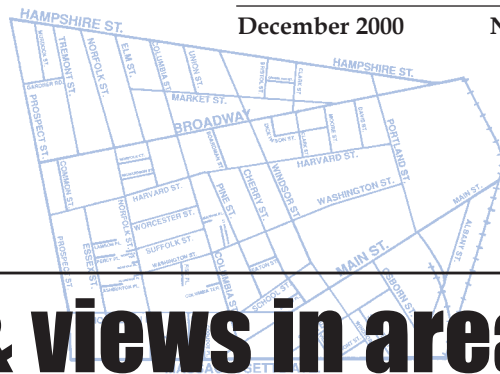


# 4word

December 2000

Number 6



## news & views in area 4

### JAM'NASTICS is Jam'n in Area 4

By *Bethany Allen*

If you live in Cambridge and you haven't heard of JAM'NASTICS, then you haven't truly experienced life in Cambridge! This innovative and high-energy organization is based in Area 4 and has provided the city with

favorites at local events such as the annual World's Fair and Caribbean Festival. Recently, the administrative office of the organization moved into the Area 4 community, making its new home at 199 Columbia Street.

JAM'NASTICS started out as the inspired idea of two ambitious Area 4 teenagers who wanted to offer dance and gymnastics classes to the youth of their community. Ten years later, the company has expanded to offer gymnastics classes in collaboration with MIT, an afterschool program at the King Schools, a summer camp program, dance and gymnastic team programs, a special olympic gymnastic program and instructor training programs. JAM'NASTICS takes great pride in servicing the youth of this community, but its commitment doesn't stop there. Classes are also available for adults in

*continues on page 2*



Olivia Jenkins

#### *The Hip-Hop Dance Company*

not only exciting dance and gymnastics performances, but also a constructive, creative outlet for the city's youth that helps them develop discipline, confidence, and leadership skills. Members of JAM'NASTICS dance teams are regular performers and perpetual crowd

favorites at local events such as the annual World's Fair and Caribbean Festival. Recently, the administrative office of the organization moved into the Area 4 community, making its new home at 199 Columbia Street.

### Cambridgeport School to Move to the Fletcher



Gerald Bergman

#### *Cambridgeport School*

Stating that the Cambridgeport school is now in a significantly inadequate and sub-standard rental facility at the Blessed Sacrament School in Cambridgeport, Superintendent of Schools Bobbie D'Alessandro has recommended to the School Committee that the Cambridgeport School relocate to the vacant Fletcher School in September 2001. There are approximately 300 students currently enrolled at the Cambridgeport School.

The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition overwhelmingly rejected the use of the vacant Fletcher building for anything other than educational purposes that would serve the needs of children and neighborhood residents.

In a letter to the *4word*, Lynn Stuart, principal of the Cambridgeport School, said that "when the Superintendent and School Committee do make a decision with regard to the location of the school, we will endeavor to work respectfully and collaboratively with the neighborhood."

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## From the Editor

The elections are over. Many of us participated in the election, by voting or publicly advocating for important issues. Three thousand registration forms were dropped in mailboxes and mail slots throughout the neighborhood as an insert in the October *4word*. Voting is on the increase in Area 4!

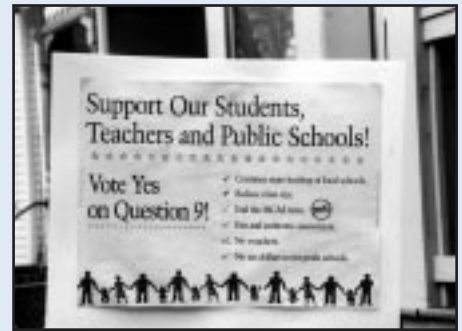
I want to thank State Senator Birmingham's office for delivering voter registration forms to the *4word*.

The City Council has extended the vote to noncitizens in School Committee elections. By a 5-3 vote, with one councilor absent, this legislation was sent off to the state legislature for final action. On November 16, the City Council Government Operations Committee held a hearing on lowering the voting age to 16 in Cambridge elections for City Council and School Committee.

Members of the Cambridge Democratic City Committee, the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition, parents, teachers and other adult supporters joined with more than 30 young men and women to endorse the proposal, which would allow all young adults to vote in a local city election once before they graduate from high school.

Cambridge voters overwhelmingly passed Question 5, which mandated universal health care. Unfortunately, Question 5 lost statewide because supporters were outspent by opponents \$5,000,000 to \$50,000. "It is outrageous that allegedly non-profit health care providers have spent millions of dollars of patients' money to campaign on a referendum, while cutting back on services to their members," said Secretary of State William Galvin.

Voters in the 28th Middlesex district, which includes Cambridgeport, mid-Cambridge and the western half of Area 4, voted yes on Question 9 to suspend the



Gerald Bergman

*We can make a difference.*

MCAS tests as criteria for promotion or graduation. In total, 9,433 (75.9%) voters voiced their opposition to MCAS while only 2,995 (24.1%) endorsed MCAS as a graduation requirement. MCAS tests discriminate against low-income and minority students, as well as bilingual, special needs, and vocational students. The Area Four Coalition has called for the suspension of MCAS tests as criteria for promotion or graduation.

Gerald Bergman, Editor

## JAM'NASTICS is Jam'n in Area 4, continued from page 1

gymnastics and various dance styles such as hip-hop, break dancing, and Latin dance. One of the especially popular adult classes is La Rueda de Casino, a Cuban salsa game where couples dance in a circle performing steps and turns as announced by a "caller."

Olivia Jenkins, administrative director for JAM'NASTICS, describes the special nature of the program: "JAM'NASTICS is unique because it brings dance and gymnastics to people who may not have exposure or the opportunity to participate otherwise. The benefits are twofold. First, the newcomers enjoy the many ways in which studying these disciplines affects their life and development as a student. Second, because of the 'out-reach' nature of our program, students interact with classmates and staff members from a variety of different racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds."

Jenkins notes that many of the people who benefit from this positive and diverse experience start out as afterschool students, and work their way up to staff members through the Instructor Training Program. One such student is Leia Hickman, an Area 4 resident.

She began studying with JAM'NASTICS when she was six years old, and attended its inaugural afterschool program. Today as a teenager she is an assistant dance instructor as well as a member of the Hip-Hop Dance Company and the Gymnastics team at Cambridge Rindge and Latin. In a sense, Leia and the program grew up together.

"JAM'NASTICS feels like a family to me," she attests. "I've learned so much from being friends and working with people that are older than me, as well as getting to work with the kids. Also, performing with the Dance Company has given me the chance to interact with a very diverse group of people." A favorite memory of hers was when the Company went to New York City to perform at the Apollo Theater. "It was significant to me *and* JAM'NASTICS because we did really well, and it was a *group* trip. We grew as a team through that experience. And that is what JAM'NASTICS is all about—community."



Carmenleah Ascencio

*Leia Hickman (second from left) with students from the JAM'NASTICS summer camp program*

JAM'NASTICS is thrilled to be moving into the Area 4 community, and we are looking forward to establishing an even stronger presence in this neighborhood. If you are interested in learning how you can get involved, please call us at 354-5780, or drop by our office at 199 Columbia Street. A new session of classes for youth and adults will start in January 2001. You can also check out our website at [www.jamnastics.org](http://www.jamnastics.org) for more information. In the meantime, keep an eye out for a JAM'NASTICS performance coming soon to a venue near you!

# Neighborhood Four Scholarship Program

By Chip Greenidge, Coordinator

The Neighborhood Four Scholarship Program has helped over 30 young people to complete their studies at colleges and universities this year. The program was supported by a \$15,000 Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) grant from the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition.

The Scholarship Program has provided last dollar assistance for young people who need financial support to help them pay for their studies. Grants up to \$500 are given on the basis of need and the young person's commitment to community service in the city of Cambridge, especially in the Area 4 neighborhood. The funding committee meets twice a year to review applicants for the scholarships. Preference will be given to students who are first generation college students, youth and young adults ages 17-25, and residents of the Area 4 neighborhood. All Area 4 residents are urged to apply for a grant, including those who are attending a local community college.

Soaring educational costs, cutbacks in the government's commitment to education, the always difficult transition to the post-secondary learning environment, and the continuing plague of racism make an investment of time and financial resources in our youth more imperative than ever. The Neighborhood

Four Scholarship Program plays an active role in helping students in the community overcome obstacles to success in school and in life. It provides financial assistance to encourage youth to enroll, attend, and graduate from college. Earning a degree is a credential to compete in an ever-changing workforce.

It is important for our young people in the neighborhood to know that the Area 4 community is behind them while they complete their studies. Support like this can go a long way for a college student. Jeffrey Francis, a Columbia Street resident who attends Northeastern University stated that the scholarship helped him over the hump during the year. "The scholarship helped me buy new textbooks, buy a new computer program, and helped me pay for a T-pass to get around the city. I hope it is around for other kids in the neighborhood." Kessen Green, a sophomore at Fisher College, also believed the fund was a valuable resource. "The Scholarship Program gave me confidence to keep on going," said Kessen. "My community gave me this one." Guy Beatty, who attends Morris Brown College in Atlanta, said that "the money was great, but connecting with other college students from the neighborhood was just as important."

Not only do these young people get scholarship support, but they receive financial aid training as well. The Neighborhood Four Scholarship Fund provides community sessions on financial aid procedures and information on eligible scholarships for youth in



**Scholarship Program participants (left to right) Roxanne Grant, Kareem Marshall, and Q.B. Harding**

the neighborhood. Fellow college students who have navigated through the intensive application procedures, as well as a financial aid counselor from a local college, facilitate these sessions, which are open to the public. All recipients are required to attend two financial aid reviews. These sessions prove to be valuable for young people because they learn how to fill out forms correctly and learn about other scholarship sources available to them. This year, eight scholarship recipients received support from other sources they learned about from attending these meetings. For more information on the Scholarship Fund, please contact Chip Greenidge at [Chipgreenidge@aol.com](mailto:Chipgreenidge@aol.com) or Carolyn Dallas, executive director of the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, at 547-4680.

# Changes in Central Square

Harvard University has signed a 10-year lease for the upper floors of the old Woolworth building on Massachusetts Avenue in Area 4. The space, a total of 70,000 square feet (sf), will house the offices of approximately 175 employees displaced during the renovation of the Harvard Widener Library. As the *4word* goes to press, the old Woolworth site remains to be leased. Next door to the old Woolworth building, a GAP and GAP KIDS are under construction in 12,200 sf of the former CPI space (formerly Corcoran's). Boston Sports Clubs, which presently operates 18 clubs in Greater Boston, has taken 21,000 sf of space.

The most important decision regarding the future of Central Square is the siting of the



Gerald Bergman

**Vacant Woolworth building**

new Cambridge Public Library. The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition has overwhelmingly endorsed the Central Square library site on Prospect and Harvard Streets.

about **4**word

The *4word* is funded by a UDAG grant from the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition. We thank the Community Art Center for administering the grant. Suggestions about articles and interviews and contributions to People Pride and Your Calendar are invited.

Contact Gerald Bergman, *4word* editor, PO Box 390768 (02139), telephone: 354-2648, fax: 864-2519, e-mail: [gerrberg@aol.com](mailto:gerrberg@aol.com). Read the *4word* online in PDF format at [city.mit.edu/Area4](http://city.mit.edu/Area4)

## Area Four Coalition UDAG Committee

The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition has money to fund projects to benefit the Area 4 neighborhood. The money comes from the former US Trust repayment of a federal Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) to compensate the neighborhood when it moved here in the 1980s. Every two years the Area Four Coalition makes approximately \$250,000 available for neighborhood programs and projects. The next Area 4 funding decisions are scheduled for June 2001.

Every two years the Area Four Coalition appoints volunteer UDAG committee members who make funding recommendations to the community prior to a public community vote. The UDAG Committee assists in grant applications, answers grant questions, facilitates community grant meetings, and makes grant recommendations to the neighborhood. The Area Four Coalition is recruiting UDAG committee members from all parts of the neighborhood who will reflect the diversity of ages, races, ethnic groups, and living situations found in Area 4.

In several community meetings in 1997 the following priorities for funding were devel-

oped: affordable housing projects; employment opportunities such as job training programs; and community/human services development projects such as improving parks and playgrounds, improving community facilities and programs and providing educational enrichment. All funds must benefit low- and moderate-income households in Area 4. Projects should expand the opportunities for existing residents to remain in the neighborhood and/or increase the community's enjoyment of the neighborhood.

Over \$1,000,000 has been given in grants by the Area Four Coalition over the past several years. In June 1999, the Area 4 Coalition voted \$250,000 for the following 16 programs and projects: Recreational Activities Program (RAP)—\$3,150; Area 4 Newsletter (*4word*)—\$30,000; Area 4 Community Celebrations—\$6,000; Area 4 Scholarship Fund—\$15,000; Area Four Scholars Program—\$15,000; Community Art Center, Inc.—\$14,500; ESL Program: Computer, language, and job skills at the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House—\$18,000; JAM'NASTICS—\$10,000; Young People's Project: Afterschool Algebra—



Gerald Bergman

### *2nd Gear Earn a Bike Program participants*

\$33,000; Cambridge Business Development Center—\$8,000; Cambridge Carnival: Kids' Costume Camp—\$7,000; The Little Women's Club—\$10,000; Homeowners Rehab, Inc.: HIP—\$46,350; Cambridge Camping—\$10,000; 2nd Gear Bicycles: Earn a Computer Program—\$12,000; 2nd Gear Bicycles: Earn a Bike Program—\$12,000.

For more information on this important committee contact Lee Farris at 354-6740 and plan to attend the December 14 meeting of the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition.

## Affordable Housing Update

At a time that tenants and prospective homeowners are being priced out of the Cambridge market, it was with both joy and relief that Homeowner's Rehab, Inc. (HRI) announced its purchase of 95 units of family-size housing from the Bedrick family. The purchase price was \$13.4 million. The apartments are located in 17 buildings in the eastern part of Cambridge—over one third are in Area 4.

This housing has been in the Bedrick family for decades and many of the residents are long-term. The vast majority of residents are low and moderate income, which makes this transaction such a great victory. Had a

for-profit developer purchased these properties, they would have undoubtedly been converted to market-rate housing. With HRI as owner, these apartments will be permanently affordable for low- and moderate-income families. This housing will be preserved for those earning 80% of median income or below. Median income for a Cambridge family of four is \$62,700 annually, so a family earning under approximately \$50,000 would be eligible.

In Cambridge, prices of houses have risen to \$449,000, up more than 109% since 1987. Condos have risen to an average of \$295,000, up by 45.3% in the same time period. Such prices are forcing many families in

Cambridge to move to other cities and towns. Of the 41,600 year-round dwellings in Cambridge, 6,450 units are classified as affordable by the state. That puts Cambridge at about 15%, behind Boston which has nearly 20%. More than 5,400 people—2,600 of them Cambridge residents—are on the waiting list to get into the city's subsidized units. Between the end of rent control in 1994 and 1998 hundreds of apartments have been converted to and sold as condominiums, according to the city's office of community development. Prices in the rental market are up by 10% over last year. Recently, members of the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition took an "affordable housing" walk through the neighborhood and discovered that more than



Gerald Bergman

### *HRI converting Bedrick property on Market Street to permanent affordable housing*

sixty units were undergoing rehabilitation, which would make them unaffordable to moderate income residents.

## Area Four Neighborhood Coalition Affordable Housing Committee

The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition's Affordable Housing Committee is looking for two Area 4 tenants to fill its five-person committee. The committee, established two years ago, has \$65,000 available to help create or preserve affordable housing in Area 4. These funds, made available through the Area Four Coalition's Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) program, can be used to close financing gaps of up to \$3000 per bedroom in affordable housing projects in the neighborhood. The Area 4 funds can be used for purchase and/or rehabilitation, existing or new construction, rental, and/or ownership of long-term affordable housing. Grants can be made to nonprofit and for-profit developers, tenant organizations, and homeowners. Each housing proposal must demonstrate that it has made a strong effort to maximize the use of all other possible funding sources. The housing developer must provide a special opportunity for current Area 4 residents to access the projects funded by the committee. The committee was originally entrusted with \$100,000 by the Area Four Coalition to create housing opportunities. The first grant given was for \$35,000 to assist Cambridge Community Housing Development Inc., a subsidiary of Homeowner's Rehab, with the purchase and rehabilitation of 77 Elm Street, a six-unit affordable housing project.

The committee, which meets at least every two months, also identifies needs and charts progress in developing affordable housing in Area 4. Over the past several months, the committee has worked with the Squirrel Brand Committee to insure the use of the former Squirrel Brand properties for affordable housing. The Area Four Coalition contributed \$300,000 to preserve the factory for affordable housing and the community gardens for accessible neighborhood gardens and public open space. The committee is charged by the Area Four Coalition to get a handle on affordable housing activity in Area 4, to be an advocate for handicapped accessibility, to compile a history of the Coalition's past affordable housing activity, and to make developers, agencies, and the city come to the table with the Area Four Coalition at the initial stages of every aspect of any plan that affects affordable housing development in the neighborhood.

Affordable housing programs and projects in Area 4 have already received approximately \$750,000 in UDAG funding from the Area Four Coalition over the past sever-



85 Portland Street



77 Elm Street

Gerald Bergman

al years. These would include affordable housing projects at 85 Portland Street, 72 Elm Street, 77 Elm Street, 59 Norfolk Street, and the Squirrel Brand properties located on Boardman Street and Windsor Street. Approximately \$200,000 of the total funding has been used for affordable housing rehabilitation and housing-related youth training programs such as Homeowners Rehab, Inc.'s Home Improvement Program, which offers low-interest loans to low- and moderate-income homeowners who may not qualify for bank loans for house repairs, Just-A-Start YouthBuild, which helps young people in Area 4 learn job skills while rehabilitating Area 4 properties and the Just-A-Start deleading workers' training program and summer youth program.

For more information about the Affordable Housing Committee come to an Area Four Neighborhood Coalition meeting held the second Thursday of every month at the Area 4 Youth Center, or contact the *4word* editor:

### The Name Game— The New Maynard-Fletcher Academy

The New Fletcher-Maynard Academy" is now the name of the merged Fletcher-Maynard school community. Unfortunately, actions of the School Committee and City Council ended the naming process before the school community had an opportunity to choose a name. Area 4 resident Denise Simmons said: "My argument isn't around what the school is called, but we promised the community they would be in control of their destiny."

The following portions of an October 13 letter to the School Committee and the City Council by the School Leadership Team of the New Fletcher-Maynard Academy indicate the feelings of the school community:

"Abruptly our inclusive, democratic process for choosing a school name was abrogated and taken out of the hands of the school community. As Principal Robin Harris has pointed out, what

goes on inside our building is more important to us than what we are called. We support her decision to focus on the educational process rather than waging a battle over names with either the School Committee or the City Council.

"At the same time, we would like to go on record as expressing profound disappointment that an agreement was made and not upheld. As a school community, especially as an ATLAS community, we will continue to strive for a true democratic process valuing consensus and giving everyone a voice and a vote"

# Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House

By Lili Allen, MFNH Board Member and  
Carolyn Dallas, Executive Director

An aura of cheerful and quiet purpose pervades the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House (MFNH). On any given day, a visitor can walk in and see people of all ages going about the business of bettering their lives. Upstairs, a group of 25 usually boisterous young people are intently working on an art project, ably overseen by staff members Stephen Loudon and Gina Lopez. In the computer room, on the first floor, new immigrants of all ages are working intently at computers to understand how new technology can help them in their language skills and their careers. In the basement, long-time volunteer and Area 4 resident Stephanie Morris hands out canned goods and fresh vegetables to families that are struggling to make ends meet. On any given evening, you may find a neighborhood meeting in progress—residents passionately discussing issues of concern to them and Area 4.

The House is a 99-year old institution that has served the Area 4 community in many ways throughout its long history. Ask old-timers from the community and they'll tell you about the days of learning to jitterbug at a MFNH teen program, or doing their homework in the library upstairs, or organizing residents in the community to advocate for better housing, or the screams of infants as they received their shots in the well-baby clinic program.

The MFNH recognizes that newcomers need skills to advance in the new economy. As anyone in the neighborhood knows, Area 4 has been the home to new immigrants for decades. Funded by the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition, the ESL classes have been in operation for two years. The ESL Program combines basic language skill remediation with job training and career preparation. A young Ethiopian woman who came to this

country a mere three years ago works at Dunkin' Donuts today, but has ambitions to gain a better job. Through the MFNH program, she has honed her English language skills, which has improved her performance on her current job, but she has also become more "marketable" through her acquisition of technological prowess. Once completely at a loss as to how to even approach a computer, she now can create and edit a document, access e-mail, and navigate the Internet—all basic

**A house is no home  
unless it contains  
food and fire for the  
mind as well as  
for the body.**

—Margaret Fuller,  
*Woman in the Nineteenth  
Century, 1845*

starting skills for anyone seeking to earn a family-supporting wage. A middle-aged man from El Salvador arrived with advanced computer skills, but little knowledge of the English language. While he had the technical know-how to perform in a high-tech company, he was powerless to use it without English language skills. Today, thanks to the MFNH he can compete in the high-tech job market. The program's broad mandate and flexibility helps a range of newcomers to make the program work for themselves.

The school age program has evolved into a structured program that offers home-



Carolyn Dallas

## *MFNH ESL Computer Program*

work support and academic enrichment. Licensed by the Office of Child Care Services, the school age program provides child care services to children aged six through twelve for working families Monday through Friday. Full-time coverage is provided during school vacation and half days. The children are divided into age appropriate groups for activities. The program serves dinner daily and breakfast during full days. One of the House's greatest contributions to young people's lives is its emphasis on developing character. "We emphasize respect in this program: respect for yourself, and respect for other people," says Loudon. A visit to the program confirms this approach. Students between the ages of five and twelve are clustered at tables in the bright, airy upstairs classroom, working on the project of the day—today, it's a science project made possible through a collaboration with the Children's Museum. Through a three-year contract with the Museum, Area 4 children are doing hands-on science projects that engage their interest. With collaborations such as this, the House is beginning to make a contribution to helping young people to grow academically as well.

Homework support is a high priority within the school age program. A student at the old Maynard School entered the program with a young person's typical resistance to doing homework, and, with

*continues on page 7*

# People Pride

“I have pride in my neighborhood. We can make this a better place to live for everyone,” Stephanie Tull Morris said, looking out her upstairs window onto the playground behind the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House.

Stephanie, who is 65, has a special place in her heart for young people in the neighborhood. For several years she ran a daycare program, and she still looks after the young as her “special people.” Her favorite story is about how she once confronted three teens behind the Fuller House, one with a rock in his hand. Stephanie put a big hug around the youngster and told him how welcome he was in the neighborhood and she spoke about her respect for him. The young man responded “you know how long it has been since someone really talked to me,” and he dropped the rock and walked away. Several months later she saw the young man again, carrying a briefcase, head-

ing for Newbury College, where he was enrolled. They hugged again.

Stephanie has lived in Area 4 for 21 years. She came from Trinidad to be a nanny for a Newton family at a time when the country was in an uproar over the assassination of Martin Luther King. She studied nursing and eventually received a Service Award for her many years of work at the New England Medical Center Hospital. Ten years ago she became a U.S. citizen.

When not working with the young, planting tulips, or leading recycling efforts, Stephanie can be found at the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House food pantry where for the past seven years she has donated more than 20 hours each week. She spoke about the increase in the number of families coming each week for food. “The wages are too low and the rents continue to go up—sky high! We have to organize and bring the neighborhood together.”



Gerald Bergman

**Stephanie Tull Morris at the MFNH Food Pantry**

Those coming to the pantry come from many countries and speak many languages, and Stephanie said the numbers of Haitians, Asians, and Latinos that live in the neighborhood make it a wonderful place to live. Rather than talking about her many awards, Stephanie called a halt to our interview, saying: “We have over 200 Thanksgiving baskets to prepare, and people are in need.”

## Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House

continued from previous page

the support and gentle prodding of MFNH staff, made honor roll by the end of the semester. A formal relationship is being established with the children in the school age program and their elementary school teachers to bridge the gap between the children’s efforts at school and the time spent in homework support. Goals are set to support and encourage homework so that children do not fall between the cracks. Another priority is to integrate the MFNH Computer Technology Center into our school age program, so that Area 4 children will have access to computers as well as computer-related resources to help them succeed in school.

Margaret Fuller, a visionary 19th century activist with a commitment to building community, would be proud to see the

range of activities in her former home. The MFNH clearly reflects not only the values of the woman after whom it is named, but the interests and needs of today’s community.

The MFNH plans to offer a computer class to Area 4 residents interested in learning the basic applications of the computer. For more information and sign up, call Carolyn Dallas, 547-4680. We are seeking the names of past participants in our programs in order to construct an alumni database and plan to have an event for alums of the House in 2001. Please call Carolyn Dallas, 547-4680, or Marian Darlington-Hope at 441-0163, for more information. In addition to daytime hours, our food pantry is open on Monday nights from 7:00 pm–8:15 pm



Carolyn Dallas

**MFNH Food Pantry**

for working families who are in need of food. The evening pantry is staffed by volunteers from Temple Beth Shalom.

# Community Celebrations Funding



The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition has set aside \$6,000 to assist Area 4 individuals and Area 4 community groups in holding free community celebrations, block parties, and community events that can help to unify and celebrate our neighborhood. Up to \$600 is available for each event for such uses as food, outreach materials, postage, entertainment, prizes, printing, etc. Requests for assistance must be made in writing to the grant coordinator and must indicate the type of event, the approximate date, who is invited, outreach strategy, and a contact person. For more information please contact: Gerald Bergman, Volunteer Grant Coordinator, PO Box 390768 (02139), Telephone: 354-2648, Fax: 864-2519, email: Gerrberg@aol.com



Norfolk Street block party  
pie eating contest



Tremont Street block party

The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition holds its regularly scheduled meetings on the **second Thursday of every month** from 7-9 pm, at the Area 4 Youth Center, 243 Harvard Street. The next meetings will be on **Thursday, December 14** and **January 11**. Food and refreshments, often from local restaurants, are served beginning at 6:30 pm.

The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition is a community-based organization open to all neighborhood residents. The Coalition serves as a source of information for the community. It is committed to affordable housing, sustainable development, open space, and other issues of equity and empowerment that affect area residents. The organization serves this mission by funding local community development projects, advocating for neighborhood concerns, and disseminating information.

The *4word* thanks Area 4 resident Gary Dryfoos for putting the *4word* online. You can read and review all editions of the *4word* in PDF format by going to [city.mit.edu/Area4](http://city.mit.edu/Area4).

## Translating the *4word*

**Para Residentes Que Falan Português**  
Se precisa de ajuda com traduções ou qualquer outro assunto, a MAPS oferece serviços de traduções assim como assistência social a pessoas de lingua portuguesa que residem na zona. Para mais informações, por favor contacte a MAPS através do número 617-864-7600. A MAPS está aberta de segunda a sexta feira das 9:00 da manhã as 5:00 da tarde.

**Pou Rezidan Ki Pale Kreyol**  
Si w'yon moun bezwen èd pou li JOURNAL ZON 4 LA e pou nou byen konpran enfòmasyon yo tou. Silvoulplè rele Biwo Ayisyen: 617-349-6351.

**Para Residentes Que Hablan Español**  
Si necesita ayuda en inglés, tenemos intérpretes que le pueden acompañar a sus citas y traductores que pueden traducir sus documentos personales por escrito. Sólo llame a Concilio Hispano al 617-661-9406 y comuníquese con Sandra o Cecilia. Nuestro horario de atención es de lunes a viernes de 9:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.

**4word**  
Gerald Bergman, Editor  
PO Box 390768  
Cambridge, MA 02139

### LOCATIONS MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE OF 4WORD

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1: Proposed Central Square site for a new library | 5: New Fletcher-Maynard Academy                |
| 2: Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House             | 6: Area 4 Youth Center                         |
| 3: JAM'NASTICS Office                             | 7: Squirrel Brand affordable housing (3 sites) |
| 4: Fletcher School                                | 8: Vacant Woolworth building                   |

