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1973



# LINEWAITERS'

## GAZETTE



Volume GG, Number 6

March 22, 2012

OPEN LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS:

## COOP Subject to Severe Sanctions From Fire Department Headquarters

Delaying firefighters threatens lives. Food Coop members are creating a life-threatening situation on Union Street. A representative from the Fire Department headquarters recently met with me. He warned us in the strongest terms that they have zero tolerance for double-parking on Union Street and for blocking the fire station driveway. Our activities have caused delayed responses to fires. In addition, when a car is parked or is standing in the loading zone without actually loading it tempts others who cannot pull to the curb to double-park. So waiting by the curb without being engaged actively in loading is therefore also a hazard. It is also illegal. Tickets will be issued and the Coop will be subject to sanctions if we do not remedy these situations.

Union Street is two-way, and every double-parked car could potentially delay a fire truck responding to an emergency. If a vehicle is parked in our driveway, it forces delivery trucks and anyone quickly picking up groceries to double-park. We are requesting all members to follow these guidelines:

- Please use the yellow-vested "Walkers" to help you bring your groceries to your car—don't bring your car to the Coop. If there are no walkers, please take your groceries to your car.
- Consider using public transportation or a bicycle. The Walkers will accompany you to the subway or bus stop and return the grocery cart.
- Do not bring your car to the front of the Coop, especially during delivery hours that extend from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Never park in front of the Coop, even with someone sitting in the car. Currently this is a common practice, as inconsiderate and life threatening as it is.
- Do not call a car service until you are waiting out in front of the Coop.
- Do not allow your car service car to block the firehouse driveway. Find a different place to load even if it is further away.
- Do not park in the Fire Department reserved spaces across the street or just past the firehouse. If firefighters are delayed in arriving on the job it could jeopardize someone's life if a fire happens at that time.
- Do not double-park anywhere else on the block.
- Please always consider how your behavior may delay the Fire Department from responding to an emergency.

Thank you for your cooperation,  
*Joe Holtz, General Manager*

## Anatomy of Direct Democracy: February 2012 General Meeting

By Allison Pennell

After covering this month's GM, I'm beginning to get what Jonathan Lethem meant when he said that Brooklyn is cancerous with novelists. That goes for journalists too. Because, I tell you, never has an uneventful monthly Coop meeting been so widely and hilariously reported as the February General Meeting.

And this wasn't even the big meeting about the referendum to vote on whether to vote on voting to ban Israeli-made SodaStreams and

paprika from the Park Slope Food Coop. Sadly, that's next month. I had gotten the assignment fantasizing that I would arrive to find a giant vat of hummus in the middle of the Beth Elohim ballroom and there would be live wrestling and color commentary by Ann Herpel and Imani O'ryn, the GM Chairwoman.

In fact, the 300 or so members who showed up were told the March 27 General Meeting will be held at Brooklyn Tech's auditorium, which is somewhere between

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### Next General Meeting on March 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, March 27, at 7:00 p.m. at a different location, for this meeting only: **Brooklyn Technical High School, 29 Fort Greene Place. Use main entrance on corner of South Elliot and DeKalb Ave.**

The agenda is in this *Gazette*, on the Coop website at [www.foodcoop.com](http://www.foodcoop.com), 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.

Check-in for this meeting will begin at 6:15 p.m. Members will not be allowed in prior to 6:15 p.m. You must be a Food Coop member to attend the General Meeting and must bring a photo I.D. card to be admitted. There is no re-entry. Once you check-in, if you leave the building, you will not be allowed to re-enter. Snacks and beverages will not be provided by the Coop. Please plan accordingly if you need food or drink. We request that you keep eating to a minimum. Time for agenda item in parentheses is a suggestion. The Chair has the discretion to change the time allotted. This meeting must end by 10:15 p.m. More information on this item may be available at the entrance table at the meeting.

## Coop Event Highlights

- Fri, Sat** • **Blood Drive**  
**Mar 30-31** 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Apr 1, 2, 3,** • **Training Sessions for 2012**  
**5, 17, 21, 22** **Brooklyn Food Conference** – various times
- Thu, Apr 5** • **Food Class:**  
**Food for BrainPOWER** 7:30 p.m.
- Tue, Apr 10** • **Safe Food Committee Film Night:**  
**Farmageddon** 7:00 p.m.

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

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# Flower Power

By Nicole Feliciano

Floral artistry is alive and well in Brooklyn. And one of the most promising talents can be found wrapping cheese on her regular Coop shift. A Coop member since 2008, Emily Thompson has quite an impressive portfolio of clients—including Michelle Obama, but more on that later—and she's done it all while maintaining a delightfully non-promotional attitude and with a nod to conservancy.

The down-to-earth Vermonter was raised to embrace rough and tumble beauty. After some schooling on the East Coast, she headed to California to study

sculpture, earning her MFA in Los Angeles. After graduation, she moved back east to New York City and eventually found her way to Brooklyn. After a brief period assisting other sculptors in NYC, Emily launched her floral business in 2006. Though she changed the medium she worked in, there is still a strong sculptural element to all her work.

"I focus on the textures of the materials as opposed to color," says Emily. When she's talking flowers she tends to talk in sculptural terms, "I like the character of each material to come forth in what I do," say Emily. Today you can find her creations featured in national media and in some very fancy



Floral artist Emily Thompson.

PHOTOS BY KEVIN RYAN

settings. It appears her embrace of form has captured the attention of tastemakers.

In 2009 she opened her storefront in Vinegar Hill, Brooklyn. A visit to Emily's studio and shop is illuminating. One quickly gets a sense of her whimsical style. The studio is filled with antique vases, tangles of branches, vintage paper and more. In fact, what stands out are the relatively few flowers in the shop. For the most part, the workspace is filled with natural finds—berries, branches and wood. While it may appear that Emily's work is the result of long, ponderous walks in the country, in fact most of her materials are sourced from the Flower District.

Emily has built strong relationships with particular vendors in the flower business. "I spend a lot of money to make it look like these pieces came out of the woods," says Emily.

For example, Emily uses quite a bit of driftwood in her work. It would be impossible for the in-demand designer to stroll the Long Island beaches for the just-right pieces; her time is better spent in the studio reimagining these found objects as part of a larger design.

On a typical day, Emily will either head out herself or send an assistant to comb the market for finds. Then the greenery, branches and flowers are lugged back to Brooklyn for processing. Each week is different depending on the projects she's landed.

Seasonality is a consistent theme in her work. Right now you'll find early berries woven into her flowers as she attempts to "express the season." While she is focused on details, Emily is also ambitious. Rather than limit herself to tabletop arrangements, she has the vision and talent to take on large-scale

interior projects.

Her largest project to date was the White House holiday décor. The big job came her way at the end of the summer of 2011. While knee-deep in another massive project, Emily got an email from Laura Dowling, the White House florist. Dowling is a new fixture at the White House and has a reputation for shaking things up. The installation is an annual holiday tradition and Dowling tapped Emily to bring in fresh ideas to the landmark. Upon completion of her Labor Day project, Emily returned the email and found out more about the scope and scale of the project. During the discussions with Dowling, Emily was told to "Go to the limit and we'll scale it back if need be."

In November of 2011, Emily drove down to Washington, DC, for a week-long marathon setup. As the designer tells it, her mission was to "bring the outdoors inside." For Emily, that meant not simply relying on 16' fir trees. She and her team of florists put together an inspired series of rooms for Michelle Obama using a series of unusual garlands and foliage to turn the East Room into a lush holiday space. Tapping into her Vermont roots, Emily enlisted her father to dig up massive stones and rocks to be a part of the décor. The artist embed-

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Emily's arrangements express the seasons.

## Menstrual Products Trigger Concerns About Chemicals, Composition and Use

By Hayley Gorenberg

Fatal cases of tampon-related toxic shock syndrome (TSS) decades ago brought the qualities, composition and use of tampons into headlines worldwide. Since then, allegations of contaminated materials and overall questions about the composition of absorbent menstrual products have surfaced periodically, demanding the attention of the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and occasionally triggering questions from Coop consumers, which led to this article.

### Dioxin and Asbestos Concerns

Specific concerns often include whether cotton or rayon used to produce tampons and menstrual pads expose users to the chemical dioxin. Dioxin is a byproduct of the chlorine bleaching process, used in the manufacture of wood pulp products, including, historically, menstrual products like pads and many types of tampons. Dioxin collects in the fatty tissues of animals, and research indicates it can

disrupt hormones in the body and may be linked to certain cancers.

The Food and Drug Administration regulates the safety and effectiveness of medical devices, including tampons. The agency has posted a fact sheet confronting allegations about tampons spreading over the Internet. The FDA took on concerns about "contamination" by asbestos and dioxin and the alleged link between rayon fibers and Toxic Shock Syndrome, concluding in online materials updated in 2009, "The available scientific evidence does not support these rumors."

The FDA responded to "allegations that some tampons contain toxic amounts of the chemical dioxin." It acknowledged dioxin in tampons "at or below the detectable limit," and concluded, "[n]o risk to health would be expected from these trace amounts."

The FDA pointed to newer bleaching methods for the wood pulp used in producing rayon for tampons, and asserted that "[r]ayon raw material

used in U.S. tampons is now produced using elemental chlorine-free or totally chlorine-free bleaching processes," stating "[s]ome elemental chlorine-free bleaching processes can theoretically generate dioxins at extremely low levels, and dioxins are occasionally detected in trace amounts. In practice, however, this method is considered to be dioxin free."

The FDA remarked that the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) worked with wood pulp producers to use dioxin-free processes that would reduce dioxin pollution in the environment, which may infiltrate raw materials used to produce tampons through existing contamination in the air, water and ground—reintroducing dioxin.

Allegations circulating online concerning asbestos charged that American tampon producers added asbestos to tampons to increase menstrual bleeding and sell more of their products. The FDA assured the public it had no evidence of asbestos in tampons or of increased menstrual bleed-

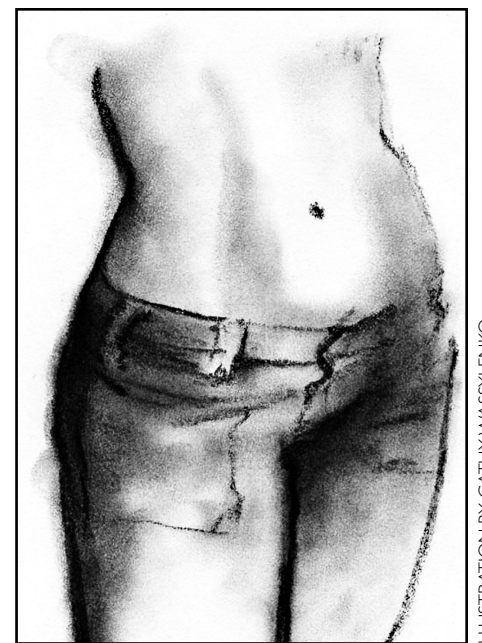


ILLUSTRATION BY CATHY WASSYLENKO

ing triggered by their use. The FDA said, "Before any tampon is marketed in the U.S., FDA reviews its design and materials. Asbestos is not an ingredient in any U.S. brand of tampon, nor is it associated with the fibers used in making tampons. Moreover, tampon manufacturing sites are subject to inspection by FDA to assure that good manufacturing practices are being followed. Therefore, these inspections would likely identify any procedures

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## Feb 2012 GM

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the Vatican and Grand Central in terms of size and grandeur. It better be nice; the Food Coop is shelling out \$4,000 for the privilege.

Members were imprompted coming and going by activists bearing literature. As bored Reuters writer and Food Coop member Chadwick Matlin pointed out early in his 50 live tweets, "The room is tense with passive aggression. Israeli food referendum dominates. Free Oreos given out, but not free hummus." His next tweet noted the first mention of fascist food. The fascist food guy was followed to the microphone by Yaakov Stern of the boxes squad who pledged that he'll go along with the ban of Israeli products if and when the Coop will consider banning all American products.

A vote was cast to officially

bership at 16,200. Plus, we were given a chart titled "Food Moved Since Incorporation" and as of the end of 2011, over its 39 year history, the PSFC has sold over \$410 million dollars worth of goods ranging from organic kale to kombucha. Wow.

And, lest I forget, Allen Zimmerman is ill but getting better. Get well soon, Allen! Janet Schumacher, an effervescent lover of Sri Lankan birds and coconuts, filled in with an update on foods. Clementines from Morocco are in, seeds have arrived, and peanut butter prices are high.

The environmental committee then pulled out the PowerPoint to present their recommendation that the Food Coop vote to eliminate plastic roll bag distribution on the shopping floor. Turns out we use almost 400 plastic bags an hour at the Food Coop and spend \$22,000 annually on providing them to the membership. The

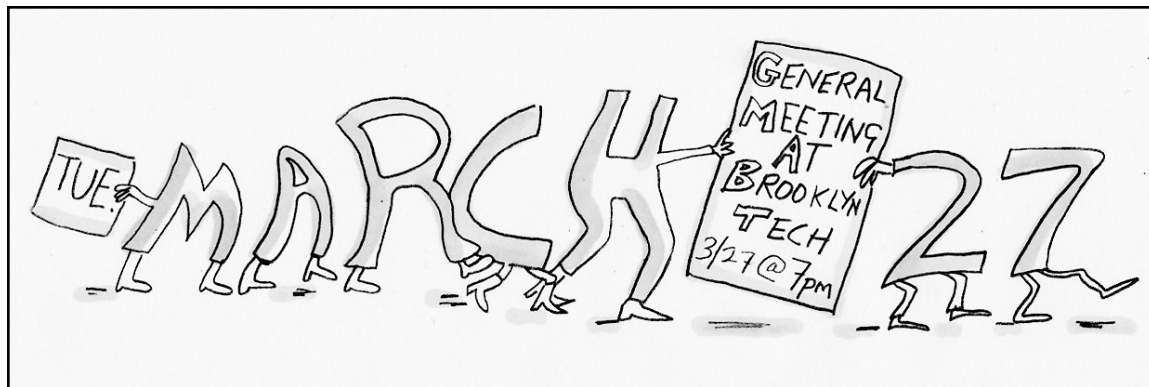


ILLUSTRATION BY ROD MORRISON

spend seven cents more for two pounds of produce and 35 cents more for a pound of coffee. From there he pointed out that landfills are good because they sequester carbons and don't contribute to global warming. And finally, he moved on to the rampant bag cloth bag theft that will ensue and to the hidden costs of cleaning checkout counters from all that wet, messy unbagged produce.

Daniela was next, proposing a bag share program with a bin at the front of the store to recycle and reuse bags, either muslin or plastic. Audrey said she hadn't used a plastic produce bag in 37 years of membership. Kevin asked if we could move incrementally to corn-based bags before eliminating plastic bag rolls. Janine, lately of France, pointed out that biodegradable bags won't work; you may not make it through checkout before they fall apart. Presentations included visual aids showing that processed bread bags are perfectly sized for celery and resealable tortilla bags are great too.

Eric pointed out that, like helmet and seatbelt laws, Coop members need to be forced to give up the temptation of plastic roll bags. Michael asked if instead of getting rid of them, members get charged 25 cents per bag. Steven also brought his bag of plastic bags to illustrate how easy it is to plop them in the bottom of carrier bags. Janet called on the Food Coop to create a new work slot of demonstrating how to live without plastic roll bags, starring Janine. It went on. And on. Finally, Mike Eakin took the mic to point out that 161 awesome and recyclable plastic roll bags cost each member \$1.43 per year.

I'm pretty sure it was at this point in the meeting that members were starting to lie down on the Beth Elohim ballroom floor and contemplate whether or not such ugly wallpaper is actually legal in NYC.

Moving on, GCs Joe Holtz

and Tricia Leith presented the second discussion agenda item of the night: banning the use of personal shopping carts on the shopping floor to try and cut down on theft. They estimate that \$250,000 of goods are stolen from the Food Coop each year. That's \$700 a day. Apparently, previous anti-theft campaigns included a lifeguard chair on the checkout floor to look down on would-be larcenists. But it went unoccupied 85% of the time because nobody wanted to sit there. Then, the Coop instituted a rule that you had to show your empty bags to your checkout workers but that led to cries of racial profiling. There was one other one but I can't remember. It was good, though. In a bad way.

Who knew that banning personal shopping carts could be such a hot button issue? Jewel from Manhattan can't live without her shopping cart. Otherwise, she won't know how much food to get. Alex went back to the muslin bags,

saying, "I come from a country where thieves get points for their creativity. Stamp the muslin bags at point of purchase so you can't keep stealing them." Hannah won't be able to stay at the Food Coop without her stroller/shopping cart. She pointed out that, as often as not, childcare is at capacity and then what are you supposed to do. Christian said that if theft is the main issue then look at that, not the shopping carts or strollers some people depend on. Anton and Christina thought this measure would erode the higher level of trust members value. Wendy and Eva said that criminalization is nice but there's obviously a problem that needs addressing. Sandy said the rule should be "trust but verify" and recommended reinstating the show your empty bag/backpack/cart rule.

By this point, I was just praying for deliverance and, verily, the GM finally ended with rideshare offers and such. I love us so. Can't wait for next month! ■

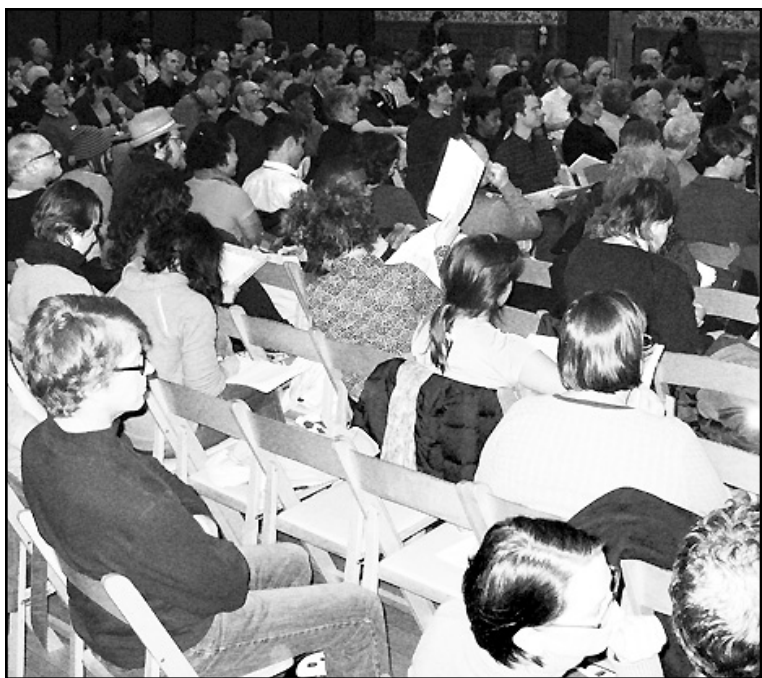


PHOTO BY LISA COHEN

Coop members pack the February GM to talk about plastics and theft.

clear the docket so that the only item on next month's agenda is Israel. But other than a few comments about fears for the democratic process during the open forum and a request for voting machines from a member named Stuart, talk moved quickly on to the main event: ruminating on the evils of plastic bags and personal shopping carts.

Before that, though, we learned from GC Mike Eakin that the PSFC is RICH! Or would be if we were a for-profit, anyway. Annual sales for the fiscal year that ended January 29, 2012, were up to almost \$45 million, a rise of \$3 million over the prior year. And we have 500 more members to kick around than last year too, with current mem-

temptation is hard to resist and should be removed for the sake of the environment, social justice and our collective health, we were told before watching an awesome black and white silent movie explaining how to live without plastic bags.

Members were then invited to come up and weigh in. It seemed like 90% or more were in favor of the phase-out but wanted to show off their many cool alternatives, including a whole host of muslin/cotton options.

Don Wiss was a notable dissenter. He had actually brought his own scale along to do a cost comparison of how much more it would cost to check out with an alternative bag. With a large muslin bag, for instance, you'd

## TRAINING SESSIONS FOR 2012 BROOKLYN FOOD CONFERENCE

**Here's your chance to be part of the May 12 Brooklyn Food Conference and get FTOP credit as well.**

Here's the deal: you go to a training session (see dates and times here) and then you show up at the agreed-upon time and date for the Conference (TBD at the training meeting). When you do your work at the Conference, you'll get FTOP credit for that work as well as for the training meeting.

Examples of work: registration, set-up, breakdown, childcare, youth activities, expo and workshop support, building guide, literature distribution, staffing info tables, music performance (we need musicians all day), logistics, and more!

**All training sessions will take place in the Coop's second-floor meeting room:**

**Sunday, April 1, 7 p.m.**

**Monday, April 2, 9:30 a.m.**

**Tuesday, April 3, 7 p.m.**

**Thursday, April 5, 9:30 a.m.**

**Tuesday, April 17, 9:30 a.m.**

**Saturday, April 21, 1:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, April 22, 7 p.m.**

**Sign-up sheet for training sessions in Membership Office. The May 12 Conference itself will be at Brooklyn Tech HS in Ft. Greene.**



MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

Coop's Plastic Bags Toxic?

By Kevin Cunneen

Polyethylene was first produced in Britain in the 1930s when it was discovered that ethylene gas (from natural gas) could be converted into a white solid by heating it at very high pressures with a little oxygen. I asked Dr. Tim Oswald, co-Director of the Polymer Engineering Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, if the manufacturing process of poly-bags causes significant health or environmental harm. He responded, "The clear produce and other plastic grocery bags are made of a low density polyethylene (PE-LD or LDPE). The chemical structure is -CH2-CH2- repeated in long chains. This is probably

the most benign polymer in its manufacture, use and disposal. It is also recyclable." He said this applies to high-density bags as well. He continued, "The polymer that is harmful in its manufacture is PVC or polyvinyl chloride. This material is of great concern because it is everywhere: siding in people's houses, pipes, electric conduit, electric cable coating, shower curtains, beach balls, vinyl seat covers in cars, shoe soles, dolls. It is dangerous to the workers in its manufacture, it can kill you when burned (most people die in fires due to PVC fume inhalation) ...." The Coop's produce bags, food processing wraps and custom-made food process-

ing bags are polyethylene in either the high-density or low-density form: both are non-toxic. Betsy Mathisen of Elkay plastics, the manufacturer of our food processing bags, said the FDA does not allow any additives in poly bags that come in contact with food and that Elkay's bags are 100% polyethylene, nothing added. There have been some reports that reuse of poly bags pose a bacteriologic contamination risk. Alexis Petru, staff writer for *Earth911*, wrote of a study by the University of Arizona and Loma Linda University, its findings "that most people who bring their own bags to the grocery store don't wash or clean them regularly and the researchers also discovered a large number of bac-

teria present in the reusable bags. Of the 84 reusable shopping bags collected from cities in California and Arizona, slightly more than half of the bags contained coliform bacteria, which indicates contamination by raw meats or other uncooked food products." The researchers detected *E. coli* bacteria in 12 percent of the bags. Petru further wrote that Dr. Charles Gerba, who co-authored the report, recommends keeping raw meat in a separate bag that will not be used to carry vegetables or fruits. It is generally assumed that plastic bags do not decompose in landfills and that bacteria are not able to digest these long chain polymers. But a 17-year-old from Waterloo, Ontario thought

that some sort of bacteria would break down polyethylene. He took soil from a landfill site, strips of polyethylene bags and a solution to encourage bacteria to grow. He discovered that two types of bacteria, *Sphingomonas* and *Pseudomonas*, decomposed the plastic. This insight won him the Canada Wide Science Fair's highest honor and a \$10,000 prize. 1986 through 1987 saw the GM go back and forth on providing bags, or not, charging for them, or not, reversing itself more than once. Coop members use over 2.5 million high-density polyethylene produce/bulk bags. That amounts to 161 bags per member per year, nearly \$23,000 for the Coop or \$1.43 for each member. ■

MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

BDS: The Non-Solution

By Constantine Kaniklidis, Director, Progressive Voices for Peace in the Middle East (PVPME), Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME)

Progressive Voices for Peace in the Middle East, which I direct, held a forum on The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict Today: Obstacles and Opportunities, with a distinguished panel of speakers spanning a wide spectrum of political opinion. Here I provide an encapsulation of their views on BDS. Michael Walzer, one of our foremost political thinkers and an expert on the morality of war, spoke from the standpoint of the progressive left, noting that the overwhelming proportion of the Israeli peace movements (Shalom Achshav) strongly advise not to join the BDS boycott movement, because BDS opposes peace and both the existence of a Jewish State and the internationally endorsed just goal of two states for two peoples. Walzer underlined the hypocrisy of denying Nation-Statehood to Israel but accepting just that elsewhere, including in any proposed state of Palestine. He concluded that BDS is profoundly wrong in its biased opposition focus on Israel, finding that the exclusive focus of its opposition to Israel exhibits "malicious discrimination" and "is obscene." Brooke Goldstein, Director of the Lawfare Project, and a human rights lawyer and expert on lawfare, the abuse

of international and human rights law for illegitimate advantage as a political weapon, focused on several related themes, noting the moral hypocrisy of the BDS movement that does not condemn or protest the atrocities of Palestinian human rights and horrific daily conditions perpetrated and sustained by Hamas, Arab states and corrupt NGOs like UNRWA that uses Hamas textbooks in their UNRWA schools that teach blind hatred of all Jew and help recruit child suicide bombers at all ages, a silence that gives the green light to terrorists to continue their human rights violations against a callously victimized Palestinian population. Goldstein laid bare, as I have done several times before, the demonstrable anti-Israel bias of each of the so-called human rights NGOs and entities such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, the International Court of Justice, and the UN General Assembly now wholly dominated and controlled by OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation), organizations that gave us the vile language and slander of "apartheid," and "ethnic cleansing" and other libels via complete abuse and distortion of international law, a cold and

orchestrated strategy of delegitimization against Israel, through a "movement" born of an immoral calculus from the racist and anti-Semitic Durban Conference and NGO Forum of 2001 where BDS was conceived, showing the willful fabrication of BDS being a response to a "Call" in 2005 from "Palestinian Civil Society" (N. Erakat, Middle East Research and Information Project, MERIP Report MER255, 2010). She also exposed the contamination of any proposed "Call" associated as it is with the Council of National and Islamic Forces in Palestine (first signatory of the "Call"), and with other notorious terrorist, jihadist and extremist groups. Goldstein concluded that BDS collectively itself constitutes a "racist and unlawful movement" against Israel standing in violation of Federal and State antiboycott laws prohibiting commercial or other discrimination on the basis of national origin [Disclosure: this author, C. Kaniklidis, contributed with and on advice of lawfare and international and trade law experts, to a sustained refutation of a National Lawyers Guild memo mistakenly advising BDS supporters otherwise.] Dr. M. Zuhdi Jasser, a devout Muslim, founder of American Islamic Foundation for Democracy, added his voice to the same true underlying objective of BDS, the "obliteration of the State of Israel," further noting that BDS punishes the very enti-

ties we should be empowering, those employing Palestinians and Israelis, and undermines moderate voices for peace in the Middle East. Like the other speakers, Jasser again spoke to the moral hypocrisy of BDS in its monomaniacal and prejudicial condemnation of Israel while silent against widespread Muslim oppression of fellow Muslims including Palestinians, concluding that joining BDS is wrong because (1) it's the wrong destination (not peace), (2) the wrong vehicle (boycotts), and the wrong leaders (Palestinian leadership). There should be honest

dialog about what can be done to improve the plight of Palestinians everywhere, but as the forum showed, the rejectionist, ideologically hateful and morally repugnant BDS propaganda campaign—a corrosive polluter of community values and equitable discourse using anti-peacemaking zero-sum logic and asymmetric demonization, crowding out voices for moderation and recognition of conflict complexities and truncating the space for equitable engagement—is not and cannot be part of that conversation: BDS is bad for Israel, bad for Palestinians, bad for Peace. ■

Sudoku

7						5		
					1	3	6	7
9								2
						7		
3				2	4	1		
			3	6				8
	3	1	4			9		
		2		5	6		1	
	8			9				

Puzzle author: James Vasile. For answers, see page 6.

## Flower Power

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ded moss and bulbs on the stones to create mini floral vignettes that nestled at the bases of the trees, windows and fireplaces. With a relatively simple color palette, Emily interpreted the season in a glorious and fresh way.

In addition to Vermont rocks, Emily also brought a bit of Brooklyn. After a severe October windstorm, Emily stumbled upon some felled sweet gum pods in Prospect Park. The pods were transformed into garland and draped over mirrors in the East Room of the White House. Emily calls the job "one of the most amazing experiences...we put in 16-hour days with no stopping...it was so meaningful and such a weirdly patriotic experience."

While Emily has a keen eye for design, her logistical exper-

tise cannot be overlooked. Whether it's a grand wedding or the White House, the massive projects she manages all have many moving parts. If the Coop could ever tap into her organizational skills, the queue for checkout might be less daunting.

When she's not busy designing her flower installations, you'll spot her at the Coop as a regular shopper. Since she and her husband live a block from the Coop, they pop in several times a week to stock up on fresh food.

Since there isn't a Coop flower department, Emily spends her shifts in Food Processing working the cheese line. Similar to her floral designs that embraces seasonality, when it comes to food Emily likes to shop for what is locally available. "The quality is incredible at the Coop," says Emily, "better than the farmers' market."

When I asked Emily if she longed for a flower section at the Coop, she said it really didn't make sense, "It works when the occasional flowers come in from local farms we already work with." So if you're interested in her designs, the best bet is to visit her shop on Jay Street in Brooklyn near the DUMBO neighborhood.

But don't pop in looking for a \$15 bunch of tulips.

Emily shuns the "tortured plastic designs" that have become so prevalent in florists' windows opting for more sophisticated naturalistic creations. Instead of buying a tightly wound bouquet of perfect roses wrapped in a bow, you'll likely engage the artist in a conversation about what is currently available and what type of space you are trying to enhance. "My best clients

give me free reign and an open budget," says Emily. It appears the locavore movement has hit the flower market. Artists like Emily are making it more beautiful than ever to create seasonally and locally sourced flower arrangements that bring the best of the outdoor world into the home. ■

For more information visit [www.emilythompsonflowers.com](http://www.emilythompsonflowers.com).

## Menstrual Products

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that would expose tampons products to asbestos."

### Toxic Shock Syndrome

Growing numbers of reported cases of staphylococcal toxic shock syndrome (TSS) throughout 1980 resulted in the well-publicized recall of super-absorbent Rely tampons and the awareness that in general, higher-absorbency tampons can increase the risk of TSS.

Super-absorbent tampons have been implicated in cases of toxic shock syndrome. Symptoms can set in quickly, and commonly include a high fever, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, and drop in blood pressure. Toxic shock syndrome requires immediate medical attention and is potentially life-threatening, as it may lead to kidney and liver failure.

Various sources (and required package inserts) suggests one can lower the risk of Toxic Shock Syndrome by avoiding tampons of higher absorbency than needed, changing tampons frequently, alternating tampons with pads during one's period and avoiding use of tampons overnight.

To help people compare absorbency from brand to brand, the FDA requires manufacturers to disclose absorbency using a standard method and standardized terms: "junior," "regular," "super" and "super plus."

### Fragranced Products

It seems fairly clear that fragranced products are, as sanitaryproducts.co.uk puts it, "completely superfluous and generate unnecessary additional exposure to synthetic chemicals."

### Natracare

The Coop carries the Natracare line of organic pads and products, which advertises that it "reduce[s] contact with chlorine bleached materials, and also products containing synthetics, latex and super absorbents made from petrochemicals. Natracare products are made from certified organic and natural, plant-derived materials that are chemical and additive free, and biodegradable, containing only organic and natural ingredients sourced

from sound ecologically managed producers."

Natracare claims "All products are totally chlorine free and women can be reassured by the fact that Natracare does not contain any synthetic materials or any chemical additives such as surfactants, fragrances, dyes, or lubricants. Choosing only fully certified organic cotton removes the risk of direct exposure to residues from chemical pesticides, fertilizers, defoliants and fungicides commonly used on conventionally grown cotton."

Natracare also manufactures organic cotton wet wipes that it advertises are "made from organic and natural plant derived ingredients" without foaming agents including sodium lauryl sulfate, or preservatives such as phenoxyethanol.

The company's natural credentials include eschewing perfumes, lubricants, plastics and synthetics. Products are biodegradable and packed in recycled cardboard boxes.

Maxim products, also sold at the Coop, are made of hypoallergenic organic cotton. Maxim is viscose- and chlorine-free, advertising that those features "reduce the risk of irritation and allergy."

The Coop also carries Kotex products. Consumer Reports states that in late 2011, two specific lots of Kotex Natural Balance Security Unscented Tampons Regular Absorbency manufactured by Kimberly-Clark were recalled because they were made with raw materials contaminated with *Enterobacter sakazakii*, a bacterium that may cause vaginal infections, urinary tract infections, pelvic inflammatory diseases or other health issues. Though there were no reports of illness caused by the tainted tampons, the FDA noted that the bacterium could be especially dangerous to women with preexisting illnesses or compromised immune systems. ■

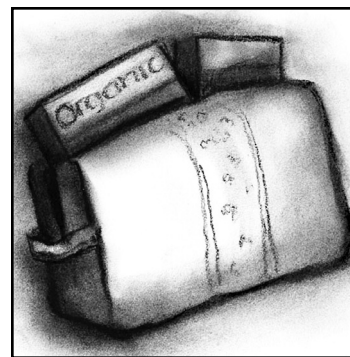


ILLUSTRATION BY CATHY WASSYLENKO

## LOOKING FOR MEMBERS TO FILL A NEW WORKSLOT

# Revolving Loan Management Committee

On January 31 participants in the General Meeting overwhelmingly approved the Coop's new **Revolving Loan Program**. This initiative allows the Coop and our individual members to donate money into a fund that will make loans to start-up coops using the PSFC model.

As part of that resolution, a committee will be formed to develop, oversee and report on the loan program. We have begun the committee selection process, which involves an interview for those who express interest and a vote for candidates at a future GM, probably in April or May.

Committee members must:

1. Agree to be interviewed by the program developers, Joe Holtz and Rachel Porter;
2. Be able to attend monthly meetings;
3. Be willing to do additional work (beyond 2.75 hours/four weeks) as needed;
4. Be committed to the loan program; and,
5. Have expertise in a relevant area, such as non-profit management, finance and lending, coop development, grocery store management, law.

**Committee members will receive work credit.**

Once the interviews are completed, all candidates seeking committee placement will write a statement to be published in the *Linewaiters' Gazette*, and will stand for a vote at a General Meeting.

**To sign up for an interview, please send a statement of interest and your resume to [loancommittee@psfc.coop](mailto:loancommittee@psfc.coop) and we will contact you.**

What Is That? How Do I Use It?

## Ask Me Questions About Coop Foods

Monday, April 2, 12 to 12:45 p.m.

Friday, April 6, 8 to 10:45 a.m.

Monday, April 9, 12 to 12:45 p.m.

Tuesday, April 10, 9:15 a.m. to 12 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.



MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

## More Great Reasons to Reject the Boycott Movement

By Jesse Rosenfeld

The boycott activists are...

**1. ...not pro-Coop business.** Not one letter or web article they have ever written mentions how a boycott will improve our finances and operations or benefit the environment. The movement's activists focus on joining political organizations unrelated to food production or the environment. Co-ops nationwide reject them on several grounds and so should we.

**2. ...not loyal to PSFC, but to an outside organization's agenda.** The boycott activists are taking guidance and support from a larger organization unconcerned with PSFC. Voting for a boycott exposes the PSFC to lawsuits (like at the Olympia Food Coop) where the boycotter organization remains unscathed. If we vote against a boycott, we keep our integrity.

**3. ...not pro-Palestinian.** Search their website: No reconciliation, no institution building, no

education. All they call for is punishment of Israel. Think about these folks as the public face of the Coop.

**4. ...not pro-peace.** Their website is mute on suicide bombings, rocket attacks and open alliances with state sponsors of terror. Think about the PSFC's image as we support a movement that supports violence with silence.

**5. ...NOT HONEST.** The boycott crew's website claims the Presbyterian Church supports boycotts. The Presbyterian General Assembly accepted boycotting in 2004 *but rejected it in 2006 (long before any boycott website went up regarding the PSFC), and has made statements of rejection as late as 2011.* Should the Coop accept and then later reject this nonsensical agenda, our name will remain on thousands of websites.

**WANT TO BE PRO-COOP? PRO-PEACE? PRO-FACTS? REJECT BDS!**

*Stopbdsparkslope.blogspot.com. StopBDSsparkslope@gmail.com. ■*

## VALET BIKE PARKING IS HERE ON SUNDAYS!

strollers & scooters & carts too!



**Every Sunday, April 1–November 18, from 3:30–8 p.m.,**

Coop members can leave their bikes with our valet parking service, which is like a coat check for bikes. Working members will check in and watch your bike for you.

Just drop off your bike, stroller, scooter or personal cart, do your shopping or your shift, and hop back on.

No locks, no worries, no theft.

Service operates rain or shine.

Look for us in front of the yellow wall.

(Note: no bike check-in after 7:30 p.m.)

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



**PSFC Shop & Cycle Committee**

MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

## Defend Coop Democracy and Human Rights on 3/27

By Liz Roberts

On Tuesday, March 27, members attending the General Meeting will vote on whether the Coop will conduct a referendum on participating in "BDS." BDS (boycott, divestment, and sanctions) refers to the international nonviolent campaign to pressure Israel to stop violating Palestinians' human rights and international law.

The 3/27 proposal doesn't decide the issue itself, merely the method by which we'll decide. Referendum protects privacy and allows time for reflection and education free from the pressures of the GM. It's the most democratic method available to us, granting each member a voice, ensuring that the results represent the position of the majority of our Coop community. Conversely, we cannot know the true will of the membership on this issue without a referendum.

Refusing a referendum is divisive and invalidates the feelings of those members harmed or disturbed by Israel's actions. Adhering to democratic process in determining the Coop's position on BDS can serve as a model for our larger regional and global communities.

The Coop is a political institution by definition, founded and nourished by the larger movement for economic, envi-

ronmental and social justice. BDS is part of this larger movement. The Coop has never been "neutral" regarding other sociopolitical issues that affect our inventory. We've observed many boycotts. Our current choice to buy Israeli products is a political one, and it alienates many members.

Boycotts are a powerful tool. Joining this movement says to Israel: "We, as a community, ask you to respect human rights and abide by international law and your own professed democratic principles." Individuals refusing to buy Israeli goods cannot send this message. Boycotts are effective due to the strength of collective action.

Israel's superior military maintains an imbalance of power between Israel and Palestinians. Peace cannot be achieved through diplomacy and dialogue if the two sides are on unequal footing. Boycotting is a time-honored method of nonviolently pressuring oppressive regimes to change. The U.S., Israel's biggest supporter, sends more financial aid there than to any other country, making this issue something that all American taxpayers should care about resolving.

To members saying, "I belong to the Coop so I can get inexpensive organic produce and don't come here for poli-

tics," we respond that Coop membership associates you with an institution whose operations are based in social justice philosophies. Grappling with environmental and human rights issues—plastic bag usage; GMOs; workers on strike—that touch on our buying practices is why we shop and work here and don't simply go to a buying club.

Beyond human rights, injustice in Israel/Palestine is a food-justice issue. Israel appropriates the most arable land. Significantly unequal distribution of water leaves Palestinians reliant on a contaminated aquifer. The Israeli military and settlers have illegally destroyed or confiscated a million olive trees, depriving Palestinians of agricultural revenue.

The BDS campaign at the Coop recently received public support from Boycott from Within, a group of Israeli citizens who support the BDS call. The full statement is at [www.boycottisrael.info](http://www.boycottisrael.info) and reads in part:

"The decision to stop selling Israeli products in your co-op should be seen in line with the co-op's decision to stop selling California grapes in solidarity with the United Farm-workers Union, and boycotting products from Apartheid South-Africa. As in these cases, the call to boycott Israel comes from the oppressed people

themselves... Palestinians subjected to Israel's system of apartheid and colonial oppression.[...]

"... Palestinians are not naive enough to think that the American government, which finances their subjugation, will support their liberation. However they are aware of the capacity of the American public to oppose the policies of their government and are appealing to U.S. civil society to follow the inspiring examples of earlier American movements. [...]

"We urge you to live up to the principles of the ...Coop's mission statement which states that: 'We seek to avoid products that depend on the exploitation of others.' The selling of Israeli products means more than the economic

impact it has... It indicates a situation of business as usual and the message that Israel receives from that...is that it can continue to deny Palestinians their rights without worrying about American pressure. On the other hand, a show of solidarity in respecting the Palestinian call for boycott empowers the oppressed people in their struggle. This kind of support sustains Palestinians in their daily struggles and gives hope to the popular struggle for Palestinian rights."

Attend the March 27 GM and vote yes to referendum. Allow every member a voice in whether we will show this solidarity.

Rebecca Giordano  
Phan Nguyen  
Liz Roberts  
Tara Tabassi  
Carol Wald ■

### Solution to this issue's sudoku puzzle

7	6	4	2	3	8	5	9	1
8	2	5	9	4	1	3	6	7
9	1	3	6	7	5	4	8	2
2	4	8	5	1	9	7	3	6
3	7	6	8	2	4	1	5	9
1	5	9	3	6	7	2	4	8
6	3	1	4	8	2	9	7	5
4	9	2	7	5	6	8	1	3
5	8	7	1	9	3	6	2	4

## Candidates for Board of Directors of the Park Slope Food Coop, Inc.

Three spots on the Board are open. Two of the openings are three-year terms. The third spot is a one-year term. To vote you may use a proxy or attend the Food Coop Annual Meeting on June 26, 2012. Every member will receive a proxy package in the mail in late May. You will have the opportunity to meet the candidates at the Annual Meeting. Candidate Statements (unedited and presented in alphabetical order):

### MONIQUE BOWEN



Dear Fellow Members: With the support of the General Coordinators, I write to ask for your support of my candidacy for an open seat on the PSFC's Board of Directors.

My family has been Coop members since 2003, and our relationship to the Coop has been an important aspect of our lives in Brooklyn. Even my children consider that monthly trip to childcare for their father's shift to be their work slot, too! I have had many jobs at the Coop

but mostly identify as a recovering cashier who currently enjoys office work, but I am also trained as a childcare worker, an attendance recorder, and as a member of the Hearing Officers Committee.

I think I make a sensible choice for the Board of Directors as I am 1) a reasonable person who listens well, 2) able to acknowledge the will of the membership without first prefacing my own opinions and perspectives, and 3) clear about the role of a Director at the Coop as voting to approve what the membership has decided as opposed to what my own wishes might be. Generally speaking, I have attended a number of General Meetings over the years and appreciate that those gathered tend to abide by this same working model. That being said I also understand

that Board members must be able to discern when the advice of the membership might endanger the fiscal or legal health of cooperative and thus must be able to make decisions accordingly.

In my life outside of the Coop, I have worked for twenty years at nonprofit and educational institutions in NYC and CT, have earned post-graduate degrees in psychology, and have a great deal of experience working one-on-one and in groups to solve problems, to mediate conflicts, and to counsel others as they make important life and professional decisions. I take a calm, thoughtful, commonsense approach to most things and try to collaborate with others whenever possible. Thank you and I hope to have your support. ■

### AUDREY MILLER KOMAROFF



I'm Audrey Miller Komaroff, I currently sit on the Board of Directors. I've been a Coop member since 1975, and I've happily seen the Coop grow from 400 members to its present size of over 16,000.

I've always gone where I felt the Coop needed me. I

was the first cashier trainer. I was one of the twelve people who excavated and started the "Garden of Union." When the Coop expanded Friday shopping hours, I became a squad leader on the first 8:00 a.m. shift.

I have been a positive and cooperative member through all our changes in the last 37 years. The General Meetings opened my eyes to our policy making procedures, and I've enjoyed them. The Coop is a very unique and successful venture that I love being a part of. Having served on the board

for many years, I would like to continue for another three years.

I value the General Meetings and the expertise of the General, Receiving and Office Coordinators. I wholeheartedly believe in the cooperative spirit where each person gives of themselves for the benefit of the whole. The core beliefs of the Coop have made it strong and prosperous. I'm sure these shared ideals will serve it well in the future. My candidacy is endorsed by the General Coordinators. ■

### EUNJU LEE



I joined the Park Slope Food Coop soon after moving to Park Slope in 1994. It was also the year I became pregnant with my first child and, as every Park Slope mother knows, the Coop is synonymous with healthy child. But, the Coop is more than a place that provides "Good Food at Low Prices." For

18 years, I have had the privilege and delight of membership in a like-minded community. And just as my son has grown to a mature 17 year-old, my relationship with the Coop has deepened and matured. This is why I am seeking a position as a member of the Coop's Board of Directors.

Initially, I was an FTOP worker, doing shifts in shopping, receiving, childcare and the office. In 2000, I joined the staff of the Coop as a Membership Coordinator. I worked in this position for seven years. Five years ago, I left to pursue other passions and am cur-

rently working as a hospice social worker. My current work shift is to haul and process compost from the Coop to the Red Hook Farm. Because of my long and varied relationship with the Coop, I feel I have a breadth and depth of knowledge about the Coop, its mission and values, staff and membership. As a Membership Coordinator, I had many opportunities to hear both praises and profanities about the Coop from the membership. Serving on the Board will again give me access to the voices of the membership and allow me to respond accordingly. This is why I am seeking a position as a member of the Coop's Board of Directors.

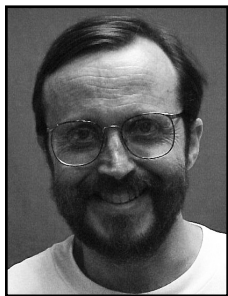
The Coop has changed dramatically since 1994. I recall the dust and havoc of construction as we expanded. As the square footage of the shopping floor grew, so has the membership. Despite these changes, the core of the Coop remains a community of people who believe in the values of working for our food, in looking forward seven generations when making consumption choices, and in building inclusive local communities. I am proud to be a part of these wider values. I have reaped the benefits of the

Coop and believe it is now time for me to give back. This is why I am seeking a position as a member of the Coop's Board of Directors.

As a member of the Board, my main function will be to listen to the membership and to ensure the Coop's vitality in a manner that is consistent with its founding values. Unlike other boards, our Board of Directors is not and should not be an insulated body of stakeholders. Rather, the Board functions to gather the diverse voices of our members, to thoughtfully weigh differences, to seek cooperation and respectful dissent, and to articulate positions with circumspection and reason. As a social worker, I am often required to suspend my opinions in order to really hear the other person. I have learned how to be comfortable in conflict and the importance of a measured response. I hold a Master's degree in social work and another in organizational development—assets I would bring to my role as a board member.

My candidacy has been endorsed by the General Coordinators of the Coop and I welcome that support. I would be honored to have yours. ■

### TIMOTHY PLATT



Why I am running for reelection to the Coop Board. I have been a member of the Park Slope Food Coop for 18 years and over the course of that time I have come to see this, our shared community as very special and very important in my life. I was first introduced to the Coop by my wife when we first met. She

introduced me to her favorite people and to her favorite places. The Food Coop was one of those special places that she brought me to as she did her own food shopping here. I joined too and have been actively involved ever since.

I have worked in a wide range of jobs at the Coop, and both as a member of regular work shifts

and as FTOP, and I continue to do so. I currently work receiving shifts for my wife, am on the GM Chair Committee, and since this past November and its special election I have served on the Board too. I look for ways to be involved and where I can make a positive difference.

That much primarily says something about the What of my being a Food Coop member and a member of its Board. But my purpose in writing this letter to the *Gazette* is to say something as to Why I am on the Board and why I would seek reelection to it. That is definitely not for work slot credit as I go to every GM anyway, and I am already receiving work credit for my Chair Committee participation there. There are no double credits for both Chair Committee and Board participation. I do this because this gives me greater opportunity to be actively involved in the Coop as a positive, supportive voice.

I bring that same approach and that same sense of

responsibility to my work shifts in receiving, and to my committee participation and I have always brought this to the Food Coop when in any way working with other members.

I have served the Food Coop and its members in other ways in the past, to share some more of my history here. I, for example, joined and became deputy chair of the committee that updated and codified the rules for the General Meetings, and with one goal—to insure that those meetings are as representative of member thought and opinion as possible and to give every member as much of a voice in the Coop and its running as they wish to share. That is how I participate in the Coop at our store. It is how I participate in our Coop General Meetings, and both as a Coop member and as a member of the Chair Committee and that is how I function as a Board member. If reelected I will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

# Candidates for Board of Directors of the Park Slope Food Coop, Inc.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

## TIMOTHY PLATT, CONTINUED

continue to do so as well.

I will add that I come to this with extensive outside board experience. I have served five years as President of the board at the housing cooperative

that my wife and I live at, as well as serving in other board positions. My goal as an officer and board member there has also always been about giving every member a voice and an opportunity to participate.

I ask you for your vote. But perhaps more

importantly I ask that you feel free to walk up and speak with me as I do want to hear about the issues that concern you and I do want to know and understand your perspective and experience as a fellow member of this, our Park Slope Food Coop. ■

## JESSE T. ROSENFELD



My name is Jesse Rosenfeld and I am running for the Board.

A member since 2004, I have worked as cashier, 2nd floor guest registration, cheese and olive bagger, FTOP stock boy, and babysitter for the PSFC. Plus a graphics artist for the Lefferts Food Coop (work still pending approval). My outside profession is in the IT industry where I am a consultant for the City of New York, and help social workers and directors operate a paperless office system.

I am also secretary for PSFC, I won in a landslide as I was the only one to volunteer my services.

My attendance record is up to date and I am a frequent attendant to GMs without needing them as a make up. I attend because I love the Coop and want it to run as efficiently as possible.

I repeat, I love it here. The Coop is an important part of my life, even more so since I live only three

blocks away. I spend a lot of time here, just as a shopper alone. I like being part of an organization that is a standard-bearer for food and environmental justice.

I have demonstrably worked for our cooperative spirit where everyone gives their efforts towards the benefit of shared success. We're strong and prosperous, and I want to see that continue.

I will stay in touch with membership issues in the following manner: I'll be attending every GM anyway as secretary, I will read the *Gazette*, I will stay in touch with General Coordinators, and board members, plus of course, stay in touch with the floor membership by listening to fellow members and their concerns. I hope that I would have time during my shopping hours to stop and talk to people who have such concerns. I also intend to be familiar with our monthly financial statements.

I've demonstrated additional concern for the Coop by joining the anti-hydrofracking movement which opposes upstate gas drilling and is proven toxic to water supplies and agriculture that support the businesses from whom we buy our goods, not to mention our own drinking water right here in Brooklyn downstream from the drilling. The issue is not black and white, but it directly affects

each and every one of us as a Coop member.

Having worked officially so far with mostly products, I felt a pull this time to involve myself more with people.

The previous Secretary was a member of the Board and I would like to follow in that Coop tradition, to ensure that there will be a Board member and the Secretary at every GM.

I see the need for Board members to be alert to the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of the Coop, and to make these clear to Coordinators and the general membership.

I see the Board's role as one of oversight and financial responsibility rather than one of advocacy.

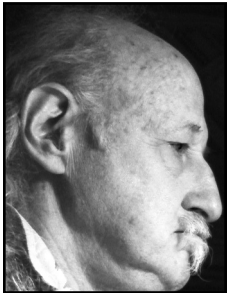
When the Board of Directors vote, I will always base my decision to the best of my ability on criteria that are no different from any other board member.

Will a proposal ratified by the General Meeting put the financial and legal health of the Coop at risk?

Does the proposal violate the spirit and letter of the Coop's own by-laws or NYS articles of incorporation, and our own mission statement?

Thank you for taking a few minutes and I look forward to your vote. ■

## ALBERT SOLOMON



In my letters I've been asking for a shout-out: Do U think I should run for the Board of Directors this year or not? I'm sure that most of my loyal supporters would say Yes, but still I'd soooo appreciate hearing from you—see my Email and phone below.

Yes, it's been seventeen years and many letters rejected by the *Gazette* since I first started protesting about our deeply disturbing "government" and I'm certainly tired of it but still I go on . . . How do you feel about the Co-Op (note my own personal spelling)? Do you think a change in government could do anything to help us? If U do, vote for me. If U don't, vote for me anyway as I'm a nice guy. I'll be putting a video statement up on Youtube shortly—just search for "solomonbod" and you should find it. Use the quotation marks. Also if U wanna see a quite lovely piano recital, search for "Tschudy" and look for "Richard Tschudy plays Scriabin." And search for "victory in court Juanita" to see a 4 min video of which I'm proud. I'm not approved by the Management and I'm quite proud of that!

Not that the Management are a bunch of scoundrels but they've been supporting a delu-

sion that has been doing a lot of damage to our self-respect as people who expect to participate in decisions of our beloved Co-Op. They think that a town-meeting form of government is appropriate to a large, anonymous, urban, decentralized organization like ours. MMmmmm, yes it is a recognized form of government but if it's so good why isn't it used in cities, states, and nations? Why do we have the City Council when we can all go to a meeting at Madison Square Garden (or the Meadows—or both!) once a month for three hours and make all our decisions? Nice idea, huh? And it's SSSssooooo attractive to anarchists becos, of course, there are no representatives. We represent ourselves, right? Isn't that wonderful—what could be wrong with that?

Well I don't mean to burst your bubble but I've even spoken to anarchists who don't think much of this. You see, anarchism isn't just a simple idea that boils down to no representatives, it's really quite well-developed. Look at Occupy Wall Street—we see that one aspect of anarchism is that groups be leaderless. Is our hierarchy of area coordinators and general coordinators and the \$10,000-plus coordinator (Mr. Holtz) leaderless? No. Are all or most of our members knowledgeable and concerned and take an active part in our affairs? No. Do we have different people in different leadership posts at different times? No, in fact we have a near-hereditary corps of top managers,

and that's why I called this piece "Divine Right of Queens and Kings."

Is there a great number of small groups where members can talk together at length and in depth and have spokespeople attend the general meetings with their concerns in mind? Nope. We have a single meeting once a month at 7 p.m. on a Tuesday for three hours only where a very limited number of people can speak who are chosen by the Chair. That seems OK, right?

Well I'm not recommending pure anarcho-sindicalism but I do hope you'll notice something that has some of the same features. It's called representative democracy! Not perfect but a lot better than what we've got. I think people would feel a lot better about the Co-Op if they could elect someone who shared their views, their politics, their race, their religion, their veganism, their kashruth or—whatever they wanted to express as members. And to whom they could talk and about whose votes they would know. Our meetings are anonymous—even though people go to them. How do we do that? It's magic, folks!

You want to know what I would do as a director. I would be a busy bee! I would do everything to oppose the current Deceptarchy and urge representation.

Luv u.

Serving you as always, I remain—  
albert ■

## THE ROLE OF THE BOARD

From our inception in 1973 to the present, the monthly General Meeting has been the decision-making body of the Coop. Since the Coop incorporated in 1977, we have been legally required to have a board of Directors.

The Bylaws of the Park Slope Food Coop state: "The portion of the Board of Directors meeting that is devoted to receiving the advice of the

members shall be known as the General Meeting.... The members who gather to give advice to the directors may choose to vote in order to express their support or opposition for any of the issues that have come before the meeting."

The Board of Directors conducts a vote at the end of every General Meeting on whether to accept the advice of the members as expressed in their vote(s) during the GM.

## THE ELECTION PROCESS

Each year the Coop must, by law, hold an Annual Meeting. This is the only meeting where proxies can be used. Those members who cannot attend the Annual Meeting may be represented, if they wish, by a proxy.

If you submit a proxy but come to the Annual Meeting in person, your proxy will be returned to you when you register.

Members who have a current membership as of Saturday, June 16, 2012, are eligible to vote in the election of Directors at the Annual Meeting either in person or by proxy.

Proxy packets are mailed to members in late-May. If you do not receive a packet, pick one up at the entrance desk or outside the Membership Office. ■

Read the *Gazette* while you're standing on line OR online at [www.foodcoop.com](http://www.foodcoop.com)



## COORDINATOR'S CORNER

## Vote 'No' to Vote COOP at the March 27 General Meeting

By Joe Holtz,  
General Coordinator and Coop Co-founder

The March 27 GM agenda item calls for us to vote on authorizing a referendum on joining the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) movement. I, along with many other members, have erroneously or lazily or unthinkingly been phrasing the issue at hand as a proposed referendum on a "Boycott" of Israeli products. But it is not. This agenda item is whether the Coop joins or does not join a political movement. The only movement we are in is the cooperative movement. I strongly believe that as a cooperative we should keep it that way.

Autonomy and independence are covered in the International Cooperative Principle # 4: "Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-operative autonomy."

If we join the BDS movement we are endorsing, in each of our names, all aspects of that movement we don't have control over. We aren't simply boycotting a few items on our shelves. We violate principle #4—remaining an "autonomous, self-help organization controlled by its members."

In my quick research trying to understand this movement, I found a group in California which has joined BDS and they are boycotting Sabra products, a very popular group of products in the Coop. Sabra was manufactured locally here in NY until they moved a few hundred miles south to Richmond, Virginia. We

are being asked to join a movement and the movement—not Coop members—decides which products to boycott, even products made here in the USA. The B for Boycott is one thing, but the D for Divestment and the S for Sanctions also represent a vote on giving up some of our autonomy. It must be either the "D" or the "S" that provided the rationale for a group's decision to boycott a line products from the USA. The vagueness and the broadness is a problem. Because we don't understand what we are being asked to join, it is better not to consider a vote on joining. As a cooperative we should not so easily give up our democratic control. Autonomy and independence, principle #4, it makes sense.

Voting "Coop" (i.e., "No") is best for the future of our Coop, regardless of one's viewpoint on the troubling situation in the Middle East. For more reasons to vote "No" on the referendum, please refer to my March 8, 2012 *Gazette* article (available online at [foodcoop.com](http://foodcoop.com), page 5).

A summary of the main

points in my March 8 article: a) we should recognize the divisiveness that this politi-

cal issue is causing; b) previous boycotts at the Coop have usually passed by more than 90% approval, with a few still over 80% approval; we should not want to address an issue that obviously will not get similar overwhelming support and; c) if the boycott is approved, it will directly contradict our long history of welcoming all who participate cooperatively by causing many members to feel unwelcome; d) making decisions

at General Meetings, where an open exchange of ideas and problem-solving solutions are aired, has helped to insure the Coop's success and is a better path to our sustainability than the reasoning that exalts overusing referendums.

I hope you go back and read the entire article and see all my points. And please remember that autonomy and independence are core principles of the coop movement. ■

## The International Cooperative Alliance Statement of Cooperative Identity

*(The Statement of Cooperative Identity has its origins in a published set of "practices" of the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers in 1844 and later became known as the Rochdale Principles. It was eventually renamed and has been periodically updated by the International Cooperative Alliance.)*

### Definition:

A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise.

### Values:

Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, cooperative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

### Principles:

The cooperative principles are guidelines by which cooperatives put their values into practice.

### First Principle:

#### Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibility of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

### Second Principle:

#### Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

### Third Principle:

#### Member Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of the cooperative. At least part of that capital is

usually common property of the cooperative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible, benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative, and supporting other activities as approved by the membership.

### Fourth Principle:

#### Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

### Fifth Principle:

#### Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public—particularly young people and opinion leaders—about the nature of benefits of cooperation.

### Sixth Principle:

#### Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

### Seventh Principle:

#### Concern for the Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.



## 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  
Apr 20

8:00 p.m.

very  
**The Good Coffeehouse**  
COOP CONCERT SERIES

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



## Annie Keating

The Village Voice raves, "Keating is a wise mix of Lucinda Williams songwriting, Gillian Welch guitar and a vocal all her own...a cross between Willie Nelson and John Prine and you don't get any better than that." Keating appeared live on the BBC Radio (UK) Bob Harris show and has gone on to perform at leading festivals, playing on the bill with the likes of John Hiatt, Dan Bern, Boris McCutcheon, Shannon McNally. On her fourth (new) album release, *Water Tower View*, Keating is at her best, delivering beautifully crafted songs.

## John Mettam & Flying Home

The joint will be jumpin' with Flying Home, a killer-diller band led by drummer John Mettam, performing the music of the Benny Goodman Sextet and other classics from the Swing Era. Cut a rug or sit back and enjoy this finger poppin' jive session with Michael McGinnis (clarinet), Tom Beckham (vibes), Sean Moran (guitar), Brian Drye (trombone), and Jim Whitney (bass), plus special guest singer Toby Williams.



**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...

Last Sunday  
MARCH 25  
10:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.

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

Third Thursday  
APRIL 19  
7:00 P.M.–9:00 P.M.

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

# PLASTICS

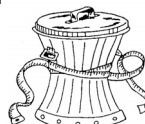
What plastics do we accept?  
Until further notice:

- #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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THANK YOU!

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

Ariel Abrahams	Sasha De La Cruz	Anna Hanau	Angela Liao	Fonlin Nyeu	Lisa Schoenholt
Jean Beeks	Serena Deng	Chaya Hoffinger	Nancy Liebskind	Diana P.	Parul Shah
Ady Ben-Israel	Zeldy Eber	Jane Huntington	Robin Margolis	Jack Petruzzelli	Josephine Shokrian
Daniel Bloomberg	Gwyneth Esty-Kendall	Kristy Hurt	Rebecca Malter	Phyllis	Summer Starling
Monique Bowen	Laura F.	Shahzad Ismaily	Susan Marmol	Jenni Quilter	Tara Tabassi
Susan Bricker	Emily Fleisher	Madeleine Jackson	Julie May	Maggie Raife	Grace Timberlake
Rosemary Calderon	Luiza Flynn-Goodlett	Anne Keating	Jenny McCue	Raina	John Timberlake
Emily Cavelier	Sandra Fox	Jonathan Kessler	Isak Mendes	Lynn Rakos	Rachel Tomlinson
Ming Chan	Jeffrey Fry	Brandon Koenig	Alyson Metzger	Angela Rivera	Betty Tsang
Charlie	Marie Theres Franke	Barbara Kryszko	Matthew Mills	Grace Robinson-Leo	Mary Valenti
Jacqueline Cheney	Lisa Gilinsky	Lauren L.	Brittany Mitchell	Briana Rognlin	Sensho Teresa Wagg
Claudia	Natural Gittens	Paige Lamb	Carmichael Monaco	Leah Rosen	Stewart Wagner
Evan Cohen	Julie Goodman-Khasani	Marcelle Layton	Sarah Moon	Julia Rosenfeld	Aparna Wilder
Amy Crossfield	Ellen G. Gordon	David Leiberman	James Mulry	Claire S.	Ofer Wolberger
Narciso Cruz	Cali Gorewitz	Erica Lessem	Kiyomi Noda	Kristen Schafenacker	Ariel Westerman



COOP CALENDAR

New Member Orientations

Attending an Orientation is the first step toward Coop membership. Pre-registration is required for all of the three weekly New Member Orientations. To pre-register, visit [foodcoop.com](http://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](http://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](http://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, MAR 27

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, APR 3

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m.  
Submissions will be considered for the Apr 24 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

Apr 5 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Mar 26  
Apr 19 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Apr 9

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

Apr 5 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Mar 28  
Apr 19 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Apr 11

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](http://foodcoop.com), at the Coop Community Corner and at every General Meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 27, 7:00 p.m.

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

Location for March Only

Brooklyn Tech High School, 29 Fort Greene 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](http://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 for March Only

**Warm Up (7:00 p.m.)** • Introduction to meeting format and procedures • Explore meeting literature

**Agenda (7:30 p.m.)** The agenda is posted on the Coop Web site, [foodcoop.com](http://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

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.

12 📅 March 22, 2012

Park Slope Food Coop, Brooklyn, NY

park slope  
FOOD COOP

## calendar of events

mar 24  
sat 3 pm

## Esperanto

Esperanto is a fascinating language useful in meeting people in China, Brazil, Cuba, France, Japan, Israel, and most countries. Thousands of speakers meet internationally, nationally, regionally, and locally year-round. More than 1,000 individuals offer free hosting via Pasporta Servo. Designed to be easy, most young speakers master the language on-line for free. Activists world-wide link friendship with a chance for peace. Come for an introductory lesson, including a sing-a-long. **Neil** is a 15-year Coop member, a retired school teacher, and a UN volunteer. He has traveled to 34 countries using Esperanto. Hear some experiences and share your stories from a linguistic viewpoint.

mar 27  
tue 7 pm

## PSFC MAR General Meeting



**Meeting Location for This Meeting Only: Brooklyn Technical High School, 29 Fort Greene Place. Use main entrance on corner of South Elliot and DeKalb Ave.** Check-in for the meeting will begin at 6:15 p.m. Members will not be allowed in prior to 6:15 p.m.

You must be a Food Coop member to attend the General Meeting and must bring a photo I.D. card to be admitted. There is no re-entry. Once you check-in, if you leave the building, you will not be allowed to re-enter. Snacks and beverages will not be provided by the Coop. Please plan accordingly if you need food or drink. We request that you keep eating to a minimum. Time for agenda item in parentheses is a suggestion. The Chair has the discretion to change the time allotted. This meeting must end by 10:15 p.m. More information on this item may be available at the entrance table at the meeting.

**Item #1:** Referendum on the BDS Question (90 minutes)

**Proposal:** "We propose that the Coop hold a referendum to decide whether we will participate in the international Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement to support Palestinian human rights."  
—submitted by Bill Mazza and Carol Wald

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

mar 27  
tue 7–9 pmPutting Your Passion  
Into Action

Come to this workshop, to jump-start your journey toward finding the work you love. Here, you will begin to: uncover your passions, exploring what you really love to do and can do; clarify related career options; identify specific steps to create new career goals and actions. You will walk away from the experience with a greater awareness of what will bring you more meaning, as well as specific goals to take immediate action. **Anne Baker** is a certified life and career coach and has been a Coop member for the past 10 years.

mar 30–31  
fri-sat 11 am–6 pm

## Blood Drive

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

apr 1  
sun 11 amWhat's All the Excitement  
About Vitamin D

Vitamin D—the "sunshine vitamin"—has received a lot of attention recently.

**Dr. Milo F. Vassallo** will give an interactive lecture to share his perspective on this essential nutrient and the evidence of its importance in the medical literature. Dr. Vassallo received his MD and PhD degrees from NYU School of Medicine and completed a Fellowship in Allergy and Immunology at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Vassallo is a member of the Park Slope Food Coop and in practice counsels people to identify environmental factors that trigger and worsen allergy symptoms and to maintain a healthy immune system with an aim toward long-term wellness.

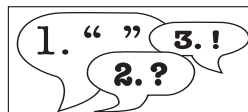
apr 1, 2, 3  
sun, mon, tueTraining Sessions for 2012  
Brooklyn Food Conference

Here's your chance to be part of the May 12 Brooklyn Food Conference and get FTOP credit as well. Go to one of these training sessions (see times below), then show up at the agreed-upon time and date for the Conference (TBD at the training meeting). When you do your work at the Conference, you'll get FTOP credit for that work as well as for the training meeting. Examples of work: registration, set-up, breakdown, childcare, youth activities, expo and workshop support, building guide, literature distribution, staffing info tables, music performance (we need musicians all day), logistics, and more! Please RSVP for the training sessions: [info@bkfoodconference.org](mailto:info@bkfoodconference.org). The May 12 Conference itself will be at Brooklyn Tech HS in Ft. Greene.

**All training sessions will take place in the Coop's second-floor meeting room: Sunday, April 1, 7 p.m.; Monday, April 2, 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday, April 3, 7 p.m.; Thursday, April 5, 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday, April 17, 9:30 a.m.; Saturday, April 21, 1:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 22, 7 p.m.**

apr 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](http://foodcoop.com). **The next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 7 p.m., at Congregation Beth Elohim Social Hall (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place at Eighth Avenue.**

apr 5  
thu 9:30 amTraining Session for 2012  
Brooklyn Food Conference

Here's your chance to be part of the May 12 Brooklyn Food Conference and get FTOP credit as well. Go to one of these training sessions (see times below), then show up at the agreed-upon time and date for the Conference (TBD at the training meeting). When you do your work at the Conference, you'll get FTOP credit for that work as well as for the training meeting. Examples of work: registration, set-up, breakdown, childcare, youth activities, expo and workshop support, building guide, literature distribution, staffing info tables, music performance (we need musicians all day), logistics, and more! Please RSVP for the training sessions: [info@bkfoodconference.org](mailto:info@bkfoodconference.org). The May 12 Conference itself will be at Brooklyn Tech HS in Ft. Greene.

**All training sessions will take place in the Coop's second-floor meeting room: Thursday, April 5, 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday, April 17, 9:30 a.m.; Saturday, April 21, 1:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 22, 7 p.m.**

apr 5  
thu 7:30 pmFood Class:  
Food for BrainPOWER

Discover how much food controls the speed and precision in which you think. You'll learn how nutrients forge your brainpower. We'll debunk common diet myths that undermine your smarts. And while Chef **Andréa Hammond** explains this food-brain science, she'll show you how to whip up your own mouthwatering brain fuel. Impassioned by her findings, Andréa founded A.H. Nutrition Therapy to teach others the power of food to advance their minds. She completed her chef's training at the Natural Gourmet Institute, then went on to become a Certified Nutrition Counselor through the Academy for Healing Nutrition, which teaches nutrition according to Eastern sciences. *Menu includes easy eggs florentine; omega-3 salad; coconut parfait.* **Materials fee: \$4. Food classes are coordinated by Coop member Susan Baldassano.**

**For more information on these and other events, visit the Coop's website: [foodcoop.com](http://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.**

Read the *Gazette* while you're standing on line OR online at [www.foodcoop.com](http://www.foodcoop.com)



# mar 24–apr 28 2012

apr 7  
sat 2 pm

## EFT Workshop for You

Maybe you know the eight tapping points, or it will only take a minute to show them to you. Come to this workshop with your pain, your anger, your disappointment, and even your trauma memories, or hatred, worries or lack of self-esteem. EFT practitioner(s) at this workshop will guarantee to reduce or eliminate that pain and suffering by doing and teaching you these powerful tapping techniques. Come early to get a seat. Presented by **Carolyn Meiselbach**, EFT counselor, teacher and Coop member for more than 10 years.

apr 10  
tue 7 pm

## Safe Food Committee Film Night: Farmageddon



Americans' right to access fresh, healthy foods of their choice is under attack. Filmmaker Kristin Canty's quest to find healthy food for her four children turned into a journey to discover why access to these foods was being threatened. *Farmageddon* tells the story of small, family farms that were providing safe, healthy foods to their communities and were forced to stop, sometimes through violent action, by agents of misguided government. *Farmageddon* highlights the urgency of food freedom, encouraging consumers and farmers to take action to preserve access to food free from burdensome regulations. The film serves to put policymakers and regulators on notice.

apr 13  
fri 7 pm

## Film Night: Stages



In New York City's changing Lower East Side, a group of older Puerto Rican women and inner-city youth come together over 20 weeks to create an original play out of the stories of their lives. Amid the isolating bustle of nine million people, participants diverse in age, race and nationality confront stereotypes and examine their own histories, exploring themes of immigration, relationships, aging and coming of age. Woven together, their stories take on new meaning, first as they are spoken across generations and later when they are performed for a sold-out show. In response to a political climate that assigns little value to community-arts initiatives, *Stages* offers an intimate portrait of an unlikely ensemble, transformed by the liberating power of their own stories.

**Special screening date due to Passover this month.**

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

apr 14  
sat 10 am

## Knit & Sip Series

Calling all knitters and crocheters. Please bring yarns and needles and be prepared to knit and crochet. **Naeemah 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.

apr 14  
sat 3–6 pm

## Here's Why You're Not Pregnant

This workshop will show how to: resolve mystery infertility; eliminate toxins that impair fertility; make IVF and IUI work the first time; cook meals that help you get pregnant; identify the foods and supplements that boost your fertility; clear blocked tubes; normalize your cycle; dissolve fibroids and cysts; do fertility acupressure at home; prevent miscarriage; and boost men's sperm count and quality. Pre-registration suggested: to

register call (646) 483-4571 or e-mail [GreenGemHealth@gmail.com](mailto:GreenGemHealth@gmail.com). **Rebecca Curtis** M.A., M.F.A., HHC, AADP, is a certified holistic nutritionist and the founder of Green Gem Holistic Health. **Mary Hart**, M.S., L.Ac., is a board-certified acupuncturist and the founder of Healing Hart Acupuncture.

apr 17  
thu 9:30 am

## Training Session for 2012 Brooklyn Food Conference

Here's your chance to be part of the May 12 Brooklyn Food Conference and get FTOP credit as well. Go to one of these training sessions (see times below), then show up at the agreed-upon time and date for the Conference (TBD at the training meeting). When you do your work at the Conference, you'll get FTOP credit for that work as well as for the training meeting. Examples of work: registration, set-up, breakdown, childcare, youth activities, expo and workshop support, building guide, literature distribution, staffing info tables, music performance (we need musicians all day), logistics, and more! Please RSVP for the training sessions: [info@bkfoodconference.org](mailto:info@bkfoodconference.org). The May 12 Conference itself will be at Brooklyn Tech HS in Ft. Greene.

**All training sessions will take place in the Coop's second-floor meeting room: Tuesday, April 17, 9:30 a.m.; Saturday, April 21, 1:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 22, 7 p.m.**

apr 20  
fri 7:30 pm

## How to Lighten Your Final Carbon Footprint

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.

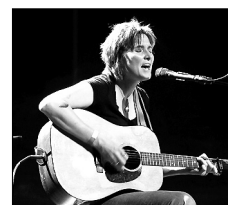
apr 20  
fri 8 pm

## Annie Keating and John Mettam & Flying Home



*The Village Voice* raves about **Annie Keating**, "Keating is a wise mix of Lucinda Williams songwriting, Gillian Welch guitar and a vocal all her own...a

cross between Willie Nelson and John Prine and you don't get any better than that." Keating appeared live on the BBC Radio (UK) Bob Harris show and has gone on to perform at leading festivals, playing on the bill with the likes of John Hiatt, Dan Bern, Boris McCutcheon, Shannon McNally. On her fourth (new) album release, *Water Tower View*, Keating is at her best, delivering beautifully crafted songs. The joint will be jumpin' with **Flying Home**, a killer-diller band led by drummer **John Mettam**, performing the music of the Benny Goodman Sextet and other classics from the Swing Era. Cut a rug or sit back and enjoy this finger poppin' jive session with Michael McGinnis (clarinet), Tom Beckham (vibes), Sean Moran (guitar), Brian Drye (trombone), and Jim Whitney (bass), plus special guest singer Toby Williams.



**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

apr 21, 22 Training Sessions for Brooklyn Food Conference

apr 24 Healthy Thyroid

apr 24 PSFC APRIL General Meeting

apr 26 Introduction to Bicycle Repair

apr 27 Wordsprouts

apr 28 Learn How to Volunteer & Make a Difference

SAFE FOOD COMMITTEE REPORT

Sprouting

Don't let winter lull your gardening spirit into hibernation. Revive those green thumbs with homegrown sprouting.

By Shawn Onsgard

Sprouting is like growing a micro garden in your kitchen. All you need are some seeds, a jar, and fresh water. People like sprouting because sprouts are tasty, and it's an easy way to get fresh produce at home all year. And, somewhat miraculously, metabolic changes that occur in the sprouting process make seeds more nutritious.

Seeds for Sprouting

Use only whole, raw, unpasteurized seeds that are sold for human consumption. See the list of commonly sprouted seeds below. Many can be found in the Park Slope Food Coop's bulk aisle and elsewhere in the store. If you can't find it at the Coop, try SproutPeople.org. Commonly sprouted seeds include:

'Grains': Amaranth, Barley,

Brown Rice, Buckwheat, Kamut, Millet, Oats, Popcorn, Quinoa, Red Thai Rice, Rye, Sesame, Spelt, Triticale, Wehani Rice, Wheat, Wild Rice

**Leafy sprouts:** Alfalfa, Arugula, Broccoli, Cabbage, Celery, Chia, Clover, Cress, Dill, Fenugreek, Flax, Garlic, Kale, Lettuce, Mizuna, Mustard, Onion, Radish, Tatsoi, Turnip

**Beans:** Adzuki, Black Bean, Garbanzo, Lentil, Mung, Pea, Peanut, Pinto

**'Nuts':** Almond, Pumpkin, Sunflower, Peanut

Cull through your seeds to remove any small stones, random debris or damaged seeds before starting. It is likewise good to rinse seeds clean of dust by immersing them in a bowl of water, pouring off excess water and repeating until the water pours clear.

Some seeds just won't

sprout. Pasteurized and roasted seeds, for example, will not sprout. Neither will "split" peas, "cut" or "rolled" grains, or other similarly processed seeds.

Why Sprout

- Increased quantity and quality of amino acids, enzymes, phytochemicals, vitamins and antioxidants in seeds.
- Improved digestibility of seeds.
- Reduced phytates and protease inhibitors that improve the availability of minerals and proteins.
- Convenience and simplicity of micro-gardening.
- "Yummm!" factor.

How to Sprout

**Soak your seeds** in a generous amount of water to get things started. Most seeds will double their size while soaking, so don't be stingy

with the water. Generally speaking, most seeds enjoy an 8-12 hour soak, but this is not a precise science. Bigger and harder seeds like garbanzos need more in the range of 12 hours, while smaller and softer radish seeds only need eight. Seeds packaged for sprouting often include instructions on the packaging for how long to soak them. Typically, your seeds will forgive an imprecise duration of soaking and sprout for you anyhow.

Some seeds only need a half hour to soak: buckwheat groats, amaranth and quinoa.

Some seeds can be done sprouting and ready to eat after soaking without growing much if any root/tail. Some popular soaks include: almond 4-12 hours; hulled sunflower 0.5-4 hours; pumpkin 1-4 hours, peanut 4-12 hours.

Mucilaginous seeds like arugula, basil, chia, cress, flax, and mizuna are actually not soaked at all, but rather grown on moist soil or other medium (see GEAR below).

**Drain—Rinse—Drain.** After soaking, drain off the water, rinse seeds with fresh water and drain all the water off again. After draining thoroughly, let the seeds rest and grow. Rinse and drain completely at least twice daily. Seeds should smell sweet and fertile after rinsing.

**Eat** your sprouts when they look yummy. Everyone has different taste, but it usually takes about two to six days for sprouts to grow to preferred size. Younger sprouts may be too seedy, or their leaves may not be green enough yet. Older sprouts may become too fibrous. If you don't eat them all at once, sprouts can be refrigerated for a week or more to preserve freshness.

Gear

You don't need much to grow a lot of sprouts. The simplest sprouting hardware is a wide-mouth mason jar fitted with a stainless steel screen, which is available at the Coop. The glass jar gives seeds a clean place to grow where they won't dry out. And the screen makes it easy to rinse and drain seeds without losing them down the sink. Just leave the screen lid on your jar, fill with fresh water, shake it around a few times and turn the whole thing upside down to drain through the screen.

Besides jar-styled sprouters, there are also bags and trays of different materials, sizes and capacities for small scale and heavy duty growing. Sproutpeople.org sells all kinds of sprout gear. Bags are great for backpacking and travel. Trays are good for large-scale production.

**Arugula, basil, chia, cress, flax** and **mizuna** have **mucilaginous** seeds and will not sprout in conventional jar-styled sprouters. Because you can't soak them (try soaking a flax seed in two tablespoons water to understand what mucilaginous means), they must be grown in a manner similar to outdoor gardening where seeds are kept moist and covered while they grow. SproutPeople.org sells a "miniature garden" and "baby blanket" sprouting gear designed for mucilaginous seeds. You can also try growing mucilaginous seeds on a swatch of moistened fabric from an old sweater/blanket or in/on a tray of soil/coir on your windowsill.

No matter what gear you use, keep your sprouting devices clean.

Caveat Sprouter

- All seeds from the solanaceae "deadly nightshade" family including tomato, potato, eggplant and peppers are not recommended for sprouting because they are naturally toxic.
- Raw soybeans, including their uncooked sprouts, contain toxic trypsin inhibitors.
- Alfalfa sprouts may be harmful for people living with Lupus (Systemic Lupus Erythematosus).
- Legume sprouts (except garbanzo, mung, alfalfa and clover) should be cooked before eating.

Serving Suggestions

Leafy sprouts are great on sandwiches, as salads or as complements to salads. Sprouted grains are good in soups, and can be ground for sprouted bread recipes. Bean sprouts are tasty additions to stir-fries, or can be ground up into batter for falafel. Nut sprouts are lovely eaten fresh and raw as a snack unto themselves. ■

Please share your recipes and sprouting tips with us. Visit our blog: [www.BrooklynBackyard.wordpress.com](http://www.BrooklynBackyard.wordpress.com) or Brooklyn-Backyard-Brigade on Facebook.

Coop Job Openings:

Receiving/Stocking Coordinators—Two Positions Available

Position #1: Early Morning including Weekends

We are hiring a Receiving/Stocking Coordinator to work morning shifts, as early as 5:30 a.m. The schedule will also include at least one weekend day.

The ideal candidate will be knowledgeable and passionate about produce and food. Previous experience and training in the food industry is a plus. Good math skills are required, and you must be comfortable using MacIntosh computers. This is a high-energy job for a fit candidate as you must be able to lift and to be on your feet for hours. The job will include work in the walk-in coolers and freezers.

You must be a reliable, responsible self-starter who enjoys working with our diverse member-workers, plus be an excellent team player with your co-workers. Excellent communication and organizational skills, patience, the ability to prioritize work and to remain calm under pressure are required.

Position #2: Evenings and Weekends

The Coop is hiring a Receiving/Stocking Coordinator to work evenings and weekends.

The evening and weekend Receiving/Stocking Coordinators have a lot of responsibility overseeing the smooth functioning of the store and supporting the squads. They work with the Receiving squads, keeping the store well stocked and orderly while maintaining the produce quality. At the end of the evening, they set up the receiving areas to prepare for the following day's early morning deliveries.

The ideal candidate will be a reliable, responsible self-starter who enjoys working with our diverse member-workers. You must be an excellent team player, as you will be sharing the work with several other Receiving Coordinators. You must have excellent communication and organizational skills, patience, the ability to prioritize the work and remain calm under pressure.

We are looking for a candidate who wants a permanent evening/weekend schedule. This is a high energy job for a fit candidate. You must be able to lift and work for hours on your feet including in the walk-in coolers and freezer. Grocery store experience is a plus.

- Hours:** 38-40 hours per week, schedule to be determined  
**Wages:** \$25.29/hour  
**Benefits:** —Vacation—three weeks/year increasing in the 4th, 7th & 10th years  
—health insurance  
—Health and Personal time  
—pension plan

Application & Hiring Process:

Please provide a cover letter and your résumé as soon as you can. E-mail your letter and résumé to: [hc-receivingcoordinator@psfc.coop](mailto:hc-receivingcoordinator@psfc.coop). All applicants will receive a response. Please do not call the office to check on the status of your application. If you applied previously to another Coop job offering and remain interested, please reapply.

Probation Period:

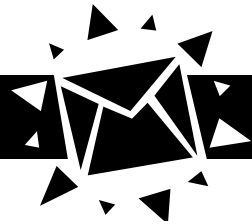
There will be a six-month probation period.

Prerequisite:

Must be a current member of the Park Slope Food Coop for at least the past 6 months. Applicants must have worked a minimum of three shifts in Receiving within the past year.

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





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

## HOLTZ AND BDS

## TO THE EDITOR,

Joe Holtz's 'article' in the last *Gazette* left me feeling shocked and disappointed in how he is trying to use his sway as a Coordinator. First off, as the mother of a young child, I spend a lot of time thinking about what I want to instill in my child and the concept of cooperation is an important one. Joe Holtz's assertion that true cooperation involves not discussing issues that could be divisive is incredible to me. Is that really what cooperation means? Shouldn't cooperation mean that we're willing to listen to one another and grow and change together? Can this happen without conversation? Secondly, his assertion that this issue is one on which we will be uniquely divided, unlike any other issue the Coop has seen, is bizarre. It is impossible to know just how many people are for or against the BDS proposal without bringing it to a referendum. Just because a handful of people write letters to the *Gazette* or bring it up at General Meetings doesn't actually tell us anything about what the 16,000 members of the Coop think about this issue. In fact, I would consider that a scare tactic.

I can say that in my informal conversations with members during my shifts, I actually have only met one person who was against having a referendum whereas many people said they were for it. Do I think this means that I know what the people of the Coop want? Of course not, it was informal conversations, those will never be as reliable as a full on referendum. Joe Holtz's article must be based entirely on informal information since we have not had ANY votes yet on anything relating to BDS.

Lastly, his comment that we shouldn't alienate members who might not want to join the BDS campaign is one-sided. As someone who supports BDS, I will have to really sit down and think about whether I'll stay at the Coop if the referendum doesn't pass. I joined the Coop so I would be supporting a world where we think about how our food is processed, where it comes from, and who is affected by its production and sale. These are all critical components of why BDS is important to me. Food is political whether we like it or not.

For all of these reasons, I will be there voting yes for a referendum on BDS on March 27th. I hope that you'll join me and that each person who supports this will bring their friends.

Rebecca Giordano

## DISAPPOINTED WITH HOLTZ

## DEAR EDITOR,

I was really disappointed with Joe Holtz's article asking people to "vote Coop" at the upcoming GM. For one thing, the implication that those of us who want to hold a referendum on the

BDS question are anti-Coop is untrue and, frankly, insulting.

And the concept that only near-universally-held views are legitimate to take action on is not only illogical but ahistorical within our Coop context. I'm on the Archives committee and in the course of my work have browsed through many *Gazette* issues with impassioned letters arguing positions that clearly didn't enjoy a comfortable majority support. For example, in 1986 there was a referendum on "three controversial questions" (I'm quoting the 9/11/86 article) related to selling beer, selling poultry, and providing plastic bags. The referendum results were published, and the membership was not exactly united (poultry split 666 yes, 436 no; beer was 497 yes to 601 no).

The Coop is not a few individuals; it's all of us. I don't envy Joe and other staff for having to field phone calls from the media, some with distorted ideas about what's going on here, as well as from people who may be upset that the Coop community is considering a boycott of Israeli goods. But the answer is not to shy away from resolving the issue, thus perpetuating the idea that the BDS tactic is shameful, fringe behavior that inevitably leads to bad press for the Coop. It's not and it shouldn't—so let's stop the cycle and challenge that discourse. Openly discussing and voting on BDS at the Coop will give our community sustenance.

Melissa Morrone

## JOE'S OPINION OR THE COOP'S?

## TO THE EDITORS,

Coop General Coordinator and Co-Founder Joe Holtz submitted his opinion in the "Coordinators Corner" of the March 8th edition of the *Gazette* about holding a BDS referendum. He made it clear there that he does not want us to hold a Coop-wide referendum about joining the international movement for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against the Israeli treatment of Palestinians.

I do not assume that Joe represents any opinion except his own. He does not indicate in the article that he is speaking for anyone else. I would appreciate seeing *Gazette* articles or letters from other Coordinators either concurring or disagreeing with Joe.

Otherwise, I think readers might be misled into believing that what Joe thinks is what all the Coordinators think.

Naomi Brussel

## COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES AND THE REFERENDUM

## DEAR MEMBERS,

In the 3/8/2012 *Linewaiters' Gazette*, General Coordinator Joe Holtz expressed his concerns about the

upcoming General Meeting vote on whether to hold a Coop-wide Israeli boycott (BDS) referendum. Mostly they were rational concerns, lauding the value of face to face discussions only possible in the GM format, and more generally the dubious wisdom of taking a position on an issue over which there has been so much contention, and for which, one might add, the very presence of such vocal opposition to the boycott is worrying, as is the prospect of the agitation that might follow, were the boycott adopted, with hotheads like Glenn Beck and Alan Dershowitz involving themselves in our business.

In addition, said Joe: "We do not measure members on their adherence to any political position. There is no litmus test here for members other than whether the member is cooperating by fulfilling her membership responsibilities." Indeed, there isn't, but in support of that Joe cited the International Cooperative Alliance Statement on Cooperative Identity, and commented that the Statement "states clearly that coops are not organized for the purpose of taking political positions." In a narrow sense this is true; the Statement's definition says a cooperative is "an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise." But while the Statement's First Principle says that cooperatives are open to all persons "without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination," we should not equate that with the Coop taking a political position by a democratic vote of the members. Indeed, the Coop has taken such positions in the past, as Joe himself pointed out, albeit in those cases there was near unanimity of opinion. We've also taken clear political positions on issues like genetically engineered foods, the commercialization of water resources, and fracking. But again, near unanimity is not unanimity. According to this formulation, even near unanimity would still be discriminating against the few dissenting members. Whereas the intensity of certain members feelings on the issue in question may or may not be a good reason to vote against in the present case (indeed it's a tough call) we must be careful about equating that with discriminating against certain members, or, as Joe also said, making members feel "unwelcome and alienated from what has been their Coop."

There is no reason to believe that Coop members would be any less welcoming to other members based on their position on the upcoming referendum, were the Coop to vote for it at the coming GM. Were the proposal to ultimately pass, and if resignations ensue, we should be clear that they will not be due to an unwelcoming Coop. Rather, the resignations will be in protest of the Coop's decision, a perfectly valid

form of political and personal expression. But the protesters will be rejecting the Coop, not vice versa.

David Barouh

## REGARDING THE 'PLEASE VOTE COOP' ARTICLE

## TO THE EDITOR:

I was dismayed to read Joe Holtz's article in the previous issue of the *Gazette*. For a Coordinator and, as he takes pains to emphasize, founder of the Coop to claim that the Coop is not a political institution, and to conclude that we should, therefore, never take a position on anything remotely controversial, borders on the absurd.

Joe seems to wish this whole thing would just go away. There are many days I wish the same—when I think of the harassment, heckling and insults many of my pro-BDS friends have encountered. But despite these setbacks, I have faith all of us as Coop members should be able to discuss the issue civilly and, together, figure out how to address it in a way that's best for the Coop.

The answer to controversy is not to stifle discussion, nor to denigrate the group that's seen as "troublesome" for the Coop, but to have MORE discussion.

BDS has a broad array of supporters nationally and globally; has been called for by Palestinian civil society, and is a proven, non-violent form of taking a stand with the oppressed. Not only is it good for the Coop, it's good for millions of people in the Middle East and worldwide.

We ask only that all 16,000 Coop members be allowed to learn these facts, and others, and be given the time to make up their own minds on the issue.

Sincerely,  
Irina Ivanova

## THANKS JOE!

## DEAR MEMBERS,

We thank Joe Holtz for his continued stewardship and protection of our Coop. We join him in appealing to everyone who cares about the Coop to come to the March 27 General Meeting and vote NO on holding the referendum to join the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions of Israel Movement.

More Hummus Please

Anita Aboulafia, Rhudi Andreoli,  
Alexander Appelbaum, Alla Appelbaum,  
Maurice Appelbaum, Rebecca Appelbaum,  
Eva Aridjis, Roberta Arnold, Shena Gitel  
Astrin, Connie Bell, Greg Bell, Steve Beltzer,  
Michael Benjamin, Steven Berke, Shalmon  
Bernstein, Esther Bernstein, Danielle Rose  
Bernstein, Ora Chaya Bitton, Peretz  
Blasberg, Shandel Blasberg, Jennifer Bleyer,  
Gloria Blumenthal, Robert Blumenthal, Ruth  
Bolletino, Elisa Bonneau, Carla Brookoff,  
Rita Brookoff, Alan Brown, Arthur Brown,  
Matthew Brown, Jane Buckwalter, Darrin

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Cabot, Nathalie Cabot, Rubi Cammarota, Sandra Catania, Benedicte Charpentier, Francois Charpentier, Chana Crayk, Meir Crayk, Zusha Dean, Benyomin Delfiner, Chana Delfiner, Sharon Eagle, Audrey Elias, Mickey Elias, Eli Eliav, Shayna Eliav, Rose Engel, Mike Epstein, Anna Fefer, Herman Finkler, Arthur Finn, Carol Freeman, Riva Freeman, Ralph Friedman, Jill Friedman, Yoav Gal, Boaz Gilad, Sue Gilad, Lisa Gilinsky, Marshall Gilinsky, Isaiah Gitman, Olia Gitman, Yury Gitman, Frieda Givon, Yokhai Givon, Ronen Glimer, Felicia Glucksmann, Jordan Goldberg, Ellen Gordon, Asya Gorokhovskiy, Leonid Gorokhovskiy, Lori Gottesman, Leah Gradinger, Misty Gradinger, Ulrich Gradinger, Diana Gradus, Ari Gradus, Bob Graziano, Sybil Graziano, Feotiniya Grechko, Craig Gremont, Ilene Guttmacher, Margaret Hagen, Beth Halpern, Fran Hawthorne, Naf Hanau, Devorah Hershkop, Samuel Hertz, Esther Hertz, Adam Holland, Betty Leigh Hutcheson, Inna Hymowitz, Daniel Hymowitz, Sheldon Jacobson, Rachel Kalman, Constantine Kaniklidis, Berta Kantor, Yevgeniy Kantor, Michael Katzenellenbogen, Benjamin Kessel, Eric Kim, Joshua Kranz, Chana Kuperman, Maureen Kushner, Evelyn Lampart, Gracie Landes, Chaya Lang, Tzvi Lang, Adina Lazerson, Yisroel Lazerson, David Leveson, Jess Levey, Margaret Leveson, Chana Lew, Pinny Lew, Sylvia Lowenthal, Judith Magen, Ary Malamud, Sasha Malamud, Sandy Mandel, Abie Mazar, Avishay Mazar, Barbara Mazar, April Mellas, David Michaelson, Jacob Milkens, Juliet Milkens, Alan Mindel, Paula Morrell, Alexander Musayev, Barry Nass, Constance Nickel, Poppy O'Neill, Dr. Raisa Oklander, Baila Olidort, Marjorie Ordene, Jan Orzeck, Mushky Parnas, Rivka Parnas, Rodger Parsons, Hara Person, Ann Powell, Joseph Raices, Rivka Raices, Rachel Ravitz, Saul D. Raw, Yigal Rechtman, Jeffrey Rickin, Lila Rieman,

Michael Rieman, Jill Robinson, Joy Romanski, Devorah Roness, Myer Roness, Doris Rosenbaum, Ron Rosenbaum, Mirele Rosenberger, Riva Rosenfeld, Tzivia Chaya Rosenthal, Yaacov Rosenthal, Dovid Rubashkin, Faygy Rubashkin, Moshe Rubashkin, Rochel Rubashkin, Millie Ruttner, Jonathan S. Sack, Lisa Sack, Ruth Seliger, Daniel E. Schachter, Ilan Schifter, Rita Schifter, Shayna Schmidt, Irvin Schonfeld, Pearl Knopf Schonfeld, Victoria Shonbrun, Rivkah Siegel, Mushkie Silberberg, Naftali Silberberg, Alan Silver, Renee Silver, Lisa Smith, Michael Benjamin Smith, Wendy Smyth, Nancy Spitalnick, Israel Spitalny, Malkah Spitalny, Marion Stein, Ronald J. Stein, Ruth Steinberg, Stephanie Steinberg, Jonathan Stern, Mirit Tal, Aaron Tauber, Susan Tauber, Allen Tobias, Dolores Urove, Joel Warshawer, Rabbi Gerald I. Weider, Rosalie H. Weider, Frances Weiner, Baruch Weisman, Esther Wilenkin, Risha Wilenkin, Rivky Wilenkin, Constance Williams, Alessa Wirchberg, Yosef Wirchberg

WE OPPOSE BDS

TO THE MEMBERSHIP,  
I and others say "No" to the referendum because:

- (1) WE ARE PRO-COOP
  - We recognize that there are sharp differences of opinion on BDS. Previous political boycotts had no significant opposing faction. This referendum is creating extreme discord inside the Coop.
  - We support a Coop that is welcoming to all. This proposed referendum is creating a contentious atmosphere.
  - We value the Coop's good name and reputation. The referendum will bring opprobrium to the Coop, and all activities endorsed and affiliated with

the Coop. We will be tainted with the associations and alignments of the BDS Movement.

- We respect the right of all members to determine their political views and choose what products to buy. This referendum tries to impose a single political view upon the entire membership and removes choice.
- We reject the idea that selling goods from a country such as China, Israel, or Turkey, implies agreement with all the policies of these regimes.
- We believe that joining the BDS Movement means surrendering a certain amount of control to an outside entity that has no interest in the success of the Coop.

- We are concerned that joining the BDS Movement may subject the Coop to legal ramifications.

- (2) We are Pro-Peace
  - We support cooperative efforts to normalize relations between Israelis and Palestinians. These are the efforts that lay the foundation stones of peace. The BDS Movement's leadership opposes all joint activities with Israelis.
  - We support equitable negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians that provide mutual recognition of (1) both of their nationalist aspirations, identities, and historic ties to the land, and (2) both of their legitimate security concerns.

- We believe the Arab refugees who fled Israel to the neighboring Arab countries should be accorded basic human rights and dignity in those countries.

- We are concerned that the boycott will be damaging to the Palestinian economy and workforce that relies on the Israeli sector.

- We recognize that Israel alone is not responsible for the conflict and that pressure on Israel alone will not fix it.

- We believe that the continued Arab opposition to compromise perpetuates the conflict and in fairness this must be acknowledged.

More Hummus, Please  
Marion Stein

COMPLEXITIES OF THE BOYCOTT

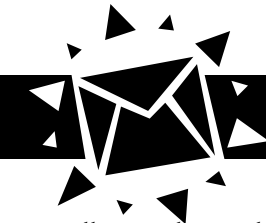
DEAR FELLOW MEMBERS,

The Boycott controversy reflects the same complexities and broader challenges to global peace that we all face.

The inability to converse respectfully on important topics and an unwillingness to co-exist, both fan the flames of intolerance.

I respect that the *Gazette* is providing a forum for discussion. The current dynamic, however, is a lose-lose situation. Can we PLEASE label all of our products and let each member choose who they support?

We are never going to all agree and as a cooperative we can acknowledge openly that we have strong differences of opinion.



To allow each member the privileges we are able to, would be an act of peacemaking.

I wonder what other terrible countries' products we are selling?

An inventory, please? Maybe we could list each product on the website, and also the country in which it originates, passes through or is sold by.

Tolerance. Peace. Cooperation.

Please! Let's try harder to get along!

Love wins. Hatred and anger hurt us all.

Claudia Joseph

BROOKLYN FOR PEACE: ISRAEL

COOP MEMBERS:

The following is excerpted from a recent Brooklyn For Peace flyer.

FACT SHEET: ISRAELI APARTHEID IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

1. *The Israeli settlements in Occupied Palestine are for Jews only. The settlements are illegal under International Law, which prohibits settling conquered territory. The land is often confiscated from individual Palestinian owners.*

2. *Thousands of Palestinian houses have been demolished to make way for housing that is only for Jews.*

3. *The Israeli government builds roads to connect their segregated settlements to cities inside Israel, roads that Palestinians are not allowed to use.*

4. *The Jewish settlers can move freely from Israel proper to their settlement homes on their segregated roads, while the movement of Palestinians within the West Bank is severely curtailed by hundreds of checkpoints, internal passports, and the separation wall, which cuts deep into Palestinian land.*

5. *The Jewish settlement towns have plentiful water and full sewage facilities, while Palestinian villages and towns are not provided with adequate water and sewage facilities.*

6. *The olive trees of the Palestinian farmers are often uprooted by the settlers or their fields are poisoned while the Israeli army turns a blind eye. This has interfered greatly with Palestinian farmers' livelihood.*

7. *Jewish settlers' crimes against Palestinians are usually not prosecuted by Israeli authorities.*

8. *Palestinians are subject to arrest and detention in jails without charges and without legal council that is available to Jews. Thousands of Palestinians are in Israeli prisons, many of them children, without ever being charged or brought to trial.*

9. *The Jewish settlers in the Occupied Territories live under Israeli law, have Israeli citizenship, and vote in Israeli elections. Palestinians live under Israeli Military Law, have no national citizenship, and cannot vote in Israeli elections.*

FACT SHEET: APARTHEID WITHIN ISRAEL

1. *Non-Jewish Israeli citizens are prohibited, from buying or leasing approximately 95% per cent of the land and property in Israel, which can be bought or leased only by Jews.*

2. *A non-Jewish Israeli citizen, if he or she marries a Palestinian from the Occupied Terri-*

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, fac-

tual 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

tories, cannot live with his or her spouse in Israel. They must move out of the country or live apart. Jewish Israelis can live and marry who they want, however if they want to marry a non-Jew, they must leave the country to do so. Jews and non-Jews cannot get married in Israel.

3. Only Jewish religious sites are given legal protection in Israel by the government. Christian and Moslem holy sites are not recognized as official holy sites in Israel, and are not given legal protection.

4. All citizens of Israel have their religious identity on their internal IDs, so non-Jews are always distinguished from Jewish citizens, and are often treated differently based on their religion.

5. Candidates cannot run for political office in Israel if they advocate for Israel to become a nation with equal rights under the law for all its citizens.

References: Author: Richard Greve, [www.israelawresourcecenter.org](http://www.israelawresourcecenter.org), [www.endtheoccupation.org](http://www.endtheoccupation.org)

Mary Buchwald  
Brooklyn For Peace

## NONVIOLENCE AND THE REFERENDUM

### TO THE EDITORS,

Opponents of our Coop joining the boycott of Israeli goods often suggest that instead of boycotting Israel, why not boycott China or Burma? Why not [insert another human-rights violator here]?

The question we will face at the General Meeting on March 27, however, is not which country has the worst human rights record. The question is: Do we Coop members get to vote on joining the call by Palestinian activists to boycott the regime that tries to control their lives—in order to pressure the Israeli government to end the occupation?

The occupation means that the Israeli government controls the roads in the West Bank and Gaza and sets up check points that delay ambulances, not to mention people trying to get to work or do ordinary business. It means bulldozing houses and plowing under olive groves. It means building a wall through Palestinian villages and continuing to take land from Palestinians and give it to Israeli settlers. Boycott-Divestment-Sanctions is a nonviolent response to the occupation. Those who decry rocket attacks—as I do—should think about supporting nonviolent campaigns like BDS to bring change.

As a member since 1990, I believe that our Coop joining BDS would be a significant step. The attention we've been getting—from the *Wall Street Journal* to the *Daily News*; from Glenn Beck to Chuck Schumer—suggests others think so, too. If you disagree—if you think our Coop joining the boycott would not make a difference to the lives of Palestinians, or if you support Israel's actions while occupying the West Bank and Gaza—then I hope you will consider supporting a referendum on the issue anyway. Let our membership decide, in the Coop's best democratic tradition.

Chris Seymour

## TRUTH OR LIES?

### TO THE EDITOR:

My concern about the March 27 vote is that many Coop members, unfamiliar with historical events and issues involved in the boycott controversy, have no way of distinguishing truth from lies.

The vote is not simply about banning four or five Israeli Coop products. It's about PSFC becoming officially aligned with an international movement with no objectives for helping Palestinian people. (Look in vain on the international BDS website for any concrete goals to help them build a better society or stop the abuses they endure from every Arab country or area where they live.) BDS aims only at delegitimizing and dismantling Israel as a Jewish state.

Examining the BDS leaflet distributed at the Coop, one hardly knows where in its mass of falsehoods and distortions to begin.

Here are just a few random corrections to the leaflet:

**There is no Israeli "military" or "illegal" "occupation" of Gaza, the West Bank or East Jerusalem.**

- Gaza is ruled by Hamas, a militant extremist Muslim Group.

- Both Arabs and Israelis have legitimate claim to some West Bank land. Israel has legal claims based on the British Mandate, the last legal authority in the disputed territories, and historical claims based on its 3000-year presence.

- Many Palestinians in East Jerusalem are citizens with the same rights as all other citizens. Others have "permanent resident" status, entitling them to municipal services (including health care) and voting rights.

**The so-called "separation wall" is a security barrier**, mostly wire fencing, constructed to stop suicide bombers from entering Israel. The "right" it violates is to force people to pass through a checkpoint, as in airports. Similar barriers exist between the U.S. and Mexico.

**Israel's so-called "attacks on unarmed supply ships in international water" was vindicated in the UN Palmer report**, stating that the boarding was legal, and the objectives and conduct of flotilla organizers included violence.

**So-called "political prisoners" are held in Israel because they are terrorists or are associated with extremist jihadist initiatives.**

As for the insidious myth and slander of so-called Israeli "apartheid," refer to the *NY Times* article by Richard Goldstone, "Israeli and the Apartheid Slander (11-1-2011).

BDS is a major player in the game of distorting facts about Israel. Many people, including media professionals, have decried the absence of balanced reporting about Israel.

Please try to learn more about what

actually goes on there before you vote.

Those advocating the PSFC boycott don't discuss the aims of global BDS, but you can read about them on the global website: [www.bdsmovement.net/bdsintro](http://www.bdsmovement.net/bdsintro)

Here are information sources about the other side of the story:

**CAMERA:** Center for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting: [www.camera.org](http://www.camera.org)  
**Stand With Us:** [www.standwithus.org](http://www.standwithus.org), [www.sayyestopeace.org](http://www.sayyestopeace.org)

**Real Partners. Real Peace:** [www.realpartnersrealpeace.org](http://www.realpartnersrealpeace.org)

**Divest This:** [www.divestthis.com](http://www.divestthis.com)

**FLAME: Facts and Logic about the Middle East:** [www.factsandlogic.org](http://www.factsandlogic.org)  
**The American Israel Public Affairs Committee:** [www.AIPAC.org](http://www.AIPAC.org)

**TIP (The Israel Project) Sheet:** [www.theisraelproject.org](http://www.theisraelproject.org)

**FrontLine Israel:** [www.israel/frontline.com/2011/08/scottish-professor-response-to-boycott](http://www.israel/frontline.com/2011/08/scottish-professor-response-to-boycott)

**Honest Reporting:** [www.honestreporting.com](http://www.honestreporting.com)

**Simon Wiesenthal Center newsletter:** [www.newsletter@wiesenthal.com](mailto:www.newsletter@wiesenthal.com)  
Mitchell Bard, *The Arab Lobby*. (2010: New York, HarperCollins)

For the sake of the Coop, vote "No."  
Ruth Bolletino

## RESPONSE TO MAZOR

### DEAR MEMBERS,

I have not, in close to 20 years of Coop membership, been moved to write to the *Gazette* before. But I cannot allow Barbara Mazor's awful "Member Contribution" to go unchallenged.

Joel Kovel is one of the most principled, ethical and intelligent people on the planet. Mazor is welcome to disagree with his findings and his positions, but what she's done in this piece is to cherry-pick the most provocative language she can find from his book *Overcoming Zionism*, clearly not to enlighten, but, Limbaugh-like, to inflame. Mazor has clearly decided that anyone whose opinion on the BDS movement differs from hers is an anti-Semite, an offensive and grotesque mockery of BDS activists' motives.

I find the article despicable, and am disappointed that the *Gazette* staff chose to print it.

Martha Livingston

## INFORMED DEBATE

### DEAR EDITORS,

I am a Coop member of 12 years, and a Jew. While I would not support an all-Israel boycott by any means, I am nonetheless grateful for the conversation happening at the Coop. Many of my non-member Jewish friends, as well as local press, have been blasting the Coop for engaging in a BDS debate. I have quite a problem with this. There is so much hatred in the world that comes without educa-

tion, understanding and nuance. I don't judge anyone's position on Israel/Palestine AS LONG AS IT IS A TRULY INFORMED ONE, not one born of ignorance, hatred, fear or dogma. My hope is that with a debate, with a conversation, people will walk away with a deeper understanding of this complex issue, with an appreciation for the heartfelt motivations behind many supporters on both sides, and with the chutzpah to come to an informed place of personal choice driven by one's own moral compass, rather than simply to go with one herd or another. This is what democracy looks like. If we, as the Coop, vote to move to a referendum, it becomes our responsibility to ensure a structured, vibrant, educational conversation that includes many voices sharing the historical, sociological, religious, security and human rights backgrounds of the region. If the Coop's member body walks away from this process with a deeper understanding, regardless of the outcome of a vote, we have truly achieved our democratic goals. Anything shy of this, however, will only be divisive and will erode our common values and our search for common good. Education IS democracy.

Thank you.

David Novack

## BDS TARGETS ISRAEL

### DEAR MEMBERS,

195 countries and BDS targets one: Israel. Supporters write about discrimination, political oppression and colonization. They want to boycott Israeli products, ideas, artists and teachers. Their target is the legitimacy and survival of the State of Israel.

The boycott does not extend to Jordan yet the events of Black September killed thousands and caused the expulsion of thousands of Palestinians. It does not mention Kuwait, which expelled hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. Lebanon prohibits access to Lebanese health care and Palestinians cannot work in most professions, own land etc. Other Arab countries discriminate in the same fashion but BDS is silent about that. Only Israel is the target.

Our Chinese-made goods don't seem to bother the people pushing for the boycott. Never a word about China moving Han Chinese into Tibet and other minority provinces. Do you think supporters avoid Chinese-made electronics? Only Israel is the evil country to them.

Trucks deliver to us using oil from pillars of democracy/justice like Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Russia. Did I miss their outcry on that or regarding Turkish products and the treatment of Kurds and Armenians?

Carefully avoiding buying food from land 'colonized' by Israel, what foods do supporters buy? Certainly nothing grown in the Western Hemi-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

18 March 22, 2012

Park Slope Food Coop, Brooklyn, NY

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

sphere, Australia and New Zealand to start. What do the supporters eat?

When sick, will supporters refuse treatments for their parents and kids because the medical hardware/software is from Israel? Do they not eat food grown in arid lands or greenhouses because Israeli technology and products are used globally in this industry? Are their homes free of Israeli designed Intel dual core processors and Microsoft software? Do they stay off the Internet and not use computer security software as Israel is home to firms in both areas? If the boycott is approved the Coop would have to vet all these services and stop using them if Israel designed or produced it.

Perhaps BDS supporters would urge people in Bosnia or nations devastated by tsunamis and natural disasters to refuse the assistance of Israeli search and rescue and medical teams.

Israel is a democracy with many voices struggling with issues. America has a long painful history of our internal struggles on civil, worker and equal rights, the environment etc. Not too long ago blacks and whites could not marry or even share bathrooms in parts of our country. Change has to come from talks and compromise between the affected parties. There are many positive ways to add your voice to Mid East issues. BDS is not one of them.

Ultimately BDS has no answer to the central fairness question of their proposal—why is Israel the only country in the world that deserves to be boycotted? We should quickly vote down any proposal to boycott Israel, put an end to this distraction and return our Coop to doing good work promoting good food and positive cooperative action.

Stewart Pravda

## BDS AND FEDERAL LAW

## DEAR EDITOR:

I am the Coop attorney. In response to the on-going question of whether the Coop is bound by the anti-boycott federal laws concerning trade with Israel, I went to the U.S. Department of Commerce website which enabled me to email an inquiry. I said we are 16,000+ members with more than \$45million in annual sales, and that there is an issue to be brought to our next general meeting which seeks a boycott of Israeli goods from our Coop. I said that we did not wish to move forward with an issue that might violate the law, and asked for guidance.

Less than a week later I received a return phone call from Fred Davidson, the Assistant Director for Policy at the Department of Commerce. Mr. Davidson first informed me that he had already known of the issue having read Ginia Bellafante's March 4th *New York Times* article. Mr. Davidson made it clear that the answer to the issue

presented, (are we subject to the anti-boycotting legislation?), is no we are not because the statute is not intended to regulate consumer boycotts.

In other words, there is no prohibition to our Coop deciding whether to buy or not to buy goods from Israel. The focus of the legislation is the international stage and has to do with (a) issues related to trade between nations, or (b) nations or large political organizations penalizing, intimidating or coercing those choosing, or refusing, to boycott goods from Israel.

Michael Salgo

## BDS AND SODASTREAM

## TO THE EDITOR:

The SodaStream carbonator is one of the products targeted as part of the boycott of Israel. Not only does the Coop have over \$150,000/year in gross revenues from the sale of SodaStream products, we are also collectively keeping over half a million soda bottles out of the waste stream.

SodaStream has 18 production and filling sites worldwide, with the primary one located in Mishor Adumim, part of Zone C, an area designated as under Israeli control according to the Oslo accords, and its final status is to be determined through negotiations. Despite claims to the contrary, there is nothing illegal about either the factory or its exports.

The Mishor Adumim facility was built on deserted land leased in 1998. In the event that this area will be transferred to the new State of Palestine, it will be for the new authority to decide if they want to keep this plant, which employs hundreds of Palestinians. It is a good business and would likely just end up paying taxes to the new entity and continue on. If asked, SodaStream will close this plant.

The SodaStream factory employs 300 Palestinian workers from the local villages, who earn 4 to 6 times more than they would where they live. They get social benefits—medical, maternity leave, etc., which is unheard of in their villages. Independent auditing companies have found the working conditions, compensation plan and general employee atmosphere to be excellent. Each worker is providing for the needs of approximately 10 people on his/her salary. Those who wish to shut down the Mishor Adumim plant do not have the Palestinian workers' best interests at heart.

Rather than targeted, SodaStream should be recognized for its positive contribution to the welfare of its employees and for bringing people from different and often opposing backgrounds to work together in peace and harmony. Palestinians, Israeli Arabs and Jews, Ethiopians, Russians, Americans and Bedouins, all work together, under one roof, at the same production lines. SodaStream brings work to an area with more than 30% unemployment.

Investment and development of the economy is the engine that will bring peace to the region.

Please come to the March General Meeting and vote NO on holding the BDS referendum.

Rhudi Andreolli

## BDS? NO!

## DEAR MEMBERS,

I strongly oppose any BDS action taken by the Coop, and any BDS specifically targeting Israeli products, for these reasons:

Politically motivated boycotts violate core Coop principles. Our Coop has a single membership tier. We all work, we all have our say. I have no right to force another member not to buy any product for any political reason, and no governing board or majority has the right to impose a similar restriction on me. To do so either assumes I'm ignorant of the politics involved, or I have the "wrong" opinion. Both assumptions are paternalistic and offensive. Imposing a boycott pits Coop members against each other: those who support the boycott against those who don't. By leaving the choice up to the individual, each member consults their own mind and heart about their buying decisions.

From the Coop's mission statement: "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." Respect my opinion on Israel and let me make my own purchasing choices.

From the membership manual: "First Principle: Voluntary and Open Membership. Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibility of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination." Preventing me from buying Israeli products is political discrimination.

Boycotts punish citizens, not governments. They are ineffective at influencing governmental policy. Boycotts are forms of economic war and only hurt the people of the targeted country. Did you support the illegal wars in Iraq or Afghanistan, or are you in favor of drone attacks? Why would you punish a hummus maker because you oppose the actions of the Israeli government? And if you think this boycott will have little real impact on the Israeli government's policies and is only symbolic, why do it and drag others into it?

Why only target Israel? Based on any stated reason for the boycott—opposition to illegal occupation of land, oppression of minority groups, or civil rights violations—why is this only applied to Israel? Why exempt other governments which have a far worse record on human rights, such

as Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia or China?

Further, why not impose a boycott against US products as well? The US occupies territory taken by force from native inhabitants. The US government has been involved in illegal and covert wars for decades, and kills its own citizens and foreign-born civilians abroad, including children, using drones. What leaves the United States exempt from similar BDS efforts?

The decision to buy Israeli products rests with each member, not with any governing board or majority. If you oppose the majority imposing its will on a minority, lead by example and oppose an enforced boycott against Israeli products at our Coop.

Gregg Sanderson

## NON-BDS TOPICS:

## COOP BUSINESS

## DEAR EDITORS,

Really looking forward to hearing the financials and how many times the Coop turns the merchandise.

What I am actually interested in seeing in writing and hearing about the following:

What does each category bring in based on the square footage.

Produce  
Dairy  
Cheese  
Bulk Products  
Cereals  
Candy Aisle  
Vitamin Aisle  
Home Cleaning  
Pet Foods  
and the list goes on

I would assume without knowing that the produce department is producing the most dollars with maybe the largest store footage???

Issue #2

What I have noticing lately, there are no workers and members are leaving the Coop with the shopping cart? Are they bringing it back?

And of course the shopping cart they are taking with them without the walker is the regular or mini shopping cart, it is not the large shopping—the shopping cart that is only supposed to be used is the large double decker meant for the bumps of Park Slopes streets.

Issue #3

Will there police be at the next board meeting???

I want to vote but I do not want to be involved in any crazy, nightmare with uncontrollable people.

I do not want to be in a fight, I do not want to be anywhere near the crazies.

Can I submit an absentee ballot? Look at what is going on right outside the door—I have had enough of this.

I come to the Coop to buy my food—period—the end.

Nadine Cohen



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANKS PSFC!

HI,  
Last April we demoed our breakfast cereal Mu Mu Muesli at the Coop. We were about to leave when a member/worker Dave Pablo asked if we were going to a rally against fracking in Albany the next day. We did not even know what fracking was, we looked into and went to the rally, OUR LIVES WERE CHANGED FOREEVER! WE learned in our small town of Sharon Springs we had over 70% of our counties' leased land (over 5,000 acres) we educated our citizens and spoke up!

Long story short, Dave's action led us to become as active as we can be and in two days our Village will be passing a ban of drilling for natural gas. THIS IS HUGE!! If it was not for your educated membership we would not have learned about natural gas drilling and what a nightmare it is and we would have never have become

leaders and activist in our small town to fight this industry. I thought it makes for great story because our Coop closer to home, Honest Weight Food Coop, is deciding to follow your lead and hopefully come out against fracking.

Thanks much,  
Mike Shuster from Mu Mu Muesli

FORGET THE CUP OF COFFEE

Scruffy man comes up  
Down Fifth Avenue,  
Says with urgency,  
"Got 99 cents havenue?"

99 cents is precisely  
What's not in my pocket  
So I ask the poor fellow  
What can be on his docket.

Waving a scratched-up iPhone,  
Doffing his Yankees cap,  
Man explains his cadging—  
"I need it for an app."

Leon Freilich

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.

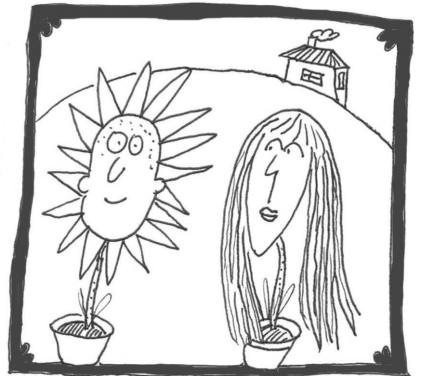
FRI, MAR 23

8 p.m. Bob Franke, Renowned Singer-Songwriter, Concert at OSA Hall, 220 E. 23rd St, Suite 707 (between 2nd & 3rd Avenues), New York, 10010. \$20 general; children & full-time students free. Presented by Folk Music Society of NY Info: 212-957-8386 or www.folkmusicny.org.

SAT, MAR 24

1:30-4:30 p.m. 2 days (cont. on Sunday 3/25). Songwriting Workshop with Bob Franke a renowned singer songwriter; Includes resources, individual interviews, assignments, critiques, and rewrite advice. \$50. West Side Manhattan. Reservations & advance payment required. Call 718-965-4074. Folk Music Society of NY, Inc.

8-10:30 p.m. Peoples' Voice Cafe Steve Suffet & Anne Price with special guest Beth Kotkin. At The Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 East 35th St. (betw. Madison & Park). For info call 212-787-3903 www.peoplesvoicecafe.org. Suggested donation: \$15-18 general/\$10 members.



SUN, MAR 25

2-5 p.m. Greening Flatbush: Garden Where You Are engages and empowers people from all over Brooklyn to participate in creating sustainable urban neighborhoods. At the Flatbush Reformed Church (890 Flatbush Ave). Event is free, with a suggested donation of \$10 for the event and the community meal. RSVP: http://sustainableflatbush.org.

WED, MAR 28

7-9 p.m. James Peterson discusses and signs this revised version of his acclaimed cookbook "Vegetables," which features new recipes and 500 full-color photos, with famed baker Nick Malgieri. The powerHouse Arena at 37 Main Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. For more information, please call 718.666.3049 RSVP: rsvp@powerHouseArena.com.

7 p.m. Busting the Self-Made Myth at the NY Society for Ethical Culture (2 West 64th Street, NY) Brian Miller (United for a Fair Economy) and Mike Lapham (Responsible Wealth Director) will discuss their book, *The Self-Made Myth: And the Truth About How Government Supports Individual and Business Success*. The event will include lively discussions.

SAT, MAR 31

8-10:30 p.m. Peoples' Voice Cafe Toby Fagenson; Caroline Cutroneo & Mara Levine; Gathering Time. At The Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 East 35th St. (betw. Madison & Park). For info call 212-787-3903 www.peoplesvoicecafe.org. Suggested donation: \$15-18 general/\$10 members.

WELCOME!

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

Amanda Lynn Akwei  
Wilson Alford  
Ada Anon  
Richard Baker  
Rebecca Balmer  
Dean Bell  
Emily Bennett-Coles  
Erik Berg  
Emrys Berkower  
Mindy Berkower  
Brian G. Berman  
William Best  
Avni Bhatia  
Sonia Bhuta  
Taylor Blakin  
Julia Block  
Amos Bloomberg  
Miriam Bogart  
Sara Bouchard  
Marie Bova  
Zachary Boyce  
Seth Bradley  
Simon Brandler  
Les Brown  
Creslyn Burnette  
Kelly Carlin  
Coquito Cassibba  
Rossini Celestin  
Yuen Chan  
Genevieve Chow  
Petra Clairborne  
Neal Cohen  
Naomi Cohen-Thompson  
Nicholas Cohen-Thompson  
Jolene Collins  
Sean Cronin  
Megan Cump  
Helen Dally  
David Dash  
Adrinne Day  
Amy DeMarco  
Karishma Desai  
Carolyn di Liberto  
Jeff Dorfman  
James Eden  
Malika Edinborough  
Rosa Encarnacion  
David Estes  
Mark Farnen  
Keira Ferber  
James Fitzpatrick  
Melissa Fitzpatrick  
Janine Flasschoen  
Gretchen Fonda  
Tyler Fonda  
Erika Forster  
Jeannine Fueller  
Elisabeth Genn  
Daniel Genova  
Robert Gilbert  
Samuel Gimbel  
John Gizunterman  
Regina Gizunterman  
Jonathan Goodman Levitt  
Dorothy Goodman  
Daniel Gordon  
Gail Gove  
Alice Grandoit  
Andrew Gregory  
Rona Gruia  
Jade Hall  
Tal Hanuna  
Alexandra Hartman  
Erick Henry  
Carolina Herrera  
Whitney Hess  
Maite Hierro  
Evan Hill  
John Hill  
Sarah Hill  
Chana Hoffinger  
Chananya Hoffinger

Christa Holder  
Randall Holl  
Peter Hoppmann  
Douglas Hubbard  
Andrew Hunter  
David Jacobson  
Rita Jaskowitz  
Marina Josefou  
Gabriella Karl  
Gelseigh Karl-Cannon  
Freddie Keen  
Margaret Kelly Rambo  
Liz King  
Kamal Kishore  
Elisabeth Knafo  
Hai Knafo  
Eugene Kogan  
Alexandra Korobova  
Ewelina Koszykowska  
Alexandra Kotcheff  
Kareem Kouddous  
Kimberly Kreider  
Tammy Kremer  
Raizel Krinsky  
(Mendy) Menachem Krinsky  
Diana Kuan  
Kristy LaRocca  
Kara Larson  
Ellie Lassiter  
Roberta Lee  
David Levi  
Rachel Lewett  
Jo Lewington  
Viktor Litvyakov  
Lyubov Litvyakova  
Esther Llamas  
Julia Lofredo  
Bonnie Long  
Stephanie Lowe  
Curtis Macdonald  
Jeremy Malmon  
Clare Manchon  
Olivier Manchon  
Christopher Martin  
Jason Matos  
Nicole McBride  
Hilary McHone  
Julian Mierlak  
Matt Mili  
Leanna Miller  
John Monti  
Philip Mossman  
Bitta Mostofi  
Stacey Murphy  
Dina Muscanell  
Priya Nat  
Cory Nellissen  
Tobia Neufeld  
Yekaterina Nikitina  
Elizabeth Nuland  
Yair Oelbaum  
Orlando Aruan Ortiz Vizcay  
Natalia Ortiz  
John C. Pale  
Erin Parker  
Kathleen Pequeno  
Marisa Perez  
Katherine Perkins  
Kirsten Peterson  
Lyudmil Petrov  
Brigit Pinnell  
Angelina Pinto  
Jessica Polaniecki  
Kristin Porter  
Abdul Powell  
Junko Powell  
Rachel Pratt  
Carlos Quintana  
Bill Radtke  
Neil Rambo  
Yoga Rangatia  
Candice Ribar

Alfredo Rios  
Geraldine Rios  
Nicole Rios  
Lindsay Robinson  
Daniel Rojo  
Shelly Ronen  
Annie Rose  
Isa Rosenbloom  
Alecia Rubino  
David Rubino  
Isabel Sadurni  
Andres Saldarriaga  
Miriam Schiffer  
Alexandra Schmidt  
Eva Schneider  
Philip Schneider  
Moriah Shapiro  
Marissa Shipman  
David Silverberg  
Ashley Simcox  
Laura Sitkin  
Rachel Smith  
Jonathan Snyder  
Mark Snyder  
Doreen Sorrell  
Esther Sosa  
Stacey Spaulding  
Tamara Stanford  
Ruby Stiler  
Tullah Sutcliffe  
Anna Taiga  
Anton Taiga  
Elizabeth Tarras  
Thabea Taschner  
Justin Tate  
Alice Tavener  
Olivia Taylor  
Jenna Teti  
Aubryn Thompson  
Greta Thompson  
Nora Tillmanns  
Andrew Tolve  
David Turk  
Julia Turk  
Haley Turner  
Tomomi Uemura  
Brahm Vaccarella  
Malcolm Varon  
Benjamin Vega  
Jennifer Vega  
Andy Vernon-Jones  
Marica Viczian  
Yael Viner  
Brian Walters  
Karen Walters  
Tiffany Wang  
Ruby Wara-Goss  
Bayoan Ware  
Linda Wasylewski  
Karana White  
Micah Wood  
Tracey Wood  
Amia Yokoyama  
Jordan Young  
Mark Zavelin  
Sofya Zavelina  
Elizabeth Zeeuw  
Maya Ziv



## CLASSIFIEDS

## BED &amp; BREAKFAST

THE HOUSE ON 3rd ST. B&B - serving the Slope for over 20 yrs. Parlor floor-thru apt. sleeps 5 in comfort & privacy, queen bed, bath, double living room, kitchenette, outdoor deck. Visit our web site at [houseon3st.com](http://houseon3st.com). Click our FB link or call Jane at 718-788-7171. Ask about bargains for last minute bookings. Let us host you!

## COMMERCIAL SPACE

PROFESSIONAL OFFICES available for Health Practitioners; e.g. Nutritionist, Medical Doctor, Psychotherapist, Massage Therapist, Podiatrist, Dentist, Reiki, Shiatsu, etc. Be part of an Holistic center in SOHO. Doctor will introduce all patients. Non-medical spaces also available. For information, please call 212-505-5055.

## 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](mailto:petnanny01@yahoo.com).

## SERVICES

TOP HAT MOVERS, INC., 145 Park Place, Bklyn. Licensed and Insured Moving Co. moves you stress-free. Full line of boxes & packing materials avail. Free estimates 718-965-0214. D.O.T. #T-12302. Reliable, courteous, excellent references & always on time. Credit cards accepted. Member Better Business Bureau.

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

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



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