



FORT GREENE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

HISTORIC FORT GREENE BROOKLYN SEPTEMBER 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

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The MARK MORRIS
DANCE GROUP is proud
to underwrite this issue
of the Fort Greene
Association newsletter.

NEXT FGA MEETING:

Monday, Sept. 17, 7:30 pm
Light refreshments at
7.00 pm

TOPIC: NEW INITIATIVES

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LOCATION:

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All are welcome to attend, homeowners & renters alike.

Welcome from the New FGA Chair

Hello, my name is Ursula Hegewisch and I want to introduce myself as the new Chair of the Fort Greene Association. For me, I knew Fort Greene was "Home" the first time I visited. It was the mythical New York neighborhood I had dreamed of but didn't believe existed. Over the years, as I've learned more of the history of our community, met more neighbors, welcomed new people and businesses into the community, my love for this neighborhood has deepened. I am constantly amazed, yet not surprised, by how many others who live here feel as I do about Fort Greene.

I hope, in the near future, to meet many more neighbors as the FGA moves forward with many exciting, new and continuing initiatives and programs to strengthen and enhance our community. I look forward to serving the next year and want to extend deep thanks and appreciation to Phillip Kellogg, our most recent Chair, for his dedication and hard work on behalf of the FGA and our entire community.

- Ursula Hegewisch
FGA Chair

A Note from Former Chair, Phillip Kellogg

On August 1, 2007, I announced my resignation from the board of the Fort Greene Association. It has been an honor to work with so many dedicated people including fellow board members, volunteers, neighborhood residents, civic organizations, institutions, city agencies and elected officials. During the past three years, much has been accomplished — with the rezoning of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Wallabout being the most significant and far-reaching.

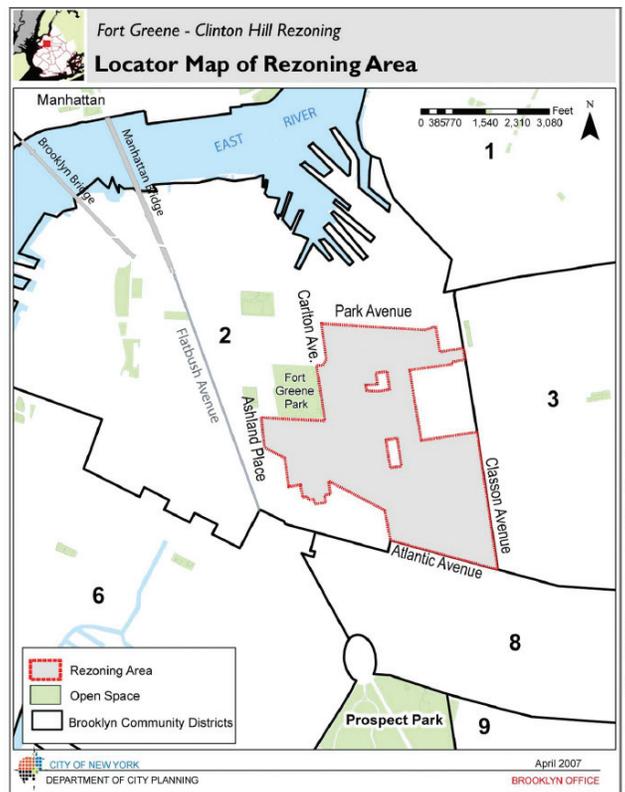
In addition, the FGA has produced tangible results on a wide variety of issues; started new and exciting initiatives; set fundraising records (and developed a program to give it all away!). But perhaps the greatest sign of success is that so many new people have stepped forward to contribute their ideas, energy and time to make living in Fort Greene better for everyone. The work will continue, it has to. There's always more to do. Thank you.

- Phillip Kellogg

New York City Council Approves "Contextual" Rezoning of Fort Greene and Clinton Hill

On Wednesday, July 25, 2007, the New York City Council voted into law the rezoning of 99 blocks in the Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Wallabout neighborhoods. Known as "contextual" zoning, this new zoning law (R6B) will protect the character of this truly special area for generations to come. Buildings will now need to conform to height restrictions so there are no more towers sticking out like sore thumbs (or tin cans) right next to a 4-story brownstone. Even development along the commercial corridors of Fulton Street and Myrtle Avenue will now be required to conform to height restrictions where there weren't any before.

Years in the making and a top priority for the Fort Greene Association, this effort owes its success to so many people. Congratulations to everyone and thank you all. To learn more about the new zoning law, visit the website of the New York Department of City Planning at: http://nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/ft_green/index.shtml.



The protected area includes 99 blocks of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and part of the Wallabout neighborhoods, stretching from Atlantic Avenue to Park Avenue, and from Ashland Place to Classon Avenue.

Farewells

PEARL LUCAS For many years a resident homeowner of 52 South Oxford, died suddenly in July. Pearl, a Cornell graduate, was a teacher much of her life. A memorial service held by her family at the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church was attended by many friends and neighbors. She will be missed.

BILL HARMON Long time resident of 101 Lafayette, died July 26, 2007. Flutist, biker and photographer, he was thought of as the Griffin's documentarian. The Fort Greene Photography Organization held a show commemorating his life, at the Eleven-Ten Gallery, and a memorial is planned for September. An artist's voice stilled too soon.



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Atlantic Yards Project: Legal Updates

By Lucy Koteen, *Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn*

Environmental Impact: "DDDB et al. v. ESDC et al."

New York State Supreme Court Justice Joan Madden needs more time to make her decision on the legal challenge to the state's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Atlantic Yards project known as "DDDB et al. vs. ESDC (Empire State Development Corporation) et al." Oral arguments for the case were held on May 3rd, 2007.

At the time of the hearing Judge Madden said she would issue a ruling within four to six weeks. On July 19th, the court's Motion Support Office issued a letter notifying the parties that the status of the case had been changed from "Standard" to "Complex" and that Judge Madden would have 120 days from the oral arguments to decide the case. A ruling is expected in early September.

It is clear that Judge Madden is taking time to seriously consider the many complicated and novel issues raised by this case. A successful court challenge to the Atlantic Yards EIS could send the project back to the drawing board. For a summary of the 11 Causes of Action filed by petitioners: <http://dddb.net/FEIS/summary.php>

Eminent Domain: "Goldstein v. Pataki"

The appeal in the eminent domain case known as "Goldstein v. Pataki" was filed at the end of July in the United States 2nd Court of Appeals. This is on the District Court's Decision on the Motion to Dismiss the challenge to the Constitutionality of eminent domain use for the Atlantic Yards project. Oral arguments are scheduled to be heard on October 9th.

DDDB was joined by 25 neighborhood and civic groups, including the Fort Greene Association, and the Society for Clinton Hill to challenge the findings of the EIS. For legal eagles who want to learn more: http://dddb.net/documents/legal/eminentdomain/2007_appeal/2dCir_Brief.pdf

Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music, Fall Concert Season in Fort Greene

**Sunday October 28, 2007 at 3 PM at the
Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church,
85 South Oxford St, Brooklyn, NY**

- Piano sonatas for two hands and four hands: Sara Davis Buechner and Jane Coop, piano
- Four Mozart Sonatas

For information: Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music,
140 Bond Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11217-2242,
718 855-3053



Daffodil Bulb Giveaway

**Saturday, October 20th, 1:30-5 pm
Fort Greene Park**

Located on DeKalb Ave. adjacent to Farmers Market

Free daffodil bulbs will be distributed for planting in tree pits, sidewalk containers, front yards, community gardens or anywhere they can be enjoyed by the public at large. Bulbs are being provided by the Brownstone Brooklyn Garden District as part of the Fort Greene/Clinton Hill greening initiative. Planting is up to you. For more information contact: natashaharsh@earthlink.net

Shop at the Pre-Holiday Craft Fair for Pleasure and a Good Cause

Please join your neighbors and shop for a good cause at the Pre-Holiday Craft Fair to benefit the Fort Greene Association. Host Dev Cohn has invited a range of talented artisans to sell their wares, which include jewelry, accessories, pottery and glass, priced from the affordable to the high end. A \$2.00 admission and a percentage of the sales and refreshment proceeds will go directly to the Fort Greene Association. We hope to see you there: Saturday, October 13th and Sunday, October 14th, from 12-5, at 168 Lafayette, between Adelphi and Clermont.

House Tour Volunteers Needed

Think about it! The 2006 Fort Greene House Tour was a total success largely because of the hard work of the huge group of volunteers who "House Sat" and then enjoyed the wonderful complimentary celebratory get-together for sitters/owners, etc. party afterward.

May 2008 is not that far away. The FGA House Sitters Committee Chair, Fred Lasker, is not only looking for volunteers for the '08 Tour but for really committed, dedicated, hard working "Captains," one for each of our locations next year. The job? Captains would welcome the various sitters, make certain that all "spots" are covered, be in control, phone for alternates where needed, and get together in advance to discuss and and plan. Is this you?

Please contact Fred Lasker to further discuss the "Captain" work: 718-875-1856, 19 South Portland Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11217.

New Arrivals

Fredrik Olav Anderson and his partner adopted Andreas and Markus in June. Andreas, 6 1/2, will be attending PS20, and Markus, 3 1/2, will be going to the Dillon school. We are happy for the entire family and especially Fredrik our FGA Board member. Congratulations all.

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NEWS FROM THE FORT GREENE PARK CONSERVANCY

Don't Miss the Eighth Annual Halloween Festival on Oct. 27

A favorite FREE Fort Greene tradition for children of all ages, this year's Fort Green Park Halloween Festival will take place on Saturday, October 27, 2007 from 12 noon to 3:00 pm. As in past years, festival-goers will be treated to free pony rides, hay rides, face painting, pumpkin decorating, games, and treats. Capping off the Halloween Festival is a children's costume parade, which will take place at 2:00 pm with prizes for the best costumes.

In addition to the Halloween Festival, the local dog owner's organization, Fort Greene PUPS, will once again hold its popular annual Dog Costume Contest on top of the Fort Greene Park at 12:00 noon.

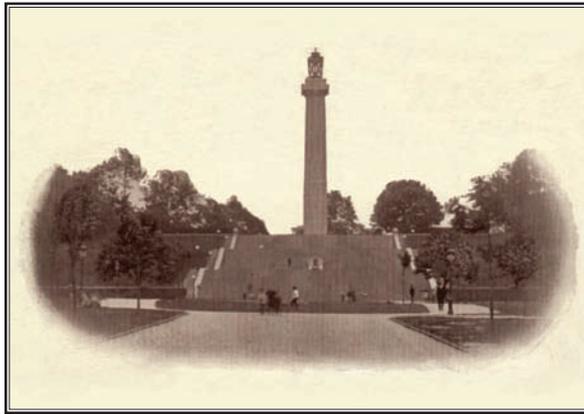
Last year's Halloween Festival was made possible in part by the generous leadership gifts from Aguayo & Huebener Real Estate, BAM Local Development Corp, Brooklyn Properties, Clermont Armory, Chase, the Corcoran Group, Nationwide Insurance and Wells Fargo Home Mortgage.

To volunteer for the festival or for sponsorship information, email info@fortgreenepark.org.

The Wine Tasting Fundraiser is Back

Just in time for the fall 2007 season the Fort Greene Park Conservancy will be holding its Wine tasting Fundraiser in October. This popular event will be held atop the Forte Condominium building in a brand new roof garden overlooking the park! All proceeds from the gathering will enable the Conservancy to fund park improvements and expand programming and outreach initiatives for Brooklyn's most historic park.

For a donation of \$95 to the Conservancy you will be able to taste over 100 wines. A VIP donation of \$150 entitles you to attend a special wine tasting class with priority access to the wines. The exact date and time of the fundraiser are still being finalized. For tickets or more information, please email Conservancy Board Member Amy Bennett at amy@greengrape.com.



Centennial Celebration Seeks Volunteers

The Fort Greene Park Conservancy is planning a major celebration to commemorate the centennial of the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park. The festivities will be held in November 2008. The monument is the last work of famed architect Stanford White and is the world's tallest Doric column. Until recently, it was the country's only memorial to POWs, which honors the martyrs who perished on British prison ships anchored in Wallabout Bay during the American War of Independence.

The dedication of the Martyrs' Monument on November 14, 1908 was a big event in its time; President-elect Taft was the keynote speaker, there was a spectacular fireworks display, and over 20,000 people attended. The Brooklyn of today is bigger and even better, and we hope to make the Centennial celebration a reflection of this modern and fabulous Brooklyn. But we need your help. Please volunteer by calling Ruth Goldstein, the Centennial Celebration Committee Chairperson at 718-596-0899.

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FGA Supports Pit Bulls and Hustlers and More...

The Brooklyn Pit Bulls Pop Warner Football teams, with the support of the FGA, started their 2007 season this August. The FGA is a proud supporter of this sports program that encompasses aspiring football stars ages 7-15. The programs have been a terrific springboard for the students as they apply for high school.

Come out to watch the Pit Bulls play at home Sundays in September and October, in Commodore Barry Park, also known as City Park, on Ashland Place between the Brooklyn Navy Yard and Flushing Avenue. The Mitey Mites, ages 7-9 yrs old, start playing at 10 am, with games every hour and a half, running all day through the 4:00pm Midgets game for 12-15 yr olds. Home games are September 9th and 22nd, and October 6th and 21st. Parents will be cooking up lunch, available for purchase, to help support the teams, as well as keep fans from getting hungry.



The Pit Bulls have been playing for four years and have gained a regional reputation for excellence. Last year's Pit Bulls Junior Midgets, ages 10-13, won the Southern Connecticut Pop Warner State Championship, and were runners-up in the New England Regional Championships.

The Brooklyn Hustlers Girl's Soccer Program is new this year. Its teams are in the building stages, but are hoping to start playing this year. Practices have started and the girls are working to learn basic soccer skills. All girls with a willingness to learn the game are welcome. Please watch for further updates on game schedules, and maybe a regional winner 4-5 years down the road! Registrations are still being taken at eteams@brooklynhustlers.com.

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Newsletter Design by Abby Weissman



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New Scenes

BONITA, 245 Dekalb Avenue near Vanderbilt (former CINO's); Mexican cuisine, chef from Mexico teaches at Culinary Institute. Open 7 days a week, 11am-Midnight, lunch 11am-5pm, brunch Sunday. Interior attractively designed. Stop by for a taste and a sip and say hello to welcoming bartender Bryan. 718-622-5300.

BITTERSWEET, 180 Dekalb Avenue at Carlton. Owners Lucien Redwood and Marius Zilberstein. Mon-Fri 7am-10pm, Sat & Sun 8am-10pm. Serving La Colombe coffee and espresso, Balthazar pastries and homemade ice cream. A cozy cheerful cafe with smiling "hostess" to match. Free wireless internet! Snack and relax, wish them well. 718-852-2556.

THIRST, 187 Dekalb Avenue at Carlton. Wine merchants/owners Emilia Valencia and Michael Yarmark have opened a new contemporary shop at this corner. Mon-Thurs 12-9pm, Fri 12-10pm, Sat 10am-10pm, Sun 12-9pm. Wide selection and you can talk directly with either owner for advice. 718-596-7643.

BEEZU, 221 Dekalb near Adelphi. Owner Celine Peerson. Charming shop offering babies and childrens clothing, toys, books, accessories. Childrens parties and events in their garden — parents invited. Open Tues-Sun 12-6pm, Sat 11am-7pm. Want something adorable for your adorable — look here. 718-596-9606.

BAGEL WORLD, 223 Dekalb near Clermont. Bagels baked on premises; breakfast, muffins, cakes, sandwiches, salads, soups, beverages & more. Covered garden. Open 7 days, 6am-10pm. Come, sit, enjoy their many choices. Friendly staff. 718-643-2686.

EPOCA, 773 Fulton Street near So. Oxford. Northern Italian cuisine. Owner Rudy Acconero has created an elegant restaurant with a menu to fulfill your pleasure. Rudy's family is in the background with their support. Open: Mon-Thurs 5-11pm, Fri & Sat Noon-1am, Sun Dinner 5pm-12am, Sat & Sun Brunch Noon-5pm. Cash only. Visit and enjoy a warm welcome. 718-596-9070.

HAIR THEORY, (Snip/Snap), 66 Lafayette Avenue at So. Elliott. Owner B. Dominick. Variety of services to suit your needs. Open Tues-Sat; hours vary with stylists — Lami, Seli, & Melanie. Longtime hair salon, reinvented. Best wishes. 718-857-4857.

LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION, at 88 South Portland - between Lafayette/Fulton. Owner Tanya Blackwood. New address for this established broker. Open Mon-Fri 11:30am-7:30pm, Sat noon-8, Sun by appointment. Stop by and wish Tanya well in her new spot. 718-222-1199.

SAVVY STYLES, 88 So. Portland - between Lafayette/Fulton. Owner Trevor. This attractively designed new mens barbershop, bright and fresh, says "We get you noticed." Open Mon-Sat 8-7:30pm, Sun til 6pm. Be sure to notice the barber pole above the entrance door. 718-797-4949.

little piggy, A not so general store & market, 64 Lafayette Avenue at South Elliott. Same ownership/team as the Smoke Joint. Locally roasted coffee, stone ground grits, artisanal country hams, market fresh produce and salads, fresh pastries and other sweet delights, penny candies. This will be their "non-smoking" section. Say hello and good luck. 718-797-1011.

HEART BEAT, 739 Fulton near South Elliott. Owner Momar N'Diaye. Contemporary women's boutique — clothes, handbags, accessories from Europe and the US. Style trendy, prices low. Open Tue-Wed 3pm-8:30pm, Thur-Fri 1pm-8:30pm, Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 12-6pm. Closed Mon. Stop in to see their selection and wish them the best, as we do. 718-643-1243.

93-95-97 Hanson Place, Newly constructed two-story building. This fits well in its surroundings. The clean simple design speaks clearly but quietly. Welcome to the neighborhood. Be sure to have a look.

ON POINT BARBER SALON, 97 Hanson, near South Oxford. Open 7 days, 7am-7:30pm. "Where Every Cut Is Precise." 718-858-5018.

CAKE MAN RAVEN, 708 Fulton (near South Oxford Street). Cake Man has created a unique garden at the entrance to his shop. Stop by for something sweet and to say "thanks" for his thoughtfulness. He's given us all a lovely gift. 718-694-2253.

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