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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

MARCH, 2005

What a sight!

Thirty-five people packed into the parlor floor of a townhouse on a cold, February weeknight. People were sitting everywhere; on chairs and sofas, the arms of chairs and sofas, on foot stools and even on the floor. They were all neighbors who live on the three block stretch of Washington Park, opposite Fort Greene Park. It was the first meeting of their new Block Association.

What brought them together was an issue that affected a large number of homeowners on the block. When a couple of people reached out to a New York City agency for help, they all got summonses instead! Now they are working together on that and a host of other concerns they have in common.

Their Block Association doesn't have a name yet. And they still have to elect officers. But they've already had a meeting with Council Member James. And they've reached out to the Block Association one street over to make plans to work together on issues affecting residents on both streets. In the process, they are getting to know more of their neighbors and getting more action from city agencies than they ever would as individuals.

The Fort Greene Association celebrates the birth of this new Block Association and looks forward to working closely with them. If more people got together and formed Block Associations, or reactivated ones that have simply gone dormant, Fort Greene would be better for it. You don't need thirty-five people to get started, just a handful of neighbors meeting and talking in a living room and you're off and running.

To talk to someone at the Fort Greene Association about how to get your own Block Association started, send an e-mail to fort.greene@verizon.net.

Phillip Kellogg
FGA Chair

'A Table' Closes, What's Next?

After five years, A Table on Lafayette and Adelphi closed its doors on February 11th. The FGA is sad to see them go. Landlord DK Holland says, "JB Caillet and Kate Hamilton were truly pioneers and people have been mourning the loss. However, there was a lot of competition for the space because of its ideal residential location. Consequently, another really wonderful family style restaurant will take its place - opening around May 1 for breakfast, lunch and dinner 7 days a week. I turned down a high end restaurant, a trendy hip Williamsburg restaurant, a wine bar and a gourmet deli in favor of a family style restaurant there."



Some Teeth for the LPC

A landmark Landmarks bill passes. Recently passed by the New York City Council and signed into law on February 15th, Mayor Bloomberg finally gave the Landmarks Preservation Commission [LPC] some teeth. The "Demolition by Neglect" bill, aka. Intro 403-B, gives the LPC the enforcement authority necessary to protect landmark structures from owners who fail to maintain their buildings adequately. This legislation authorizes the LPC to assess civil penalties for the failure to maintain a landmarked property or a property within an historic district in good repair. The new law while not concerned about a homeowner's flaking brownstone façade does guard against a property's significant deterioration.

With the power to access a civil penalty of up to the fair market value of the property, the LPC finally has some authority over negligent owners who allow their buildings to fall into substantial disrepair resulting in such structural damage that the building collapses or has to be demolished as a public hazard.

The Fort Greene Association joined the Historic Districts Council and dozens of other historic preservation groups throughout New York City to lobby for the passage of this important legislation. The FGA extends its thanks to NYC Council Member Tish James, who was a co-sponsor of this bill.

Parking Meters on Fulton and Lafayette?

The CB2 Committee on Transportation and Public Safety voted to support "the concept" of metered parking on the commercial blocks of Fulton Street and Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene. The merchants of Fulton Street through the leadership of the Fulton Area Business Association [FAB] had requested parking meters with the hope that decreasing long term parking would increase parking spaces for customers, thereby increasing business and hence neighborhood recognition. The FGA supported the merchants in their proposal while asking that it go forward in tandem with the program of Residential Parking Permits that has been in discussed with Council Member Tish James. Parking for Fort Greene residents has gone from bad to worse and is nearly impossible for those

living near the new Atlantic Terminal Mall. The full Community Board will act on the Parking Meter proposal at its March meeting. The full proposal is posted on the FGA website at <http://www.historicfortgreene.org/traffic.html>. The FGA will continue to keep you up to date on this proposal. Be sure to contact us to let us know what you think. If you would like to send an email to CB2 stating your position they can be reached at CB2K@nyc.rr.com.

The Grand Tour

With the weather getting warmer thoughts turn to the idea of the neighborhoods house and garden tours.

Sponsored by the Clinton Hill Society this year it's Clinton Hill's turn to show off its treasures. The tour being held on May 1st from 12 noon to 5 pm rain or shine will begin at 320 Washington Avenue (between Lafayette and DeKalb Avenues). Tickets purchased on the day of the tour cost \$25 but advance purchase tickets for \$20 are available at the following locations: Tillie's Coffee Bar (248 De Kalb at Vanderbilt), Yu Interiors (15 Greene Avenue), Sister's Community Hardware (902 Fulton Street), Joseph's Hair Cutting Salon (97 Seventh) Avenue at Union Street, and Chris' Creations (645 Vanderbilt Avenue). Tickets can also be purchased at www.clintonhillsociety.org.

If flowers are your thing, the Brownstone Brooklyn Garden District is sponsoring its Sunday Garden Walk. To be held on June 5th from 11 am until 5 pm; it is a stroll through many of the wonderful hidden gardens. Advance tickets can be purchased from Tillie's Coffee Bar, The Forest Floor (659 Vanderbilt Avenue), and Hibiscus (564A Vanderbilt Avenue).

Whatever your interest, be sure to mark your calendars to take advantage of these great events.

Re-zoning Update

Recently the FGA met with Regina Myer, director of the Brooklyn Office of the New York City Department of City Planning [DCP], to discuss their efforts in achieving the FGA goal of contextual zoning for the areas of Fort Greene and Clinton Hill. Also in attendance were Sarah Goldwyn and Winton von Engel from the Department of City Planning, Robert Perris district manager for CB2, and Sharon Barnes and Alfred Chiodo representing the Clinton Hill Society [CHS]. Both the FGA and CHS were impressed with the efforts made by DCP and were given assurances that a ULURP certification application could be released by August of this year. The Fort Greene Association applauds the efforts of DCP and looks forward to the day when this important goal is complete.

CONGRATULATIONS WEB WINNERS

Kathy Urbina & Tim Stoenner winners of the "Dinner for 2 Contest" courtesy of ici Restaurant

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 _____
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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.

Question: How many letters does it take to change a light bulb?

A lowly streetlight is burning bright after more than nine months of darkness. The residents on the block had been making calls to 3-1-1 for months yet nothing had happened. The walks home opposite a school that has no lights on at night were spooky in the darkness. The FGA, responding to requests for help pitched in with letters and calls to the Department of Transportation and enlisted the help of the 88th Precinct and even State Senator Montgomery's office. Unfortunately, two weeks after the light was repaired, it went out again! And the whole thing started all over again. Moral of the story: when you call 3-1-1 keep a record of those tracking numbers the operators give you.

Volunteer Update

Many of you who have expressed interest in one of our FGA Committees will be receiving an invitation to the first volunteer party to be held in March. With the New Year well under way we hope to see

many of you there so we can continue to bring good things to Fort Greene. If you didn't get your invitation for first party, don't fret there will be more to come. There is a lot to be done. Volunteer.

Try this at home

The Brooklyn Public Library recently completed a digitization of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle from 1841 to 1902.

Brooklyn's own daily newspaper, The Brooklyn Daily Eagle was published from 1841 to 1955, and then revived for a short time from 1960 to 1963. The paper provides a window into Brooklyn's past, as well as documentation of national and international events that shaped our history. Approximately 147,000 pages of newspaper in various digital formats are contained online. Searching is easy, either by date of issue or by keyword.

If you are interested in the genealogy of your home or any part of Brooklyn visit www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/eagle.

Type in your home address and see what pops up. You'll be amazed. Look at this interesting article about dear Old Ned from the Eagle on June 18th, 1901.

NO STATUE OF GEN. FOWLER FOR PROSPECT PARK PLAZA

Municipal Art Commission Refuses to Allow Monument Erected at That Point.

MAY BE PUT UP IN FORT GREENE.

Fourteenth Regiment Veterans' Association Believes That Authorities Will Consent to That Plan.

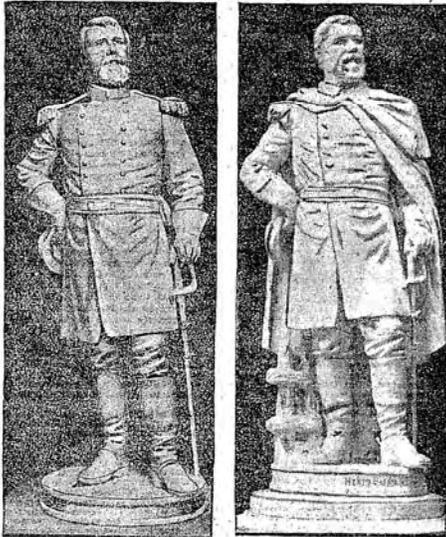
The veterans' association of the Fourteenth Regiment of Brooklyn has been compelled to abandon the project of erecting a statue of General Edward B. Fowler in the plaza of Prospect Park because of the refusal of the Municipal Art Commission of Greater New York to give its consent to the request of the association to that effect.

It is now proposed to erect the statue in Fort Greene Park, at Myrtle avenue and Washington Park. A conference will be held in a few days with Park Commissioner Brewer of Brooklyn with this purpose in view, and it is believed by the veterans' association that consent may be secured from the authorities to place the monument at this point.

A meeting of the monument committee of the veterans' association was called for yesterday afternoon and several members of the committee met in the office of C. J. Mahoney to the Arbutus building, but no action was taken. The subject of the monument to General Fowler and the troubles of the veterans' association with the Municipal Art Commission were discussed and it was decided to call another meeting of the committee in a short time.

The site in Fort Greene Park on which the committee desires to erect the Fowler monument is regarded as peculiarly appropriate for the purpose, as the ground was once occupied by General Fowler in camp. The plot is a pretty one and the committee thinks its selection is the best means of settling the problem of where to locate the statue.

Readers of the Eagle are familiar with the history of the Fowler monument fund more



THE FOWLER STATUE.

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HISTORIC Fort Greene Association

Box 170563, Brooklyn, NY 11217-0563

On the 21st of March Agenda:

Update on issues affecting all home owners concerning new lead paint laws, bluestone repair, NYFD inspections, smoke and CO₂ detectors to be presented by Sharon Barnes

ALSO Fort Greene Schools

NEXT FGA MEETING March 21st, 2005

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

GOINGS ON

MEETINGS

- Fort Greene Association** - Meets Mondays at 7:30 pm, Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 South Oxford Street, Fort Greene. March 21, 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.

NEW SCENES

- KIINI IBURA JEWELRY** - Melody D. Burns; full line of accessories, hats, bags, scarves & more. 388 Myrtle Avenue (Vanderbilt/Clermont), 718.213.9686, Tues-Sat 11-7. Another "graduate" of 4W Circle.
- CAFE INDULGE** - Java Dave's Coffee, 126 Lafayette Avenue (Cumberland), 718.403.7222. Mon-Sun hours early a.m. to evening. Many specialty drinks and pastries. Owner/host welcomes you to cozy shop.
- KIKI'S Pet Spa & Boutique** - Food, Accessories, Grooming, Vet service. 239 DeKalb Avenue (near Vanderbilt), 718.857.7272. Opening soon. KIKI's Pet Hotel and Playcare, 80 Washington Avenue.
- BIG APPLE CLEANERS** - 668 Fulton Street (near South Elliott), 718.858.0388. M-F 7:30-7 Sat 8-6:30.
- MAGGIE BROWN restaurant** - 455 Myrtle Avenue (Washington/Waverly), "international home cooking", breakfast, lunch, dinner. Country charm. Owner Chelsea Altman also owns Moe's Bar and Pequena restaurant in Fort Greene.
- PRATTStore** - Provisions for the Artistic Mind - 550 Myrtle Avenue (Emerson Place), for all artists & neighborhood "wannabes". Info: 718.636.3471. M-F 8:30-8, Sat 10-6, Sun noon-5. Art supplies, art & design books & more. Visit, enjoy.