By Diane Aronson

Imagine a way to manufacture milk cartons and other food packaging that would change color to indicate spoilage. What about food or skin-care additives that could speed to the scene of a molecular pile-up and intervene at the cellular level, or socks that blocked foot odor?

Engineering at the exceedingly small, or nano, level is already being used to create ingredients in sunblocks, food storage containers, and fabrics, and many other consumer products. Among these are well-known brands such as Blue Lizard Baby Sunscreen, Fresher-Longer Miracle Food Storage food containers, and Dockers Go Khaki pants, according to the May 2007 Natural Resources Defense Council report, “Nanotechnology’s Invisible Threat.” Another well-known consumer sunscreen, Burts Bees’ new Chemical-Free Sunscreen SPF 15, also has nano-titanium dioxide.

The Particles Grow Tinier

A January 2008 article in the Journal of Environmental Health, “Nanotechnology: Its Impact on Food Safety,” defines nanotechnology as “the science behind the intentional creation, manipulation, and characterization of extremely small particles and macro molecules.” The article offers these dimensions for picturing just how small the nano scale is:

- The diameter of DNA up to 1/20 the size of a red blood cell.
- The diameter of a red blood cell.
- “A nanometer (nm) is one-billionth of a meter. A typical sheet of paper is about 100,000 nm thick, a red blood cell is about 2,000 to 5,000 nm in size, and the diameter of DNA is in the range of 2.5 nm. The size range of highest interest in the field of nanotechnology is from 1 nm to 100 nm, so nanotechnology deals with matter that ranges from one-half the diameter of DNA up to 1/20 the size of a red blood cell.”

- While nanomaterials may be minuscule, the profit potential from the technology’s deployment is on a rather more gargantuan scale. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council report, “More than $50 billion of nano-enabled products were sold worldwide in 2006, with the United States holding approximately 6,800 nanotechnology-related patents.” The January 2008 Journal of Environmental Health article points to a U.S. Department of Agriculture projection for nano-market growth: “According to the USDA, by 2015 the global impact of products in which nanotechnology plays a key role will be approximately $1 trillion annually.”

The Potential Problems Grow Bigger

But with growth come questions and possibly profound consequences. The potential of nanomaterials to target trouble on a molecular level is also a force that can tinker with and possibly disrupt biological functions and ecosystems, the latter on a potentially widespread scale.

- The risk lies in an engineered molecule’s ability to pass through cell walls and disrupt typical cellular function. For example, there’s a risk for missing their shifts, but also for ignoring repeated warnings to address their suspension. They continued to shop while suspended, sometimes even shopping as often as twice in one day. Somewhere along the way the Coop system failed to bar these suspended members from shopping. There are a number of security measures already in place, and a few technical changes in the works to prevent this from happening again.

Coop Policy

Although Coop members who have never missed a shift or owed a makeup are rare angels to be applauded for their truly cooperative zeal,
No, No Nano? continued from page 1

The risk factor of another nano-ingre- dient found in sunscreen, nano-titanium dioxide, is char- acterized in the NRDC report as follows: “Multiple labora- tories have reported that nano-titanium dioxide partic- les are toxic to human and animal cells making its use in sunscreen and skin- cream unwise.”

And what might happen as nano-products find their way into the world around us? While nano-silver ions embedded in athletic socks or in food containers might keep feet or vegetables a little fresher a bit longer, the NRDC report details this silver nano- topic’s potential for eco- damage: “At the nanoscale, silver is even more potent as an antibiotic agent than at normal scale, suggesting that the widespread release of nanosilver can have a much greater impact on ecosystems by damaging bene- ficial microbes in the environment and affecting com- plex food webs.”

And this is just one exam- ple. As of March 2006, 212 product or product lines were employing nanomateri- als if one were to imagine all the nano-engineered con- sumer products—sunscreens and other personal care products, clothing, food con- tainers, and refrigerators—there is a huge potential for these cell barrier-crossing, manufactured molecules to pervasively alter and possi- bly damage the world around us in ways that can- not be anticipated; nano- technology represents a wholly created and fairly recent class of materials.

The Diversity & Equality Committee (DEC) is dedicated to improving human relations and communications through impeccable interpersonal interactions, policies and procedures in the Coop.

The goal is to work toward preventing and eliminating discrimination in the Coop and to promote the cause of equal and respectful treatment between all Coop members and paid staff regardless of each individual’s different identity. The DEC aims to provide advocacy for individuals who feel they have experienced discriminatory practices in the Coop.

Contact Form DEC Contact forms are available in the literature rack or Letter: in the ground floor elevator lobby. Place a completed form or letter/letterhead (anonymously if desired) in a sealed envelope labeled “Attn: Diversity and Equality Committee” and use one of the three methods listed below to get it to the committee.

Mail Park Slope Food Coop Attention: Diversity & Equality Committee 792 Union Street Brooklyn, New York 11215

Mail Which is located in the entrance vestibule on the ground floor under the flier caddy.

Mail The DEC has a mailbox in the Membership Office which is located in the entrance vestibule on the ground floor under the flier caddy.

Membership Office Mailbox Office on the second floor of the Coop.

The Park Slope Food Coop (PSFC) has a very liberal Product Return Policy. The Coop does not “exchange” items. You must return item and repurchase what you need. Returns of eligible items will be accepted at the Second Floor Service Desk within 30 days of purchase only when accompanied by the PADD invoice receipt.

Please use the following guide to determine if an item is eligible for return:

- Produce (fresh fruits & vegetables)
  - May not be returned with the exception of coconuts, pineapples and watermelons. Even if the claim is that the item is spoiled or that it was purchased by mistake, produce cannot be returned except for the three items listed above.
  - The produce buyer may be contacted on weekdays by members to discuss any other claims for return.
- Books
  - May not be returned
- Journals
  - May not be returned
- Bulk items & bulk items packaged by the Coop
  - May not be returned. Members may contact the bulk buyer to discuss any other claims for return.
- Refrigerated items
  - Frozen items

All Other Products (not covered above)

- Other products may be returned if they are spoiled or defective and the category is not specified above.
- Other products may be returned if they are unopened, undamaged and therefore can be sold again.
- Other products may be returned if they are opened or unsaleable, and therefore can be sold again.
- Other products may be returned if they are opened or unsaleable, and therefore can be sold again.

The Hearing Officer Committee is seeking new members. The committee conducts and presides over disciplinary hearings, ensures 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, determines 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.

Members of the committee meet and earn workshop credit on an as-needed basis only, that is, when hearings are required. Therefore, these members must maintain regular Coop workshops to ensure continuing education in good standing or be FTOP members in good standing.

The nature of the committee’s work requires that all members maintain strict confi- dentiality with respect to all matters on which they work.

The committee seeks an applicant who reflects the diversity of the Coop membership at large.

Those interested please telephone Mel Spain at the Hearing Officer Committee at 718-783-7405 or email at mel@span.com.
**Coop Bans Plastic Shopping Bags**

**VOTE AT GM IS NEARLY UNANIMOUS**

By Willow Lawson

**H**ot on the heels of the April ban on selling bottled water, more than 200 attendees of the May Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting voted to ban plastic shopping bags. Only a few members at the meeting were opposed to the move. Plastic “T-shirt bags” will disappear from checkout lanes once the Coop’s supply runs out.

Indeed, hardly a plastic bag was to be found at the meeting in the second-floor ballroom at Temple Beth Elohim. During discussion before the vote, one member sheepishly carried a carding white T-shirt bag up to the microphone, held it up, and implored members to ban them. Just before the meeting she had taken the bag from the Coop without thinking about it, but would like to give them up, she said. If they weren’t available, she’d simply have no choice.

Another member called the bags “an addiction,” to applause and cheers. “We can do it,” she said of the proposed ban. “It can be done. It should be done.”

One of the most animated presentations came from Jeanine Sandrini-Cooke, a member of the Coop for 22 years. She unpacked a variety of fashionable, reusable bags she’d collected from trips to France, including a silver insulated bag for frozen foods she claimed her ice cream stayed rock-hard in the bag on her way home. “Sometimes you want it melted, but it won’t melt!” She offered to give five reusable bags to anyone who wanted to give them a try. “You don’t recycle these because they don’t die!”

A few brave souls stood up to voice their opposition to the ban, or to urge attendees to give the membership more time to think about it. One man lamented that he didn’t live within walking distance of the Coop and needed plastic bags to transport his groceries on the subway. Another felt the mood of the meeting was too self-congratulatory and that the ban should be voted on by the entire Coop membership.

Bag Ban Makes Sense

Barbara Kancelbaum, a member of the Coop’s Environmental Committee, which researched the ramifications of a ban, argued that the Coop “would hardly be in the van-guard by banning plastic bags.” She pointed to similar moves by entire countries, including Bangladesh, Taiwan, South Africa, Tanzania, and Rwanda. Other nations, including Ireland, Hong Kong, Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland, have seen the use of plastic shopping bags decline by up to 90 percent after a tax was introduced.

Whole Foods supermarkets have stopped selling plastic bags, but still offer paper bags to customers, which some studies have shown to be just as harmful to the environment as plastic. The Coop will not offer any replacement to the T-shirt bags. The ban will also not affect plastic “roll bags” for produce and bulk items, although Kancelbaum said the Environmental Committee is studying alternatives there as well.

Kancelbaum said she had been inspired by Coops during her 13 years as a checker. “I’ve seen people go to great lengths not to use plastic bags,” she said. At last count, only 27 percent of Coops use T-shirt bags when shopping. The number of bags used per year by the Coop adds up to 37 bags per person.

Kancelbaum argued that not only does the production of plastic bags cause pollution, but only 1 to 3 percent of them are recycled, and recycling a bag costs more than making a new bag. In addition, New York City will soon require stores that use plastic shopping bags to recycle them as well. That means the Coop would have to collect used bags, too. Some of those bags could harbor pests such as cockroaches, which could infest the Coop. Banning plastic shopping bags would solve this problem as well, Kancelbaum added.

General Coordinator Joe Holtz held up his favorite reusable tote, a red plaid number already for sale at the Coop for 54 cents. He had reinforced the corners with silver duct tape and said the bag had been used steadily for two years.

To complement the nylon bags already for sale near the cheese cooler, Holtz said the Coop had ordered 5,000 durable bags imprinted with the Coop’s logo.

**Sales Just Go Up and Up**

General Coordinator Tricia Leith reported on sales at the Coop. Per week, sales averaged $659,000 for 12 weeks at the beginning of the year, up from 2007. If sales continue at such a rate, the Coop will take in roughly $34 million this year. The markup on items for sale is 21 percent, as compared to 60 percent for other large food coops.

Leith also reported that 62 percent of transactions were carried out with debit cards. The average sale per member is also higher now that debit payment is an option. The average sale for debit card users hovers around $65.

General Coordinator Allen Zimmerman reported that many prices for fresh fruit and vegetables increased about 10 weeks before. Although some of the increases were caused by fuel prices and inflation in the overall economy, some of the price increases were seasonal. “They happen every year,” he said. However, trouble still looms when it comes to global demand for food and the effects on prices, he said. “It doesn’t mean the whole world isn’t in trouble,” he said. “I actually think it will get worse.”

Zimmerman rattled off a few statistics to illustrate the booming sales at the Coop. In the week before the meeting, the Coop sold five tons of bananas, one ton of organic avocados and two tons of non-organic avocados. It also sold 1.25 tons of strawberries.

Zimmerman also plugged the bed and breakfast at Natural Acres organic farm near Millersburg, Pennsylvania, where he recently vacationed with his family. Natural Acres, a 500-acre farm, provides the Coop with fresh organic eggs. He said the owners would love to have members of the Coop as guests and would be sure to show them a good time.

A New General Coordinator

The Personnel Committee introduced their pick for hire as General Coordinator in charge of technology. The Coop currently has six General Coordinators, but the optimal number is seven, the committee report ed. Hester Lyons and Yolanda McBride said the committee had interviewed five men and one woman for the job before choosing Charlotte Cotini, a nine-year Coop member. Local artist and engineer Charlotte worked for 20 years as a contractor for the Federal Aviation Administration. She also worked on a documentary film about Fred Lebow, founder of the 5 Boro New York City Marathon.

After a Q&A session, members overwhelmingly approved Charlotte by secret ballot.

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**SUMMERTIME**

…and the living is easy.

But don’t forget your Coop shift!

If you plan on being away during one of your workslots, please make arrangements to have your shift covered.

One way to do it is to use the Shift Swap at www.foodcoop.com!

Your co-workers will love you for it!
Coop Job Opening: Office Coordinator

Description:
The Coop is hiring a Membership Office Coordinator to fill a late afternoon/evening and weekend schedule. Office Coordinators divide their time between shifts of approximately 6.5 hours working on the shopping floor and shifts of approximately 6 hours in the Membership Office. Technical Support shifts of approximately 6 hours working on the shopping floor, and overseeing the membership office. Applicants must have excellent people skills, excellent communication and organizational skills, as well as patience, comfort with computers and computer technology, and the ability to do detailed record keeping. Applicants should be able to remain calm in hectic surroundings, oversee the work of others, and teach and explain procedures, delegate work, give feedback, pay attention to several things at once, and maintain high standards of accuracy.

As a retail business, the Coop’s busiest times are during traditional holiday seasons. Applicants must be prepared to work during many of the holiday periods, particularly in the winter.

Hours: Approx. 38 hours in 5 days/week. Wednesday-Sunday. Saturday schedule will be afternoon/evening hours some shifts until 11:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday hours will vary, though shifts are between 5 and 8 hours in length.

Wages: $16.44/hour.

Benefits: — health and personal time — vacation—three weeks/year increasing in the 4th, 7th & 10th years — health insurance — pension plan

Application & Hiring Process:
Please provide a cover letter with your résumé. Mail your letter and résumé or drop them in the mail slot just inside the entryway vestibule of the Coop. All members who submit both a cover letter and résumé will receive a response. Applications will be reviewed and interviews scheduled on a rolling basis. If you applied previously to any other Coop job opening, please reapply. Please do not call the office to check on the status of your application.

Probation Period:
There will be a six-month probation period.

Prerequisite:
Must be a current member of the Park Slope Food Coop for at least six months.

Applicants who wish to schedule a shift in the Membership Office should contact the Office and speak to one of the Office Coordinating Staff.

We are seeking an applicant pool that reflects the diversity of the Coop’s membership.

Benefits:
— Vacation—three weeks/year increasing in the 4th, 7th & 10th years
— Sunday hours will vary, though shifts are between 5 and 8 hours in length.
— Wages:

Applicants are invited to read the Gazette while you’re standing on line OR online at www.foodcoop.com

Wordsprouts—The Park Slope Food Coop’s Reading Series

Authors Wanted

Wordsprouts is the Park Slope Food Coop’s Reading Series, planning its fall season now. We’re looking for Coop members who are published authors interested in leading writing workshops at the Coop or in reading their work at a local bookstore. Members who participate in Wordsprouts receive workshop credit.

If you’re interested, please send your book info and/or workshop ideas to Pj Corso at pجا pساى Corso@hotmail.com.

Pocketbook, Purse, Bag and Shoe Exchange

This exchange is a community event that is environmentally responsible and fun. Why support the consumer market and buy, when you can share bags that have already been well loved?

FREE Non-members welcome

Saturday, June 28
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
in the meeting room

To bring Pocketbooks, Shoes...
• Do not leave items in the Coop before the hours of the exchange.
• Bring up to 15 items only.
• Bring gently used, clean purses, pocketbooks, and shoes that you are proud to be able to exchange with a new owner.

(Unchosen items will be donated to a local shelter.)
coworker a few times. He doesn’t hear her because he’s busy discussing someone else’s alert status. The woman rounds the corner and disappears. No one else notices; members are now streaming in after work and school, and a short queue has formed. It’s impossible for the entrance worker to get out from behind the entrance desk to physically stop the woman.

Who knows if this woman was actually suspended, or if she intends to shop? If she does attempt to shop, she is without her card, and should therefore be stopped by the second line of defense against suspended shoppers—the checkout worker.

Checking Out

Coop policy also dictates that the checkout workers should only take an identification slip from the front desk or the member’s actual card while checking his/her picture. How strictly checkout workers enforce this is difficult to estimate. Like their entrance worker counterparts, all the checkout workers surveyed insisted they checked shoppers’ cards. One member of the shopping squad—and an eight-year member—says she’s never had any problems. She’s always been able to send suspected members upstairs to the office to straighten out any issues. ‘This is why I shop here,’ she declares, ‘because everyone cooperates!’

Policy Awareness

Aside from the rare instance of a member simply barreling past the entrance desk, Weinstat believes, the main problem is that many members do not understand the rules.

A newer entrance desk worker reveals that her training was scanty, as is the case for most squads. ‘Training is kind of done on the fly,’ says Bill Holab, a Shopping Squad Leader, but he indicates that most entrance and checkout workers should have been recently briefed on the suspension policy as part of training for the new system that was implemented late last year. The new entrance worker shows an awareness of the rules on suspension, but says she hasn’t actually encountered a suspended shopper yet.

If this lack of understanding is not on the part of entrance or checkout workers, then it is on the part of shoppers themselves, who may not realize they are breaking the rules by shopping while suspended even after they’ve worked a shift.

Squad leaders should also be aware that suspended squad members should not be allowed to shop after their shift. To make sure that squad leaders aren’t in the dark, the Coop may send them letters alerting them when a member of their squad has reached a prescribed number of cycles past the initial suspension. The letter reminds the squad leader that the suspended member should not be able to shop after a shift, making sure that there is ample incentive for the member to do a makeup. These letters, however, are only sent after the member has owed makeups for more than six months—otherwise, every member’s work status and owed makeups are printed in the attendance book every shift, and can be seen by squad leaders there.

Coming Checkout Changes

While education about the rules for all members is part of the solution, a larger and more technical change will likely induce the most action. Weinstat says that the Coop’s checkout registers will be used in the future to enforce policies that are already in place.

Coordinators have been planning to update the checkout system for years so that only those allowed to shop will be able to check out. Suspended members who swipe their cards at the checkout register will show up as suspended and simply won’t be able to complete their purchase. Since no exact time frame has yet been established for these changes, for the moment it’s still up to members to be aware of the policies and to police themselves.

Puzzle Corner

Use the clues below to fill in the quote and its witty source, an American actress. Puzzle Author: Janet Farrell. For answers, see page 11.

Type of voice

87 4 58 48

75 41 67 8 80

Type of snake

54 38 61 15 46

Englischmann, slingsby

25 63 31 47

Place for “yes”

71 73 85 6 1 26

Hispanor or chopin

9 84 39 16

An excuse

64 65 24 23 72

Escape

7 77 68 40 10

Agree to

52 37 74 11 43 18 20

Drag

21 33 79 57

Omaha or manhattan

83 88 14 42 50

Allen or howie

22 44 82 28 34

Brandish

49 53 13 56 90

What Clinton didn’t do

60 29 36 17 78 62

Full steam direction

89 7 27 70 15

Underworld god

45 51 36 66 35

Read the Gazette while you’re standing on line OR online at www.foodcoop.com
Prompt Printing Press, Camden, NJ.

First Class rates because our volume is low).

mail at $23 per year to cover the cost of postage (at

members in the store. Subscriptions are available by

Recipes: Recipes must be signed by the creator.

be camera-ready and business card size (2”x3.5”).

up to 315 characters and spaces. Display ads must

category are free.) All ads must be written on a

are prepaid at $15 per insertion, business card ads at

: Ads may only be placed

Letters from members.

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

by and on behalf of Coop members. Classified ads

are available free to

Read the Gazette while you’re standing on line OR online at www.foodcoop.com
Meat or Bulk Inventory
Monday, 6:00 to 10:45 a.m.
Work with Receiving Coordinators Bill Malloy or Ron Zisa to accurately count and inventory meat and bulk products. Must have good handwriting, be able to do basic arithmetic (weights, fractions, addition), be reliable and have good attention to detail.

Paper Recycling
Friday, 6:00 to 8:00 a.m.
Do you have a large vehicle and want to help the Coop be a green citizen? Collect recycled paper from the Coop, bag it, load it into your vehicle and drive it to the paper recycling center. You need to be able to lift and work independently. Reliability is a must as you will be the only person coming to do this job on your day. The recycling center is located at 165 43rd Street in Brooklyn. If interested, please contact Adriana Rebecu at gmcredit@psdc.coop or drop by the Membership Office to speak to her.

General Ledger Bookkeeping
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
Are you a detail-oriented person who likes working with numbers and is at ease handling a calculator? General Ledger Bookkeeping might be the workslot for you! General Ledger bookkeeping consists of making entries into the General Ledger, running a calculator tape to draw account balances and, finally, balancing the General Ledger. The work must be completed in three separate segments, on 3 separate days, between Thursday evening and Sunday evening, allowing some flexibility in scheduling the work. This is all hand entry work, since the Coop bookkeeping system is not computerized. Good bookkeeping is a must. Prior bookkeeping experience helps. Pre-requisites are: 1) must have been a member of the Coop in good standing for 6 months; and 2) must make a six-month commitment to the workslot. If you are interested in this workslot please speak to Andy Taras through the Membership Office.

Office Data Entry
Tuesday or Thursday, 4:30 to 7:15 p.m.
Are you a stickler for details, accurate on the job? Data entry is accurate and organized, using the Coop’s bylaws. We are looking for an accurate, methodical organizer who can file information accurately and efficiently. The office coordinator must have good computer skills and be able to efficiently work with a large amount of information. We are looking for someone who can focus on details and enter information with accuracy. This work can be scheduled to fit your schedule.

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:
Jul 3 issue: 7:00 p.m., Mon, Jun 23
Jul 17 issue: 7:00 p.m., Mon, Jul 7

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:
Jul 3 Classified: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Jun 25
Jul 17 Classified: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Jul 9

General Meeting
TUE, JUN 24
GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.
The agenda appears in this issue and is available as a PDF on the Coop’s intranet.
TUE, JUL 1
AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m.
Submissions will be considered for the Jul 29 General Meeting.
The Coop on the Internet
www.foodcoop.com
The Coop on Cable TV
Inside the Park Slope Food Coop
Fridays 2:30 p.m. with a replay at 10:30 p.m.
Channels: 56 (TimeWarner), 69 (CableVision)

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 support those 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.

Park Slope Food Coop Calendar
COOP CALENDAR

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Meet the Coordinators
TUE, JUN 24
Meet the Coordinators! Come by the meeting to meet the Coordinators and learn about the Coop’s operations. This meeting is open and ends by 9:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 24, 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 at the Annual Meeting in June. Copies of the Coop’s bylaws are available at the Coop Community Corner and at every General Meeting.

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 p.m.)
(unless there is a vote to extend the meeting)
• Meeting evaluation
• Board of Directors vote
• Announcements, etc.

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’s Bylaws require 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.

Park Slope Food Coop
General Meeting
PARK SloPe FOOD Coop, BROOkLYN, NY
June 19, 2008
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.

SAT, JUN 21
CITY SOLAR RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKSHOP “Battery Backup for Emergencies” 1–3 p.m.; “Rainwater Collection and Storage Design” 3:15–5:30 p.m. At 6/15 Community Garden, 6th Ave btw 17 & 18th sts. Each workshop $40/door, or $20/door for City Solar RAY members or garden members. For info, call 718-254-0019 or visit www.citysolar.org

SUN, JUN 22
ZEEMEER/WSC III: an eclectic Sunday concert series at the Old Stone House, featuring Robert Serric (classical guitar accompanied by Erica Suckling on piano) and Jane Byaela (poetry and music) 7:00–9:00 p.m. 5th Ave. (between 3rd & 4th sts.) $10. For info/reservations 718-768-3195.

SUN, JULY 20
FEASTING ON PEACE: Join Brooklyn NVC and other peace-making organizations for our FREE summer picnic at the Ross Pinetum area in Central Park. 12–5 p.m. For The Empathy Labyrinth, Dance of Universal Peace, “Cake Walk,” food, games & more! Join us and let your family and friends know too! Rain date: July 27.

WORKSLOT NEEDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

- computer and like working independently?
- If this sounds like you, then Office Data Entry will be perfect for you. You will receive training, and Coop staff will always be available to answer questions. Please speak to Ginger Hargett in the Membership Office if you would like more information. This workslot requires a six-month commitment.

Office Setup
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, 6:00 to 8:30 a.m.

Need an early riser with lots of energy to do a variety of physical tasks including, setting up tables and chairs, buying food and supplies, labeling and putting away food and supplies, recycling, washing dishes and making coffee. Sound like your dream come true? This job might be for you. Please speak to Adriana or Cynthia in the Membership Office for more information.

Early Morning Receiving/Stocking Committees
Monday–Friday, 5:30, 6:00, and 7:00 a.m.

Early morning Receiving/Stocking squads work with Receiving Coordinators to receive deliveries and stock the store. These squads help to unload delivery trucks, organize products in the basement, load carts, and stock shelves, bulk bins, coolers and produce on the shopping floor. You may be asked to stock perishables in the reach-in freezer or walk-in cooler. Boxes generally weigh between 2–20 lbs., a few may weigh up to 50 lbs. Other duties include breaking down cardboard for recycling, preparing produce for display, and general cleaning. You will have the opportunity to work closely with our produce buyers and learn a lot about the produce the Coop sells.

CHIPS Soup Kitchen
Monday, Tuesday or Saturday, 9:00 to 11:45 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

CHIPS serves a daily meal to the homeless, needy and hungry at their storefront soup kitchen at 4th Avenue and Sackett Street. Workslots preparing food, helping serve meals and cleaning up are available to Coop members who have been a member for at least six months. Coop members work alongside other volunteers at CHIPS. Reliability, cooperation and ability to take directions are vital. Experience with food prep is a plus for working in the kitchen. Contact Camille Scua in the Membership Office if interested.

Support a New Coop!
Do you live or work in the Bronx? Would you prefer to do your workslot on Saturdays?

Then inquire about supporting the South Bronx Food Cooperative!

In accordance with the 6th Principle of Cooperation, the Park Slope Food Coop is offering the SBFC support and consultation by allowing PSFC members to complete their workslot at the Bronx location.

PSFC members will receive FTOP credit in exchange for their help. To receive credit, you should be a PSFC member for at least one year and have an excellent attendance record.

To make work arrangements, please email ellen_weinstat@psfc.coop or call 718-622-0560

South Bronx Food Coop • 646-226-0758 • info@sbxic.org

Join the Street Squad
Do you love the Coop? Do you enjoy talking to friends, neighbors and strangers about the joys of Coop membership? The Street Squad may be the workslot for you. Work outdoors on Saturdays and Sundays from April to October, and help keep the Coop strong.

The Street Squad serves an important public relations role for the Coop. From tables set up outside the store, at local street fairs and special events, the Street Squad talks to current and prospective members, hands out literature, answers questions, gives tours of the Coop, and just generally offers people the chance to become familiar with our organization.

We invite you to join us if you are:

- a Coop member in good standing for at least six months
- friendly and upbeat with enthusiasm about the Coop
- knowledgeable of Coop procedures
- willing to work outdoors
- reliable, responsible and able to work independently

New Street Squad members must attend a training session. If you are interested in joining the Street Squad, please contact: Robin at 718-230-7199. Please call before 9:00 p.m.

East New York Food Coop

Help a new coop in Brooklyn

FTOP credit available

In accordance with the 6th Principle of Cooperation, we frequently offer support and consultation to other coops. For the East New York Food Coop, we also offered help in the form of Park Slope Food Coop member workslots.

The East New York Food Coop welcomes PSFC members to assist in its first year’s operations.

PSFC members may receive FTOP credit in exchange for their help. To receive credit, you should be a member for at least one year and have an excellent attendance record.

To make work arrangements, please email ellen_weinstat@psfc.coop or call 718-622-0560.

East New York Food Coop

419 New Lots Avenue

between New Jersey Avenue and Vermont Street

accessible by the A, J and L trains

718-676-2721

WHAT IS THAT? HOW DO I USE IT?
Food Tours in the Coop

I brought my kids with me to shop at the Coop (it was fun) my son blew in on his scooter the doors opening magically before him my daughter chanting and skipping on one foot I tried to organize all this energy into a shopping cart but apples kept falling and rolling on the floor the asiles seemed unusually narrow by checkout they had eaten $8.50 worth of raspberries Other parents backpacked their children, some wrapped them in long bandages against their bodies, others pushed them in carts, one mom navigated with what looked like a front-end loader —her baby in the bucket Mine (ahem) helped me shop It was chaotic not the orderly march from aisle to aisle we tend to envision whatever the reality But they filled the cart with whole foods’ vegetables, fruit and grain, some fish, yogurt, hot dogs Amid the giggles and horseplay they performed this necessary task: feeding the family our babies ourselves

by Myra Klockenbrink

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COOP BLOOD DRIVE THANKS
DEAR MEMBERS:

On behalf of the patients whose lives you have helped save, and I would like to thank you for hosting the recent blood drive at the Park Slope Food Coop on April 24–26, 2008. On that day we saw 50 donors and collected 42 units, helping to save the lives of up to 160 patients. This is certainly an accomplishment to be proud of.

As you know, the need for blood continues to rise each year in the New York City area. Through the commitment of community groups, we have seen many lives changed for the better by ensuring that our patients have a safe and adequate blood supply.

We appreciate being given the opportunity to come into your organization to do our good work. I know that the members of the community also appreciate the opportunity to donate within their own community.

From advertising the drive to making appointments on the days of the drive, we appreciated all the support we receive from you and the office staff. This commitment to our program and to helping others in our community is sincerely appreciated.

Thanks again for your support of our program and we look forward to our Summer Drive, July 24–26.

Yours truly,
Grace Genovese
Supervisor, Blood Donor Recruitment
New York Blood Center

LET’S ABSTAIN FROM VOTING “ABSTAIN”

DEAR EDITOR:

In the spirit of cooperation, I’d like to suggest a change (or clarification) in the term used for those who choose not to vote in a Co-op election. There appears to be confusion, both at some General Meetings, and in the Annual Meeting, as to the exact meaning of the term “abstain.”

There is no need to waste time and energy at a GM (or anywhere else) asking people who abstain to identify themselves or to check a separate box on a proxy form. By definition, any voting member who attends a vote or submits a proxy but does not vote “yes” or “no” abstains. Creating a separate category by counting self-identifying abstentions is not only unnecessary and wasteful; it results in two groups of abstentions, those that are counted and those that are not. That is confusing, and potentially dangerous in the case of a vote that is legally required under New York law.

Our General Meetings can be held more efficiently by eliminating hand counts of people who don’t wish to identify as abstaining. These counts are not accurate or useful, as those who do vote may not be there and those who are also abstaining, albeit privately.

If our bylaws require an “abstain” vote, as appears to be the case from the language of a Bylaws amendment recently proposed, then I suggest that they be amended to omit this requirement.

While I realize that some members may wish to make a point that they are not taking a position on an issue to others in attendance at a GM, that wish does not in my view justify a theoretically unnecessary and unneccesary parliamentary irregularity that is not in keeping with standard rules of voting.

A “yes” or “no” or we raise hands (or check a box) to be counted as an abstention, we abstain by voting either “yes” or “no.”

Cooperatively,
Stone Rose

H2O: See the woman—It’s always a woman.
Lugging bottles of water. Gallons of water in reusable bottles, risking self-slaughter. All day long she sips and sips
Making sure no lack
Of vital fluid dries her out.
Risking self-slaughter.
Lugging bottles of water,
Making sure no lack
Of vital fluid dries her out,
Risking self-slaughter.

Better Bubbles

DEAR MEMBERS:

In the spirit of reducing our carbon footprint and combating waste, we recently suspended the sale of bottled water, we would like to inform you all of an eco-friendly product for all of you seltzer-lovers out there.

The Coop continues to sell bottled seltzer water, however, another, more sustainable option exists: in-home, counter-top soda makers.

These options come at a moderate cost for a basic kit, including a housing unit, refillable cylinder, canister, and reusable 1-litter plastic carbonating bottles. The plastic carbonating bottles have a lifespan of 10 years, are recyclable and toxic free, and the cap contains a hermetic seal that keeps your water carbonated. CO2 canisters are DOY certified and refillable. Each plastic canister makes approximately 110 liters of seltzer. The housing unit requires no batteries or electricity to operate. Additionally, in-home soda makers reduce energy use to manufacture bottles and cans, they reduce gas and pollutants associated with shipping, and do not contribute to pollutants associated with discarded batteries.

Soda Club USA (www.sodacubusa.com), which we are not representatives of or affiliated with, provides products such as these. You can find their locations through the website, including several in Brooklyn. Other advantages include carbonating a little or a lot to your liking, never having your seltzer go flat, easing the process of transport to the Coop, and having fresh refreshing seltzer made from the water of your choice! We have been using an in-home soda maker for several months and we are extremely happy and enjoy never running out of bubbles!

Fayning Fizzing
Annie-Oxciadian Martinez and Andrea Testa

Democracy and Homeopathy

DEAR MEMBERS:

A fact which allows us to hope the Resistance is not sacrifice, but patience in a constant battle —"Marlene Dietrich

This will be my last letter before the votes are counted. As I write this statement our lives are like a plowshare. One big blade in the middle with a row of little cutters all around. The field is dead and shaped by Anthropos. Civility and Detail. It is not clear what the big blade is for, but at this time of my life it seems to be Homeopathy, more specifically, history and application of homeopathy and the principles of empirical medicine.

The basis of homeopathy —Multi-factorial selection of medicines, Unknowability of the causes of affliction in human beings, Similars, and Empirical rather than Rational Medicine as applications to all of the principles and practices that have brought “modern,” “heroic” medicine to the brink of extinction. I do not think it is too early in our history to really give them an opportunity to really give them the opportunity to take over in our own way. How do you crystallize this? We definitely have a crystal ball. What do we do with this crystal ball? What are the steps that we take? I say the only way and the only way we will be able to take over in our own way is through the national, state and local governments. The Coop is a small, but very real thing. We have the opportunity to crystallize and develop this into a genuine tool by organizing community groups, we have the opportunity to really give them a chance.

Loring, the Rulers behind it, so let’s take the opportunity to really make a change there. The Coop has the opportunity to really make a change for them. We have an opportunity to really take over in our own way.

Carpe diem.

Many of the seemingly curious and strange things I do at general meetings are based on the difference between the town meeting and Representative Government. Most of those present undoubtedly don’t even know there’s a board of directors if anyone else is offended, I do apologize, but I am the worst victim of my own failure because I have a lot of dirt left. This is where I have a lot of dirt left. This is where I have a lot of dirt left. This is where I have a lot of dirt left.

Steven Rosen

Read the Gazette while you’re standing on line OR online at www.foodcoop.com
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To Submit Classified or Display Ads:
Ads may be placed on behalf of Coop members only. Classified ads are prepaid at $15 per insertion, business card size (2” x 3.5” horizontal). Submission forms are available in a wallpocket near the elevator.


NEW LOOK PAINTING. 28 yrs experience. Everything from expert wall prep to free initial oral examination, call the job requires ‘standard’ or ‘specialized’ painting, all work is guaranteed to meet customers satisfaction. References and portfolio available. All materials recycled. Reasonable rates insured! 718-699-0999.

OLIVE DESIGN Interior Design Services. Color consulting, space planning, custom lamps, window coverings. Use what you have or start fresh. Rug and furniture selection. See my website for more information: olivedesignNY.com 475-954-1188.

ATTORNEY—Experienced personal injury trial lawyer representing injured bicyclists and other accident victims. Limited caseload to ensure the highest quality of representation. Completely dedicated to each case. Member NYSLTA and ATLA. No recovery, no fee.


EXPRESS MOVES. One flat price for the entire move! No deceptive hourly rates! Insured. 646-734-0899.

HOLISTIC DENTISTRY in Brooklyn (Midwood) & Manhattan (SoHo). Dr. Stephen R. Goldberg provides family dental care utilizing non-mercury fillings, acupuncture, homeopathy, temporomandibular (TMJ) joint therapy & much more. For a no-obligation consultation free initial oral examination, call 212-505-5055. Please bring X-rays.

HOLISTIC OPTOMETRY: Most eye conditions can be treated symptomatically by prescribing natural healing prescriptions. We try to find the source of your vision problems. Some of the symptoms that can be treated include headaches, eye fatigue, computer discomfort. Learning disabilities. Convenient Park Slope location. Dr. Jerry Wistrich, 718-789-2020. holisticaeye.com.

HOLISTIC DOCTOR in Naturopathy. Stimulates body’s natural ability to heal chronic conditions, allergies, skin, muscle, cancer support with homeopathy, physical & chelation therapies, bioenergetic acupuncture, body hair analysis 6 more. Research Director 20 yrs exp. As featured in Alternative Magazine Dr Gillman 212-505-1010.

ACUPUNCTURE in Park Slope. Rejuvenate your body in a relaxing and supportive atmosphere. Treatments include: pain relief, women’s health & fertility, hypnosis, digestion, respiratory, smoking cessation.

WE’RE WHAT’S FOR FREE!!!
FREE INITIAL LIFE COACHING SESSION. 30-minute complementary session. Coaching will help you clarify your life goals, overcome limiting beliefs, jump into your own unique greatness. Call Mia, 212-427-2524.

FREE ACUPUNCTURE! Sunday July 13th 12-3 p.m. at the Brooklyn Acupuncture Project 530 3rd Ave. (between 12th & 13th sts.). Get treated, eat food, and learn about “community acupuncture,” the low-cost sliding scale (31-45) that makes quality healthcare available to all 718-362-3919, faireye@aol.com.

FREE INITIAL LIFE COACHING SESSION. 30-minute complimentary session. Coaching will help you clarify your life goals, overcome limiting beliefs, jump into your own unique greatness. Call Mia, 212-427-2524.


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MADISON AVENUE Hair Stylist is right around the corner from the Food Coop—so if you like a really good haircut at a decent price, please call Maggie at 718-783-2154 I charge $60.00.

OLIVE DESIGN Interior Design Services. Color consulting, space planning, custom lamps, window coverings. Use what you have or start fresh. Rug and furniture selection. See my website for more information: olivedesignNY.com 475-954-1188.

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EXPRESS MOVES. One flat price for the entire move! No deceptive hourly rates! Insured. 646-734-0899.
A warm welcome to all the new Park Slope Coop members who have joined us in the last week. We’re delighted to have decided to be a part of our community.