HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL
2009 GRASSROOTS PRESERVATION AWARDS
and PRESERVATION PARTY

Thursday, May 7, 2009, 6pm
St. Mark’s Church in-the-Bowery
Garden & Parish Hall
East 10th Street & Second Avenue
St. Mark’s Historic District
Manhattan
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRASSROOTS AWARD WINNERS - FROM LEO & KEN

LEO J. BLACKMAN ARCHITECTS
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PROGRAM

2009 Grassroots Preservation Awards
19th Annual Preservation Party

Thursday, May 7, 2009

- welcome -

- presentation of awards -

Friend in High Places
Council Member Vincent J. Gentile
43rd District, Brooklyn

Friend from the Media
amNewYork

Grassroots Preservation Awards
American Bank Note Company Printing Plant
David Carnivale
Friends of Gibbons U.G.R.R. Site and Lamartine Place
Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association

Closing remarks -

Pianist
Arthur Abrams
Carnegie Hill Neighbors

*salutes*

**THE HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL AND THE 2009 GRASSROOTS PRESERVATION AWARDS HONOREES**

We are also pleased to announce our new

**CARNEGIE HILL ARCHITECTURAL GUIDE**

It encompasses, besides our Historic District, all of Carnegie Hill covering 400 buildings with the biographies of 180 architects and includes eight self-guided walks with maps.

“*Every neighborhood needs a guide like this one...*”
notes Christopher Gray in the preface.

To order call 212-996-5520, or go to carnegiehillneighbors.org. For participants of this event the price is $20 including tax and shipping.
Offer extends through May 2009. Regular retail is $25.
GRASSROOTS PRESERVATION AWARDS

Successful historic preservation efforts in New York City require a collaboration among many parties, including the public, government agencies and the private sector. Without popular support even the most well-intentioned and farsighted public policy cannot be implemented, and without governmental guidance even the most organized and well-funded private efforts are doomed to fail.

With these awards HDC seeks to recognize, honor and encourage public participation in the preservation process. These are the individuals and organizations that, with their time, effort and support, move the preservation collaboration forward. By working with, encouraging and cajoling public decision-makers, these grassroots preservationists form the foundation of all our work. In 2000, HDC gave the first annual Grassroots Preservation Awards to recognize such outstanding efforts.

In addition, the awards include two special categories. The Friend in High Places and Friend from the Media Awards honor and acknowledge the dedication and support of elected officials and the press for encouraging the cause of historic preservation throughout the city. Without support from elected representatives or the media, few community-based preservation efforts would ever bear fruit.
Friend in High Places

Council Member Vincent J. Gentile receives the Friend in High Places Award for his longtime preservation efforts throughout his district. Gentile was elected to the City Council in 2003 and represents the south Brooklyn neighborhoods of Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, Bath Beach and part of Bensonhurst. Shortly after taking office, he formed Council Member Gentile’s Preservation Committee, a group of advocates who help him make community preservation a top priority in his district. Through the committee, he achieved a successful contextual rezoning of more than 400 blocks of Bay Ridge in 2005 and Dyker Heights in 2007. Working with the Historic Districts Council in 2007, he spearheaded a zoning survey of the Bath Beach neighborhood to protect the low-rise character of the area. The Council Member has also campaigned for the preservation of numerous buildings, among them the Bennett-Farrell-Feldman House, the former Bay Ridge High School, and Bay Ridge United Methodist Church, and he continues to press for reuse, restoration and preservation of historic structures.

Council Member Vincent J. Gentile
43rd District, Brooklyn
amNewYork is a free daily print publication and online blog. Managing Editor Rolando Pujol has made community preservation a top priority for amNew York, launching a separate feature entitled “Endangered NYC.” Recent articles have addressed such important campaigns as the efforts to save Saint Saviour’s Church in Queens, 1520 Sedgewick Avenue in The Bronx (also known as the birthplace of hip-hop) and the Con Ed Powerhouse in Brooklyn. In 2006, amNewYork initiated an annual “Ten to Save” list, which highlights significant threatened buildings across New York City.
The American Bank Note Company Printing Plant is a prominent industrial complex located in the Hunts Point neighborhood of The Bronx, originally constructed as a printing facility for foreign currencies and government bonds. In January 2008 Taconic Investment Partners and Denham Wolf Real Estate Services purchased the property, now known as The BankNote, with an intent to renovate and restore the buildings into a mixed-use commercial and retail facility. Since the purchase, the owners have been consistent and dedicated advocates for the preservation of The BankNote’s unique history and architecture. Last year the Landmarks Preservation Commission designated the complex as a New York City individual landmark.
David Carnivale has been a practicing architect and voice for historic preservation on Staten Island for more than 20 years. His love of historic buildings was nurtured by a childhood spent at Historic Richmond Town, learning the principles of restoration from the late Loring McMillen, founder of the restoration group, and his son, master carpenter William McMillen. Over the years, David’s passion for older houses has been translated into several preservation successes for some of Staten Island’s oldest structures, such as the 1678 Lakeman-Cortelyou-Taylor House in New Dorp, as well as the later c. 1836 Seaman Cottage, which was saved from demolition and relocated to Historic Richmond Town. Mr. Carnivale is also the author of “The Affordable House,” an online and print publication that offers architectural plans in historical styles.
Friends of Gibbons U.G.R.R. Site and Lamartine Place

Friends of Gibbons U.G.R.R. Site and Lamartine Place advocates for the protection and preservation of the Lamartine Block, consisting of West 29th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues in Manhattan. The group also strongly pushed for the individual landmarking of 339 West 29th Street, the former home of the crusading abolitionist and activist Hopper-Gibbon family. This volunteer group, led by Fern Luskin and Julie Finch, researched and documented the area’s connection to the Underground Railroad and its significance to abolitionist and New York history. In 2008, the Friends submitted this research to the Landmarks Preservation Commission, which promptly calendared twelve buildings on West 29th Street for official consideration as an historic district.
The Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association has served the Ridgewood community in Queens for the last 78 years. It addresses neighborhood issues dealing with the community’s overall quality of life, and in particular Ridgewood’s parks, street trees, housing, zoning, security, transit and local retail. Today there are nearly 700 member families. The association has long fought to preserve the historic character of the neighborhood, which largely consists of early-20th-century brick row houses with a variety of architectural detailing. In 1983, after several years of staff work by its sister organization, the Greater Ridgewood Restoration Corporation, Ridgewood became the largest residential district in New York State on the National Register of Historic Places, with 2,892 properties listed. More recently, through the association’s efforts, the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission calendared 96 of these six-family buildings, known as the Matthews Flats, as part of the proposed Ridgewood North Historic District and calendared another 210 buildings as the Ridgewood South Historic District. The community looks forward to additional city designations of this worthy area in the near future.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HDC
2009 GRASSROOTS PRESERVATION
AWARD WINNERS

RestorationArchitecture

Walter B. Melvin Architects, LLC, has provided quality restoration planning since 1975. With a strong commitment to the preservation of historic detail, the firm has developed many new approaches to restoration that stress compatibility with original building designs and materials. The firm focuses on long term solutions to a building’s interrelated needs, applying proven construction methods and innovative approaches to preserve the rich detail and fine workmanship of historic structures.

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ABOUT THE HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL

The Historic Districts Council is the independent, not-for-profit, nonpartisan, citywide advocate for New York’s designated historic districts and individual landmarks and for neighborhoods and buildings meriting preservation. The Council is dedicated to upholding the New York City Landmarks Law and to furthering the preservation ethic. This mission is accomplished through ongoing programs of hands-on assistance to more than 500 local community and neighborhood groups and through public-policy initiatives, publications, educational outreach and sponsorship of community events.

The core belief of the Historic Districts Council is that the preservation and enhancement of New York City’s historic resources—its neighborhoods, buildings, parks and public spaces—are central to the continued success of the city. Originally founded in 1971 as a coalition of community groups from New York City’s designated historic districts, HDC was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1985 and has grown to become the foremost citywide voice for historic preservation. Following its mandate of community-based preservation advocacy, HDC works continuously to broaden and educate the preservation constituency—from producing zoning and architectural surveys of unprotected historic neighborhoods, to meeting with legislators and city officials, to creating educational programs on the techniques and strategies of neighborhood preservation.

HDC’s small professional staff is guided by its dedicated Boards of Directors and Advisers, whose members represent more than two dozen historic neighborhoods and are drawn from the fields of architecture, education, history, marketing, law, design, public relations, journalism and community activism. Their collective expertise aids community groups in their campaigns to preserve the sense of place that characterizes the city’s diverse historic neighborhoods. Working with these neighborhood partners, HDC has been instrumental in preserving historic buildings and communities across the five boroughs.
Since the 1960s, **JILL GILL** has preserved New York buildings — in watercolor and ink.

**WWW.JILLGILL.NET**

looking north on fifty-second street between sixth and seventh avenues, june 1983 © JILL GILL 1983

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THE GREEN-WOOD HISTORIC FUND

PRESERVING THE PAST TO SERVE THE FUTURE

RESTORATION: The Preservation & Restoration Department created the custom mold for the re-cast eagles on the recently restored monument to Maj. Gen. George Crockett Strong.

GREEN-WOOD  A National Historic Landmark—Est. 1838—Brooklyn, NY  greenwoodcemetery.org
Past Recipients

2008
DUMBO Neighborhood Association
Develop Don’t Destroy Brooklyn
Juniper Park Civic Association
227 Duffield Street Coalition

2007
Broadway-Flushing Homeowners Association
Crown Heights North Association
East Village Community Coalition
Sunnyside Gardens Preservation Alliance

2006
Coalition to Preserve the Austin, Nichols & Company Warehouse
Linda Eskenas
Victoria Hofmo
Tottenville Historical Society

2005
Judy Berdy
Peter Levenson
Kate Ottavino
Landmark West!
Richmond Hill Historical Society
Rosemary Cappozalo

2004
Brooklyn Heights Association
Douglaston/Little Neck Historical Society
Thomson Meter Building Coalition: Nicholas Evans-Cato, Susan Tunick, Andrew S. Dolkart
Leo J. Blackman Architects
Mud Lane Society for the Renaissance of Stapleton

2003
CitiNeighbors Coalition for Historic Carnegie Hill
Josephine E. Jones
Senator Street 300 Block Association
Seaport Community Coalition
Manhattan Community Board 1

2002
Evelyn and Everett Ortner
Jackson Heights Beautification Group
Murray Hill Neighborhood Association
Save Gansevoort Market Task Force
Linda C. Jones

2001
Daniel Donovan,
Paul Graziano
“Reverend” Billy Talen,
Marjorie Decker Johnson
James Ferreri

2000
Hamilton Heights-West Harlem Community Preservation Organization
Elizabeth Ashby,
The Coalition to Save P.S. 109
Save the Coogan! Coalition,
Michael Gotkin

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Daniel Donovan
Paul Graziano
Bill “Reverend Billy” Talen
James Ferreri
Marjorie Decker Johnson

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Hamilton Heights-West Harlem Community Preservation Organization
Elizabeth Ashby
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Save the Coogan! Coalition
Michael Gotkin
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• amNewYork
• American Bank Note Company
• Printing Plant
• David Carnivale
• Friends of Gibbons U.G.R.R. Site
• and Lamartine Place
• Ridgewood Property Owners and
• Civic Association


FRIEND IN HIGH PLACES AWARD

Council Member Jessica S. Lappin  
5th District, Manhattan; 2008

Assembly Member Deborah Glick  
66th District, Manhattan; 2007

Council Member Letitia James  
35th District, Brooklyn; 2006

Council Member Tony Avella  
19th District, Queens; 2005

State Senator Liz Krueger  
26th District, Manhattan; 2004

Council Member Michael McMahon  
49th District, Staten Island; 2003

Council Member Dennis Gallagher  
30th District, Queens; 2002

State Senator Thomas K. Duane  
29th District, Manhattan; 2001

Council Member Jerome X. O’Donovan  
49th District, Staten Island; 2000

FRIEND FROM THE MEDIA AWARD

Brownstoner.com; 2008  
Curbed.com; 2007  
Cityland; 2006  
Riverdale Press; 2005  
The Staten Island Advance; 2004  
The Villager and Albert Amateau; 2003  
The City section, The New York Times; 2002  
James Niccoloro; 2001  

MICKEY MURPHY AWARD

Chan Graham; 2007  
Doris Diether; 2005  
Stanley Cogan; 2004  
Barnett Shepherd; 2003  
Evelyn Strouse; 2002
ROBERT A.M. STERN
ARCHITECTS

SALUTES
the Historic Districts Council’s
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DUMBO Neighborhood Alliance • East 12th Street Block Association
Fifth Avenue Committee • Fiske Terrace Association • Floyd Bennett Field Task Force
Fort Greene Association • Four Borough Neighborhood Preservation Alliance
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TheGreen-Wood Cemetery • Hamilton Heights-West Harlem Community Preservation Association
Jackson Heights Garden City Society • Landmark West! • Merchant’s House Museum
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North Shore Waterfront Greenbelt and West Brighton Restoration Society
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Preserve & Protect • Prospect Park South Association • Queens Civic Congress
Richmond Hill Historical Society • Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association
Roosevelt Island Historical Society • St. Mark’s Historic Landmark Fund
SoHo Alliance • Stockholm Street Block Association
Sutton Area Community • 10th & Stuyvesant Streets Block Association
Tottenville Historical Society • Union Square Community Coalition
Vinegar Hill Neighborhood Association • West End Preservation Society

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