

# the *Whistler*

Newsletter of the Baldwin Neighborhood Council | Winter 2025

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vivid details about landscapes and people on the continent of Africa, and beautiful photographs taken by Ms. Clark herself. We hope the audience was inspired by Ms. Clark's feats of endurance and her warmth towards the people and lands through which she traveled.

We invite anyone who might be inspired to share, as Ms. Clark did, to reach out to the Baldwin Neighborhood Council!

If you have any questions about BNC, or Maria L. Baldwin Community Center programs, don't hesitate to email [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org) or call (617) 349-6287 x10.

View more photos from the meeting on Flickr: <https://bit.ly/janspecialmeeting>

## BNC News

### NOTES FROM THE JANUARY 14 BNC SPECIAL MEETING



#### **Special Presentation by Jane Clark**

On January 14th, the Neighborhood Council hosted a special meeting featuring a presentation by Baldwin resident and cyclist Jane Clark on her transcontinental bike trip through Africa.

The meeting was held in person at the Baldwin School, and almost 80 people gathered in the cafeteria to hear Ms. Clark's presentation. The evening was filled with engaging storytelling,



#### **NEXT BNC MONTHLY MEETING**

**April 8, 7:30 PM**

**ZOOM**

- Updates on Maria L. Baldwin Community Center Rebranding Project
- Additional agenda items TBD



## Community

### 27TH ANNUAL HIP HOP FESTIVAL



Thursday, February 20th was the 27th Annual Hip Hop Festival! We welcomed hip hop lovers of all ages to the Baldwin School gymnasium to enjoy performances by Bakari JB, The Floor Lords, Zakiyyah, Hip Hop Transformation, King Open Rhythmic Beats Squad, and OrigiNation. Naheem Garcia returned as emcee and Motivate Merren DJ'ed.

The Hip Hop Festival is not just a showcase of incredible local talent; it's a celebration of the music and culture of hip hop that spans multiple generations. It is also one of our organization's long time-honored events.

You can view more photos from the event by visiting [bit.ly/hiphopfest2025photos](https://bit.ly/hiphopfest2025photos)



### JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If you feel a connection to the mission of the Maria L. Baldwin Community Center (MLBCC) and are looking for meaningful volunteer work, consider joining our Board of Directors. MLBCC plays an important role in the community and the Board helps to ensure the long-term success, sustainability, and viability of the organization.

#### **Position**

The Board supports the work of MLBCC and provides mission-based leadership and strategic governance. While day-to-day operations are led by MLBCC's Co-Executive Directors, the Board-ED relationship is a partnership, and the appropriate involvement of the Board is both critical and expected.

#### **Qualifications**

We are specifically seeking volunteers who are parents of children in MLBCC Children's Programs or Maud Morgan Arts classes, to join our Board.

#### **Board Terms**

The MLBCC Board slate is approved annually by the Baldwin Neighborhood Council at the May Annual Meeting. MLBCC's Board Members are elected for two-year terms, and officers (Chairs, Treasurer, Clerk) are elected each year.

#### **Schedule**

Board Meetings are generally held from 6:00-7:30 PM on the second Wednesday of the month from Sept-June. Additional committee meetings may be scheduled as needed. Board members are expected to attend 75% of the monthly meetings.

#### **Apply**

To apply, review the complete position description at [bit.ly/join-mlbcc-board](https://bit.ly/join-mlbcc-board) and please send a statement that explains your interest in the Board as well as relevant experience and a résumé (optional). If you have questions or are wondering if the Board might be a good fit for you, contact Co-ED Phoebe Sinclair at [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org).

## ENROLL NOW FOR SUMMER PROGRAMS AT MLBCC

If you are looking for summer

programming with an engaging variety of activities for your Kindergartener-6th grader, we still have space available or short waitlists for many weeks of

Outback! Days include a mix of structured activities such as sports and games, ceramics, visual arts, performance arts, and the more care-free summer activities like playing in the sandbox, running through the sprinkler, reading, crafts, and more! We also take field trips to local beaches and to other exciting locations around Cambridge and Boston!



Enrollment for the Counselor-in-Training (CIT) program began Wednesday, March 5th at 8 PM. The CIT program provides middle school youth (rising 7th-9th graders) with an opportunity to volunteer in the Outback Summer Program and gain valuable professional skills in the process! CITs earn a \$75 stipend after completing their session.

To learn more about these program and how to register, please visit our website [agassiz.org](http://agassiz.org) or email [registration@agassiz.org](mailto:registration@agassiz.org).

## REGISTER FOR APRIL VACATION WEEK AT MLBCC

Registration is now open for our April Vacation Week program! Vacation Week Programming at MLBCC is full day care during February and April vacation weeks for K-5th grade students. The day is split into four activity blocks, which offer



children a variety of activity options to choose from. Typical choice offerings include a mix of structured activities such as sports, games, visual arts, crafts and performance arts, as well as visits to nearby Alden Park and Sacramento Field.

The program is based out of the Maria L. Baldwin School for 1st-5th graders and 20 Sacramento Street for Kindergarteners. We try to spend as much time outside as possible, weather permitting, and make frequent use of our spacious backyard at 20 Sacramento St. or the playgrounds and field at Alden Park & Sacramento Field. All 1st-5th graders will have the opportunity to spend one day in our studios in the Maud Morgan Arts center.

Registration will close for everyone on April 11th at 5 PM. The Vacation Week program will be \$325 per student for the week for all current afterschool families, or \$500 for public registration. Scholarships available and childcare vouchers are accepted.

April Vacation Week dates: Tuesday, April 22nd-Friday, February 25th. Closed on Monday, April 21st for Presidents' Day.

To learn more and register, please visit [agassiz.org/vacation-week-programs/](http://agassiz.org/vacation-week-programs/)

## LIVING WELL NETWORK MEN'S GROUP

Are you a man, age 55+, who likes a good conversation, and enjoys social contact with other men?

The Living Well Network, a program of the Maria L. Baldwin Community Center, is forming a men's group! The purpose of the group will be defined by the men who choose to participate. It could be just for social connection, meeting for a meal or coffee. It could be a place to talk about whatever we're facing in life, and to help each other achieve more growth, success, and happiness.



Living Well Network is envisioning monthly meetings - time of day and place to meet to be determined.

Skip Schiel, longtime local resident, shared: "I like the idea of men meeting because I need help developing my language skills about my feelings. A men's group could be a good approach. We could share insights about emotions like anger, trust, courage, caring and love."

If you're interested in joining or have any questions, please contact Randi Freundlich, Living Well Network Manager, via email at [rfreundlich@agassiz.org](mailto:rfreundlich@agassiz.org).

## **ADULT SPRING CLASSES AT MAUD MORGAN ARTS**

There are still spots available in the spring session of printmaking classes for adults at Maud Morgan Arts! Registration is open until the first day of class, but register early to help us plan in advance.



We are sad to share that this will be Christina's last semester teaching printmaking at Maud Morgan Arts. If there's a printmaking class or workshop that you have been wanting to take with Christina, this is your last chance! Students must be 18 or older to participate in all classes.

Learn more and register online by visiting [maudmorganarts.org](http://maudmorganarts.org)

### **Screenprinting with Christina Kang**

Mondays, March 31, 2025 - June 9, 2025  
6:30 - 9:30 PM  
(no class 5/26)

This course covers water-based screenprinting and is structured both for introductory as well as experienced screenprinters. We'll be exploring

the basic techniques and concepts of this fine art printmaking process. As always in our studios, there will be an emphasis on non-toxic methods and materials. Techniques covered will include: cut paper and hand-painted (autographic) stencils, monotypes, and photographic emulsion. Experimental approaches towards the process will be encouraged. No prior experience is required. This class also includes 2 extra weeks of studio time, as well as sign-up based independent hours throughout the session.

### **Relief Printing with Christina Kang**

Tuesdays, April 1, 2025 - June 3, 2025  
6:30 - 9:30 PM

This course covers linoleum relief, monotypes, and monoprints printing techniques using oil-based, water-soluble inks primarily on paper and fabric. There will be an emphasis on non-toxic methods and materials. Techniques covered will include: reductive relief, multiblock registration, jigsaw relief, hand cut stencils, fabric printing, hand printing, and printing with a press. For introductory and experienced print levels alike. Experimental approaches towards the process will be encouraged. No prior experience is required. This class also includes 2 extra weeks of studio time, as well as sign-up based independent hours throughout the session. Basic materials provided; however, students are recommended to purchase their own set of carving tools (ex. Power Grip carving tools).

### **Mini Relief Prints Workshop**

Create a linoleum block print with your own unique design in this three hour workshop. Learn how to carve a linoleum block, mix ink, and print with a printing press and by hand. Leave with a set of handmade printed cards and your linoleum block carved with your design. All materials are provided. Students must be 18 or older to participate.

Saturday, April 19, 2025  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETING WITH REP. DECKER

### Federal Updates: What is Going On and How We Can Respond

Join us for a discussion about what is going on in the federal government under President Trump and how we can respond. The goal of this event is to allow us to start to chart a path forward with a shared understanding of the challenges ahead.

#### WHERE:

**Maria L. Baldwin School**  
85 Oxford Street  
Cambridge, MA

#### WHEN:

**March 25**  
6:00-7:30pm

#### SPEAKERS:

- ACLU MA
- MIRA Coalition
- Fenway Health
- and more!

#### TOPICS:

- Updates about ongoing federal changes
- Available resources
- How Massachusetts will respond
- Q&A and discussion

**Marjorie  
DECKER**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

*This event is fully accessible and  
all are welcome!  
Light refreshments will be  
provided.*

On Tuesday, March 25th, Maria L. Baldwin Community Center is partnering with State Representative Marjorie Decker to hosting a community meeting from 6:00-7:30 PM.

The meeting seeks to serve as a time for connection within the community to figure out how to respond to all that is going on at the federal level. This will be a space where folks can share their questions and concerns, and organizations – including those specializing in immigrant and LGBTQ rights and health equity – can talk about their work, resources they have to offer, and how we, as a community, can support populations and systems that are being targeted.

Tuesday, March 25th 6:30-7:30 PM  
Baldwin School Cafeteria (basement level,  
accessible by elevator)

## City Wide

### MASS AVE PARTIAL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

*Prepared by the City of Cambridge*

The City of Cambridge and its team have been studying Mass Ave from Alewife Brook Parkway to Cambridge Common to improve the experience for all roadway users. Construction to remove the median on Mass Ave between Linnaean Street and Waterhouse Street (Cambridge Common) will begin in early spring. Removing the median now will make construction less disruptive for businesses, residents, and visitors. There will also be some localized underground utility work and sidewalk repair, setting the stage for subsequent installation of separated bicycle lanes, new crosswalks, and floating bus stops. The final concept design of this section was reviewed by the public in December 2023, and since then there have been no major changes.

The City will host a Pre-Construction Open House on Wednesday, March 26 from 5:30-7:30 PM at Lesley University in the University Hall Atrium at 1815 Mass Ave, 2nd floor (accessible by elevator). There will be an opportunity to learn more about construction from Waterhouse Street to Linnaean Street; to discuss what to expect during construction; and to view the final design of upcoming improvements in this section.

To learn more about the Mass Ave Partial Construction Project and stay up to date, visit: [cambridgema.gov/MassAvePartialConstruction](https://cambridgema.gov/MassAvePartialConstruction).

The City is also conducting the Mass Ave Planning Study (MAPS), a visioning plan to understand what Mass Ave between Alewife Brook Parkway and Cambridge Common may look like in 2040. The Mass Ave projects will continue to coordinate with each other to ensure alignment to the extent feasible. Visit [cambridgema.gov/MassAvePlan](https://cambridgema.gov/MassAvePlan) to learn more.

# Community Calendar

## March & April 2025

Wednesday, March 19		MLBCC Afterschool Programs Closed - Staff Professional Development
Tuesday, March 25	6:30-7:30 PM	Community Meeting with Marjorie Decker, in the Baldwin School Cafeteria
Tuesday, April 8	7:30-9:00 PM	April Baldwin Neighborhood Council Meeting on Zoom
Monday, April 21		MLBCC Office and Programs Closed for Patriots Day
Tuesday, April 22-Friday, April 25		April Vacation Week

The Whistler is published periodically from September-June by the Maria L. Baldwin Community Center, distribution 600 in 2022. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by email or mail. The newsletter is available online at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org). Editorial team: Phoebe Sinclair, Community Liaison & Editor; Jessica Leach, Scribe; Ashley Yee, Guest Writer.

MLBCC is located on the traditional homelands of the Massachusett people, and their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag.

## The Whistler Winter 2025

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**DO NOT FORWARD**



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