



# FORT GREENE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

HISTORIC FORT GREENE BROOKLYN

APRIL 2006

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, to become a member, or to volunteer, visit us on the web at [www.HistoricFortGreene.org](http://www.HistoricFortGreene.org)

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Selma Jackson

Gustav Peebles

Peter Vitakis

**Irondale Ensemble Project is proud to underwrite this issue of the Fort Greene Association Newsletter.**

## Fort Greene Park – Too Much of a Good Thing?

Washington Park Block Association to address the impact of large parties held in the park.

## The Visual Arts in Fort Greene.

SONYA (South of the Navy Yard Artists) will give us a sneak-peek at their upcoming FREE studio tour. Fort Greene is blessed with many artists creating in the studios and homes that line our streets. Be prepared to be inspired.

## FREE House Tour Tickets

Everybody who attends the FGA meeting on April 17 will be entered into a drawing for a free pair of tickets to the 2006 Fort Greene Association House Tour (value \$40). Must be present to win.

Location: Community Room of the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 S. Oxford Street, Fort Greene, Brooklyn

## Two-Way Traffic

Often it is the FGA that brings you news and information (aren't those e-mails really great!). Sometimes it is the other way around. That's what makes it a two-way street. On April 17, a portion of the FGA meeting will be turned over to the Washington Park Block Association so they can discuss issues they feel impacts Fort Greene residents far beyond their own street. They approached the FGA to ask for this forum. We are glad to accommodate their request, and look forward to hearing what they have to say.

Another opportunity for you to turn the tables is during the "Community Forum" portion of FGA meetings. That is where you can sign-up to speak to the audience for: 03 minutes on any topic you choose. We've had people express frustration about new city regulations for homeowners, urge the FGA Board to tackle certain issues, announce the opening a new retail store and more.

The floor is yours, so take it.  
Phillip Kellogg  
Chair

(To sign up to receive the e-mails the FGA sends with news and information of interest to Fort Greeners, visit [www.HistoricFortGreene.org](http://www.HistoricFortGreene.org))

## House Tour 2006

## Transition Fort Greene

### House Tour Fund-raising efforts off to a great start.

In addition to allowing all of us to show off our great neighborhood, the Fort Greene Association House Tour is the FGA's single-largest fundraising event. The funds raised go right back into the Fort Greene community through the advocacy efforts and public programs of the FGA.

We are proud to announce that we have sold-out what is called the "Brownstone"-level of sponsorship. These generous companies have signed on and our thanks to each and every one of them!

**Aguayo & Huebener**

**Brooklyn Properties**

**theCarltonMews.com**

**The Corcoran Group**

**Eva M. Daniels Realty**

**Location Location Location**

**One Hanson Place**

**Prudential Douglas Elliman**

**Scott Schnall Consulting Engineer**

**Trachtman & Bach**

**Universal Mortgage**

Sponsorship opportunities are still available at a variety of levels making it possible for everyone to share in this celebration of Fort Greene. For details call 718-875-1855 or send an e-mail to:

[thefga@HistoricFortGreene.org](mailto:thefga@HistoricFortGreene.org). Deadline to sign-up to be recognized as a participating sponsor is Wednesday, April 19.

## Sprouting up at the Farmer's Market

This spring, be on the lookout for the freshest volunteers at the Farmer's Market at Fort Greene Park. The FGA will be setting up a table where you can purchase House Tour Tickets in advance (saving \$5 on each ticket in the process), buy a Fort Greene Tote Bag, obtain membership information, or simply ask questions. Stop by and say hello.

## Half-Price House Tour Tickets

Volunteer to be a house sitter, have some fun and get your ticket for only \$10. Contact Fred Lasker for information. Send him an e-mail at [f.lasker@verizon.net](mailto:f.lasker@verizon.net) or call 718-875-1856.

## The PS20 Band Rocks!



Thanks to everyone who came out to the FGA meeting held in March at PS20 on Adelphi Street. Performing on the stage of the school's spacious auditorium was the youngest jazz band we've ever seen (PS20 is a Pre-K – 5th Grade School). And they stole the show. Directed by Lonnie Hampton and Robert Rutledge, the music program at the school was one of the many special initiatives the audience heard about from Principal Sean Keaton. In addition, there was news of a new middle school opening in Fort Greene. Allison Howry, Planning Team member of the Urban Assembly Academy of Arts & Letters, described the goals and approach for the new school, which will be located on the PS20 campus starting with the 6th grade this fall. Thank you to the staff, the educators and the parent's group of PS20 for allowing us to have the FGA meeting in their school and thanks to FGA Board Member Eva Daniels for arranging the meeting. A special thank you goes to the parents of the band. Staying late after school was never so much fun.

## They're Flying Still!

by dorris gaines golomb. FGA Board Member

"Look for the Fort Greene Banner along the route as you enjoy The House Tour" was a publicity slogan you would have seen for our 1985 House Tour. That was the first year they flew. Here's a look behind the scenes, involving many steps to their accomplishment 21 years ago.

My husband, Leon, and I moved here in June 1980 and rather soon became involved in the neighborhood so we were newcomers when we attended our first pre-House Tour meetings under Howard Pitsch and Alfredo Muglio. I felt that if there were

a "marker" to make each stop more easily findable, it would give us a very visible identity, a trademark and the Tour would move more smoothly and would be fun as well. My idea -- a Banner. Howard and Alfredo OK'd the possibility -- give it a try.

The biggest part, to me, would be getting the funding. These needed to be well done, substantial, handsome banners of which we could all be proud.

And we needed a design which I persuaded my husband, artist / photographer, to provide. Several possibilities were weeded to two simple but effective designs, 3 versions, price estimates from low to high.

In the back of my mind early on was the Williamsburgh Bank -- the symbol of the Bank at the entrance to Fort Greene seemed like a natural to me. And it was.

I made an appointment with the head of the Bank and took a presentation purpose, sketches, description, and estimates -- to the meeting, attended also by Robert W. Stober, Jr, Assistant Vice President, who became my guide and support at the Bank. They were wonderful to work with. They decided "yes" quickly and chose the most expensive version which included the "Fort Greene" wording. We promised them tour brochure credit for the following 3 years. They were the primary funders, with an additional contribution anonymously from a corporate funder.

After research, I chose for fabrication "ART Flag" the same company who at that time, made the banners for MOMA. Choices were made with care -- correct fabric to withstand rain and wind; options for hanging sleeve across top to accept pole and grommets for hanging by hooks; 10 are single fabric thickness - 5 double; serif type and size to show name clearly. Colors - my wish was for clear, bright colors saying "Spring" you see the choices -- yellow, blue, green.

The wooden supports for the banner poles in the upper windows were made and contributed at no charge by architect Stephen B, Jacobs and Associates through his workshop on South Portland which is still in use.

Full circle. New Williamsburgh. Seasoned Banners. They have flown also occasionally at marathon time or for an FGA party, but always on House Tour day to guide our guests -- welcome and celebration for 21 years.

So, "Look for the Fort Greene Banner" ... again!



## Willoughby and Adams Street Pedestrian Plaza



The New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) intends to test a pedestrian plaza in Downtown Brooklyn. This plaza will be created by prohibiting vehicular use of contiguous portions of Willoughby Street and the Adams Street East Service Road. Specifically, Willoughby Street between Pearl and Adams Street and Adams Street's East Service Road between Willoughby Street and Adams Street's off-slip would be closed to vehicles.

The initial plaza would consist of planters, benches, chairs and tables placed in the roadway (see above plan and rendering). Bike racks will be installed on the sidewalk. If the test proves successful it would be reconstructed as a landscaped plaza with the road raised to the level of the sidewalk. Other specific aspects of the proposal include: changing Willoughby Street operation from two-way to one-way eastbound between Pearl Street and Jay Street; and improving curbside delivery access by increasing the amount of available space for deliveries on surrounding streets.

The proposed plaza is a major pedestrian corridor with over 2,600 pedestrians moving through in the peak hour. By contrast, only about 130 vehicles per hour use this street segment at its peak. The plaza is uniquely located to serve transit riders, the Fulton Mall, and the expanding Renaissance Plaza.

The project intends to address a number of issues:

- Safety -- The project eliminates the conflict between vehicles entering the east service road of Adams Street from Willoughby Street and from the main roadway of Adams Street
- Safety -- The project area is subject to high rates of illegal parking which in some cases block visibility and create safety concerns. The project will eliminate many opportunities for illegal parking
- Capacity -- As Downtown Brooklyn grows, the number of pedestrians on the streets is increasing. The pedestrian plaza increases pedestrian space along a major pedestrian corridor between the two Borough Hall subway complexes
- Open Space -- The pedestrian plaza would add nearly 7,000 square feet of new, attractive, usable open space to Downtown Brooklyn

The project thus supports the continued revitalization of Downtown Brooklyn and reflects the City's strategy to emphasize mass transit as the means to get to Downtown Brooklyn and walking as the best way to get around it. The project is consistent with the goals of DOT's two major area planning studies: the Downtown Brooklyn Traffic Calming Project and the Downtown Brooklyn Transportation Blueprint.

The DOT has performed a traffic analysis indicating that diverted vehicle trips can be accommodated on nearby streets. The Department plans to comply with all provisions of Local Law 24, requiring analysis and public review for City initiated street closures that last greater than 180 days.

The Department hopes to install the test plaza in Spring 2006.

*NB- The FGA has submitted a letter to CB2 expressing support for this DOT proposal.*

## Two Sidewalk Cafes Proposed On DeKalb Avenue Block

A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 18, concerning requests by Fort Greene restaurants Madiba and Sushi D to operate sidewalk cafes. Both restaurants are on DeKalb Avenue with Madiba at the corner of Carlton Avenue and Sushi D at the other end of the block at Adelphi. At the public hearing, the restaurants will present their case to the Transportation and Public Safety Committee of Community Board 2 [CB2]. The public is invited to attend the hearing and to comment on the proposals.

MADIBA's request is for 18 tables seating 36 people, to run along the entire front of the restaurant - butting up against the home at 197 DeKalb Avenue. SUSHI D's application is for 6 tables to seat 24 patrons. Two of those tables would be in front of the restaurant and the other 4 would continue around the corner along Adelphi Street. At the point where those tables end, there is a long, low garage and it appears there is a new bar under construction inside.

Generally, sidewalk cafes are viewed favorably because of the festive atmosphere they bring to our streets. Plus, there is often an added sense of security by having people around. And for many restaurants, the added business a sidewalk café brings is crucial to their success... and for some, their survival. There are quality-of-life issues that can come up. And when they do, the impact can fall disproportionately on the people living closest. That is why it is good that CB2 conducts these hearings and the FGA urges you to participate.

CB2 Public Hearing  
Tuesday, April 18, 6:15pm  
St. Francis College  
180 Remsen Street (in Brooklyn Heights, just off Court Street)

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Box 170563, Brooklyn, NY 11217-0563

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Explore exquisite Victorian interiors.

Enjoy extraordinary 360° views from the tower of the historic Williamsburg Savings Bank building. And see an exhibit — created especially for the Fort Greene House tour — that looks at modern architecture in and around Fort Greene, including never-before seen scale models and plans of future projects by some of the most exciting architects in the world.

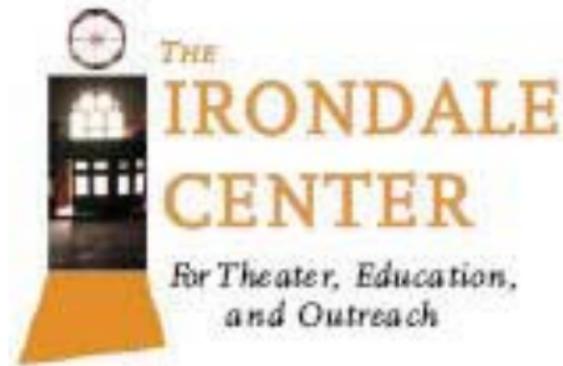
Transition **Fort Greene**

THE 28TH HOUSE TOUR

The 2006 Fort Greene Association House Tour  
Sunday, May 7. Noon-5pm. Rain or Shine

Advance tickets \$20. Available now at [www.HistoricFortGreene.org](http://www.HistoricFortGreene.org). And in Fort Greene (cash only) at the BAM Box Office, Yú Interiors and Tillies. Tickets on day of tour \$25, available at the the start of the tour in the BAM Garden, Fulton Street at Lafayette Avenue.

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## The Irondale Center --- A Simple Room, A Great Possibility

Catch a sneak peak at one of these upcoming events:

Clowns, Politics, & Theater --- April 27, 28, & 29 at 8pm  
Seuss: A Celebration of the Imagination --- April 29 and May  
27 at 3pm

Fundies! --- May 25, 26, 27 at 8pm

Call 718-488-9233 or email [info@irondale.org](mailto:info@irondale.org) for tickets and more information.