

FORT GREENE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

HISTORIC FORT GREENE BROOKLYN

WINTER 2009

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Paul Palazzo
Chair

Richard Norton
Vice Chair

Susan Butler
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Recording Secretary

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Naomi Dickerson
Roslyn Huebener
dorris gains golomb
Mary Priebe
Jed Marcus

ALTERNATES

Kay Lee
Sam Johnson
Georgianna Glose
Reverend David Dyson

SAVEMOR DIGITAL PRINTING is proud to underwrite this issue of the Fort Greene Association newsletter.

NEXT FGA MEETING:

Monday, Feb. 23, 7:30 pm
Light refreshments at 7.00 pm

TWO TOPICS:

What does it mean to be a parent in the NYC school system?

Joyce Szuffita, NYC School Help, consults with parents to navigate the school search.

What you should know about property insurance:

Patricia Cipriano, specializing in urban and historic districts, personal property such as art work and antiques, and also liability insurance.

LOCATION:

Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 S. Oxford St. (corner of S. Oxford & Lafayette Ave.) Meeting Room, enter on S. Oxford St.

All are welcome to attend, homeowners & renters alike.

Inauguration Destination: Dekalb Avenue

(Continued from first page)

People streamed over from events held at BAM and businesses were packed throughout the day and into the late-night hours. And the mood everywhere was hopeful and positive.

The Dekalb Avenue Merchants' Association is a newly invigorated group of business owners who are working together on a number of initiatives to support each other, build business and connect with the community. Inauguration week-end was just the beginning.

The Dekalb Avenue Merchants' Association covers Dekalb Avenue from Washington Avenue to Ashland Place, including businesses on the intersecting side streets.

For more information about the Dekalb Avenue Merchants' Association contact: dekalbavenue@yahoo.com.



An Obama cardboard cutout stood proudly in the restaurant Madiba.

Photo

Museum Set for Navy Yard

(Continued from first page)

distinctive from the customary quoins of stone we see on Fort Greene's brownstone houses, used to help bind the side walls securely at each corner. A New York architectural firm, Beyer Blinder Belle, will oversee the reconstruction of the museum as well as design a new addition that will open onto Flushing Avenue. This coordinated renovation will begin in mid-2009.

Interior historical displays for the 20,000 square foot center are now being selected and catalogued for visitors' viewing by a design group, Exhibition Art & Technology (EAT). An advisory committee of historical and preservation-minded New Yorkers has been meeting over the past year to help define the presentation's scope.

The committee is led by Andrew Kimball, President and CEO of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, a NYC entity, and Daniella Romano, archivist and Director of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Historical Center. Other members include Howard Pitsch, the former-chair of the FGA (and the author of this article). Meantime, before the as-yet-unspecified time for the museum's opening, the public will be notified about the availability of free tours of Brooklyn Navy Yard beginning October 2009 in association with the Brooklyn Historical Society and the Center for Urban Environment.

To learn more about the Brooklyn Navy Yard, the proposed historical center and upcoming tours, download their brochure at www.brooklynnavyyard.org/BNYToursBrochure2008.pdf.

Chair's Notes

By Paul Palazzo, FGA Chair

It's cold. It's grey. It's February. Sometimes I wonder if that chill will ever go away. Just when all seems to be lost those brightly colored plant and seed catalogues arrive and suddenly I feel a bit of a thaw. I begin to dream and to plan for great things to come.

Dreaming and planning, the two depend upon each other. Soon after the joyous Holiday Party became a warm memory the FGA Board, with your help, began to dream and plan for the New Year. Like browsing through our Neighborhood seed catalogue the FGA sat down and began to dream of our future.

These are special times and unlike any time in recent memory we all are presented with both great potential and great challenge. On a national scale we have finally broken the color barrier and elected our first African-American President while at the same time we are presented with an uncertain economic future. On the local level Fort Greene continues to grow with new energetic people joining our community every day while at the same time we continue to feel increased pressure from over and insensitive development threatening to rip our Neighborhood apart.

Even in uncertain times there is still the possibility of great things to come. These are a few of the dreams we hope to grow into reality.

First on the list is Increased Communication, communication on all levels, from

nearby neighbors to reaching out across Fort Greene Park. So you'll see more of the FGA this year on the street, at the Park, and on the internet. And we'll be encouraging you to reach out and communicate with us as well.

Second, is increased focus on Local Schools. We'll be energizing our School Committee and going directly to schools in our Neighborhood with programs and activities to make the school children of Fort Greene part of the Neighborhood and to fight for their fair share with city officials.

Third in our book are Quality of Life Issues: Crime, Rats, Environment, Air Traffic Noise, Retail, and Traffic. No small list but with your help we can make a change on these issues.

Then there is our core belief which will never change, that Preservation and Economic Growth go hand in hand. This belief keeps the FGA going strong in the fight to secure responsible development of the Atlantic Yards and Admiral's Row as well as continuing to lobby for expansion of our Historic District and to bring job growth and retail vitality to our Neighborhood residents. So plan and daydream, that's the reason for February, and think about the ideas which you'll be planting in Fort Greene. Get them in the ground; water them well and in the spring you'll be rewarded. We'll be seeing you soon and don't forget to keep in touch.

Preserving Historic Architecture - the Green Choice

By Steven McClain, President of the *Trust for Architectural Easements*. Presented at Historic Districts Council's 14th Annual Preservation Conference, 2008 under the title: "Preserving the Environment and the Mission of the National Architecture Trust".

Among the cultural, historic, aesthetic, architectural, economic and environmental reasons to preserve historic buildings, environmental considerations are becoming the dominant.

If sustainable design is to balance human needs with the carrying capacity of the environment, then the statement by Carl Elefante is essentially correct. The greenest building is the one that is already built. Recycling and rehabilitating existing buildings is almost always more environmentally efficient than tearing down and building new because this minimizes the importation of materials and energy and minimizes the generation of waste.

The positive attributes of rehabilitating older buildings are increased immeasurably when you factor in that maintaining and improving historic buildings and the neighborhoods in which they reside also allows for the continued use of valuable

infrastructure: sidewalks, gutters, streets, water and sewer, etc. By maintaining the usefulness of existing infrastructure, there is reduced pressure to consume our country's natural resources by recreating this infrastructure in undeveloped areas.

In coming years, protecting the environment and sustainable development will increasingly be a topic of concern to U.S. citizens and their elected officials. The two federal programs that now assist property owners to rehabilitate and protect their historic buildings are the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program and the Historic Preservation Tax Incentive Program.

Originally conceived to sustain and protect our nation's cultural heritage, these programs are increasingly important as a means of helping to provide needed residential and commercial buildings while minimizing the negative impact to the environment.

**"The greenest building is the one already built."
- Carl Elefante**



by Carey Kirkella, 2008

Giving and Receiving

A Report from the FGA Grants

Thanks to the entire Fort Greene community, the Annual Holiday Raffle was a success. As a result the FGA was able to purchase over \$2000 worth of Pathmark gift cards to share with our neighbors in need. The certificates, which were distributed through *Queen of All Saints Food Pantry*, *Fort Greene SNAP*, *Church of St. Michael* and *St. Edward & Sacred Heart Church*, helped provide Holiday dinners for over 100 families.

Sister Aileen of Queen of All Saints Church sent the members of the Fort Greene Association a heartfelt thank you note. It read:

"Thank you very much for the donation of forty \$20 gift cards to the Pathmark Food Store for the people who came to the Queen of All Saints Food Pantry. The expressions on their faces have left a lasting impression. Their faces immediately showed a smile from ear to ear. You will never know how happy these people were to receive these gift cards."

One man said: "You mean I can go to the store and pick out items I wish to have?!" Another person said: "You'll never know how much this means to my family and me, thank

Update on Atlantic Yards

Atlantic Yards Flounders and Faces Obstacles, But a Eulogy is Premature

By Daniel Goldstein of *Develop, Don't Destroy Brooklyn*.

The economy may lead people to believe otherwise, but the fact is that the Atlantic Yards project is not dead. Far from it.

Forest City Ratner's (FCR) project is floundering, but they continue to make every effort to build some version of the development proposal that would include an arena, controlling 22 acres in the heart of Brooklyn and speculating on the land (and blighting the neighborhood) until they feel the market can bear more skyscrapers.

Ratner is facing the worst recession perhaps since the Great Depression and a frozen credit market. There are two pending lawsuits against the project. The developer also has a \$177 million loan coming due and is unable to pay the MTA what it owes for the rail yard. While it is a daunting set of factors working against Ratner, NY State continues to publicly support the project - with your tax dollars.

Without your help in stopping it once and for all, the Atlantic Yards plan remains a serious threat to our neighborhoods. If you wish to help with the legal fight, you can donate online at www.dddb.net/donate.

The Horsewalk in Fort Greene

By dorris gaines golomb

From time to time we offer to be of help to you. Now, neighbors, we're going to ask for your help - individuals, block associations, and the simply curious - anyone can play and let's have fun with this.

So, you say - what is a *borsewalk*? It was an integral part of the development of Fort Greene in the 1800s. It was (is) a narrow space, just enough for a person holding the reins behind him, to walk a horse through to the back of a house, where there would be a stable or shed to shelter the horse - transportation of the day. It is between two houses and usually you will see a narrow (only 2 feet or so) entrance gate - wood, metal, lattice - easy for one to pass without noticing.

Fort Greene was first a farming area, then a working and middle class community. You would not see here the carriage houses that arrived somewhat later in Clinton Hill along with the mansions built above Vanderbilt.

Where are these passages? All around us in Fort Greene - Ashland to Vanderbilt and Atlantic Avenue to the river at the north. Now this is where you all come in - keeping a lookout as you walk Fort Greene streets to see,

and let us know, where those walks are quietly hiding. We especially hope that children will want to play this "discovery" game. (When you - aha! - spy that narrow gate, please note the address on each side, the nearest cross street and a description of the gate. (Please do NOT disturb the residents!) If you have any suggestions you can offer about sources for relevant information, we would appreciate having them. As a teaser - there are 3 walks/gates on Clermont between Lafayette and Dekalb - can you find them?

To us, these are fascinating nuggets of history here - we hope to engage our neighbors' curiosity. There's a garden walk each year. Who knows - we might someday have a Horsewalk Walk!

Contact: dorris gaines golomb 718 624-5719 (p&f)

NOTE: There is no payment offered for anything, in any way involved in this project. Except with permission, no personal information will be included. This article is the property of the Fort Greene Association, Inc.



A woman sweeps snow off the sidewalk near Brooklyn, New York, 1888. Photo by George B.

Fort Greene & Clinton Hill Continue Greening

Committee *By Mary Priebe*

By Jed Marcus



BROOKLYN PROPERTIES



FORTÉ

BROWN HARRIS STEVENS



corcoran



Sanctuary Salon



IMB

Scott Schnall, PE



TRACHTMAN & BACH, INC.

you!" A few people were so grateful they asked if they could give me a bug. You see how happy you made forty people by the gift of these cards.

The thank you card was signed: Sister Aileen M. Haleran, SC, Pastoral Associate.

The FGA would also like to give out a few huge *thank you's* of our own: Thank you to the retailers who generously gave gift certificates to their establishments. Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Holiday Party and bought all those raffle tickets; and to everyone who brought food stuffs to the party - we collected 15 very full grocery bags for the Hanson Place Food Pantry.

Additional FGA Grants: For the third year in a row, the FGA supported the *Brooklyn Pit-bulls* Pop Warner football teams. This year, once again, the Pitbulls have had one of their teams make it to the playoffs. Congratulations to Lloyd and the kids!

The FGA expanded it's giving this holiday season to Tillary Park Foundation for a Senior Trip to BB King's Gospel Brunch.

Green Fort Greene & Clinton Hill is starting 2009 by reducing trash and promoting recycling. Tired of unwanted plastic bags of ads on your doorstep? New York State law allows you to put up a specific sign requiring that no unsolicited advertising be left at your property. Violators face big fines. Get your waterproof sign at Marcus Attorneys at 13 Greene Avenue during normal office hours. Better still, call ahead if you want to volunteer to spread the word and signs on your block. The number is 718.643.6555.

Prepare for spring by volunteering to work with other GFG&CH members and bring recycling to local parks. Sanitation and Parks have given preliminary approval for recycling in **Fort Greene Park**, Cuyler Gore Park and Underwood Playground. A recent success: on January 11th, the Lower East Side Ecology Center with GFG&CH held an electronics recycling event that brought out 140 of our neighbors and five tons of e-trash. Consider helping the LESEC establish a permanent e-trash recycling center in Fort Greene.

Continuing a long-standing effort, we are steadily getting more street trees planted all around our neighborhood. A next step is to expand tree beds so that our wonderful urban forest flourishes. Capturing storm water run off also improves water quality. Vaidila Kungys is coordinating the effort and needs your help. vaidila@gmail.com

Many more projects to come: the Fort Greene Association sponsors GFG&CH to reduce our neighborhood's contribution to global warming and our use of non-renewable resources.

Make it happen. Contact GFG&CH at info@greenfgch.org or go to our website: www.greenfgch.org.



two horse-drawn buggies. Brainerd. © Life, 2009

**Power is in the Numbers:
Join the Fort Greene Association**

Join your voice with your neighbors creating a greater voice with elected officials and government agencies on behalf of your neighborhood concerns.

The FGA is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to getting things done for the people of Fort Greene. You may know the FGA for its festive annual Holiday Party, informative newsletter and e-mail blasts, our community initiatives, or our meetings, packed with important information relevant to you.

Your tax-deductible membership gift at any level will bring you a full year of benefits. You can also make a contribution to the FGA online via *PayPal* on our website at historicfortgreene.org. **Join now, your membership matters.**

THE FORT GREENE ASSOCIATION, INC., OPERATES AS A NON-PROFIT 501(C)(3) CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION. YOUR DONATION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW. A COPY OF OUR LATEST FINANCIAL REPORT MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING: THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, CHARITIES BUREAU, 120 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10271.

Yes, I want to support the efforts of the Fort Greene Association.

Enclosed is my membership contribution. (Check One)

\$200-Angel \$150-CorporatePlus \$100-Corporate \$50-Patron \$25-Friend \$15-Member

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Find out more about the FGA at:
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Meet The 2009 FGA Board Members

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LOCATION:

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of S. Oxford & Lafayette
Ave.) Meeting Room,
enter on S. Oxford St.

All are welcome to attend, homeowners & renters alike.



Paul Palazzo (Chair) is a 24 year resident of Fort Green / Clinton Hill working world wide as a lighting designer in the theatrical industry. You may have seen his work on Broadway or down the block at the Mark Morris Dance Group. In 1984 the lure of a rent controlled apartment offered opportunity, brought him to the neighborhood, and he never left. It is that same sense of opportunity which he hopes to make available to all who want to call Fort Greene their home. Paul previously served three years on FGA Board as head of the R6B Rezoning Taskforce and Atlantic Yards committees and was founding co-chair of the Council of Brooklyn Neighborhoods.



Richard Norton (Vice Chair) has lived with his wife Margaret in Ft. Greene for 27 years and they have raised a family here. They restored a Brownstone which abuts the former ATURA sight, now known as College Commons, and as Block President for years negotiated with Ratner Associates over many local issues such as lot lines, facades and saving major trees. Richard was also on the Board of Friends of S. Oxford Park, which eventually resulted in a new park there, and has been active with other community organizations including presently the Public Safety Committee. Richard has been on the FGA Board for three years.



Susan Butler (Treasurer) has lived in this neighborhood since 1983 with her husband Jay Butler and their two children. Susan has been on the FGA board since 2002 and is also a member of the Fort Greene Parks Conservancy board. Susan and Jay have a small Structural Engineering Company located in Manhattan.



Fred Lasker (Rec. Secretary) was born and raised in nearby Greenpoint Brooklyn. After graduating with his Masters from City College, Fred was a long time teacher of history at the High School of Fashion Industries. As Recording Secretary Fred succeeds his late long term partner Sherman Jones a founding member of the FGA. Fred also serves on the Board of the Fort Greene Park Conservancy and is an active member of the South Portland Block Association.



dorris gains golomb Resident Lafayette Avenue homeowner, with my husband I. Leon, since June 1980. Currently FGA Landmark Committee Chair. From our Fort Greene beginnings, I have been fortunate to meet, get to know and engage in local activities with many neighbors. Adding to this advantage, I have enjoyed the quirks and odd moments along the way. Such as the diligent lady who lived in the next door shell, did her laundry at the nearby fireplug and dried it along the remains of the fence fronting the shell. A part of the wonderful weave that has created the fabric of Fort Greene 2009. Join me in a smile!



Naomi Dickerson is an artist whose work has been shown and collected by major museums. She has lived in Fort Greene for 15 years. "I love the community here – find it warm and progressive. It inspires me to participate in the Fort Greene Association, where for two years I have endeavored as editor of the *FGA Newsletter* to create a space where the unique and vibrant voices that constitute this organization may speak to the community and where the community may have a voice."



Roslyn Huebener came to the Fort Greene/Clinton Hill area in 1985 primarily as a real estate investor with an eye toward securing a home for herself. She fell in love with the houses in the Fort Greene/Clinton Hill neighborhood and indeed found a home. After her success with investment purchases, she was recruited by a local real estate company and by 1988 had established her own real estate firm. Before moving here, Roslyn had attended meetings at both the FGA and Society for Clinton Hill and within a short time became a board member of both organizations. She was also advertising manager for the local publication *The Hill* and served on that board for well over a decade. On the FGA board she has worked on various sub-committees but is best known for the creation of the FGA Holiday Extravaganza.



Mary Priebe has lived in Fort Green since 1978, raising her family here. For the last two years, she has served on the FGA Board by reaching out to local neighborhood groups and schools as chair of the Grants Committee offering seed money for projects, financing for continuing programs as well as connections to our own neighborhood financial, educational, and inspirational capital. In the past year, Mary has worked on the House Tour, and Holiday Party and looks forward to the growth of the FGA over the next two years.



Jed Marcus and his family have lived happily in Fort Greene for decades, and he is lucky to walk to work, at Marcus Attorneys on Greene Avenue. For the last couple of years, he has enjoyed coordinating Green Fort Greene & Clinton Hill (a project of the Fort Greene Association which is making our neighborhood even more earth-friendly). Marcus Attorneys and its sister project management company Insite are proud to have been instrumental in transforming 80 Hanson Place and the South Oxford Space into major community resources and bringing the Irondale Center to the LACP. Jed's current preoccupation is the never-ending construction of an ultimately satisfying extension of his home on Vanderbilt Avenue.



Kay Lee (Alt.) immigrated from South Korea in 1979. She is married to Chan Lee and has two children. She and her husband have lived in the Fort Greene area for the last 20 years. They have a number of businesses in the area, and are proud to be part of such a diverse and growing neighborhood.



Sam Johnson (Alt.) is a 22 year resident of Fort Greene having moved to an apartment on South Elliot Place in 1986 and residing there until he purchased his current residence on Carlton Avenue. He is married and has raised two children in Fort Greene. Sam is Professor of Psychology at Baruch College of the City University of New York. Before assuming that position, he served as Vice President for Student Development, Dean of Students, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Student Development and Counseling at Baruch College. Sam is a member of Manhattan Community Board 5. He has an active interest in parks, landmarks, traffic and land use. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles and book chapters and has received several awards for his service and scholarship.



Georgianna Glose (Alt) is the executive director at the Fort Greene Strategic Neighborhood Action Partnership [SNAP], a community based organization focused on providing to low and moderate income residents in or near Fort Greene, access to gainful employment, further education, and quality health care by offering programs in technology, entrepreneurship and life skills. As a founding member of the Brooklyn-wide Interagency Council of the Aging, she worked with Brooklyn's elders for the passage of important New York State Legislations including the prescription drug law (EPIC) and the basic banking bill. Georgianna holds a Doctorate in Social Welfare from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Her doctoral work focused on racism. She has been a resident of Fort Greene for more than 30 years.



Reverend David Dyson (Alt) Rev. Dyson was named Pastor of the landmark Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church [LAPC] in Fort Greene, Brooklyn in November of 1992. He is the seventh Pastor in a line that began during the Civil War with Theodore Ledyard Cuyler the noted preacher and abolitionist. LAPC has long been identified with civil rights, human rights, women's rights, labor rights, affordable housing and community service. Dyson serves on the boards of the Pratt Area Community Council; the Riverside Adult Learning Center; the Workers Defense League; and the Advisory Board of the National Council of Churches.



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Meeting Room, entrance on S. Oxford Street

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What you should know about property insurance: Patricia Cipriano, specializing in urban and historic districts, personal property such as art work and antiques, and also liability insurance.

Additional speakers will be announced at the meeting.

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NEWSCENES

DENYZ Turkish Seafood Restaurant (opening soon), Corner South Elliot and Fulton. Founded in Turkey and managed by the brothers Celykkaya and their father, they have been providing high quality service since 1981. And now we will be introduced to their unique flavours of the sea. Stay tuned.

Another ethnic entry is on the horizon: a German restaurant in the old hardware store space at the 7 Corners triangle at Hanson Place and Fulton.

Moving right along to Myrtle Avenue ...

DOMINO's PIZZA 328 Myrtle between Carlton and Washington, opened in December. Good in any season, stop by for a pie or a slice and wish them good luck.

CLINTON HILL ANIMAL CLINIC Brand new facility, just opened. Dr. Pamela Dendtler & Dr. Monica Johnson offer complete care for cats, dogs, birds, and exotic pets - with house calls and more. They have also been located in Park Slope for 26 years. All pet persons should write down this number: 718 623-3999. Hours: M-F 9-7, Sat 9-5. Bid them welcome.

WALGREENS 379 Myrtle, corner Clermont. At last - we can go beyond those inviting red awnings! Ribbon cutting Jan 27th. Fresh, bright, new store wonderfully stocked with great variety. Look, buy, let them know their neighbors are glad they are here.

MARP LDC "Shopping & Dining Guide" While you're walking the Avenue on Myrtle, be sure to pick up a copy of this handsome, helpful and informative guide. Ask about their art program linking merchants and artists. So much happening, so much to take advantage of ... discover, enjoy!

*We were happy to learn recently that a core group of businesses, have organized **the DeKalb Avenue Merchants' Association**. There's a quite interesting mix along this corridor and we're sure that tying them together in a cooperative initiative will be a real advantage first to the merchants and certainly to the neighborhood. Congratulations from the Fort Greene Association to all involved with this new initiative!*

We invite you to submit items for NEWSCENES, inclusion is by editor's decision. For any mistakes herein, we apologize.

Cajun Zydeco Dance Party & Dinner

Come for food and the fun at the **Annual Fort Greene Cajun/Zydeco Dance Party and Dinner** with a "smack-down" cook-off competition to be held Saturday, **March 7, 2009**.

Live music, dancing, great food, cash bar and prizes for winners of the cook-off. It's a family event with reduced admission for children 12 and under, in the Community Room of the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 S. Oxford Street, between Lafayette and Fulton Streets. All are welcome.

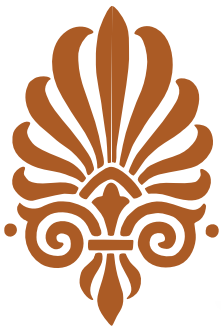


Proceeds benefit the Building Fund of this historic Fort Greene landmark, the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church. For more info: lapcbrooklyn.org

Above: Susan England, Lafayette Ave resident & Cajun music fan, in the groove.



Photo by Carey Kirkella, 2008



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Inauguration Destination: Dekalb Avenue

By Phillip Kellogg, former FGA Chair



Seeing the euphoric celebrations in the streets of Fort Greene on election night, the Dekalb Avenue Merchants' Association knew that January 20, 2009 would be another momentous day in history that people would want to celebrate together. It was then that the idea for "Celebrate the Inauguration on Dekalb" was created.

A total of 30 restaurants, cafes, boutiques and retail stores signed on for what became a weekend-long celebration inviting people to make Dekalb Avenue their destination and to take advantage of creative discounts (44% off to celebrate the

44th President), special menu items (lots of pineapple and grilled SPAM in honor of the President's Hawaiian heritage), cocktail creations ("Bama-tini's" and "Yes we can-Obitos"), and vouchers good for discounts on return visits. In addition, 90 pieces of Obama-inspired artwork created by students of Ronald Edmonds Learning Center (also on Dekalb) were on display in windows lining the Avenue and members of the school's band and chorus performed at a number of businesses before and after the Inauguration Ceremony. (Article continues inside) ▶



Photos by Carey Kirkella, 2008

Museum Set for Brooklyn Navy Yard

By Howard Pitsch, former FGA Chair

Building 92, which is located on Flushing Avenue and Clermont, is set to become the Brooklyn Navy Yard's museum and historical center. Better known as the former U.S. Marine Commander's home at the old Brooklyn Navy Yard in Fort Greene, the museum will focus on the Yard's rich maritime history, depicting naval construction gear, military artifacts, exhibits, and digital panoramas of the Yard and its naval personnel and workers who fit-



NYC DOB Archives



Rendering by Beyer Blinder Belle

Above Left: Building 92 from a site photo from the NYC Buildings Department's archives. Above: a rendering by New York architectural firm Beyer Blinder Belle of the proposed museum which incorporates the existing historically-significant structure.

ted out major American ships - including the USS Missouri, which then-Senator Harry Truman with his daughter Margaret launched in 1944, and aboard which the Japanese surrendered to General Douglas MacArthur a year later. All this will offer an evocative portrait from our nation's maritime saga. The oral history of 37 men and women who worked at the Yard during World War II is also being compiled in conjunction with the Brooklyn Historical Society.

Building 92 is set to become the Brooklyn Navy Yard's maritime museum and historical center.

The Commander's home (quite apart from the Naval Commandant's large white mansion in Vinegar Hill) was constructed in 1857 for the leader of a segment of U.S. Marines detailed specifically as sentries and guards for the Navy Yard's security. Thomas Ustick Walter, the home's architect, was also fourth architect of our country's Capitol and one of the founders of the American Institute of Architects. Unique to Mr. Walter's Italianate structure are its quoins made of cast iron, a material he also used at the Capitol. They are

(Article continues inside) ▶