

# M-C News

A PUBLICATION OF THE MID-CAMBRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
AND THE LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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[www.mcna.org](http://www.mcna.org)

April, 2010

## Annual meeting highlights the best of Mid-Cambridge

Whether you have lived in Mid-Cambridge for 10 years or 10 months, you can learn something new about what the neighborhood has to offer at the MCNA annual meeting on Wednesday, May 19, beginning at 7 p.m. at Cambridge College, 1000 Mass. Ave. street level.

This year's meeting will highlight the many resources available to stimulate the mind, exercise the body, pursue a hobby and have fun right here in Mid-Cambridge, and one lucky MCNA member will win a gift certificate from Darwin's Ltd. on Cambridge St.

The evening will begin with a business meeting, including a wrap-up of our 2009-2010 activities by MCNA President Joan Pickett, a Treasurer's Report by Frankie Lieberman, and election of the 2010-2011 Coordinating Committee. (See "A call to serve" below.)

### Low-cost resources

The remainder of the evening will provide an opportunity to socialize with your neighbors and learn more about the neighborhood and its many low-cost resources. While plans are still being finalized, representatives from CCTV, the Harvard Museums, the Longfellow Neighborhood Council, the War Memorial Recreation Center and other local cultural and recreational organizations--including garden composting--will be on hand to share information about their services and offerings.

Members can enter the drawing by correctly answering questions about what they learned. One winner from those completed questionnaires will win the prize.

We encourage you to bring a new neighbor to the event, along with a non-perishable food item for Margaret Fuller house. Light refreshments will be served.

### A call to serve

The MCNA membership will elect its 11-member Coordinating Committee (CC) for the 2010-2011 year at the annual meeting on May 19. For this election, there is likely to be at least one spot open without an incumbent who is seeking re-election.

The CC, the MCNA board, meets monthly to manage the overall business of the association, including developing and responding to issues affecting the neighborhood such as construction projects and institutional use issues. It also identifies opportunities for neighborhood meetings on key issues, develops policies for membership votes on neighborhood issues, and assists with MCNA-sponsored social events.

All MCNA members are welcome to submit nomination papers. The papers must be signed by 10 MCNA members and submitted to Membership Secretary George Bossarte no later than April 28 in order to qualify. Nomination papers are available at [www.mcna.org](http://www.mcna.org), or by calling George Bossarte at 617-876-0390.

Current Coordinating Committee members are Joan Pickett (President), George Bossarte, Fritz Donovan, Elizabeth Gombosi, Debby Knight, Frankie Lieberman, Margaret McMahon, Doane Perry, John Pitkin, Chris Robinson and David Szlag.

The Coordinating Committee holds office until the next annual election. Please read the Association's full charter for all the details. The charter is available on our Web site at [MCNA.org](http://MCNA.org) or from the membership secretary. Please feel free to contact any of the above CC members for more information about the Coordinating Committee and its work.

### Fundraising update: Thank you!

Thank you to all the MCNA members who contributed to our recent fundraising effort. Frankie Lieberman, treasurer, reports that 51 members contributed about \$2,500. While this year's effort was not as strong as past campaigns, we are most grateful for those who contributed, especially given the current difficult economic climate.

As you know, this fundraising campaign is our only source of income since we do not have any membership fees. Special thanks goes to those who gave over \$50 to support the association's ongoing needs. Although our budget is modest, we are faced with increasing costs of postage, printing, and Web site costs.

Donors will soon be receiving a more formal thank-you note. If you have not yet contributed, it is not too late. Please send your check to: MCNA, PO Box 380907, Cambridge, MA 02238.

## Climate protection begins in our neighborhood

At our January 21 meeting, residents discussed what the Neighborhood Association could do to help slow climate change. The need to reduce emissions of carbon and greenhouse gas is global and urgent, but it will require action at all levels to meet this need. Our city has established a goal for emission reduction, and this brings the home the need for every neighborhood and individual to take responsibility for limiting their own contribution to emissions.

This session was held in response to the Cambridge Climate Congress's request for input from neighborhood groups on how to respond to the climate emergency caused by global warming. Themes that emerged from the meeting were the need for better communication about existing information and resources, facts about local emissions, and incentives to motivate change.

These ideas were reported to the Climate Congress and are reflected its recommendations, which can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/CCC-Proposals-A>.

On March 6 the Congress issued an appeal for organizations of all kinds to join in a Cambridge-wide civic campaign to raise awareness and increase neighborhood and individual response to the climate emergency. A Cambridge Climate Emergency Action Group was formed to coordinate this campaign and has asked MCNA to appoint a liaison to the campaign. Please contact Joan Pickett <[jpickett7@yahoo.com](mailto:jpickett7@yahoo.com)> if you would like to volunteer for this position.

Practical information on climate protection action for homeowners will be available at two upcoming events in our neighborhood:

◆ **"Is Solar Right for My House?"** a panel of experts to answer your questions on Thursday, April 22 (Earth Day), at 6:30 p.m. in the Cambridge Public Library main auditorium.

◆ **Home Composting:** There will be a table with information on home composting at the MCNA annual meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 7 p.m. at Cambridge College, 1000 Massachusetts Avenue.

### NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR

**Kids on Wheels: Bike Rodeo for Kids, Saturday, May 1, 2 to 5 p.m.** at Swissnex Boston, 420 Broadway. A cycling course for kids with a free bike check, healthy Swiss food, and more. This event is part of the Cambridge Science Festival.

**Mid-Cambridge Plant Swap, Saturday, May 1, noon to 2 p.m.** at Fayette Park (across from the former Longfellow School, off Broadway). Bring garden items (please label plants) to swap for perennials, biennial seedlings, seeds, pots, indoor plants, catalogs, and lots of "whatever." In case of downpour, rain date is Sunday, May 2, 12-2 p.m.

**Now through September 30: Masked Festivals of Canton Bo,** Southwest Ivory Coast is an exhibit at Harvard's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, 11 Divinity Ave., curated by longtime MCNA member Marie (Monni) Adams. Admission is free to neighbors with a library card. For details, go to <http://www.peabody.harvard.edu/node/294>.

**The M-C News** is published by the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association and the Longfellow Neighborhood Council. *Editor:* Paula Lovejoy. *Reporters:* Joan Pickett, John Pitkin. The MCNA does not discriminate on the basis of disability.

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P.O. Box 380907  
Cambridge, MA 02238  
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**Annual Meeting!**  
May 19, 7 p.m.  
Cambridge College  
1000 Mass. Ave.