



FORT GREENE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

HISTORIC FORT GREENE BROOKLYN

FEBRUARY 2011

The Fort Greene Association is devoted to historic preservation, neighborhood and park enhancement, as well as cultural, economic, and housing advancement. To find out more, become a member, or to volunteer, visit our website www.HistoricFortGreene.org

Soon You'll Be Able to Set Your Watch by It



At 512 feet tall and 40-stories high, the Williamsburgh Savings Bank building, now **One Hanson Place**, has long been a Brooklyn icon. Its four illuminated clock faces and gold-capped dome are visible for miles around. Erected in 1929, it remains among the tallest four-sided clock towers in the world.

A significant amount of effort has been made to restore this antique clock tower back to its original beauty and returning the clocks themselves to perfect running order. While mechanically the clocks are running flawlessly, ongoing electrical problems continue to prevent the lights in the clock hands from working consistently. The electrical issues are due to the intricacy of transferring power to the clock hands on the exterior of the building from inside the building. Because the clock hands are always moving, direct power cannot be run to the exterior. This means that the power for the lights must pass through a series of friction-based connectors to prevent the wires from getting tangled while the hands are moving. Additionally, the age of the clock mechanisms presents a challenge as replacement parts need to be custom built, and, with repairs being made over time, the workings of each clock face present their own unique challenges.

The One Hanson Place's Board and staff are working hard to return the clock lighting to perfect working order, and, although it may take some time to complete, they are fully committed to ensuring Brooklyn's architectural icon is shining brightly again as soon as possible.

Article courtesy of: Kevin Jones, Facilities Committee Chair, One Hanson Place; and Susan Wile Schwarz, Community Relations Committee Chair, One Hanson Place, on behalf of the Board and Residents of OHP.

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NEXT FGA MEETING:

Monday, Feb. 28, 7:30 pm.
Light refreshments at 7:00 pm

TOPIC: New Year, New Beginnings

It's all happening in Fort Greene. For our first meeting of the season we are bringing to you an update from our neighborhood partners to let you know what to look for in 2011 in Fort Greene. Come prepared to listen and give feedback to the following: Brooklyn Navy Yard, Fort Greene Park Conservancy, NYC Parks and Recreation, Fulton Area Business Alliance, Myrtle Avenue Revitalization Project, Pratt Area Community Council, and the FGA Good Neighbors project.

Join us for our Neighborhood Mixer at 7pm with food samplings from The Smoke Joint Restaurant Group & CakeJoy. See you there for a good time.

All are welcome to attend, homeowners & renters alike.

Snow Days! Chair's Notes by Paul Palazzo, FGA Chair

The snow continues to fall over Fort Greene. For me when I crack open the curtains and spy that first flake I still get that thrill for I know that something magical is about to happen on the morning after a snow. Maybe it is the visual clean slate or the relief that all deadlines are cancelled for the day but in the morning after a snow the sidewalks are filled with neighbors. Not exasperated neighbors but instead cheerful from the snow. Together long-time and new residents shoveling out and sharing stories, all enjoying the snow holiday together.

We are bound together even for a brief time by the snow, by sharing the experience. It is that unique quality of Fort Greene our secret hidden power that makes this neighborhood strong. It binds us all together to achieve what other neighborhoods seemingly cannot and it is what attracts new comers to the neighborhood.

Sharing a common experience is central to the FGA. Join us at this year's series of Neighborhood Meetings or maybe join an FGA Committee. Here you can share your thoughts, your energy, and your experience with your neighbors. This newsletter is full of FGA achievements from the past year and maybe you'll see in our committee list of initiatives for the coming year, something which attracts you to come and share. Enjoy the snow.

As always we'll be seeing you soon and don't forget to keep in touch.





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FRESH Teens Summit Breaks New Ground

by Sam Lipschultz, 2010 FRESH Teens Coordinator

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In near-unison, Evelyn, Eddith, Imani and Christina exhaled, "Really???" Over forty teenagers—students from Benjamin Banneker and Urban Assembly School for Arts and Letters—were waiting, buzzing with energy in the cafeteria of the Ingersoll Community Center. It was time for the four young leaders in the Myrtle Avenue Revitalization Project's (MARP) FRESH Teens program to invite everyone upstairs for the start of their culminating project: the Shape Up! Youth Food Summit. After two months of food-focused workshops and field trips, and two more months of leadership training and summit planning, the FRESH Teens were finally nervous.

Nervous, but prepared. After a quick welcoming and warm-up activity, the participants were split into two groups. One group went to the "health" workshop, "Food! It affects your life," where Evelyn and Eddith led interactive activities that explored how some of our favorite processed foods are produced, how they affect our health, and how we can eat smart. The other group went to the "access" workshop, "Are you getting played?!", where Imani and Christina led an exploration of what food is available in our neighborhoods, why, and how young people can influence the food landscape around them. After an hour, the groups switched, allowing students to experience both workshops. Both groups were also visited by Councilmember Tish James, who shared her own passion for creating healthier communities and commended the youth for tackling these issues.

After the workshops were over, the FRESH Teens reconvened the entire group of students to find out what stuck. They asked participants to take a few moments to reflect on what they just learned, and write down three commitments that they will make to change the way they eat. The commitments that were shared reflected a sea

of change for many. One student promised to "stop eating sporadically and stick to a healthy diet." Multiple students swore off soda, while others committed to cutting down on fast food. Others took a more proactive approach, promising to eat more fruits and vegetables, get more exercise, and talk to their local merchants about selling healthier options.

Once the summit was over and the students had left, the FRESH Teens exhaled once again, this time, with wide smiles on their faces, and high fives in the air. Before the FRESH Teens program, Evelyn, Eddith, Imani and Christina, had never spoken in front of a group of strangers, never looked at their food with a critical eye, never learned how to teach others, and never planned and led a gathering of their peers. Within four months, they did all of these things and more. Not only have these four young women contributed to their community by educating their peers, they have broken ground for future youth leadership in the food access efforts of MARP and its partners. Stay tuned for more information about FRESH Teens 2011!

The FRESH Teens program is a part of MARP's Myrtle Eats Fresh Initiative, which includes a number of projects that engage community members in activities to improve access to healthy, affordable food on Myrtle Avenue, and in the surrounding neighborhoods of Fort Greene and Clinton Hill. Other programs under the initiative include a seasonal community-run farm stand, a community chef program, creating and expanding community gardens on public housing grounds, and the formation of a Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Community Food Council. The 2010 FRESH Teens program was generously supported by the Fort Greene Association. For more information about Myrtle Eats Fresh, contact Meredith Phillips Almeida at Meredith@myrtleavenue.org.



FAREWELLS

William "Bill" Saunders - Condolences to the family of William "Bill" Saunders, former State Committeeman/District Leader in the 57th A.D. who recently passed. His life was memorialized on Sunday, January 9, 2011 at the Lafayette Ave. Presbyterian Church. Mr. Saunders offered constant support to the community, serving on the Board of the 2nd Atlantic Terminal Housing Corp., advocating for the renovation of the Franklin Ave. Shuttle, for senior housing, for youth and the unemployed. Mr. Saunders' contributions are immense and he will be greatly missed.

Michael Bassin - Son of former FGA board member Joan Bassin, passed unexpectedly on February 1, 2011 from undiagnosed pneumonia. Surviving are his loving wife Annie and children Max and Sydney. Please keep this loving family in your thoughts. Memorial service to be scheduled.

Michael Terrance Waterman - Condolences to the family of Michael Waterman who passed away on September 29, 2010. Michael was a long-time resident of 101 Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene and a neighbor and friend of many residents here. Michael will be remembered for his keen intelligence, friendliness, and his sweet gentle temperament.

Howard Thomas Washington - Condolences to the family of Howard Washington who passed away on November 26, 2010. Howard was neighborhood handyman and jack of all trades who enjoyed life with a genuine concern for others touching many neighborhood lives.

Newsletter by
Abby Weissman



The Fort Greene Association is on Twitter, become a Follower: @FortGreeneAssn

Fort Greene Association's 2011 Black History Month Celebration Update

African Americans have made significant contributions in Fort Greene and the surrounding neighborhoods since the early 19th century. Slavery was abolished in 1827, colored men from the African Methodist Episcopal Church developed an educational system for colored youth that later developed the first Colored school in Brooklyn. September 25, 1827, the African Free School was led by the direction of Henry C. Thompson. The African Free School in 1841 was administered by the Brooklyn Common Council and was later known as African Public School No. 1. In 1857, Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church was formed by Abolitionists. African American skilled workers fought for their rights at the Navy Yard during Draft Week in 1863 - Congress passed a draft law that unfairly spared wealthier men who had the means to pay the Commutation Fee.

The Fort Greene Association (FGA) is proud to honor African Americans who came before us, as well as recognize the contributions made by African Americans today. Each day for the month of February 2011, we will salute the contributions of African Americans who've made significant contributions in and around Fort Greene, individuals who've committed selfless acts to help others as well as recognize pioneers who've paved the way for others. We are pleased to announce, Fort Greene - Clinton Hill Patch (fortgreene.Patch.com), a new invaluable news and information source on the web for the Fort Greene and Clinton Hill areas of Brooklyn is our media partner for our Black History Month Celebration.

We are very excited and proud of the developments of our 1st Black History Month Celebration. We would like to thank everyone who submitted nominations of individuals for consideration to be recognized by the Fort Greene community for Black History Month. Additionally, we want to thank everyone who contributed to making this year's celebration special.

Please save the date: June, 20th 2011, 7PM-9:30PM for the FGA's Juneteenth Celebration where we will have a special presentation for our Black History Month Honorees. Visit our website HistoricFortGreene.org to join our e-mail list to receive updates regarding our Black History Month Celebration and other Fort Greene on goings. Lastly, we invite you to be follow us on Twitter via twitter.com/FortGreeneAssn and become a Facebook Fan.

The Fort Greene Association and SNAP's Thanksgiving Turkeys

This Thanksgiving the FGA teamed up with SNAP's efforts for the homeless families at our local Auburn Shelter. A Thanksgiving Dinner was hosted at SNAP for 40 Auburn residents.

The FGA reached out to Jive Turkey for some of their award winning deep fried turkeys. Despite this being the height of Jive Turkey's season, Arika Westbrook stepped up to provide three free turkeys for the event. Other neighbors donated canned and prepared dishes to complete a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner.

The Thanksgiving party was a great success. Over 40 people were fed and each resident was able to take leftovers back to the shelter. The residents had a chance to sit down with one another, talk and enjoy a nice homemade meal.

The SNAP volunteers spoke with their guests about many of the problems at Auburn, especially the poor quality of the food. Fort Greene SNAP and the residents are working towards meeting with the Department of Homeless Services to address the issue of the food and demand better quality and quantity.

The FGA is pleased to have been able to help with SNAP's efforts and wants to extend a HUGE thank you to Jive Turkey's Arika Westbrook.

Fort Greene Association Committees Many Ways to Get Involved in Your Neighborhood

Need an outlet? The Fort Greene Association (FGA) has many ways for you to meet your neighbors and community leaders, share your talents and channel your extra energy into benefits for the entire community. Get involved with one of our many FGA committees and make a difference in your community.

Community Engagement & Communications - Communication is the key. Newsletter, Website, Facebook, and Twitter are just some of the ways the FGA gets the message out. We are always looking for writers, photographers, marketers, graphic artists and videographers to tell the stories and paint the pictures of Fort Greene. We also work with community organizations to produce projects that foster social cohesion in Fort Greene. E-mail Lillian Jean-Baptiste to find out how you can get involved at Lillian@HistoricFortGreene.org or communication@HistoricFortGreene.org.

Good Neighbors - A committee working to establish a program whereby elderly Fort Greeners can maintain a good quality of life in their own homes. As Beverly Emmons, leader and theatre artist, likes to say: "stage management for the elderly." E-mail Beverly Emmons to find out how you can get involved at Beverly@HistoricFortGreene.org or goodneighbors@HistoricFortGreene.org.

Grants - Help secure grants to fund the FGA projects and identify groups within our community in need of funding. E-mail Mary Priebe to find out how you can get involved at Mary@HistoricFortGreene.org or grants@HistoricFortGreene.org.

Green Fort Greene & Clinton Hill - Work on neighborhood strategies to reduce our carbon footprint; tree planting, recycling, bike lanes and other green initiatives throughout Fort Greene and Clinton Hill. Email Jed Marcus to find out how you can get involved at Jed@HistoricFortGreene.org or greenfgch@HistoricFortGreene.org.

Holiday Extravaganza - Each year hundreds of Fort Greene neighbors come to celebrate, reconnect, and talk about the neighborhood they love. We are always looking for fresh and new ideas to contribute to making our annual holiday party special. E-mail Roslyn Huebener to find out how you can get involved at Roslyn@HistoricFortGreene.org or holiday@HistoricFortGreene.org.

House Tour - Held every two years, the FGA House Tour is an important opportunity to tell the world that we are proud of this ever-evolving community; its homes, its people, its underlying spirit. All the money raised during the tour goes right back into the Fort Greene community through the advocacy efforts and programs of the FGA. E-mail bousetour@HistoricFortGreene.org to find out how you can get involved.

Landmarks - Where it all started, the neighborhood character of Fort Greene. If you are interested in architecture, neighborhood character and planning then this committee is for you. E-mail landmarks@HistoricFortGreene.org or FGA Chair Paul Palazzo at Paul@HistoricFortGreene.org to find out how you can get involved.

Public Safety - Communicate with city officials on incidents within the neighborhood and fight to reduce crime. E-mail Richard Norton to find out how you can get involved at Richard@HistoricFortGreene.org or safety@HistoricFortGreene.org.

Retail - Got a hankering for something that Fort Greene doesn't have yet? Let the Retail Committee know what's on your mind and help bring it into fruition. E-mail retail@HistoricFortGreene.org to get involved.

Schools - A committee formed to advocate for better local schools. E-mail Siyon Breeze to find out how you can get involved at Siyon@HistoricFortGreene.org or schools@HistoricFortGreene.org.

Tourism - Facilitate the development of a Fort Greene tourism guide for visitors and residents to discover and experience the cultural and historic districts, diverse cuisines and shopping treasures of Fort Greene. E-mail Lillian Jean-Baptiste to find out how you can get involved at Lillian@HistoricFortGreene.org or tourism@HistoricFortGreene.org.

Livable Streets - Formerly known as the traffic committee, the life of the street is the heart of the neighborhood. Get involved at streets@HistoricFortGreene.org.

Triangle Parks - Develop opportunities for small green space improvements; each new green space brings much to the neighborhood. E-mail Richard Norton to find out how you can get involved at Richard@HistoricFortGreene.org or parks@HistoricFortGreene.org.



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Light Refreshments at 7pm.

Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 S. Oxford Street (corner of S. Oxford & Lafayette Ave.)

Meeting Room, entrance on South Oxford Street

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NEWSCENES

PUNK & PEARL, 89 Fort Greene Place, 718 330-0300. Going out on a night on the town? This vintage (the new contemporary) boutique specializes in "going out items," all hand-picked from different vendors: dresses, earrings, bracelets, skirts, bodysuits with affordable price tags, \$25 to \$400. The dynamic owners, La Toya Williams and Sherin Browne, started with trunk show type events then added a creative designer, Tyrese Anderson, to try their Punk & Pearl brand. The funky contemporary and affordable site is here. Email: Punk.n.Pearl@gmail.com.

SUPERNOVA, 741 Fulton Street, 718 243-1205. Flirty, glam boutique created by sibling owners Lexx and Nova Perry captures the essence of 8th Street in the Village during its prime time. You'll find red carpet gowns, edgy accessories, and graphic Ts. Come in and browse among the collection put together by Lexx, who travels all over the world to personally select the mass-produced and hand-crafted items. Established two years ago, (how did we miss it?) it remains fresh. lexxperry.com.

FULTON GRAND, 1011 Fulton Street at Grand. 718 399-2240. The specialty is craft beer, from small American breweries, with some Belgian and European beers. Opened last August, the establishment is intimate unpretentious with wide-plank flooring garnered from a plumbing supply office by its owners Kevin Mulcahey and Luke McDermott. Luke himself will greet you from behind the bar. Part of a new community, this is a perfect spot to take a friend relax and unwind.

BUKA, 946 Fulton Street, 347 763 0619. Authentic Nigerian cuisine, live local Afro-Funk music on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Favorite dishes are goat stew and pepper soup. Owners Nat Goldberg and Looknan Mashood, architects, designed and built out the expansive space themselves - gracious restaurant in back, cozier bar with band space in front. Rich offerings to be savored.

NATIONAL, Thai Restaurant and Bar 723 Fulton Street 718 522 3510. Neighborhood restaurant offering authentic Thai cuisine at affordable prices. The modern interior was designed by owners Andrew Jerro and Ariel Apricio-Jerro featuring their signature open kitchens and exposed brick walls. Popular dishes are the salads Yum Gai and Yum Nuur, or entree Pad See Yue. Try this cuisine, you'll find it's all good.

BROOKLYN VICTORY GARDEN, market, 920 Fulton between Washington and St. James. 718 398-9100. Local food and gift items from local artists. Poultry and meats are from pastured or grass fed sources, cheeses from regional farms. The owners, Tess Gill and Tom Barros support local entrepreneurs. Hours: weekdays 7am to 9pm; weekends 8am to 8pm; closed Tuesdays. brooklynvictorygarden.com.

THE EMERSON, (as in Ralph Waldo) bar, 561 Myrtle Avenue between Emerson & Classon. 347 763-1310. Owners Sam Barron, Tom Wentworth and owner/manager Gina Jankowski provide the classic comfortable ambience with a combination art-deco vintage feel. While enjoying a cocktail with a poetic label such as the Longfellow or the Emerson mixed by laidback

attentive bartender, Kevin, you may take in the art works, shoot a game of pool, watch a film or on Thur, Friday and Sat at 10pm, check out a local DJ. Hours: Sun-Wed 5pm-2am; Thur, Fri, & Sat 5pm-4am.

BROOKLYN STONE BOUTIQUE, specialty apparel, 366 Myrtle (between Adelphi & Clermont), 347 763-2041. Dresses, foot ware, jewelry and accessories. Owner Regina Stone brings to our neighborhood, the kind of trendy exclusive place she found in Manhattan. She wants to make you feel comfortable while encouraging you to try something flattering that you wouldn't try otherwise. Look forward to once a month events, trunk shows, parties with novelty items and make up artist. Hrs: Tue - Sat 12pm - 8pm. closed Sun. Mondays by appointment. brooklynstoneboutique@gmail.com.

THIRST BAR À VIN, (restaurant and bar) 629 Classon Avenue at Pacific 718 857-9227. "Slow wines," natural wines of small production, and "Scratch Food," Provence style; classic décor but cozy atmosphere, a communal table. Emilia Valencia and Michael Yarmark, owners of the popular Thirst Wine Merchants bring us this new hot spot. Popular menu items include Provençal Braised Beef, Dried Fruit Upside-down Cake, Pumpkin Gratin. On the wine side, Moulin Bulle Rose from the Loire, Maxime Magnon La Démarrante. Hours: Tu-Thur 5pm-11pm, Fri & Sat 5pm-midnite, closed Sun & Mon. Thirstbar.blogspot.com.



Fort Greene Association is on Facebook, become a Fan

Yes, I want to support the efforts of the Fort Greene Association. NL
 Enclosed is my donation. (Check One)

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The FGA has special membership packages for local businesses and community organizations contact membership@HistoricFortGreene.org to learn more.

Please make your check payable to:
FORT GREENE ASSOCIATION, INC.
 And mail to:
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 PO Box 170663
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Find out more about the FGA at:
www.HistoricFortGreene.org

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The Fort Greene Association salutes the following for their participation in our Holiday Season outreach. Please support these merchants who give so generously to our neighborhood.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 17 Greene Farm | ICI Restaurant |
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| BAM | Kif |
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| Best Buy Liquors and Wines | Not Rays Pizza |
| Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music | NYC School Help |
| Brooklyn Public House | Olea Mediterranean Taverna |
| Cookie's - The Kid's Department Store | One Greene Sushi |
| Crunch Fitness | Penguin Young Readers Group |
| Deniz | Pequena |
| Dino | Rice |
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