

CAMBRIDGE AT HOME

NEWSLETTER

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Obama fundraiser analyzes 2008 campaign



Alan Solomont, a leading fundraiser in President Obama's 2008 campaign, said on February 13 that major demographic changes currently appear to favor candidates of the Democratic party.

At an Opinionated Lunch at Henrietta's Table, he cited statistics assembled by his Tufts University students to make these points:

- ▶ A large "millenium generation" of young people became politically active on a big scale in this campaign, which rested heavily on Internet participation.
- ▶ Hispanic voters, who make up a growing share of the electorate, are shifting toward the Democrats.
- ▶ Many older voters, who tend to favor Republicans, stayed at home in 2008.
- ▶ After the collapse of Lehman Brothers

on September 15, the economic crisis became the overwhelming issue for voters nationwide.

In response to a question about ongoing use of the Internet network, Solomont said that Democratic leaders are now considering how best to mobilize the 3 million Obama contributors and volunteers to build support for government programs ranging from economic stimulus packages to improved health care.

Trustee Jay Lorsch, who was also active in raising funds for the Obama campaign, introduced Solomont, the founder of HouseWorks, a strategic ally of Cambridge At Home. HouseWorks contributed to the cost of the lunch, which was attended by 32 people.

OPEN HOUSE

Bring your friends to learn more about Cambridge At Home. During the coming months, there will be Open House events at members' homes on:

March 21, April 4, and May 16

Please call the office at 617-864-1715 to reserve a place.



Jim and Sybil Hendrickson
at the holiday celebration

Cambridge library card

Did you know that a Cambridge library card brings you privileges beyond borrowing books, CDs, and DVDs? Just showing the card gives you free access to the Harvard University Art Museums.

With the card, you are also eligible for free passes to other great museums and attractions in the Boston area, such as the Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Science, the MIT Museums, the Institute of Contemporary Art, the Gardner Museum, the Peabody-Essex Museum in Salem, MA, and both the Franklin Park and Stone Zoos.

Now is a great time to join the library, with completion of the new building on Broadway scheduled for November.

Members meet for conversation and music

In the second year of Cambridge At Home, members are meeting even more frequently than they did in 2007-2008. The activities began in October with the second annual party, held at the Holy Trinity Apostolic Church on Brattle Street.

At a holiday celebration in December, CAH members and staff enjoyed an informal lunch at the Episcopal Divinity School, with lots of opportunity to meet and talk.

“Coffee and conversation” occurred in October at the home of Ruth and Victor McElheny and in January at the home of Sybil and Jim Hendrickson, shown at left. Members visited the home of Ginny Kahn in December to view her art collection.

As winter advanced, musical events attracted many members. On January 31, Trustee Pat Pratt transformed her living room into a cabaret. Members, sitting at square tables, drank Moxie as they listened to member Joe Bain, decked out for his role

in black felt hat and bright red jacket, play and sing popular songs of 70 to 80 years ago. Some in his audience were inspired to sing along. (Stronger beverages were passed with hors d'oeuvres). At the conclusion of the program, Pratt stated that Cambridge At Home now qualifies “as a ‘jazzy’ organization!”

Member Jacqueline Rothschild welcomed members to a chamber music concert in her living room on February 7. Cellist Sebastian Bäverstam and pianist Constantine Finehouse were the featured performers in a program that started with solos from each and ended with a Brahms Sonata for Cello and Piano.

Members had a chance to converse over wine and hors d'oeuvres at the intermission and after the concert. In addition to the Brahms Sonata, the program included works by Bach, Scriabin, Rachmaninoff, and Kodaly.

Upcoming events

Call the office at 617-864-1715 to reserve your place at these events.

Titian, Tintoretto, and Veronese - March 31, Museum of Fine Arts – SOLD OUT

Curator Frederick Ilchman will lead us through the first major show to explore the rivalry of three great Venetian painters of the 16th century. In addition to paintings from collections in Europe and the United States, the exhibit includes works that have remained for centuries in the settings for which they were created – the churches of Venice.

Book talk by Edgar H. Schein - April 29, 10:30 am

Trustee and inaugural President Ed Schein will discuss his new book titled *Helping*. The event is free, but a reservation is required. See article on page 4.

Talk on culinary history by Barbara Wheaton – May 20, 10:30 am

Culinary historian Barbara Wheaton is the honorary curator of the culinary collection of Harvard's Schlesinger Library and the author of *Savoring the Past, the French Kitchen and Table from 1300-1789*. She will discuss a book she has recently translated, in which a very opinionated Frenchwoman, Aglaé Adanson, describes how she lived a civilized life in the country, indulging her passionate interest in gardening.

Tour of Saint John the Evangelist Monastery - May 31, 2 pm

This is a rare opportunity for a guided tour of the quarters of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist at 980 Memorial Drive. Built in 1936 by famed architect Ralph Adams Cram for the oldest Anglican monastery for men, the complex includes a chapel with stained glass windows, guest rooms for retreats, a refectory, and the meeting room in which T.S. Eliot spent time when a student at Harvard. The brothers offer silence and sanctuary to visitors. After the tour, participants are welcome to remain for Evensong.

Discussion Panel on Memory at Mount Auburn Hospital - date to be announced

The Chief of Geriatric Medicine at Mount Auburn Hospital will assemble a panel of experts to discuss memory. They will address such issues as when forgetfulness is annoying but harmless, and when it is time to discuss it with a professional.

Focus on science and art

The interweaving of art and science was the theme for astronomers Margaret Geller and Scott Kenyon when they told an audience of more than 50 Cambridge At Home members and guests about their careers.

They spoke on "Views of the Universe" on November 16 in the auditorium of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, where they both work. During their talk, they showed images from the visual arts as well as animated scientific diagrams. A long and spirited question period followed.

The event was one of several monthly visits to scholarly and cultural institutions. On October 16, Alice DeLana led a day-long excursion to the Hartford area. Members visited both the Wadsworth Atheneum, the oldest public art museum in the United States, and the Hill-Stead Museum in nearby Farmington.

The Hill-Stead collection includes works by Degas, Monet, Cassatt, and Whistler. They are housed in a stately country home designed by the museum's founder,

Theodate Pope Riddle, with assistance from Stanford White of McKim, Mead and White. Novelist Henry James, who visited and admired the house, called it "an exquisite palace of peace, light, and harmony."

DeLana led a second art tour on February 10, when members assembled at Harvard's Sackler Museum on Broadway. In an exhibit titled ReView, they were able to appreciate many favorite works from the Fogg Museum, newly hung according to principles of "aesthetic resonance" rather than chronology. The tour was followed by lunch at Grafton Street in Harvard Square.

On November 20, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum on the Fenway opened its doors early for a private docent-guided tour for Cambridge At Home. In addition to viewing masterpieces from the permanent collection, members enjoyed a visiting exhibit of painted marriage chests from the Renaissance and a behind-the-scenes look at work in progress in the Conservation Laboratory. Lunch was at the Gardner Café.

Cambridge Club talk

By invitation, representatives of Cambridge At Home attended the February 17 meeting of the Cambridge Club. During a description of the history and mission of Cambridge At Home, member Victor McElheny said about the city of Cambridge, "There are few more stimulating and pleasant cities anywhere. We want to stay here."

President Steve Stadler and Executive Director Kathy Spirer joined McElheny in fielding numerous questions after the talk.

If you belong to an organization or club that would like to hear about Cambridge At Home, call the office at 617-864-1715. They will be happy to arrange for a presentation.

Agassiz Baldwin survey

Some members may have been confused by a recent survey about "aging in place" by the Agassiz Baldwin Community. The survey is not related to the activities of Cambridge At Home, which continues to recruit and welcome members from all neighborhoods of Cambridge.

Agassiz Baldwin Community has been an active neighborhood council for many years. We understand that they do not plan to replicate a fee-based membership organization with a professional staff, such as Cambridge At Home.

We encourage members to tell their friends and neighbors about Cambridge At Home, and to invite them to attend an Open House.

At your service

Consulting pharmacist

Need to know how your medications, supplements, remedies, food, and drink interact?

Travel agent

Want help planning a spring, summer, or autumn trip?

Yoga instructor at home

Prefer to learn at your own pace in private lessons?

Interior, exterior painters

Thinking about trim that needs a touch-up, a room that could use a splash of color, or a whole house to paint?

Window washers

Are dirty windows preventing you from seeing the sun and the spring flowers?

Gutter cleaners

Are autumn leaves blocking the flow from April showers?

Roofing contractors

Got falling or rotted roof tiles or shingles?

Tree services

Want fallen branches taken away, or chipped into mulch?

A note about suppliers

Some providers give a member discount, but you must identify yourself to obtain it. When the office recommends a provider, we make the initial contact. In following up, please remember to tell them that you are a member of Cambridge At Home. If you don't, you may not get the discount. In addition, suppliers who see that Cambridge At Home sends them business are more likely to initiate or continue discounts.

Recommendations wanted

Chimney sweeps, house and apartment cleaners

Recent member requests

Replace door locks, install fire-alarm system, replace fallen chimney cap, remove pests, cut hair at home.

Charitable donations

Gifts to Cambridge At Home ensure that the organization can continue with its aim of helping Cambridge citizens over 50 who wish to remain in their own homes. In addition to membership fees, we welcome all contributions, including memorial gifts to honor a friend or family member, or bequests to Cambridge At Home in estate plans. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit institution, and all gifts are fully tax-deductible.

Cambridge At Home staff

Kathy Spirer,
Executive Director
Sarah Marcotte,
Membership Coordinator
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617-864-1715
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Cambridge At Home reads

Sybil Hendrickson describes it as “a congenial group characterized by lots of laughter.” She adds that all the members are extremely well read and thus have a lot to contribute to each discussion. Ann Cobb calls it “an extraordinarily amicable group in which everyone gets along.”

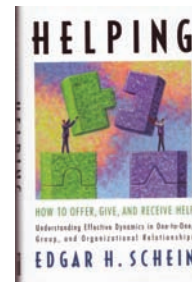
The book discussion group, which was the earliest interest group organized by members, first met on October 4, 2007. It continues to meet once a month, rotating the location among members’ homes.

The core group now includes Candace Boyden, Ann Cobb, Sybil and Jim Hendrickson, Grenelle Scott, Ruth Stokes, Jane Williams, Mary Winslow, and Amy Woods. Each of their 1-1/2 hour meetings is a free-ranging discussion of one book.

The titles, chosen by consensus, have ranged from books about the Middle East, like Gertrude Bell’s *Queen of the Desert*, to a selection of fiction and non-fiction about pre-revolutionary Russia, including Tolstoy’s *War and Peace*, Lermontov’s *A Hero of Our Time*, and Nabokov’s *Speak, Memory*. Ruth Stokes, who took a literature course from Nabokov **and** saved her notes, was able to entertain the group with anecdotes about Nabokov’s teaching methods.

Because of space considerations, this book group no longer accepts new members. One of its original number, Jim Carlisle, has started a new group that will read fiction. Please contact the office at 617-864-1715 if you would like to join.

Schein discusses book



Ed Schein, inaugural President of Cambridge At Home and a Professor of Management Emeritus at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will discuss his new book, *Helping*, on April 29 at 10:30 in the Lynch

Board Room at Mount Auburn Hospital.

In a statement written for Amazon.com, Ed describes his book as “advice and analysis for the general audience because we are all in the position of offering and receiving help of all kinds all the time. Giving directions, helping kids with homework, getting advice from a friend, taking care of a loved one all have to be understood and managed to insure that the help will be helpful.”

Members’ bulletin board

Volunteer Robbie Burnstine has created an online interactive bulletin board on which members can post information of interest to other members, sell or give away items that are no longer being used, seek needed items, solicit or offer rides to various events, and generally communicate with each other.

Such a service gains in value as more people use it, and as they consult it more frequently. At present, 55 members are users. We would love to have more. Notify the office at 617-864-1715 if you would like to join.

Cambridge At Home is a non-profit organization of Cambridge residents over age 50 who are creating the means to remain in our own homes as we grow older.

We invite you to join us, or to make a tax-deductible contribution to ensure that the organization will be there when you need it!

Please clip and mail to:

Cambridge At Home
1770 Massachusetts Avenue, PMB 232
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140

Please send me information about Cambridge At Home and an enrollment form.
Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

