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LINEWAITERS'

GAZETTE



Volume FF, Number 16

August 11, 2011

The July GM: Debating a Boycott

By Ed Levy

The politics of the Middle East filled Congregation Beth Elohim July 26th as the General Meeting hotly debated whether the Coop should hold a referendum on a possible participation of PSFC in a boycott of products from Israel by joining the BDS movement.

The discussion item's sponsors, William Mazza and Carol Wald, who are members of the Park Slope Food Coop Members for Israeli Boycott, Divestment, & Sanctions (not an actual Coop committee) want a referendum to protest what they described as "Israel's violation of international law and human rights."

A steady stream of members spoke in tones ranging from dispassionate to angry, to outraged and indignant. Chair Carl Arnold, who skill-

fully piloted this GM through turbulent waters, asked for quiet and decorum on several occasions. The long debate was exhaustive—and for many it was long enough: members overwhelmingly rejected a motion to extend the discussion for twenty minutes.

Who Decides?

Several key questions often became tangled together in the heat of the argument: Should the Coop engage in boycotts at all? Should we boycott products from Israel? And where should we decide, in the GM or through a referendum?

Bill Mazza said boycotts are a valid and necessary tactic entirely in keeping with the Coop's rich history of political and social engagement. Another member pointed out that one result of this coun-

try's uniquely close relationship with Israel is that the U.S. colludes in Israel's human rights violations in a way that we do not with other violators, and objected to what he said is the often repeated charge that sustained criticism of Israel is anti-Semitic. Susan Metz called the debate over the Israel boycott "an unavoidable obligation." The U.S. spends billions of dollars in support of Israel, she noted, while here in the U.S. funds for senior citizens and education are being withdrawn.

"I hope no one here is going to make a blanket condemnation of Israel," said Thomas Cox. "But neither can it be denied that it is confiscating land outside of its borders. This is what is objectionable for the Food Coop. Let the referendum go

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PHOTO BY KEVIN RYAN

Summertime Tomatoes

By Nicole Feliciano

Nature's perfect food? It's hard to argue with the tomato.

From July through September, this luscious fruit is a favorite of Coop members and chefs. Easy to prepare and full of surprises, the tomato is a fruit that delivers big taste and big health benefits. That's why this month is a great time

to focus on things ripe, red and delicious.

Taking Stock

I checked in with Allen Zimmerman, General Coordinator, about the bounty. When Allen and I spoke in mid July, the tomato explosion had just begun. "Supply and interest have gone

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Board & Officer Elections

Election of new Coop Secretary at the September 27th General Meeting.
Election of a new member of the Board of Directors at the October 25th General Meeting.
 Each term expires at the June 2012 Annual Meeting.

**If you are interested in one or both of these,
 please attend the meeting and announce your candidacy.**

**If you have questions about these positions, please speak to
 a General Coordinator at 718-622-0560.**

Coop Event Highlights

Fri, Aug 19 • Blood Drive 11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Sat, Aug 20 • Blood Drive 11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Thu, Sep 1 • Food Class:

Fermentation Basics 7:30 p.m.

Tue, Sep 13 • Safe Food Committee Film Night:

Two Angry Moms 7:00 p.m.

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

Next General Meeting on August 30

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, August 30, 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 flier 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.

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GENERAL MEETING REPORT

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through."

"Food is political," added another member, "and the Coop has a long and beautiful history of understanding that."

Since 1989, there have been eleven Coop boycotts, including those against Domino Sugar, Coca-Cola, non-United Farm Worker grapes, tuna fish, and Garden Burgers. Most of these were approved by large majorities. A proposed boycott of China in 1995 failed. The boycott against Coca-Cola—for its labor practices and possible criminal acts—was renewed last November.

Two rabbis of Congregation Beth Elohim, Shira Epstein and Gerald Weider, both Coop members, said they opposed a boycott for three reasons. They said they felt the true goal of BDS is dissolution of Israel as a Jewish state, because the proposed boycott would single

out Israel among other Middle East countries, and because it would be divisive for the Coop.

Since 1989, there have been eleven Coop boycotts.

Susan Tauber pointed out that there are more serious human rights abusers than Israel. "Why not boycott Syria, Saudi Arabia, or Bahrain?" she asked. Bonnie Kaplan observed that "This is asking us to weigh in on one of the most controversial problems in the world. Either we should boycott both sides, or we should support farmers on both sides." And another member noted that Israel, as a major global supplier of drip irrigation technology, benefits small farmers on whom the Coop relies.

General Coordinator Jess Robinson commented that

whatever the decision, it should be made in the General Meeting, not in a referendum. She said, "I very much doubt that any other forum would have the diversity of opinion that this one does. There is no issue important enough that it should bypass this meeting."

General Coordinator Joe Holtz agreed that in a referendum we would not have an electorate sufficiently educated on the issue. He said, "The Coop will be in trouble if we go down this road." Holtz added it was up to members to be the Coop's stewards and protectors.

But others, including Liz Roberts, said the GM structure would not be an appropriate place for a vote, since the meetings would inevitably be packed and "would invite the rule of the mob."

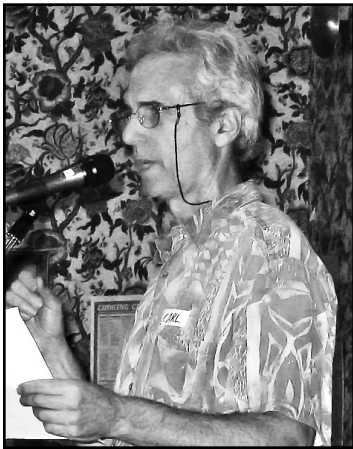
Past Referenda

The Coop has resorted to

referenda to decide certain questions. The organic meat referendum took place in June 2001. A referendum approving the sale of beer was held several months later.

There are no set requirements for a referendum. Some have quorum and ratio requirements. An example of a ratio requirement would be a three yes votes to two no votes ratio would possibly be required for a major Coop decision. A question can be thrown out for failure to meet the quorum requirements. Similarly, a GM can decide whether, in order to pass, a referendum must have a simple majority or a super majority, such as two thirds of the membership.

The cost of a referendum would be about \$10,000, based on a recent mailing to members that cost \$6,000 for paper and \$3,200 for postage. However, several less-expensive options were put for-



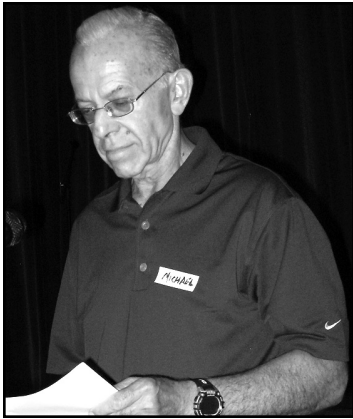
Chair Carl Arnold pilots the meeting through turbulent waters.



Ora Weiss: "Asking for this discussion is not racist."



Naomi Brussell: "The Coop is a political institution."



Michael Reiman: "This is a divisive issue."

PHOTOS BY LISA COHEN

Plus-Ones

Below is a list of 25 common words. Each word can be expanded by inserting a single additional letter somewhere within the word (not at the beginning or end), to form a new word. The original letters should not be rearranged in any way.

Each of the letters A through Z, excluding Q, is used exactly once to expand these words. Some words can be expanded in multiple ways, but only one combination of expansions will use up all the letters.

As an example, the first word in the list, "inure," can be expanded by inserting a "J" to make the new word "injure." Having used the "J" for this word, it will not be used for any further expansions.

- inure
- faulty
- strange
- coy
- sole
- surgeon
- salon
- mist
- astray
- plate
- tier
- slice
- treble
- let
- trade
- grater
- seater
- ale
- lien
- turkey
- contact
- spare
- re
- tale
- facet

Puzzle author: Stuart Marquis. For answers, see page 14.



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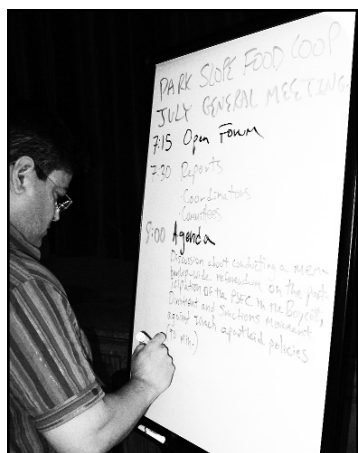
Thanks for your cooperation, The Park Slope Food Coop

GENERAL MEETING REPORT

ward. A referendum could be included in another mailing, for example, or might even be held in the store, a method that has not been tried before, as far as anyone could remember.



Olia, "People will not understand this issue by reading the Gazette."



Chair Committee member, David Golland, posts agenda items.

Financial and Produce Reports

Coordinators Mike Eakin and Allen Zimmerman reported on finance and produce, respectively. Mike described the continued financial health of the Coop. Membership is up compared to last year and the Coop's cash on the balance sheet is also up half-a-million dollars. Our inventory turns over an impressive 72 times per year, compared to 15 times a year for the average large coop. Gross margin is slightly under 17 cents, meaning that for every dollar of sales, 83 cents goes to buying products and the Coop retains 17 cents. Of that 17 cents, 12 cents goes to pay salary and benefits.

Allen Zimmerman spoke about the plight of farmers who have had to deal with difficult weather this year. In the Hudson Valley, one of our main suppliers, Hepworth Farms, lost all of its cherries this year. Heavy rains caused them to become bloated with water and split. So far this year Hepworth has lost half a

million dollars in tomatoes.

Allen mentioned that we now carry 112 locally produced items in the store, and reassured members that the store does not carry a brand papayas from Mexico which has been linked to an outbreak of salmonella poisoning. He explained that the Coop is a member of the body called the Food Marketing Institute, which notifies us of food alerts.

Secretary Elizabeth Tobier Resigns

Like a diver surfacing too quickly, the meeting seemed to suffer from too sudden decompression when it rose from the roiling depths of Mideast politics to the mundane task of accepting the minutes from the last GM. First, David Golland proposed the addition of one word to the minutes, to which Coop secretary Elizabeth Tobier did not agree.

The May GM approved two documents: "Guide to the GMs and AMs" and "Welcome to the GM." The "Guide" replaces the previous rules documents, whereas "Welcome" is simply an explanatory document and hence should be described as "non-binding," David believes.

After an attempt to resolve the problem failed, the chair suggested that

Elizabeth and David work out the issue before the next GM, and Elizabeth withdrew the minutes from consideration. The two may also need to clarify the process. "There is no GM procedure about how to handle a difference of opinion about a proposed change to the minutes that the secretary does not judge to have integrity," Elizabeth told the *Gazette*, while David asserted that the rules do permit a vote in the GM on changes to the minutes.

Our inventory turns over 72 times per year, compared to 15 times a year for the average large coop.

Three days later Elizabeth announced in a letter, published in this issue of the *Linewaiters' Gazette*, that she will resign her post as secretary following the next general meeting. She has been serving a one-year term in that post to which she was elected in June of this year. She cited persistent problems of process, transparency, and communication that she has encountered when working with coop committees. Elizabeth has also resigned as a board member. She has been serving a three-year term to which she was elected in June of 2010. ■



BAY RIDGE FOOD CO-OP

**We're one step closer to opening for business
NOW WE NEED YOU!**

The Bay Ridge Food Co-op is moving ever nearer to opening its doors, providing a valuable new resource for communities across South Brooklyn and beyond.

Response to the launch of our membership equity drive has already been amazing, but we still need your help to ensure we achieve all our goals. If you live in or close to Bay Ridge, do consider joining our co-op now — we have set a goal of 2500 members to open our doors, ensuring a desirable product selection and service level.

We're looking for people to help our growing membership with the many tasks that go into establishing a new co-op. Whatever your skills, talent or experience, your support will truly help make a difference. And please visit our site to subscribe to our email newsletter to keep up on our progress.

PSFC members receive FTOP credit for their work!

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347-274-8172

The Diversity and Equality Committee Seeks New Members

Are you interested in Issues of Diversity, Equality and Inclusion?

The Diversity and Equality Committee is dedicated to improving human relations and communication in all policies and procedures in the Coop. Our goal is to work toward preventing and eliminating discrimination in the Coop. If you are interested in issues of diversity, equality and inclusion, you can help us to achieve ours goals by becoming a member of the DEC.

We are currently seeking new members, with experience in conflict resolution and mediation, interviewing, and leading and organizing workshops, ideally around diversity. General computer skills and editing and writing skills are also helpful.

Requirements:

- Must be a member for at least one year
 - Have good attendance record
- Attend monthly committee meetings on Thursdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Participate in subcommittee work as needed

We seek members who are reflective of the diversity of the Coop membership.

If interested, please send an email with your name, PSFC member number, and details of your relevant experience to reply@psfc.coop. Please put "Diversity and Equality" in the subject line.

VALET BIKE PARKING IS ON HERE SUNDAYS!

Every Sunday through November 20, from 3:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Coop members can leave their bikes with our valet parking service, which is like a coat check for bikes. Working members will check in and watch your bike for you.

Just drop off your bike, do your shopping or your shift, and hop back on. No locks, no worries, no theft. Service operates rain or shine. Look for us in front of the yellow wall. (Note: no bike check-in after 7:30 p.m.)

Valet bicycle parking at the Coop is brought to you by the PSFC Shop & Cycle Committee.



**PSFC
Shop & Cycle
Committee**



PHOTOS BY KEVIN RYAN

Tomatoes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

insane,” says Allen. He reported getting more than one tomato delivery per day and shared that demand was tremendous.

Thanks to the abundant supply, there's good news for Coop members—prices are plunging. Thanks to the weather patterns, the tomato farmers haven't struggled this year. The plethora of varieties and supply is great news for everyone.

Beyond the Basic

“The variety of red tomatoes can change daily,” reports an excited Allen. At the time of our interview, the most popular flavor was the Hepworth Cherry Tomato Mix. But that doesn't mean the other options are being neglected. “Our members have come around to the weirdness of heirlooms,” says Zimmerman of these odd-shaped beauties. Since it 'tis the season to enjoy this fruit, why not try something new. Here are a few of Allen's suggestions:

Green Zebra: A tangy, seeded tomato, this beauty is ripe when green. Don't think this lovely fruit is sour or un-

ripe or only suitable for a fried sandwich; these striped creations are perfect for slicing into wedges on your summer salads.

Garden Peach: A fruit with a slightly fuzzy yellow/pink skin, this tomato is made to go the distance. Here's the good news, according to the Hepworth site, these tomatoes will slowly ripen over several months and provide great-tasting fruit for part of the winter.

Costaluto Genovese: A handsome tomato, there is nothing round or outwardly perfect about this fruit. The ruffled edges and slightly flattened shape deliver a rich flavor with a delightfully asymmetrical appearance.

General Coordinator Allen Zimmerman: “Supply and interest have gone insane.”

At the current prices, it's not a big economic risk to toss a few new varieties into the salad bowl.

Making the Most Of the Tomatoes

Once you've decided on your selections, don't ruin your crop with clumsy handling or poor preparation.

Please use care and caution—these fruits bruise and bump easily. Pack them on the top of your bag, and by all means do not put them in the refrigerator. (As Zimmerman puts it, this is “an absolute massacre of the flavor”). Cooling these lovelies can suck all the flavor right out. Instead, shop and enjoy right away.

While at peak perfection, the summer tomato needs no dressing or accompaniment to taste divine. However, tomatoes lend themselves beautifully to so many summer meals. One can't deny the timeless elegance of a classic caprese salad.

Creating the caprese is very simple. Simply add a handful of your favorite in-season heirlooms to your cart, a batch of fresh basil and some buffalo mozzarella. At home layer the three ingredients (note they match the colors on the Italian flag), drizzle with olive oil and add a sprinkle of salt and pepper.

According to Wikipedia, the salad was created in the 1950s at the Trattoria da Vincenzo for regulars out for a light lunch. This salad continues to be a starter, not a side dish. They'd order a just-picked tomato and fresh fior di latte (cow's-milk mozzarella—no buffalo on Capri). Purists (count me among them) disparage the addition of vinegar to the mix. The strong flavor overpowers the cheese and hides the already tangy tomato essence.

If you're like I am, a fresh summer tomato won't make it past the first day home from the Coop. What you don't use up right away can live on the counter for a day or two. If by some reason, you can't get to your fruits before they turn too soft for sandwiches or salads, toss them in a sauce or soup.

Health Notes

If the taste wasn't enough to convince you to add a few extra tomatoes to your cart,

there's heaps of health research that might tempt you.

Tomatoes are known for their lycopene—an antioxidant proven to aid in cancer and heart disease prevention. Lycopene helps protect cells from oxygen damage and has been linked in human research to the protection of DNA.

Tomatoes are known for their lycopene—an antioxidant that fights cancer and heart disease.

Here's an interesting factoid: organic tomatoes are likely to provide more lycopene than standard tomatoes. In studies on organic vs. non-organic ketchup, organic delivered far more health benefits. For the most lycopene, choose the

magazine feature writing. As a follow-up, the author published a book about the plight of the tomato called: *Tomatoland: How Modern Industrial Agriculture Destroyed Our Most Alluring Fruit*.

In his work, Estabrook focuses on the farm laborers who toil in the Florida tomato fields. Book reviewer, Leah Douglas, (www.SeriousEats.com) praises the book for depicting, “How the tomato has been transformed, through cross-breeding and genetic adjustment, into a uniform, nearly tasteless orb seen year-round in supermarkets across the country.” Indeed, I've tasted these mealy fruits on many a sandwich and can attest to the existence of the rotten tomato.

As Estabrook tells it, in most supermarkets, consumers are getting tomatoes that were picked while green and then ripened thanks to



deepest red organic ketchup, tomato sauce, juice and other tomato products. Consider it an investment in your health when you opt for organic.

Tomato Trends

Many of the glorious finds at the Coop come from Hepworth Farm in Milton, NY. Zimmerman sent along three tantalizing pages listing the dozens of varieties of heirlooms from Hepworth farms (note: this writer would happily eat her way through the entire catalog for a future article).

It should be noted that not all farms are living up to Hepworth's high standards. The Hepworth Farm mission statement says, “We deeply care and are devoted to our workers, land and energy conservation.”

According to food journalist Barry Estabrook (www.politicsoftheplate.com), this is not the case on the majority of tomato farms. Estabrook's article for *Gourmet* on labor abuses in Florida's tomato fields received the 2010 James Beard Award for

being exposed to ethylene gas en route to packing plants. These chemicals aren't just depriving Americans of flavor, they are also causing severe harm to workers.

Estabrook writes about birth defects caused by pregnant field workers being exposed to the pesticides that deliver fruit in mass quantities and cheap prices. The book speaks about best practices—we're lucky that farmers like Amy Hepworth are attempting to bring back heirloom tomatoes and sustainable growing practices.

Shop Smart

Consumers can make their opinions known by supporting the organic heirloom trend and shopping in season. It's never been a tastier time to be a conscious consumer. Bite into a luscious heirloom this summer and commit the taste to memory. Then remember the tangy sensation when tempted in the winter months and just say “no” to sub-par, out-of-season fruit. ■



Waterworld: An Interview with the Author of *The Ripple Effect*

By Allison Pennell

Water is something we in New York City tend to take for granted. It's plentiful. It's clean. We don't have to haul it out of the East River, lug it home, or boil it to make it potable. Yet.

While most of us ignore the possibility of life without our most precious natural resource, a report of the U.S. Government Accountability Office predicts that by 2013, 36 states will face water shortages. The G.A.O. also says U.S. water use has risen from 151 billion gallons per day in 1950 to 410 billion in 2005.

Coop member Alex Prud'homme, author of the just-published and provocative book, *The Ripple Effect*, says our thoughtless use of water is a luxury we can no longer afford.

According to Prud'homme, water will be the defining challenge of the century to come. As Prud'homme summed it up to Jon Stewart in their interview a few weeks back: "Between drought, flood and self-poisoning, the human race is in for a tough time, water wise."

Released last month after three years of research, *The Ripple Effect* is what *Fate of The Earth* was to the Cold War years. In a word: SCARY!

And this *Gazette* reporter has to tell you I'm starting to feel very guilty about all the long showers I've taken in my day. Thank God for my children's dearth of personal hygiene.

GAZETTE: What do you think New Yorkers should know about our water?

Prud'homme: NYC drinking water is some of the best in the world: we turn on the tap and get as much of it as we want, at any temperature, at

any time of day—and we never bother think about how remarkable that is. NYC is one of only five major U.S. cities that doesn't need a large, expensive water purification plant.

Ironically, it is precisely because the Department of Environmental Protection's water system has been so good for so long, we overlook it. But water is essential for life—unlike, say, oil or natural gas.

Now the city's hydro-infrastructure—pipes, dams, and treatment plants—is aging and needs major investment. The watershed is threatened by development and hydrofracking. Other states want more of the water we use. NY harbor and waterways—such as Newtown Creek and the Gowanus Canal (which are Superfund sites)—are far more polluted than people realize, which impacts human and ecological health.

H₂O will be the defining resource of this century.

We need to start paying attention to water, value it more highly, be willing to pay for it, prepare for drought and flood, and protect our supplies.

GAZETTE: Should New Yorkers fear our plumbing pipes to the extent some do?

Prud'homme: Most home pipes are fine, but some of the oldest can contain rust, lead, or copper, which are unhealthy. You can order a free water testing kit from the DEP, which will test your water and send you a report. We did it, and ours was fine.

Having said that, many

NYC mains are 100 years old, and need replacing. The DEP is rushing to finish the six-billion dollar City Tunnel No. 3, as tunnels 1 and 2 are threatening to collapse.

GAZETTE: Do you have a Brita, a Pur, or take it straight from the tap?

Prud'homme: We take it from the tap or use the filter built into our fridge.

GAZETTE: What do you make of bottled water and the movement to minimize its use?

Prud'homme: Having studied the issue carefully for my book, I now drink far less bottled water than I used to. The environmental footprint of bottled water is huge. Shipping water—which weighs 8.33 pounds per gallon—from Fiji or the Alps requires tremendous amounts of energy. The plastic is bad for you, the depletion of aquifers can be an issue, and the expense—up to 2,900 times that of tap—can be ridiculous. But I see bottled water as a luxury, rather than pure evil, as some do. If we are going to take these issues seriously, we need to address our entire packaged food industry, and greatly improve our recycling programs.

GAZETTE: Do you actually do your food Coop shift, and if so what is it? How long have you been a member?

Prud'homme: Before writing this book, which was all-consuming, I worked in receiving. We love the Coop food, so my wonderful wife, Sarah, did two shifts for the last three years. I will start up again in the fall.

GAZETTE: Where do you come down on the issue of fracking and natural gas drilling in New York State?

Prud'homme: I am against fracking as it is currently practiced. The "Halliburton Loophole," which allows gas companies to hide the often-toxic ingredients of their fracking fluid, is absurd and should be rescinded. We don't fully understand the impacts of fracking, which is essentially like setting off a subterranean bomb: once shale is fracked, you can't unfrack it, or control what hap-

pens underground. Fracking sometimes releases naturally occurring radioactive elements. Fracking uses tremendous amounts of water, and pollutes the air, ground and water. Some drilling companies have disposed of their toxic fracking fluids irresponsibly. There have been well explosions in Pennsylvania, and cases in which people's health has allegedly been impaired in Western states. Many treatment plants are not equipped to handle fracking liquid, which means toxins seep into the eco-system. When all of this is taken into account, it is not clear that natural gas is any cleaner than other fuels—and may, in fact, be dirtier.

However, it is true that the U.S. has large reserves of natural gas, which could one day be a cleaner fuel, reduce our dependence on foreign energy, and provide jobs. Many experts, and even critics, say that with more study and better engineering, fracking could be done a lot more cleanly and efficiently someday. But we're not there yet.

This book was launched the day I shared a bottle of French mineral water with Julia Child.

If approved now, before improvements are made to fracking technique and industry regulation, then I fear that a few people will get rich while others—potentially many others—will suffer, as will the environment. To my mind, this is not a risk worth taking.

GAZETTE: Do you hang out with Mark Ruffalo as well as Jon Stewart?

Prud'homme: I wish.

GAZETTE: What do you think

Andrew Cuomo should do about the fracking moratorium? What do you think he WILL do?

Prud'homme: No idea what he'll do. Seems like he's trying to have it both ways—protect the environment AND create jobs.

But given the many questions about fracking, I don't think that's possible, or responsible. He should maintain the moratorium for now, and create jobs by funding research into less harmful, more sustainable ways to access natural gas, and ways to remediate pollution from gas production.

GAZETTE: What got you interested in the issue of water?

Prud'homme: In general, I have always been attuned to water—I love to swim, fish, boat, ski, or just stare mindlessly at the water; I minored in oceanography at college—so I was predisposed to pay attention to water issues.

Specifically, this book was launched the day I shared a bottle of French mineral water with Julia Child: I was helping her write her memoir, *My Life in France*, in the summer of 2004; she explained how the French consider mineral water a health-aid and digestive, while Americans consider bottled water a "beverage"—a healthy alternative to soda. I thought that cultural difference would make for a good article.

But that evening we continued the conversation with Robert Moran, a hydrogeologist married to Julia's niece. He explained that water is an "axis resource" that underlies all other resources, and that H₂O will be the defining resource of this century. That caught my attention. I did some research, and found there were not many water books written for the general public, and decided that would be my next project.

GAZETTE: Summer vacations: fresh or saltwater?

Prud'homme: Both, naturally. ■

For more information, you can check out www.alexprudhomme.com or read *The Ripple Effect* (Scribner, June 2011).

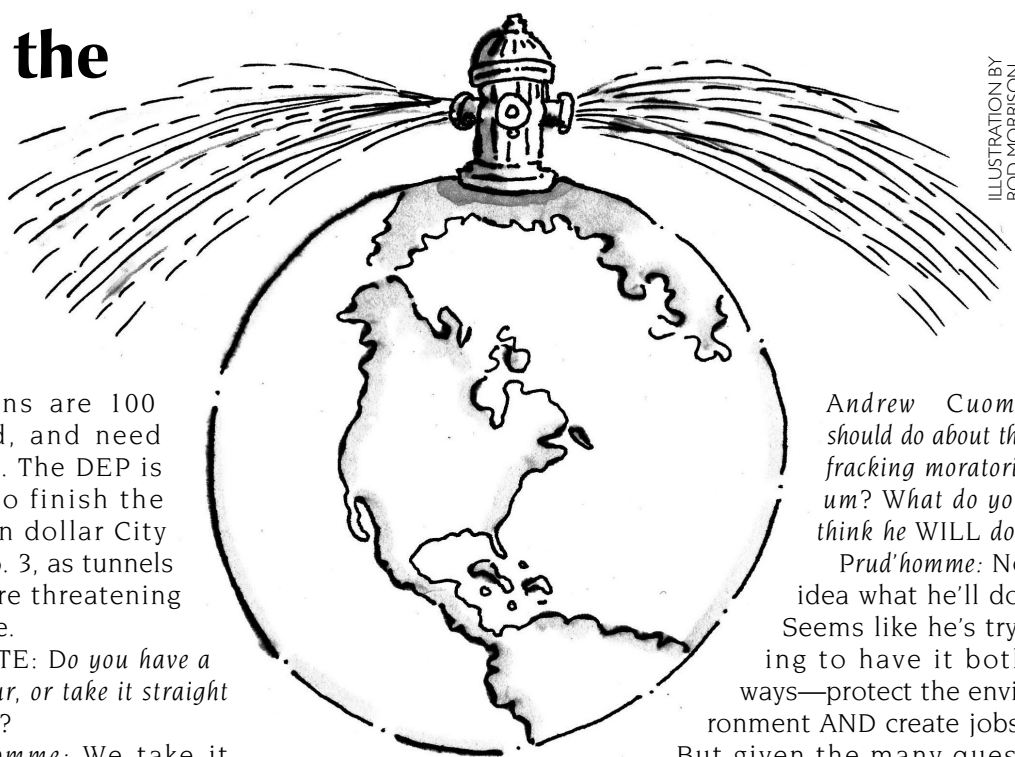
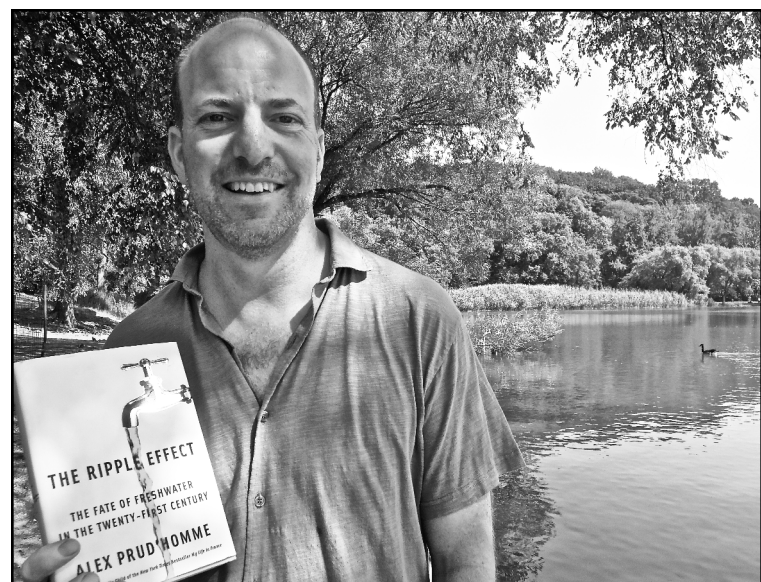


ILLUSTRATION BY ROD MORRISON



PHOTOGRAPH BY INGRID CUSSOM

Coop member Alex Prud'homme stands for clean water.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Recommendation to Phase Out Plastic-Bag Rolls

By Jenna Spevack

After considerable research, the Environmental Committee, along with other concerned members, have submitted a proposal to the Agenda Committee to recommend phasing out of disposable plastic bag rolls on the shopping floor.

RATIONALE: the Environmental Committee is charged with recommending best practices in order to comply with the PSFC's current Environmental Policy. This policy aims to:

- Avoid toxic substances in a product's production process, use, and disposal.
- Minimize disposable products.
- Achieve environmentally sound packaging.
- Avoid companies that have demonstrated extreme levels of environmental irresponsibility.

Given the well-publicized evidence of the negative effects of plastic consumption, the Committee feels that providing rolls of disposable plastic bags goes against the PSFC's Environmental Policy.

RESPONSE: we anticipate that some of the membership

will find the change difficult, but we will all adjust, just as we did when the shopping (t-shirt) bags were phased out. The majority of membership is aware of the destructive impacts of plastic consumption. However, we are addicted to the convenience of plastic bags and unless we remove the temptation, it is not likely we will ever break the habit.

PLEDGE: the Environmental Committee pledges to take responsibility for notifying members leading up to and beyond the GM discussion and vote - including the creation of floor signs, distribution of information, public announcements, workshops, and member guidance.

Committee Findings

Research shows that the one of the best ways to lighten our carbon footprint and improve human and environmental health is reducing plastic usage. In doing so, we also reduce our monetary contributions to the oil, natural gas, and chemical corporations—some of the biggest polluters in the world, including: British Petroleum; Hal-

iburton; Chesapeake Energy; Dow Chemical; and DuPont.

Areas of Concern

The Committee has examined four main areas of concern. These include health, environmental, financial and social justice issues related to plastic consumption.

Financial waste at the Park Slope Food Coop:

We currently spend more than \$33,800 per year on disposable petrochemical plastic bags (not including garbage bags or food wrap).

We are addicted to the convenience of plastic bags.

We use 3,359,520 plastic food bags per year, approximating 383 plastic bags per hour.

We no longer consistently pay for plastic bags, due to the new debit-card system at checkout.

Since reusable alternatives are available, by phasing out plastic-bag rolls on the shopping floor, we could start saving \$22,800 on those bags and reduce our monetary contribution to the big gas, oil, and chemical corporations.

Environmental devastation: Plastic is not part of the natural life cycle. Every piece

of plastic ever made still exists today and will forever. Waste without regeneration is not sustainable nor healthy for humans or the natural environment.

Our disposable plastic bags are:

UNSUSTAINABLE: Made from non-renewable and rapidly declining resources like petroleum or natural gas.

POORLY RECYCLED: Unlike glass and metal, plastic is NOT effectively recycled. It may make us feel good, but plastic recycling is shown to be ineffective and sometimes as toxic as producing and using new plastic.

NOT BIODEGRADABLE: Plastic does not biodegrade into healthy soil for our food. Instead it leaches and bioaccumulates toxins into our soil, food, and water.

OCEAN POLLUTION: Plastic polymers currently contribute up to 90% of the waste floating in the oceans. In some areas of the ocean, there is more plastic than zooplankton.

Health Toxicity

Many of the chemical ingredients in plastic are absorbed by our bodies and contribute to the dramatic increase in

chronic health problems.

Of the 47 chemical plants ranked highest in carcinogenic emissions, 35 are involved in plastic recycling or production.

A myriad of unregulated, undisclosed, petroleum-based and synthetic chemicals go into the manufacture of plastics.

Scientific estimates show that the average person carries at least 200 contaminants in his or her body, many of them linked to plastic production and usage.

Cancer-causing styrene and hormone-disrupting additives BPA and phthalates are still used in plastic packaging and baby bottles, despite overwhelming evidence of health concerns.

There are thousands of




ecokvetch
the environmental
committee blog

Coop Members use
383 PLASTIC BAGS
an hour. **WOW!**

Check out our
proposal to
**Phase Out the
Plastic Bag Rolls.**

ecokvetch.blogspot.com

What Is That? How Do I Use It? Food Tours in the Coop

Monday, August 29, September 12 & 26

Noon to 2:45 p.m.

You can join in any time during a tour.

If the weather is hot
find water

If you are late
find the sky—it is never late

If you are pressured
find your breath

If you are lonely
find your smile

If you are in pain
find the part of you that is well

If you are depressed
find your heart and put a hand there

If loss grieves you
find gratitude for what you have

Endless torments await

Find the good
Focus there

The Park Slope Food Coop
Finding you the goods
by Myra Klockenbrink

possible chemical additives in plastic bags, but the petrochemical industry is not required to disclose the ingredients.

Social Injustice

Out-of-control plastic consumption affects not only our community, but also the families living near industry plants.

PRODUCTION & RECYCLING: In petrochemical centers like Cancer Alley, Louisiana, low-income families work in the plastic manufacturing and recycling industry. Toxic air, water and soil, and a high rate of cancer death is the norm.

WASTE DISPOSAL: Most of our trash and recycling is trucked through and to low-income communities, like the South Bronx, for processing. These communities suffer from highest asthma and cancer rates in the city.

Every piece of plastic ever made still exists today and will forever.

Conclusion: The Committee feels that these concerns are significant and urgent enough to recommend a phase out of disposable plastic bag rolls on the shopping floor. Reusable alternatives to disposable petrochemical plastic bags are available and the only thing we as members must bring to the table is the willingness to adjust our shopping routine. In fact,

many members already embrace this approach.

Just as we pack our reusable shopping bags when we head out the door, we will find that it is easy to throw in a few reusable bulk, bread, and produce bags, as well. We may also decide that individually

bagging each produce item is unnecessary, and letting our produce co-mingle in our shopping basket is just fine.

Other food coops around the world look to the Park Slope Food Coop as a role model. Our actions in this matter will not only positive-

ly affect our local community, but could have far reaching impacts, as well. Please support this important effort.

- Voice your support at the General Meetings and when it comes up for a vote.

- Show your support by adding your name and mem-

ber number the supporters list at ecokvetch.blogspot.com.

- Learn how to shop without a plastic bag at one of our upcoming tabling events and workshops.

- Tell five members about this effort and ask for their support. ■

DO YOU LIKE **DESIGNING FLYERS**? HOW ARE YOU AT **MARKETING**? DO YOU LIKE **SOCIAL NETWORKING**? ARE YOU A **WEB DEVELOPER**? CAN YOU WRITE **PHP**? DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE **WORDPRESS**? DO YOU LIKE **TABLING** AT EVENTS? DO YOU LIKE **RESEARCHING FOOD**? DO YOU NEED **FTOP CREDIT**? DO YOU LIKE **COMMUNITY**, EATING **GOOD FOOD**, AND **FUN**? COME HANG OUT WITH THE **BUSHWICK FOOD COOP** AND GET **WORK CREDIT!**

A BUYING CLUB AND CSA ARE SATIATING US WHILE WE WORK TOWARDS MAKING THE DREAM OF HAVING OUR OWN STOREFRONT A REALITY. WE ARE REALLY INVESTED IN OUR COLLECTIVE GOAL OF BRINGING AFFORDABLE, LOCAL AND ORGANIC FOOD TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF BUSHWICK. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP, PLEASE EMAIL US AT WORKSHIFT@BUSHWICKFOODCOOP.ORG.



LEFFERTS FARM FOOD COOPERATIVE

We are a newly-formed group made up of residents from Flatbush, Prospect-Lefferts Gardens and Crown Heights, working to develop a new medium-sized food cooperative in the area.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

There's no question Brooklyn needs more food cooperatives, but it's not simple. Food co-ops are businesses and development projects created for and by the community.

JOIN OUR PLANNING GROUP

In order to make this happen, we need YOU! Why? Because as a member, you have experience with food co-ops. And as a worker/community member, you have experience we need—from organizational development, branding/messaging, finance/accounting, fundraising, to real estate development and community outreach. Even people you know or the groups you belong to are a valuable asset to the process!

GET INVOLVED

PSFC members will receive FTOP credit in exchange for their participation. Join our MeetUp group at www.meetup.com/plgfoodcoop or contact leffertsfarm@gmail.com for more information.

JOIN US: www.meetup.com/plgfoodcoop

Follow the Food Coop on

twitter



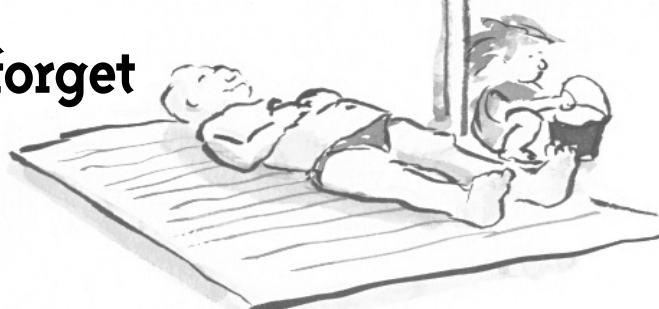
@foodcoop

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!

If you plan on being away for eight weeks or more, contact the Membership Office to take a leave of absence.

Your co-workers will love you for it!

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: Tri-Star Offset, Maspeth, NY.

Important changes

— that could affect your shopping privileges — are coming to the Coop on September 12!

Starting on September 12 the Checkout/Cashier stations will know your member status and your household status. A "suspension" could impact your ability to shop.

Contact the Membership Office or pick up a flier at the Entrance Desk to learn more.



Monthly on the...

Second Saturday
AUGUST 13
10:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.

Third Thursday
AUGUST 18
7:00 P.M.–9:00 P.M.

Last Sunday
AUGUST 28
10:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.

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

PLASTICS

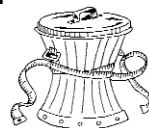
What plastics do we accept?
Until further notice:

- #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

Store Equipment Cleaning
Monday, 6:00 to 8:00 a.m.

The Coop is looking for members to clean the checkout area of the store. It entails cleaning the scales at each checkout and vacuuming around the base of the checkout station as well as sweeping and occasionally mopping. You will work under the supervision of a staff person.

Office Set-up

Wednesday, Thursday, 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 in the Membership Office for more information.

Plastics Recycling Baler
Sunday, 12:30 to 3:15 p.m.

Baler will work as a member of the Environmental Issues Plastic Recycling Committee. Work includes operating the baler machine in the receiving area. NO OPEN-TOED FOOTWEAR SHOULD BE WORN WHILE WORKING IN THIS AREA. Worker must work with Receiving Staff to coordinate the use of the baler and shared workspace, must be able to follow detailed safety instructions. Some strength and lifting required. Training will take place on first scheduled shift. You will need to contact Membership

Coordinator Cynthia Pennycooke via phone, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., or via e-mail at cynthia_pennycooke@psfc.coop, prior to being assigned to this shift.

Laundry Prep and Miscellaneous Cleaning

Friday, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The Coop is looking for members to collect the laundry from around the building and prepare it for washing. After starting the first load of laundry you'll complete the balance of the shift with miscellaneous cleaning tasks. Instructions and checklists will be provided. If you are interested or would like more information please call Jana or Annette in the Membership Office.

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 foodcoop.com or contact the Membership Office..

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).

Next General Meeting

TUE, AUG 30, 7:00 P.M.

GM Agenda Committee Meeting

TUE, SEP 6, 8:00 P.M.

Submissions will be considered for the Sep 27 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

Aug 25 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Aug 15
Sep 8 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Aug 29

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

Aug 25 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Aug 17
Sep 8 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Aug 31

ALL ABOUT THE GENERAL MEETING

Our Governing Structure

From our inception in 1973 to the present, the open monthly General Meetings, to which all members are invited, 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 on the Coop Web site, foodcoop.com, at the Coop Community Corner and at every General Meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 30, 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 on the Coop Web site, foodcoop.com, 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 on the Coop Web site, foodcoop.com, 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) • Board of Directors' vote • Meeting evaluation • 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

aug 14
sun 12 pm

Healthy Thyroid

Learn how to heal your own thyroid and free yourself of weight gains, depression, indigestion, hair loss and possibly medication. Some topics of the talk: food that sabotages and food that heals the thyroid; how water impacts the thyroid; vitamins and minerals that matter; emotions, stress and the thyroid; how to pick a good endocrinologist and what to ask him/her; how to interpret thyroid blood test results. Coop member **Magdalena** cured herself from years of Hashimoto's Disease, which is an auto-immune disease causing hypothyroid. She was told it was incurable. Today she teaches how to self-heal with food, supplements, water and stress management.

aug 19-20
fri-sat 11 am-6 pm

Blood Drive

Fact: Less than 3% of the population donates blood, and 90% will use blood some time in their life. Presented in cooperation with New York Methodist Hospital. For further information about blood donation, call 718-780-3644.

aug 28
sun 12 pm

Intro to Fertility Awareness

Learn how to chart your menstrual cycle events in order to achieve or avoid pregnancy. This workshop will describe the basic tools used to interpret the body's signals, indicating fertile and infertile days. By paying attention to these signs, a woman is able to prevent or achieve pregnancy depending on her wishes. Women with menstrual issues, irregular cycles or compromised fertility may also find charting helpful. Open to both women and men. Coop member **Kim Chinh** is currently in training to become certified as a Holistic Reproductive Healthcare Practitioner through a Canadian program: Justisse Healthworks for Women.

aug 30
tue 7 pm

PSFC AUG 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: Co-sponsorship of the next Brooklyn Food Conference (45 minutes)

Discussion: "The Park Slope Food Coop will be a co-sponsor of the 2012 Brooklyn Food Conference with a donation of \$10,000."

—submitted by Nancy Romer on behalf of the Brooklyn Food Coalition

Explanation: The second Brooklyn Food Conference, on May 12, 2012, will strengthen the food movement and healthy, sustainable access in Brooklyn and beyond, and advance the community work of the Park Slope Food Coop.

Item #2: Create Cooperative Study/Education Committee (45 minutes)

Discussion: "Regular work assignment for 5/7 members to organize four yearly events on the theme of economics, governance and history of cooperative enterprises and to share the ideas raised therein. One work credit per year offered to each member who attends."

—submitted by Susan Metz

Explanation: As co-owners, each member has the privilege and the responsibility to participate in short-, medium- and long-term planning of the PSFC. However, the Cooperative model and our decision-making structures are not well-understood. In addition to studying cooperative economics, governance and history and to planning and implementing four educational events per year, the committee members will use the Gazette and the website to share information and stimulate discussion about the Cooperative Movement internationally, throughout the U.S., as well as about our own structures.

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.

aug 30
tue 7-9 pmNOFA Locavore
Cooking Challenge

Several experienced cooks—all Coop members—will demonstrate how to make delicious dishes using the great variety and abundance of foods the Coop carries within a 200-mile radius. Come to sample the delicious offerings and take home recipes that you may easily use at home. The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY) was founded in 1983, and has grown steadily along with the growth of organic farms in New York state. It is an organization of consumers, gardeners and farmers, working together to create a sustainable regional food system that is ecologically sound and economically viable. Through demonstration and educational opportunities, it promotes land stewardship, organic food production and local marketing.

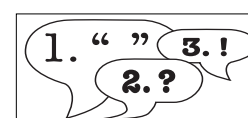
sep 1
thu 7:30 pmFood Class:
Fermentation Basics

Raw, vitamin-rich and full of probiotics, traditionally lacto-fermented foods such as sauerkraut, kimchi and half-sour pickles are both delicious and healthy. They are also easy to make. Chef **Michaela Hayes** will discuss fermentation basics and demonstrate

how to prepare these foods. She developed the "pickling" position while at Gramercy Tavern, expanding her preservation repertoire to include fermented pickles such as kimchi and nuka-zuke (Japanese rice-bran pickles). She learned about the sauerkraut business and began co-packing and creating pickles and jam in Santa Cruz, CA. Based in Brooklyn, she teaches pickling, canning and fermentation through her company, Crock & Jar. *Menu includes classic sauerkraut; kimchi; half-sour pickles. Materials fee: \$4.*

sep 6
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 or at foodcoop.com. **The next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 7 p.m., at Congregation Beth Elohim Social Hall (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place at Eighth Avenue.**

sep 10
sat 12 pm

Understanding Your Toddler

Toddlers can be delightful, confusing, frustrating and exhausting—all in the span of five minutes! Understanding the toddler's developmental changes can help parents navigate the often demanding toddler years with increased patience and skill. This workshop will explore the reasons for toddlers' behavior. We'll discuss balancing the needs of the child and the parents, and ideas for handling common challenging behaviors, such as tantrums and defiance. Pre-registration requested: to register, e-mail info@playdatesforparents.org. Coop member **Becky Plattus** and Sharon Connor are social workers and early-childhood and parent educators.

sep 10
sat 3 pm

What Are Nutrient-Dense Foods

You trust that everything you and your family eat is nourishing, but in truth, most of it only adds unnecessary energy and not enough of the nutrients that make health soar. Come and learn about the nutrient-dense foods that we, just like our ancestors, need for flourishing health. You won't look at your grocery shopping cart the same way again. **Andrea Ramirez** is a health coach for women with chronic digestive, auto-immune and hormonal issues.

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.

aug 14–nov 3 2011

sep 11
sun 12 pm

Fibroids, Cysts and PMS

Participants will learn five effective, natural ways to eliminate fibroids, cysts and PMS. Learn the underlying causes of hormonal imbalance, how to resolve them and how to boost energy and clarity through beneficial diet, appropriate exercise and the use of natural supplements. Advanced registration suggested: call 646-483-4571. Coop member **Rebecca Curtis** is a licensed and registered health and fertility coach, through the New York State Department of Education and the American Association of Drugless Practitioners, specializing in women's issues and hormonal balance.

sep 13
tue 7 pm

Safe Food Committee Film Night: Two Angry Moms



Over the course of a school year, we see a coalition drive dramatic changes in one Westchester, NY, school district, showing not only what is wrong with school food; but offering strategies for overcoming roadblocks and getting healthy, good-tasting, real food into school cafeterias. The movie explores the roles the federal government, corporate interests, school administration and parents play in feeding our country's school kids. Refreshments will be served.

sep 16
fri 8 pm

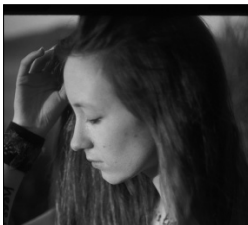
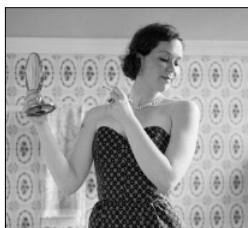
Mamie Minch and Noe Venable



Park Slope local singer and guitarist **Mamie Minch** sounds something like a well-fleshed-out 78rpm record. She's known around town for her Piedmont-style fingerpicking chops, her big deep voice and her self-penned antique-sounding songs. She's played music all over the world and Brooklyn, with all kinds of excellent people, including Dayna Kurtz, the Roulette Sisters, Jimbo Mathis and CW Stoneking. Singer-songwriter **Noe Venable** is a composer of mystically tinged experimental folk songs, incorporating spine-tingling vocal harmonies and soaring strings. Ani DiFranco has called her music "ravishingly melodic!" Puremusic.com dubs her "a full-blown young musical visionary." 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.



sep 27
tue 7 pm

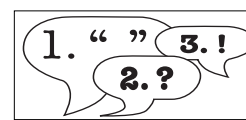
PSFC SEPT General Meeting



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

oct 4
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, October 25, 7 p.m., at Congregation Beth Elohim Social Hall (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place at Eighth Avenue.**

oct 6
thu 7:30 pm

Food Class



Class subject, chef and menu to be announced.
Materials fee: \$4.

oct 7
fri 7 pm

Film Night



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

still to come

oct 11

Safe Food Committee Film Night

oct 21

The Very Good Coffeehouse Coop Concert Series

oct 15

Naturally Overcome Candida & Yeast Overgrowth

oct 25

PSFC OCTOBER General Meeting

oct 15–16

Food Drive to Benefit CHIPS Soup Kitchen

nov 1

Agenda Committee Meeting

oct 16

Nutritional Response Testing

nov 3

Food Class

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

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions

THE BOYCOTT REFERENDUM

TO THE GAZETTE:

As a member who sat through our last general meeting a few points became very clear to me:

Anyone who thinks that if this referendum comes to pass that the effects will not be harmful to the Coop and its spirit is delusional. It will be polarizing, painful and ultimately pointless. Polarizing because it will divide us into warring camps; painful because the emotions run deep and despite everyone's hope of a "educating" each other, it is predictable that unpleasant exchanges and harsh words will be exchanged.

Prior boycotts were either overwhelmingly approved or rejected. I cannot predict what the breakdown will be if a vote is held on this referendum, but it is clear (assuming the General Meeting remotely reflects the Coop overall membership) that the issue will be far more contested and hence damaging. The Coop has its remarkable spirit because much is done by consensus, not through contention.

There was something surreal and absurd listening to people (on both sides of the issue) talk about the Israeli-Palestine conflict. Not that it isn't a serious issue, deserving discussion, but why is the Brooklyn-based Park Slope Food Coop trying to debate the merits of one of the most thorny and intractable problems on our planet? The Coop has no need for a Middle East policy committee.

And sorry to inform the pro-BDS contingent but unless the Coop adopts a rigorous system of rating foreign countries, so that we can calibrate the degree of human rights violations and set standards of violations that would trigger a boycott, this selection of Israel alone for approbation among all the nations is curious indeed. It cannot escape the taint of anti-Semitism.

In my opinion, the most important voice I heard was from Joe Holtz. I have the greatest respect for him (and all of the General Coordinators as well), who have proven remarkable stewards for this institution, that they have given their lives work to create and nurture. No, I am not a Joe Holtz automaton, voting whichever way he says, but his words carry far more weight than most. I am confident when I hear his opinion on matters relating to the Coop, I know that I am hearing a reasoned, thoughtful voice that is 100% thinking for the good of our Coop. His opinion that this refer-

endum, should not go forward, would decide the issue for me alone. I urge all members to weigh his words well.

It has been my great pleasure to be a member for 18 years, and for most of those years to serve as a Squad Leader. I also served as a Squad Leader for combat soldiers in the Israeli army. Needless to say the two jobs share little in common but a similar name, but both were honorable things to do. I regret to say that should this referendum come to pass, I shall immediately resign from the Coop and urge everyone else that I know to do so as well.

Eric Eisenstadt

USING THE COOP'S NAME

DEAR EDITOR,

The *Linewaiters' Gazette* reported that last year several General Meetings were devoted to dealing with the issue of Barney's using the word "Co-op" in the name of its nearby Cobble Hill store. We questioned whether the use of word "Co-op" was an infringement on our name branding. Should we not be equally vigilant of groups who use PSFC to identify themselves without authorization? The group proposing the Coop join the Global BDS Movement has taken the name "PSFC BDS" for its blog and twitter account, implying a relationship between the coop and BDS. Without Coop approval for the use of this name, they should desist from using it. There is no relationship between BDS and the Coop.

Thank you,
Felicia Glucksman

QUESTIONS ABOUT BDS

DEAR EDITOR,

Once again the familiar defense is offered, that despite disproportionate condemnation, other offenders don't matter, as BDS chooses to focus on Israel. This is specious: disproportionate condemnation, asymmetrical and selective application, and distortive context are in fact elements used in international law to discover prejudicial acts (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, The European Convention on Human Rights, among others). One cannot legitimately answer the question "why Israel?"—and Israel alone—by the evasion "why not Israel?" since it is the very imbalance in disapprobation that is itself in question.

Nor is this asymmetric and incommensurate censure an oddity

of time: "we are taking Israel first". BDS was born in 2001 and ten years later there is still a "see no (other) evil" astigmatism in evidence, and one can safely predict that even in another century, the most heinous regimes as to violations of international law and human rights, the Iranians and the Syrians and the others, will never come under the focus of BDS denunciation. It is Israel. It is always Israel. It is only Israel.

A BDS supporter at the GM offered that the real racism is instanced by those who oppose the referendum since Palestinian Coop members will be offended, ignoring Jewish and other members finding the proposal offensive and defamatory. This is argument by doctrinal inerrancy—if you are against us / our referendum, you are racist. No open discussion or contest of competitive visions and beliefs, no acceptance of a struggle between two competing nationalist aspirations for self-determination in the same territory, just inerrable clarity, and any disagreement is definitionally irrational and evil.

This again removes one actor from the Israeli/Palestinian debate, Israel, despite the fact that that no moral progress in the Middle East can derive from this. There can be no rational and sincere peace proposed between the parties if one of the parties is removed from the equation. Nor can there be constructive debate since opposition is declared to be a species of racism. There are no saints in geopolitics, but argument by demonization is no argument, and is no engagement of real issues and ideas.

Such disproportionate condemnation, asymmetrical and selective application, and distortive context violate fair and reasonable standards of political advocacy, like NGO Monitor's recent Ethical Guidelines for Political Advocacy NGOs which holds that organizations that pursue moral agendas have a particular obligation to operate according to ethical principles, including transparency, accountability, tolerance, and civility, and to eschew demonization and selective bias based on gross distortions of international law. These ethical guidelines are also in keeping with those of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, The European Convention on Human Rights, the 2010 Ottawa Protocol, and the 2009 London Declaration, among many others.

Where does this illogic of unfairness lead us? Bad for Israel, bad for Palestinians, bad for peace.

Constantine Kaniklidis

BDS AND DEMOCRACY

TO THE MEMBERSHIP:

There's irony in the fact that the BDS proponents titled their July 28 *Gazette* article "More Democracy, Please," as Israel is the only democra-

cy in the Middle East. And unlike the claims made by BDS advocates about Israel, that's a fact.

Yes, I know, they're talking about democracy within our Coop. And who is against democracy? So by this logic, if you're for democracy, you *must* vote for their proposal.

But wait, democracy isn't the real issue, which is whether the Coop's mission and interests include affiliating with a movement that demonizes Israel—and Israel alone—as a rogue nation. And instead of presenting facts to support their claims, the proponents offer hyperbolic statements of inarguable certainty:

"It is impossible for the Coop to maintain a neutral stance in relation to Israel." Impossible!

"Stocking goods made in this country ... makes all Coop members complicit in the commission of human rights abuses and the violation of international law." We're all human rights violators until we pass their referendum.

"The [general] meeting [as opposed to a referendum] would invariably devolve into acrimonious, intractable and inconclusive debate."

Actually, what is "acrimonious" is the very nature of a proposal vilifying a nation that matters a great deal, even with its imperfections, to many members of the Coop. What is "intractable" is the persistence of BDS advocates even in the face of significant opposition to and offense given by their proposal. And if debate on this subject would inevitably be "inconclusive," then maybe we shouldn't be discussing it at all.

Sylvia Lowenthal

DON'T LINK COOP AND BDS

TO THE EDITOR:

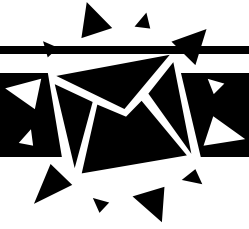
Of the speakers at the July 26 meeting, the most challenging were three young Jewish women who spoke separately but had the same basic idea that they were ashamed of Israel for its human rights violations. As a Jew, I understand their passionate frustration with Israeli treatment of Palestinians and have taken my own steps about that. I too, initially idealistic, am disillusioned about many Israeli actions; however, I am equally distressed about many of America's actions—stealing and murders and torture in my name as a citizen—in Iraq, Afghanistan, as well as many other places.

Foisting my political position by means of a referendum on a diverse group, many of whom are in a collective solely to buy good food, is inappropriate. True, food is a political matter, but seeking to have the Coop link itself with an outside group, BDS, which has, according to its website, a mission unrelated to the Coop, is not a proper way to deal with one's own disillusionment.

Further, one speaker stated that

CORRECTION

In the July 28 issue, the *Gazette* inadvertently omitted the author's name, Constantine Kaniklidis, from his letter "The Illogic of BDS". Furthermore the *Gazette* attached the names of More Hummus Please to Kaniklidis' letter. We regret the error.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Palestinians or Arabs in the Coop feel unwelcome because of the sale of Israeli food. If that is true, these members knew or could have known when they joined that the Coop is an inclusive place with food from all over. Those who wish a boycott would do just the opposite, that is, exclude food based on politics. Because the issue is an emotional one and because, as noted, linking the Coop with BDS can be objectionable even to those who abhor certain Israeli actions, many long-time Coop members would feel that they have been banished.

Nor is a referendum the means to determine this issue (think of California). Sixteen thousand members will not get a full understanding of what the ramifications to the Coop will be. Most with busy lives will not come to information sessions. Most will not know how BDS will determine what goods the Coop should buy and what not—computers with certain chips made in Israel? And if not BDS, who will so determine? Will the Coop have to divest? From what? Who will decide? Who will decide when sanctions are over? Since BDS does not even mention the human rights violations of Arab countries, there could be more acrimony at the Coop.

My parents were assimilated Germans kicked out of their country in 1933 when the Nuremberg laws—blaming mainly Jews for Germany's problems—were passed. My parents loved the US even though they were anguished over US denial of immigration to many Jews, including family members. I am not denying the emotions of the three women—and others—who are disillusioned. I am asking them and all those who would single out Israel over the U.S., China, several Arab states, and all countries with human rights lapses to channel feelings individually with groups who are like-minded and not entangle all members of a food coop with an outside organization against one country.

Elaine Unkeless

FOCUS ON FOOD NOT BDS

TO THE EDITOR,

At the July GM, Bill Mazza and others presented a discussion on “conducting a referendum to participate in the Global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel.” They provided little information about those who are behind this movement, the source of funding for this movement, and the desired outcome, if successful, of this movement. They did not factually substantiate their reasons for the boycott. They didn't define the scope of the Coop's participation in the proposed boycott as they had no exact proposed text of a boycott resolution for those at the meeting to discuss. They provided no projection on how such a boycott would affect the Coop.

They agreed with us, that this entire subject is divisive and polarizing, yet they insisted it should be pursued anyway. They did not offer any reason why doing so would be healthy for the Coop. While there was plenty of lip service that this should be an informed vote, there was no plan for the dissemination of information.

Let's move on, and focus on the food. If you agree that the boycott referendum is inappropriate for our Coop, then please add your name to our list of 109 supporters, by sending an email to morehummus@gmail.com.

Rhudi Andreolli	Sam Levine
Maurice Appelbaum	Chana Lew
Rebecca Appelbaum	Sylvia Lowenthal
Eva Aridjis	Ary Malamud
Roberta Arnold	Sasha Malamud
Shena Gitel Astrin	Sandy Mandel
Connie Bell	Abie Mazor
Greg Bell	Avishay Mazor
Steven Berke	Barbara Mazor
Gloria Blumenthal	David Michaelson
Robert Blumenthal	Jacob Milkens
Ruth Bolletino	Juliet Milkens
Elisa Bonneau	Paula Morrell
Carla Brookoff	Barry Nass
Rita Brookoff	Poppy O'Neill
Alan Brown	Marjorie Ordene
Arthur Brown	Jan Orzeck
Matthew Brown	Rodger Parsons
Darrin Cabot	Stewart Pravda
Nathalie Cabot	Rachel Ravitz
Rubi Cammarota	Hara Rechter
Chana Crayk	Yigal Rechter
Meir Crayk	Jeffrey Rickin
Zusha Dean	Lila Rieman
Sharon Eagle	Michael Rieman
Audrey Elias	Jill Robinson
Mickey Elias	Joy Romanski
Eli Eliav	Doris Rosenbaum
Shayna Eliav	Ron Rosenbaum
Arthur Finn	Mirele Rosenberger
Carol Freeman	Jesse Rosenfeld
Riva Freeman	Tzivia Chaya Rosenthal
Lisa Gilinsky	Yaacov Rosenthal
Marshall Gilinsky	Jonathan S. Sack
Olia Gitman	Lisa Sack
Jordan Goldberg	Ruth Seliger
Felicia Glucksman	Rivkah Siegel
Beth Halpern	Shayna Schmidt
Fran Hawthorne	Mushkie Silberberg
Devorah Hershkop	Naftali Silberberg
Samuel Hertz	Adam Silver
Esther Hertz	Renee Silver
Betty Leigh Hutcheson	Lisa Smith
Sheldon Jacobson	Nancy Spitalnick
Constantine Kaniklidis	Israel Spitalny
Benjamin Kessel	Malkah Spitalny
Eric Kim	Marion Stein
Joshua Kranz	Ronald J. Stein
Maureen Kushner	Susan Tauber
Evelyn Lampart	Allen Tobias
Chaya Lang	Rabbi Gerald I. Weider
Tzvi Lang	Rosalie H. Weider
David Leveson	Baruch Weisman
Margaret Leveson	Rivky Wilenkin

A THANKFUL TURN IN ANTI-BDS LETTERS

GREETINGS,

Anti-BDS letters thankfully seem more reasonable. Some letters argue: Shouldn't consistency demand boycotting other, even *all*, human rights abusers? The corollary being: why sin-

gle out Israel? This fairness logic shows the absurdity of the enterprise. But it would have precluded the South African apartheid boycott—in fact, all targeted boycotts would be rendered dead-in-the-water.

Letters questions the arguable application of the word “apartheid.” However, similarities with South Africa's case exist nonetheless. The United States gave moral and financial support to both oppressing governments. Both oppressions were ethnically or racially based, and perceived (anti-BDS arguments notwithstanding) as brutal and unfair. Both countries had democratic forms of government, at least for the favored ethnicity, with graded rights parceled out to others (“coloreds” and “blacks” in one case, and non-Jewish Israeli citizens and non-Jewish inhabitants of the Occupied Territories in the other.) And, presumably, both governments were amenable to domestic and international public pressure, unlike intransigent and ruthless dictatorships. So BDS also targets U.S. support.

But another fairness corollary—that singling out Israel shows the effort to be anti-Semitic—is still unpersuasive and counterproductive, highlighting how partisan and myopic many anti-BDS letters have been.

One letter correctly claims that having Jews among BDS supporters does not legitimize the movement. True—but no one ever made that claim. The presence of Jews supporting BDS rather *delegitimizes* the overworked and stale claim of anti-Semitism to any criticism of Israeli policy. The same letter says the BDS leaders' motivation in calling for a one-state solution is to gain an Arab majority, thus ending the existence of Israel, only a superficially plausible argument. Such a demographic turn of events would perhaps end Israel as a Jewish state and the ethnic privileging that implies—but would hardly end the State of Israel. Actually, given a 44 year unending military occupation, where two countries, Israel and the U.S., thwart every effort to implement the two-state international consensus, while rapidly placing Jewish settlements into the OT's, strongly suggests that Israel itself desires a one-state solution, only with many fewer Arabs, insuring an overwhelming Jewish majority into perpetuity (and a foreboding future for Palestinians).

Concerning the Coop, one letter argued that our other boycotts had virtually no opposition, unlike this case—a compelling point, although only partially accurate. Passions ran high over the highly political meat referendum, but it passed without storm or loss of members.

The oft-made call to avoid geopolitics also doesn't hold. Food politics *are* geopolitics. In this case, we'd be importing Israeli agricultural products, possibly grown in the Settlements using water commandeered from Palestinian aquifers. Water

issues are little publicized here, but a prime source of tension in the OT's.

And to the various points that people will feel unwelcome, that people will leave, that it will “tear the Coop apart,” all we can say is that we can't control people's *feelings*, but we know that people won't *be* unwelcome. The euphemism “tear apart” contains a considerable amount of hyperbole. We've always weathered our storms.

So it's still complicated, with plenty to soul-search about.

David Barouh

MEET BDS

DEAR EDITOR,

Presenters of the boycott proposal have not explained what BDS is all about. But BDS itself has, on its web site: www.bdsmovement.net/bdsintro:

“(BDS)...urges various forms of boycott against Israel until it meets its obligations under international law by: 1. Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands occupied in June 1967 and dismantling the Wall; 2. Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and 3. Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties...”

All three so-called “obligations” distort, deny, omit or falsify historical facts that are easily verified.

1. “Occupation and Colonization.” In 1967, to defend itself, Israel drove back attacking troops and captured what are now the disputed territories. Israel has repeatedly tried to exchange the captured land for peace, but Arab leaders refuse to negotiate. Both Palestinians and Israelis have legitimate claims to sovereignty over some land in Gaza and the West Bank. Israel has (a) legal claims, based on the British Mandate, the last legal authority for those areas; (b) historical claims, based on its 3000-year presence; and (c) security-related claims.

The “Wall.” There are no natural borders between Israel and the West Bank. The Hamas-led Palestinian government continues calling for Israel's destruction. The Palestinian Authority still has not stopped terrorist attacks or arms smuggling. In 2001, when terrorism reached unprecedented levels, Israel began building a security barrier. It is not a “wall”: 97% is a chain-link fence; only 3%, 10 miles, is a concrete wall to prevent sniper attacks. Since 2001 attacks have dropped by 90%.

2. Citizenship. “Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel” are those living within Israel's borders, not in Gaza or the West Bank. After the 1948 War of Independence, they chose to stay and become citizens. They have the same legal rights, liberties, and protection as all other citizens, including voting rights and protection against discrimination. Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza are not Israeli citizens, although they can petition Israel's courts about any grievances about the barrier.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

3. The "Right of Return." In 1948, while 160,000 Arabs within Israel's borders chose to remain, many more thousands left.

At that time, when millions of refugees from other war-torn countries resettled in other countries, neighboring Arab states (except Jordan), would not resettle Palestinian Arabs, despite shared history, language and religion. Instead, they were confined in refugee areas, refused citizenship, and used as anti-Israel propaganda.

The "right" of Palestinian refugees to return means dismantling the Jewish state demographically, flooding it with Palestinian Arabs. Nassar (1961) put it clearly: "If Arabs return to Israel, Israel will cease to exist." That is precisely the point of the

"right of return."

BDS never mentions thousands of Jewish refugees who were expelled or fled persecution from Arab and Muslim lands after 1948. Israel resettled 600,000. Today those refugees and their descendants comprise half of Israel's population.

The question is, how can aligning ourselves with BDS possibly be good for the Coop?

Ruth Bollettino

BOYCOTT THE U.S.A. INSTEAD

DEAR EDITOR,

I am so moved that some of my fellow Coop members have proposed boycotting products from the farms and businesses of that foul and evil entity known as Israel. Leading the world in science, the arts, women's rights, cooperative farming... These are all things which right-minded citizens like us should shun.

Cooperative farming just by itself is an intolerable evil which defies everything we stand for! Boo! Hiss! Down with Zionism and their evil Zionist hummus!!

I wish to suggest, however, that there is another nation, even more evil, and even more worthy of our boycott (if

such a thing is possible).

The nation I speak of has a long history of terrorism, international aggression, subjugating native peoples, and slavery.

In short, I propose we immediately boycott all products from the United States! Petition to follow!

In right thinking solidarity,
Art Brown

I RESIGN.

DEAR COOP MEMBERS,

This is to inform you that I will resign my seats as secretary and board member of our Coop after the General Meeting being held on Tuesday, August 30, 2011. After the meeting, I will prepare the meeting minutes for the newly elected secretary to present at the September GM.

One of the biggest problems our Coop faces is Coop Committees. I'm talking about the Chair Committee, the Agenda Committee, the Gazette Committee and all other committees that were formed to handle one area.

It should be the case that everybody at the Coop has access to:

- 1) The total list of Coop Committees, along with description and history;
- 2) The internal rules of each committee;
- 3) Contact info for each committee.

In addition, every committee should have an internal process to receive and properly handle input (suggestions, complaints and praise) from individual members.

We insist that our Board members participate in a totally open fashion; correctly so. We need to require the same of our committees.

Finally, there needs to be a process in place for an individual member to turn to when he or she is having difficulty with one of our committees. Right now, you're on your own.

*In hopes for more cooperative times
at the PSFC,*
Elizabeth Tobier

MY CASH...LOST AND FOUND!

DEAR COOP MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATORS,

On June 4, 2011, I returned to the Coop after my work shift when I realized I had dropped approximately \$90 from my pant pocket while working on the 8 a.m. Shopping shift at the entrance desk. I knew for certain I had the money during my shift but never expected to get it back. Nevertheless, I returned to see if anyone had found it. When I arrived at the front desk and asked about my loss, the member at the desk after hearing my story handed me an envelope that read:

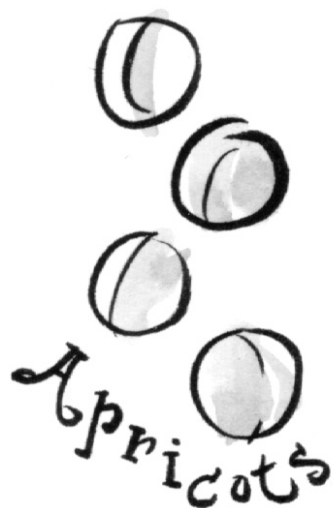
SOMEONE DROPPED THIS CASH NEAR EXIT
SAT. 6/4 10:20 A.M.

This letter is written to share my appreciation and thanks to Robert Weitzman, the Shopping Squad Leader on that day, and any other Coop member who played a role in seeing to it that the money lost was turned in. Needless to say, I was very grateful and appreciative for the act of kindness exhibited by an honest person.

Most sincerely,
Pat Shuford

Puzzle Answers

inure + J = injure
faulty + C = faculty
strange + L = strangle
coy + Z = cozy
sole + V = solve
surgeon + T = sturgeon
salon + O = saloon
mist + D = midst
astray + H = ashtray
plate + A = palate
tier + G = tiger
slice + P = splice
treble + M = tremble
let + F = left
trade + I = tirade
grater + E = greater
seater + W = sweater
ale + X = axle
lien + K = liken
turkey + N = turnkey
contact + R = contract
spare + S = sparse
re + Y = rye
tale + B = table
facet + U = faucet



park slope
FOOD COOP

Complete your shift hours outside of the Food Coop with Green Worker Cooperatives 2011 Coop Academy

Trainers

Business planning, project management, finances, green business, marketing, sales, communication, anti-oppression, team building, democratic meeting process, management, human resources

Mentors

Entrepreneurs with stories to share

Creators

Web developers, graphic artists, lawyers, photographers, videographers, Spanish/English translators, and administrative support

Interested in putting in your hours with us?
To register or inquire more info visit www.greenworker.coop
or send an email to info@greenworker.coop

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 Gazette-Submissions@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.

CLASSIFIEDS

BED & BREAKFAST

BROWNSTONE BROOKLYN BED AND BREAKFAST. Victorian home on tree-lined Prospect Heights block has space with semiprivate bath, AC, Cable TV & free WiFi. Full breakfast provided in attractive smoke-free environment. Reasonable rates. Call David Whitbeck, 718-857-6066 or e-mail brownstonebbb@yahoo.com.

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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.

DO YOU or a senior you love need to downsize & move? Or just get organized? We are a senior move manager here to help: create a floor plan of your new home, sell & donate possessions, pack & unpack and manage the move. Insured. 917-374-1525. Email: Katie@papermoonmoves.com or visit www.papermoonmoves.com.

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effective workmanship at fair prices. Piano humidity-control systems installed. Vintage electrics (Wurly, Rhodes) custom-serviced. I'm also a performing musician and music educator and treat every piano like it is my own. Michael 718-965-3296.



YOUTHFUL GRANDMOTHER FOR HIRE! Responsible, caring and playful, I seek part-time opportunities for child care. Excellent references. Reasonable rates. Call 718-783-9460.

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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, holisticeyecare.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 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.

NATURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATES offering naturopathic & allo-



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.

Escape Brooklyn
Labor Day Weekend!

Hazon New York Jewish Environmental Bike Ride & Retreat
hazon.org/nyride



use code "coop"
for \$75 off

Local, Organic,
Sustainable, Delicious.

Hazon New York Jewish Environmental Bike Ride & Retreat
hazon.org/nyride



use code "coop"
for \$75 off

Stress free cycling and
an environmentally
conscious retreat.

Hazon New York Jewish Environmental Bike Ride & Retreat
hazon.org/nyride



use code "coop"
for \$75 off

ADVERTISE ON THE WEB

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



PHOTO BY KEVIN RYAN

Looking for something new?

**Check out the Coop's
products blog.**

**The place to go for the latest
information on our current
product inventory.**

**You can connect to the blog
via the Coop's website
www.foodcoop.com**

Classified advertising in the *Linewaiters' Gazette* is available only to Coop members. Publication does not imply endorsement by the Coop.

Read the *Gazette* while you're standing on line OR online at www.foodcoop.com

MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

My Birth Into More Serious Environmental Consciousness

By Sensho Teresa Wagg

I've been making urban-kitchen compost for some years, from my own kitchen and a multi-user kitchen nearby, and I've been worm-herding (vermiculture/worm castings/ worm compost) and using all the compost and all the castings from the worms. Still I've been slow with my personal vow for environmental right action (my personal commitment to do anything/everything in my power to do "the right thing" to help our ailing environment).

Here's how I've changed recently. It's been a fun trip to change my life this way. I get to give back to the environment that has supported me all these years. I've loved doing it. It might help you to know what I've done to date, 'cause if I can do it, you certainly can too!

I was upset when someone told me they were saving all their plastic bags from shopping and from the produce section. I didn't want to save all of those annoying bags, and they make a big mess trying to save them, too. BUT, I saw the Plastic Bag Folding Technique #1 on Ecolvetch under the label Plastics, and I made my storage space under the sink an environmental dream come true: 1 bag now holds all my little triangularly folded plastic bags and I wrote "Please Take With You For No-New-Plastic-Bag-Shopping" on the outside, for my roommates to consider.

Those little muslin bags at the Coop are great for a lot of dry goods by the pound, and some produce, too. And my canning jars of all differ-

ent sizes are helpful for everything that needs careful, more airtight storage. I've been using alternative shopping bags for a long time. I always use re-freezable cold packs for getting my groceries home in good shape. Does anyone use ice any more?

As far as recycling, I've come to understand what the city takes, what our compost can turn into soil, what plastic items PSFC takes and when to bring them to the Coop, and finally what absolutely has to be trashed. I'm still learning. I'm so grateful that PSFC is already taking #5 plastic bottle tops for recycling. I understand that even (the billions) of plastic bottle tops people throw out are an environmental nightmare for the ocean and landfills. I hope we can collect more and different number bottle tops soon.

Considering the impact that our cleaning techniques in the apartment have, I decided that the world (and my apartment) is full of rags, and I've started using them instead of Swiffers. I'm reusing the Swiffer mop and just stuffing my rags into the holes formerly used for the environmentally NOT sound NOT-reusable cleaning cloths (and they were an expensive habit to keep paying for).

Long ago I started using the compact fluorescent bulbs instead of incandescent. How to recycle them (mercury content)? Go online to www.earth911.com, which lists where to recycle by zip code. I use nightlights that are darkness

activated instead of turning on lights. A romantic twinkle in a dark apartment, right? I'm now recharging my batteries. Yay!

Unplugging all my appliances is the norm (so many use a current all the time to "start" them up quicker), including my cell phone charger. The computer goes OFF instead of SLEEP. Off is good.

What else? In addition to having a low-water flush for the toilet, I only flush after a couple of liquid uses. I just put the top down. Too hardcore? I don't leave the toilet unflushed when I'm going out. Does it help to know that most people in the world do not have flush toilets, only highly unsanitary privies?

And when I'm using water, well, I have to say, especially when I shower, I actually think of all the people in the world who have never had a hot running water shower. Wow. So, I'm careful about my water use. It's NOT necessarily a renewable resource the way that we are used to thinking about it.

I'm thankful to be stable enough financially to have the time, energy and resources to consider recycling, etc. There are so many people in the world who don't have this same stability in their lives. I thank myself for doing all this and I think of all the other folks who are trying really hard as well; our efforts are thanking Mom Earth. I love to make the effort; it gives me more energy to do more, and I hope it is contagious! ■

WELCOME!

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

Phabillia Afflack-Burja	Teresa Devore	Zina Kashevatsky	Sheila Ravendhran
Joshua Aizen	Hellen Edralin	Susan Kennedy	Kate Redburn
Andrew Ammirati	Vincent Matthew	Serene Khader	Bennett Reich
Helen An	Edralin	Josef Khoutsichuili	Annalisa Riordan
Alyssa Arcaya	Jonathan Edwards	Kathaline Khoutsichuili	Andrew Robertson
Carlos Ball	Nicole Edwards	Madison Kidwell	Joshua Roy
Nadia Belalia	Kate Emswiler	Brandon Koenig	Carolina Rubio-MacWright
Tsuri Benhorin	Tamara Estrella	Isissa Komada-John	Sachiko Sasaki
Vered Benhorin	Cara Farber	Ming Li	Diana Schmitt
Daniel Berdugo	Joey Felice	Max Liboiron	Sean Scott
Megan Berdugo	Louise Finer	Max Mitchell	Anne Seidlitz
Alicia Bernlohr	Max Fischer	Florence Lui	Harry Sheff
Alexandra Bloom	Kristin Flood	Thomas MacWright	Madison Sheffield
Jeremiah Boncha	Yoav Gal	Matt Manfredini	Kimberly Skoglund
Christian Borja	Ross Gibson	Jesse Mann	John Smith
Adina Brook	William Gonzalez	Ani Mason	Shae Smith
Joseph Brook	Natalie Rae Good	Brooke May	Helena Spadacene
Zahava Brook	Lindy Grant	Michael McNeill	Tina Spac
Anne Byrd	Elena Greenway	Karis Medina	Adele St. Pierre
Kevin Calabrese	Julia Guarneri	Maxwell Miller	Theresa Stanley
Samantha Campbell	Juan Gutierrez	Lucky Narain	Richard Storrow
Giselle Castano	Aileen Hammond	Phan Nguyen	Matt Strawn
Lisa Chaney	Elizabeth Harrell-Edge	Zachary Nicola	Katie Takayanagi
Rebecca Cherry	Keala Harris	Thomas Nishioka	Mirit Tal
Molly Cohen	Monique Hartl	Christina Nunn	Andrew Tapp
Joycelyn C. Cooper	Birch Hayes	Julia Opie	Adam Thompson
Matt Crawford	Nadine Heidinger	Richard Otto	Rachel Tilman
Matthew Davidson	Matthew Hodge	Lisa Paschall	Heather Troup
Dominic Davis	Blondie Hopson	Kate Pasicznyk	Christine Tsai
Eddie De Leon	Nathan Horne	Elizabeth Perry	Cheryl Van Ooyen
Adam Decker	Nicole Horne	Mikail Poklonskiy	Marcel Van Ooyen
Suzanne Decker	Hiroimi Isono	Stephanie Power	David Wilson
Samantha Demby	Lilly Kanso	Jane Qin	Maxwell Winer

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.

TUE, AUG 16

The Brooklyn Women's Chorus is having open rehearsals to invite new members. No auditions. Try it out for free, no commitment. Tuesday evenings at 7:30 (except Aug. 30.) at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture Prospect Park West at 2nd St. For information www.brooklynwomenschorus.com or call Bev Grant at 718-788-3741. We strive to represent the diversity of the women of Brooklyn; all women are welcome and encouraged to join.

Free Orientation: Get Your Money Right! In these times, we all need help to reach our financial goals. This event will cover

financial health. Location: To be announced. For more info. please call 718-469-4679. Sponsored by the NFP Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush, www.nhsofeastflatbush.org.

THU, AUG 18

Free Financial Security Orientation The Financial Capabilities and Coaching Program is a personal approach to help us reach our financial goals. 8/16 at 6pm. Lenox Rd. Baptist Church, 1356 Nostrand Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11226. To RSVP, call 718.469.4679. Sponsored by NFP Neighborhood Housing Services of E. Flatbush, www.nhsofeastflatbush.org.

