

Established
1973

LINEWAITERS'

GAZETTE



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December 15, 2011

Cooperating Down In New Orleans

By Tom Matthews

After the speeches, after the spirituals, after the blessing with flower petals scattered on the floor, the Treme Brass Band led a second line triumphant through the aisles, dozens of people dancing to the joyful music. And when they were done, Louisiana's only cooperatively owned grocery store was finally, officially, emphatically open for business.

Located in the Faubourg Marigny, the New Orleans Food Co-op (NOFC) offers 4,000 products in a clean, bright, 4,800-square-foot space. It's an anchor tenant in the New Orleans Healing Center, a former furniture factory that is now home to a yoga studio, an organic restaurant, a bookstore and art gallery, a credit union and an "interfaith center," which describes itself as "a special, quiet place for everyone." After attending the Co-op's grand opening, I think it's fair to say that the entire operation is a special place, and that it truly welcomes everyone. But perhaps "quiet" is a relative term in New Orleans.

A Long Road to Success

Speaking to a crowd of about 75 members and interested guests at the opening ceremony, NOFC co-founder and Board member John Calhoun described the organization's genesis.

"About 10 years ago I found a flyer in a coffee shop asking for people interested in founding a food co-op," he said. "I was looking for something positive to do with my time, to benefit the community and New Orleans. So I called the



Opening ceremony for the New Orleans Food Coop.

PHOTO BY SARA MATTHEWS

number. But no one ever called back. So I decided to do it myself."

It was a long road. Calhoun found an online guide to starting a food cooperative, and it said the first step was to hold a general meeting. So, on Nov. 11, 2002, he called the first general meeting of the New Orleans Food Co-op. Twenty-two people showed up. "I knew that night that New Orleans could support this idea," he said.

Elizabeth Underwood, Manager for Outreach and Events, and member #436, took up the story. "The NOFC for the longest time seemed more like a social club than an organization moving toward opening a storefront. They held veggie & raw food potlucks, had a pretty committed buying club, and were a tabling presence at lots of neighborhood events. I personally had doubts as to whether or not we'd ever actually have a store."

Hurricane Katrina

In the summer of 2005, they came close: they had officially incorporated with the state of

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Makeup Glut

By Gayle Forman

It was a quiet Tuesday morning at the Park Slope Food Coop, and the 10:30 shopping shift was just beginning. Regular workers began to file in as one of the squad leaders, Rebecca Winzenried, oversaw and sent workers to checkout stations, to the entry and exit desks, and outside, while transitioning previous workers off their shifts.

It was all par for the course, except that this particular Tuesday also happened to be Election Day—not much of an election, but public schools were closed, and many people were off work for the day. As a result, several makeup workers showed up, in addition to all the regular workers on the squad. Angling to be placed, there were those requesting slots that were already full; one woman who came in wanting to do checkout, even though she hadn't worked on the new (or new-ish, they're four years old now) checkout machines; another who normally did Receiving but was here to do Shopping and wondered what she could do.

Juggling Jobs

At first, Winzenried and her co-squad leader handled the influx with ease, but a half hour into the shift—in which 12 makeups showed up for a squad in which only five people were absent—it became somewhat of a juggle, with much attention focused on making up jobs for the makeups. It would be one thing if the Coop were busy, but it was a quiet morning. Even so, there was a line manager to manage a non-existent line. Outside, there were five walkers relaxing on the bench.

Elsewhere in the Coop, the same scene played out on different squads. Upstairs in the office, two makeup workers were taken for the 10:30 shift—and two were turned away (there are only so many chairs in the office). Ken Macdonald, the Receiving Monitor, had a cluster of makeup workers standing next to the egg cooler, peppering him with questions as his walky-talky squawked. It all seemed chaotic, though for Macdonald, the surplus was a blessing; "There's always tons of work," he said. "And I'm missing half my squad."

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Next General Meeting on December 27

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, December 27, 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 will be posted.

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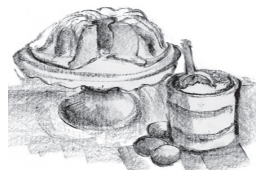
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Winter Holiday Hours

Christmas Eve, Saturday, 12/24 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Day, Sunday, 12/25 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve, Saturday, 12/31 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
New Year's Day, Sunday, 1/1 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Membership Office will be CLOSED on
Sunday, December 25, and Sunday, January 1.



New Orleans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Louisiana, and had agreed on a deal for a location. Then came Hurricane Katrina, which dashed these hopes, as so many others. But, Underwood believes, the floods also “galvanized the co-op to get a storefront,” and helped target the actual location, “a concrete answer to a serious social need.”

In fact, according to Front End Manager Lashawn Crawford, “It was more important for us at this point to have a grocery store than to have a co-op. This neighborhood is a food desert.”

Underwood elaborated: “There are corner stores within a mile which, as a result of the dire need for groceries in the neighborhood, have adapted and begun to sell grocery items. The NOFC applauds these retailers for supporting our community. However, we are the first full-service grocery store in the 8th ward post-Katrina.”

As such, in order to reach the widest number of shoppers, and those most in need, non-members may shop in the store.

A “full investment” to become an owner-member is \$100; there are also lower, and higher, levels, depending on a person’s financial situation and commitment. According to Underwood, there are currently 2,120 owner-members.

Member-owners are not required to work shifts in the store. They are eligible to vote at General Meetings. They are also “eligible to receive a small percentage of the total amount of money you spend at NOFC each year. When the co-op has a profit at the end of the year, our General Manager and Board of Directors determine what can be returned to the member-owners while sustaining a financially healthy position for your co-op.”

At this point, profit-sharing is more theory than reality. But of course, profits are not really the point. In her remarks at the opening, Rachel Riezman, NOFC President and a board member, sounded a theme that echoed during the day. “This co-op will be so much more than a grocery store. Our goal is to bring the community together. And how better to do that, than through food?”

Exploring the Store

The soft-opening of the NOFC was October 10th, and the store was busy in the month before the official opening. Lori Burge, General Manager, told me that they were averaging 400 shoppers per day, and grossing \$40,000 in sales per week. She was confident they would reach their goal of \$2.1 million in sales during their first year.

Burge, who had been active in the People’s Food Co-op in Portland, Oregon, before mov-



PHOTOS BY SARA MATTHEWS

The outside walls of NOFC are brightly painted with neighborhood murals.

ing to New Orleans, noted that NOFC had drawn on experiences with many other co-ops, including the Park Slope Food Coop. According to Underwood, several NOFC staffers previously were members of the Park Slope Food Coop, including Christiane Wurmstedt and Lise Hopkins.

I wandered through the store and was impressed by the bright colors, the wide aisles, the clear signage and the broad range of products.

Many of the items were familiar from our store. But NOFC focuses on local food products, too. In a recent newsletter, Allan Fickling, Perishables Buyer, noted a few that he was particularly enthused about: “Justin Pitts Farms Heritage Breeds beef and pork from Hillsville MS; the Shannon Gonsoulin Ranch in New Iberia will be providing beef; Kenny and Jaime Mauthe in Kentwood are doing milk products; Bittersweet Plantation Dairy, John Folse’s operation in Gonzalez, will be providing cheeses; we’ll have goat cheeses from Belle Ecorce Farms and local baked goods from Dong Phuong Bakery, Wildflower, La Boulangerie and Pious Breads.”

I met Jamie Katz and Nathaniel Kooperkamp standing at a folding table with a bowl of mesclun for sampling. They are working with Our School at Blair Grocery (OSBG), an urban agriculture initiative based in the Lower 9th Ward, arguably the neighborhood most devastated by the post-Katrina floods.

OSBG is named for, and inspired by, Blair Grocery, which many believe was the first black-owned business in the Lower 9th. Founded post-Katrina by Nat Turner, OSBG works with African-American teenagers, and last year began



Left to right: Rachel Riezman, NOFC Board President, John Calhoun, NOFC Founder, Rodrick Miller, NOFC member.

partnering with Job 1 to train students in urban agriculture. From an original 1 ½ acre garden plot, they will double in size next year, and their goal is to tend 40 acres of healthy food crops. Katz said they were supplying NOFC with microgreens and herbs, and would begin delivering tomatoes in the next few weeks.

“The next few weeks?” I asked, incredulous, thinking of the long, cold, tomatoless winter we are facing in Brooklyn.

“This climate is amazing,” Katz replied. “We plant tomatoes at the end of summer and pick them in late fall. Because it’s so hot in July and August, the only crop that can survive is okra.”

A Land of Survivors

New Orleans is a land of survivors. I have been visiting nearly annually since Katrina, and have felt the community’s anger and hopelessness give way to a shared feeling of determination and enthusiasm.

One of the speakers at the ceremony was New Orleans Councilwoman Susan Guidry. She told the crowd, “Katrina

changed our lives in so many ways. And crazy as it seems, some of them are wonderful. I can speak for myself. Before Katrina, I was an attorney and did my grocery shopping at Whole Foods. It took Katrina to push me to become a member of the New Orleans Food Co-op, and then in 2010, to run for the City Council. I’m so proud for all of us that we are celebrating here today.”

That pride could be felt, and heard, in the rousing music that followed the ceremony, and in the beaming faces that filled the store. It was a pleasure and a privilege to be part of the party. New Orleans’ first true cooperative grocery store seems to be off on the right foot as it dances into the future, supporting a community that was battered but never defeated, one where food and music have been defining and sustaining values for a long time past, and promise to nourish growth for a long time to come. ■

New Orleans Food Cooperative is located at 2372 St. Claude, Suite 110. For more information, see www.nolafood.coop.

The Park Slope Food Coop Agenda Committee (“AG”) is seeking qualified nominees to stand for election and serve on the committee.

The AG was established by the General Meeting (“GM”) to help facilitate the timely presentation of Coop business to the members attending the monthly meeting.

In addition to assembling the monthly agenda and maintaining records of items submitted, the AG works with members who submit items for consideration by the GM and may need assistance formulating proposals and discussion points.

The AG meets the first Tuesday of every month at 8pm at the Coop. Committee members are also required to attend five (5) GMs per year.

In addition, committee members caucus by telephone and via e-mail as needed to facilitate committee business.

Qualifications include a cooperative spirit, experience working in a committee environment, and an ongoing interest in the business of the Coop. Interested members contact Ann Herpel in the Coordinators Office.

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

FTOP Woes and 'Presumptive Dismissal' Highlight November GM

By Danielle Uchitelle

What do you get when you take 150 Coop members dedicated to participatory democracy and squeeze them into a cramped room on a rainy autumn night? You get the November General Meeting, held in a smaller space than usual at the Garfield Temple, giving us kind of a seated version of a typical shoulder-to-shoulder Coop shopping trip.

GM Chair Carl Arnold called the meeting to order with an announcement that the Temple had decided it could no longer provide a room for childcare at the General Meeting. The news was greeted by the muffled sound of crying (from parents, not babies) punctuating the acoustically challenged space. It was then time for the first item of business, the ever-popular open forum. A member stood up to ask how we know that organic food from China is really organic. "I buy pumpkin seeds," she said, "and I see that they come from China. But are they really safe?" Allen Zimmerman, Coop General Coordinator and produce buyer, responded. "How can we know that food products from China are safe? We can't. I don't buy any produce from China because I don't trust that it will be safe. It's hard to avoid all products that include ingredients from China," said Zimmerman, "but we try to buy as much food not from China as we can."

A member rose to complain that many bulk items come up from the basement packed in ridiculously small amounts. Zimmerman agreed, saying, "When I'm shopping I hate to pick through the Med-jool dates having only two dates per bag." General Coordinator Joe Holtz responded that there were printed guidelines for packaging posted in the basement but that it was not always easy to get members of the food processing squad to consistently follow them.

Coordinators' Reports

The open forum having concluded, the main body of the meeting got underway. Kicking off the Coordinators' reports, Mike Eakin said the Coop continues to enjoy good financial strength, with modest year-over-year increases in key metrics, including sales, operating income, and total

membership. He noted that our inventory has an average turnover rate of 68 times per year, meaning the Coop theoretically sells out wall-to-wall about every 5 ½ days. This consumption rate might seem like a difficult concept to imagine, but it became clearer when Allen Zimmerman got up to give his monthly report on produce. Zimmerman noted that during the two weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, the Coop sold 3,000 bags of fresh cranberries, 9,000 pounds of onions, 5½ tons of potatoes, and 2,000 cases of clementines. All told, 300,000 pounds of produce were received during this two week period. And each case of produce we receive needs to be lifted multiple times: from truck to conveyor belt, from belt to basement to cart, from cart to cooler, and eventually back to the belt and up to the shopping floor. Zimmerman calculated that on average each case of produce is lifted seven times, meaning that Coop members hauled a total of over 2 million pounds of produce during this period. No wonder we're sore!

Board Member Election

The first item on the agenda was an election to fill a vacant seat on the Board of Directors, an interim position resulting from the recent resignation of a board member. Carl asked for nominations and three names were called out from the crowded room: Tim Platt, Jesse Rosenfeld, and Albert Solomon. Each candidate was given a few minutes to address the meeting, stating their qualifications and interest in the position. Paper ballots were circulated and attendees were instructed to vote yes, no, or abstain for each candidate. When the votes were counted, Tim Platt emerged the victor.



Coop General Meeting Chair Committee (l to r): Carl Arnold, India Alexis, David Moss.

Disciplinary Discussion

The two agenda items after the election were for discussion, not for voting. First, members of the Disciplinary Committee and the Hearing Officer Committee presented their recommendations for changes to the Coop disciplinary process. Committee members Yuko Uchikawa, Marian Hertz, and Liam Malanaphy described the committee as a body that reviews cases of misconduct. Cases are researched, evidence is collected, charges are brought, and a committee member is assigned to present the evidence to other members acting as a deciding group. If the accused Coop member is found guilty he or she can be punished in various ways, including permanent expulsion. The disciplinary hearing process, Yuko explained, involved gathering 15 randomly chosen Coop members—nine of whom ultimately serve as the deciding group—plus the other members of the Disciplinary Committee, and the Hearing Officer Committee and the Hearing Administration Committee. All told, Yuko reported, dozens of Coop members need to be mobilized for each hearing. Yuko described the proposed changes as an attempt to

streamline the disciplinary process by giving committee members the option, in certain cases, of using "arbitration," "automatic temporary dismissal" and "presumptive expulsion" (for members with prior disciplinary records).

Yuko promised to present the full recommendations in written form in a forthcoming *Linewaiters' Gazette* article, and Carl opened the floor for questions and discussion. One member asked why it takes 15 members to form a group to punish a Coop member, when it only takes 12 jurors to convict a person of murder. Yuko explained that 15 are called to

serve on the deciding group in order to make sure nine are present for the actual hearing. When asked how often a full disciplinary hearing had been convened in the previous year, the committee members replied that it occurred only about once or twice a year. Another member voiced his concern that the proposed changes amounted to "doing away with trial by jury." Malanaphy and Hertz responded that the streamlined process would only be used on certain cases, and was not designed to completely eliminate a hearing before Coop peers. Some in the crowd did not appear con-

vinced. "I am horrified," a member named James said, "that this proposal can lead to expulsion without due process."

FTOP Discussion

At the conclusion of the allotted comment period, the third and final agenda topic was introduced, a discussion item submitted by Michael West concerning the paucity of FTOP work slots. As Coop membership grows, more work slots are established as part of the permanent shift rotation, leaving fewer slots available for participants in the Future Time Off Program, members whose schedules are too erratic to allow them to work a normal shift. "Over the years, work got scarcer and scarcer," for FTOP members, said Michael. He proposed that we discuss finding ways to make more work available for FTOP credit.

Carl called for comments and a number of current FTOP members expressed their sympathy for Mike's plight. A member named Dmitry agreed that there was a problem. "In the last few years there has been a reduction in available FTOP shifts," he said. Other FTOP workers disagreed: "I don't have a problem getting shifts," said FTOP worker Charlie. General Coordinator Joe Holtz, in response to a member question about reducing work slots, spoke with fervor about the need to avoid reducing either the length or the frequency of shifts, though Michael declared that this was never his intention, saying "All I'm suggesting is that we have a way for FTOP workers to have the opportunity to work. That's it." As Carl called the comment period to an end, Michael summarized his feelings, which could describe the entire General Meeting for this evening. "The Coop is a fascinating place," he said. ■

THE GAZETTE INDEXES

If you are interested in the history of the Coop or in when and how particular subjects have been discussed in the *Gazette*...

Send an e-mail to Len Neufeld, *Gazette* indexer, at lenneufeld@verizon.net, to request PDF files of either or both of the following indexes:

- ◆ An alphabetized list of the titles of all articles published in the *Gazette* from 1995 to the present, with issue dates.
- ◆ An alphabetized list of all subjects (including people's names) discussed in *Gazette* articles from 1995-98 and 2001 to the present, with article titles, issue dates, and page numbers (subjects for the years 1999 and 2000 are being added).

Many of the *Gazette* issues referenced in these indexes are available as PDFs on the Coop's website. (The currently available issues cover the years 2006 to the present, plus selected issues from 1999, 2000, and 2005.)

Makeup Glut

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Three days after Election Day, it was Veteran's Day, another one of those holidays that people have off and tend to use as an opportunity to make up an owed shift. Once again, the Coop saw a surge in makeups. The 10:30 shopping squad saw 16 makeups, and five absences. The 1 p.m. shopping squad had 15 makeups—and only three absences.

'Life Happens'

Everyone knows that missing the occasional Coop shift is inevitable. You get sick; your kids get sick. Your shift is scheduled on a holiday. "Life happens," says General Coordinator Ann Herpel. At any given time, says Herpel, 25 percent of Coop members owe a makeup. Given the relative ease of doing a makeup—if you show up in time for a shift, for most squads, the squad leader is obligated to find something for you to do—doing makeups is as easy, or sometimes easier, than making a regular shift.

And maybe in a perfect world, it wouldn't matter if people made up their regular shifts. In a perfect world, equilibrium would be established, workers would come in for makeups in the exact numbers to fill in for regular workers missing shifts. But it's not a perfect world, so instead, things get a little lopsided. Some days, there is a makeup glut—far too much member labor and not enough work, which is just sort of annoying. And other days, it's the other way around, too many

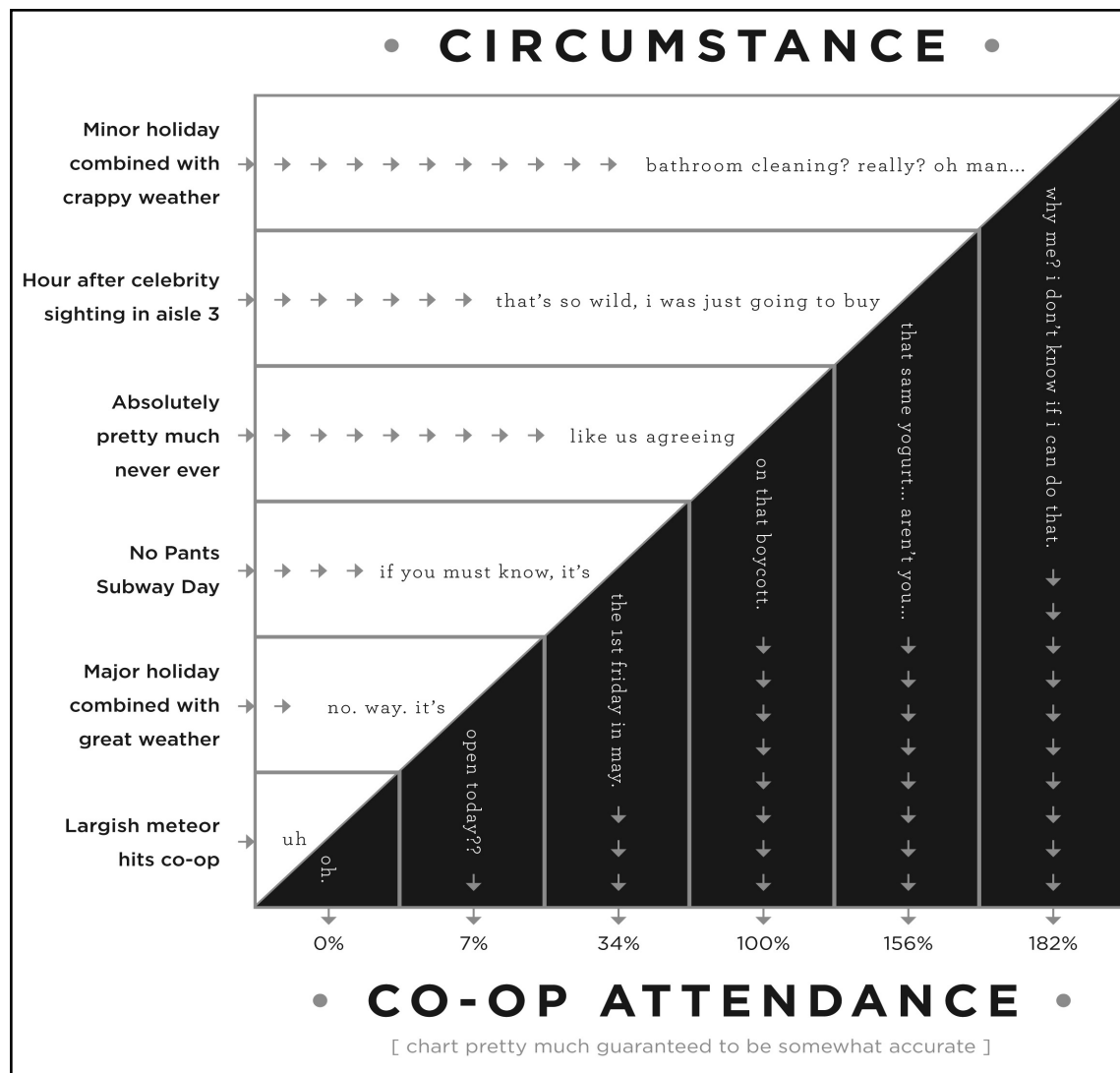


ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL BUCKLEY

shoppers, not enough labor, and that can lead to real problems.

General Coordinator Joe Holtz is fond of saying that as a Coop member, your scheduled time is worth more than your unscheduled time. To really understand what he means, you have to go back to the mid-1970s, when the Coop's membership was measured in the hundreds, not tens of thousands. So when deliveries were expected, the Coop intentionally scheduled enough receiving workers to lug all the goods upstairs (we were on the second floor back then). "But then we'd have two

people show up to receive a delivery that needed six," Holtz says. "Those two people would schlep the food up the stairs. It didn't really help us if those other four people came a week later or a shift later." The Coop had purposely coordinated the number of workers needed for the size of the delivery. If workers didn't show, the whole system was thrown in disarray.

Moreover, says Holtz, if people became lax about showing up for their regular shifts, it undermined the whole squad system, "the essential building block of the Coop." One of the reasons the Park Slope Food

Coop has succeeded all these years where others have not is because of the squad system, because of the sense of community and ownership it engenders. Showing up month after month is what helps foster that.

So this is why, in the 1970s, the Coop devised the current makeup policy—two shifts owed for every one missed. This remains

the Coop's official policy, though squad leaders have discretion on how to apply it, which can make things confusing. Many squad leaders opt to give members one makeup if a member calls ahead of time and has a decent track record, while others default to giving two makeups for every missed shift.

Even though the Coop has grown enormously since the 1970s, the logistics remain essentially the same: The Coordinators know when to expect multiple deliveries and they know when the shopping floor is busier. They intentionally schedule more member labor at these times to get the food off the trucks and onto the shelves and to move shoppers through the checkout lines. When people don't show up for scheduled shifts and if there aren't makeups to cover, it can create huge problems. Receiving can't get food out fast enough and the shelves go unstocked. Checkout stations go unmanned, and the lines back up. Childcare is understaffed and can't accept as many children.

'A Blessing and a Curse'

Sometimes the pendulum swings in the other direction—too many makeups, not enough places to put them. Peter Drogin has been a squad leader for the 1 p.m. Monday A-week shopping squad for more than seven

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MAY 2012 BROOKLYN FOOD CONFERENCE

Brooklyn Food Coalition is planning a conference for May 12, 2012.

Please join BFC as a member and help make this conference happen.



**Copywriting
Graphic Design
Social Networking
Web Development
Outreach
Research
Fundraising**

To learn more and to volunteer please contact:
conference@brooklynfoodcoalition.org.
You will receive FTOP credit for your work.

CHIPS NEEDS ASSISTANCE WITH ITS COMPUTER SYSTEMS

CHIPS is looking for a member who would be able to advise on software, hardware and networking. Member should be available to troubleshoot as necessary but also to help make decisions on necessary upgrades, etc. CHIPS needs assistance in installing new software and migrating data from old systems to new.

Member will earn FTOP credit.

CHIPS currently uses an old version of Quicken. Knowledge of Quicken, Quick Books and/or GiftWorks would be useful.

CHIPS uses Mozy for back up.

Interested persons can contact Pat Gauvey at pjgauvey@aol.com.

years. Mondays see a lot of holidays, so Drogin sees a lot of makeups, and he calls the glut “both a blessing and a curse.” Drogin says he certainly understands the need to miss a shift and make it up, and he has also been saved by makeups. But more often than not, when he’s faced with 15 or 20 extra people, all showing up at once, crowding the entry desk when there is not enough work to absorb all the extra labor, it gets stressful. “It’s debatable whether the extra bodies are helping me or hurting me.”

The General Coordinators agree. With 16,000 members, it’s inevitable that we will get higher numbers of makeups, and it’s clear that the attendance system, with its inconsistently applied rules that allow some members to basically rely on makeups as a stand-in for regular shifts, is broken. Holtz says that some members may argue that the makeup glut is proof that we can eliminate the thirteenth shift from the calendar but the Coordinators disagree. As the Coop grows, so does the need for labor. But having makeups show up whenever is convenient for them, as opposed to when the Coop needs the labor, has to change.

Online Scheduling?

One way to solve the problem might be to create an online scheduling program that would allow members to review schedules online and schedule makeups with a click of a mouse. This would mean no more strolling in any time to do a makeup shift. If you miss a shift, you’d have to go online and sign up for a shift. Coordinators would have control in directing member labor to times and squads when it’s needed (as opposed to having everyone show up on a holiday or Saturday at 10:30). Such a scheduling program doesn’t currently exist, but with such a system even makeup shifts would become scheduled time.

In the meantime, there’s some agreement that it’s probably time to standardize the makeup policy. Giving squad leaders discretion builds trust and community, but it can also create a sense of disgruntlement. Herpel points out the case of one member who has missed three of the last 13 shifts but has received single makeups for all of them, whereas if the member was another squad, missing a few shifts in a row would mean receiving double makeups. “It seems arbitrary and grossly unfair,” Herpel

says. “That doesn’t feel good to many members.”

A possible solution is to take the makeups out of squad leaders’ hands and to weight them somehow. Miss one shift, get one makeup. Miss two shifts get one and a half makeups. That half would disappear after a few months, but if you miss another shift in a short period, you’d then owe an additional shift. Such a policy would discourage the kinds of members who seem to think that making 50 percent of their regularly scheduled shifts is a decent track record. It’s not.

On the flip side, Holtz says, such a system could also have a reward, similar to getting a baker’s dozen when you buy bagels or donuts. If you make several shifts without missing one (or if you swap when you cannot make your shift), you would receive a credit for a shift you could bank.

And really, that would be welcome. Because as Herpel points out, if 25 percent of Coop members owe shifts at any given point—and we’ve all been there—that means that 75 percent don’t. That adds up to about 12,000 members, working together, to keep the Coop running smoothly. So maybe they do deserve that extra bagel. ■

Makeup Etiquette

Some tips for making your makeup shift go smoothly from veteran squad leader, Peter Drogin:

Arrive early. The rule is, if you show up on time, the squad leaders on most squads are required to accommodate you. Be on the safe side, show up 10 minutes early. If you show up 10 minutes late, don’t be surprised if you are turned away.

Check in. With the incoming squad leader, not the outgoing one. Tell him or her you’re there for a makeup. And then get out of the way. Don’t mosey over to a checkout station because you always do checkout. When you’re a makeup—as opposed to a swap—you get low priority in terms of job choices.

Go anywhere. You may normally be an outside worker but if the shopping squad has its fill of outside workers, the squad leader may send you elsewhere—even to another committee. The Coop is accommodating you by letting you do a makeup any time. You need to be accommodating in return.

Share your skills. If you have special training—as a cashier, a child-care worker, a line manager, etc.—alert the squad leader. Often, he or she needs to fill these specific gaps and having a trained sub on hand can be extremely helpful.

Be nice. Maybe you really like doing entry desk and got sent to receiving. Maybe you love working in the coolers and wound up stocking bread. Don’t have a tizzy. This is the Coop. Be cooperative.

What Is That? How Do I Use It?

Ask Me Questions About Coop Foods

Monday, December 19, 12 to 12:45 p.m.
Friday, December 23, 10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

You can join in any time during a question-and-answer session on the shopping floor.

Look for tour leaders in produce aisle.

Concerned about fracking and our foodshed?

The Coop has joined the anti-fracking campaign and we need you to make your voice heard!

How to get involved:

1 Sign the NY Statewide Ban on Natural Gas Drilling Petition available in the Membership Office.

Online @ <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/NY-Statewide-Ban-On-Natural-Gas-Drilling/>

2 Submit a comment about the draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) to the DEC

Go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/76838.html>

Mail written comments to:
Attn: dSGEIS Comments
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-6510

3 Attend letter-writing workshop @ Coop on 12/16, 12/17, or 1/3. See the Calendar of Events in this issue of the Gazette.

4 Sign online petition to NY State Senate in support of Bill A07400 to suspend hydrofracking in NY State.

http://signon.org/sign/nys-senators-bring-bill.fbi?source=s.fb&r_by=351080

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
- car
- boy
- paper
- waken
- delete
- meal
- tickle
- seen
- write
- carton
- tinge
- lit
- sin
- pure
- desert
- habitat
- radial
- punch
- root
- neural
- canon
- plant
- earthen
- peasant

Puzzle author: Stuart Marquis. For answers, see page 16.

COORDINATORS’ CORNER

A Farmer Speaks Out on Fracking

Louise Maher-Johnson is a former member of the Food Coop who moved upstate to farm in Seward, New York. Louise read the text printed below at the November 30th Public Hearing for the Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement convened by the Department of Environmental Conservation. As an upstate farmer, Louise is extremely concerned about the impact of fracking on New York state’s water supply and the viability and sustainability of small New York farmers like herself. The General Coordinators decided to share with you Louise’s statement as part of the Coop’s overall anti-fracking campaign.

By Louise Maher-Johnson

The drinking water on my upstate rural farm might also be your downstate urban drinking water.

Our county aquifers are large connected underground lakes that flow toward the NYC watershed in our town of Gilboa. What’s more, these huge contiguous aquifers are already compromised because of karst, a very fragile underground network of cavernous limestone, as exemplified by the nearby Howe Caverns—not far from my farm.

Karst, with its numerous sinkholes and caves allows surface water to pollute groundwater. Contaminants from household septic systems and farm and small industry run-off have already entered our drinking water.

Hydrogeologist Paul Rubin

wrote, “We have THE most hydrologically vulnerable aquifers anywhere.”

Countywide record floods have also polluted our aquifers with everything imaginable from medicine cabinets, barns, plastic factories, gas stations. And, again, these aquifers flow toward your city drinking water.

New York has fertile farmland and abundant water.... And the plan is to frack both, and send contaminants toward your watershed.

If our farmland is allowed to be fracked, the repeated pressure of 10,000 pounds per square inch will transfer horizontally through the fragile karst, which lies above and below aquifers. Cave collapses and the build-up of methane and radon in caves will further threaten our endangered bats, which, like honey bees, are essential to the balance of many other ecosystems.

Fracking waste water and diesel fuel will penetrate into the karst through streams and sinkholes, even in a rain storm.

Think of the cumulative effect of fracking and re-fracking one well, then the well next to it. There are to be six

or more wells drilled and fracked on a single well pad. Wells with cracked or aging cement casings and seals will leak toxins into underground pathways to our groundwater lakes. There is no way of confining fracking chemicals once they move through the many cavernous openings into rapidly flowing aquifers.

The fact that our county has serious seismic faults and a history of earthquakes will facilitate collapses and water contamination. There have been ninety-one quakes since 1973, including the largest in the state’s gasland area.

The S-GEIS does not mention or map karst or include an accurate map of seismic faults. And although the DEC has outlawed drilling on 100-year floodplains, it uses obsolete floodplain maps.

Man-made mini-quakes and injections of toxins into our caverns and aquifers, our floodplains and faults, should be banned.

New York has fertile farmland and abundant water, the two most essential and soon-to-be-rare resources. And the plan is to frack both, and send contaminants toward your watershed.

The choice is between fracking and water, fracking and food.

Renewable energy. Now. ■

Follow the Food Coop on @foodcoop



WELCOME!

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

Jacob Kubi Ackerman	Victor DaCruz	Alan Garcia	Elizabeth Hohn	Natasha Liegel	Lauren Pessa	Kushya Sugarman
Sarah Adamson	Kristin Dahl	Joseph Garcia	Ethan Hon	Sam Marks	Mi Puchon	Sasha Sumner
Emily Alexy	Jack Davenport	Jason Gaspar	Kathy Huang	Clay Matlin	Marisa Ragozino	Daniel Tate
Ahmet Arsan	Madeleine Davis	Rachel Gessert	John Hunter	Sarah McDougald Kohn	Philip Reyland	Andrew Tergis
Kacy Belew	Jonathan Dehan	Shona Gibbon	Megan Isenstadt	Randy McKelvey	Lisa Roazen	Benjamin Tyree
Kate Berry-Millett	Yolanda Del Amo	Michelle Gomez	Sanae Izuoka	Zoe McKelvey	Jessica Rosen	Miranda von Dornum
Kenetta Berthoumieux	Phoebe Dheurle	Ray Gonzales	Rebecca Jablonsky	Noah Mencia	Jane Rosenbaum	Sara Walker
Susanna Breslaoukhov	Laure Dubouloz	Anne Grier	Nicholas Kemp	Vernice Miller	Naomi Safran-Hon	Carolyn Walsh
Joan Brown	Edward Dunn	Michelle Gross	Pam (Poranee) King-	Cristina Milleur	Elizabeth Sandell	Alaina Williams
Laura Bult	Christina Edling	Molly Hickey-Sinoway	petcharat	Scott B. Morris	Lynn Scabis	Mark E. Williams
Elizabeth Burgueno	Rachel Fernbach	Kenneth Hillman	Leah Krauss	Mark Nakamoto	Pamela Sibble	Tracey Wilson
Kate Cardona	Claire Fleury	Erica Hinojosa	Mary Kuhn	Jessica Neal	Andrew Smith	Sharon Yeung
Mina Cheong	Casey Frid	Max Hinojosa	Nomi Lerman	Chloe O'Brien	Michelle J. Smith	Elie Zaccai
Walker Clark	Laura Gaertner	Chaya Hoffinger	Darrell Lewis	Brian O'Hare	Dana Sommers	Sindhu Zagoren
Jared Currier	Maria G. Garcia Valdes	Yaacov Hoffinger	Katerina Leznik	Scott Pasternak	Joseph Stephans	

COORDINATORS' CORNER

Farmers Get Fracked

“Farmers Get Fracked” was originally published in the September-November 2011 issue of *The Valley Table*. Tracy Frisch, the author, is a long-time friend of the Food Coop and a New York activist for sustainable farming and against the misuse of pesticides. The General Coordinators wanted to make this portion of “Farmers Get Fracked” available to Coop members because Frisch features Ken Jaffee of Slope Farms — our primary supplier for grass-fed and -finished beef. Ken has been active in the upstate anti-fracking campaign. Article reprinted with permission.

By Tracy Frisch

Slope Farm, in the Delaware County town of Meredith, has become one of the major producers of pasture-raised and finished beef for the metropolitan New York markets. But if fracking comes to the area, farmer Ken Jaffe says he’s “basically out of business.”

His biggest customer—the Park Slope Food Coop, in his old Brooklyn neighborhood—buys 40 percent of his meat (one cow per week). The store, owned by its 15,800 working members, spends millions of dollars each year on foods from New York farms. But in light of the environmental contamination resulting from this type of natural gas extraction, the Coop said, in an open letter to the governor and state legislature, that if fracking came to New York, it would have to stop sourcing agricultural products grown in the areas affected.

Jill Wiener, a cut-flower grower on the board of the Catskill farm support group Farmhearts, approves of this precautionary rejection. “You can buy from an organic farmer who’s never going to lease their gas rights, but you don’t know what their neighbors are doing.”

“You would be taking an agricultural district and turning

it into an industrial zone and you just can’t get good, clean, wholesome food in the middle of an industrial zone,” Wiener says. “I wouldn’t want to eat a carrot grown in gaslands and I wouldn’t want to feed it to anyone else, either.”

The Most Powerful Carcinogens

Jaffe, too, finds it reasonable for consumers to want to avoid such food as suspect. No special testing is conducted on animals, crops or food products that could have been exposed to fracking chemicals and other hazardous—even radioactive—substances that find their way into surface and ground water as a result of fracking. “You’re dealing with some of the most powerful carcinogens known to man, like benzene, toluene and xylene, which are illegal in drinking water over one part per billion,” says Jaffe, who practiced medicine as a family physician for 25 years and studied epidemiology before switching careers. “If they say fracking fluid is 99 percent water, that one percent is equivalent to ten million parts per billion.”

Fracking creates abundant opportunities for spills of tainted water. Wells must be fracked periodically to stimu-

late production. While most of this water remains underground—“like unexploded ordinance” in the words of one fracking opponent—the immense quantities that do return to the surface end up in evaporating ponds or are trucked away for disposal elsewhere, including municipal sewage plants (which are unequipped to detoxify such toxic soups).

Livestock Vulnerable

Livestock are attracted to this salty wastewater, one reason they are particularly vulnerable to being poisoned by fracking. When 19 cattle died from such a spill in Louisiana, necropsies showed that their deaths were caused by ingesting hydrocarbons. Farmers in Pennsylvania—whose regulators gave Marcellus Shale fracking a couple of years’ head start over New York and where dozens of household water wells have already been rendered unsafe—have made numerous reports of illness and multiple deaths in livestock, typically without any follow-up investigation. According to Jaffe, the state did quarantine 28 cattle but didn’t run the appropriate tests to find what likely sickened them.

Natural gas production also causes ground-level

ozone, which “kills adults with respiratory conditions and puts children with asthma in the hospital,” Jaffe says. Besides the human toll, ozone also is responsible for more crop damage and reduces yields more than all the other major air pollutants combined, according to the mainstream agricultural literature. (Ozone belongs in the upper reaches of the earth’s atmosphere, where it protects humans and other living organisms from the ravages of excessive ultraviolet radiation from the sun.)

Of more than 90 species of agricultural crops known to be affected by ozone, clover, which is critical to livestock nutrition and pasture health, is one of the most sensitive. Like other legumes, it takes nitrogen from the air and fixes it in the soil.

“I wouldn’t want to eat a carrot grown in gaslands and I wouldn’t want to feed it to anyone else, either.”

The magnitude of natural gas-induced ozone levels is astounding. Internal combustion engines have long been considered the biggest source of this pollutant, but an atmospheric study in Fort Worth, Texas, showed that hydrofracking there causes as much surface-level ozone as cars and trucks driving in the city. In a sparsely populated Wyoming county with one-fortieth fewer people per square mile than the Catskills, ozone readings at the ground surpass those in traffic-congested Los Angeles. Curiously, Chautauqua County, in far western New York, has 6,000 gas wells, the most in the state, as well as the second-highest ozone

levels, Jaffe says.

Jaffe’s vision of rural economic development doesn’t threaten health or our capacity to feed ourselves. In the Meredith Landowner Coalition newsletter, he makes the case that utilizing only half his town’s unused fields for pasturing livestock would conservatively increase farm revenues by over \$4 million, year after year without even factoring in direct marketing. It would put a lot of money back into the local economy, too—Jaffe figures that for every acre he farms, he spends \$3,000 a year locally to pay the meat processor, trucker, cow-calf producers, and for hay and labor.

In early July, New York State released its draft environmental impact statement on fracking, a major step toward approving and regulating it in the Marcellus Shale. Acknowledging that the hydrofracking process has polluted wells and contaminated surface water, the report proposes to ban the gas extraction process in the parts of the Catskills located within the New York City watershed (in order to safeguard the city’s water supply that flows, unfiltered, from its Catskills reservoirs). The state also would protect the groundwater supplies of some upstate cities and the unfiltered surface water reservoir used by Syracuse.

For those drinking unfiltered water in the 85 percent of the Marcellus Shale where the state is giving fracking a green light, the report offers little consolation. Jaffe calculated that of the 1,140,000 upstate residents who drink groundwater in the Marcellus Shale, the state would not protect the drinking water of 840,000. ■

THANK YOU!

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

Hannah Abbott	EllaRose Chary	George Gardner III	Kirsten	Tameika McLean	Heather Rubi	Thomas Stephanos
Elizabeth Abbs	Matt Cholerton	Sharon Goldzweig	Sarah Klevan	Meghan Milam	Sally	Ashley Swinnerton
Abby	Suzanne Connoles	Aaron Goodman	Kim L.	Matthew Mills	Hannah S.	May Takahashi
Malinda Allen	Ann Coombs	Teri Gorbea	Brent Landon	Jeremy Moberg-Sarver	Georgia Sanford	Johanna Taylor
Annie	Windsor Cousins	Limor Goren	Cynthia Lawson	Nancy Murukami	Justin Scarborough	Kallen Tsikalas
Ken A.	Caitlin Cox	Diana Gradus	Nim Lee	Nancy	Ursel Schlicht	Damien Vandercruyssen
Charlene Bannon	Susan Daltroy	Laura Grant	Erica Lessem	Adam Newport-Berra	Victoria Schlimer	Geoff Vidal
Mollie Berliss	Marilia Destot	Kathleen Grogan	Ayana Lewis	Michael Perrine	Jennie Schueler	Marcel Walden
Matthew Bondy	Andrew Drenth	Matthew H.	Jennie Livingston	Christy Pessagno	Gregory Selig	Todd Warnock
Charles Briefel	Katy Dunn	Daniel Halainen	Judith Loeb	Emily Poppish	Sarah Selig	Sarah Wenk
Alison Brill Anna	Geraldine Durand	Travis Hartman	Lenore Los Kamp	Jason Porter	Daniel Shortell	Eric White
Brodbeck Patti	Oasa DuVerney	John Hildreth	Danny Lubin-Laden	Musa A.A. Rahman	Silke	Daniel Wiley
Buffolano	Joe Fenstermaker	Yaacov Hoffinger	Giles Lyon	Elizabeth Reagh	Nyaima Smith	Natasha Zaretsky
Cynthia C.	Josh Fisher	Isabel Jay	Monica Rose Maha	Patrick Reid	Harris J. Solomon	
Brad Canning	Leah Flax	Jessa	Brook Martinez	Stephanie Rooker	Morgan Soloski	
Bora Chang	Vivian Fong	Natalie John	Mathew Mauricio	Erica Rosen	Keeli Sorensen	
Raphaelae Chappe	Jorge Garcia-Spitz	Sara Kiener	Jesse May	Erica Rosenblum	Angela Stepan	

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.

Friday
Dec 16

8:00 p.m.

very
The Good Coffeehouse
COOP CONCERT SERIES



LeTha's music is a dynamic soul-filled journey. Her emotionally charged show travels deeply from the delicate and vulnerable places captured in her songwriting to broad, soul-stirring heights accomplished through powerful vocals. Accompanied by global guitarist, Vita Tanga, using sounds and techniques from across the world. This is a show not to be missed.

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

The Mast — The seemingly eight-armed Matt Kilmer creates propulsive rhythmic tapestries on his hybrid drum set of frame drums, djembe and cymbals, through which vocalist and electric guitarist Haale Gafori weaves interlocking riffs and imagistic lyrics. They released their debut album, *Wild Poppies*, in June of 2011 and have been touring and playing various radio shows, including WNYC's Soundcheck with John Schafer. Their album can be streamed at TheMastMusic.com.



53 Prospect Park West [at 2nd Street] • **\$10** • **8:00 p.m.** [doors open at 7:45]

Performers are Park Slope Food Coop members and receive Coop workslot credit.

Booking: Bev Grant, 718-788-3741

Monthly on the...

Third Thursday
DECEMBER 15
7:00 P.M.–9:00 P.M.

Special Sunday Date
DECEMBER 18
10:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.

Second Saturday
JANUARY 14
10:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.

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

PLASTICS

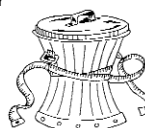
What plastics do we accept?
Until further notice:

- #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

Advertising: Peter Benton

Bread Vouchers**Wednesday, 4 to 6:45 p.m.**

The Coop is looking for members to process vouchers for the Bread Department, reviewing prices, completing voucher forms and inputting information into Mac-Excel spreadsheet. Member must be organized, detail-oriented with legible handwriting. Please contact Renee St. Furcy at renee_stfurcy@psfc.coop or in person Mon-Thu 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Laundry and Toy Cleaning.**Tuesday, 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.**

This work slot has two responsibilities. You will load laundry into dryer, fold it and redistribute it around the Coop. While the laundry is washing/drying, you will clean toys in the childcare

room. You will be working with a partner on these tasks. Please contact Annette or Jana in the Membership Office for further information.

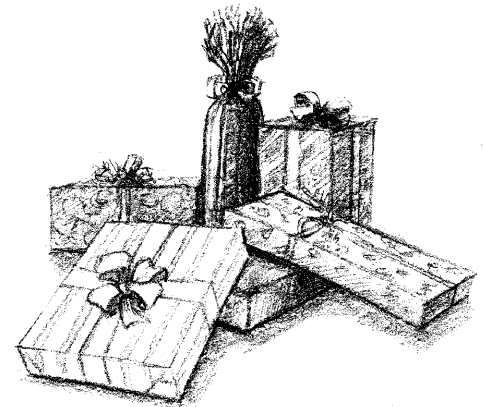
Vitamin Worker**Wednesday, 12 to 2:45 p.m.**

On this special shift, you will be working with the Receiving Coordinator to check-in vitamin orders, organize vitamin area in the basement and on the shopping floor. You will label products and shelves, and related tasks. If interested, contact the Membership Office.

Receiving Maintenance**Tuesdays, 9 to 11 a.m.**

The Coop is looking for members to do various light maintenance tasks throughout the Coop.

You will work under the supervision of a staff person. Must be willing to clean, sort returned bottles, work in the backyard organizing, lifting up to 25 lbs.

**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. Visit in person or call 718-622-0560 during office hours.

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

The Coop on the Internet**www.foodcoop.com****The Coop on Cable TV****Inside the Park Slope Food Coop**

FRIDAYS 2:30 p.m. with a replay at 10:30 p.m.
Channels: 56 (TimeWarner), 69 (CableVision).

General Meeting Info**TUE, DEC 27**

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, JAN 3

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m.
Submissions will be considered for the Jan 31 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines**LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:**

Dec 29 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Dec 19
Jan 12 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Jan 2

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

Dec 29 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Dec 21
Jan 12 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Jan 4

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, December 27, 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

dec 16
fri 5–7 pm

Slowing Down the DEC on the Fast Track to Frack NY State

Governor Cuomo and the Department of Environmental Conservation are putting the energy industry on a fast track to frack New York State. Why the hurry? The NYS DEC recently issued a Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) which, if accepted, will allow hydro-fracking to begin. We now have until January 11 to send comments to the DEC. The Food Coop's Environmental Committee is organizing a series of workshops to provide guidance for writing an effective letter to the DEC, commenting on their regulations. Stop by at any point during one of the workshop sessions. Bring friends—Coop members and non-members are welcome! **Other sessions will be held Saturday, December 17, 3–5 p.m., and Tuesday, January 3, 12–3 p.m.**

dec 16
fri 8 pm

LeTha & The Mast



LeTha's music is a dynamic soul-filled journey. Her emotionally charged show travels deeply from the delicate and vulnerable places captured in her song-writing to broad, soul-stirring heights accomplished through powerful vocals. Accompanied by global guitarist, Vita Tanga, using sounds and techniques from across the world. This is a show not to be missed. **The Mast**—the seemingly eight-armed Matt Kilmer creates propulsive rhythmic tapestries on his hybrid drum set of frame drums, djembe and cymbals, through which vocalist and electric guitarist Haale Gafari weaves interlocking riffs and imagistic lyrics. They released their debut album, *Wild Poppies*, in June of 2011 and have been touring and playing various radio shows, including WNYC's Soundcheck with John Schafer. Their album can be streamed at TheMastMusic.com.

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.



dec 27
tue 7 pm

PSFC DEC 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: Hogging FTOP slots (45 minutes)

Discussion: "People who sign up for multiple FTOP slots—sometimes 5 over a 3-day period—blocking other members from finding convenient work times."

—submitted by LaTanya Hall

Item #2: Proposal to mark item's origin and/or manufacturer (45 minutes)

Discussion: "I propose to have every item in the Coop marked with its country of origin, in addition to mentioning whether that area is a conflict zone or not."

—submitted by Gil Smuskowitz

Explanation: "In this way people can educate themselves on the origin of their purchases and decide if they are comfortable supporting conflict zones (or buying imported, non-U.S. products)."

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.

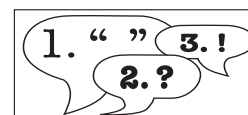
jan 3
tue 12–3 pm

Slowing Down the DEC on the Fast Track to Frack NY State

Governor Cuomo and the Department of Environmental Conservation are putting the energy industry on a fast track to frack New York State. Why the hurry? The NYS DEC recently issued a Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) which, if accepted, will allow hydro-fracking to begin. We now have until January 11 to send comments to the DEC. The Food Coop's Environmental Committee is organizing a series of workshops to provide guidance for writing an effective letter to the DEC, commenting on their regulations. Stop by at any point during one of the workshop sessions. Bring friends—Coop members and non-members are welcome!

jan 3
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, January 31, 7 p.m., at Congregation Beth Elohim Social Hall (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place at Eighth Avenue.**

jan 5
thu 7:30 pm

Food Class: Post-Holiday Cleanse



Join registered holistic nutritionist and chef **Talia Chai** as she demonstrates three quick and easy recipes that will boost your energy, improve your mood, and reduce the post-holiday bulge. She will discuss the benefits of cleansing and how to incorporate it into everyday life. She is currently enrolled in the Chef Training Program at the Natural Gourmet Institute, where she is learning how to make these whole, real foods taste delicious and look beautiful. **Menu includes warm and spicy ginger tumeric tea; super alkaline green vitality juice; simply satisfying everyday smoothie; nourishing miso soup with mineral-rich sea vegetables; raw cleansing salad. Materials fee: \$4. Food classes are coordinated by Coop member Susan Baldassano.**

dec 17
sat 3–5 pm

Slowing Down the DEC on the Fast Track to Frack NY State

Governor Cuomo and the Department of Environmental Conservation are putting the energy industry on a fast track to frack New York State. Why the hurry? The NYS DEC recently issued a Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) which, if accepted, will allow hydro-fracking to begin. We now have until January 11 to send comments to the DEC. The Food Coop's Environmental Committee is organizing a series of workshops to provide guidance for writing an effective letter to the DEC, commenting on their regulations. Stop by at any point during one of the workshop sessions. Bring friends—Coop members and non-members are welcome! **Another session will be held Tuesday, January 3, 12–3 p.m.**

dec 18
sun 12 pm

Live Green, Die Green

Now is the time to educate yourself on green burial and cremation options for your elderly parents, and ultimately—inevitably—yourself and others you love. Get the low-down on your final carbon footprint now! We will discuss burial vaults, caskets on the market, green cemetery spaces in areas just outside the city and more. Coop member and former magazine writer **Amy Cunningham** felt so moved by the memorial service she helped plan for her elderly father, that she decided to pursue a second career in funeral service. She is a recent graduate of the American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service.

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.

dec 16 2011—feb 14 2012

jan 6
fri 7 pm

Film Night: Wo Ai Ni Mommy



In the last decade, China was the leading country for U.S. international adoptions. There are now more than 70,000 Chinese children being raised by American families. Eight-year-old Fang Sui Yong, aka Faith Sadowsky, is one of them. After being abandoned at two, sent to a city orphanage for two years, and then taken in by a loving Chinese foster family, Faith's life is suddenly upended when she's adopted by Donna and Jeff Sadowsky, a Jewish family on Long Island. *Wo Ai Ni Mommy* explores, for the first time, what adoption feels like from the child's perspective. This intimate and honest story is told in real time by Faith as she tearfully parts ways with her birth culture, language and foster family. It documents her struggle to adapt to a new life in America and offers a rare glimpse into a personal transformation that she, her American mother, nor the filmmaker could have ever imagined. **Stephanie Wang-Breal** has been producing stories for television since 1999. She has worked with various media outlets including CNN, MTV, the Biography Channel and UNICEF.

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

jan 7
sat 10–11:30 am

Sleep S.O.S. for Families

In this 90-minute interactive workshop with a family-sleep expert and a clinical psychologist, we'll discuss the most common reasons families with babies and toddlers don't sleep, how you can get more rest, and feel better as a family. With focus on internal factors that might prevent you from getting the sleep you need (i.e. fears and emotions) and external factors (i.e. apartment layout or normal sleep transitions), we'll trouble-shoot your family's sleep woes, and help you get back on track! **Natalie Nevares** is a Coop member and founder of Mommywise, a personalized service that helps families with babies and toddlers resolve chronic sleep issues through customized sleep-coaching programs.

jan 7
sat 2 pm

Knit and Sip Series

Calling all knitters and crocheters. Please bring yarns and needles and be prepared to knit and crochet hats, scarves and handwarmers. All finished items will be donated to "Occupy Wall Street." We will also accept yarn donations for our cause. **Naemah Senghor** is a knitter, crocheter and raw-foodist and loves to organize swaps and community events. She has been organizing "Knit & Sips" all over Brooklyn. She has been a Coop member for several years.

jan 7
sat 7 pm

A Child's View from Gaza: Children's Drawings

From Dec. 2008 to Jan. 2009, Israel waged a military assault on Gaza, "Operation Cast Lead," which left 1,400 Palestinians dead and thousands more injured. To mark the three-year anniversary, we present children's drawings in response to this trauma as well as excerpts from an upcoming documentary shot in the aftermath of the Gaza massacre. Join us for the panel and discussion to follow the presentations. Speakers include activist Susan Johnson, Palestinian filmmaker Fida Qishta, art/play therapist Betty Eigen, and editor/reporter Philip Weiss. Moderators: **Hima B.** is a Coop member and an independent filmmaker. **Dennis James** is a Coop member and retired attorney living and writing short stories in Brooklyn. RSVP is encouraged: psfc.bds@gmail.com.

jan 8
sun 10 am–1 pm

Auditions for Our Coop Kids' Variety Show



Auditions for Coop members ages 4-18, today and Saturday, January 21, 2–5 p.m., in the Coop second floor meeting room. To reserve an audition spot contact: Martha Siegel, 718-965-3916, msiegel105@earthlink.net. You must audition to be in the show. Polished act not required for audition; we can help you polish it.

Singers and other musicians, poets, jugglers, stand-up comics, rappers, dancers, magicians, gymnasts, etc. (no lip-synching please).

Performance date is Saturday, March 10, 7:00 p.m., at the Old First Church.

jan 10
tue 7 pm

Safe Food Committee Film Night: Chow Down



One man's struggle to reverse his severe heart disease ... with diet. "It's very rare to get such insightful breakdowns of the human condition measured in a way that speaks across all backgrounds. There are no easy answers in changing diet, but there are solutions. *Chow Down* takes a realistic approach to the matter and should be required viewing for all adults in America."—Anderson Vision.

Visit www.plowtoplatefilms.com for more information. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

jan 20
fri 8 pm

Rob Garcia's 99% Band & Debbie Deane



Rob Garcia's 99% Band will perform new and old music of protest and inspiration, featuring world-class jazz musicians who are also Coop members. Drummer/composer Rob Garcia has collaborated with Joe Lovano, Dave Liebman, Wynton Marsalis, Joseph Jarman, Woody Allen and Diana Krall. *Perennial* (by Rob Garcia 4) was named in "The 10 Best Jazz Albums of 2009," by *The New York Observer*. "Remarkable drummer," said *The Village Voice*. Nir Felder, guitar; Barry Bryson, trumpet; Jenny Hill, tenor sax; Alexis Cuadrado and Jim Whitney, bass; Todd Isler, percussion; Rob Garcia, drums; plus many more. Native Brooklynite **Debbie Deane** will be performing her soulful songs with Jim Whitney on bass and John Mettam on drums. Debbie's latest CD, *Grove House*, a musical smorgasbord of jazz, folk and funk, was released on musician Ravi Coltrane's RKM label. Come out to hear some lush vocals and seductive hooks. "A languid, yet crisp and emotive delivery, and soul to burn..." said JazzReview.com.

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.



still to come

jan 21 Auditions for Our Coop Kids' Variety Show

jan 22 Integrative Bodywork

jan 28 Practicing Self Care

jan 29 Financial Planning

jan 31 PSFC JANUARY General Meeting

feb 2 Food Class

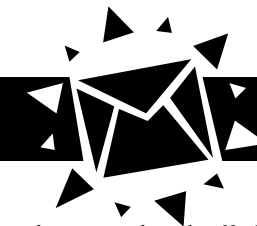
feb 3 Film Night

feb 7 Agenda Committee Meeting

feb 11 Valentine-Card Making

feb 14 Safe Food Committee Film Night

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



WHITHER THE GAZETTE: OUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS REFORM

DEAR MEMBERS:

The 9/8/2011 *Gazette* contained two anti-BDS letters by Jesse Rosenfeld, each approaching the 500-word limit. The 8/25/2011 issue had two by Constantine Kaniklidis together exceeding 500 words. The 11/3/2011 issue reprinted Irvin Shonfeld's "Don't Support the Referendum" from the 9/22/2011 issue. The editor's note preceding the letter explained that the original had "typographical errors."

But typos are common in publishing; why not print a correction—the usual practice. Curious—as it was one of the hot-button BDS letters—I checked the original.

There were three typos: Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit's first name was misspelled. And from this passage in the 9/22 original...

I again quote Jacobson, who so capably caricatured the Ashamed Jews in his novel *The Finkler Question*, "and I hope these Jews don't put a fatwa out on him because he created a caricature."

...the quotation-marks were removed, signifying that those words were the letter-writer's own, not the quoted author's—those came further on—and the word "fatwa" was italicized.

So why reprint the entire letter? And why *this* letter, with its questionable observance of the Fairness and Respect Policies about:

1) *factual assertions* (The letter accuses

"the boycott website"—unspecified—of "cries of execration" meaning presumably ethnic slurs, curses, or expressions of hate? Simply fact-checking pro-BDS websites, including one by Coop members: www.psfcbds.wordpress.com, would dispel that notion.)

2) *unwanted nicknames* (The "Ashamed Jews" of the quote clearly targets the Coop's pro-BDS Jews, who are accused of "Jew-hatred" for good measure. It is reminiscent of the "self-hating Jew" stereotype—a pseudo-psychological "diagnosis" hurled *en masse* at Jews criticizing Israeli government policies—a vulgar appeal to tribalism targeting apostasy, the supposed crime for which the Bible prescribes *stoning*.) And

3) *odious comparisons* (of those Jews to fatwa-decreeing clerics—was this quip supposed to be funny?)

Are the editors allowing these double-letters and reprinting because they agree with the anti-BDS position? Are they intimidated by the strident anti-BDS cohort, perhaps themselves fearing accusations of anti-Semitism?

I'm of course grasping at straws. But this I can say with certainty—our newsletter needs serious reform and rethinking—reform because the editors seem to observe or ignore their own guidelines arbitrarily—and rethinking because the *Gazette* staff have misconstrued their independence, jealously guarding against interference from management while interfering too readily with member expression. They can cut or reject

outright member contributions or committee reports they disapprove of, and while their guidelines state that all letters meeting *Gazette* criteria will be printed, they're allotted the fewest words and can be rejected (or given special treatment, as we see above) by editors broadly interpreting those criteria. The staff forgets that the *Gazette* is not their private property—it's a Coop committee—the staff's *workslot*.

Simply put, should the editors set the rules that control member submissions, or should that be determined by the General Meeting? I submit it should be the latter. The editors can indeed be the guardians of good writing, fairness and accuracy, but they should *not* be imposing their own agendas on member expression in the guise of that responsibility.

David Barouh

POPULAR SUPPORT FOR BDS MOVEMENT IN EUROPE

COOP MEMBERS:

In Europe, the BDS (Boycotts, Divestment, Sanctions) campaign and public pressure targets Israel's illegal settlements in the West Bank: the agricultural products produced in the settlements and exported by "companies" that bear responsibility for complicity with Israel's violations of international law.

What are Israel's violations of international law? After the 1967 war, Israel became the occupying power in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. International law (Geneva Convention) is clear about the obligations of an occupying power:

(1) It is illegal for an occupying power (Israel) to transfer its own population to live in the occupied territory (Palestine); (2) It is illegal for an occupying power (Israel) to use the resources of the occupied territory (Palestine) for its own benefit; (3) An occupying power (Israel) is responsible for the health, welfare and human rights of the occupied people (Palestinians).

In 2005, there was a Palestinian call for a global, non-violent BDS movement (Boycotts, Divestment, and Sanctions), to apply "pressure" on Israel until Israel's policies in the occupied Palestinian territories complied with international law.

The following are two of the many recent BDS campaigns in Europe:

Italy: two Italian supermarkets: Coop Italia and Nordiconad decided to boycott all Israeli agricultural products. The supermarkets were unable to differentiate whether products came from West Bank settlements or inside the Green Line (Israel).

In November 2011, Europeans held 60 'Boycott Israel' actions in 10 European countries. In a European Day of Action Against Israeli Agricultural Exporters under the banner

'Take Apartheid off the Menu.' Campaigners in Belgium, Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Norway and Sweden picketed supermarkets, calling on consumers to boycott products from Israeli "agricultural export companies" and on supermarkets to stop selling them. Many focused on Co-Operative supermarkets, which are traditionally thought to have higher ethical standards than other supermarkets. Since the 'agricultural export companies' mislead consumer about the origin of the produce they sell, campaigners are calling for a complete end to trade with these companies. In Belgium, campaigners held lobby actions at the offices of the Ministry of the Economy, to protest the sale in Belgian supermarkets of produce grown in Israel's illegal settlements in the West Bank.

Europe's popular support for BDS is part of the Palestinian led global movement for boycotts, divestment and sanctions against Israel until Israel complies with international law.

References: Haaretz, 5/23/2010; Electronicintifada.net

Mary Buchwald
Brooklyn For Peace

COMPROMISE ON BDS?

DEAR MEMBERS:

When Coop member Ruth Bolletino writes in the last issue of the *Gazette* that it's time for a compromise on the issue of the Coop's continuing to buy hummus from Israel, this should be treated as a serious proposal.

Ruth asks that we prepare a list of "every country that sanctions and violates the civil and human rights of any group," and work our way through it 10 countries at a time. That's one idea. Here's another one:

We indeed create a list of countries that violate human rights, but order it based on how much aid that country's military receives from the taxpayers here in the United States for the last 10 years. In that case, Israel and Egypt would rank #1 and #2.

Since 2001, Israel has received \$27 billion in overt U.S. aid (of which \$22 billion was direct military aid, exclusive of purchases), and Egypt has received \$17 billion in total U.S. aid (of which \$13 billion was for military purposes).

In fact, one-third of all U.S. foreign aid goes exclusively to those two countries. Anyone see a pattern there, especially for U.S. weapons manufacturers?

Other main recipients of U.S. taxpayer largesse (rounding out the top five) include Colombia, Jordan, and Pakistan, with several African countries suddenly receiving an upsurge in U.S. aid in the last few years, as the U.S. and China go head to head on that continent. I'm all for boycotting products from all of those countries.

Another way to conduct a boy-

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

You may submit on paper, typed or very legibly handwritten, or via email to GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop or on disk.

Anonymity

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

Fairness

In order to provide fair, comprehensive, factual coverage:

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

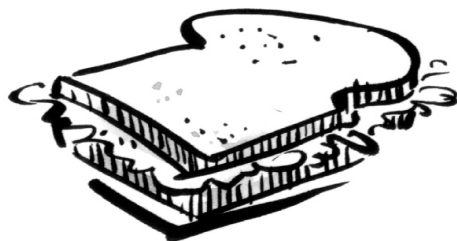
2. Nor will we publish accusations that are not specific or are not substantiated by factual assertions.

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

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

Respect

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



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

cott—and a step towards effectuating a serious compromise—would be for the Coop to refuse to sell goods not from Israel in general but only those that are manufactured or grown by Israeli settlers in the colonized territories. Surely Ruth and other Coop members would meet me halfway and support that idea, no?

One writer in the last *Gazette*, Marcy Tardio, wrote quite movingly about why she loves the Coop, and that we should not vote at all on volatile issues that people feel strongly about. However, the Coop DID vote on whether or not to sell meat (I was on the losing side of that vote, and still feel very bitter about it), or hummus (again!) from the company “Sonny & Joe’s”, which is in the midst of an organizing campaign by the Industrial Workers of the World (I support that boycott).

Since there are many sources of most products, for the Coop to purchase and sell a particular brand from a particular country means that other sources are excluded. Not voting, then, actually turns out to be a “vote” in favor of the practices of those companies or countries. There really is no avoiding these matters.

Same too, as far as I’m concerned, with products from Israel. But I’m willing to take a step towards compromising with those who disagree. By all means, let’s try to hammer out honest compromises. Let’s immediately ban all products made by Israeli settlers in the colonized territories. And all products made by corporations in Egypt too. Agreed?

Mitchel Cohen
Brooklyn Greens/Green Party

ELEMENTS OF APARTHEID UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

DEAR MEMBERS:

Two of these essential elements are:

(1) inherent racism, this as opposed to the essence of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as a clash of competitive nationalist aspirations for self-determination in the same land, and

(2) legally codified racial domination, as opposed to Israeli law explicitly mandating equality.

Note that the apartheid accusation is rooted in the 1975 “Zionism is Racism” resolution of the UN General Assembly, revoked in 1991 for moral repugnancy, and today seeks to transform a territorial and political dispute into a “racial” conflict via distortive analogy, lacking congruence with apartheid as defined by international law authorities (ICERD), or by ICSPCA, and others. Contrast with the Palestinian Authority’s announcement (2011) that any future Palestinian State will be judenrein (Jew-free) and prohibit Jewish citizenship and land ownership (PLO Ambassador Maen Areikat, UN Address), thus constituting religious and ethnic discrimina-

tion within an Islamic state.

Such a charge ascribes ethno-nationalist/racist acts and intent to a multiethnic, multiracial, and religiously plural nation (Arabs = ~20% of Israel’s population, and over a million Israelis not practicing Judaism), and one in which wholly absent are the other elements of apartheid under international law:

- (3) religious coercion,
- (4) racial segregation laws,
- (5) indoctrination of racial ideology.

(6) Suppression of free speech: even BDS’s Omar Bhargouti writes freely within the putative “apartheid” state.

(7) Media censorship: Al-Quds, the Palestine Report, and Jerusalem Times are Palestinian newspapers, publishing freely in Israel.

(8) Political party bans: Hadash, Ra’am Ta’al, and Balad are Palestinian parties represented in the Knesset.

(9) Discriminatory land access: the apartheid charge repeats the slander that the Israeli government reserves 93% of the land for Jews. In fact: all such land is not sold to Jews either, but rather is leased out by the Israeli Lands Authority (ILA) and equally available to all citizens of Israel, roughly half of the Israeli land farmed by Arabs leased from the ILA (“Legal Status of the Arabs in Israel”, International Journal of Middle East Studies, and “Can Arabs Buy Land in Israel?”, Middle East Quarterly).

(10) Bar against political participation: Arab citizens vote and serve in all strata of government (Raleb Majadele, a Muslim minister, is one of 14 Arabs currently serving, with 49 past serving Arab Knesset members), serving on and bringing frequently successful suits before the Supreme Court (Arab Salim Joubran is permanent Justice on the Supreme Court).

And although not an essential element, absent is the customary element of a bar from military participation: contrary to the oft-repeated myth that Palestinians are barred from serving in the national service or military (both are open to all Israeli citizens, but non-compulsory for Palestinians, who however may serve freely), approximately 3,000 Palestinians currently serve in the Israeli military (Palestinian scholar Rhoda Ann Kanaaneh (2009)).

Thus, an objective assessment of the apartheid accusation on the elements under international law demonstrates judicial inapplicability to Israel. Israel may be arguably accused of many things. Apartheid state is not one of them.

Constantine Kaniklidis

LET’S VOTE ON BDS

TO THE GAZETTE,

I want to address this letter to all the Coop members who have been arguing against having a referendum on the boycott of Israeli-made products. This has nothing to do with the

underlying issue; I am insulted and disgusted by the disrespect of our membership implied by opposing our being allowed to vote. The broad membership of the Coop deserves to make this decision!

I can’t quite fathom the anti-BDSers’ continued efforts to not allow a referendum to happen. It is this refusal, and not any difference in opinion, that is splitting the Coop. As a long-term member, I can assure you that we have survived many disagreements, and that once a vote has been held, very few people on whichever side loses will leave in dismay.

Let the vote happen! Allow a reasonable time for (more) arguments pro and con (but not pro or con having the referendum!), and establish reasonable ground rules for the vote—say, requiring a 50% participation rate and a 2/3 (of those voting) approval to establish a boycott.

Enough debate about process. Let the campaigns begin.

Brent Kramer

WHAT KIND OF COOP DO WE WANT TO BE?

DEAR COOP MEMBERS,

What kind of Coop do we want to be? Do we want to be a place where people of all different perspectives and outlooks can come together and find common ground in their interest in healthy fresh food and their willingness to be part our collective enterprise? Are we to be a community where we can assume that each person who joins it will act for the good of the community as a whole and will not inflict damage on that community and pain on its members, even for a cause she believes in strongly? Or are we to be a place where anyone can promote any political agenda, and exploit the good name of our Coop?

The members promoting a referendum on joining the BDS movement claim “avoiding discussion on an important issue does not build unity—it builds anxiety and mistrust.” So they have imposed a discussion of the Middle East conflict upon us. They want the Coop to be “welcoming to everyone who would express themselves on this issue.”

But the discussion they offer is not an honest one. This group conducted a program in the Coop on Dec 4. It was attended by about 20 people in addition to the organizers and presenters. I do not doubt the presenters sincerely believe themselves to be advocates of peace. Yet, they appeared singularly unknowledgeable regarding certain facts, and in some case transmitted information that was outright wrong. Not everything expressed at this program was consistent with the true pursuit of peace.

What kind of peace activist wears a T-shirt with the emblem of the terror-

ist organization responsible for the 1974 murders of 17 Puerto Ricans, 1 Canadian and 9 Israelis at Lod airport? What kind of peace activist suggests that suicide bombings directed against civilians is justified? What kind of peace activist stays silent when someone says that, and will not unequivocally say “murder of civilians is wrong in all cases”? Is this the “expressions on this issue” we want to welcome at the Coop? Or does it “build anxiety and mistrust”?

Please join me and more than 200 others in telling these “peace activists” to drop their BDS campaign at the Coop. The Coop doesn’t want or need this discussion. Send an email to morehummus@gmail.com or read my blog stopbdsparkslope.blogspot.com.

Barbara Mazor

SUSTAINABILITY OR POLITICS?

DEAR MEMBERS:

The parochial push of the BDS people is about as helpful to the maintenance of the Coop as a vote to reaffirm apple pie as American. Rather than strum that tune once again, I propose that the Coop join with other like organizations and work toward preserving the sustainability of local farming. Why?

This past summer farms in upstate New York and in New Jersey experienced environmental stress that reduced the availability of certain crops. The leading edge of global climate change is up upon us and unless we can put into place the best measures to reduce that impact, every member of the PSFC will feel the economic effect.

Water conservation and drainage, less use of fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide, legislation to support sustainable farming practices is not just some slogan, it will be the key to a continued relatively secure food supply. If the Coop wishes to send a voice on any issue, let it first be a call to arms in a world where we face severe environmental challenges.

To spend \$10,000 dollars on a referendum to support or decline BDS will do nothing to fundamentally back the prime purpose of the Coop. I propose the formation of an Inter Coop Sustainability Committee whose purpose will be to gather the best information and work with other food coops to propose the strong legislation to meet the coming climate change in support of sensible agriculture.

This is something that will benefit all of us, not set one part of the Coop against the other. It is also necessary. With a strong voice for positive change, the Coop can contribute to making a better world not as pie in the sky, but as part of the solution to a threatened food supply.

Rodger Parsons

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

WALKERS ARE A WASTE

DEAR MEMBERS:

A member has asked me why I am opposed to shortening the workslots because we now have so many members. My answer is not that it would be difficult to do (the Management can move mountains when it wants!) but that the vast increase in member labor has been hidden by an equally vast increase in workslots. And even so Management claims there are not enough members to fill the available slots!

Most noticeably we have the Walkers, about five on each shift, which comes out to 700 workslots, 4.38% of the total. Two Upstairs Entrance workers, one Line Manager, two? Packing Helpers. Much as the Walkers are fun, it is not the responsibility of the Co-Op to reduce parking on the street, and certainly not at such a huge cost. We don't have to have SO MANY walkers.

And what about *returning some of our investment*—Isn't this part of the Cooperative Principles that our management never mentions?

We can buy more (get bigger shopping carts). We are NOT a "food store," we are what the membership wants us to be—and when have we been asked? Because one of the biggest putrescences of our non-government is that there are no standards as to when we must be asked (I would suggest changes involving more than 150 workslots. Adding one workslot per shift = 140 workslots. And asking by referendum, not the exclusive little cabal we call the General Meeting).

I support the Co-Op being more political. Do you support stopping the boycott against Israel? Preventing a referendum? Or coercing the proposers to withdraw their motion?

Walkers are extremely wasteful of member labor!

When was the Boycott issue brought up? I looked through all the agendas and only found a discussion item submitted in October! Now I'm looking at the August 11 *Gazette* which says a discussion item was brought by William Mazza and Carol Wald of PSFCMIBDS. Reporter Ed

Levy used the expression "hotly debated," but there were no other signs of heat. General Coordinators Joe Holtz (who makes 10 percent extra) and Jess Robinson preferred a vote by the GM to a referendum because the GM would have more "diversity of opinion" or would be better educated on the issue than the general membership. Huh??? Liz Roberts balanced the scales by saying the meeting would be "packed," and "would invite the rule of the mob." "Some of the nonsense that comes out of the mouths of our general coordinators is beyond belief!

In any case, not to worry—The next proposal, No. 540 according to my Agenda Committee sheet dated 11/1/11, is also a discussion item, and is 14th among 18 pending items. At 3 items per month plus mandated items, this should take at least 8 months, and another 8 for the proposal itself. Enough time, one would think, for the Israelistas to cool down, but don't bet on it!

Finally, a Referendum or GM vote is not the *only* way. Even if the proposal is voted down, we have a right to a *Petition*!

In solidarity, I remain—

albert

718-768-9079

hobces@yahoo.com

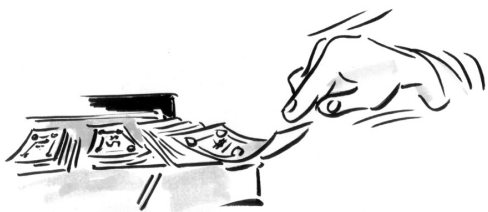
GREEN CHRISTMAS

*I'm dreaming of a green Christmas
Just like the ones we need today
Where the solar panels
Replace the flannels
That once waved on roofs each way.*

*I'm dreaming of a green Christmas
With every plastic bag I've seen
Superseded wholly
By paper slowly
To make packages all green.*

*I'm dreaming of a green Christmas
With all-electric cars so clean.
May your veggie garden bear cuisine
That will match your life in being green.*

Leon Freilich

THANK YOU
COOP MEMBERS!

**Coop members donated \$2155.11
to help the CHIPS soup kitchen
rebuild from fire damage sustained
in September. Your generosity made
it possible for CHIPS to reopen by
Thanksgiving and serve hot meals to
our neighbors in need.**

The Diversity and Equality
Committee Seeks New MembersAre 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.



RETURN POLICY

**park slope
FOOD COOP**

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

REQUIRED FOR ANY RETURN

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

CAN I EXCHANGE MY ITEM?

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

CAN I RETURN MY ITEM?

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

**NEVER
RETURNABLE**

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

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

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

RETURNABLE

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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Plastics and Estrogenic Activity

By Sensho Wagg

In September, a description of a study on the estrogenic activity of chemicals released from plastics was posted on the Park Slope Food Coop's Environmental Committee blog, Ecokvetch, which you may reach on the home page of Park Slope Food Coop's website by clicking on Environmental Committee Blog or www.ecokvetch.blogspot.com. It's under the heading Plastics. It offers the whole study to read or download.

The photo with the blog post was of a baby enjoying milk from a plastic bottle. After reading the study I see this photo in a different light. To understand read on.

If we choose to continue to use plastics for food storage, purchasing food, take-out meals, home storage, etc., let's face some facts.

The study states that molecules from plastic, and additives used to make plastic, leach into food at an accelerated rate when the plastic is exposed to common stresses

like the UV radiation from sunlight, microwave radiation, and boiling or dishwashing. This leaching even happens in the BPA-free plastics. Ouch. And we thought it was safe to go into BPA-free water. But please read on.

Also, plastic products that are used with food are often made of undisclosed combinations of compounds and resins. One single part of a multipart product like a baby bottle may contain 5-30 chemicals. So the baby bottle in the photo, with all of its parts, may contain, plus or minus, upwards of 100 different chemicals. And almost all of these chemicals can leach into food from the product when it's stressed.

I'm not a scientist, but the shocking truth is documented in detail in this study: in vitro and in vivo studies are showing that there is actual estrogenic activity (EA) from the leaching of these chemicals into food.

Estrogenic activity is one of the things that has been

shown to be increasing the incidence of early secondary sexual characteristics in children (significantly lowering the age of the onset of menstrual periods among other things). EA makes cellular, molecular, systemic changes, which the study says can make actual changes in cells, organs and behaviors of cells and organs.

Epidemiological studies, these experts say, strongly suggest that chemicals producing EA changes are measurable in certain populations. This is the reason the researchers performed this exhaustive study. It seems that EA changes can be serious and are on the rise.

The study sampled more than 500 commercially available plastic products and found that most of them, even the BPA-free ones, released detectable levels of EA when under the common stressors I mention.

However—and this is the good news—the study identified all manner of additives

used in plastics manufacture, including antioxidants, clarifiers, colorants, inks, etc. which do not have detectable EA in any stage of the manufacturing process. They can be used to make flexible non-transparent or LDPE (#4) plastic items that are EA-free even after exposure to the stressors! And when the manufacture is performed carefully, not only is the product safe in this way, but it can have all of the properties of regular intended use at “minimal additional cost.”

The study also concluded that many scientists believe it isn't appropriate public health practice to ignore these findings. And these scientists say that the long-term effects, from this generation to future generations, are not understood. This is underscored, it said, by the fact that it has been shown that products which do not create these undesirable effects can be made at similar cost.

Can we influence plastic manufacturers to change

their formulas? Maybe not today. But that's worth thinking about.

What we CAN do is give some thought to stopping use of plastics—at least with our food.

After reading and digesting this study, I was amazed at how little nod I have been giving to how much plastic, in how many forms, I/we use as a matter of course. Think about it and you may have the same “Aha” I did. It blew me away.

And the bigger question is how do we know what amount we, our children and our children as yet unborn are exposed to, which can change our bodies in ways that have never been considered and aren't even understood?

RIGHT NOW we can choose to use glass, metal, wood, paper and fabrics instead of plastics for food. In fact, the PSFC is looking at eliminating offering new plastic bags in the store. ■

Please see “How to Shop without a Plastic Bag” at www.ecokvetch.blogspot.com.

WORDSPROUTS REPORT

Memoirists Minkowitz and Slichter

By Paola Corso

Ben Yagoda, author of *Memoir: A History*, says outstanding memoirists show readers that they have thought long and hard about themselves and their experiences. Their work is what he calls “well considered.” Coop authors Jacob Slichter and Donna Minkowitz proved just that as they read in October to launch a new season of Wordsprouts, the Park Slope Food Coop's Reading Series. This report, the second of two parts, closes with Slichter's memoir.

Slichter read from *So You Wanna Be a Rock & Roll Star*, recalling his days as the drummer for the band Semisonic. *Kirkus Review* called the book “a wry and sharply realized account” of one rock group's rise and fall. The following excerpt—with its spot-on details and ever-so-frank self-reflection—is a backstage pass to the music scene:

So You Wanna Be a Rock & Roll Star excerpt:

Until touring with Dan and John, I had spent little time in rock clubs. These dark caverns of stale beer and cigarette smoke were now home to my afternoon routine of loading equipment from the van to the stage and setting up my drums. The club staff and house techs, covered in gothic tattoos and 666 shirts, blasted frighteningly

aggressive rock over the house sound system while I assembled my kit, insecurity furrowing in my brow. Dan and John were familiar faces to the club employees. For now I was known as “new guy,” a moniker given to me by Conrad Sverkersen, the legendary stage manager at First Avenue.

The settings I found myself in gave little comfort to my strained nerves. The typical dressing room was a corner of the cracked concrete floor of the club's basement, where a ripped-up couch with at least one broken leg sat surrounded by empty beer kegs and crumbling plaster walls covered with scatological poetry and Magic Marker penis art. At the Hurricane, I hung my bags from the pipes to keep the roaches out. John cautioned me that this very practice had ruptured a ceiling pipe at the Seventh Street Entry, covering the musicians with shit and piss. The house managers told stories, like one about the singer of some band who “shoved one of the microphones up his butt last week.” And which mike was that? I was embarrassed by my sensitivity to the crudeness of it all. I felt like one of the children in the singing Family von Trapp. At 32, I imagined I was the oldest tenderfoot in the history of rock-and-roll.

Jacob said he didn't write his memoir for himself or for the band but for people who want to be in a band. In

doing so, he pokes fun at himself as he reflects back on his stardom. I asked him a few follow-up questions:

Corso: Tell us about your writing process. Were you always so open about your vulnerabilities and exposing them with self-deprecating humor or did this come in later drafts?

Slichter: After I sold the book (on the basis of a book proposal), I sat down to write and realized I had a problem. The proposal had hyped my success, but in fact, I wasn't a rock star, as the title suggested. My band had a couple of hit songs, but no one knew who I was. Then it occurred to me that the disconnect between the rock-star dream and my reality made for an interesting story. Whereas most rock memoirs are written by famous rockers who recount their lives of rock-star excess, mine was a sort of anti-rock-star story focused on other things: stage fright; the strange business of record deals, payola, and MTV; and the ways in which the insanity of the music business becomes your own as you fight your way through the star-making machinery. For instance, our hit record, which sold over a million copies, was deemed a disappointment by the record company, and I actually found myself swayed by that thinking. These were the sorts of things I was able to let myself document once I let go of pretending I was a rock star. So by owning up to all of

that, writing the book helped me process the whole experience I was describing for the readers.

Corso: Did using wit in the book help release some tension you may not have been able to outwardly express on stage or with the band?

Slichter: Yes. I always take the stage with the intent of conquering the audience, but that kind of bravado is actually attended by all kinds of insecurity. Describing that insecurity, along with my daydreams of ever-elusive star status, not only made it a funnier book, but a truer one.

Corso: How would you compare drumming with writing?

Slichter: When you switch from one creative realm to another (drumming to writing, for instance) you realize how universal certain principles are. ‘Prune away the extraneous stuff and trust that something simple can be powerful.’ ‘Don't try to drum/write as the drummer/ writer you wish you were but aren't. Just be yourself.’

Corso: One last question. Has being a drummer helped with your Coop work shifts, say around closing time?

Slichter: I'm sorry to report that drumming has not helped me become a better bagger of raisins and sliced mangos. ■

Coops authors who'd like to participate in a Wordsprouts event for a work shift credit should contact co-curator P.J. Corso at paola_corso@hotmail.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

BED & BREAKFAST

THE HOUSE ON 3rd ST. B&B - serving Park Slope for over 20 yrs. Lovely parlor floor thru apt. sleeps 4-5 in comfort & privacy, queen bed, bath, double living room, flatscreen, kitchenette, deck overlooking yard. Visit our web site at houseon3st.com or on FB, a link is on the site. Call Jane at 718-788-7171. Let us host you!

TOFU'S RETREAT-Holistic B&B in the Berkshires. Set on 5 acres with mountain & pasture views. Guests have their own floor w/private bath, lvg room. Organic breakfasts included. Chemical-free in-ground pool in summer. 2 nite wknd min stay. Includes choice of 2 massages or consult w/naturopath. Call for info 917-648-1600.

MERCHANDISE

SET OF CHINA — Royal Holland, white with 8 thin blue stripes at the edge of each piece — 40 piece set — dinner plates, soup, salad, cups and saucers. Perfect condition, no chips or discolorations. Used only a few times. \$75 or best offer. Call: 718-965-2184.

PETS

PET NANNY. Retired social worker, 35yrs. exp. with all breeds, esp. rescues and traumatized dogs. One dog at a time gets the run of my lrg. apt. Your dog will rarely be alone. Arrange a meet & greet. Unbeatable loving care at unbeatable low rates! Call Jane at 347-860-2142 or email petnanny01@yahoo.com.

SERVICES

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.



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

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

ARE YOU LOOKING for a dependable, reliable and trustworthy housekeeper? Call Vivian at 347-295-1684.

EXPERT Editing & Coaching: Help preparing and polishing your most important communication tools: resumes, cover letters, speeches, articles, presentations. Carol Becker 718-853-0750.

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.

OVERCOME OBSTACLES AND REACH YOUR POTENTIAL. Thoughtful, caring therapist, 18 years experience with adults and children. Talk therapy, play therapy, eclectic approach. Park Slope office near Coop. Geri Ness 718-789-6739.

HOLISTIC PHYSICIAN using bio-identical hormones, diet and nutritional supplements to treat a wide variety of ailments including allergies, digestive disorders, inflammatory conditions, osteoporosis and thyroid disease. Over 20 years experience. Insurance reimbursable, Medicare accepted. Please call Marjorie Ordene, MD 718-258-7882.



Puzzle Answers

inure + J = injure
car + Z = czar
boy + X = boxy
paper + U = pauper
waken + E = weaken
delete + P = deplete
meal + D = medal
tickle + R = trickle
seen + V = seven
write + H = writhe
carton + O = cartoon
tinge + W = twinge
lit + F = lift
sin + K = skin
pure + G = purge
desert + S = dessert
habitat + N = habitant
radial + C = radical
punch + A = paunch
root + B = robot
neural + T = neutral
canon + Y = canyon
plant + I = pliant
earthen + M = earthmen
peasant + L = pleasant

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.



PERFORMANCE FOR ALL AGES

Magic • Juggling • Mime • Clowning Balloon Sculpting • Unicycling
MC Stage Shows • Private Parties • Fairs

ROBERT STRAUS

7 1 8 - 6 2 2 - 0 3 7 7 • 2 1 2 - 7 2 2 - 3 3 9 0

Open House for Camp Kinderland

"Summer Camp with a Conscience"

Current parents invite you to an Open House
in Park Slope — Sunday, January 8th.

Meet families and staff - bring the kids.

3, 4, 7 week sessions for kids 8-16

2 weeks for younger first time campers.

Private lake, all camp activities, loving community,
friendship, justice and peace. For info & to rsvp
kinderland@aol.com — www.campkinderland.org

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.

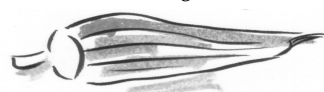
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

An asterisk (*) denotes a Coop member.

SAT, DEC 17

Holiday Craft Fair: Step Into Your Local Economy Fabulous handmade items that will make unique gifts for your friends and family at our craft market. Lunch and baked goods will be available for purchase. 10am-4pm at Brooklyn Ethical, 53 PPW @ 2nd St. www.BSEC.org.



SUN, DEC 18

Free Concert at Brooklyn Public Library. Location: Central Library in the Stevan Dweck center. Time 4 pm. Free admission. Adela Peña and Harumi Rhodes, violins, Ah Ling Neu, viola, Roberta Cooper, violoncello, Peter Weitzner, double bass.

TUE, DEC 20

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 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. Brooklyn Women' Chorus.

THU, DEC 22

SETTING THE TABLE: A cooking class for new and expectant parents. Learn how to prepare simple and delicious healthy meals

for your growing family, and discuss how you can find meaning creating a Jewish atmosphere around your family table. Time 6:30-9:30pm <http://www.hazon.org/programs/setting-the-table>.

WED, JAN 4

FOLK OPEN SING: Come sing with us the first Wednesday of every month. Bring voice, instruments, friends. Children welcome. Cohosted by the Folk Society of NY, the Ethical Culture Society & the Good Coffeehouse. At the Ethical Culture Society, 53 Prospect Park West. 7:30-10:00 p.m. Info: 718-636-6341.

