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H I S T O R I C Fort Greene Association N E W S L E T T E R

APRIL, 2005

The Call(ing)

In recent months, many of you have raised your hand to volunteer for the FGA. Unfortunately, what often happens in volunteer organizations is that lists of volunteers get compiled, are left in a pile, and nothing happens. This is not the fault of the volunteers; mind you it is just that it takes a concerted effort to bring aboard new volunteers.

So in March, the FGA hosted its first ever Volunteer Welcome event, and it was a huge success. Some new volunteers got to know all that the FGA was up to, they got to know some of the people who are on the FGA board, and they found some tangible ways in which they could contribute their considerable skills and efforts.

But then, there was that call. It seemed a simple RSVP from someone who regrettably was not able to make the event. We had a very nice chat and I told him what he missed. Then we talked about his area of interest: the parks in Fort Greene. After a few minutes of expressing his opinions, including a few about what he said should be different, the caller abruptly stopped. It was his next statement that really got my attention.

"Well, I guess if I have all these opinions I should get involved so that I can express them."

Perfect, a person who cares with opinions to express and the determination to turn those thoughts and ideas into action.

Welcome to the FGA!

Phillip Kellogg FGA Chair

PS: The FGA is committed to doing more of these welcome events. The next group will be welcomed in May and there will be more groups after that.

FGA Traffic

The FGA Traffic Committee has successfully lobbied the New York City Department of Transportation [DOT] to change the light patterns at 7-Corners (where Fulton Street, Hanson Place and South Oxford Street all intersect). The lights are now timed to give preference to pedestrians. Cars coming up Hanson Place now have the green before those coming down Greene Avenue, and pedestrians crossing Fulton (between the hardware store and sushi restaurant) now get the resulting green first. Because of the complexity of the intersection, it is still not 100% ideal for pedestrians, but it is a step in the right direction. The FGA greatly appreciates DOT's receptiveness in changing the light patterns. If you have other traffic issues you would like to report or to get involved, contact the FGA today.

In an update from a previous story, CB2 voted to disapprove the recommendation of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee for acceptance of parking meters in our area. It is possible that DOT will install meters anyway against the vote of CB2.

Move it! Move it!

Fewer Days of Alternate Side of the Street Parking?

Why do Park Slope and Brooklyn Heights only have two days of Alternate Side of the Street Parking while Fort Greene has four? At the request of the FGA and with the help of Councilperson Tish James the Department of Sanitation is open to performing a study of the current policy and to determine if Fort Greene can do with only two days a week of Alternate Side Parking [ASP].

To make this happen, the Department of Sanitation needs to hear from the affected community.

If you would like to change the number of days of ASP, make yourself heard. The FGA is conducting a poll at our next meeting on April 18th as well as online at www.historicfortgreene.org. Log on and express your point-of-view. The results of the poll will be forwarded to the Department of Sanitation as well as Community Board 2.

In the meantime, you may want to sign-up for "e-mail blasts" from the FGA. Which, in addition to all kinds of news and information about things going on in and around Fort Greene, often include updates about ASP regulations! Sign-up now at www.HistoricFortGreene.org

FGA / Atlantic Yards

Panel discussion goes on with a hitch

Not even the blizzard of Monday, February 28th could keep many Fort Greeners and others from showing up at the FGA-sponsored panel discussion on the controversial development of the Brooklyn Atlantic Yards (BAY) project, one of the largest projects planned for N.Y.C., and one that will affect all of us. However, there was one notable no-show, the developer.

As proposed by the developer, Forest City Ratner (FCRC) of Atlantic Center fame, the project would be comprised of 17 high-rise building, for both commercial and residential use reaching up to 60 stories, and would feature an enclosed basketball arena seating more than 19,000. It is proposed to cover the L.I.R.R. rail yards and adjacent public and privately owned properties, bounded by Dean Street, Atlantic, Vanderbilt, and Flatbush Avenues.

Moderated by Susan Fainstein, Professor and Acting Director of the Urban Planning Program in the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University, the panel was to include James Stuckey, FCRC executive vice president who, just days prior to the scheduled event, cancelled its participation, maintaining a variety of excuses including new modifications to the project plan, and claiming to not having definitively accepted the invitation. That did not deter the other invited panel members from attending, including Councilperson

Letitia James, Irene Van Slyke representing Senator Velmanette Montgomery, P.A.C.C. Executive Director Deb Howard, UNITY Plan Coordinator Marshal Brown, Ludlow Beckett, president of Fulton Area Business Association [FAB], urban planner Simon Bertrang, Gustav Peebles, co-author of the Kim/Peebles Report, Marie Louie of Brooklyn United for Innovative Development [BUILD], and Aricka Westbrook of Myrtle Avenue Revitalization Project [MARP].

The orderly event was successful in positioning the panel members' viewpoints, the responses to questions from the audience, and for airing differing perspectives. Discussions covered environmental, traffic and health issues, the impact on City services and infrastructure, the public's financial responsibility, purported employment opportunities, eminent domain, and the basic lack of community review. The evening ended with attendees peacefully departing, while exchanging dialogues over the enormity of the project and its very likely effect on our neighborhood.

Just days later, the City, State and FCRC signed a non-binding letter of agreement called an M.O.U. [Memorandum Of Understanding] for the 2.5 billion dollar project. This starts a process of environmental review, condemnation proceedings, approval by the state Public Authority Control Board, as well as a number of likely lawsuits. However, in order to build the stadium FCRC must still purchase or lease the rail yards from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority [MTA], a property the MTA intends to put up to all potential bidders for the highest offer.

As currently proposed by FCRC, the FGA is on record as opposing the project. For its complete statement and other related BAY Project information, visit www.HistoricFortGreene.org/arena.html.

All Music, All Talent, All Fort Greene

On Monday, June 20, 2005 the FGA will continue its tradition by holding the annual showcase to celebrate the diverse talent in our neighborhood. The evening will highlight just about every artistic genre there is, from local jazz artists to classical musicians, to fashion. You name it, Fort Greene has got it.

Should you, a family member, or a neighbor be interested in participating call the FGA at 718 875.1855.



FGA Canvas Tote Bags, only \$15 each or complimentary with \$50 membership. Proceeds to benefit the FGA. Available most Saturdays at the Farmer's Market.

# JOIN THE FGA- BECOME AN ACTIVE MEMBER IN OUR COMMUNITY

I am pleased to enclose my membership dues to the Fort Greene Association, Inc.

\_\_\_\$15 Member \_\_\_\$25 Friend \_\_\_\$50 Patron \_\_\_\$100 Corporate \_\_\_\$150 Corporate+ \_\_\_\$200 Angel

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Checks to Fort Greene Association, Inc., Box 170563, Brooklyn, NY 11217-0563

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.

## Like a Breath of Fresh Air!

Spring is here and not far behind is the bounty of all that the Earth has to give. Brought right here to Fort Greene's doorstep; the Farmer's Market at Fort Greene Park, while with us all winter long,



is just about to burst into full swing. For years Fort Greeners have longed for fresh, affordable produce at its peak of perfection, quality poultry and meats with flavor you can taste, bread, milk and eggs so fresh you don't have to worry about the expiration date. The addition of the GreeneMarket in Fort Greene has been a boon to the thousands of Fort Greeners it serves; who stroll along the park on Saturdays along with their dogs, their children and their neighbors. Shopping, talking, and shopping some more. Thanks to all the Farmers that have stuck it out. Spring is here. And the FGA is glad you are here, too.

## Meet the FGA

The FGA is sponsoring a "Join the FGA" table at the weekly Farmer's Market, Saturdays at Washington Park beginning April 2nd. Volunteers are needed to man the table during the two shifts from 8-10 AM or 10-12AM. If your smile is infectious and you would like to help promote the FGA, etc., please call the volunteer coordinator, Fred Lasker, at 718-8751856 or email the FGA.

## Take the Tour(s)

On Sunday, May 1, 2005 from noon to 5pm the Clinton Hill Society once again shows off its treasures at their bi-annual House Tour. Advance tickets are \$20.00 and day of tour tickets \$25.00. Visit the CHS website for further details [www.clintonhillsociety.org](http://www.clintonhillsociety.org).

Another wonderful tour for the gardener in us all is sponsored by the Brownstone Brooklyn Garden District. Sunday, June



5, 2005 11am til 5pm. Advance tickets are \$10.00 and day of tour tickets \$15.00. Tickets can be purchased from Tillie's Coffee Bar 248 DeKalb Avenue, The Forest Floor 659 Vanderbilt Avenue and Hibiscus 564A Vanderbilt Avenue.

## HISTORIC Fort Greene Association

Box 170563, Brooklyn, NY 11217-0563

On the April 18<sup>th</sup> Agenda:

Lights! Camera! Action!  
What's new at the Navy Yard?

Learn about the excitement  
happening at the Navy Yard  
and the Steiner Studios

Come find out what it means to  
all of Fort Greene.



## NEXT FGA MEETING April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005

7:30PM- Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 South Oxford Street, Fort Greene

## GOINGS ON

### NEWSCENES

**CLOTH** - casual contemporary clothing/ 138 Fort Greene Place, 718 403-0223. Wed-Thurs 12-7; Fri-Sun 12-7:30. Neat new shop owned by Zoe Van De Wiele, Fort Greene resident.

**eddy & ferro** - Fort Greene Fashion Cooperative Boutique emerging - contemporary - vintage clothing and accessories 672 Fulton Street phone 718.246.2900 M-F 12-8; Sat 11-8; Sun 11-7 Inviting new space owned by Erica Hutchinson, Clinton Hill resident.

**CLINTON HILL SIMPLY ART GALLERY** - 156A Vanderbilt Avenue 718.852.0227 Bright attractive artspace owned by Lurita "LB" Brown who also owns a Framing Gallery on Myrtle Avenue.

### NEW BABY

**Izadora Duncan BlairChalmers**- February 1, 2005 at 3:15 am - 8lbs 4oz, 21", to Zanne and RobRoy BlairChalmers. "She is our sweetest dream come true."

### MEETINGS

**Fort Greene Association** - Meets Mondays at 7:30 pm, Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 South Oxford Street, Fort Greene. April 18, June 20. Participate in our OPEN FORUM.

**Community Board 2** - Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6 pm. Call CB2 office, 718.596.5410, for location. Attend.

**88th Precinct** - 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:30. Call 718.636.6511 ext 526x for location.

**Brooklyn Artists Breakfast** - 3rd Wednesday of the month, 9am, BODEGAS restaurant, 868 Fulton Street at Clinton Ave (open for breakfast at 8am). Questions: 718.624.5719.

