activities across the two communities. These include The Lesley-Agassiz Resources Committee (a cross-community committee which has been meeting for the past 20 years to share resources, concerns, and projects of mutual interest), the Early Literacy School Partnerships (including Reading Recovery and the Literacy Collaborative), America Reads/America Counts program (supported by a grant from Massachusetts Campus Compact), the Compass (summer school for Cambridge children), the Professional Development School Partnership (which is responsible for having Professor Barbara Govendo as the Lesley University liaison at the Agassiz School), and LINC (the community service club on campus).

The Lesley women broke into working groups on campus to prepare the bags for distribution and then were sent in these groups throughout the neighborhood. The organiza-

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tional and administrative support of Jonathan McMullen (Agassiz After Schools) and Patty Landry (Americorps VISTA, Lesley University) were invaluable. The afternoon ended with an address by President Margaret McKenna, who spoke to the students about the importance of their civic engagement during their college years and beyond.

Our thanks to all of the Lesley University students and staff who participated in this event, and special thanks to the Agassiz participants who introduced Agassiz to its Lesley neighbors: Jonathan McMullen, Jenna Webster, and Helen Lambert.

∨ Harvard University ∨

Harvard Addresses Garage Construction Concerns

Harvard expects to have a building permit for construction of an underground parking facility by the end of this month. They expect to begin construction in May 2002, and the facility will be completed by June 2004. At the November ANC meeting, Mary Power, Director of Community Relations, said that Harvard was scheduled for a city hearing on December 6. She announced a December 3 meeting to review issues of concern prior to the hearing. Mary stressed that Palfrey House will be moved, not demolished. Palfrey House will be moved from its current location for the duration of construction. It is anticipated that it will be permanently located in January 2003.

At a meeting on December 3, Harvard will respond to issues that have arisen relating to the excavation work necessary to complete the new underground garage, which is on schedule for opening in the spring of 2004. Mary Power distributed a Frequently Asked Questions sheet at the November 27 ANC meeting. Information from the sheet appears below, but for more details, you may call her at 495-4955 to receive a copy of the Harvard University/Oxford Street Garage Frequently Asked Questions Sheet or to discuss other concerns or questions.

The five level parking facility will be built to accommodate approximately 730 vehicles on four levels. The Harvard pool of parking will not be increased, but these spaces will replace current surface parking.

The top level will be reserved to accommodate basement space, if ever academic building are located on top of the garage. Vehicles will enter and exit the garage from a ramp located interior to the campus. Vehicles will leave North Campus at the intersection of Oxford and Everett Streets which will be the sole point of vehicle access to the garage. People will exit and enter via a pavilion near the center of the garage.

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617-876-1200

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There will be two fresh air intake vents that have been analyzed for sound impact. It has been determined that the ventilation will not increase local noise levels, even at the quietest time of day-2 a.m. Fans are below grade and will have sound attenuation devices that will keep noise levels below quietest decibel readings in the neighborhood. Exhaust will be released at 10 ft. above grade, closest to the interior of campus. The are determined to be well within EPA standards.

The retaining wall along Hammond Street, and where it turns the corner onto Gorham Street will be removed, as it interferes with the construction site. Further along Gorham Street, Harvard hopes to retain the berm and mature pines. However, many trees along Hammond Street and at the corner of Gorham Street will need to be removed for construction. There will be an interim landscaping plan that will maintain or improve current pedestrian experience along Hammond Street.

The garage has been designed with "top down construction", which means that a slurry wall will be built around the entire site, and then the top slab poured over the site. The excavation and subsequent slabs will be done from underneath, mitigating noise and dust for the neighborhood. Vibrations will be monitored, but no excessive vibration is anticipated. Water levels should not be affected during the construction.

Mary Power will be back (tentatively set for January) to begin discussions on initial planning concepts with Agassiz residents. A working group will be developed, and all interested people are encourage to contact Jonathan McMullen, (617) 349-6287x23 or jmcmullen@agassiz.org to be added to the group.

Agassiz has representatives, Willie Bloomstein and Richard Griffin, who sit on the Joint Neighborhood-Harvard Committee with other Harvard-abutting neighborhood representatives, but these discussions will be specifically for Agassiz issues.



Agassiz Community School Programs

Notes from the Programs

There is limited space for children in the Afterschool program (sorry, kindergarten is full).

Watch out for the new listing of classes for middle school students afterschool, it will be out soon.

Preschool has a waiting list. If you are interested in preschool for next year, call soon. Children must be two years and nine months old when they begin.

Facts from the Programs

Did you know that children in our programs speak 22 languages that include: Spanish, Chinese, German, French, Portuguese, Korean, Hebrew, Japanese, Creole, Hindi, Bangla, Bulgarian, Greek, Russian, Cantonese, Catalan, Czech, Italian, Persian, Turkish, Ukrainian and English.

for information, call Jenna Webster, Administrative Director at (617) 349-6287x19 or email jwebster@agassiz.org.



Folks enjoy dinner at the 30th Annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck held on November 20 in the Agassiz School.



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Sacramento Street Gallery at 20 Sacramento Street presents
International Student Work FROM US TO YOU a collaboration between
PROJECTGUGGENHEIM and the **AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

December 11 - January 4

Reception December 11 from 4-7:30 p.m.
see videos from Tibet and Poland - children welcome!

Exhibition of works by Children in
PROJECTGUGGENHEIM SCHOOLS AROUND THE WORLD

Love at the time of Anthrax

A seemingly unstoppable volcano of hate and evil has erupted and is threatening to engulf us all. How can we contain it? We have no new answer, but we have one that precedes all hatred and is both ancient and always new and renewable. It is the love and laughter of children, it is our children's future. And perhaps there is a second answer, one that is buried inside the language of art. We must release it and give children the opportunity and chance to do so. Projectguggenheim tries to reach children worldwide and to enable them to communicate with one another through their art.

We are delighted that the Agassiz Neighborhood Council is providing the opportunity to show some of the work the children are doing in our schools in different countries. Work comes from Teatr Brama Grodzka ,Lublin, Poland, Yamyangling Castle Academy for Tibetan Arts and Crafts, Katsel, Tibet, Academia de Arte y Cultura Maya en Honor de Alfred Galvez Suarez, Guatemala, Bright Star English School and Bhaktapur Music Academy, Bhaktapur, Nepal, Altinyildiz Koleji, Cappadocia, Turkey, Gjorce Petrov Highschool, Skopja, Macedonia, Russian Jewish Veterans Association Grandfathers and Grandchildren Art program, St. Petersburg, Russia.

Children from the Agassiz Afterschool programs will be visiting this exhibit and will respond to it pictorially, opening up a visual "dialog" among children from other countries. Hans Guggenheim, Director of PROJECTGUGGENHEIM, will provide the American pictures to children around the world.

Visit ProjectGuggenheim on the internet to learn more about this unique project at www.projectguggenheim.com.



Oil painting by a Guatemalan student



Maud Morgan
Visual Arts Center News

The Capital Campaign Committee to support the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center announces that it has raised \$531,000 as of the end of November 2001. This fall several foundations including the Land Foundation for Arts and Sciences, the Institute for Civil Society and Harvard Law School as well as an anonymous foundation challenge grant have provided significant recent gifts to this fund. The new center will create four visual art studios with a program focus on children and practicing artists.

The gallery show, *Small Works*, closed on November 30, and generated income through sales, thanks to the generosity of the Cambridge artist community. There were 59 Cambridge artists who provided pieces for a remarkable show of their smaller work.

Look for the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center Update, a newsletter that describes the latest activities of the building fund. Please contact Terry DeLancey to receive regular mailings, to visit the site or for more information on this exciting initiative. Terry DeLancey can be reached at (617) 349-6287 or via email: tdelancey@agassiz.org.



ANC Executive Director Terry DeLancey stands with Harvard Law School Dean Robert Clark in front of Austin Hall to celebrate Harvard's gift of \$20,000 to support the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center.

Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

Swedenborg Chapel Music of the Season

Sunday, December 16 at 11 a.m. - Music in Service for the Season: Seasonal songs and carols for voices, instruments, and organ.

Monday, December 24 at 4:45 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Musical service with Musical Prelude of Carols and Seasonal Music for Vocal Quartet, Organ and Piano. DeVonna Lawrence, soprano; Emily Romney, mezzo soprano; Jason McStoots, tenor; Robert Honeysucker, bass; and Mariko Irie, organ and piano. 50 Quincy Street at Kirkland Street. Free Admission. For Information call 864-4552.

Pre-Kwanza Celebration Dec. 6

28th Annual - Opening the Door to a World of Culture

The Art of Black Dance & Music will present its 28th Annual Pre-Kwanza Celebration Thursday, Dec. 6, from 7 - 9:30 p.m., at the King School, 100 Putnam Ave. Enjoy dance, music and food. This is a program funded in part by the Martin Luther King Jr. After School Program and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For more information, call Carol Hill at 617-349-6269.

Club Passim Culture for Kids - FREE

December 10th at 3:30 p.m. Mizmor Shir - Jewish Music from around the world. At Club Passim, 47 Palmer Street, Harvard Square. Space is limited so call (617)491-2382.

Harvard-Radcliffe Chorus presents Berloiz

On December 9th at 8 p.m. in the First Church, 11 Garden Street, the Harvard Radcliffe Chorus will present Te Deum, Op. 22, the Napoleonic Antiphony, by Hector Berlioz with Rockland Osgood, tenor and Constance DeFotis, conductor. Tickets are \$14, \$10 (\$8-\$5 for students and seniors). Call the Sanders Theater box office at (617)496-2222.

Revels at Sanders Theater December 14 - 30

Come to the 31st Christmas Revels, a holiday tradition in celebration of the winter solstice. Tickets: \$38, \$28, \$18; Children under 12 \$30, \$20, \$12. Limited ticket availability, call the box office at (617)496-2222. Located at 45 Quincy St. Cambridge.

The Cambridge Community Chorus and Orchestra

William E. Thomas, Music Director

presents its 12th annual performance of

Handel's Messiah

Sunday, December 9th at 3 PM

Louise Toppin - Soprano, Aaron Russo- Countertenor
Allen Combs and Bulent Guneralp, Tenors
Marcus DeLoach Baritone

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CALL for ENTRIES

The NOT STILL ART FESTIVAL 2002 invites artists working in abstract and non-narrative electronic motion imaging with music/sound design to submit work for the 7th. annual international screening, to be held in NYC April 2002. Both cutting edge and gritty retro - the festival's primary criterion for screening is the aesthetic of the electronic screen. There is no restriction as to date of production. Additionally, programs made with the Rutt-Etra Video Synthesizer from the 1970s are also sought for a special historic screening. Artists are asked to submit work on MiniDV. Programs created for CD-ROM, the Web, or DVD may be submitted in those formats. Please print the application and guidelines from the website: www.improvart.com/nsa/. An application fee of \$25. is requested in support of the festival. Not Still Art is an artist-run-sponsored project of the New York Foundation for the Arts. DEADLINE: Postmark December 20, 2001

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Retail Space A available for Crafts or Arts

The Marketplace at Porter Square Shopping Center is currently searching for two new tenants. The purpose of the Marketplace is to give people an opportunity they may not ordinarily have to open a small retail business that focuses on art or handcrafted items. The Marketplace will put new tenants in touch with development organizations to help with training and support. Call The Marketplace at (617)492-4118 for an information packet. Managed by Gravestart Incorporated.

Community Calendar December 2001

December 4-8 Tuesday-Friday Saturday	3 - 5:30 p.m. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.	KIDS ONLY SALE Inexpensive gifts on sale for kids to give family and friends Parents Wait at the door-staff will help with math and choices Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street
Monday, December 10		Hanukkah begins
Tuesday, December 11	4-7:30 p.m.	<i>From Us To You</i> - A show of international student work presented by PROJECTGUGGENHEIM and the ANC. See p.6 Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge
Tuesday, December 18	6:30 p.m.	Agassiz Neighborhood Council Monthly Board Meeting 20 Sacramento Street 2nd floor, public welcome
	7:30 p.m.	Agassiz Neighborhood Council Monthly Meeting - see page 1 Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento Street entrance
Tuesday, December 18	7:40 p.m.	City of Cambridge Planning Board - Public Hearing Petition for Transitional Zoning at Hammond/Harvard edge 806 Mass. Ave. Call Les Barber (617)349-4657 for information
Friday, December 21		Cambridge Public Schools close for December Vacation
Tuesday, December 25		Christmas Day
Wednesday, January 2		Cambridge Public Schools Reopen

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, distribution 2,000. Call 349-6287 to be on the mailing list. Items of interest to the neighborhood may be submitted for consideration to address below, no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

The Whistler December 2001



AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
617 349-6287 Fax and Hot Line 497-4388
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