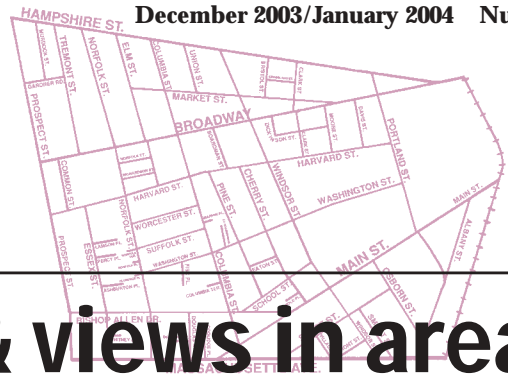


# 4word



## news & views in area 4

### Living Wages in Area 4

Over the past several months the 4word has been covering the issue of the failure of Associated Early Care and Education Inc. to pay a “living wage” to its workers at its childcare center on Harvard Street in the Area 4 Youth Center.

Because the Harvard Street center receives a subsidy in excess of \$10,000 from the City of Cambridge, Associated was required, by reason of the Cambridge Living Wage Ordinance, to pay a living wage to its employees. Associated’s other childcare center, on Essex Street in Area 4, was not impacted by the Living Wage Ordinance because the center receives no Cambridge subsidy. Despite the fact that Associated’s 2001 revenues were nearly \$13,000,000 for all of their operations in the Greater Boston area, they requested a hardship waiver from the Cambridge Living Wage Commission.

Level-funding of childcare fees by the state for the past two years and cost inflation, particularly double-digit annual

*continued on page 6*

### First Annual Community Pride Day

*by the Port Action Group*

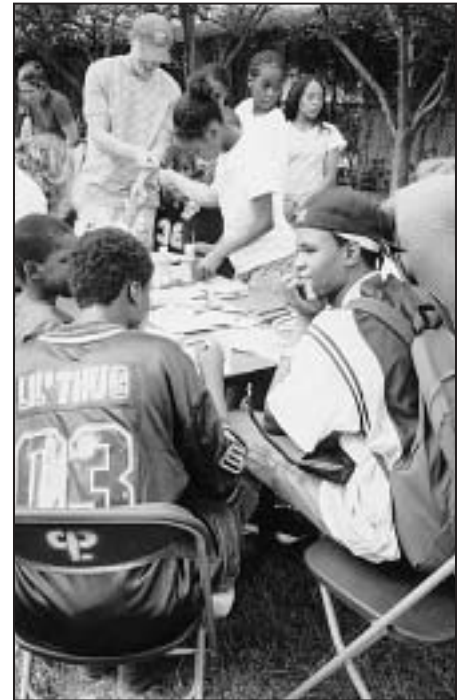
On September 13, 2003, over 600 residents of the Area 4/Port community joined their neighbors in Columbia Street Park to celebrate the first annual Area 4 Community Pride Day. The Area 4 Community Pride Day is the product of community and civic collaboration led by the Port Action Group (PAG), a committee made up of residents, representatives from local neighborhood organizations and members of the city’s service structure including the police and human services.



Nancy Seymour

**Wayne Robinson at Community Pride Day**

The goal of the day was to bring together members of



Nancy Seymour

**Area 4 Community Pride Day**

the community in a positive and engaging environment to begin to take back the community and demonstrate to each other, and to the community at large, that not only is this a neighborhood of caring people, but that residents care about their neighborhood. The smiles of the children and adults were proof positive that this event was an overwhelming success.

Activities for children included arts and crafts, face painting, sack races, the “Moonwalk” and the “Obstacle Course.” Athletic activities included basketball tournaments for all ages followed by trophy presentations.

*continued on page 3*

**Check out the special Area 4 History Edition Inside!**

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# From the Editor

Who will be living in the Cambridge of 2010? Who will be our neighbors? Will our sons and daughters be able to afford the Cambridge of the future? Can you and I afford to live here? Since the end of rent control in 1997, the City of Cambridge has experienced an unprecedented change in the residential population of the city.

Cambridge now has the highest concentration of million-dollar homes of any large city in the nation while the number of persons with a very low income (less than 30% of the area median income) increased by 20% since 1990 and now includes over 15% of Cambridge's 101,000 residents. It now takes an income of \$149,000 to purchase a median-priced home (\$600,000 in 2002) or an income of \$92,000 to purchase a median-priced condominium (\$348,500 in 2002) in Cambridge.

Since 1993 the median monthly rent for a one-bedroom unit has increased 115% from \$650 to \$1,400; for a two-bedroom unit the increase is 50% from \$950 to \$1,450; and for a three-bedroom unit the increase is 100% from \$1,150 to \$2,300, according to the most recent market studies.

According to the 2000 census, hundreds of middle-income families earning between \$40,000 and \$75,000 have been forced from the City while the number of households earning more than \$125,000 nearly doubled in the past 10 years. Families with children are being replaced by single individuals or couples without children. Public school enrollment in Cambridge has dropped by more than 1,000 students (8,023 in 1993 to 6,994 in 2003) in the past 10 years while the population has increased by more than 5,000 persons.

The elections are over, the rent control referendum lost, and now the real work begins. How do we hold elected politicians accountable? What initiatives will they take to create a livable Cambridge for low- and moderate-income families?

Jarrett Barrios, state senator from Area 4, joined many others in celebrating the recent Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's decision approving gay marriage. Area 4 State Representative Paul Demakis, who sponsored the domestic partnership bill, said "It's a huge landmark decision in the history of Massachusetts law, and it's the right decision."

Jack Boesen, Area 4 resident and director of Massachusetts Senior Action, led the local fight to defeat the Bush administra-



**Question #1 on Rent Control is defeated citywide but supported in Area 4**

tion's Medicare bill, which moves toward ending universal Medicare in favor of vouchers, and promises only limited drug benefits while shifting Medicare from a public program to a private one. According to Boesen, "Everyone will lose because beginning in 2010 this bill would privatize Medicare...and because this bill subsidizes drug companies at taxpayer expense."

The Patriot Act is having a chilling effect. Our democracy is being threatened from within. Our civil rights are under attack and dissent and dialogue about the occupation of Iraq and the expenditure of billions of U.S. tax dollars on the war is being discouraged. Israel is being assisted in its building of the "apartheid wall" in Palestinian occupied territories with U.S. tax dollars. The quality of life has decreased for all except the richest.

It is time to make our New Year's resolutions. Area 4 residents must build on the proud history of our neighborhood, we must come together and speak out!



**Area 4 residents speak out for affordable housing at the State House**

Gerald Bergman

## Cambridge Brands



**Junior Mints, a product of Cambridge Brands in Area 4**

Cambridge Brands Inc., located at 810 Main Street, is the largest candy manufacturing plant remaining in Cambridge. About 200 employees, many of whom are Portuguese

and Central American immigrants, carry on the candy tradition started by brothers Jim and Robert Welsh in 1925. Cambridge Brands, a subsidiary of Tootsie Roll Industries, makes Junior Mints; Sugar Daddy, the old-fashioned, rectangular caramel pop wrapped in yellow paper; Sugar Babies, a soft caramel; and Charleston Chew, a nougat bar covered with chocolate.

According to the company, Cambridge Brands produces approximately 14 million boxes of Junior Mints and 13 million Charleston Chew bars daily through a process that is almost entirely automated. Halloween accounts for more than one-third of Tootsie Roll Industries



**Halloween on Elm Street**

net sales for the year. Did someone in your family collect a Halloween treat made right here in Area 4?

Gerald Bergman

Gerald Bergman

## Election Results— Area 4 Makes a Difference

In the November 4 election, all nine of the current City Council members were reelected. Ben Lummis and Marc McGovern were newly elected to the School Committee, while one-term incumbent Alan Price was defeated. The first major decision facing the new City Council will be the election of the mayor, who also serves as chair of the School Committee.

According to unofficial vote totals, Area 4 resident Denise Simmons from Harvard Street was reelected with 1118 number one votes. Simmons received 216 number one votes, 20% of her total, in the three precincts comprising Area 4. There are a total of 33 precincts in Cambridge. Ward 2, Precinct 1 delivered 114 votes to Simmons. Only Ken Reeves received more votes, 238, in the three Area 4 precincts. Under the Cambridge proportional ballot system, 2009 number one votes and transfer votes (10%) of the total vote, were necessary for election to the City Council.

Area 4 proved critical to the election of both Simmons and Reeves in 2003. Richard “Mokey” Harding of Windsor Street was reelected to the School Committee with 2362 number one votes. Harding received 469 number one votes, 20% of his total, in the three precincts comprising Area 4. Ward 2, Precinct 1 delivered 278 votes to Harding, his highest precinct total in the city. Under the Cambridge proportional ballot system, 2672 number one and transfer votes (14% of the total vote) were necessary for election to the School Committee. Area 4 proved critical to the election of Harding in 2003.

Question 1, which would have sent a home-rule petition to the State House returning rent control to Cambridge, was decisively defeated citywide winning only 39% of the vote. The three Area 4 precincts voted in favor of Question 1 by a combined margin of 53% to 47%. Denise Simmons, the only elected candidate



Gerald Bergman

*Richard Harding and Denise Simmons, Area 4 residents, win reelection*

publicly in favor of the rent control question, did very well in those precincts that did the best on Question 1.

Approximately only 35% of registered voters citywide went to the polls this year. Hundreds of potential voters do not even bother to register. Legislation passed by the City Council granting noncitizen immigrants and those aged 17 the right to vote in Cambridge is stalled at the State House. The Council has done almost nothing to get their own homerule legislation passed at the State House.

## Community Pride Day *continued from page 1*

Adults were treated to a range of music from jazz to rhythm and blues to soul, several tournaments including chess and spades, as well as arts and crafts.

Live entertainment included many local favorites, neighbors, a special performance by a hip-hop group who focused on the community's unity, a stunning performance by local resident Pumla, and a performance by Bonaparte, magician and storyteller extraordinaire.

There were information tables from local organizations such as the Men of Color Health Initiative and Network Health, the African-American Heritage Trail, the Eviction-Free Zone, Just-A-Start, Office of Workforce Development, Cambridge Police, and the Agenda for Children. Food was provided, and neighbors shared their meals on stoops, sidewalks, benches and under trees, harkening back to the community festivals of a generation past.

Planning and implementing the event was truly a community effort including residents, volunteers, representatives from the Cambridge Police Department, Department of Human Services, the Margaret Fuller House, staff of the Cambridge Youth Program, the DPW, the parking department, and the auxiliary police.

As part of the efforts to address the climate of violence often associated with this neighborhood the PAG had engaged the city to commit to fund an event to bring residents together to celebrate their community. Through a commitment from city manager Bob Healy and Mayor Michael Sullivan's leadership to make good on that commitment, funds were awarded.

Several individuals should be recognized for their contributions to this effort: Selvin Chambers, Helen Ford, Marion Rogers, Susan Richards, Richard Harding, Wayne Robinson, Meghan McCabe, Christopher Rodriguez, Stahler Joseph, Patricia Bradshaw, Steve Christou, Allen Platt, Lt. Kenney, Sgt. Lang, and Holly Levins.



Nancy Seymour

*Celebrating community pride*



Mo Barbosa

*Marion Rogers painting faces*

## The Kitchen Table Conversations Group

by *Miguelina Santiago*

As a resident of Area 4 in Cambridge, I have access to a wide range of supports. I was very fortunate when I joined a group called the Kitchen Table Conversations Project (KTC). KTC is a support and action group sponsored by the Women's Commission in Cambridge.

KTC was originally created to support women who were transitioning from welfare to work. Then we, its members, transformed it into a support and action group, where women give and receive support from each other as well as fight for social justice and better services for ourselves and our community. The members of KTC come from all walks of life—some of us are employed, some of us are stay-at-home moms, some of us are single. We are different yet we have so much in common and deal with similar issues in our everyday lives. We are all low-income.

A typical night at a Kitchen Table meeting starts with all the women having dinner together, then an informal check-in follows. Meanwhile our children share a dinner in a separate room in the care of sitters. Then they work on their homework and play.

At KTC, we talk, listen, and give advice to each other. We share our difficulties, the trials and tribulations we go through, as well as the good times. Usually at the end of the night, we come out of the meeting feeling hopeful and with a plan of action to tackle a particular problem if we couldn't resolve it at our meeting. We also celebrate our triumphs!

As an action group, we participated in a rally at the State House to oppose budget cuts to Mass Health; we started a petition drive and collected hundreds of signatures from people who were against the cuts. With Angie Littwin, a Harvard lawyer and one of our volunteers, we wrote a pamphlet and did a presentation about depression for women like us. We also wrote a pamphlet on domestic violence, as this issue affects our community and society at large.

We work on housing issues and conducted a survey of Housing Authority tenants in our neighborhood. We went door to door to find out what issues were affecting the tenants the most. We invited our neighbors to meet with us to start a conversation with the Cambridge Housing Authority to work together to solve these issues. In October, we sponsored a Women's Health Day at the Windsor Street Health Center in Area 4.

Also from KTC a new support and social-change group got started to work with



Nancy Ryan

*Miguelina Santiago (l) and Nancy Brothers (r) testifying for the Kitchen Table at a State House rally to protect health care*

women who are dealing with depression personally or with someone in their circle of family or friends. It's called "Reaching Out About Depression" or ROAD. The group welcomes new members who are interested in participating; you can call ROAD's director, Angie Littwin, at 617-275-2938.

KTC is support, commitment, community, resources, education, workshops, health, friends, moms, children, women, compassion, hugs, food and cook-outs, laughs, tears, fights, compromise, and fun. I hope there is KTC for a long time to come and for future generations.

## Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

Activists from Area 4 have joined groups worldwide in protesting Israel's building of the "apartheid wall" through the Palestinian Occupied Territories. American media and most politicians call this the "fence" but this wall has already destroyed thousands of Palestinian homes and businesses, stripped Palestinians of precious water supplies and fertile farm land, separated families, prevented people from getting medical care, and forced children to quit school. All Palestinian buildings within 115 feet of the Wall will be razed to the ground. Israeli soldiers open Wall gates only at random intervals for only a few minutes at a time. Some days the gates remain unopened. The Wall confines 1.5 million Palestinian men, women, and children to an area less than half the size of Delaware.

Under international law, apartheid is defined as "a system of institutionalized racial segregation and discrimination for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination by one racial group over another and systematically oppressing them." Under the 1973 International Convention on Apartheid, the creation of ghettos, land confiscation, and prohibition of freedom of movement are all defined as acts of apartheid.

The Wall, in many places twice as high as the Berlin Wall, is made of concrete barriers with trenches on either side, military patrol roads, trace paths to register footprints, an electronic warning fence, and is topped with barbed razor wire. Watchtowers are placed every two hundred yards to monitor movement. It appropriates 75% of the Palestinians' most fertile agricultural land. Crops are being left unharvested. So far, 102,320 olive trees belonging to Palestinians (many trees

in the same family for generations) have been destroyed or uprooted.

Already, the Wall has destroyed 19 miles of water networks, placed 36 groundwater wells in the no-man's-land between the Wall and Israel proper, and appropriated the most productive aquifers from Palestinian ownership to Israeli control, reducing Palestinian access to water by 10,24987,560 gallons each year.

Please join us in this protest. For more information, see the website for the Boston Committee for Palestinian Rights at [www.bcpr.org](http://www.bcpr.org) or write to [stopthewallweek@yahoo.com](mailto:stopthewallweek@yahoo.com).

Judy Andler  
Area 4 resident

*Editor's note:* This letter has been edited, due to length, by permission of the author.

## Property Tax Victory

**B**eginning this year, ninety percent of the homeowners in Area 4 are saving hundreds of dollars on their property tax bill because of their successful advocacy to raise the owner-occupied residential property tax exemption rate from 20% to 30%. For example, a single-family home assessed at \$275,000 will save \$400.66, a home assessed at \$350,000 will save \$357.91 and a home assessed at \$450,000 will save \$300.91. The lower the property tax assessment, the greater the tax savings. The Cambridge tax bills were mailed to homeowners in October.

The Cambridge City Council delayed this progressive tax change in committee for over two years, a move that benefited high-end property owners across the city. An Area 4 homeowner with an assessed value of \$400,000 had to pay an additional \$600 in taxes over the past two years because the City Council failed to act. The City Council responded to an outcry from Area 4 homeowners, prompted by a story on this issue that appeared in the June 2002 *4word*, and voted 9-0 in September 2002 in support of the property tax exemption change.

After the tax reform homerule bill was forwarded to the state legislature for approval in November 2002, it was neglected and forgot-

ten for eleven months at the State House. Last September homeowners demanded that action be taken on the bill. The bill finally was passed by the state legislature at the end of September only to be vetoed by the governor on October 2. The House and Senate overrode the veto by a wide margin on October 8 and the next day, the Cambridge City Council unanimously endorsed the new tax rate. Progressive tax victory was finally assured.

Passage of this bill lowered property taxes for 85% of all single-family homes citywide, 59% of condominiums, 81% of all two-family homes, and 61% of all three-family homes. To keep city tax revenues the same, homes valued at more than \$986,000 and homes with nonresident owners will pay higher property taxes.

Opponents of this tax reform bill, such as Barbara Anderson, executive director of Citizens for Limited Taxation, said that the tax bill was “just one step shy of walking into the homes of rich people and just stealing from them...this is a redistribution of wealth, pure and simple.” Supporters of the bill, such as City Councilor Davis, called the tax reform vote an “important vote in favor of preserving housing for people in the city...helping people stay here.”

Congratulations to the *4word* readers who worked tirelessly on this issue!



Gerald Bergman

*The owner-occupant of this home in Area 4 will save approximately \$400 in property taxes*



Gerald Bergman

*The owner of this Brattle Street home assessed at more than \$2,000,000 will pay more*

For more information on the property tax campaign, see the June 2002 edition, the Fall 2002 edition, and the July 2003 edition of the *4word* online at [mit.edu/dryfoo/area4/4word](http://mit.edu/dryfoo/area4/4word).

## Area 4—Should the Name Be Changed?

**A**rea 4 was once called Cambridgeport (along with Area 3, the area between Hampshire Street and the Somerville line, and Area 5, the neighborhood between Massachusetts Avenue and the Charles River). The name Cambridgeport comes from an early-19th-century attempt to establish a deep-water port in the vicinity of modern Kendall Square. (For more information see the *4word* History Edition, #18, online at [city.mit.edu/dryfoo/area4/4word](http://city.mit.edu/dryfoo/area4/4word).)

In the 1940s the Cambridge Planning Board decided to divide the city into thirteen planning districts as a way of better analyzing data from the upcoming 1950 census. Area 5 received the name Cambridgeport (some Area 4 residents refer to this as a hijacking) and Area 4 was left with a number, but no name. All neighborhoods of the city continue

to have numbers, but most also have popular formalized names. Sometimes those names have changed over the years, such as Riverside (Area 6), which once was popularly called the “Coast.” Area 4 has been informally called the “Old Port,” the “Lower Port,” or simply the “Port,” by many residents over the years.

The June/July edition of the *4word* asked readers to complete a survey regarding a possible new name for Area 4. Twenty-five percent of the respondents indicated that they wanted the “Area 4” name to stay the same. Suggested new names included: Newtowne, Cambridge Central, Central Neighborhood, Port, North Port, Old Port, Crossroads, Heritagetown, and Lafayette.

The Cambridge Community Development Department, responding to a City Council Order put forward by Councilor Simmons over one year ago, held a community meeting on November 12 to discuss a process for deciding whether to make a formal name

change. At the beginning of the meeting, the Director of the Cambridge Historical Commission, Charles Sullivan, gave a brief overview of Area 4 history, using slides and diagrams.

Residents attending the meeting discussed possible names and the process for making a name change. Some recommendations were that any city survey should be conducted in at least four languages: Portuguese, Kreyol, Spanish, and English; residents of any age, churches, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and schools in Area 4 should be included in the naming process; there should be a clear decision-making process and timeline; the process should move slowly and any decision must be reached by the consent of the neighborhood.

For more information about the naming process contact Elaine Thorne, Community Development Department, 238 Broadway, 617-349-4648, or email: [ethorne@cambridgema.gov](mailto:ethorne@cambridgema.gov).

## Living Wages in Area 4 *continued from page 1*

increases in health insurance, were reasons given by Associated for their request for a hardship waiver. Associated pays medical, pension, and other workplace benefits in excess of what many private nonprofit daycare organizations provide.

The Cambridge living wage, which increases each March based on cost-of-living increases, is \$11.44/hour, but Associated assistant teachers receive only \$9.11, and teachers receive only \$10.22. Workers at Associated are unionized and UAW Local 1596 requested that Associated be denied a hardship waiver, pointing out that childcare workers are the most underpaid workers in the U.S. The center has 19 workers and serves 68 children.

**"We believe that is it disingenuous of you [city manager] to use the fact that Associated's employees belong to a labor union to justify a refusal to give those employees the protection they would otherwise be entitled to under the Living Wage Ordinance. In effect, you are telling those employees that they must choose between union representation and a living wage."**

**A response by some Living Wage Commission members to the City Manager's decision to overrule the Commission's vote**

Area 4 residents may remember the former Blouin Building on the corner of Columbia and Hampshire Streets, which was torn down to make way for the Columbia Street Apartments in the mid-1990s. In 1993 the City permitted Associated to move their program, rent free and utility free, from the Blouin building to its current location on the bottom floor of the new Area 4 Youth Center.

A Tuition Committee of Area 4 residents was formed in 1993 to negotiate with Associated for annual childcare tuition assistance for neighborhood families. This tuition assistance partially offsets the City's rent and utility subsidy of Associated, estimated

to be approximately \$65,000. Currently, Associated provides \$26,000 annually in early childcare tuition assistance to Area 4 families, an increase of only \$2,000 over the past 10 years. The contract with Associated was up for renewal this past September.

Many Area 4 residents wanted to renegotiate the neighborhood contract in light of the living wage controversy and Associated's small tuition assistance increase over the past ten years. They argued that the City could redirect the annual \$65,000 subsidy (now going to Associated) into assistance for Area 4 families with childcare expenses at the center. This would specifically help Area 4 families, increase Associated's revenues, and send a message that the City will not subsidize employers who do not pay their workers a living wage. Others residents suggested that the City of Cambridge should show their commitment to a living wage by increasing their subsidy of the center. However, the city refused to convene the neighborhood committee to discuss the issue.

In May 2003 the Living Wage Commission, an advisory commission to the city manager, voted to deny Associated a hardship waiver by a vote of 4-1, with one member absent. The Commission offered to meet with the city manager to discuss the reasons for this overwhelming vote but this offer was rejected.

In June, City Manager Healy overruled the vote of the Living Wage Advisory Committee and granted Associated a waiver from the Living Wage Ordinance, citing differences of interpretation regarding the criteria for granting a waiver.

Soon after the city manager's decision was announced, some Commission members issued a lengthy point-by-point response to his decision. They concluded that the city manager erred in granting the waiver and that he was not interpreting and applying the waiver provisions of the ordinance as the City Council wrote them and intended them to be implemented. They went on to say that "We believe that is it disingenuous of you [city manager] to use the fact that



*Associated Early Care and Education Center in the Area 4 Youth Center*



*City Councilors who supported the Harvard University living wage campaign have remained silent on the Area 4 childcare living wage issue.*

Associated's employees belong to a labor union to justify a refusal to give those employees the protection they would otherwise be entitled to under the Living Wage Ordinance. In effect, you are telling those employees that they must choose between union representation and a living wage."

The lengthy response of the Living Wage Advisory Commission was forwarded to members of the Cambridge City Council. Despite the fact that several City Council members campaigned citing their support for a living wage, no City Council member was willing to get involved in this Area 4 childcare living wage controversy with the city manager.

The city manager appoints members to the Living Wage Commission. The two-year terms of Commission members ended last May with the Associated decision. As the *4word* goes to press, no current members of the Commission have thus far been reappointed by the manager; Commission vacancies have not been filled, and no meetings have been held.

## Neighborhood Programs Receive UDAG Funding

On November 13, neighborhood residents voted to fund 11 Area 4 programs. The grant 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 Neighborhood Coalition, after a series of public meetings and a public voting process, awards approximately \$200,000 to neighborhood groups and individuals. Over \$1,450,000 has been given in grants by the Area 4 Coalition over the past several years.

This year's process began last summer with a request for proposals. Over \$400,000 was requested by various Area 4 groups and individuals at that time. After a lengthy review process and a public presentation of proposals, \$200,000 was eventually awarded in two-year grants. The successful process was guided by the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition UDAG Funding Committee, consisting of Marion Darlington-Hope, Lee Farris, Richard Goldberg, and Lorraine Scott.

This year's grant recipients and grant amounts:

**The Eviction Free Zone (\$25,000)** for tenants rights' workshops, tenant counseling, and organizing of tenants in Area 4; the **Cambridge Adventure Day Camp (\$20,000)** to support camperships for high-risk youngsters from Area 4 and to assist off-season junior counselor training; **Centro Presente (\$20,250)** to support an outreach and organizing project in Area 4 in order to build the relationships and structures necessary to strengthen the ability of Area 4 Latinos to participate in

local and national efforts to overcome challenges that they face; **Tutoring Plus (\$10,000)** to improve the skills and competency of tutors working with Area 4 children; the **Community Celebration Fund (\$5,000)** to continue the Area Four Coalition fund for neighborhood groups, organizations, and residents to assist them with community celebrations, block parties, community events, and event series in the Area 4 neighborhood that celebrate the neighborhood and bring Area 4 residents together; **The Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House (\$25,000)** for assistance toward replacing its heating system so that the neighborhood can fully utilize the house for programs; the **4word newsletter (\$23,250)** to produce and distribute 3,000 copies of at least five newsletters and up to three inserts which will be distributed door-to-door in Area 4; the **Area 4 Back to School Festival (\$1,500)** which, under the sponsorship of the First Holiness Church, "celebrates our children" in an annual neighborhood event; the **Community Art Center (\$30,000)** to increase the number of photography classes offered to children and adults in Area 4; **JAM'NASTICS (\$15,000)** to expand the Area 4 Dance Collaborative; and the **Neighbor-**



Sandy Martin

*Alysha and Patricia protest the auction of 59 Norfolk Street. Tenants successfully organized to keep their building affordable with the assistance of the Eviction Free Zone. A \$50,000 grant from the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition helped Just-A-Start buy the building and preserve it for affordable housing.*



Centro Presente

*Centro Presente marching for immigrant rights*

**hood Four College Scholarship Program (\$25,000)**, sponsored and organized by Chip Greenidge Jr. and the National Black College Alliance, to support "last dollar scholarship assistance" to Area 4 residents attending college or post secondary courses.



Gerald Bergman

*Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, 71 Cherry Street*



Kevin Burke

*An Area 4 youngster at Cambridge Adventure Day Camp*

## Short Notes

### \$400 Community Celebration Grants Available Now

The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition has set aside \$5,000 to help Area 4 individuals and Area 4 community groups hold neighborhood celebrations, block parties, and special events that can help unify and celebrate our neighborhood. Up to \$400 for first-time grant recipients (\$200 for repeat recipients) is available for each event. For more information please contact Gerald Bergman, Volunteer Grant Coordinator, PO Box 390768 (02139), 617-354-2648, fax: 617-864-2519, e-mail: Gerrberg@aol.com.



Gerald Bergman

*Area 4 youngsters learn about Clement G. Morgan at the park dedication ceremony*

### Clement G. Morgan Park

On Sunday October 19, Columbia Street Park (Columbia and Washington Streets) was renamed the Clement G. Morgan Park. He was a founder of the Niagara Movement, a predecessor of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). This was the first park in Cambridge named after an African American. (For more information on Clement Morgan and the African American Heritage trail, see the accompanying *4word* History Supplement, or view issue #18 online at [mit.edu/dryfoo/area4/forward.](http://mit.edu/dryfoo/area4/forward.))

### Job Opening for Coalition Coordinator

The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition is looking for a part-time coordinator. The person hired will do outreach to increase the number and diversity of Area 4 residents active with the Coalition. S/he will assist in

convening and facilitating meetings; communicating with Area 4 residents and the City of Cambridge; helping with a neighborhood newsletter; fundraising; and coordinating neighborhood grant cycles, including publicity, information sessions, grant reviews, and contracts.

The Coalition prefers to hire a neighborhood resident who is bilingual (Spanish, Portuguese, or Kreyol). Experience in community organizing/coalition building, office management, and meeting facilitation is beneficial. Good verbal and written communication skills are required.

Hours: 17.5 hours per week, flexible hours with some evening and daytime meetings required. Salary: \$22/hour; 6 hours per month vacation/sick time. (Other benefits to be determined.) Computer, printer, and project support materials will be furnished by the Coalition.

Send a letter and resume as soon as possible to Renae Gray, 84 Columbia St., Cambridge, MA 02139.

### Port Action Group News

The Port Action Group and the Department of Human Services recently awarded the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House the contract for the Port Neighborhood

Liaison. After a thorough hiring process, which included residents and agency staff, Phil Davis was hired as the liaison. He can be reached at the Margaret Fuller House at 617-547-4680.

Through a Request for Proposals process, community members, representatives from the Port Action Group and Department of Human Services selected the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House as the recipient of the Streetworker Program contract as well. A community interview process is underway and a full-time streetworker focusing on 17-30 year olds in Area 4 will begin connecting this population to services, following up on referrals, and connecting with service providers in the coming weeks.

To get involved with the Port Action Group email [portaction@yahoo.com](mailto:portaction@yahoo.com) or call Mo Barbosa at 617-256-0507.



Nancy Seymour

*Mo Barbosa, volunteer Port Action Committee facilitator*

### New Mural for the Harvest Co-op Market

As you walk down Essex Street you can see a new Area 4 mural on the side of the Harvest Co-op. Noted artist Be Sargent has painted an 11 x 99 foot mural called "The Precautionary Principle." The Precautionary Principle mandates that industry prove that its products and processes are safe before contaminating our environment. The mural shows a strong contrast between the proliferation of industrial chemicals and a protected environment. Because precaution is most important for future generations, the mural, nicknamed "The Babies' Mural" focuses on the developing child; animal and human. The Co-op and Be Sargent hope that the mural will encourage more people to join with other activists to demand a stop to the reckless flow of toxins into the air, soil, water, and our bodies.

Be Sargent also painted the Women's Community Cancer Project mural in Harvard Square in 1999. The slogan painted below that mural, "Indication of Harm Not Proof of Harm Is Our Call to Action" is the mandate of the Precautionary Principle. In that mural the words refer to the environmental causes of cancer.

### Affordable Housing at the Former Boy Scout Building

The Just-A-Start Corporation recently purchased the property at 146-152 Prospect Street that was once used as an office of the local Boy Scout Council. The property extends between two streets, Prospect Street

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and Scouting Way, and is immediately adjacent to the basketball courts at Sennott Park. This site is just down the street from the former Cantabridgia Nursing Home on Prospect Street, just off Broadway, which will contain 21 units of affordable housing administered by the Cambridge Housing Authority.

A 13-unit affordable rental housing development is currently in the planning stage. There will be five two-bedroom apartments and eight three-bedroom apartments. One of the units will be fully disabled accessible. It is hoped that these new units will be available for occupancy in December 2004. For more information please contact Barbara Shaw at the Just-A-Start Corporation, 617-494-0444 ext. 333.



Former Boy Scout headquarters on Prospect Street

### Who Is Watching What You Read?

Have you visited the Central Square library recently? Have you felt as if someone is looking over your shoulder when you were checking out books? Under the Patriot Act passed in October 2001, a secret court can authorize the FBI to inspect or seize bookstore or library records without showing probable cause. Further, the law forbids the bookstore or library from disclosing that the inspection happened.

Now libraries and booksellers are fighting back. A national coalition of publishers, authors, librarians, and booksellers are supporting legislation filed by Representative Bernard Sanders (Ind., VT) called the "Freedom To Read Act." This legislation would exempt bookstore sales records and library borrowing records from some provisions of the Patriot Act. Resistance to the Patriot Act has been building since it became law. Now more than 90 cities, including Cambridge, have passed resolutions against it.

### Rats on the Run

A *4word* letter to the editor printed in June, talked about how something had to be done about the "rats, rats, rats." Finally, last October, the City held a public meeting about the growing rat problem in Area 4. Unfortunately, like many public hearings, very few members of the public were ever informed about the meeting. One Area 4 resident said that he lived in the "golden triangle of rats," while another talked about how he caught nearly two dozen rats this past year in his backyard.

Chuck Cnudde of Harvard Street, who trapped 16 rats this past summer using hot dogs, called on the City to be more active in their efforts. Frank Fothergill, a rodent-control technician hired by the City, suggested that residents had to work with businesses and restaurants to fight the rat problem. Several residents suggested that the city had to do more to work with developers and restaurants to control rats and that it was not enough for the city just to ask "one neighbor to rat out another neighbor." The City was also urged to clean up its trash-filled vacant lot on Harvard Street two doors down from Izzy's, sell proper trash barrels at a discount, and change rubbish collection laws, which currently allow trash to be left out in plastic bags.

For "rat facts" and more information about controlling the rat problem, contact Inspectional Services at 617-349-6100 or the Department of Public Works at 617-349-4800.

### St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church—95th Anniversary

In October, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church at 239 Harvard Street celebrated its 95th anniversary. The Reverent L. Nelson Foxx arrived at the Church in October 1988 and was installed as rector in February 1989. Father Foxx, who is married and has two children, has served on several community committees. He is former acting chair of the Area Four Youth Center Board, former member of the Area 4 crime task force, former chair of the Citizen's Advisory Board of the Cambridge Police Department, and co-chair of the Cambridge Clergy for Affordable Housing. He serves on the Education Committee of the Cambridge Black Pastor's Conference.



Site of the proposed development on Hampshire Street

### Neighbors Come Together to Oppose Development on Hampshire Street

When the buyer of 150 Hampshire Street, the former Walsh Brothers property opposite the Department of Public Works, announced he intended to add a third floor to the building and turn it into nine market-rate apartments, neighbors and the minister of the Massachusetts Avenue Baptist Church organized to oppose it.

Neighbors worried that turning the building into rental units would endanger the programs of the church, which is inches from the building, fearing the new inhabitants would not tolerate the very audible music, food pantry, and meals for the hungry, which had not bothered the Walsh Brothers workers because the programs happen after working hours and on the weekends. Neighbors also worried that the third floor would loom over their properties because the existing building is built directly along the lot lines, owing to zoning variances received years ago.

Neighbors met and discussed their concerns, then met with the buyer. Even more upset after seeing the buyer's plans, they decided to strongly oppose the requested variances at the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). Neighbors gathered the signatures of dozens of other neighbors on letters to the BZA. They sought help from the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition and city councilors. They hired a lawyer to advise them how to proceed. Many church members and neighbors attended the BZA hearing. Seeing the strong opposition, the buyer asked for a postponement of the hearing, and is now in negotiations with neighbors and the church as the *4Word* goes to press.

## Letter to the Editor

To the Editor of *4word*:

We are strongly in favor of creating an open space park at 238 Broadway in Area 4. We are not in favor of more housing in what is already one of the most densely populated areas of the city with the least access to open space.

The City purchased the buildings and parking lots at 238 Broadway and 163 Harvard Street in 1999 for \$2.6 million. The money for this purchase came directly from an open-space fund. Consequently, the land is now deeded for open space. The city then held a design process with the community throughout 2002 to determine what was in our neighborhood's best interest. It was an equitable process embraced by those of us who took the time to participate.

The community's concerns were openly discussed and then directly reflected in the many drawings done by Wallace Floyd Design Group. The conclusion of these meetings was that the park would undergo construction after the city vacated the building at 238 Broadway this winter. It is no small matter that the city spent \$150,000

on this yearlong process. With this in mind, it is hard to believe that a few residents and a few members of the city council—who were noticeably absent from the yearlong meetings—now want to “revisit” or “reimagine” what should be done at 238 Broadway while the plans the neighborhood created in conjunction with the city are disregarded and shelved.

The claim now is that our neighborhood needs more housing. We beg to differ. According to the City's Green Ribbon Report: “The more densely built and crowded a city becomes, the more urgent the need for open space relief.” This study continually makes a critical and undeniable observation: Area 4 is one of the most densely populated and crowded areas in the city with the least amount of open space per capita and therefore is a “top priority” for open space. What exactly does this mean?

The facts objectively and unequivocally paint a picture of our neighborhood that should be taken very seriously: First, Area 4 has only 6.7 acres of the city's 377 acres of open space. Second, Area 4 is one of the most crowded areas of the city with 87 persons crammed into one acre of land versus 54 persons per acre in the rest of the city. In terms of building and physical density,

again, we are the most crowded area with 36 dwelling units per acre of land versus 24 dwelling units per acre of land in the rest of the city. This incredible density makes the need for open space relief a priority. Lastly, Area 4 has more than twice the level of low- and moderate-income housing than the city as a whole: specifically, 26% versus 10.4% in the rest of the city.

It also should be noted that our neighborhood has recently seen the development of several new affordable-housing projects, and according to the recent City of Cambridge newsletter, there are even more housing developments in the works for our neighborhood. We've well reached the point where one neighborhood—our neighborhood—is carrying an inordinate amount of the affordable-housing demands of an entire city resulting in an inequitable concentration.

We conclude that 238 Broadway and its environs should be turned into open space, which does not include more housing, as was originally planned.

Sincerely,  
Anna Muoio and Ezekiel Brown

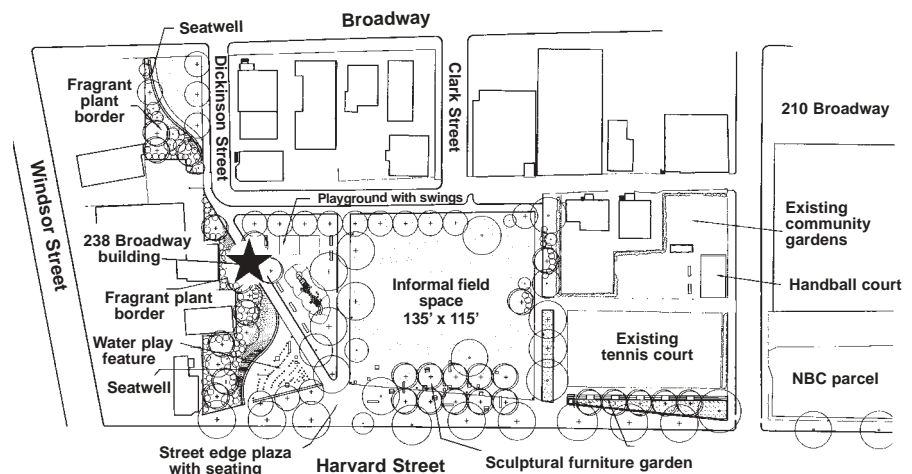
*Editor's note:* This letter has been edited, due to length, by permission of the authors.

## Broadway/ Harvard Street Site Controversy

Nearly four years ago the *4word* reported the City of Cambridge's purchase of 238 Broadway and 163 Harvard Street, through an eminent domain process, for recreation and open space. The City also took title to additional land at 165 Harvard Street, a 1,677-square-foot unfenced trash-strewn lot, and added it to the planning process.

The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition called upon the City of Cambridge to hold immediate and comprehensive planning meetings, with translators and childcare, regarding future land purchases and the use of the land and buildings at 238 Broadway and 163 Harvard Street.

The possibility of using the buildings at 238 Broadway for affordable housing was taken “off the table” by the City Manager citing



*The final 238 Broadway/Harvard Street park plan?*

the newly released Green Ribbon Report, the need for open space for the Maynard School (now the Fletcher-Maynard Academy), the use of open space funds to make the purchase, and the need for zoning changes if the site included housing. The City estimated that approximately 24 units

of affordable housing, at a cost of \$250,000 per unit, could be built at 238 Broadway. Residents of Area 4 have a long history of advocating for additional affordable housing and open space in the neighborhood.

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# Broadway/Harvard Site Controversy

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The city underwent a comprehensive public open-space planning process over the next several months and a final open-space/park plan for the Broadway/Harvard Street site was approved in spring 2002. However, demolition plans were put on hold while the 238 Broadway building was used by city employees from the City Hall Annex, which was undergoing total renovation.

Renovation work at the Annex is now almost complete and city employees will be leaving 238 Broadway, making way for demolition of the building and the beginning of the park construction. With the passage of the Community Preservation Act, additional money is now available for affordable hous-

ing, and many Area 4 residents argue that affordable housing on the site should be considered, and perhaps the building at 238 Broadway should be saved.

In the late 1990s, as a reward for building political support for the Bulfinch office development on both sides of Broadway, NBC (Neighbors for a Better Community), a small group of unelected neighborhood residents, gained title to 10,000 square feet of land at 131 Harvard Street, adjacent to the 238 Broadway/Harvard Street site now being considered for open space. This land was part of a cash and land benefit package given by the developers to NBC in a "community trust" valued at approximately \$1,500,000. (See the *4word*, #16, on line at [mit.edu/dryfoo/area4/4word](http://mit.edu/dryfoo/area4/4word) for more information about NBC Inc.)

NBC did not actively participate in the city's open-space planning meetings. With NBC Inc. coming under increasing neighborhood pressure to meet with the community and develop their vacant lot at 131 Harvard Street, a new opportunity for affordable housing or other community uses has



Gerald Bergman

*Once vacant land at 210 Broadway. In 1997 the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition offered to donate \$200,000 in UDAG funds to the City or a nonprofit organization if it would purchase this 46,000-square-foot parcel for affordable housing and/or open space for Area 4. Bulfinch Inc. later rejected a \$2,100,000 offer from Just-A-Start to purchase the land for affordable housing, citing support from NBC for their development, which NBC gave in exchange for a benefit package of land and cash.*



Gerald Bergman

**238 Broadway building to be demolished—should it be saved?**

emerged. The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition has urged the city to purchase the Aristocrat Print Shop, a 7,500-square-foot parcel at 125 Harvard Street, which is adjacent to the parcel owned by NBC Inc., and add it to the 10,000-square-foot NBC parcel. Beginning in December, Area 4 meetings will be held to discuss further possibilities for the Broadway/Harvard Street sites.

## "Lights on After-school!"

Hundreds of Cambridge youngsters in pumpkin-orange shirts converged on City Hall in October to join the "Lights on After-school!" national rally to support after-school programs. Music and speeches thundered into Central Square as the community celebrated approximately 50 after-school programs in Cambridge. The rally highlighted three of the significant contributions that after-school programs make to Cambridge: keeping kids safe and healthy, helping them learn, and relieving working parents who might otherwise worry about their children's activities during the afternoon hours.

This tremendous event was organized by the Agenda for Children and involved several Area 4 after-school programs, including the Area 4 Youth Center, Cambridgeport Neighborhood Council and Community



**Area Four Youth Center after-school program**

School, Cambridgeport After-school, Community Art Center Inc., the Fletcher-Maynard K-4 Out of School Time Program, Fletcher-Maynard Neighborhood Council and Community School, Fletcher-Maynard Academy Extended Day, JAM'NASTICS, Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, Tutoring Plus of Cambridge, and the Windsor Street Boys and Girls Club. Congratulations to all!



**Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House after-school program**



**Fletcher-Maynard after-school program**

all photos by Gerald Bergman

## 100th Birthday of the Fletcher School Building

In 1902 the City made an appropriation of \$11,000 to purchase 24,000 square feet of property from Thurston, Hall and Company, the manufacturer of crackers, ginger snaps, and other kinds of cookies, for a new school at the intersection of Elm and Market Streets. In 1903 a permit was granted for the construction of a three-and-one-half-story school at a construction cost of \$58,000. Living on Elm Street, the center of a thriving diverse residential neighborhood, were immigrants from Poland, Italy, Portugal, and Ireland.



Gerald Bergman

*A celebration of 100 years of service as a school, October 2003*

The Fletcher School is the only turn-of-the-century Area 4 school still in use. In

1980, a complete renovation added a new gymnasium and cafeteria on the north side of the building. Recently the school/community playground was totally rebuilt. Now the Cambridgeport School, it was originally named in honor of Ruel Hasseltine Fletcher, a Cambridge educator who was at that time the headmaster of the Thorndike School after serving for four years at the Otis School in East Cambridge. Ruel Hasseltine Fletcher began teaching in Cambridge in 1857 and retired in 1910 at the age of 80 never having taught at the Fletcher School.

In October the school and neighborhood celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Fletcher School building by holding a block party on Elm Street.

## your calendar

The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition holds its regularly scheduled meetings on the **second Thursday of every month** from 7-9 p.m. at the Area 4 Youth Center, 243 Harvard Street. The next meetings will be on **January 8** and **February 12**. Free food and refreshments from local restaurants are served beginning at 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited.



Gerald Bergman

*The vigil for justice and peace continues every Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 in Central Square*

Read all editions of the **4Word** in PDF at [mit.edu/dryfoo/Area4/4word](http://mit.edu/dryfoo/Area4/4word).

## Translating the 4word

### Para Residentes Que Falam 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

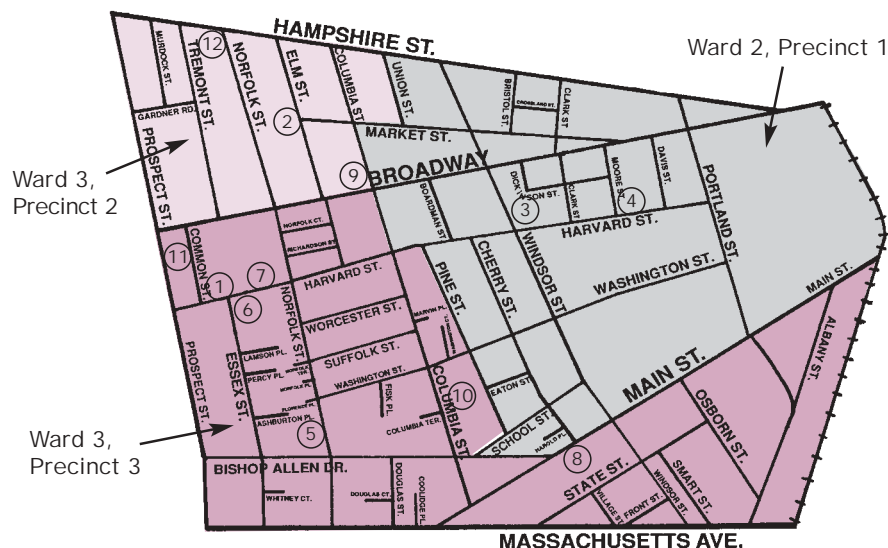
Si'w yon moun bezwen èd pou li JOURNAL ZON 4 LA e pou nou byen konpran enfòmasyon yo tou. Silvoulè rele Biwo Ayisyen: 617-349-6351.

### 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.

### LOCATIONS MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE OF 4WORD

1. Associated Childcare/Area 4 Youth Center
2. Cambridgeport (Fletcher) School
3. City building at 238 Broadway
4. NBC/Aristocrat Print site
5. Eviction Free Zone office
6. Centro Presente
7. St. Bartholomew's Church
8. Cambridge Brands
9. JAM'NASTICS office
10. Clement G. Morgan Park
11. Former Boy Scout center
12. Hampshire St. proposed development



- Ward 3, Pct. 2:** Rep. Tim Toomey (617-722-2230) & Sen. Jarrett Barrios (617-722-1650)  
**Ward 3, Pct. 3:** Rep. Paul Demakis (617-722-2460) & Sen. Pres. Robert Travaglini (617-722-1500)  
**Ward 2, Pct. 1:** Rep. Tim Toomey & Sen. Pres. Robert Travaglini

about



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, the Walking Tour, and **A** Your Calendar are invited. Contact Gerald Bergman, *4word* editor, PO Box 390768 (02139), telephone: 617-354-2648, fax: 617-864-2519, e-mail: [gerrberg@aol.com](mailto:gerrberg@aol.com). **Read all 17 editions of the 4Word in PDF format at [mit.edu/dryfoo/Area4/4word](http://mit.edu/dryfoo/Area4/4word).**