



FORT GREENE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

HISTORIC FORT GREENE BROOKLYN

FALL 2008

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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Selma Jackson
Jed Marcus
Paul Palazzo

JAY E. BUTLER,
CONSULTING ENGINEER
is proud to underwrite
this issue of the Fort
Greene Association
newsletter.

NEXT FGA MEETING:
Monday, Sept. 15, 7:30 pm
Light refreshments
at 7.00 pm

**TOPIC: Re-Development
of the BAM Cultural
District**

The Downtown Brooklyn
Partnership will give a
presentation highlighting
proposed multiple devel-
opments within the BAM
Cultural District.

LOCATION:

Lafayette Avenue
Presbyterian Church,
85 S. Oxford St. (corner of
S. Oxford & Lafayette Ave.)
Meeting Room, enter on
S. Oxford St.

All are welcome to
attend, homeowners
& renters alike.

Notes from the Acting-Chair, Richard Norton

While I regret that Ursula Hegewisch, the previous Acting Chair, recently resigned, I accept the responsibility as Acting Chair until the new Chair is elected in November, and takes over in December.

I have enjoyed working with Ursula on several initiatives: The Fort Greene House Tour, the November Good Works Meeting, identifying groups that improve quality of life issues for neighborhood residents, and the Town Hall meeting, that allowed the community to come together around the Sean Bell verdict.

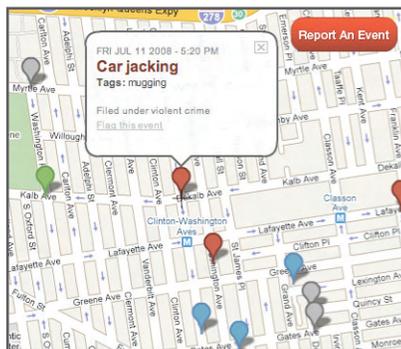
Hungry Among Us

A recent *Crain's Business* article noted the Hanson Place Methodist Food Pantry as one of the many local charities that is having great difficulty serving its needs due to decreased funding, particularly as corporate donations to the *Food Bank for NYC* have lessened.

Up to the end of June, the Hanson Place Methodist Food Pantry provided 81,810 meals. It is supported by NYC, NY State and Federal programs, as well as by private donations.

In the short term there are many ways that we can help: from actual food donations, unopened dry and canned goods; to financial donations. All donations are tax deductible. The Food Pantry, run by Tamar Auber since its founding, is a designated non-profit. Every dollar donated buys a pound of food through the *Food Bank of NYC*.

The Grants Committee of the FGA is looking for people interested in becoming involved with the food pantry to help explore ways to remain viable. If you are interested in helping, or have any questions, contact Mary Priebe at bigprebe@aol.com.



DBP to Give a Presentation at the September FGA Meeting Concerning the Re-Development of the BAM Cultural District

The Downtown Brooklyn Partnership is giving a presentation at the September FGA open meeting concerning the proposed multiple developments within the BAM District. These developments are planned for the two City-owned parking lots to the immediate west of the BAM Opera House bounded by the west side of Ashland Place intersected by Lafayette Avenue.

DBP, a non-profit local development corporation, is working with the City's agencies to coordinate the development of these sites. The current master planning includes a project by the City's Department of Housing, Preservation and Development called the Brooklyn Arts Tower which will be located on a site bounded by Rockwell, Fulton and Ashland Place and will have up to 200 mixed-income residential units, commercial space and a city-owned cultural space; the Theatre for a New Audience development which will house a 299-seat theater and rehearsal space; and a mixed use site developed by Two Trees Management on the site of the previously proposed Enrique Norten-designed Brooklyn Public Library. Other proposals for the benefit of the Arts are also mentioned.

The FGA, while supporting the development of these sights, shares the concern about the use of eminent domain within the footprint and the displacement of local businesses and art groups. FGA leaders met with Katie Dixon, Director of Planning and Development for DBP, to arrange for this September presentation. The floor will be opened for questions after the presentation. For more information on the DBP go to dbpartnership.org.



The proposed Brooklyn Arts Tower.

Studio MDA and Behnisch Architects,
rendering by ESKQ

The Society For Clinton Hill Introduces New Interactive Map for User-Driven Local News Reporting

◀ The purpose of this exciting new project is to empower the community to self report the news and events that affect our neighborhood on a daily basis. All information on the map is user contributed and user managed. Check it out at societyforclintonhill.org.



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

JAY E. BUTLER,
CONSULTING
ENGINEER is proud
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newsletter.

Newsletter Design
by Abby Weissman

Atlantic Yards Update

By Daniel Goldstein, *Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn*

As the fight against Ratner's Atlantic Yards project marks the start of its 6th (yes, sixth) year this fall, numerous economic and fiscal difficulties plague the project as does litigation led by *Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn*. In late July property owners and tenants in the project footprint began a lawsuit against the project's use of eminent domain in NY State Court, challenging the project's improper seizure of their homes and businesses under state law and the state constitution. (See: www.dddb.net/eminentdomain)

On July 7th, DDDDB and 25 co-plaintiffs filed their appeal to a Supreme Court ruling against their suit challenging the environmental review and approval of Atlantic Yards. The appeal claims the lower court ruling was wrong and should be overturned. That appeal will be argued in September, and a decision would be expected in December or January. (See www.dddb.net/FEIS/appeal)

DDDB is also considering further litigation regarding the increased cost of the arena from \$637 million at approval in 2006 to its current cost of \$1 billion. It is our position that because of this exorbitant increase, the Public Authorities Control Board needs to do a new approval of the project.

Meanwhile Forest City Ratner faces a daunting fiscal picture: a crashing real estate market, a credit crunch, a lack of available housing bonds the developer was banking on, and the possibility that the IRS will not grant tax-exempt bond financing for the arena (see: www.dddb.net/pbp/reading/IRS.pbp).

The economic morass we are all facing is hitting FCR hard, putting the project in jeopardy. Our local politicians, including stalwart opponents Letitia James and Velmanette Montgomery, as well as those with a more moderate position—Jim Brennan, Hakeem Jeffries, David Yassky, Bill de Blasio—have expressed serious concerns about whether the project should go forward considering that the developer has not confirmed he can build the project, including the so-called "affordable" housing.

DDDB continues to pursue all political and legal avenues to ensure that the community gets the responsible development it deserves over the rail yards (see www.unityplan.org), rather than FCR's wrong-headed and destructive Atlantic Yards project.

In our pursuit, the community's financial backing and active assistance is essential. Your financial support has never been more crucial. To make a donation go to the [dddb.net](http://www.dddb.net) website. Contact DDDDB at 718.362.4784 or email us at contact@dddb.net.

Paul Palazzo, Candidate for the FGA Chair

My face may not be familiar to you, but behind the scenes I have been the lead on many of the recent successes of the Fort Greene Association.

Whether spear-heading the R6B Re-zoning effort, running the FGA E-blast system, or co-Chairing the Council of Brooklyn Neighborhoods, I have always loved working for Fort Greene, and I am proud to call this my home for over 24 years.

But we still have a way to go. As FGA Chair, I will continue to be a staunch advocate for the proper development of our land resources, including Atlantic Yards and Admiral's Row, fight for increased services to our community, and champion the neighborhood atmosphere that makes Fort Greene unique.

You may ask why become the Chair of the Fort Greene Association? The answer is simple: to make every new day better than the last in our neighborhoods of Fort Greene and Clinton Hill. Join me in this effort, together we can do great things.



A Time to Heal and Act: The Community Responds to the Sean Bell Verdict

by Ursula Hegewisch

On April 29th, a Town Hall meeting was held at Brown Memorial Church. The purpose was to bring the community together to share feelings that had been deeply stirred by the not-guilty verdict in the case of NYPD officers accused in the killing of Sean Bell. The meeting was co-sponsored by The Fort Greene Association, Council Member Letitia James and community activist Kevin Powell. A panel, including the Reverend David Dyson, Council Member James, Laurie Cumbo, Kevin Powell, Ashanti Baptiste and myself, Ursula Hegewisch, opened the meeting with brief remarks.

For the next three hours people in the audience came forward and spoke openly about their reaction to the verdict and put forth ideas for constructive actions in the hopes that these tragic situations would be avoided in the future. Midway through the meeting, the parents of Sean Bell stopped by; Mrs. Bell spoke movingly about her son, the family's feelings and peaceful protest. The Women's Gospel Choir of Brown sang two uplifting songs in tribute to Mr. Bell and his family. Reverend Clayton Miller generously kept the Church open until after 11:00 pm so that all who wished to speak could be heard. It is hoped that the dialogue that emerged will be a first step toward healing, toward strengthening our community and ultimately, moving beyond words to positive actions.

Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music, Fall/Winter Concert Season

Sundays at 3 PM

Sept 28, 2008 - Alianza String Quartet

Jan 11, 2009 - Trio Cavatina

Jan 25, 2009 - French Vocal Music

Feb 22, 2009 - Quartet - sax, violin, bayan, piano.

At the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church,
85 South Oxford St, Fort Greene, Brooklyn, NY

For more information call 718 855-3053

FGA Slate Of Election Committee: Recommended Candidates For Nomination & Election, Sept 15, 2008

It's that time again when the Nominations/Election Committee must recruit neighbors and community workers to volunteer for the FGA Executive Board and prepare the official Election Slate. It is presented to the membership in the Newsletter and before the election at the November General Meeting. The following official Election Slate is the result of many months' work by the Committee and is presented now for your attention:

Chair: Paul Palazzo

Vice-Chair: Richard Norton

Treasurer: Susan Butler

Recording Secretary: Fred Lasker

Corresponding Secretary: to be decided either Election night or after January 1st

Members-at-Large: Naomi Dickerson, Ruth Goldstein, Doris Golomb, Roz Huebener, Mary Priebe and Jed Marcus

Alternate Members-at-Large: Kay Lee, Sam Johnson, Georgiana Gloss, Reverend David Dyson

Searching for Descendants of Prison Ship Captives: The FGA Interviews Wilhelmena Rhodes Kelly

FGA: What motivated your search for descendants of the Revolutionary War martyrs?

WRK: As you know, the Fort Greene Martyrs Monument honors the ultimate sacrifices made by more than 11,400 American Patriots who died on the British Prison Ships anchored in Wallabout Bay, later to become the site of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. My research for descendants was motivated by this year's November 15 rededication of that sacred monument. The Centennial Committee felt it fitting to have Patriot descendants attend this landmark ceremony. I feel greatly honored to help perform the genealogical work of locating these descendants.

FGA: Where do you start with a project that large?

WRK: It was our great fortune that the *Society of Old Brooklynites*, a group that is still active today, compiled a listing of more than 8,000 named martyrs back in 1888. My work is based on tracing the ethnicity and descendants of that list. Other descendant relatives have been located through word-of-mouth, as well.

FGA: In the Fort Greene Park Visitors Center, there is a portrait of a prison ship survivor on display. What can you tell me about him?

WRK: Yes, that would be James Forten. This prison ship survivor was a man of color, actually a teenage boy, who was a Privateer working as a Powder Boy on the Patriot ship, Royal Louis. He was ultimately captured and taken onto the notorious prison ship, Jersey. As was the case with so many of his prison shipmates, Forten refused to renounce the American effort to gain independence in exchange for freedom, declining again in deference to a sick shipmate. Eventually Forten was able to return to Philadelphia, and due to the wealth he acquired from an invention of a sail steering device, was able to help fund the Abolitionist movement. Julie Winch, author of the definitive book on James Forten titled, *"A Gentleman of Color"* has put me in touch with James Forten's family descendants.



James Forten



Wilhelmena Rhodes Kelly

FGA: Are resources for this kind of research limited?

WRK: At one time, they were. Fortunately, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has recently released a fascinating book coordinated by Eric Grundset titled, *"Forgotten Patriots, African American and Native American Patriots in the Revolutionary War."* This several hundred page volume has greatly expanded available information about American Patriots of color. Also, Professor Julie Winch and I have secured a muster list of both servicemen and prisoners who were on the Jersey from the British National Archives. I hope to make this list available to those seeking information about both Patriots and Loyalists.

FGA: Was it surprising to learn that an array of different ethnic groups participated in the American Revolution?

WRK: We have discovered that more than sixty countries participated in America's Revolutionary war, a conflict that actually became man's first worldwide war. They included the Caribbean nations, the Duchies that comprised Germany, African nations, and Native American nations. Recently I learned that approximately 13% of the 11,000 martyrs who died on British prison ships were of African descent. This will undoubtedly strike a chord with people of color and foster poignant regard for the Prison Ship Martyrs Memorial.

FGA: I understand that Sunday, November 16 is also an important part of the weekend's centennial monument recognition. Can you tell me about that?

WRK: Yes. A Family Day is planned for that date, and anyone who is interested in learning more about his or her individual family history is welcomed to attend workshops and receive one-on-one assistance from a staff of experienced Genealogists. It promises to be a truly remarkable day, and an equally remarkable weekend. For related program listings in October and November, go to briconline.org/bcat.

Photos of James Forten portrait and Wilhelmena Rhodes Kelly by Carey Kirkella, 2008.

WEDDING Pamela Doane, originally of Long Island, and Michael Casale, originally of Adrian Mich., married on Sat. July 19th at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brooklyn, in Brooklyn Heights.

They honeymooned in Spain and France, are residents at 101 Lafayette Avenue. New names: Michael Doan Casale & Pamela Doan Casale.

NEW BABY Baby daughter Alix was born, amid the spring blossoms, to Marc and Christine Lambrechts, residents of 158 South Oxford Street.

Congratulations! Here's to a Beautiful Future for the all the Family!

Farewells

EDWARD BASCH Long-time resident of Cumberland Street, former FGA board member, in the spring. We will miss seeing him in the neighborhood. Our remembrances to his wife, Catherine, and family.

ESTELLA GREENE Departed Saturday, July 19, 2008. She had been in business in Fort Greene for 20 years at Barton, Greene & Vance Inc., 108A South Oxford. Services were held on July 25. Her death came after a continuing illness which she challenged with determination and grace. Our sympathy to her niece, Donna, and to her family. Many of us knew her, she will be missed.

ANN V. McNEELY Mother of Selma Jackson (of 4W), died on April 29, 2008. Our condolences to the McNeely family and especially to Selma, among us for many years. We wish you happy remembrances.

LT. DANIEL FARKAS Son of neighbor Mirjam Farkas, resident for many years on Washington Park. He was killed in Afghanistan on July 4, 2008. Daniel, a Fort Greene resident, grew up here and was known and admired by many. NYC Police Officer and National Guardsman, he had won many awards. A memorial service was held July 14 at Daniel's spiritual home, East Midwood Jewish Center, where he was praised for his communal participation there.

The sanctuary was filled with those remembering him. There was a huge contingent of NYC police officers honoring this former one of their own. Too early taken, with so much given and more to give. He gave the most of all. We send our condolences to his 5 siblings and larger family. To his mother Mirjam we wish a continuing flowering garden and comfort among sweet memories.

Neighborliness - A Big Thank You from PS 46 to the FGA

On behalf of the families that lost their homes:

About a month ago, the FGA sent out a plea for help to two families of the local PS 46 community who lost their homes due to fire over the winter. Thanks to the generosity of our Fort Greene community, both families now have plenty of clothing to get them through the summer, kitchens filled with the plates, glasses, and pots and pans that were needed, and bedding and towels.

Jay Johnson, the PS 46 contact person for the collection, fielded questions about other possible needs, and coordinated it all. The last of the donations were delivered to the families before the end of the school year. Thank you to all who were so generous, and to Jay for coordinating the effort. It was wonderful to see what we as a community could accomplish.

On behalf of the PS 46 students:

PS 46 also want to thank the FGA for making it possible for our children to attend the Festival Of Cultures at Green Meadows Farm this summer. The children watched African, Latin and Native American musical performances. They were also able to see and pet farm animals and picnic for lunch. The children were talking about it for days. It tied right in with our musical curriculum and was something that many of the children otherwise would not have been able to attend. We so greatly appreciate the FGA's continuing support of PS 46 and its music program. We look forward to working with you in the future. Again, thank you for your support!



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JAY E. BUTLER, CONSULTING ENGINEER is proud to underwrite this issue of the Fort Greene Association newsletter.

NEWSCENES

FASHION:

Have you realized that Fort Greene is becoming a fashion destination? Our established clothing merchants have led the way and others are following. All to our advantage.

STACKHOUSE 69 Lafayette Ave (2nd Flr). Mon-Sat 12-8 PM / Sun 12-7 PM. Owner: Tara Everston, Manager: Ken Wong. Mens & womens street wear / footwear / hats, bags, scarves / jewelry. New and up-&-coming designers. Overlooking Fowler Square. 718 625-5700

JOE FAULK 114 Dekalb Ave (@ Ashland) Mon-Sat 10-9 PM / Sun 12-8 PM. Hats custom made to order for men, women, children - straw & felt. Quality clothing at wholesale prices. Sizes small to 3X. Style and selection enticing. Sophisticated or easy. For all hat-lovers. 718 855-5870

THISTLE&CLOVER 221 DeKalb Ave (near Clermont). Mon-Fri 12-8 PM / Sat & Sun 11-7 PM. Co-Founder: Rand Niederhoffer. For women. Sophisticated and charming - reflecting a range of clothing - day to dark - plus jewelry, hats, bags. Stop in, wish them success. 718 855-5577

SUPERNOVA BOUTIQUE 741 Fulton Street. Mon-Sun 12-8 PM. Owners: Nova and Lexx Perry, brother & sister. Urban / Trendy / Contemporary. Celebrity Trends. We are lucky to have several family enterprises among our merchant neighbors - adding to the stability of our community. Welcome these siblings. 718 243 1205

Three of the above-mentioned shops featured the re-emergence of the cloche - that profile-framing little hat of the 1920s. See if you can spot them and perhaps elsewhere, too.

BEAUTY:

DE LUX GALLERY INC. All Natural Hair Salon 91 Hanson Place through 704 Fulton St. Owner: Glen Etienne. We're glad this established business will be staying and enlarging (to former 4W spot). Stop in, see the newly done space, say hello. 718 522-3324

BUTTERFLY NAIL PLAZA 57 Lafayette Avenue (@ Ft Greene Pl). Open 7 days. Mon-Sat 10-8 PM / Sun 10-7:30 PM (May-Oct: Mon-Sat 9:30-9 PM / Sun 10-7:30 PM) Wide choice of services - from manicure to massage plus. 718 858-7410

ANNETTA'S BEAUTY SALON 150 Waverly Ave (btwn. Myrtle/Park). Owner: Annetta Coburn, who has a history on the Avenue, having been at 468 Myrtle for over 30 years. In new location, she'll continue to serve the community. We wish her many more years of success. 718 246-9129

SOKETAH SALON 378 Myrtle Ave (btwn Adelphi/Clermont). Owners: Kecia Farrell, Sonia Lashley and Tasha. Stop in, ask about the salon's name. Wish them the best. 718 875-6845

COMESTIBLES:

CAFFE E VINO 112 Dekalb Ave (btwn St. Felix St/Ashland Pl (across from Hospital). Open 7 days, 8 AM-11 PM. Owner: Giovanni. As pleasant a dining spot as you'll find. Northern Italian cuisine, warm welcome, great food, easy ambiance. Relax and savor. 718 855-6222

THE GENERAL GREENE 229 DeKalb Ave (@ Clermont). Sun-Tu-Wed 5-11 PM / Th 5-12 AM / Fri-Sat 5-1 AM. Owner: Nicholas Morgenstern. "High quality comfort foods" in a space with a country flavor. Save room for dessert since the chef/owner is known for his pastry prowess. Bid them welcome. 718 222-1510

CONNECTICUT MUFFIN 59 Lafayette Ave (@ Ft Greene Pl). Here's a familiar logo whose muffins and more have arrived. Pleasant setting, choices for all taste buds. Wi-Fi. Say hello.

THE BAKERY, Custom Baking. 154 Vanderbilt Ave (@Myrtle). 8 AM to 8 PM Tues-Sun. Owner: Adrienne Braxton, longtime Clinton Hill resident. Small shop but big on delicious and friendly. One bite of an apricot tart brought the exclamation, "This crust is heaven!" Many other treats to choose from: scones, cookies, pies, cakes and more. And, if you're lucky, Arnold Bryant, a courtly gentleman, will be there to make you feel welcome. Stop in often and wish them success. 718 596-5999.

Visit all the above, become their clients, let them know we are glad they are here. Their good fortune is ours; they provide the texture and financial stability which is vital to our community. Newly arrived or longtime merchant neighbor, give them your support. Spread the word!

NEW ADDRESS:

FORT GREENE SNAP - Strategic Neighborhood Action Partnership

Their new location is 324 Myrtle Avenue (btwn Washington Park/Carlton). Executive Director: Dr. Georgianna Glose. Long important, working to improve the quality of life for Fort Greene and surrounding communities, now settled in their new, permanent home. Much good luck to Dr. Glose and her colleagues! 718 694-6957

We invite you to submit items for **NEWSCENES**, inclusion is by the editor's decision. For any mistakes herein, we apologize.