



# FORT GREENE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

HISTORIC FORT GREENE BROOKLYN NOVEMBER 2007

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](http://www.HistoricFortGreene.org)

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CLINTON HILL RE AND  
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CENTER is proud to  
underwrite this issue of  
the Fort Greene Associa-  
tion newsletter.

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Monday November 19,  
7:30 pm.

Light refreshments at  
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## LOCATION:

Lafayette Avenue Presby-  
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Street (Corner of S. Oxford  
and Lafayette Avenue), en-  
trance on S. Oxford Street

## Topic: GOOD WORKS

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*All are welcome to attend,  
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## Learning Outside the Box, or Inside the Kiln, at PS 46

Last spring the FGA approved funding for a matching grant for Beth Conard, a teacher at PS 46, to put together a tile project at the school. The plan included a kiln to fire clay tiles that represent the natural and built environments of the community. This project is allowing students to conduct an inquiry into their neighborhood from a creative point of view. The exploration is followed by design and execution of fired clay tiles to make a lasting contribution to the beautification of their school where they will be displayed.



We were able with a \$400 grant, to complete the last 30% necessary to make this art and educational project a reality. The clay has been bought and slab roller for fabricating tiles, as well as the kiln. The students are already working on tile design.

The grant will provide the basis for an ongoing clay program for the children of PS 46.

## A Message from the FGA Chair

Hello Neighbors. As I write this, I am looking forward to our next FGA neighborhood meeting on November 19th at the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church. It's hard to believe, but the Holidays are fast approaching. While the Holiday Season makes us all want to share our blessings with friends and family, our thoughts also turn to others who may not be sharing the same abundance that blesses us this year. For some, a hand offered in a time of need makes all the difference, while others have greater long-term needs. To answer these needs, there are many great local organizations that do much good work in Fort Greene year round. We would like you to meet some of the wonderful people who are running a variety of fantastic programs and get to know what they do every day, to help in our community. I'm sure you will be impressed and inspired to support their many creative and effective efforts.

I also look forward to seeing you at the Annual Fort Greene Association Holiday Party, Friday, December 7th, at 17 South Elliott Place.

- Ursula Hegewisch, FGA Chair

## Letitia James' "Tish Team" Leads DDDDB Walkathon to Huge Success

On Sunday, October 14th, Develop Don't Destroy held their 3rd Walkathon to raise money for the ongoing lawsuits that are being supported by DDDDB with the community's help. This was an opportunity for the community to turn out and show both their financial support and their dedication to stopping the construction of the disastrous Atlantic Yards project that threatens to do so much harm to our neighborhoods. With NYC Councilmember Letitia James' "Tish Team" at the forefront, the Walkathon inspired over 200 participants and raised over \$50,000 to go towards the lawsuits.

The Walkathon was preceded by a 12:30 p.m. press conference. Councilmember James addressed the issue of potential terrorist acts associated with the plan for the glass-walled arena that will connect with the glass-walled "Miss Brooklyn" tower. The projected tower is set close to the street on top of the third largest transportation hub in the City and is the site of a previously thwarted terrorist attack. Press conference comments were prompted by the announcement that the new Prudential Center Arena in Newark would be closing two streets next to the arena on game nights due to concerns that it could be a terrorist target. Newark Police Director Garry McCarthy told the Newark Star-Ledger: "You can't construct an arena and put it right against a street in a post 9/11 world. So we're playing catch-up and taking measures to make sure it's safe." Councilmember James was joined at the press conference by Daniel Goldstein, representing Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, and Jim Vogel, representing the Council of Brooklyn Neighborhoods. Their statements reflected the same concerns as James'. She asked rhetorically whether the Newark arena is that much different from the one planned in Brooklyn. "The answer is yes," she said. "The proposed Brooklyn arena is much more susceptible to a terrorist attack."

Opponents of the project called for a state hearing and review of the security measures that need to be taken for the planned Brooklyn arena.

By Lucy Koteen,  
DDDB.





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## A Bright Idea!

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Fort Greene & Clinton Hill

Here's a suggestion that is good for the earth and will save hundreds of dollars: replace old light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL).

### Good news

If every American home replaced one bulb, the energy saved would light more than 3 million homes and the greenhouse gases reduced would equal the emissions from more than 800,000 cars.

We would get big savings, too. CFLs burn for about 10 times as long as old bulbs and use about one-quarter of the energy. Over its life, a CFL saves over \$100 in energy and bulb costs. Local stores are offering CFLs for a very attractive \$2.00 to \$2.50

### No excuse

New CFLs give warm light so you look good and bluer daylight tones so you feel good.

Some people are concerned about the miniscule amount of mercury sealed in a CFL, about 4-5 milligrams in each bulb, a dot that fits on the end of a pen. Environmental agencies say that, if a bulb breaks, the danger from broken glass is greater than the danger from the mercury.

Ironically, each CFL removes more mercury from the environment than the bulb contains. Most mercury in our air comes from fuels burned to produce electricity and it endangers our health. Because a CFL uses so much less power, it causes about 76% less mercury to be released into the air than an incandescent bulb. The Sanitation Department asks that a burnt out CFL be put in the regular garbage in double plastic bags.

To find the inexpensive bulbs, look for the Green Fort Greene & Clinton Hill logo in store windows or go to [greenfgch.org](http://greenfgch.org).

### You are called:

Have some fun spending time at our table at the Green Market, Saturdays 10/27 - 11/24, in two hour slots. We will give you quick training. The neighbors you will meet are very grateful for information about Green Electric Power and we will start selling energy efficient bulbs and chic reusable shopping bags at discounted prices. Respond to [info@greenfg&cb.org](mailto:info@greenfg&cb.org) Bring the kids.

Reach hundreds of Fort Greene households in the mail, via email & on the web by underwriting the FGA Newsletter. Next availability: April 2008. Call for details: 347-224-6487.

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## House Proud?

Well, you should be. You've put many months, even years of effort into renovating your beautiful home. You've come up with lots of creative solutions to the challenges posed by living a 21st century life in a home built for a 19th century lifestyle. Perhaps you have lovingly restored every detail of your home to period perfection OR maybe, behind your Brownstone façade, purrs a sleek Machine For Living. Maybe your bank account is, shall we say, Anorexic but your imagination is a heavyweight; your home or apartment is an inspiration to all who step inside because of your boundless creativity.

**Fort Greene: show us what you've got.** The Fort Greene Association is looking for a few extraordinarily interesting homes and apartments for our upcoming Spring 2008 House Tour. We want to show the diversity of taste and lifestyle that is such a part of the Fort Greene community with a particular emphasis this year on Fort Greene's long tradition of nurturing and supporting the arts and artists. If you would consider opening your home for a day and being a part of this important community fundraiser we would love to hear from you. Please contact Ursula, [ursulabfg@yahoo.com](mailto:ursulabfg@yahoo.com) all 646-549-5782.

You are invited to a Fundraiser for DDDDB featuring the grammy-award-winning band, **The Klezmatics**, with special guests **Kakande**, and **Demolition String Band**.

**Thursday November 8**  
at 7pm

**Brooklyn Lyceum**,  
(located at 227 4th Avenue,  
Brooklyn, NY)

The tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door

For online tickets, go to <http://www.ddddb.net/klezmatics>.

# News from the Fort Greene Park Conservancy

## The Wine, the View, the Friends We Met ...

By Amy Bennett, Fort Greene Park Conservancy

Sipping delicious wines from *The Greene Grape* and savoring flavorful food from *Olea Restaurant* atop the roof deck of the *Forté building* overlooking Fort Greene Park, the 150 guests who attended the **Second Annual Grand Portfolio Tasting** to benefit the Fort Greene Park Conservancy on October 1st must have been thinking "it doesn't get better than this."

Then Charles Jarden, Chair of the all-volunteer Conservancy, stepped to the podium and announced that in addition to the \$14,000 raised by the wine tasting, Borough President Marty Markowitz and Councilmember Letitia James had secured \$1 million towards the renovation of a Park entrance. The \$1M allocation also freed up \$350,000 in funds secured by the Conservancy years ago for the funding of a master plan to guide the restoration of the historic Park. Getting the funds properly budgeted and effectuated is another story but progress is being made!

The announcement of funding reflects the hard work of the Conservancy's Board and community groups who not only advocated for the park, but also presented free events in the park, for example, the Literary Festival, free Films and the much-loved annual Halloween Festival, in addition to the Greenmarket and the Artisan Market. The recent appoint-

ment of a staff gardener is yet another example of attention being paid to our beloved Park. We'll drink to that!

For more information on the Fort Greene Park Conservancy, visit [www.fortgreenepark.org](http://www.fortgreenepark.org).



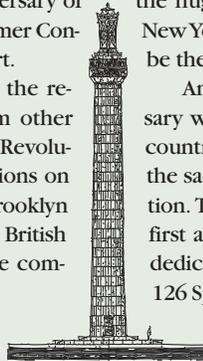
Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries and FGA President Ursula Hegewisch raise a glass to Fort Greene Park for the Conservancy's benefit on October 1, 2007.

## Planning for the Centennial of the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument

A committee of the Fort Greene Park Conservancy has been formed to plan for the one hundredth anniversary of the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument dedication. Former Conservancy Chair, Ruth Goldstein, is leading the effort.

The Prison Ship Martyrs Monument honors the remains of 11,500 Americans and volunteers from other countries who are buried in a crypt below. These Revolutionary War deaths occurred under horrid conditions on prison ships anchored in what later became the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Later, the deaths were recognized by the British as war atrocities, and a trial in London led to the commanding officer's execution.

The monument was dedicated in November 1908 by President-elect, William Howard Taft,



who was joined by 20,000 people in pouring rain. Design of the huge Doric column was the last work of the famous New York architect Stanford White. At the time it was said to be the largest Doric column in the world.

An important feature of the November 2008 anniversary will be honoring the Prison Ship Martyrs from other countries. People in some nations today are quite aware of the sacrifices of their people during the American Revolution. This is case in modern Spain, and in 1976 one of the first acts of Juan Carlos, the present Spanish king, was to dedicate a plaque in Fort Greene Park to the memory of 126 Spanish nationals who died on the British prison ships.

- Article by Jerry Schick.

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## Farewells

**Doris Carolyn Lytle Clark:** Known to many in our community, she was a woman of energy, smarts and charm plus much more, all with a sense of humor. "She was raised to believe in making the world a better place and helping those less fortunate, and devoted her life to those ideals." That she did in overflowing measure. A memorial service, attended by many friends and colleagues, was held September 18 at the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in Fort Greene. We wish her daughter, Erika, and her extended family comfort. Doris will be deeply missed.

**Robert Cranford:** Longtime Fort Greene presence, owner/director of the Cranford Funeral Home on Dekalb. Your writer has been acquainted with several funeral directors over the years and without exception, each has been a person of good humor - must be a requirement. Robert Cranford was certainly one of that group. Active in community affairs over many years, his smile and pleasant manner greeted one at meetings and celebrations. We are saddened by this loss and send our sympathy to his family.

**Henry L. Royston:** Originally from Arkansas, one of 11 children, he came to New York under a sponsorship to Columbia University. He graduated with honors, receiving a Masters Degree in Music. He operated the Pierre-Royston Academy of Music and thereafter worked for the NYC Dept of Social Services, then for the Dept of Education, plus serving as Music Director of the Harriet Beecher Stowe High School, retiring after 20 years. However, what most of us in the neighborhood remember about Henry, and his partner Dennis Mason, more recently, is the jazz club and restaurant they had at 63 Lafayette, "Royston's". Good music, good pork chops, good spirit. Sorry Henry has listened to those last good notes.

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Newsletter Design by Abby Weissman



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### NEWSCENES

**FRESH GARDEN**, 729 Fulton near South Elliot. Coming - Gourmet Food Shop. Notice the handsome brown and orange striped awnings marking this latest enterprise of merchants Bruce and Kay Lee, owners of three businesses within 3 blocks - Greene Farm, One Greene and Mirai spa. Successful family businesses all, they contribute to the stability of our neighborhood and provide services valuable to our residents. Kay says neighbors have been asking for an expanded selection and that's what they intend to offer, particularly organic and natural products. Look for their opening soon, be ready to enjoy all the new choices and to wish them the very best.

**WEDDING!!** Shabnam Merchant and Daniel E. Goldstein, on Monday September 16, in an outdoor ceremony in Olivera, NY. Bride and bridegroom, well known in our area, are community organizers for Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn. Bride's parents live in England and India; the groom's in Purchase NY. We're told the bride was beautiful as was the ceremony. Our sincerest wishes to the couple for a happy life!

**NEW BABY:** Kara Gilmour, Fort Greene Park Coordinator, had a very busy and happy summer away from the greenery. She gave birth to her second child. Born August 9, at 7 pounds, Abraham Tornado Temple joined his brother Arthur. Father John Temple and mother, on leave until next spring, are doing well, thank you. Congratulations to all the family. Have fun!

### Six NEW MYRTLE AVENUE RESTAURANTS in FIVE WEEKS + A GALLERY!

**TAMBORIL**, 527 Myrtle Avenue @ Grand. Owner Ed Polanco. Nuevo Latino cuisine. Dishes with "an exciting twist" - emphasis not on spiciness but honest good flavor. Currently BYOB. Brunch Sat & Sun/Jazz Tues. 718 483-2152.

**MANEE THAI**, 372 Myrtle Avenue - Clermont/Adelphi. Owners husband & wife Vat and Linda Buakaew. Thai cuisine. Range of traditional and contemporary options including the Fort Greene Nest, crispy egg + melange. Modern, sleek decor. "We want our customers to visit & enjoy." 718 222-9992.

**RUTHIE's SUNRISE**, 570 Myrtle Avenue - Emerson/Classon. Owners John Monroe and Stephanie Galloway. The third time around for a branch of this family run restaurant - Tried & True Recipes. Soul food powerhouse. 718 399-3700

**KUOTE**, 330 Myrtle Avenue - Carlton/Washington Park. Owners brothers Ed and Richard Fowler. American cuisine. Play on word "quote" - see famous ones posted on walls of this family style, casual dining venue. Eat in or choose \$7 takeout. Eleven foot owner created aquarium bar. 718 858-3303.

**IL TORCHIO**, 458 Myrtle Avenue - Washington/Waverly. Owners cousins Peter and Frank Costabile, Peter's daughter Pamela and Andrew Chew. Italian cuisine (Torchio means "wine press"). Complete menu of classic Italian fare. Note the beautiful storefront and be welcomed by the whole family. 718 422-1122.

**GNARLY VINES**, 350 Myrtle Avenue, between Carlton/Adelphi. Owner Brian Robinson. Wine Boutique owned by local wine phenom. They specialize in small production, handcrafted wines - starting at \$6. Grand opening soon - when they are ready for business, stop in, wish them well, try one of their specialties. 718 797-3183

**THE STAIRWELL**, 387 Myrtle Avenue - Clermont/Vanderbilt. Owner Charlotta Janssen. Also owns Chez Oskar on Dekalb and, with Denis Costaz, Chez Lola on Myrtle. Four story stairwell art gallery managed by Ms Janssen, currently exhibiting her work - skaintings (sketched paintings). Plus Americana 1900s-40s large canvases. Paintings and prints for sale. Perhaps you can take a walk upstairs/downstairs. For information e-mail [stairwellkeeper@charlottajanssen.com](mailto:stairwellkeeper@charlottajanssen.com). Best of luck to Ms. Janssen.

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**We wish success to all these new merchants.  
Eat well, be happy.**