

Established
1973

LINEWATERS'

GAZETTE



Volume AA, Number 2

January 19, 2006

ATTENTION
COOP members

**The Coop will close early on Sunday, January 29, 5:00 p.m.
for year end inventory.**

Disciplinary Hearing Finds Members Guilty of Theft of Services and Uncooperative Behavior

By Michael Esterowitz



Disciplinary Committee Hearing

A Disciplinary Hearing was held on Tuesday, January 3 for two members of a household who were charged with theft of services, based on incidents of shopping while suspended. A second charge of extremely uncooperative behavior was made against one of the members, based on giving false answers to questions from the Disciplinary Hearing Committee (DHC) investigator.

The hearing was presided over by DHC member Mel Spain. He explained to the attending panel of 13 randomly chosen Coop members that a hearing takes place when a member determined by the DHC to have committed a serious violation chooses that option rather than resignation. The hearing took place under the old rules as per new procedures drafted by the DHC itself. These procedures, passed at a general membership meeting in October, are in the process of being phased in.

DHC presenter Karen Kramer stated in her opening that the charges were not about owing work slots but were for knowingly flaunting Coop rules by repeatedly shopping while suspended after being informed both verbally and by letter that shopping was not allowed, and then attempting to deceive the DHC about it.

DHC member Andy Feldman was the chief investigator of the case and the primary witness. According to his testimony, the case against the couple began to develop on September 22, when a squad leader determined that one of them was shopping while on suspension. The squad leader testified that he informed the member at that time that she could not shop, but nonetheless allowed the member to check out. A pattern of shopping after doing a makeup shift was noted by the squad leader in the feedback book; that notation is what led to the initial DHC investigation.

DHC witness Feldman

went on to note that prior to this incident, in January of 2005, the household had been sent a copy of a letter that is automatically sent to squad leaders of suspended members. The letter essentially states that the particular member is suspended and cannot shop after doing a work shift. A second pair of letters reiterating this was also sent directly to the suspended members respectively in June and September. It also provided information about a "one-for-one" plan, which offers a way of regaining shopping privileges immediately by doing one makeup each month.

A letter from an office coordinator, indicating that the accused members had been suspended since January and May of last year respectively, was offered into evidence. An office coordinator gave testimony with regard to how suspended members who have gone past their ten-day grace period without doing makeups are sent letters.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Organic Standards and Labeling for Body Care Products Approved by USDA

By Alison Rose Levy

This past August, the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved the use of the Organic Seal for topical and body care products. Although this decision is just the beginning, hopefully it will end more than a decade of confusion over topical

could boast that it contained "organic" ingredients like aloe, or tea tree oil, even if these ingredients were mixed into a formulation containing synthetic preservatives, emollients, or "penetration enhancers." Craig Minowa of the Organic Consumers



Moisturizing with a healthy cream for a healthy skin

products and their respective ingredients—and help this growing four billion dollar industry define itself. Prior to the decision, the use of the designations, organic, made with organic ingredients, and natural had no precise meaning—but now those terms are being clarified. As a result, both consumers and producers know where they stand and some producers now have the incentive to reformulate their products to step up to the new standards.

In the past, a product

Organization pointed out that in the past even a product containing trace amounts of organic materials added to a motley mix of traditional chemical compounds could call itself organic. What's more, a product, like shampoo, or a skin tonic, could call itself "95% organic" by including so-called organic floral waters, even if its other active ingredients were questionable. Many such hybrid products are still sold both by natural producers and by

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Next General Meeting on January 31

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month.* The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, January 31, 7:00 p.m. at the Congregation Beth Elohim Temple House, 274 Garfield Place at 8th Avenue.

The agenda is in this Gazette and is available as a flyer in the entryway of the Coop. For more information about the GM and about Coop governance, please see the center of this issue.

* Exceptions for November and December will be posted.

Coop Event Highlights

Fri, Jan 20 • **Good Coffeehouse:** Swing Street, 8:00 p.m.Thu, Feb 2 • **Food Class:** Sea Vegetables, 7:30 p.m.Fri, Feb 3 • **Film Night:** Short Films by Women, 7:00 p.m.Sat, Feb 11 • **Children's Clothing Exchange:** 10:00–1:30Sat, Feb 11 • **World Beat Cabaret & Dance:** 7:00 p.m.Fri, Feb 17 • **Good Coffeehouse:** Russ Siegel: Coop Big Band,

Look for additional information about these and other events in this issue.

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Disciplinary Hearing

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DHC witness Feldman expounded on a series of e-mail and telephone exchanges between himself and the accused members in October and November during which he restated that it was against rules to shop while suspended. During that time the couple claimed to be making a good faith effort to complete their makeups. Feldman testified that he raised the matter of the one-for-one option, which is only offered once as a way of regaining shopping privileges immediately, and that it was indicated to him that they would pursue that option.

On November 9, Feldman continued, he was assured by one of the accused that they had not shopped since the incident with the squad leader on September 22. Store system computer and video records show that the couple had shopped every time they did a makeup or a regular shift since September 22. During a follow up phone call after learning these facts, one of the accused members stated to Feldman that although she had previously believed that a suspended member could shop during a regular or makeup shift, after September 22 she understood that it was not allowed and they had not been doing so. Shortly after that phone call, the DHC determined that a deliberate theft of services had taken place, and that the misrepresentation met the standards for a charge of extremely uncooperative behavior. The couple was informed on December 4 that they were DHC suspended.

A video showing two instances of one of the members shopping during October was shown. It was brought out during subsequent testimony that the couple did receive two recent extensions after the investigation had been initiated. Feldman represented these extensions as a deliberate manipulation of the system that had been granted by a squad leader and an office worker who were unfamiliar with the background information.

The accused members were afforded an opportunity to speak on their own behalf. In an emotional statement, one apologetically stated that although she learned on September 22 that she was not supposed to shop, she thought they were acting within the spirit of the rules because they were conscientiously doing their makeups. Denying that the recent extensions were any attempt to “manipulate the system,” she stated that she had gone to the office to inquire about the “one-for-one” arrangement, and that the office worker had told her that since

she owed only a few makeups, she could be granted an extension instead. She also reported that her employment required frequent and unexpected travel and that recent family situations had created stress. The other member of the household also spoke of vagueness in their understanding of the “one-for-one” option.

"During summation, DHC presenter Karen Kramer again indicated that the case was not about missed work shifts, but about the necessity of a system of rules that everyone agrees to follow in order for the Coop to exist and follow its mission."

The panel then asked questions, and several indicated some reservations about the DHC presentation. One panelist raised questions about the relatively few number of makeups owed. Another expressed concern about contradictory messages the couple had received, since the office was willing to grant extensions while at the same time the DHC was saying that the couple had to get their shifts owed down to zero. A question was raised of whether the frequency of their makeups plus regular shifts would have qualified them for the “one-for-one” plan. An office coordinator indicated that only one of the pair would have qualified.


During summation DHC presenter Kramer again indicated that the case was not

about missed work shifts, but about the necessity of a system of rules that everyone agrees to follow in order for the Coop to exist and follow its mission. One of the accused household members again apologized for making false statements, but indicated that they had been attempting to act in good faith, that they loved the Coop, and asked to be given another chance.

At the close of the presentations lots were drawn to choose nine out of the thirteen attending panel members who would constitute the deciding group. This group deliberated for approximately 20 minutes before arriving at their decision.

Their judgment was that the accused couple was in fact guilty of the charges against them. They could retain their membership under the following conditions: 1) they must make up all shifts owed by January 31, and 2) they must not accumulate any more missed work slots or commit any infraction of the rules for a six-month period ending on July 31. Failure to follow these conditions would lead to expulsion from the Coop. When the question of shopping was raised, it was reiterated that they could not shop while suspended, and that their suspension would not be lifted until they got their shifts owed down to zero. ■

Note: The reporter wishes to disclose that his domestic partner is a member of the Disciplinary Hearing Committee. Although she was present at the hearing, she was in no way involved in the investigation of the case or the conduct of the hearing. She did not contribute in any way to the writing of this article or read it prior to its publication.



Who needs Old Navy when you can outfit your child at the Coop for free?!

Bring your child's outgrown clothes to the Coop to trade with other members.

Please bring only items that are in good condition.

Do not bring clothing to the Coop before the hours of the exchange.

FREE Non-members welcome	Saturday, February 11 10:00-1:30 pm Latest drop-off 1:00 p.m.
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Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop

PSFC JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, January 31

7:00 p.m.

- Congregation Beth Elohim Social Hall
274 Garfield Pl at 8th Ave.
- Items will be taken up in the order given.
- Times in parentheses are suggestions.

AGENDA:

Item #1: Disciplinary Committee Elections (30 minutes)
Election: Three current committee members will stand for re-election, and the committee will present three additional candidates for the committee under the recently revised committee procedures.
—submitted by the Disciplinary Hearing Committee

Item #2: Reducing Lines for Checkout (30 minutes)
Discussion: "To create a new weekend work shift of "packers" to make checkout lines move more quickly." —submitted by Beth Segal

Item #3: GM Attendance Work Credit (30 minutes)
Proposal: "To double the number of General Meetings one can get work credit for by attending two per year." —submitted by Robin Campbell

Future Agenda Information:

For information on how to place an Item on the Agenda, please see the center pages of the *Linewaiters' Gazette*. The Agenda Committee minutes and the status of pending agenda items are available in the office and at all GMs.

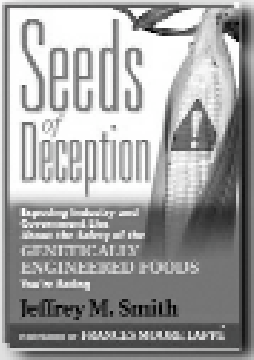


The Park Slope Food Coop
GMO Shelf Labeling Committee presents

Jeffrey Smith

author of **Seeds of Deception**
Reveals the real truth about the safety of Genetically Engineered Foods

Jeff Smith will reveal the significant health dangers of genetically modified (GM) foods and the intense industry influence and political corruption that allow them on the market.



\$5 admission

The event will be held
Sunday, February 19, 4pm at:
Park Slope
United Methodist Church
The corner of 6th Ave and 8th St.
Park Slope Brooklyn

Questions? More info? call: 718-496-5139

Organic Standards...for Body Care Products

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

conventional personal care manufacturers. For example, the high-end line of skin care products sold by natural dermatologist Nicholas Perricone contains many natural active ingredients, but the formulations are filled with the typical preservatives. With labeling, the rules have changed. Thanks to this product labeling, people who truly care about what they put on themselves and on their family's skin, hair and teeth can finally distinguish authentic organic products from their hybrid competitors.

"Thanks to product labeling, people who truly care about what they put on themselves and on their family's skin, hair and teeth can finally distinguish authentic organic products from their hybrid competitors."

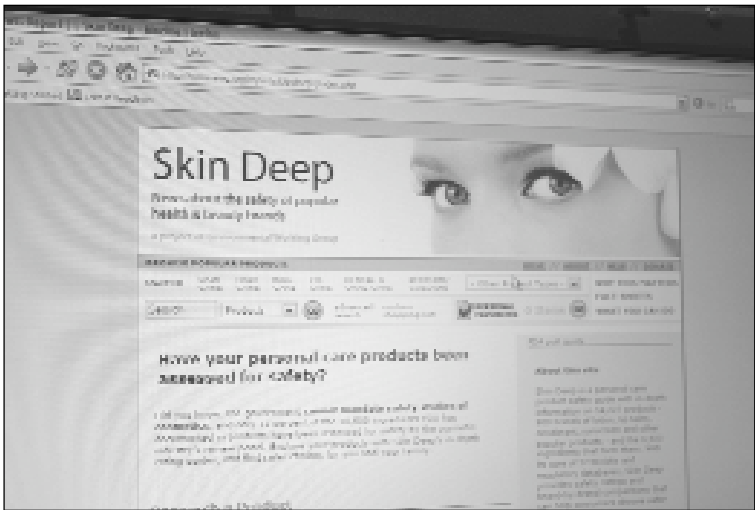
Although many people assume that the thousands of synthetic ingredients used in conventional skin care and cosmetics are safe (and indeed many are classified by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as "generally regarded as safe" (GRAS) ingredients), consumer groups, like the Environmental Working Group, and scientific critics, like Dr. Samuel Epstein, MD, Professor Emeritus of Environmental and Occupational Medicine at the University of Illinois, and author of *Unreasonable Risk* (Sound Concepts, 2005), argue that many widely used ingredients have not absolutely been proven safe, either because they have not been tested, or because test results conflict. In addition, select studies raise serious questions as to the safety of numerous common ingredients. Moreover, the interaction of ingredients in a single product, or between multiple products has not been well assessed. Nor has ongoing and long term exposure to multiple products and ingredients been rigorously tested; the consequences of possible interactions are assumed to be acceptable. Given that some people may use no more than two or three topical products on a daily basis, while many women use as many as fourteen or more, these assumptions about the wide range of exposure may be overly sanguine.

According to Dr. Epstein, studies show the penetration of ingredients through the skin barrier, resulting in their absorption into the body where they can later be detected in the blood stream, as well as in tissues and organs.

What's more, certain ingredients are added to products expressly because they enhance penetration. Finally, toxic ingredients in foods pass through the digestive tract, where liver enzymes can act upon them to lower their toxicity. However, ingredients

Non-organic ingredients "are the things that clean your skin or get under the grime that is in your hair."

The Environmental Working Group, a Washington, D.C. based consumer advocacy group, researched topical care products and ingredients and



A closer look at the "Skin Deep" website

the bloodstream directly. This makes organic topical products the only tightly regulated area in skin, body, and hair care. With the new standards in place, certifiers licensed by the National Organics Program (NOP) will approve the seal on products that contain ingredients that are 95 percent organic. Other products may be labeled "made with organic" ingredients, and there is nothing to stop a manufacturer from using "organic" in their name, even if they don't pass muster to qualify for the seal, making the seal the only true guarantee.

Some suppliers argue that purely organic ingredients just won't do the job, and that mixing synthetic and organic ingredients is essential to a good product. "It's really very hard to make a shampoo or a skin-care product that is 95 percent organic," said Morris Shriftman, the senior vice president of Avalon Organics, quoted in the *New York Times*.

Deep, available on their website at www.ewg.org/reports/skindeep2/index.php. Their searchable on-line database shows how particular products rank. Including makeup, skin, hair, eye care, care, and dental care, as well as perfume and cologne, they cover the spectrum of brands from Aubrey to Maybelline and provide a color coded ranking system to show how each product rates. They also offer extensive analysis of all commonly used synthetic chemical ingredients, so that you can assess whether a product contains a known carcinogen or endocrine disruptor, or whether tests are equivocal or lacking.

The site shows, for example, that products from Avalon Organics (whose shampoos are sold here at the Coop) have undergone reformulation. Their original formulation, Nourishing Lavender Shampoo, received a score of 1.2 indicating moderate concern about its ingredients,

while their newly formulated Bath and Body Rosemary Shampoo gets a score of 1.0 indicating low concern.

Which ingredients are the most problematic? Coal tars found in hair dye, shampoo, and talc in talcum powder are known and well-documented carcinogens, says Dr. Epstein. Nail polish, deodorant, soaps, shampoo shaving cream, among other products contain the known carcinogen, formaldehyde, as well as its precursors. It's widely used as a disinfectant. Phthalates, used in some fragrances, lotions, shampoos and nail polish, have resulted in undesirable changes in male reproductive development, several animal studies have shown. Parabens, commonly used as preservatives, can disrupt the activity of estrogen, and have been found in breast cancer tissue, according to recent studies. Although this research is not

of course, perfumes. Fragrances rank as the most commonly allergenic substances, according to dermatologist, Leslie Baumann, MD, author of *The Skin Type Solution* (Bantam 2006).

Quite a few Coop suppliers, including Aubrey, Avalon, Bert's Bees, Jason, Kiss My Face, Terressentials, and Weleda, have joined with nearly two hundred companies, large and small, in the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, which aims to remove from beauty products any ingredients suspected to be carcinogens, reproductive toxins, (such as endocrine disruptors) or mutagens (capable of causing DNA damage). And spearheading this movement toward truly safe and organic topical care is the granddaddy of them all, Dr. Bronners, whose peppermint soap is one of the first natural health topical products. Dr. Bronners put its legal muscle behind



PHOTOS BY ROD MORRISON

A line-up of products that fall within the "Campaign for Safe Cosmetics"

avoiding the risk.

In addition, since their formulations are individual, and hence considered as "trade secrets," manufacturers are not required to list ingredients contained in "fragrance mixes" which are used in nearly all topical products to mask their smell, as well as in many cleansing products, soaps and

proudly carries the new Organic Seal. ■

PRESENTED BY THE COOP'S SAFE FOOD COMMITTEE

THE FUTURE OF FOOD

This beautiful and highly acclaimed film by Deborah Koons Garcia about food and farm safety provides a comprehensive overview of the controversy surrounding genetically engineered food.

Last fall, this film was held over for an extended period at the Film Forum. Come join us on the Safe Food Committee for a screening with discussion to follow.

FREE
Non-members welcome

Friday, January 27
7:00 p.m. at the Coop

Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop

Thursday, February 2
7:30 p.m.
at the Coop

food classes

Susan Baldassano, coordinator

PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP

Sea Vegetables

Guest Chef:
Annie Kunjapp
Annie is a graduate of The Natural Gourmet Institute for Health and Culinary Arts. Her approach to food is deeply connected to her long-term study of yoga and traditional Chinese healing practices, and integrates the belief that our bodies need change seasonally. This winter menu explores the underwater treasure trove of nutrition found in Sea Vegetables and strengthens the body during the cold dark season.

RECIPES—TASTINGS TOO!

- Cleansing Broth
- Dulse & Black Sesame Seed Crackers
- Millet Bean Cakes with Hijiki-Orange Relish
- Sweet Bean, Red Date & Seaweed

\$4 materials fee

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MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS WELCOME.

Come early to ensure a seat.

SAVE THE DATES!


PSFC FUN'RAISING
COMMITTEE EVENTS:

Saturday, February 11
World Beat Jamboree

Saturday, March 4
Kids Variety Show

Sunday, April 2
Spoken Word Circle

Saturday, May 6
Game Night



An Introduction to Acupressure

with Steven Guidi

This workshop will introduce participants to the practical application of acupressure. We will begin with a discussion of theoretical foundations, focusing on the related concepts of meridians, qi flow, and acupoints. Participants will then learn the pathways of various meridians and how to examine them, as well as how to feel for and stimulate acupoints to treat common ailments and promote overall health. This course will be hands-on and practical, giving participants an opportunity to try techniques on one another.

Steven Guidi, L.Ac., learned meridian style acupuncture from senior acupuncturist Dr. Wang Ju Yi of Beijing, China. He is now resident acupuncturist, herbalist and director of The Park Wellness center for integrative health care associates in Grand Army Plaza. He is a Coop member.

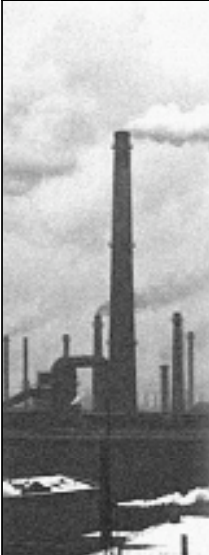
FREE
Non-members welcome

Saturday, January 21
6:00 p.m. at the Coop

Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop

Welcome to PEAK OIL

WITH MICHAEL WINKS



What is peak oil about?

The terminal decline of oil reserves
PEAK OIL means...

- Increasing Costs for oil extraction
- World demand rises while supplies decline
- Higher prices for vehicles and homes
- Winter heating costs we're feeling right now!

Major media is only beginning to get the message. Too little, too late?

There is an alternative. We can run and power our country on solar energy using alcohol fuel. We can do this with a crash program that would take 5-10 years.

Please join us to view a DVD presentation of "Alcohol Can Be a Gas" by David Blume, renowned expert in alcohol fuel and permaculture. A discussion will follow.

Michael Winks is a Coop member concerned about peak oil and a researcher for a 2006 how-to book, *Alcohol Can Be a Gas*, by David Blume.

FREE
Non-members welcome

Saturday, January 28
7:00 p.m. at the Coop

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with Susan Martin

Achieving Sales Goals and Quotas

Are you a business owner
or sales professional?

- Do you need more customers?
- Have sales goals and quotas eluded you?
- Do you want to ensure success?
- Do you need help to develop a plan?


**Tuesday,
January 31
7:30-9:00 p.m.
at the Coop**

FREE
Non-Members
Welcome

**This interactive workshop
will help you:**

- Identify the goal and it's importance
- Discover what may be blocking you from achieving it.
- Create a plan to ensure success.
- Fill your pipeline.
- Increase your selling skills.
- And finally, get the customers you need.

Susan Martin helps business owners, sales teams and independent professionals get more clients, improve productivity and run their businesses more effectively.



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Weight Loss that Lasts

Have you struggled with losing weight?

Have you tried different diets unsuccessfully?

Do you have emotional eating patterns?

Are you dissatisfied with the way you look and feel in your body?

We all know how to diet and lose weight, but keeping it off is the challenge as old habits come creeping back. Join Rachel and Gabriela for a workshop that will take you out of the weight loss/weight gain cycle and into making permanent changes.

We will cover:

- why diets don't work—developing permanent habits
- creating a new relationship with food and our bodies
- dealing with emotional and addictive eating patterns
- yoga for weight loss
- relaxation techniques to reduce overeating

ARE YOU READY?

The workshop will include a yoga class. Please wear comfortable clothes.


Rachel Kieffer, a Coop member, owned and managed health food stores in her native Israel. She is a certified holistic nutrition and health counselor and worked for many years as teacher and counselor at the Institute for Integrative Nutrition.

Gabriela Huza is a Coop member and certified yoga instructor.

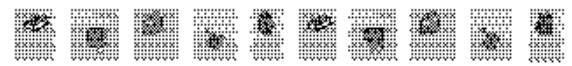
FREE
Non-members
welcome

Saturday, February 4
12:00 noon at the Coop

Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop



**Saturday, February 4
3:00 p.m. at the Coop**



BASIC BOOKKEEPING

for Business Owners

Year end Issues and Procedures

with Christa Skoupy, CPA

- Find out more about different types of bookkeeping software and which one might be the right one for your type of business.
- Learn basic concepts and terminologies of bookkeeping.
- Discuss year-end procedures and concerns.
- Learn what you can do to get a good start for the new year.

Christa Skoupy is a CPA/MBA and a Certified QuickBooks Pro Advisor with a professional track record in finance, accounting and taxation. Since 2002 she has been operating her own consulting business, Auxilia Accounting with special emphasis on assisting small businesses in financial, accounting, tax and operational matters. Christa is a Coop member since 2002.

FREE Non-Members Welcome

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Sustainable Healthcare: Homeopathy

Homeopathy, as an alternative healthcare choice, offers many of the same ideals of the natural foods movement such as non-toxic, sustainable agriculture and environmentally low impact. Do you treat your healthcare with the same intention as you select your food and other products?

Homeopathy is a system of medicine that treats the entire person and not just the disease name. Our medicines are extremely cost effective and organic in nature. The substances come from plant, mineral and other natural sources.


Learn how you can take control of your health and improve the environment around you at the same time.

CLAIRE DISHMAN, a Coop member, practices homeopathy in New York City. In her fourth year of study at the School of Homeopathy, New York, she sees patients in her supervised practice in Union Square and also in the clinic at SHNY. Her interest in herbal medicine helps her bring a well rounded approach to patients of all ages.

FREE
Non-members welcome

Saturday, February 4
6:00 p.m. at the Coop

Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop



SPEED YOUR RECOVERY

from Injuries & Surgeries, Medical & Dental Procedures, Childbirth and more with Therapeutic Massage

WITH STUART GARBER

While popular use of massage has exploded in recent years, some of its most powerful and effective applications remain among today's best-kept healthcare secrets.


Come learn how this "feel-good" treatment can help you and your loved ones through challenging times by complementing traditional medical care.

Coop member **Stuart Garber** is a licensed massage therapist, in practice since 1988. He's served on the staff of the Ostrow Institute for Pain Management and the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center's Integrative Medicine Program. His private practice, Full-Spectrum Touch Massage & Body Therapy, is based in Park Slope.

FREE
Non-members welcome

Sunday, February 5
12:00 pm at the Coop

Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop



Explore Holographic Repatterning®

Holographic Repatterning® is based on the principles of new physics, psychology and ancient healing arts. It is an interactive process that facilitates positive change by identifying and transforming unconscious patterns underlying problems on the physical, emotional or mental levels.

In this informative and experiential evening you will:


- I discover how positive change is always possible,
- I experience release of stressful situations,
- I receive insights into unconscious patterns that are holding your problems in place and experience ways of transforming them.

Facilitated by **Kenya DeRosa**, a Coop member and a certified practitioner and teacher of Resonance Repatterning®. Kenya has had a private practice in NYC since 1996.

FREE
Non-members welcome

Friday, February 10
7:30 p.m. at the Coop

Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop



Member Transit Workers Talk About the Strike

By Ed Levy



No one knows the exact number of transit workers who are Coop members. All those we managed to contact—two bus drivers and a subway conductor—supported the strike. We also spoke with a Coop member who is a union leader. All gave varying perspectives on what they believed was a necessary action on the part of the union.

The subway conductor, who preferred not to use her name for this article, recounted how she went to Stillwell Terminal to start her usual midnight shift the night of the strike. She was in Jamaica, on her first run, when the union leaders announced the action at three in the morning. She was scheduled to do her next run in nine minutes. A supervisor asked her if she was willing to bring the train back “in service,” which meant she would continue to pick up passengers on her way back to the terminal. Instinctively, she remembers, she answered “Sure,” so as not to inconvenience people who were waiting on platforms in the dead of night. She then took her train back to Coney Island and joined her fellow strikers in the crew room. Looking back, she ponders whether the right thing might have been to sign off immediately, and bring the cars back empty, as some of her co-workers did. Although she says she is “nonpolitical,” she had no doubts about the merits of the strike itself, and was especially pleased with the new maternity benefit. “Lots of women doing this job work till the day they give birth, and have to come back immediately,” she said. “I don’t think there is any good way to conduct a strike, to inconvenience people to that extent. In all honesty, I think we maybe should have stayed out a little longer.”

Michael Komaroff, a Coop member for over twenty years, does FTOP and thinks he may be one of the few bus drivers in the city who regularly eats an organic salad for lunch. He drives the cross-town on 50th Street in Man-

hattan. Michael believes Governor Pataki, Mayor Bloomberg and MTA Chairman Peter Kalikow badly mishandled the negotiations; he also identified factions among transit workers: the pro and anti-Toussaint people—referring to Roger Toussaint, head of the Transit Workers Union—and those workers who were “sitting on the fence” waiting to see how the negotiations went. Michael pointed out that subway workers on the whole tend to be more militant than bus drivers. Toussaint’s detractors in the union, Michael said, feel one of his faults is that he “micromanages” everything.

“Pataki was trying to ride the cross-town bus to the White House but I don’t think it worked,” — Gary Goff, vice president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers Union (AFSCME) Local 2627

Greg Hardy is a maintenance squad leader who opens the Coop on Saturday mornings. He is also a bus driver, whose current assignment is parking buses at the Gleason Depot when drivers return from their runs. A twenty-two year veteran of the transit authority, Greg feels race was unquestionably a factor in the strike, given, he said, that 70 percent of the workforce is nonwhite. He cited Mayor Bloomberg’s widely criticized use of the term “thuggish” in reference to the transit workers. “A lot of workers felt very offended by that,” he said.

The union and its members face steep fines under the Taylor Law, which forbids municipal employees from striking. However, Greg claimed one could argue it was the MTA that violated the Taylor Law, not the union, by bringing the issue of the “unboms” to the table at the last minute. This refers to future Transit Authority workers whose contribution to the

pension fund the authority was seeking to increase. Since pension regulations are decided by the state legislature, and not the Authority, adding this divisive, inappropriate demand at the eleventh hour forced the union to respond as it did, Greg believes. “The pensions were not in negotiation for a contract... You never heard the Mayor speak about that,” he said. “When they break the law that goes unnoticed and untalked about... People need to negotiate without striking, but they must also understand that people’s backs should not be pushed against the wall. We all suffered from the strike, the public, the transit workers, the MTA, and the union itself.”

Gary Goff, a Coop member for about twenty years does a checkout shift at the Coop. He is also vice president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers Union (AFSCME) Local 2627. Gary places a lot of responsibility for the strike on the governor. “Pataki was trying to ride the cross-town bus to the White House but I don’t think it worked,” he said, explaining that in his view it was Pataki who created the situation a few years ago that led up to the strike by pushing through tax cuts that resulted in significantly lowering the state’s contribution to the MTA, even as people were warning of upcoming massive deficits for the Transit Authority in the near future. As a result, much of the MTA’s income now goes into servicing its debt, which is borrowed with substantial interest. Pataki, he believes, “set up these conditions and then decided that he would provoke a strike and come out as a big hero by smashing the union.” Gary recalled how Calvin Coolidge rode his forceful suppression of the 1919 Boston police strike to the vice-presidency and then

the White House. Coolidge, then governor of Massachusetts, stayed out of the negotiations with police, who were seeking to organize, but once they walked out, called in the National Guard to maintain order, creating an image of toughness in the public eye. “There is no right to strike against the public safety by anybody, anywhere, any time,” Coolidge asserted. At a time when the nation was rocked by a series of often violent postwar labor disputes, many citizens welcomed his un-compromising stance, and Coolidge became known nationwide as a “law and order” governor. Pataki, Gary said, is modeling his stance on Coolidge’s.

Gary praised Toussaint, on the other hand, for refusing to allow the government to create a two-tier system within his union, a division between current and future (“unborn”) members, who would have faced much higher pension contributions. Toussaint, he said, “could have kept the ‘good stuff’ for his members, the people who elect him, and profited from that, but he saw that ultimately it would be to the detriment of the union. That’s the sign of integrity, of staying true not just to himself and his own position but to the whole idea of working people standing together.”

How did the strike affect the Coop? Sales were way up on the first day, Tuesday, according to General Coordinator Joe Holtz; but the following day they were below normal. Joe speculated that people were anxious the first day and came out to shop, but by the second day many had figured out how to get to work, or used the free time in other ways. General Coordinator Linda Wheeler said there was some anecdotal evidence that a few people who couldn’t get into work used the time to do makeup shifts. ■



ILLUSTRATION BY DEBORAH TINT



New Disciplinary Committees Seek Members

• Hearing Administration Committee:

requires three to five members who perform administrative functions necessary to arrange and facilitate hearings. Applicants should be detail-oriented, have experience with and enjoy working by telephone; they should be Coop members in good standing for at least one year and have good attendance records.

• Hearing Officer Committee:

requires five to nine members who conduct and preside over disciplinary hearings; insure that hearings proceed in an efficient and unbiased manner and, after a randomly selected Deciding Group has decided whether an accused member violated a Coop rule, determine what disciplinary action should be taken against the member. Applicants should be Coop members in good standing for at least two years, have good attendance records and preferably have judicial, arbitration, mediation or legal backgrounds.

• For Both of These Committees:

Because these new committees will meet as needed when hearings are required, their members must maintain regular Coop work slots in good standing or be FTOP members in good standing.

The nature of their work requires that all members maintain strict confidentiality with respect to all matters on which they work.

For a more detailed description of these committees, see the December 22 issue of *The Linewaiters' Gazette* or the flyers posted in the Coop.

We are seeking an applicant pool that reflects the diversity of the Coop membership at large.

Those interested in either workslot should telephone Jeff Goodman of the Disciplinary Committee at 718-636-3880.

COOP HOURS

Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Shopping Hours:

Monday–Friday
8:00 a.m. to 10:00* p.m.
Saturday
6:00 a.m. to 10:00* p.m.
Sunday
6:00 a.m. to 7:30* p.m.

*Shoppers must be on a checkout line
15 minutes after closing time.

Childcare Hours:

Monday through Sunday
8:00 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Telephone:

718-622-0560

Web address:

www.foodcoop.com

LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

The *Linewaiters' Gazette* is published biweekly by the Park Slope Food Coop, Inc., 782 Union Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215.

Opinions expressed here may be solely the views of the writer. The *Gazette* will not knowingly publish articles which are racist, sexist, or otherwise discriminatory.

The *Gazette* welcomes Coop-related articles, and letters from members. A “Member Submissions” envelope is in the *Gazette* wall pocket near the exit of the Coop.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All submissions MUST include author's name and phone number and conform to the following guidelines. Editors will reject letters and articles that are illegible or too long. Submission deadlines appear in the Coop Calendar opposite.

Letters: Maximum 500 words. All letters will be printed if they conform to the published guidelines.

Voluntary Articles: Maximum 750 words.

Submissions on Paper: Double-spaced, typed or very legibly handwritten.

Submissions on Disk & by Email: We welcome digital submissions by disk or email. Email to GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop.

Classified & Display Ads: Ads may be place on behalf of Coop members only. Classified ads are prepaid at \$10 per insertion, business card ads at \$20. (Ads in the “Merchandise–Non-commercial” category are free.) All ads must be written on a submission form (available in this issue and at the front of the Coop). Classified ads may be up to 315 characters and spaces. Display ads must be camera-ready and business card size (2"x3.5").

Recipes: We welcome original recipes from members. Recipes must be signed by the creator.

Subscriptions: The *Gazette* is available free to members in the store. Subscriptions are available by mail at \$18 per year to cover the cost of postage (at 1st class rates because our volume is low).

Printed by: Prompt Printing Press, Camden, NJ.



Friday
Feb. 17
8:00 p.m.

very

The Good Coffeehouse

COOP CONCERT SERIES

A monthly musical fundraising partnership of the
Park Slope Food Coop and
the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture

COOP BIG BAND

Russ Spiegel and Jenny Hill present the Coop Big Band,

a 17-piece ensemble consisting of solely Coop members. Everything from traditional swing to up-to-date jazz at its finest, the CBB features music composed and arranged by the various members of this orchestra.

Alto sax: Jenny Hill, Sheila Cooper
Tenor sax: Andy Middleton, Andrew Rathbun, Lorenzo Sanguedolce
Baritone sax: Josh Sinton
Trumpets: Albert Leusink, Barry Bryson, Pam Fleming and Ben Bierman
Trombones: Lolly Bienenfeld, lead; Curtis Fowlkes, second
Rhythm Section: Russ Spiegel, guitar
Roberta Piket, piano
Will Woodard, bass
Todd Isler, percussion
Rob Garcia, drums

53 Prospect Park West [at 2nd Street] • \$10 • 8:00 p.m. [doors open at 7:45]
Performers are Park Slope Food Coop members and receive Coop workslot credit.
Booking: Bev Grant, 718-230-4999
Childcare is available from Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture for a nominal fee.

Puzzle Corner

Contributions from members are welcome. Please sign your entries. Answer is on page 11.

Cryptogram Topic: Bulk in Silos

The code used on the list below is a simple letter substitution. That is, if “G” stands for “M” in one word, it will be the same throughout the list.

F T W M Q T E R
S T C Z L X R D C A
Z D K D Q T Q L D A Z R M
D W K L C M A
X W D E G Z N Q Z W R
X R D C A
A N C W L F R Q A R R M A
Z R B Z N Q R M
Y R U R Z D X W R
S Q L Z R T C
H R C S D Q Z J K T B
Q R M W R C Z T W A
J R W W L F A S W T Z
S R D A
F V R D Z X Q D X

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Independent Jobs

The are many behind-the-scenes jobs in the Coop. Here is a sampling of the shifts currently available. Please inquire in the office if you are interested in any of them.

Office Setup

Monday–Friday 6:00 a.m. The shift consists of a a miscellaneous set of jobs to prepare for the office day – before the phones start to ring!

Maintenance Jobs

A variety of independent and team jobs — Remember, Maintenance jobs are two hours long.

Kitchen Cleaning

Wednesday, 6:00 a.m. in our three kitchens: childcare, the meeting room and the staff room.

Laundry

Tuesday and Friday at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and Sunday at 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.

Laundry, etc. #1: Gather laundry from ground floor and basement, prepare it (checking pockets, tying apron strings, etc.) and put it om washers at the laundromat. Following that, you will do some "light" maintenance tasks

assigned by a receiving coordinator. No heavy duty lifting required, but you should be able to handle full laundry bags.

Laundry, etc. #2: Pick up laundry from Laundromat across the street. Sort clean aprons, towels, gloves, etc. and put everything away around the Coop. Additional light maintenance tasks under supervision of a staff person. No heavy duty lifting required, but you should be able to handle full laundry bags.



Sunday Maintenance Squads

Sunday 7–9:00 or 8–10:00 p.m. These two squads to a thorough end-of-the-week cleaning of the Coop, basement & first floor.

COOP CALENDAR

New Member Orientations

Monday & Wednesday evenings: . . . 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday mornings: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday afternoons: 4:00 p.m.

Be sure to be here promptly—or early—as we begin on time! The orientation takes about two hours. Please don't bring small children.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

Feb 2 issue: 7:00 p.m., Mon, Jan 23
Feb 16 issue: 7:00 p.m., Mon, Feb 6

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

Feb 2 issue: 10:00 p.m., Wed, Jan 25
Feb 16 issue: 10:00 p.m., Wed, Feb 8

Plastic Recycling

- **2nd Saturdays**, noon–2:00 p.m.
- **3rd Thursdays**, 7–9:00 p.m.
- **last Sundays**, 10:00 a.m.–noon
- Plastics #1, 2 & 4, only those *not accepted by* NYC plus plastic shopping bags
- All Clean & Dry!



General Meeting



TUE, JAN 31

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m. The agenda appears in thi0s issue of the *Gazette*, and flyers are available in the entryway of the Coop .

TUE, FEB 7

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: deadline for consideration for the February 28 GM, 8:00 p.m.

The Coop on Cable TV

"Inside the Park Slope Food Coop"
FRIDAYS 1:00 p.m. with a replay at 9:00 p.m.
Channels: 56 (TimeWarner), 67 (CableVision)

GE Campaign Meeting

TUE, FEB 14

SAFE FOOD COMMITTEE: (formerly GE Campaign Committee): Open meeting for members & non-members. 6:30 p.m. for training on ge; 7:00 for work session.

ALL ABOUT THE GENERAL MEETING

Our Governing Structure

From our inception in 1973 to the present, the open monthly General Meetings have been at the center of the Coop's decision-making process. Since the Coop incorporated in 1977, we have been legally required to have a Board of Directors. The Coop continued the tradition of General Meetings by requiring the Board to have open meetings and to receive the advice of the members at General Meetings. The Board of Directors, which is required to act legally and responsibly, has approved almost every General Meeting decision at the end of every General Meeting. Board members are elected at the Annual Meeting in June. Copies of the Coop's bylaws are available at the Coop Community Corner and at every General Meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 31, 7:00 p.m.

The General Meeting is held on the last Tuesday of each month.

Location

The temple house of Congregation Beth Elohim (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place.

How to Place an Item on the Agenda

If you have something you'd like discussed at a General Meeting, please complete a submission form for the Agenda Committee. Forms are available in the rack near the Coop Community Corner bulletin board and at General Meetings. Instructions and helpful information on how to submit an item appear on the submission form. The Agenda Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month to plan the agenda for the GM held on the last Tuesday of the month. If you have a question, please call Linda Wheeler in the office.

Meeting Format

Warm Up (7:00 p.m.)

- Meet the Coordinators
- Enjoy some Coop snacks
- Submit Open Forum items

- Explore meeting literature

Open Forum (7:15 p.m.)

Open Forum is a time for members to bring brief items to the General Meeting. If an item is more than brief, it can be submitted to the Agenda Committee as an item for a future GM.

Reports (7:30 p.m.)

- Financial Report
- Coordinators' Report
- Committee Reports

Agenda (8:00 p.m.)

- The agenda is posted at the Coop Community Corner and may also appear elsewhere in this issue.

Wrap Up (9:30-9:45)

(unless there is a vote to extend the meeting)

- Meeting evaluation
- Board of Directors vote
- Announcements, etc.

Attend a GM Receive Work Credit

In order to increase participation in the General Meeting, the GM has voted to allow a *once-per-year* workslot credit for attending a GM.

Sign Up:

- The sign-up sheet is posted at the Coop Community Corner beginning in the first week of each month.
- Please *read the full instructions* posted above the sign-up sheet and follow them carefully.

How It Works:

- Coop members on squads in Shopping, Receiving, Inventory (except data entry), Maintenance, Daytime Office, Construction and FTOP can receive credit for one workslot by attending one GM. (Other squads are omitted because their work is more difficult to cover, or attendance at GMs is part of their job.)
- After attending the GM, the member will summarize the meeting very briefly for their squad during the squad meeting of their *next* regular workslot.
- You will report to your squad on the next day you work and may then skip the *second* regular workslot following the GM. The work credit may also be applied to make-ups owed or be banked as FTOP
- *Missing the GM without canceling in advance will result in your owing a make-up*, as you are making a commitment as well as taking a slot that someone else will not be able to take.

PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP

MISSION STATEMENT

The Park Slope Food Coop is a member-owned and operated food store—an alternative to commercial profit-oriented business. As members, we contribute our labor: working together builds trust through cooperation and teamwork and enables us to keep prices as low as possible within the context of our values and principles. Only members may shop, and we share responsibilities and benefits equally. We strive to be a responsible and ethical employer and neighbor. We are a buying agent for our members and not a selling agent for any industry. We are a part of and support the cooperative movement.

We offer a diversity of products with an emphasis on organic, minimally processed and healthful foods. We seek to avoid products that depend on the exploitation of others. We support non-toxic, sustainable agriculture.

We respect the environment. We strive to reduce the impact of our lifestyles on the world we share with other species and future generations. We prefer to buy from local, earth-friendly producers. We recycle. We try to lead by example, educating ourselves and others about health and nutrition, cooperation and the environment.

We are committed to diversity and equality. We oppose discrimination in any form. We strive to make the Coop welcoming and accessible to all and to respect the opinions, needs and concerns of every member. We seek to maximize participation at every level, from policy making to running the store.

We welcome all who respect these values.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community calendar listings are free. Please submit your listings in 50 words or less by mail, the mailslot in the entry vestibule, or GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop. Submission deadlines are the same as for classified ads. Please refer to the Coop Calendar in the center of this issue.

**Denotes a Coop member.*

FRI, JAN 20

GOOD COFFEEHOUSE: Coop Night. Swing Street with Barry Bryson*, a little big band with guest vocalist. Dance instruction with Liz Peterson*. \$10 adults, \$6 kids. Bkln Ethical Culture Society. 8:00 p.m. 53 Prospect Pk W. 768-2972.

SAT, JAN 21

PEOPLES' VOICE CAFE: George Mann & Julius Margolin; The Solidarity Singers. Workmen's Circle, 45 E. 33rd St. (btw. Madison & Park); www.peoplesvoicecafe.org Suggested donation: \$12 general /\$9 members/more if you choose, less if you can't/no one turned away. 212-787-3903.

GOOD COFFEEHOUSE: Night of Magic, 5th Annual. Produced again this year by Bkln magic maven Richard Steven Cohn. \$15 adults, \$6 kids. Bkln Ethical Culture Society. 8:00 p.m. 53 Prospect Pk W. 768-2972.

FRI, FEB 3

GOOD COFFEEHOUSE: TBA. \$10 adults, \$6 kids. Bkln Ethical Culture Society. 8:00 p.m. 53 Prospect Pk W. 768-2972.

SAT, FEB 4

PEOPLES' VOICE CAFE: Roy Brown; Tao Rodriguez Seeger. Workmen's Circle, 45 E. 33rd St. (btw. Madison & Park); www.peoplesvoicecafe.org. Suggested donation: \$12 general/\$9 members/more if you choose, less if you can't/no one turned away. 212-787-3903.

FRI, FEB 10

GOOD COFFEEHOUSE: Traveling Troubadour series. Steve Gillette & Cindy Mangsen. Steve & Cindy have three award-winning CDs. \$15 adults, \$6 kids. Bkln Ethical Culture Society. 8:00 p.m. 53 Prospect Pk W. 768-2972.

SAT, FEB 11

PEOPLES' VOICE CAFE: Harmonic Insurgence. Workmen's Circle, 45 E. 33rd St. (btw. Madison & Park); www.peoplesvoicecafe.org. Suggested donation: \$12 general/\$9 members/more if you choose, less if you can't/no one turned away. 212-787-3903.

FRI, FEB 17

GOOD COFFEEHOUSE-COOP NIGHT: Russ Siegel* Big Band. \$15 adults, \$6 kids. Bkln Ethical Culture Society. 8:00 p.m. 53 Prospect Pk W. 768-2972.

SAT, FEB 18

PEOPLES' VOICE CAFE: Legacy: Zenobia*, Jacque DuPree* & Ben Silver*. Workmen's Circle, 45 E. 33rd St. (btw. Madison & Park); www.peoplesvoicecafe.org. Suggested donation: \$12 general/\$9 members/more if you choose, less if you can't/no one turned away. 212-787-3903.

SAT, FEB 25

PEOPLES' VOICE CAFE: Triboro; Anne Price. Workmen's Circle, 45 E. 33rd St. (btw. Madison & Park); www.peoplesvoicecafe.org. Suggested donation: \$12 general/\$9 members/more if you choose, less if you can't/no one turned away. 212-787-3903.

SAT, MAR 4

PEOPLES' VOICE CAFE: Sharleen Leahey & Catherine Moon; Sarah Underhill. Workmen's Circle, 45 E. 33rd St. (btw. Madison & Park); www.peoplesvoicecafe.org. Suggested donation: \$12 general/\$9

members/more if you choose, less if you can't/no one turned away. 212-787-3903.

Please take one day to
Educate Your Legislators
•Safe Food & Farm Lobby Day•
Wednesday, February 8 in Albany
Plan now to meet or call NYS Legislators



Protect your family
and community how by
buying local, organic,
unprocessed food.

Let's spread the word that genetically engineered food is:
• **Not** tested or regulated by our government
• **Not** labeled to show engineered genes or warn of unpredictable consequences
• **Not** able to be contained or recalled when problems occur

Let's avoid these genetically engineered foods:
• Milk with unlabeled growth hormone
• Soy and soy lecithin in most baked and processed foods (80% of US soy is GE)
• Corn products/processed foods with corn starch and sweeteners (40% of US corn is GE)
• GE corn, licensed by the EPA as a pesticide, has a toxin-producing gene in each cell.
• Non-organic potato, zucchini, papaya, canola & cotton seed oils, etc.

Come to Albany or call offices of Gov. Pataki, Leader Bruno, Speaker Silver on February 8.
• Sponsored by NYSAGE (New York State Against Genetic Engineering...of food)
• and NOFA-NY (Northeast Organic Farmers Association)
• and by the Safe Food Committees of Park Slope and Honest Weight Food Coops

For more info: 518-234-1942
• Ride info • legislator phone numbers • etc. •

Saturday,
February 11
3:00 p.m.

FREE
Non-members
Welcome

The Brooklyn Free
School Presents:

An Alternative to
Standardized Education

Brooklyn Free School is entering its second year here in Park Slope, and the Director, Alan Berger, staff and parents of the school will be on hand to:

- 🕒 Screen a short video of the Brooklyn Free School.
- 🕒 Answer questions about free schools, democratic education, and other alternatives to traditional education.
- 🕒 Discuss the ever-escalating emphasis on standardized education and high stakes testing and what you can do about it.
- 🕒 Talk about how children are being shortchanged by the current educational system.

if you are unable to attend the seminar, but would like more information about the Brooklyn Free School, a democratic school located in Park Slope, please contact Alan Berger at bklynfreeschool@msn.com, 917-715-7157 or visit the school's website: brooklynfreeschool.org.

Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop

FILM
NIGHT

Friday, February 3 • 7:00 p.m.
at the Coop



Short Films by Women

UNDERTAKER directed by Rachel Libert confronts violence amongst young men in America and it's fatal consequences. It is based on a poem written and performed by Patricia Smith. (10 minutes)

PRAISE-HAI Directed by Wendy Corn is a unique historical record exploring approaches and philosophies to laughter. Includes interviews with Patch Adams, Beth Bongar, Wavy Gravy, Laughing Lotus Yoga Center, Laraaji, Loretta LaRoche, The Phurst Church of Phun, Wes Nisker, Stephan Wischerth & Healing Works. (30 minutes)

A discussion with Coop members Seraphina Tisch, Rachel Libert, and Wendy Corn will follow.

Rachel Libert (director): Rachel Libert is a Director and Cinematographer based in NY. She's just completed her first feature length documentary "Beyond Conviction".

Wendy Corn (Director): Wendy has worked in film, television and festival production for the last 13 years, as a producer, in management and programming. She currently does the Internet Marketing for MoMA.

Film Night organizer, **Trish Dalton**, can be reached at Trish@ohmsmedia.org 718.398.5704.

**FREE
Non-members
welcome**

Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop

Healing the
Winter Blues

WITH HEATHER COTTRELL



Are you having feelings of sadness?
Have you been craving heavy foods and sweets?
Would you like to sleep until April?
You're not alone!

Winter doesn't have to mean weight gain and misery. In this workshop you will learn to work with your body's natural rhythm and give yourself the right nourishment. By making simple food and lifestyle changes you can make it through these cold months happy and healthy. We'll also have fun dreaming up new ways to celebrate your body and spirit just in time for Valentine's Day!

Heather Cottrell is a Certified Holistic Health Counselor specializing in helping people live happier and healthier lives through gradual nutrition and lifestyle changes. She offers individual and group programs in her Union Square private practice. Heather is proud to be a Coop member.

**FREE
Non-members welcome** **Sunday, February 12
12:00 noon at the Coop**

Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**DISCIPLINARY
HEARING COMMITTEE
EXPERIENCE****TO THE EDITOR:**

I want to congratulate Mel Spain, and his coworkers on the “New Disciplinary Committee” described in our December 22, 2005 issue of the *Gazette*. My name was randomly drawn; I was called to serve as a member of the “deciding group,” for the meeting of January 3, 2006.

Thirteen members of the deciding group performed their jobs well; the final nine members, selected randomly, came to a clear, in my judgment, fair decision that evening. The members, who were seen as not following certain rules and regulations of our Coop, were present. The facts of their behavior were described in some detail, by members of the committee, with the assistance of appropriate staff. I was impressed by the record keeping capability of our Coop, including video of some behavior in the Coop.

It is not an easy task to hear things that go wrong in our Coop. To a significant degree, our Coop’s continued successful growth and functioning is based on trust, trust that each one of us will meet all the requirements of membership. We may surely have different opinions on a variety of issues, opinions that can be clearly aired before all members.

Hats off to members of the disciplinary committee, the staff, and members of the deciding group of January 3.

Sincerely,
Henry Hicks

**KEEP CELL PHONES
OUTSIDE****TO THE EDITOR:**

Re: Nancy Spitalnick’s letter “cell Phone rudeness” December 22nd 2006.

Ms. Spitalnick has hit the proverbial nail on the head! As a general observation I feel that cell phones users are a menace and have contributed to a lessening of the quality of life overall, and this includes at our Coop.

Squad leaders should be encouraged to make sure that cashiers, checkout workers and entrance/exit workers are not distracted on their personal phone while having to pay primary attention to customers. After all, we are a retail business, and unfocused customer service is not only disrespectful but also thoroughly negligent.

Meanwhile, the Coop customer who just HAS to talk via cell phone, moves slower and takes longer time to pay their bill. This results in line back up and again is disrespectful and rude to the majority of us who are shopping. We should include in our Coop Rule Book, the edict that cell phone users be confined to the sidewalk and if they really must “connect” the Coop phones are available if need be.

In those halcyon days before one had to endure some boorish person carrying on an inane conversation, their babble was confined to a booth, and the talker was at least fixed in one spot.



ILLUSTRATION BY ETHAN PETTIT

Now, the babbler, glassy eyed and “somewhere else,” is not concentrating on anything outside their own subjective world. Cell phone talking, they remain unaware of looking where they are going, and most dangerously, possibly getting into a car and driving while ignoring pedestrians and the world outside their bubble.

To own a cell phone should in my opinion, be considered a privilege, and as such, come with an enforced etiquette. All too often, here in New York, an individual’s “right to do” conflicts with what is beneficial for the general public good.

Cell phones and their ugly consequences, roof antennae, short attention spans and the rise in selfish and stupid behavior, are a product of an over individualistic and super materialistic world, which should not be allowed to permeate our cooperative environment and ideals.

Sincerely,
Andrew MacConnell

**CELL PHONE USERS:
USE DISCRETION****TO THE GAZETTE:**

This afternoon while shopping in the bread aisle I had to listen to a member on her cell phone discussing—in a loud voice and lengthy, graphic detail—her child’s bowel movements. Enough, already! Cell phone users, please try to use some discretion when you’re conversing in public places!

Sincerely,
Ellen D. Murphy

INSENSITIVE CARTOON**DEAR GAZETTE:**

Your cartoon depicting a baffled, ear-trumpeted deaf person being told that he is not qualified for the “Hearing Committee” would be insensitive and unfunny in a student-run high school newspaper. That it should appear in a publication whose stated policy is diversity, non-discrimination and full acceptance of all members is grotesque.

To my knowledge we have members who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Are they to be an exception to your policies?

What were you thinking?

Susan Louer,
Retired Teacher of the Deaf

**EVERYTHING IS
POLITICAL****DEAR COOP MEMBERS,**

In response to “Face it, We’re Political” and “Keep Politics Out of the *Gazette*,” I would like to add my two cents. From the kind of jeans you wear to the way you wear your jeans, everything is political. Just as voting for Bloomberg or Ferrer involved assessing issues like crime rates and gay marriage (or other issues that are important to you), all our decisions in life are based on our political convictions which are based on our life experiences and on our gender, race, religion/spirituality, etc.

For those of us who were members before the explosion in membership, prior to the introduction of meat and then beer, these pages of the *Gazette* saw a lot of heated debate – some by Coop members who probably thought they were apolitical until something they believed in was threatened.

Since we’re faced with censorship and invasion of our privacy by the Department of Homeland Security and the current administration, lets

not censor debate here too – as long as all the participants are courteous and respectful of other people’s perspectives. Public debate and dissent are the foundations of Democracy. And the Coop is the closest institution that we have to an actual democracy in this society, so let’s not undermine it.

As the famous mantra of the feminist movement of the 60s and 70s said, “the personal is political.” It was out of the political activism and enlightenment of that era around issues of gender, class and racial equality that the Coop emerged in 1973.

Thank you,
Wazhmah Osman



LETTERS POLICY

We welcome letters from members. Submission deadlines appear in the Coop Calendar. All letters will be printed if they conform to the published guidelines. We will not knowingly publish articles which are racist, sexist or otherwise discriminatory

The maximum length for letters is 500 words. Letters must include your name and phone number and be typed or very legibly handwritten. Editors will reject letters that are illegible or too long.

You may submit on paper, typed or very legibly handwritten, or via email to GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop or on disk. Disks are returned through an envelope at the back of the *Gazette* submissions box.

Anonymity

Unattributed letters will not be published unless the *Gazette* knows the identity of the writer, and therefore must be signed when submitted (giving phone number). Such letters will be published only where a reason is given to the editor as to why public identification of the writer would impose an unfair burden of embarrassment or difficulty. Such letters must relate to Coop issues and avoid any non-constructive, non-cooperative language.

Fairness

In order to provide fair, comprehensive, factual coverage:

1. The *Gazette* will not publish hearsay—that is, allegations not based on the author’s first-hand observation.

2. Nor will we publish accusations that are not specific or are not substantiated by factual assertions.

3. Copies of submissions that make substantive accusations against specific individuals will be given to those persons to enable them to write a response, and both submissions and response will be published simultaneously. This means that the original submission may not appear until the issue after the one for which it was submitted.

The above applies to both articles and letters. The only exceptions will be articles by *Gazette* reporters which will be required to include the response within the article itself.



To Submit Classified or Display Ads:

Ads may be placed on behalf of Coop members only. All ads must be written on a submission form (available near the elevator). Classified ads may be up to 315 characters and spaces. Display ads must be camera-ready and business card size (2"x3.5").

BED & BREAKFAST

BROWNSTONE BROOKLYN BED AND BREAKFAST. Victorian home on tree-lined Prospect Heights block has space with semiprivate bath, air conditioning, Cable TV & phone. Full breakfast provided in attractive smoke-free environment. Long & short stays accommodated. Reasonable rates. Call David Whitbeck, 718-857-6066.

CLASSES/GROUPS

RELATIONSHIP SUPPORT GROUP. A safe, open, co-ed forum to improve communication; deepen self-understanding; reduce isolation; and explore how you can have more rewarding relationships. Led by an experienced psychotherapist. To learn more, call Gary Singer, LCSW, at 718-783-1561.

Meet Your Mind

WITH MANUEL GAVALES & JANE STEVENS

Meditation Instruction in the Shambhala Buddhist Tradition
The fundamental nature of mind is stable, strong and clear—yet these qualities become obscured by the stress and speed of our lives.

Meditation opens and calms the mind.

This is a basic meditation class for beginners, and for anyone who would like a renewed understanding of the technique.

Manuel Gavales, a Coop member, has been practicing meditation for 30 years. Guest **Jane Stevens** has been practicing meditation in the Shambhala Buddhist tradition for 20 years. She is a meditation instructor at the Shambhala Meditation Center of New York.


FREE
Non-members welcome

Thursday, February 16
7:30 p.m. at the Coop

Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop

THE ZEN OF COMPUTER MAINTENANCE

WITH PHOENIX SOLEIL



What are the philosophical frameworks that help you approach and solve technology problems? We will go over some key epiphanies in computing history, as well as some recent movements aimed at democratizing technology.

There will be an overview of the major parts of the computer using fun metaphors that help you visualize how your system operates.

We will discuss perspectives that geeks bring to their technical goals and successful troubleshooting strategies. "You're OK. Your computer's OK."

Phoenix Soleil is a Coop member with ten years professional experience working with and troubleshooting computers. She is a creative and spiritual person who enjoys technology and wants to spread the joy around.

FREE
Non-members welcome

Saturday, February 18
3:00 p.m. at the Coop

Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop

CLASSICS READING GROUP 2nd Sunday of every month at Ozzies. 10 a.m. Feb. 12th we begin with "The Brothers Karamazov." Join us. Info: e-mail zora2050@yahoo.com.

ARTIST'S WAY GROUP. All disciplines (visual, dance, theatre, music, film, writing, etc.) and all levels of experience welcome. Wednesday evenings 7:15 - 8:45 p.m. Call 718-499-5104. Free!

MEDITATION AND STRESS REDUCTION COURSE. Stressed out? Fatigued? Anxiety or depression? Chronic illness? Help yourself by taking this 8 week course beginning in January. Bring calm and joy back into your life. Call 718-499-5104 for more information.

COMMERCIAL SPACE

PROFESSIONAL OFFICES available. Ideal for massage therapist, acupuncturist, psychotherapist, etc. Be part of a holistic center, either in a beautiful Soho section or in an excellent Brooklyn neighborhood. Doctor will introduce all patients to you. For information call 212-505-5055.

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VINTAGE TABLE RADIO (wood, solid-state, circa 1960), \$50 or best offer; gold-plated jewelry signed by artist (vintage), \$20-\$40. Call 718-768-1598.

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PEOPLE MEETING

CLASSICS READING GROUP 2nd Sunday of every month at Ozzies. 10 a.m. Feb. 12th we begin with "The Brothers Karamazov." Join us. zora2050@yahoo.com.

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MADISON AVENUE HAIRDRESSER 20 years experience. Available in Park Slope 1 block from Coop. By appointment only. Please call Maggie at 718-783-2154. \$45.

SPRING YOUR FLOORS TO LIFE by sanding and refinishing! Floor mechanic will install, repair, refinish wooden floors. Reasonable prices. Good references. Call Tony home: 718-484-7405. Cell : 917-658-7452.

ATTORNEY-EXPERIENCED Personal Injury Trial Lawyer representing injured bicyclists & other accident victims. Limited caseload to ensure maximum compensation. Member of the NYSTLA & ATLA. No recovery, no fee. Free consult. Manhattan office. Park Slope resident. Long time PSFC member. Adam D. White, 212-577-9710.


PAINTING-PLASTERING & PAPER-HANGING. Over 25 years experience doing the finest prep & finish work. Entire house or one room. Brownstones are my specialty. Call Fred Becker @ 718-853-0750.

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Alix Florio, a nationally certified personal trainer, and group fitness instructor, teaches the only 10 exercises you will ever need to know to get in shape quickly and easily.

Please join her in comfortable clothing and shoes that offer some traction. Feel free to bring an exercise mat, or towel, though none is required. Water, juice, music, and a friendly atmosphere, will all be provided. Children of any age are welcome.

FREE
Non-members welcome

Saturday, February 18
11:00 am at the Coop

Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop

Forgiveness

WITH MORAIMA SUAREZ

Is there someone you need to forgive?

Holding on to feelings of hurt, guilt, resentment, blame, anger and the need to punish binds up a lot of your own energy and keeps you locked in the past, instead of being fully present.

The Forgiveness Process allows you to release these negative feelings and completes your own healing.

LEARN TO:

- Forgive yourself and others
- Focus and use the power of unconditional love
- Align your head and your heart
- Use the power and energy of love to relieve stress
- Participate in a group unconditional love meditation

Moraima Suarez is a Coop member, certified Holoenergetic® Healing Practitioner, certified Bowen Therapist, and Reiki practitioner. She has studied and practiced the healing arts for

FREE
Non-members welcome

Saturday, February 18
6:00 p.m. at the Coop

Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop

Math Tutor

I'm a caring, patient, NYS-certified/NYC-licensed math teacher. I provide clear, precise explanations to develop problem-solving skills while building confidence and ease in the world of mathematics. I have successfully tutored students for Regents Exams, SAT, GRE, and all school levels. I can help you or your child no matter what problems you have. Call David Cohen at (718) 857-5968.

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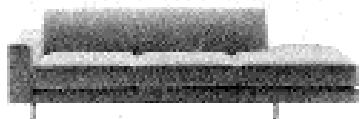
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If your ad would benefit from broader exposure, try the Coop's web page, www.foodcoop.com FREE.

Answer to Puzzle on page 6

Wild Rice, Pinto Beans, Tamari Roasted Almonds, Black Turtle Beans, Sunflower Seeds, Textured Vegetable Protein, Zen Party Mix, Red Lentils, Yellow Split Peas, Wheat Bran

arranging and color consulting. Strategies to keep the clutter from returning. Coop member, NAPO member Joyce Szulflita 718-781-1928.

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AGENT READY. Are you a writer? Do you need an agent? AgentReady can help! We offer full editorial services, including: non-fiction proposals, marketing plans, line editing, plot development, and writing and editing sample chapters. I am a former NYC literary agent who knows what they want. Evaluation, 50% off for members. 718-499-3760.

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ATTORNEY — GENERAL PRACTICE. Wills, residential closings, criminal defense, family law, civil litigation. Laura Kittross, Esq. Kipiniak & Kittross. 26 Court Street, Suite 1304. Brooklyn, NY 11242. 718-624-2011. email: kittrosslaw@verizon.net.

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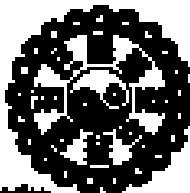


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WELCOME!

A warm welcome to these new Coop members who have joined us in the last two weeks. We're glad you've decided to be a part of our community.

Mitch Adair	Susan Crossley	Melissa Harendorf	Toby MacLennan	Mike Sanchez	Elijah Frederick Traore
Sophia Alexander	Liam Cubbin	Alice Hawkins	Natsuko Maemori	Jeremy Sarkissian	Bryon Troxel
Mike Amato	Dan Curry	Alice Hawks	Ruth Mandel	Marcus Scharf	Joan Wasser
Jane Andersen	Jordana DeLory	Courtney Heidenreich	Otilia Martin	Stacey Schultz	Ethan Weinstock
Mustafa Bal	Kathryne Deutsch	Grace Henry	Nick Masiuk	Nancy Scola	Melissa Weintraub
Zehra Bal	Daniel Domarecki	Dina Hexamer	Anthony Meehan	Elizabeth Seidlin-Bernstein	Jennifer Weiss
Barbara Beetem	Magdalena Domaredu	Mark Hexamer	Tom Middleton	Julie Seltzer	Michael West
Albert Belman	Anna Dreyfack	Sandra Hochman	Gilbert Midonnet	Shital Shah	Brian Wheeler
Drucie Belman	Morgan Eckert	Matt Hutchinson	Abby Miller	Robert Shand	Natanya Wheeler
George Hervlove Bernal	Kate Edden	Christopher Jagger	Laura Montgomery	Elissa Shevinsky	Ian Williams
Jim Bernfield	Juliann Elliot	Tara Kamath	Mustapha Ndanusa	Jamie Silvestro	Kristine Wilson
Al Bersch	Camilla Enders	Monica Kapoor	Patty New	Mark Simpson	Rashida Wright
Dena Bickerstaffe	Kimberly Fasano	Audrey Kessler	Safiyyah Okoye	Justin Snider	Jin Xu
Ryan Blum-Kryzstal	Chris Flood	Deborah Kinirons	Jennifer Onopa	Amanda Snyder	Isabelle Zuefle
Bob Brockmann	Angela Freiburger	Ilana Kramer	Kathleen Payne	Sarah Sorscher	
Jennifer Brown	Hans Frey	Lily Ladewig	Zenaida Perez	Tanya Stanger	
David Cahn	Julie Gilgoff	Eric Lee Wah	Laurent Peter	Eva Steinman	
Alison Caldwell	Hope Gillerman	Ferdinand Lee Wah	Mark Peterson	Gregory Steinman	
Alessandra Calvo-Friedman	Ariel Goldstein	Suzanne Lee Wah	Barbara Pierre-Louis	Elizabeth Stone	
Jennifer Campbell	David Goren	Merrie Lee	Amelia Pillow	Allan Tai	
Jonathan Campbell	Bill Gottlieb	Diane Leslie	Justin Realmuto	Lisa Tai	
Stuart Cathey	Husband Griffith	Eloise E. Leslie	Jessie Reilly	Anne Thibault	
Shirley Catton	Ivan Guerrero	Rebecca Levy	Lea Rivera-Todaro	Gwendolyn Tillman	
Wu Cheng	Julio Gutierrez	Julia Linteru	Ida Robinson	Joe Todaro	
Alan Chevat	James Hancock	Louise Lovelle	Keisha Rogers	Anna Toth	
	Tai Jamar Hanna	Janet MacGillivray	Katie Rose		



THANK YOU!

Thank you to the following members for referring friends who joined the Coop in the last two weeks.

Mitch Adair	Emily	Erin Fitzgerald	Mirian Lamberth	Ron Mitkowski	Mary Beth Rozkewicz
Will Allensworth	June Burch Heffernan	Sage Forbes-Gray	Beth Lawrence	Christine Moreyra	Catherine S.
Michael Amendolara	Rochelle Campbell	Juliet Furness	David Lee	Brian Morgan	Gerard Scarnato
Julia Amisano	Jennifer Chang	Liv Gjestvang	Leila and Brett	Yevgeniya Nagorny	Thomas Scott
Joan Arnold	Stephanie Chiuminatto	Steven Gnagni	Ardele Lister	Alexander Ngai	Josephine Segreto
Arny	Arlene Corcoran	Leslie Grant	Laurence Lombart	Kathrin Nussbaumer	Enid Smith
Aaron Baker	Ramon Cruz	Sasha Greif	Manissa Maharawal	Margaret O'Malley	Nikola Smith
Michele Bednarsh	Cypher	Andrew Hansinger	Sandy Mandel	Krista Olson	Sarah Thomas
Karen Berley	Elaine Davenport	Joe Holtz	Rick Mangi	Nora Pena	Mari Tochiya
Hope Boeve	Etta Dixon	Katie Issel	Sarah Margles	Ben Perowsky	Alessia Von Mallinckrodt
Diane Bonder	Maya Eatman	Sara Johnson	Marie M.	Gina Pierre	Jim Williams
Ananda Breed	Anne Marie Edden	Nichael Jones	Matt	Clara Presler	Michael Yecies
Megan Brenn-White	Kristin Eno	Ralf Kanitz	Jessica McKimmie	Rachel	Adele Yedid
Amy Brill	Martin Fager	Michael King	Melita	Ron	Kamil Yilmaz
Jackie C.	Tom Fergus	Becki Kollerberg	Ricardo Mendez	Nancy Rosenberg	