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GAZETTE



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GENERAL MEETING REPORT

GM Nixes Audit Committee Proposal

By Ed Levy

The January General Meeting decisively defeated both proposals on its agenda. The first would have established an audit committee composed of members and General Coordinators "to recommend and advise the GM on accounting and audit matters." The second would have reimbursed journalist and social activist Sabrina Artel for expenses she incurred to raise member awareness about the consequences to the city's food and water supply of proposed drilling for natural gas in the Northeast. To extract the gas from deep underground, gas companies would employ a controversial method known as hydrofracking, or "fracking," that involves carcinogens, neurotoxins, and endocrine disruptors.

Audit Committee Proposal

The audit committee proposal was submitted by Yigal Rechtman, who explained that the finances of the Coop are inspected periodically by outside auditors who look for financial irregularities, inefficiencies, and conflicts of interest, and recommend corrections and improvements to our financial management. According to Yigal, although

auditors are technically retained by the General Meeting and Board of Directors, and report back to the Annual Meeting, there should be another layer of separation between the auditors and the General Coordinators, who are the Coop's equivalent of "management." An accepted practice in larger businesses is for auditors to interface, not with core management, but instead with an audit committee of the Board.

In the notorious case of Enron Corporation, a too close relationship between auditors and management contributed to that company's well known financial collapse in 2001 and led to the dissolution of the auditor, Arthur Anderson, one of the world's largest. Yigal was careful to point out that auditors have never found any impropriety involving Coop finances, but asserted that

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ILLUSTRATION BY DEBORAH TINT

Welcome New Ties

Community Ties offers exclusive discounts for Coop members



By Alison Rose Levy

Have you accessed *Community Ties*? Do you know what it is? *Community Ties* is a unique benefit provided to Coop members by small (and large) businesses and groups in the surrounding community. All participants offer special products, experiences, and services at a nice discount to Coop members.

Community Ties, which can be found both online at www.food-coop.com/go.php?id=37 and as a printed handout in the Coop, was first launched by the Coop's then Marketing Committee in 2000. The initial goal was to increase Coop member-

ship. Even though that is no longer necessary, *Community Ties* continues and flourishes. It's now published three to four times per year—under the direction of Membership Coordinator Camille Scuria, a publishing industry professional, who joined the Coop staff in 2007. Since its inception, *Community Ties*' offerings have continued to grow.

"All they have to do is offer Coop members an exclusive discount," Scuria explains.

The application form for inclusion in *Community Ties* is the last page of the publication. It's also available

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Next General Meeting on February 22

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month.* The next General Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 22, at 7:00 p.m. at the Congregation Beth Elohim Temple House (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place.

The agenda is in this Gazette and 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, Feb 11 • **Wordsprouts: Open House** 7:00 p.m.
- Sat, Feb 12 • **Valentine Card Making for Everyone** 3–6:00 p.m.
- Thu, Mar 3 • **Food Class: Healthy Sweets** 7:30 p.m.
- Fri, Mar 4 • **Film Night: Pray the Devil Back to Hell** 7 p.m.
- Sat, Mar 5 • **Kids' Coop Variety Show** 7:00 p.m.
- Fri, Mar 8 • **Safe Food Committee Film Night: King Corn** 7 p.m.

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

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GM Report

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creating the committee would protect the Coordinators from liability should one occur. The committee he proposed would have included the General Coordinators along with a majority of “non-management” members.

One objection raised to the proposal was that it did not require that potential committee members themselves be vetted for possible conflicts of interest. Yigal said that the committee would tolerate zero conflicts of interest among its members, but acknowledged this had not been stipulated in the proposal.

Another objection was that an audit committee would create an additional layer of unneeded bureaucracy and siphon off coordinators’ energies into extra meetings and reports.

Some members liked the increased transparency and accountability the proposal would have established. Others suggested that it did not pass a cost-benefit analysis because of the Coop’s unique structure, and intense member involvement, which includes many pairs of eyes looking at finances on a routine basis. According to one speaker, “There just aren’t very many opportunities for people to steal money from the system.”

General Coordinator Joe Holtz did not attend the meeting, and his position on the issue was a matter of dispute. Yigal asserted that Joe had told him he was in favor of the proposal. However Coordinator Mike Eakin said it was his understanding was that Joe was not in favor of it. Another speaker sharply criticized Yigal for representing Joe’s opinion in his absence.

The proposal failed by a large majority.

Member Reimbursement

By a closer vote, the meeting declined a proposal by member Kris Kohler to reimburse Sabrina Artel for the anti-fracking event held last fall. Supporters expressed a strong desire to educate the public on an issue directly related to the Coop’s ability to obtain high quality, locally grown produce. Opponents cited procedural concerns focused around the unprecedented “after-the-fact” nature of the request.

No one could recall the GM reimbursing someone for an expense incurred without

prior approval. Kris Kohler explained that the event was on a very close timeline, and there had been no time to clear these expenses—for supplies, batteries, food, travel and an assistant—in advance. Sabrina waived her post-production fees.

The Coop paid off its mortgage last year.

The proposal failed by 107 to 78 votes but was instantly rescued from the jaws of defeat by General Coordinator Allen Zimmerman, who suggested we pass the hat to raise the money for Sabrina. Someone’s fur-lined hat served the purpose, and members contributed a total of \$613 as they exited the meeting. Sabrina later told the *Gazette* from her home in Liberty, New York that she was grateful for the Coop’s response, and happy that up-and-downstate New Yorkers are joining together to oppose hydrofracking.

Coop Finances Remain Healthy; Though Theft Cuts In

Coordinator Mike Eakin gave the financial report. Markup is 21 percent (meaning items purchased by the Coop for a dollar are sold for \$1.21.) The Coop keeps 17 cents of every dollar sold; a typical coop keeps more than twice that amount. Our savings is accomplished through member labor and efficiency.

Average weekly sales are nearly \$800,000, up six percent from a year ago. Membership is up a little under two percent but is still being controlled by limiting the number of people who can attend each orientation.

The Coop’s inventory turns over 63 times per year, better than weekly, and three times as fast as that of a typical large coop or grocery, ensuring that the store always has very fresh product.

The Coop paid off its mortgage last year, when our lender, despite its own rule penalizing early payoff, decided it needed the cash and lifted the penalty.

Cutting into the store’s overall financial health, Mike announced, are losses due to shoplifting. The Coop recently apprehended several shoplifters, including some longtime members who were stealing daily.

Winter Produce: Where the Grapes Are

Lettuce prices are normal-

ly high at this time of year, explained Allen Zimmerman, General Coordinator and produce buyer. Most greens come from the Yuma, Arizona-area right now and the weather there has been very cold. When the core of a lettuce plant blisters from cold, Allen explained, the leaves become misshapen. The mid-December frost in the Southwest’s lettuce fields was followed by a wet and warm period, resulting in serious fungal and bacterial infections—not the kind that are transmissible to humans—in head lettuce. Bad weather is also limiting supplies of loose salad mix.

At the time of this writing, the Coop is obtaining high quality, but higher priced greens coming out of Florida.

Allen said that he doesn’t remember the Coop going this many weeks without grapes. Although organic grapes are never usually available this late in winter, the nonorganic grape supply, which starts in Peru and then moves to Chile, has gotten off to a slow start.

The organic ginger coming in is fragile and has been moved across the aisle where it can be kept under refrigeration.

Allen remarked that he was asked recently how to ripen an Asian pear. The answer? You don’t, any more than you would ripen an apple. Asian pears are harvested ripe.

New Meeting Rules Coming

The Rules Revision Committee, following two years of meetings, has drafted two new documents to replace certain General Meeting rules and procedures. Most changes are explanatory, or simply codify current practices, but look for a few changes. These documents will be on the agenda of the February GM and final drafts will be voted on at the May meeting.

In the comments period at the end of the GM, a member faulted the chair for a remark made at the outset of the meeting, when he noted that many in the large audience had come to receive their workslot credit. The chair cheerfully agreed not to characterize members’ motives in future.

Whether this will encourage those attendees who were engrossed in their novels, newsmagazines, and handhelds to pay more attention to the proceedings remains to be seen. ■

2/3 **DIRTY** **THE MOVIE**
WITH GUEST SPEAKER CLAUDIA JOSEPH, PERMACULTURE TEACHER & COMMUNITY GARDENER

2/10 **GAS** **AND**
WITH GUEST SPEAKER WES GILLINGHAM, PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF CATSKILL MOUNTAINKEEPER

2/17 **WHAT'S** **ORGANIC ABOUT ORGANIC?**
WITH GUEST SPEAKER BEN FLANNER OF BROOKLYN GRANGE

2/24 **GARLIC** **IS AS GOOD AS 10 MOTHERS**
WITH GUEST SPEAKER ANNE SAKELBY OF SAKELBY CHEESEMONGERS

BUSHWICK FEBRUARY 7 PM
FOOD FILM SERIES **BROOKLYN**
CO-OP + FUNDRAISER **FIREPROOF**
LOCAL FOOD+WINE TASTINGS COMMUNITY+CONVERSATION
\$5+ DONATION JOIN US! BUSHWICKFOODCOOP.ORG

The Ecockvetch
is now on Facebook,
representing the
Park Slope
Food Coop's
Environmental
Committee.

RETURN POLICY

park slope
FOOD COOP

The Coop strives to keep prices low for our membership. Minimizing the amount of returned merchandise is one way we do this. If you need to make a return, please go to the 2nd Floor Service Desk.

REQUIRED FOR ANY RETURN

1. The Paid-In-Full receipt MUST be presented.
2. Returns must be handled within 30 days of purchase.

CAN I EXCHANGE MY ITEM?

No, we do not “exchange” items. You must return the merchandise and re-purchase what you need.

CAN I RETURN MY ITEM?

Produce* Bulk* (incl. Coop-bagged bulk)
Cheese* Seasonal Holiday Items
Books Special Orders
Calendars Refrigerated Supplements
Juicers & Oils
Sushi *A buyer is available during the week-days to discuss your concerns.

NEVER
RETURNABLE

Refrigerated Goods (not listed above)
Frozen Goods
Meat & Fish
Bread

RETURNABLE
ONLY IF SPOILED
BEFORE
EXPIRATION DATE
Packaging/label
must be present
for refund.

Items not listed above that are unopened
and unused in re-sellable condition

RETURNABLE

The Coop reserves the right to refuse returns on a case-by-case basis. If you have questions, please contact a staff member in the Membership Office.

New Ties

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

online at www.foodcoop.com/go.php?id=37. Providers don't have to be Coop members to participate, although some are.

From the Y to Music to Essential Oils

Among the 247 listings in the Winter 2011 issue of *Community Ties*, the most popular offering is the 50% off the joiner's fee and 20% off the membership fee for the Prospect Park YMCA. "That's been there since the beginning," Scaria reports, and she says she's heard that a few people have even joined the Coop to avail themselves of that discount.

The diversity of talent, services and offerings is truly astounding. Whether you need artistic management, maternity clothes, entertainment for your child's birthday party, counseling, energy work or beauty salon services, you will find it in *Community Ties*.

The Worldwide Book Service (www.booksearchservice.net) will locate rare or hard to find books internationally, while Alpine Positioning will help people find you via "search engine optimization," or SEO. Or perhaps your school-age child is the computer geek in the family. If so, Cyber Kids (www.microchipcafe.com) is a fun and challenging afterschool kids program, offering a 10% discount, where you can drop your kid off while you shop for dinner makings at the Coop. You or your child can be tutored for standard tests, for English as a Second Language or to perfect your accent in spoken English. You can learn German, Spanish, computers or song-writing—all at a discount.

The more musically inclined might enjoy the rock guitar class (with different discounts for adults and children) at the Brooklyn Guitar School (www.brooklynguitarschool.com), or private voice lessons (with 10% discount) at the Grace Studio, or piano lessons at Forte Piano Studio (\$5 off each lesson for first month) which can be found at www.akikosasaki.com/fortepianostudio.htm. Recorder lessons—and private lessons in the tango, contemporary ballet and world

rhythms are also available.

Products range from antiques to books, to fine art prints, to skin care. Deb Feldman of Anna's Lotions and Potions (www.annaspotion-sandlotions.com) offers a 15% off initial purchase and 10% on subsequent purchases of natural handcrafted candles and skin-care products. Her line is made in small batches, with natural and organic ingredients. The

ter.com) offers holistic dentistry at a 20% discount for the initial visit. What's unique about holistic dentistry? "We know how teeth and the mouth relate to the rest of your body, both leading to, and resulting from other bodily health conditions. A more acid pH in the saliva can contribute to periodontal disease, as well as inflammatory conditions, elsewhere in the body, such as arthritis and fibromyalgia," Dr. Brand says.

The most popular offering is the 50% off the joiner's fee and 20% off the membership fee for the Prospect Park YMCA.

The Brand Center also specializes in mercury-free dentistry as well as safe mercury amalgam removal. "A lot of dentists don't believe that they are toxic, or if they do take them out, they don't use any safety protocols for the patient or for themselves," Dr. Brand says. People typically come to holistic dentistry because "they are having a lot of health issues that conventional medicine can't figure out."

Business and Transition Services

For your business are a bevy of web design services, graphic designers, financial and business advisors, space organizers and business consultants and coaches. Or if you're in a career transition, there is tran-

sitional coaching, as well as training in selling on eBay.

Susan Martin, who offers a 10% discount off the first month fee for the Business Sanity program www.business-sanity.com, says her typical clients are professionals, entrepreneurs or sole proprietor business owners who work for themselves.

"They are gifted in their own skill sets, but after a few years, they realize that they don't have the bandwidth or skills to run other aspects key to a successful business."

Typically, the di-verse areas where Martin offers help are in sales and marketing, time management, strategy, business planning, personal work habits and understanding finances.

"The typical person that starts their own business is someone really good at something. They have training, they have worked for others, and decided to step out and be in control of their own destiny. After a while, what they find is that with a company, there is someone over you providing structure. You know what your work hours are. You have deadlines."

Without that, people may find that themselves working all day and all night, and getting their work/life balance "out

of whack," leading to burnout.

"Most people who start a business don't have a business degree. They don't understand what they can do to make the business more profitable. A coach can also help you figure out what aspects of your work make it most fulfilling for you. Aside from the monetary aspects, you have to consider what matters most to you." Martin points out. "Without a business background, it's normal for anyone to just get immersed in the day to day. So part of my job is helping them to understand the big picture. I can see the big picture."

"*Community Ties* has become a good way to tie our community together and to promote that," affirms Camille Scaria. "The discounts are available only to Food Coop members, but anyone can advertise their discount for free." ■

Park Slope Food Coop Community Ties
A directory of businesses offering discounts exclusively for Park Slope Food Coop members
Winter 2011

ANTIQUE
Antique Clock Repair & Restoration
Clock repair and restoration, plus free antique and horological consulting for customers.
347 276-8828
www.777@gmail.com
★ 20% discount

Bob and Judi's Collectibles
Antique, vintage and rare antique furniture, fixtures, pottery, glass, jewelry, and old Brooklyn photos.
217 18th Ave., Brooklyn 11215
718-638-5770
★ 10% discount on all Brooklyn photos

APPAREL
Belly Flirt
Fabrics, quilts, maternity T-shirts.
347 582-2882
bellyflirt@gmail.com
★ 20% discount with code "PSFC"

Lovely Things
Exquisite Collection
Sheila Murrell
Make custom one-of-a-kind, hand and personalized fabrics, "your way."
1641 7th St., Brooklyn 11214
347-762-2241
pslvrtdesign@gmail.com
★ 10% discount

Grow with Community Ties
This issue has 274 listings.
We'd like you to join us.
Are you a merchant or service provider?
Do you patronize a merchant or service provider who would benefit from a listing here?
Turn to the back page for application info.

Publication does not imply endorsement by the Coop.

ART & ARTIST MANAGEMENT
Joe Mangrum
As an artist, I create spaces and environments for your event(s). I also sell photos, paint, and create sculptural objects. Let me help with making your life easier.
973-588-4474
joe@mangrum.com
www.joemangrum.com
★ Free initial consultation

ZAMO!
Judith Z. Miller
ZAMO! (Zulu Arts Management Organization) is a full service artist management agency that provides highly personalized consulting services and representation for a multicultural mix of world class artists to a wide range of promoters.
jzmo@zamo.com
www.zamo.com
★ 10% discount on consulting services

ART GALLERY
Muchnik Arts
Mollie Lernerbaum
Prints, lithographs, posters, and box sets
Illustration pieces by hand-drawn artist
Michael Muchnik, Brooklyn gallery
1400 Carroll St., Brooklyn 11215
718-207-1587
muchnikarts.com
★ 5-10% discount, depending on piece; framed and unframed available



ILLUSTRATION BY LYNN BERNSTEIN

SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE REVISION OF THE GENERAL MEETING RULES OF CONDUCT REPORT

GM Rules Changes to Be Discussed at February Meeting

By David Golland, Jim Abbazia, Elizabeth Tobier, Glenn Brill, Allen Zimmerman, Sherri Levine and Tim Platt

The Special Committee for the Revision of the General Meeting Rules of Conduct has drafted two documents that would replace existing GM rules documents. These two new documents can be described as a comprehensive, authoritative list of rules, entitled "Park Slope Food Coop Guide to the General and Annual Meetings," and a single-page "welcome to the GM" explanatory document which we affectionately call "GM 101."

Both of these documents can be found online at www.foodcoop.com.

For the most part, the changes simply explain better and more clearly what we already do at the GM and AM, and codify existing practices, but there are a few new and/or changed rules, which we will discuss with the membership at the February GM. Members can also send their suggestions for changes to gmrulesfeedback@gmail.com.

The substantive rule changes are few. The Park Slope Food Coop Guide to the General and Annual Meetings...

1. Codifies existing practices.

2. Establishes that when the Secretary of the Coop is absent from a meeting, the chairperson can designate a member (not of the Chair Committee) to take the minutes and present any previous minutes.

3. Codifies the Chair Committee's "list of three" practice for discussion of agenda items as "the chair secretary will prepare a short list of names to discuss the item and repeat as necessary."

4. Eliminates the counting of abstentions on any vote.

5. Eliminates the requirement that Board of Directors candidates use e-mail to submit their required documents.

6. Creates a formal procedure for GM oversight of the chairperson.

7. Establishes Robert's Rules of Order as the authority for matters not covered by the rules.

8. Requires a two-thirds majority vote for ratification of and amendments to the rules document.

Inventory Madness

The year-end inventory descends on the Coop

By Frank Haberle

On Sunday, January 30, the Park Slope Food Coop closed its shopping floor at 5 p.m. for the Year-End Inventory. This annual event, the mother of all inventories, occurs on the Sunday closest to January 31, the last evening of the Coop's fiscal year. (A unique aspect of the Coop's IRS-approved procedures is that the fiscal year end on the Sunday closest to January 31, rather than on a specific calendar day—this is known as a 52/53 week year.) For approximately 7 hours, waves of Coop Coordinator staff and multiple Inventory, Receiving and Data Processing teams work from the basement, to the shopping floor, to the offices upstairs. Working individually and in small teams, they provide a hard count—box by box, item by item, pound by pound—to give a straight accounting of how much merchandise is in the Coop at the end of the fiscal year, and its exact monetary value (in recent years, hovering around \$500,000). By 11 o'clock the hard count is 'in the books,' ready for a team of accountants who arrive at 5 a.m. the next morning to inspect and check the final inventory count. The final fiscal year's total of \$472,000 worth of inventory, will be included as year-end assets in the Coop's Annual Report.

Silently Counting Every Toothpaste Tube

Whether or not you are an accounting enthusiast, the annual inventory is a striking process to witness. It is a bustling event, a mass movement of between 50 and 60 experienced Coop Inventory squad members and others lined up and down the aisles, reaching deep into each shelf and systematically weighing each bulk item. It is surprisingly quiet, with the inventory teams working with great purpose and intent. In a time when the latest technology seems to dominate every aspect of our lives, it is refreshingly low-tech. Each inventory worker carefully counts and writes numbers into 'the books'—long ledgers organized aisle-by-aisle with two lists (one counting the items in the basement, one counting the same items on the shopping floor) documenting the exact numeric amount of each tube of toothpaste, tub of yogurt and bag of

pretzels. The books are then sorted on the floor, carefully re-checked by staff and then brought upstairs, where extra teams of data processing squad members plug them into the system.

General Coordinator Elinor Astrinsky, working on the floor with Membership Coordinator Jason Weiner, explains the waves of squads coming in to participate in the inventory, and the roles of each. "At 4 o'clock we begin in the basement, an hour before we close the shopping floor. The basement is all Coop staff, because it's the most difficult, and the most difficult working conditions." During this first stage a number of Coordinators, working, in some cases, with help from members, count boxes of produce in the coolers, exact numbers of items in the freezers, boxes of everything stored in the basement shelves and even weighing the many different kinds of olives in the cheese section to get as close to an exact count as possible. At 6, the normal "D" receiving squad arrives, and is put on inventory work. "They are counting, not stocking," Elinor points out. "But because they're not as in tune with the inventory process, we try to keep this squad working on the easier, larger items that aren't as difficult to count." The inventory squads (work squads normally assigned the task of keeping inventory on a weekly basis) arrive at 6:30 and then at 7:30, involving members from the regularly scheduled "D" squad and the "A" squad, whose shift is moved up one week for this special occasion. Two teams of data processors arrive at 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. A special store-equipment cleaning squad cleans the checkout machines and counters around the checkout area, but leaves the aisles to the inventory workers.

Experience Counts

The Coop counts on the experienced eyes of inventory squads to get the count in, accurately and relatively quickly. "If there's a person who's especially knowledgeable about the vitamin section, for example, we want them working on vitamins," Elinor points out. The Year-End Inventory falls in the hands of the "D" squad, ensuring that the same core group returns every year, until, due to

the nature of the 52/53-week year, after about 5 to 6 years it will move to "A" week for 5 to 6 years. The job is not just counting;

it is also carefully making sure that some products are not encroaching on the shelf space of others, and often finding things that have been stocked or arbitrarily shelved in the wrong place.

To an untrained eye, the work appears overwhelming. But the inventory workers themselves appear uniformly focused and nonplussed by the special task at hand. Josh Trinidad, who has been an



Marlene Reynolds



Chelsea Zimmer and Receiving Coordinator Alexis

inventory squad member for six years and did his third Coop inventory last month, feels there is little difference between this and his normal shift, "except that there are more people, here," he says, sitting cross-legged on the floor, hand-counting fruit bars. "But I really enjoy this work. It can be kind of meditative." Jared Make, a six-month Inventory squad member, who was participat-

ing in his first Year-End Inventory, finds the work very pleasant, "except for the beauty products," he says, "which can be a bit torturous. But only because they're so high up." Two workers arrive to learn that they would be doing an inventory of pet food. "Alright!" One responds cheerfully. "I love pet food!" Squad Leader Andrea Dobro, who has been a member of the "D" invento-

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community calendar listings are free. Please submit your event listing in 50 words or less to GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop. Submission deadlines are the same as for classified ads. Please refer to the Coop Calendar in the center of this issue. An asterisk (*) denotes a Coop member.

SAT, FEB 12

PEOPLES' VOICE CAFE: Rod MacDonald. 8-10:30 p.m., Community Church of New York, 40 E. 35th St. (between Madison & Park). Info: 212-787-3903 or peoplesvoicecafe.org. Suggested donation: \$15 general/\$10 member/more if you choose, less if you can't/no one turned away.

TUE, FEB 15

FREE HOMEBUYERS SEMINAR: The path to homeownership begins with education. Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of East Flatbush, a not for profit organization, is having a free homebuyers seminar. Includes getting started, closing cost assistance, grants, affordable mortgages, advice from professionals in the field, much more. 6 p.m. Carver Bank, 833 Flatbush Ave. (corner of Linden Blvd.) To register, call 718-469-4679.

SAT, FEB 19

THE 26th ANNUAL NEW YORK SWORD DANCE FESTIVAL: The festival features 12 sword dance groups in an exciting weekend of performances in public spaces around the city including the Brooklyn Heights Library at 3:00 p.m. Visit website: halfmoonsword.org or call 212-569-4374 for full schedule. Live music! Family friendly.

PEOPLES' VOICE CAFE: Church

Ladies for Church; Rick & Andy. 8-10:30 p.m., Community Church of New York, 40 E. 35th St. (between Madison & Park). Info: 212-787-3903 or peoplesvoicecafe.org. Suggested donation: \$15 general/\$10 member/more if you choose, less if you can't/no one turned away.

SUN, FEB 20

THE 26th ANNUAL NEW YORK SWORD DANCE FESTIVAL: The festival features 12 sword dance groups in an exciting weekend of performances in public spaces around the city including the grand finale at the Brooklyn Museum at 2:30 p.m. Earlier performances at three local churches. Visit website: halfmoonsword.org or call 212-569-4374 for full schedule. Live music! Family friendly.

MON, FEB 21

A TASTE OF PLAYBACK: improvisational, participatory performance form. Singing/dancing to warm up, theater games, Playback theory & techniques for acting out each other's experiences & time for reflection/discussion. 6:15 p.m. More dates through June. WOW Feminist Theater Space on the Lower East Side. Led by Susan Metz*. RSVP: susanslists@yahoo.com or at 718-636-9089. Contribution of \$15 per session (more or less).

THU, FEB 24

BUILD IT! FIX IT! Do it yourself! Learn carpentry, basic electrical, tool usage, wood framing and much more in this ten-week course. Vacancies are still available in the Wednesday Class which starts Feb. 24th, 6 p.m. For more info., call 718-469-4679. Sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of East Flatbush, a not for profit housing organization. www.nhsfoeastflatbush.org.

SAT, FEB 26

BOOK SALE: Thousands of new & used books plus DVDs, videos, CDs & records. Prices start at \$1. Incredible bargains! Children's Room! Park Slope United Methodist Church (6th Avenue at 8th Street). 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (\$10 early admission fee for first hour). Donations welcome: please visit www.park-slopeumc.org for details.

SUN, FEB 27

BOOK SALE (afternoon only): Thousands of new & used books plus DVDs, videos, CDs & records. Prices start at \$1. Incredible bargains! Children's Room! Park Slope United Methodist Church (6th Avenue at 8th Street). 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free admission. Donations welcome: please visit www.park-slopeumc.org for details.

ry squad since 1985, explains that the inventory process has actually become much easier and more pleasant over the years. "We used to have to count everything in the ledger, item by item, and we used to bring calculators with us. It was always the longest shift; we had to stay long after the shift ended to get the job done."

General Coordinator Ann Herpel, also working hard to provide direction on the floor during the inventory, speaks to the preparation that goes into the annual inventory. "It actually all starts about a

month before," she says. "We inform squads of what's going to be expected of them, and then we contact each person directly to let them know if their squad has been rescheduled for this evening." Ann also explains that the Coop deliberately slows down special orders and stocking specialty items, like rarely purchased vitamins and supplements, to make the count run more smoothly. This year there were special



Aaron Beebe and Receiving Coordinator Yuri Weber

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROD MORRISON

challenges, exacerbated in large part by the numerous major snowstorms that have impacted on suppliers in New

York City and the surrounding region. One example was a grocery delivery scheduled for Thursday that the supplier postponed until Saturday, bringing an influx of products into the store with little time to stock and sell them before the inventory began.

Using Technology

Ann notes that new technology, while it hasn't directly impacted the inventory process, has helped in other ways. "The inventory system is essentially the same one we've used for years," she says. "Our IT people have

worked on the data system a bit, but there have been no substantial changes." She credits the technology with making the Coop run more efficiently in other ways. "Recently we had a group from a receiving squad use hand-held scanners to make sure that the products on the shelves are scanning correctly and accurately when they are run through at checkout," she says. "In addition to making sure we're collecting money accurately, this helps us balance the inventory." Ann looks out at the bustling floor. "It's a huge job," she adds. ■

CLASSIFIEDS

BED & BREAKFAST

THE HOUSE ON THIRD ST. B+B-beautiful parlor floor thru apt. Queen bed, private bath, kitchen, deck, wi-fi, sleeps 4 or 5 in privacy and comfort. Located in the heart of the Slope. Call or visit us on the web. Jane White at 718-788-7171, houseon3st.com. Let us be your Brooklyn Hosts.

CLASSES/GROUPS

TRANSFORM YOUR RELATIONSHIP. Moment by Moment Couples Workshop. Friday, Feb. 18th 7-8:30 p.m. Limited space. Register asap. Margo Steinfeld, LCSW, Relationship specialist, certified Imago Relationship Therapist. Call for more information. 718-783-5066. Park Slope location near Food Coop.

HOUSING WANTED

HIGHLY RESPONSIBLE ADULT over 50 needs a temporary residence in or near Park Slope for February and March 2011. My friend is coming to Brooklyn from Vermont for a temporary work assignment. He can take care of your plants, animals or other situations that may occur. A reasonable amount of rent can also be paid. I am a Park Slope resident for 36 years and will take full responsibility. Please call 718-499-8352 or 917-453-0198 if you think you could be of help.

PETS

RETIRED SOCIAL WKR. 35 yrs. exp. w/ all breeds, wants to board your dog in my home. One dog at a time. Rates include 3 walks a day. If your dog is your baby I am the boarder for you! Day boarding too. Call Jane at 347-860-2142 or e-mail me at Petnanny01@yahoo.com. References available. Your dog will thank you!

SERVICES

TOP HAT MOVERS, INC., 145 Park

Place, Bklyn. Licensed and Insured Moving Co. moves you stress-free. Full line of boxes & packing materials avail. Free estimates 718-965-0214. D.O.T. #T-12302. Reliable, courteous, excellent references & always on time. Credit cards accepted. Member Better Business Bureau.

EXPRESS MOVES. One flat price for the entire move! No deceptive hourly estimates! Careful, experienced mover. Everything quilt padded. No extra charge for wardrobes and packing tape. Specialist in walkups. Thousands of satisfied customers. Great Coop references. 718-670-7071.

ATTORNEY—Experienced personal injury trial lawyer representing injured bicyclists and other accident victims. Limited caseload to ensure maximum compensation. Member of NYSTLA and ATLA. No recovery, no fee. Free consult. Manhattan office. Park Slope resident. Long time PSFC member. Adam D. White. 212-577-9710.

ATTORNEY—Personal Injury Emphasis—30 years experience in all aspects of injury law. Individual attention provided for entire case. Free phone or office consultation. Prompt, courteous communications. 20-year Park Slope Food Coop member; Park Slope resident; downtown Brooklyn office. Tom Guccione, 718-596-4184, also at www.tguccionelaw.com.

MADISON AVENUE HAIRSTYLIST right around the corner from the Food Coop. So if you would like a really good haircut at a decent price, please call Maggie at 718-783-2154. I charge \$60.00.

ELECTRICIAN, ART CABRERA. Celebrating 38 yrs. Wiring P.S. Bklyn. "Can't do not in our Lexicon." Add an outlet, light, switch or wire your entire home or business. Trouble shooting specialist, L.V., phone or cable. 110 or 220 v. Patching + painting provided (additional). 718-

965-0327. Emrg. 646-239-5197. artcab16@gmail.com. PEACE.

COMPULSIVE OVEREATING support group - work with an experienced therapist along with group support to address eating issues that are difficult to change. Call Geri Ness for more info at 718-789-6739.

NEW LOOK PAINTING is an artist's run company that has served NYC for 30 years. Services include everything from expert wall prep to the finest painted detail. Emphasis on professionalism and optimum results. Insured, references, EPA certified. REASONABLE! Call 718-832-6143 or eyegrease@earthlink.net for a free estimate.

SERVICES-HEALTH

HOLISTIC OPTOMETRY: Most eye doctors treat patients symptomatically by prescribing ever-increasing prescriptions. We try to find the source of your vision problem. Some of the symptoms that can be treated include headaches, eye fatigue, computer discomfort, learning disabilities. Convenient Park Slope location. Dr. Jerry Wintrob, 718-789-2020. holisticyecare.com.

HOLISTIC DOCTOR in Naturopathy stimulates body's natural ability to heal chronic conditions, allergy, skin, muscle, cancer support with homeopathy, physical & chelation therapies, bioenergetic acupuncture, lab tests, hair analysis & more. Research Director. 20 years exp. As Featured in Allure Magazine. Dr. Gilman 212-505-1010.

HOLISTIC DENTISTRY in Brooklyn & Manhattan (SOHO). Dr. Stephen R. Goldberg provides comprehensive family dental care using non-mercury fillings, crowns, dentures, thorough cleanings, non-surgical gum treatments with minimal X-rays. For a free initial exam in a nutrition-oriented practice and for

insurance information, please call 212-505-5055.

THERESE BIMKA LLSW LICENSED PSYCHOTHERAPIST Exp. w/ Children, Adolescents + Adults. Compassionate, interactive + experienced integrative approach using strong clinical skills + diverse modalities such as Jungian Sandplay Therapy, Expressive Arts, Guided Visualization + Relaxation Techniques. Park Slope 718-622-5220. www.ThereseBimka.com.

LIFE COACH Start 2011 inspired. Clarify goals, identify and release blocks, move into action.

Discover your inner purpose, become more focused. Free consult. Experienced, wise coach. For more info, email Mina Hamilton at minaham@aol.com or call 917-881-9855.

VACATIONS

HAVE FUN WITH YOUR FAMILY at Common Ground Center Family Camp - an all-inclusive vacation in beautiful Vermont. A great cooperative community, fabulous programming, 700 acres with a lovely pond, meadows, starry skies and delicious vegetarian food. Register today at 800-430-2667 or www.cgcvt.org.

To Submit Classified or Display Ads:

Ads may be placed on behalf of Coop members only. Classified ads are prepaid at \$15 per insertion, display ads at \$30. (Classified ads in the "Merchandise-Non-commercial" category are free.) All ads must be written on a submission form. Classified ads may be up to 315 characters and spaces. Display ads must be camera-ready and business card size (2" x 3.5" horizontal).

Submission forms are available in a wallpocket near the elevator in the entrance lobby.

Prompt & Courteous
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Residential & Commercial
Packing & Supplies
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718.965.0214 ☎ 718.622.0377 ☎ 212.722.3390



Good Green Fun for Everyone!
Common Ground Center
Uncommon Fun for Grown-Ups and Kids
Family Camps

800-430-2667 ♦ www.cgcvt.org

- ♦ Register today for your all-inclusive Vermont vacation!
- ♦ Come with your friends to our intergenerational programs.
- ♦ Delicious vegetarian food, music, art, nature and relaxation
- ♦ A great diverse community - 73% of campers return!
- ♦ Our green facility on 700 beautiful acres can also be rented.

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 that are racist, sexist, or otherwise discriminatory.

The Gazette welcomes Coop-related articles, and 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 printed if they conform to the guidelines above. The Anonymity and Fairness policies appear on the letters page in most issues.

Voluntary Articles: Maximum 750 words. Editors will reject articles that are essentially just advertisements for member businesses and services.

Committee Reports: Maximum 1,000 words.

Editor-Writer Guidelines: Except for letters to the editor, which are published without editing but are subject to the Gazette letters policy regarding length, anonymity, respect, and fairness, all submissions to the *Linewaiters' Gazette* will be reviewed and if necessary edited by the editor. In their review, editors are guided by the Gazette's Fairness and Anonymity policies as well as standard editorial practices of grammatical review, separation of fact from opinion, attribution of factual statements, and rudimentary fact checking. Writers are responsible for the factual content of their stories. Editors must make a reasonable effort to contact and communicate with writers regarding any proposed editorial changes. Writers must make a reasonable effort to respond to and be available to editors to confer about their articles. If there is no response after a reasonable effort to contact the writer, an editor, at her or his discretion, may make editorial changes to a submission without conferring with the writer.

Submissions on Paper: Typed or very legibly handwritten and placed in the wallpocket labeled "Editor" on the second floor at the base of the ramp.

Digital Submissions: We welcome digital submissions. Drop disks in the wallpocket described above. The email address for submissions is GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop. Receipt of your submissions will be acknowledged on the deadline day.

Classified & Display Ads: Ads may only be placed by and on behalf of Coop members. Classified ads are prepaid at \$15 per insertion, business card ads at \$30. (Ads in the "Merchandise–Non-commercial" category are free.) All ads must be written on a submission form (available in a wallpocket on the first floor 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").

Printed by: New Media Printing, Bethpage, NY.

Friday
Feb. 18

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

AFARA

is Hasan Bakr, Kevin Nathaniel and Tomas Rodriguez. The boundary-breaking collaboration draws from the music of the African and Spanish diasporas and celebrates their



union in the musical landscape of the Americas. Award-winning music journalist Norman Weinstein said: "This trio mines the deep spirit encoded musically throughout the African Diaspora, a rare achievement in itself. Marking their sound is an engaging groove, touching harmonies and a mesmerizing exploration to discover how to bring the tonal continent Africa into a global symphonic world map."

In four-part harmony, through songs from many cultures, **Harmonic Insurgence** responds to the dramatic events of our times, passionately crying out for justice, freedom, and peace. The a cappella ensemble sings the extraordinary arrangements of Gene Glickman, alternately powerful and shocking, mournful, sweet and joyous. The group is Chris Carlson, Ellen Davidson, Gene Glickman, Mara Goodman, Bobby Greenberg, Nancy Hoch, Mark Karwowski, Jenny Knight, Nicholas Panken, Don Raphael, Marie Robinson and Charenee Wade.



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, 718-788-3741

Monthly on the...

Second Saturday
FEBRUARY 12
10:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.

Third Thursday
FEBRUARY 17
7:00 P.M.–9:00 P.M.

Last Sunday
FEBRUARY 27
10:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.

On the sidewalk in front of the
receiving area at the Coop.

PLASTICS

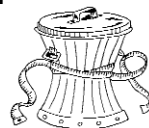
What plastics do we accept?
Until further notice:

- #1 and #6 type non-bottle shaped containers, transparent only, labels ok
- Plastic film and bubble wrap, transparent only, no colored or opaque, no labels
- #5 plastic cups, tubs, and specifically marked caps and lids, very clean and dry (discard any with paper labels, or cut off)

**NOTE: We are no longer accepting
#2 or #4 type plastics.**

PLASTIC MUST BE COMPLETELY CLEAN & DRY

We close up promptly.
Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the
collection end time to allow for inspection and
sorting of your plastic.



This Issue Prepared By:

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Puzzle Master: Stuart Marquis

Final Proofreader: Nancy Rosenberg

Index: Len Neufeld

WORKSLOT NEEDS

Office Data Entry

Tuesday, 4:30 to 7:15 p.m.

Are you a stickler for details, accurate on the computer and like working independently? If this sounds like you, then Office Data Entry will be your perfect shift. 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. Workslot requires a six-month commitment and a good attendance record.

GM Set-Up & Breakdown

Tuesday of the General Meeting

Workslot meets the last Tuesday of each month for the General Meeting and consists

of 2 parts—set-up and breakdown. The squad meets at the Coop at 6:00 p.m. to pick supplies for the GM and takes supplies to the Garfield Temple at Garfield and 8th Avenue. The squad sets up chairs and arranges the supplies at the GM. 2) At 9:30 p.m. the squad returns to the GM and collects all materials and bring them back to the Coop. Workslot requires good attendance because you will be working with a small team. Living in close proximity to the Coop and the Garfield Temple at Garfield and 8th Avenue is a plus. If you are interested please contact Adriana at adriana_becerra@psfc.coop or 718-622-0560 for more information.

Shopping Floor Set-up and Cleaning

Monday thru Friday, 6:00 to 8:00 a.m.

Are you an early riser with a love of cleaning and organizing? Work under the supervision of a staff person to set up and clean the shopping floor checkout stations. Must like to clean, be meticulous, detail oriented and able to work independently. Great opportunity for someone who wants to work when the Coop is not crowded. Please contact Cynthia Pennycooke at cynthia_pennycooke@psfc.coop or through the Membership Office at 718-622-0560.

COOP CALENDAR

New Member Orientations

Attending an Orientation is the first step toward Coop membership. Pre-registration is required for all of the four weekly New Member Orientations. To pre-register, visit www.foodcoop.com or contact the Membership Office. Visit in person or call 718-622-0560 during office hours.

Have questions about Orientation? Please visit www.foodcoop.com and look at the "Join the Coop" page for answers to frequently asked questions.

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).

General Meeting Info

TUE, FEB 22

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, MAR 1

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m.

Submissions will be considered for the Mar 29 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

Feb 24 issue: 7:00 p.m., Mon, Feb 14
Mar 10 issue: 7:00 p.m., Mon, Feb 28

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

Feb 24 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Feb 16
Mar 10 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Mar 2

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, February 22, 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 Ann Herpel at the coop.

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 and Receive Work Credit

Since the Coop's inception in 1973, the General Meeting has been our decision-making body. At the General Meeting (GM) members gather to make decisions and set Coop policy. The General-Meeting-for-workslot-credit program was created to increase participation in the Coop's decision-making process.

Following is an outline of the program. For full details, see the instruction sheets by the sign-up board.

• Advance Sign-up required:

To be eligible for workslot credit, you must add your name to the sign-up sheet in the elevator lobby. The sign-ups sheet is available all month long, except for the day of the meeting when you have until 5 p.m. to sign up. On the day of the meeting, the sign-up sheet is kept in the Membership Office.

Some restrictions to this program do apply. Please see below for details.

• Two GM attendance credits per year:

Each member may take advantage of the GM-for-workslot-credit program two times per calendar year.

• Certain Squads not eligible:

Eligible: Shopping, Receiving/ Stocking, Food Processing, Office, Maintenance, Inventory, Construction, and FTOP committees. (Some Committees are omitted because covering absent members is too difficult.)

• Attend the entire GM:

In order to earn workslot credit you must be present for the entire meeting.

• Signing in at the Meeting:

1. After the meeting the Chair will provide the Workslot Credit Attendance Sheet.

2. Please also sign in the attendance book that is passed around during the meeting.

• Being Absent from the GM:

It is possible to cancel without penalty. We do ask that you remove your name if you know cannot attend. Please do not call the Membership Office with GM cancellations.

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.

park slope
FOOD COOP

calendar of events

feb 11
fri 7 pm

Wordsprouts: Open House



The Park Slope Food Coop's Reading Series

Learn about all the fab Coop authors, their books and upcoming events. Co-curators **Paula Bernstein** and **Paola Corso** would love to hear about your writing projects and news for an upcoming Wordsprouts column or suggestions for future Wordsprouts events. Sign up for a critique of your writing. Paula Bernstein is the co-author of *Identical Strangers: A Memoir of Twins Separated and Reunited* (Random House, 2007). Paola Corso's most recent book of fiction is *Catina's Haircut: A Novel in Stories*, included on Library Journal's notable list of first novels last fall.

To book a Wordsprouts, contact P.J. Corso, paola_corso@hotmail.com.

feb 12
sat 3–6 pm

Valentine Card Making For Everyone



Bring family and friends of all ages to a Valentine's Day Card-Making party in the Coop's Meeting Room. We'll supply glue, markers and paper; bring any other special art materials you would like to use. (And we'd love donations of art supplies such as buttons, fabric, recycled paper, magazines, newspaper and cardboard.)

feb 18
fri 8 pm

AFARA and Harmonic Insurgence



AFARA is Hasan Bakr, Kevin Nathaniel and Tomas Rodriguez. The boundary-breaking collaboration draws from the music of the African and Spanish diasporas and celebrates their union in the musical landscape of the Americas. In four-part harmony, through songs from many cultures, **Harmonic Insurgence** sings a cappella arrangements of Gene Glickman, alternately powerful and shocking, mournful, sweet and joyous. The group is Chris Carlson, Ellen Davidson, Gene Glickman, Mara Goodman, Bobby Greenberg, Nancy Hoch, Mark Karwowski, Jenny Knight, Nicholas Panken, Don Raphael, Marie Robinson and Charenee Wade.

Concert takes place at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West (at 2nd St.) • \$10 • doors open at 7:45. *The Very Good Coffeehouse* is a monthly musical fundraising partnership of the Coop and the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture.

To book a Coffeehouse event, contact Bev Grant, 718-788-3741.



feb 19
sat 2 pm

Forgiveness

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, and participate in a group unconditional love meditation. Coop member **Moraima Suarez** has studied and practiced the healing arts for more than 20 years.

feb 22
tue 7 pm

PSFC FEB General Meeting



Items will be taken up in the order given. Times in parentheses are suggestions. More information on each item may be available on the entrance table at the meeting. We ask members to please read the materials available between 7 and 7:15 p.m.

Meeting location: **Congregation Beth Elohim Social Hall (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place at Eighth Avenue.**

Item #1: Rules Revision Committee to present its work to the General Meeting (45 minutes)
Discussion: "Proposed Changes to GM Rules Documents"

—submitted by GM Rules Revision Committee

Explanation: "As mandated by the September 2006 GM and reported at the July 2009 GM, the GM Rules Revision Committee has been drafting changes to the existing GM rules documents, including *General Meeting Rules of Conduct*, *Standardized Election Procedures* and *Structure of the General Meeting* for content and clarity. The Committee now presents as eventual replacements for these documents a comprehensive rules document and a one-page non-binding explanatory document, respectively (and tentatively) titled *The Complete GM* and *GM-101*."

Item #2: Discussion of proposal to change voting requirements for approvals of boycotts (45 minutes)

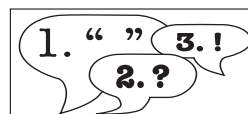
Discussion: "Require that all boycotts be passed by a 2/3 vote of the yes/no votes cast. This refers to votes that take place at a General Meeting or via referendum or for annual recertification of a previously approved boycott." —submitted by General Coordinators

Explanation: "Why is this policy revision needed? Our mission statement includes a commitment to diversity, a commitment to be welcoming and a commitment to respect the opinions, needs and concerns of every member. Because a decision to boycott could prove to be unwelcoming to some of our membership and could result in a less diverse membership, we should proceed with caution in order to maintain our commitment to the principles in our mission statement and in the first international principle of cooperation. That first principle is called Voluntary and Open Membership and it states: 'Co-operatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.' A 2/3 rule on voting on boycotts will help ensure that we proceed in keeping with our principles."

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 Coop office.

mar 1
tue 8 pm

Agenda Committee Meeting



The Committee reviews pending agenda items and creates the agenda for this month's General Meeting. Drop by and talk with committee members face-to-face between 8 and 8:15 p.m.

Before submitting an item, read "How to Develop an Agenda Item for the General Meeting" and fill out the General Meeting Agenda Item Submission Form, both available from the Membership Office. **The next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 29, 7 p.m., at Congregation Beth Elohim Social Hall (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place at Eighth Avenue.**

mar 3
thu 7:30 pm

Food Class: Healthy Sweets



Susan Baldassano, Coordinator

What is gluten? What are healthy sweets? Learn the nutritional benefits of ingredients, how to bake gluten-free without additives and how to make vegan sweets without refined sugar.

Hideyo Yamada is a cooking instructor and private chef. She specializes in pastry, sushi and Japanese food. Her delicious gluten-free and vegan dishes add more balance and energy to the lives of her clients. She is a certified Holistic Health Counselor and graduate of the Institute of Integrative Nutrition. See www.hideyocooking.com for a schedule of her upcoming classes. *Menu includes grilled pineapple; tofu-blueberry-agar cheesecake; black-bean brownie with raisins and walnuts; and Japanese roasted-tea ice cream. Materials fee: \$4.*

mar 4
fri 7 pm

Film Night: Pray the Devil Back to Hell



Pray the Devil Back to Hell is the gripping account of a group of brave and visionary women who demanded peace for Liberia, a nation torn to shreds by a decades old civil war. The women's historic, yet unsung achievement finds voice in a narrative that intersperses contemporary interviews, archival images and scenes of present-day Liberia together to recount the experiences and memories of the women who were instrumental in bringing lasting peace to their country. Co-producer **Johanna Hamilton** won the 2008 Tribeca Best Documentary Film Award for this film, and was short-listed for the 2009 Academy Awards.

To book a Film Night, contact Faye Lederman, squeezestone@hotmail.com.

For more information on these and other events, visit the Coop's website: foodcoop.com

All events take place at the Park Slope Food Coop unless otherwise noted. Nonmembers are welcome to attend workshops.
Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop.

feb 11–apr 7 2011

mar 5
sat 7 pm

Coop Kids' Variety Show



Performers in alphabetical order: Cloe Dean, Marina Zero Espinet (AKA Marina Zee), Jordan Nass-Demaue, David Gratz, Ikhari Hinds, Malkhut Hinds, Eli Jort, Ruby Kahn, Delia Mandik, Jonah Murphy, Reuben Gelley-Newman, Ellie Pike, Lara Saddique, Emma Scholl, Aliyah Verdiner, Genie Verdiner, Clementine Vonnegut, Graham Vonnegut, Olivia Wohlengemuth, Dominic Wynter, Vanessa Wynter, and a parent or two. Types of acts include: violin, singing, flute, guitar, unicycle, cello, piano, drums, Irish dancing. **Event to be held at Old First Church, Carroll St. and Seventh Ave. Admission: \$5. Refreshments for sale.**

mar 8
tue 7 pm

Safe Food Committee Film Night: King Corn



Behind America's hamburgers and sodas is an ingredient that fuels our fast-food nation: corn. In **King Corn**, college graduates Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis head to Iowa to grow an acre of the nation's most powerful crop. By summer, their farm is thriving. Ian and Curt are troubled by how corn is helping to make fast food cheap and consumers sick. But it also lets consumers have fast food at low prices. As Ian and Curt return to Iowa, they realize their acre of land shouldn't be planted in corn again—if they can help it.

mar 12
sat 2 pm

Cleanse & Renew

Now is the perfect time to assist your body's natural springtime desire to detoxify. Join us for a fact-filled presentation on how and why to cleanse your body safely, gently and easily...no messy juicer, no fasting, no hunger! Eat to lose weight, lower cholesterol and regulate blood sugar. Coop member **Diane Paxton**, MS, LAc, is the owner and principal of Inner Fire Integrative Health Services, with offices in Manhattan and Park Slope.

mar 18
fri 7 pm

Experience Healing

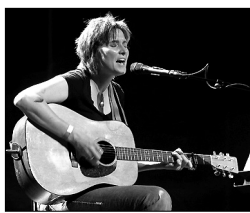
Learn to draw the Prema Agni healing symbol for yourself and on others in this hands-on workshop. Prema Agni means "Fire of Divine Love" and this symbol opens the heart for love to flow in and expand your heart. In this workshop, you will experience and learn to work with healing energy. **Becca Gee** is a Coop member, rising star practitioner and prema birthing practitioner/teacher. She has studied with master healer and spiritual teacher Derek O'Neill in Ireland.

mar 18
fri 8 pm

Annie Keating and Noe Venable



The Village Voice raves, "**Annie Keating** is a wise mix of Lucinda Williams songwriting, Gillian Welch guitar and a vocal all her own ... a cross between Willie Nelson and John Prine and you don't get any better than that." On her latest album, *Water Tower View*, Keating is at her best, delivering beautifully crafted songs. Singer-songwriter **Noe Venable** is a composer of mystically tinged, experimental folk



songs, incorporating spinetingling vocal harmonies and soaring strings. Ani DiFranco has called her music "ravishingly melodic!" Having honed her songwriting and musicianship within the context of San Francisco's rich experimental and jazz music scene, Venable has gone on to wider recognition through the release of five albums, as well as national tours opening for artists from Ani DiFranco to They Might Be Giants.

Concert takes place at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West (at 2nd St.) • \$10 • doors open at 7:45. *The Very Good Coffeehouse* is a monthly musical fundraising partnership of the Coop and the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture.

To book a Coffeehouse event, contact Bev Grant, 718-788-3741.



mar 20
sun 12 pm

Wordsprouts: Open House



Learn about all the fab Coop authors, their books and upcoming events. Co-curators **Paula Bernstein** and **Paola Corso** would love to hear about your writing projects and news for an upcoming Wordsprouts column or suggestions for future Wordsprouts events. Sign up for a critique of your writing. Paula Bernstein is the co-author of *Identical Strangers: A Memoir of Twins Separated and Reunited* (Random House, 2007). Paola Corso's most recent book of fiction is *Catrina's Haircut: A Novel in Stories*, included on Library Journal's notable list of first novels last fall.

To book a Wordsprouts, contact P.J. Corso, paola_corso@hotmail.com.

mar 26
sat 9 am

Joy! What Is It? Where Is It?

Come and learn specialized eastern and Mayan secrets to discovering what it is that may be blocking you from your own power, strength and joy. You will be introduced to Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT) and the Four Agreements, which show you how to reduce or eliminate your emotional blockages, past traumas, pain, anger, phobias, fears and trauma memories. Coop member **Carolyn Meiselbach** has an advanced certification in both hypnosis and EFT, with a private practice in Carroll Gardens.

mar 26
sat 12 pm

Take Action on Your Dreams

Co-counseling — a grassroots, peer-based process based on listening — empowers you to trust your own thinking and create your life according to your own values and needs. Work through any obstacles, from frozen childhood needs to the impact of race/class/sexist/homophobic oppression on your life. This workshop will help you clear out old blocks and plan for a fresh new start! **Jennifer Joy Pawlitschek** is a Coop member and the NYC Co-Counseling International teacher and leader.

mar 26
sat 3 pm

Self-Care for the White-Collar Hero

The increasingly long hours spent at the computer for work and recreation is a health hazard. This lecture will present an overview of all the muscles that are involved in computer use, from the hamstrings to the extraocular (eye) muscles. You will learn techniques for how to effectively relax these muscles at home or at the office. We will go over trigger points and common pain referral patterns, tension headaches, carpal tunnel syndrome, "Blackberry thumb" and other ailments. Coop member **Elena Tate** is a licensed massage therapist.

still to come

mar 27 Why Meditate?

mar 29 PSFC MARCH General Meeting

mar 29 Fibroids, Cysts and PMS

apr 1 Film Night

apr 2 What Is Democratic Education

apr 3 Learn How to Food Shop

apr 5 Agenda Committee Meeting

apr 7 Food Class

L E T T E R S T O T H E E D I T O R

GM DISTRACTIONS

TO THE EDITOR:

Last week I attended a General Meeting. As an FTOP member, I was glad to receive work credit for attending the meeting. I was also glad to be updated on the news and workings of the Coop, happy to be involved in decision-making. Unfortunately, I was frustrated and distracted by the behavior of many people attending the meeting.

An uninformed observer would think they had stumbled into the DMV waiting room, or perhaps an airport during a blizzard, rather than a gathering of people interested in working cooperatively for a collective good.

When I attend a meeting at my workplace, I do not, for example, lay on the floor with a novel or Cosmopolitan magazine. Or bring my laptop and organize my vacation photos. Or lose myself in my iPhone, iPad, or Blackberry for the length of the meeting. Or wear headphones. Or sleep. Even so, meetings at my workplace are not voluntary. It truly baffles me that Coop members would choose to come to the General Meeting—completely voluntary—if they find the content so unbearably boring. Wouldn't it be more pleasant to get work credit in one of the myriad other ways the Coop offers? Wouldn't it be more comfortable to listen to music and fondle your iPod at home?

Certainly, the meeting was well run, and many attendees were engaged, working through important decisions for the Coop. But I couldn't help but be distracted by the members around me: sleeping on their coats, snuggling and playing Solitaire on their cell phones, giggling over their wedding magazines. There are plenty of other ways to get your groceries that involve less commitment, and if you have to anesthetize yourself to get through your workslot, it makes me wonder why you are a member at all.

I realize that it would be impossible to enforce participatory behavior. My suggestion, then, is that members be self-selecting. If you are not interested in the General Meeting, DON'T COME.

*Sincerely,
Heidi Diehl*

RESPECT FOR THE GM PROCESS

TO THE EDITOR:

Having attended the January GM (and a number of prior GM's), I'm struck by some disturbing ongoing issues about attendance and participation.

Many of us, myself included, attend GM's in order to get workslot credit. As an FTOP, I attend the permitted two per year. So I'm under no illusions that all attendees are either committed to this crucial Coop func-

tion or passionate about a particular agenda item. Nevertheless, I'm disturbed by some pretty blatant disrespect for the process, which I've seen at every GM I've attended.

When I arrive at 7 p.m., there are still chairs available. Despite this, the back and side walls are already lined with members. Even assuming some folks just prefer to sit there, the majority, as I've observed throughout many meetings, are on laptops, listening to iPods, texting, or chatting. It doesn't end when the meeting begins. It doesn't end at all. I don't think I've ever seen a member from these areas ever ask a question or make a comment about an issue under discussion, but, of course, how could they? They're not really there.

I'm also amazed at how late many members arrive, despite the fact that, as this counts for work credit, it's the same amount of time as a shift. For the January meeting, I decided to watch the time of late arrivals. Many arrived between 7:30 and 8 p.m. The two most blatant violators arrived at 8:40 and 9 p.m. Giving them the benefit of the doubt, I thought that perhaps they were there because of interest in a particular issue, and not to get work credit. However, both signed the attendance book.

Like some others, I find GM's tedious and long-winded, despite the issues being interesting and important. I doubt I would attend if I weren't getting credit, so I'm certainly not being self-righteous. But it seems to me that those of us there for that reason should respect the quid pro quo; get there on time and at least pay attention. No member would get credit for a shift if he or she had arrived seriously late; why doesn't GM attendance follow the same rules? Instead of passing around an attendance book, why not have a workslot for sitting at a table at the entrance with the attendance book, to control sign-ins and inform late arrivals that they won't get credit? I don't have any ideas about dealing with folks who tune out in the back, short of asking them to leave laptops and iPads at the door, which seems draconian (but appealing). I think this warrants some discussion. It just seems to me that, challenging as these meetings can be, there's a beauty about them—they're the real symbol of democratic participation that the Coop is about. And that should be respected.

Robin Germany

BRING DOWN SUPPLEMENTS MARK-UP TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to ask that interested members help develop a new method for selling supplements in the Coop in order to reduce theft. As a result of this most uncooperative

behavior the mark-up on supplements is 33%. As a member who purchases many of these vital products I would appreciate the significant savings that such a new system/lower mark-up would yield. Proposals welcome at shberke@gmail.com.

Steven Berke

CHECKOUT LINE: FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED TO THE EDITOR:

While reading Al Ettlinger's letter in the January 27th Gazette, regarding an encounter with a shopper at the top of the checkout line who declined to unload groceries at a checkout station before being summoned to do so, I thought: "That was me!" Reading further I realized that it was not me, since he refers to the person directing people to checkout, and there was no checkout manager when my incident occurred. But the circumstances were similar enough that I want to give my version.

I was at the top of the regular checkout line waiting my turn. There was a station nearby where the belt was empty but the shopper was still packing up. A man behind me urged me to unload my groceries there; I assessed the groceries still to be packed up at that station (a lot) and decided not to comply but to wait to be summoned by the next available checkout worker. He got insistent, so I began to explain my reasoning but decided not to try to do so because I could feel my indignation rising to match his. So I waited, and he continued to grumble. Luckily, in about a minute another worker raised her "next" sign and I made my escape. At that point the original checkout station was still not ready for the next shopper.

I get that time is wasted between when the 'next' sign goes up and when the shopper arrives to checkout. That's why there are checkout managers when the store is busy. A friend of mine who works checkout on Saturday told me that the line managers on her shift move huge numbers of shoppers through checkout by sending them to unpack as soon as a belt is empty. This sometimes leaves the shopper waiting as the previous shopper packs up, while shoppers who had been behind them are being served at other checkouts. It's happened to me, and I hate it! That's the price we pay to deal with the crowds at busy times, but not one we need to pay when we are not so busy.

Mr. Ettlinger's reference to supermarket practice doesn't apply, because there the shopper has to commit to a checkout line. We have a single line, to insure that 'first come' is in fact 'first served'. I would hope that checkout managers, who can assess activity at each station, only send a shopper to a station when the

worker is almost ready to receive them. Checkout workers could also call 'next' when the previous shopper is almost ready to leave instead of waiting until they've left. But we needn't abandon the simple rule of waiting at the top of the line until called.

And I hated being scolded and hectored at by some self-appointed Coop cop, not because I'd broken a rule, but because I was complying with it. Gimme a break.

Margaret Hagen

WE CAN DO BETTER

TO THE EDITOR:

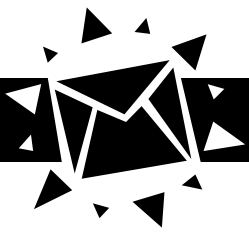
I'm troubled by the element of disrespect that sometimes creeps into our discussion of challenging topics. I'm referring particularly now to some of the letters about the boycott, divestment and sanction movement that have appeared in these pages over the past couple of years.

It is precisely these sorts of highly emotional topics that test our commitment to democratic ideals and our commitment, per the Mission Statement, "to respect the opinions, needs and concerns of every member." We can disagree with each other passionately—and we do!—but we must challenge ourselves and each other to do so mindfully and without making attributions about those with whom we disagree.

I for instance am the granddaughter and niece of Jews killed in the Holocaust, the daughter of a survivor. It is in large part because of their experiences that I support those who struggle to live in a just and humane world be they Israeli or Palestinian, Black or White, gay or straight. And it is in large part why I oppose terrorism in all its forms and why, for instance, I support the international movement to boycott, divest and sanction. Others, with similar family histories, will have come to other conclusions about this issue. I will continue to listen to those who disagree with me and I respect their right to do so.

I hope we can share facts and resources because there's a lot of disinformation out there, and in these pages, about BDS. No doubt we can learn from each other. But those who label my beliefs "dishonest, bigoted and anti-Semitic" and conflate my values with those of the Klan and other hate groups will not alter my convictions nor will they further the discourse so many of us are engaged in. Speaking in a degrading and disrespectful way about those who are different than we'd like them to be is one step in a slippery, scary slope and will serve only to degrade and disrespect the deeply treasured democracy that is our Coop.

Carol Wald



L E T T E R S T O T H E E D I T O R

CONTRIBUTE TO ANNUAL BOOK DRIVE**TO THE EDITOR:**

Project Cicero, an annual book drive for the city's most under-resourced schools is coming to Park Slope!

Since its inception in 2001, Project Cicero, a collaboration between the public library system and other institutions, has distributed 1.5 million books to 8,500 of New York City's neediest schools, reaching 350,000 students.

In the past, PTAs, congregations and other groups collected books from their members for the drive. However, because of dramatic budget cuts to our public schools, the book drive is more important than ever. So now, for the first time, neighborhood residents can also contribute to this important effort to stack the shelves in our city's neediest schools.

New and gently used books for grades K-12 are accepted. Donations may include picture books, chapter books, young adult fiction and non-fiction, textbooks (less than 5 years old) and dictionaries. Books can be dropped off at the Community Bookstore at 143, 7th Avenue, between February 14-March 4.

Arielle Silver-Willner and Toby Willner

LET'S MOBILIZE TO DEFEND PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO THE EDITOR:

Each of us at the meeting knew where s/he stood on the changes the Department of Education (DOE) proposes for PS 9 in Prospect Heights: phasing out MS 571, a small unit serving special needs middle school children and phasing in Brooklyn East Collegiate Charter School. The PS 9 building would house two unstable middle schools along with a thriving public elementary school serving District 13 children in grades K through 5.

Advocates for Brooklyn East Charter School wore commercially printed yellow t-shirts with the slogan of their financial sponsor on the back: Be UnCommon. Their testimonials were uniformly positive: "What Bklyn East Collegiate means to me." Clearly, these folks want their school, which is being displaced from a site in District 17 after being displaced the previous year from District 23.

The proposal is wildly unpopular with locals. PS 9 parents raised resources for the library and lobbied elected officials strenuously for grants to build the playground that DOE failed to provide. Applicants now number several times the places available in kindergarten and first grade. Babies and carriages in the Underhill Playground across the street show why. As for ejecting MS 571—most impressive were the kids themselves. Humble and determined, they asked for the stability to contin-

ue with the instructional team and in the site that is offering them a chance. PS 316, just four blocks away, is also threatened with co-housing a semi-private charter middle school that would encroach on their ability to serve the community. Prospect Heights is up in arms.

My graduate work is in Social Foundations of Education, and I taught at Prospect Heights HS for 21 years. I think the DOE proposal is totally nuts! Billionaire Michael Bloomberg wants to privatize public education. Cutting funds starves public schools. Submitting students and teachers to high stakes evaluations demoralizes everyone. Trashing them in the press undermines confidence. Paid advertisements declare that charter schools are better. This is fraud. No research data supports these assertions.

One goal of the campaign for semi-private charters to replace public schools is to break a public sector union. The wealthy and corporations pay even less in taxes than they did twenty years ago. Still, they do not want to pay for public services by a unionized workforce. Companies who start non-union charter schools want to make money. Low taxes and low government spending coupled with high profits at public expense means a growing disparity in income, now wider in the US than any industrialized nation and the widest in NY than in any state.

No profit can be made from schools. The pay-off of a good school is a stable neighborhood and of a good education system a stable, equitable society. Public education is a gift one generation offers to the next. Here is a point of struggle: for the future of our schools and the future of our children.

Susan Metz

COCA-COLA ANTI-UNION PRACTICES**TO THE EDITOR:**

I would first like to thank the GM for its show of solidarity with food workers, among the lowest paid workers in the world. Our support for the boycott of Coca-Cola products and for a boycott of Flaum Appetizing products shows the consistency of our coop in taking our Mission Statement seriously.

I would like to make a couple of factual corrections in the Gazette article on the November GM. While it is true that 7 union activists in the Colombia Coca-Cola Bottling Plant were murdered by right wing thugs working with Coke management in the past, the most recent murder wasn't of a Coke worker, but it was the attempted murder of Armando Palacios, a Coke worker and union leader in Guatemala. Armando managed to escape the assassination attempt and fled with his family to the U.S. His colleague, Jose Alberto

Vicente Chavez experienced the tragedy of his son and nephew being murdered and his daughter gang raped by squads associated with Coke. Both Jose and Armando are suing Coca-Cola in the U.S.

The issue of child labor in El Salvador was first publicized by Human Rights Watch in 2004 and more recently in a 2007 film shown on prime-time television in the UK, "Dispatches: Mark Thomas on Coca-Cola."

In the last year, there have been constant threats to the lives of the leaders of SINALTRAINAL, the union that represents most Coke workers in Colombia. As SINALTRAINAL vice president Juan Carlos Galvis stated in "The Coke Machine," by Michael Blanding: "...If it weren't for international solidarity, we would have been eliminated long ago. That is the truth." Blanding further notes: "the union members do look to the lawsuit and the Killer Coke campaign as the reason they are still alive."

So, I again thank the Park Slope Food Coop for its support for keeping Coke off our shelves. Please check our website at www.KillerCoke.org to review the information above and to stay abreast of what is happening in the worldwide Campaign to Stop Killer Coke.

*In solidarity,
Lew Friedman*

SEASONAL COLORS**TO THE EDITOR:**

Winter too is blessed
With dramatic changes,
Colors that traverse
Widely spanning ranges.
Yesterday the streets
Were black with aging snow
Clinging to the road
Like a persistent beau.
Now the urban scene's
Blizzard-modified,
Shining white again
Like the gown of a bride.

Leon Freilich

FOUND: FILM; SEEKING: PHOTOGRAPHERS**TO THE EDITOR:**

I'm a Coop member and I recently found a roll of film in Prospect Park. I developed the pictures and made a video about what I found: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dmop7EAY1Zg.

It's recently been featured on the Today Show, NPR, MSNBC, Yahoo News...and the video has over a million views—BUT I still can't find the owners of the film.

Any help in getting word out... I think the guys are tourists who may have been staying with someone from Brooklyn.

*Best,
Todd Bieber*

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.

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.

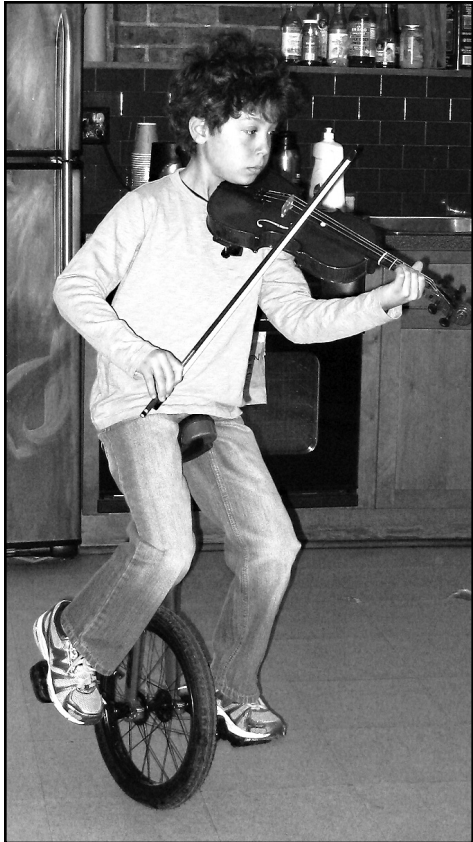
Respect

Letters must not be personally derogatory or insulting, even when strongly criticizing an individual member's actions. Letter writers must refer to other people with respect, refrain from calling someone by a nickname that the person never uses himself or herself, and refrain from comparing other people to odious figures like Hitler or Idi Amin.

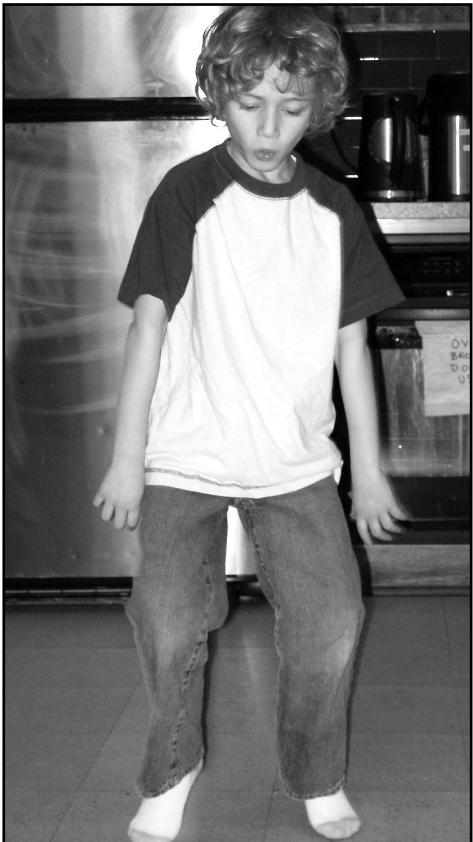
Audition for Kids' Talent Show

The Coop Kids' Variety Show will take place at Old First Church, Carroll St. and Seventh Ave., on Saturday, March 5, at 7pm. See page 9 for details.

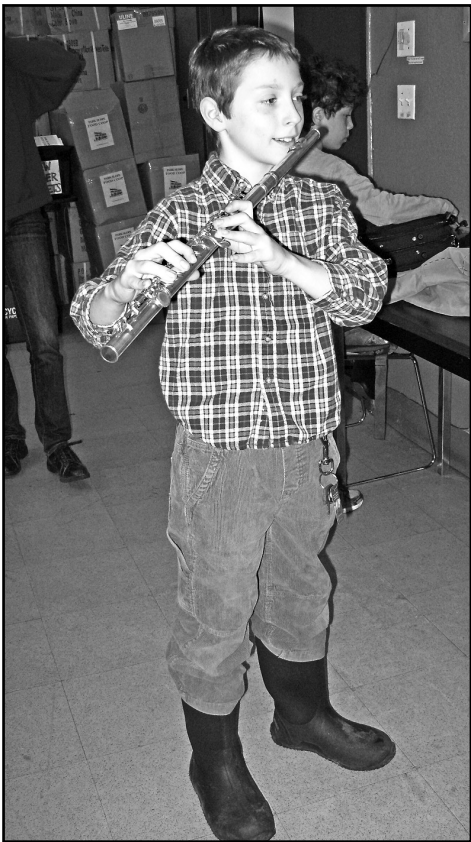
PHOTOS BY LISA COHEN



David Gartz, age 10, plays the violin while riding a unicycle.



Jordon Nass-Demaue, age 8, dances to "Burning Down the House."



Jonah Murphy, age 11, plays the flute.



Reuben Gelley-Newman, age 11, plays the cello.

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.

Alisa Ahmadian	Katherine Bridges	Sophie DeMenge	Paula Jaakola	Andrew McKinney	Rebecca Ringquist	Jack Stroman
Susan Jane (Sage) Anderson	Jee-Eun Burke	Elizabeth Denny	Ken Jackson	Mika McLane Bowes	Arielle Rosenbloom	Kristin Szytk
Robert Arnow	Jean Callahan	Jessica Denzer	Leigh Johnson	Katy Mess	Lily Rothman	Ilana Talmadge
Sandra Baernreuther	Krystal Cleven	Debra Duby	Wendy Lader	Crystal Miller	Alison Rudel	Paul Tarr
Betty Ballard	Rael Cohen	Evan Duby	Sasha Lakind	Curtis Morales	Michael Ryan	Rachel Tomlinson
David Barkie	Bronwen Coleman	Jamie Ehrlich	Karen Lazarus	Evan Neely	Jonathan Sarlin	Stanley T Wang
Jason Barton	Colin Conroy	Quinn Fitzgerald	Samuel Levy	Matthew Nelson	Rebecca Sauer	Eric Washer
Kristen Barton	Lisa Conte	Andrew Friedman	Flora Lichtman	Gilbert Ng	Brian Savelson	Saule Webb
Robert Bayer	Katherine Costello	Robert Glasper	Marissa Lipovsky	Daniel O'Keefe	Silvia Scandar	George L. Weinberg
Angelika Beener	Kristin Courcy	Hilary Goodfriend	Robert Lundberg	Bernadette Ott	Alan Schwartz	Emily Weiser
Erik Benedetti	Brett Crudgington	Stephanie Grepo	Sharon Madanes	Miriam E. Perez	Sarah Shapiro	Michael Weiser
Julynn Benedetti	Carrie Culpepper	Katrina Hallowell	William Malle	Zoe Pow	Cameille Shenkin	Anika Weiss
Michael Benwitt	Scott Culpepper	David Hart	Boima Manubah	Lindsay Prevette	Ellen Silberman	Kimberly White
Meghan Bernhardt	Mallory Curran	Maria Hart	Erik Martig	Annie Quach	Colleen Simeral	Robyn Wilsbach
Christopher Berry	Caroline Cusano	Greg Holden	Kurt Martig	Elizabeth Rapacchietta	Angelo Spagnolo	Jessica Wynne
Stephen Bluestone	Stefan Danielski	Julia Holmes	Linda A. Mboya	Kali Riley	Jennifer Spevak	
Alan Bowes	Sasha De La Cruz	Alice Huber	Evan McGonagill	Michael Ring	Casey Steffen	
	Marisa de la Fuente	Rakhi Hyjek	Megan McKenna	Stephanie Ring	Mary Jo Strickland	

THANK YOU!

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

Ari	Greg Cohen	Lee Fulton	Alice Hartley	Kirsten Lynch	Ryan R.	Hakan Topal
Elinoar Astrinsky	Jocelyn Cohen	Emily Futransky	Tiana Hayden	Eve M.	Daniel Riccuito	Anne Turner
Belinda Ballard	Katherine D.	Ross Gallagher	Terry-Anya Hayes	Liz M.	Keith Romer	Teresa Von Fuchs
Christine Bamford	Jennifer Davis	Nathaniel Gelb	Helen Holtz	Carlos Martinez	Daniel Romer-Friedman	Christopher Williams
Nahal Batmanghelidj	Claudia Dihlmann-Ngai	Ed Gerstein	Jessica Kessler	Eve Martinez	Leona Shapiro	Poul Weis
Andrew Bean	Marianne Dikeman	Megha Gupta	Sophia L.	Stephanie Mazer	Cleo Shenkin	Amanda Wofsy
Kari Brown	Julia Ehrman	Irene Haelbig	Molly Lee	Luba Nemcow	Matthew Smith	Robyn B. Yost
Robbie Butler	Lizzie Elston	Dehlia Hannah	Cassidy Lerman	Jennifer Snoh Nyenkan	Angelo Spagnolo	Michele Zassenhaus
Audrey Campbell	Diana English	Marcella Harb	Jessica Ann Lipschultz	Maureen O'Brien	Eleanor Spottswood	
Sonya Cheuse	Zaria Forman	Jacob Harris	Adina Lopatin	Emily Poppish	Oliver Tadana	