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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

JUNE, 2005

...and Viewers Like You!

This issue of the FGA Newsletter has an exciting new feature: a word from our Sponsor.

The FGA is growing, reaching more people, and handling more and more projects. And though the FGA is an all-volunteer organization, accomplishing these things costs money.

In order for the FGA to continue taking on new projects (like the recent "adoption" of PS 20), our fundraising efforts have to be expanded. The proceeds from the house tour, held once every two years, are just not enough to get the job done.

That's why this issue of the FGA Newsletter includes a special insert, featuring a message from the generous people underwriting this issue. This sponsorship helps pay for printing and postage, allowing the FGA to put resources towards the many other projects in the works (such as lobbying the MTA to open the G-Train entrance at S. Portland, staging that special meeting on the renovation of the monument in Fort Greene Park, and working to protect our historic neighborhood from overdevelopment). Plus, handling the message in the model of those announcements on public television, allows us to keep the body of the newsletter free of conventional advertising.

So, thank you to Lee Solomon and Brown Harris Stevens, for helping us kick off this program. That support and contributions - from neighbors like you - is helping to get things done for Fort Greene.

Phillip Kellogg
FGA Chair

If you or your company would like to know more about underwriting an upcoming issue of the FGA Newsletter, please send an email to theFGA@HistoricFortGreene.org.

Join us...

at a different location than usual on Monday, June 20, 2005 for our 6th annual tribute to the local talent of Fort Greene. Performances include a fashion show, young tap dancers from the Brooklyn Music School, a jazz musician as well as the wonderful voices of the Lafayette Inspirational Ensemble. Beginning 7:30pm, ART/NY South Oxford Space, 138 South Oxford Street (between Han-son and Atlantic). See you there

Hurray for Hollywood

All we needed were Kleig lights sweeping the night sky as a huge number of neighbors poured into the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church for our April general meeting "Lights! Camera! Action!". It was one of our most attended meetings and we were thrilled that so many of you came to help us learn and have fun.

Our Navy Yard neighbors gave us a great presentation about their plans and then answered questions from the attendees. The audience was reluctant to leave --

lingering in the Church and then continuing to talk on the sidewalk outside. A good sign we think.

Our enthusiastic thanks to our guest speakers. We hope you were there, had fun, learned, and enjoyed the evening. If you were not able to attend but would like more information visit the FGA website at www.HistoricFortGreene.org/meetings.html for a listing of the speakers and their contact information.

FGA Traffic

Improving G train Service in Fort Greene

The campaign to fix the G train has started with a bang! Our first order of business is to get the South Portland exit at the Fulton Street station (below Moe's) open. We have had tremendous response to the letter writing campaign, and over 250 letters have been sent to the MTA asking for a turnstile to be opened here to provide straphangers the option of taking either the C or G train from Hoyt to get to Fort Greene. This is one of the first issues the FGA intends to target regarding the G train. If you would like to join in this effort, please visit the FGA website, download the letter to the MTA, and send it in. We appreciate everyone's help.

Literary Honors

Richard Wright to be honored at Fort Greene Park literary celebration.

On Saturday, June 18, 2005, as part of the all-day Leaves of Grass / Walt Whitman celebration in Fort Greene Park, the Richard Wright Project [RWP] is sponsoring three events to honor the legacy of Wright's literature. A neighborhood resident for several years, Wright wrote portions of his classic American novel Native Son while sitting on benches in this very park. All three events will be held in Monument Plaza at the top of the hill in the park:

11am-12pm: All children are invited to a poetry workshop focused on the haikus of Richard Wright. The workshop will be led by community resident and teacher Angeli Rasbury, an award-winning writer.

12-1pm: A distinguished group of African-American writers including Kenji Jasper, Danny Simmons, and Miles Marshall Lewis will collectively read a Richard Wright short story and discuss the impact that Wright had on their development as writers.

1-2pm: Acclaimed Brooklyn musician Eric Frazier will perform, along with his band, an original jazz score, which will include a recitation of Wright's poetry.

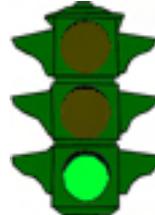
The whole day, from 11am to 11pm, will be filled with events in and around the park dedicated to writing and the neighborhood's literary history. Much of the programming will be centered on Walt Whitman and his seminal book Leaves of Grass. Like Richard Wright, Whitman lived in Fort Greene, and in fact helped to establish the park.

The Richard Wright Project was launched in late 2002 by community residents Ruth Goldstein, Johnny Temple, Angeli Rasbury, and others to celebrate Wright's contributions to the world of literature, and his efforts to promote racial equality. The first best-selling African-American author in this country's history, Richard Wright once declared, "All literature is protest." A volunteer-run group, RWP grew out of a successful effort by Fort Greene residents to establish a bench in their park's Monument Plaza in memory of Wright, who lived in the neighborhood during a crucial period of his writing career. In October 2002, RWP staged a highly successful series of neighborhood events exploring various aspects of Wright's work. Through the support of State Senator Velmanette Montgomery and others in the community, RWP's efforts are bearing beautiful fruit.

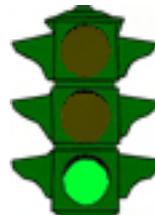
For more information, contact Johnny Temple at 212-433-1875.

The Results Are In

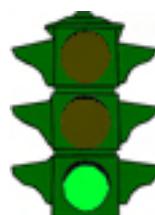
During the month of April the FGA conducted a poll to determine if Fort Greene residents would be in favor of reducing the number of Alternate Side of the Street Parking [ASP] days from the current four to two. THE FGA will present the results to the Department of Sanitation as well as Community Board 2. We received many completed questionnaires; following are some of the key results.



Question: Is your street generally clean?
YES 82.51%
NO 16.35%
DON'T KNOW 0.76%



Question: Do neighbors help maintain the street's cleanliness?
YES 80.61%
NO 17.49%
DON'T KNOW 1.52%



Question: Would you like to reduce street sweeping by 2 days and reduce ASP to 2 days per week?
YES 79.47%
NO 17.11%
DON'T KNOW 3.04%



Question: How many parking tickets did you receive in the last 12 months due to ASP?
NO TICKETS 29.28%
1 TICKET 20.91%
2 TICKETS 20.15%
3 TICKETS 13.31%
4 OR MORE TKTS 16.35%

SUMMER EVENTS
For listings and happening in and around Fort Greene visit our website at www.HistoricFortGreene.org/events.html

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.

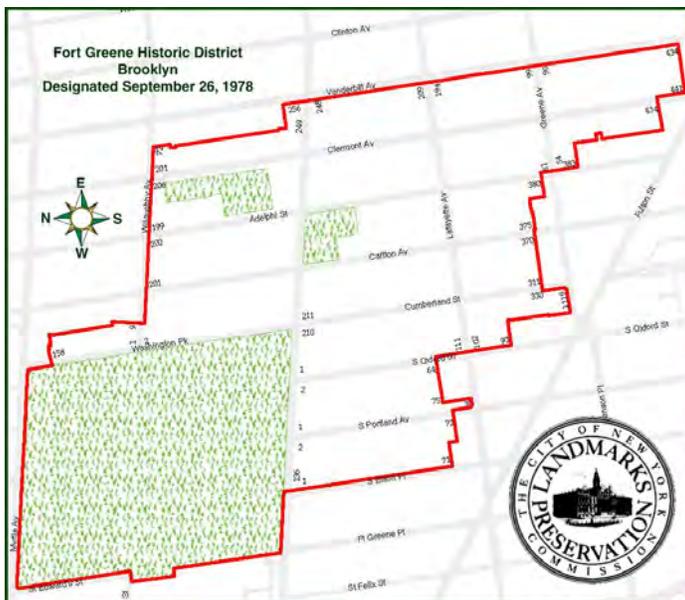
Ask the Landmarks Lady

In continuing our support of our community the FGA has a new email address, Landmarks@HistoricFortGreene.org.

Email us with your questions and comments regarding Landmarks Preservation and we will try to help. Following are some tips from our Landmarks Lady, dorris gains golomb.

Summer is upon us and some of you may be planning to do some renovating; Great! To help you know our historic neighborhood better and avoid any problems, here is a map of the district as designated in 1978 by the City's Landmark Preservation Commission [LPC].

Exterior changes to buildings in the HD are under the jurisdiction of the LPC and before you make any change to your building's exterior, do yourself a wise favor -- Get in touch with the LPC first. Contact Diane Jackier, Director of Community Affairs at 212 669-7923 who will direct you to a staff person to answer your questions. About 90% of inquiries are handled by staff. A phone call can save you time and trouble and perhaps money.



1 or 2 cautions --

Do not assume that because your neighbor down the street has a certain kind of window, it will be OK for you to get the same. Not necessarily. Windows are the category with the

most problems in homes. Do not assume that painting a brown door green will be OK -- maybe, maybe not. Clear it with the LPC.

For many changes you will need a Buildings Department and a LPC permit before work begins. If the contractor says, "Oh, I'll take care of the permits", tell him you will need to see the permits before he begins. Beware the guy who comes along saying he can do the windows for you in a half day. He can, but they may well be white aluminum "quick-ies" almost always unacceptable in historic districts.

The above are just 1 or 2 cautions but, to put you on much

firmer ground, we want to make the block associations an offer we hope you won't refuse. We have a limited supply of the LPC's "Rowhouse Manual" the primer of preservation information.

Be happy and historic.

HISTORIC Fort Greene Association

Box 170563, Brooklyn, NY 11217-0563

On the June 20th Agenda:

- ALL MUSIC
- ALL TALENT
- ALL FORT GREENE

Our annual showcase to celebrate the diverse talent in our neighborhood.



NEXT FGA MEETING June 20th, 2005

7:30PM- ART/NY South Oxford Space, 138 South Oxford St. (btwn Hanson and Atlantic), Fort Greene

GOINGS ON

NEWSCENES

abistro -154 Carlton Avenue, owned by fellow Fort Greeners, Abdoul and Cassandra Gueye. This charming spot is open Tues-Fri noon -10pm for Lunch/Dinner and Sat-Sun noon -10pm for Brunch/Dinner.....while there, say hello to their lovely daughter Sonia.

LIV-I-CULTURE - Re-opening, 347 Myrtle Avenue, Arts cooperative with juice and vegetarian bar. Owners cooperative model that includes: Ras-I, Betta Broad, Sima Katz.

BOO'S BAGELS - 694 Fulton Street, 718.701.1111 Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. Internet Access, Kid Friendly. Check them out and play some chess.

CAFÉ SHANE, DEUX - 919 Fulton Street btwn Clinton and Waverly, 718.398.1933 6 days a week. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

DIFFERENT CLEANERS - 696 Fulton Street, 718.596.0818 Take a look and congratulate Jody on the attractive renovation of her shop. Hardworking, as her 3 children grow up, she has been here, serving us for 14 years.

NEW BABY

Lucien William Weiss- November 1, 2004 at 2:44 am - 7lbs 2oz; to Lars Weiss and Darcy Miro. "...our greatest creation"

GOOD WISHES

We send our good wishes to **Tom**, "Academy Restaurant" owner, who has a serious operation recently. Be good to yourself, Tom, and we'll see you soon.