

Established
1973

LINEWAITERS'

GAZETTE



Volume GG, Number 8

April 19, 2012

At Historic Meeting, Coop Votes Not to Vote

Members Swarm Brooklyn Tech in Crescendo to BDS Furor

By Willow Lawson

On March 27, the Park Slope Food Coop held its largest membership meeting ever in the auditorium of Brooklyn Tech High School. Coop members queued outside, snaking around three sides of the block. They were preparing to vote on whether or not to hold a membership-wide referendum to join the Boycott, Divestment and Sanction movement against Israel, or BDS. BDS seeks to pressure the Israeli government to change its policies toward Palestinians. The push by a group of members to join the boycott against Israeli products had divided the membership for months.

Pro-boycott canvassers made their way from person to person, passing out flyers and maps of Israel. One man accepted a leaflet from a woman, and then, with a flourish, crammed it into a garbage can on the other side of the iron gate. "Well, don't throw it away!" she objected. "It's mine, isn't it? I can do what I want with it," he snapped. She moved on.

Another woman, a Coop member for over 20 years, debated the proposed boycott—the only issue on the agenda—with another man and woman. Two smiling women took advantage of the crowd to spread the word for

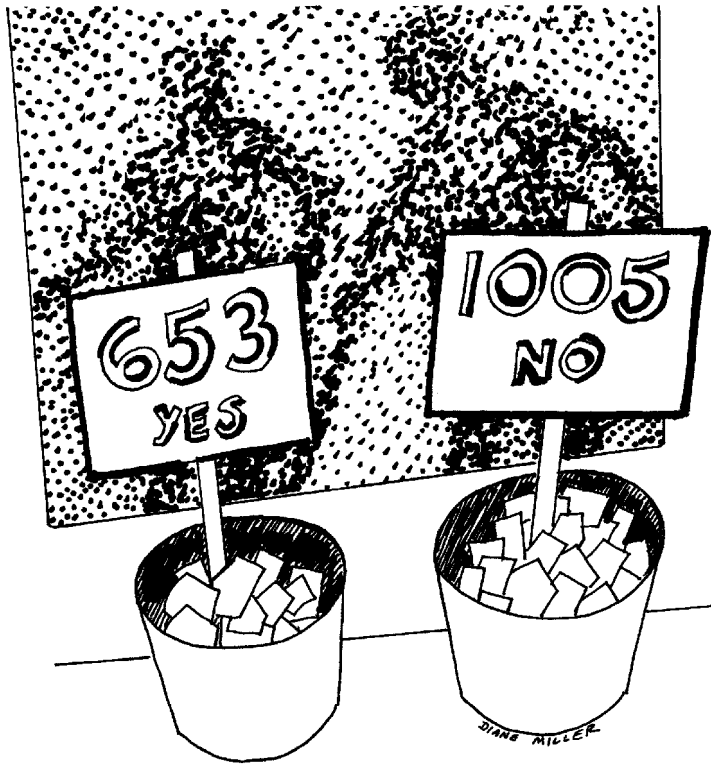


ILLUSTRATION BY DIANE MILLER

a performance art project.

Around 7:30 p.m., Coop workers in orange cart-walking vests, some of them Membership Coordinators, called out for people with last names starting with T through V to move to the head of the line. These members moved forward into the dark foyer of the high school and up a flight of stairs to a line of some 25 members behind tables with alphabetical print-outs of the entire 16,000-plus Coop membership. After signing next to his or her name, each member received a ballot and a paper to request the

opportunity to speak. The yellow ballot served as a ticket to pass by the two FTOP workers at the door.

Within the dim auditorium, about half of the seats were still open. A few men and women lingered behind a folding table set back from the edge of the bright stage—the Chair Committee. The room slowly filled up, and at 7:45 p.m. a man with gray hair and a green flannel shirt approached the podium to announce that an estimated 2,000 people were still waiting outside. He asked how many people had never been

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Greenshoots: Early Signs of Spring

By Liz Welch

Most people think of asparagus as the first sign of spring, but Allen Zimmerman, General Coordinator and Produce Buyer, says that for him, it's ramps. The wild leek often arrives in the Coop in early April, whereas local asparagus won't start coming in until much later in the month. "We'll have the first California asparagus before then," Zimmerman explains, "and the Mexican shipments arrive even before then, which is when I start getting excited. That means spring has arrived, at least in North America." These shipments mark the beginning of the cornucopia of greens that show up in our overflowing produce aisle, a stunning and textured quilt of verdant color that signals that spring has sprung.

Like the exotic fruits I wrote about for my last *Gazette* story—the kumquats, passion fruit and pomegranates that got us through winter—the Coop offers an unusual and exciting selection of spring greens and vegetables that give members another reason

to welcome and celebrate the changing seasons. Who wants spinach when you can have yu choy? Or black summer bok choy? Or Red Garnet baby mustard greens?

I had never heard of yu choy before I sat down with Zimmerman and his produce-buying partner, Receiving Coordinator Julie Gabriel. As it turns out, yu choy is an Asian green that Zimmerman orders from Hepworth Farms, a seventh generation, family-run farm based in Milton, New York, on the banks of the Hudson River. The Coop's relationship with the farm was written about in a 2008 *New York* magazine story that is worth looking up if you are interested in the provenance of many of the fruits and vegetables that fill the Coop's produce aisle. Zimmerman has nurtured an extraordinary relationship with twin sisters Amy and Gail Hepworth—and their produce—and we members reap the benefits. Hepworth is just one of many local farms that supplies the Coop with its spring bounty. Julie Gabriel orders from Lancaster Farm

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Next General Meeting on April 24

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, April 24, at 7:00 p.m. at the Congregation Beth Elohim Temple House (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place.

The agenda is in this *Gazette*, on the Coop website at 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.

* Exceptions will be posted.

Coop Event Highlights

- Sat, Sun Apr 21, 22** • **Training Sessions for 2012**
Brooklyn Food Conference – various times
- Fri, Apr 27** • **Wordsprouts:**
The Raw Extreme Manifesto 7:00 p.m.
- Thu, May 3** • **Food Class: So You Want to Be a**
Culinary Tour Guide? 7:30 p.m.
- Fri, May 4** • **Film Night:**
RFK in the Land of Apartheid 7:00 p.m.

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Concerns Regarding Plastic Roll Bags	5
Why Grow Food at Home	6
Heeding Dr. King's Words	7
Board of Director Candidate Statements	10
Coop Hours, Coffeehouse	12
Coop Calendar, Workslot Needs	
Governance Information, Mission Statement	13
Letters to the Editor	16
Classified Ads	19
Community Calendar	20

Coop Votes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to a monthly meeting. More than half of the audience responded.

"Who are you?" shouted members of the audience.

"I'm Carl Arnold, a member of the Chair Committee. And if you were to come to monthly General Meetings, you would recognize us," he answered. Arnold called for mutual respect, no applause, boos or hisses. "It's uncooperative and very, very time consuming." The auditorium had to be emptied by 10:30 p.m., he added. The committee also asked members not to take videos or photos, or to tweet during the meeting.

Arnold asked how many people had never been to a monthly meeting. More than half of the audience responded.

Bill Penner, a member of the Board of Directors, announced that because of a miscommunication with the school, the Coop could not use the seats in the balcony, which cut the meeting capacity to about 1,800 seats. Provisions had been made by the Board, in the event that more members were present than the auditorium's capacity, for people who were waiting outside to cast a vote even if they couldn't fit into the meeting. People in the room would also be allowed to vote early and leave, opening up seats for those outside, Penner said.

"Who is going to present the proposal?" asked Arnold. Several men and women, almost all of whom appeared to be in their 20s and 30s, approached the stage.

Ann Monroe, another member of the Chair Committee, said the presenters had precisely eight minutes to speak.

After a short video, which ended with a URL and the words "Palestinian Queers for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions," a man stepped to the microphone and explained the BDS initiative's position.

A slideshow of photos of Israelis and Palestinians played on the large screen as each member of the group of speakers made the presentation in favor of the boycott.

Ann Monroe then called nine names from the list of those requesting a chance to speak. Each speaker was

given two minutes, and could see the lights on a debate clock turn from green to yellow to red.

One woman urged the membership to "talk about food," not politics. Another woman, who joined the Coop some 25 years ago, suggested the issue of Middle Eastern politics was too large to be

come together to cooperate together....Think about cooperation and make it work. Please help, by voting no."

A young woman followed Holtz to the podium. "I'm surprised to hear, Joe, that there is a higher form of decision making than democracy," she said. "Our Coop is made up of more than people who sup-



tackled by the Coop. "We're a grocery store, for goodness sakes," she said.

Joe Holtz, a General Coordinator, founding Coop member and vocal critic of the proposed boycott, was the last of the group to speak. He said the Coop had always used the General Meeting to hash out controversial issues in the past, such as whether to carry alcohol, meat or plastic bags. "I want to urge people here to take responsibility for the future of the Coop and to say what kind of Coop do we want....How did we get here? We didn't get here by passing the responsibility from a meeting to referendum where people don't have to think about facing each other....Our form of government is a higher form of government," he said. "It's so clear this is ripping people apart....This is a Coop of people who have

port Israel. There are people in our Coop who have been deported by Israel....This is not happening a world away from us. This is happening in our community."

Another group was called to the stage. "Next week starts Passover," said a woman named Nicky. "Passover marks the exodus of Jews from Mitzrayim, which is usually translated as Egypt, but can actually be better translated as 'the narrow spaces.' I want to talk about the narrow spaces that can happen in the Jewish community: The idea that all criticism of Israel is anti-Semitic. The idea that we would rather shut down debate than deal with the pain of the images that we saw earlier," she continued. "I am proud to be a Jew, but I am ashamed about what is being done in my name and

what is being done in the name of security. I want the right to participate in a democratic vote."

Arnold warned that no one had ever been asked to leave a General Meeting, but said tonight might be a first.

Sally Minker, who said she had been a Coop member since 1991, spoke in a cheerful voice: "I would like to thank BDS people for introducing me to some of the wonderful Israeli products we sell at the Coop. I have always enjoyed the cruelty-free vegan marshmallows....So thanks, BDS, for encouraging me to buy more Israeli products than I normally would....I am sick and tired of the nasty negativity that this divisive issue has

brought to my grocery store. It is very sad....Please make it stop. Thanks!"

At 8:47 p.m., Arnold announced that only 30 people were still waiting to come into the meeting. Loud heckling forced a woman to pause repeatedly during her comments about violence in Gaza. Arnold warned that no one had ever been asked to leave a General Meeting, but said tonight might be a first.

Albert Solomon, a vocal critic of Coop leadership, announced he had an amendment: "The Coop will not join the BDS movement, we will simply stop selling products made in Israel." He asked for a second to his amendment. "Albert, it is the job of the chair to ask for a second," said Arnold. "No, it's not," retorted Solomon. "Anyone can."

"Well, Albert, do you see the red light?" asked Arnold amid confused laughter. Solomon refused to exit. "Use another mic!" shouted members of the audience. "Sit down!" shouted others. Two minutes later, Solomon retreated, to hearty applause.

After two more groups of speakers, the ballots were collected in plastic bowls. One man took a cel phone picture of his "no" ballot. A 15-minute documentary on work sharing played as the votes were tallied outside the auditorium at a long table.

The vote was 653 for the referendum, and 1005 against. Four ballots were blank or invalid. The Board of Directors voted to accept the meeting vote. At 10:02 p.m., the meeting adjourned. ■

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DIANE MILLER

Sudoku

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

Puzzle author: James Vasile. For answers, see page 18.

The Brooklyn Food Conference Is Right Around the Corner

By Diane Aronson

As a Park Slope Food Coop member, you take affordable, good food for granted. Have you ever wanted to learn more about food sustainability and broadening healthy food accessibility in your own community? You'll have that chance if you come to the second Brooklyn Food Conference on May 12, 2012 at Brooklyn Tech High School.

Brooklyn Food Coalition cofounder Nancy Romer sees the conference as a way to educate and inspire New Yorkers to help build a "food system that heals the planet instead of burning it, and a food industry that offers good jobs with dignity to workers. We can only accomplish that in a vibrant, high-spirited movement that embraces all of its parts." She highlights the coalition's mission to reach out "to all communities in Brooklyn, but especially low-income communities and communities of color, so that our movement and its results will serve us all."

PSFC member Jesse Alter, a key planner for the Brooklyn Food Conference, calls the upcoming event a great way "to really build and mobilize all the great food justice organizations and for-profit businesses that are working toward building a more local food system." He anticipates that 5,000 people or more will attend the free one-day conference, and expects the turnout to reflect our borough's diversity. Jesse is a graduate of Berkeley's Edible Schoolyard gardening program and, more recently, the recipient of an urban planning degree from Hunter College. He lives the local food-sourcing lifestyle through his Brooklyn rooftop garden—he's a self-described "beginner farmer"—and as a participant in community sponsored agriculture (CSA).

Jesse attended the 2009 food conference, and describes it as a "life-changing experience." He says, "You feel like there's something bigger out there, and you want to be a part of it." For Jesse, the May 2012 meet-up is a fantastic opportunity for Brooklynites to become part of the burgeoning food sourcing and sustainability movement.

What's Going On At the Conference

An exciting roster of plenary speakers sets the conference's inclusive, take-action tone. The planned line-up

includes New York City Councilwoman Letitia James, a stalwart champion of community-based change, and chef, author and activist Bryant Terry, who founded b-healthy!, Build Healthy Eating and Lifestyles to Help Youth. Terry has also written cookbooks highlighting local and environmentally sensitive food sources with a vegan and urban vibe. Speaking for food justice will be Lucas Benitez of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a key player in Occupy Oakland, when the coalition challenged Trader Joe's to support human rights for farm workers.

The event will "really build and mobilize all the great food justice organizations and for-profit businesses that are working toward building a more local food system."

Along with learning and drawing inspiration from a terrific list of informed and passionate speakers, conference visitors will be able to gather information at a vendor expo featuring 300-plus for-profit and not-for-profit businesses that support a local, renewable and just food supply. Featured organizations include the Park Slope Food Coop, City Harvest and Food Bank for New York City, all significant sponsors, along with Food & Water Watch, the Small Planet Fund and the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation. Grow to Learn NYC Citywide School Gardens Initiative will educate attendees about a generation of gardeners and food scholars growing up in New York City's schools.

Other exhibitors will include the small-business micro-producers who add

sustainability and flair to our food supply through innovative practices. Brooklyn Grange is set to showcase its Long Island City rooftop farms, whose organic produce is sold in the city. Local Roots NYC, a CSA, will demonstrate how it offers participants flexibility in their food choices while helping to support New York State farmers. If you need some inspiration for your next locavore meal, or perhaps want to take a night off and dine out, check out *Edible Brooklyn* and *Manhattan*, publications dedicated to keeping food delectably local.

Workshops & Much More

One hundred and seventy-five conference workshops are planned and will feature panel discussions and question-and-answer opportunities for attendees. Their themes are timely, given entrenched economic problems and the Occupy movement's challenge to top-down, corporate control. Featured topics include hunger and emergency food; the right to healthy food; school food reform; workers' rights in the food system; social inclusion and diversity in the food system; food as an economic engine for building urban-rural partnerships; sustainable, local farming and biodiversity; and environmental threats to food and water. Jesse hopes the workshops will encourage coalition-building and further the food justice cause.

Visitors will be able to gather information at a vendor expo featuring more than 300 for-profit and not-for-profit businesses that support a local, renewable and just food supply

Workshops and other activ-



ities will run throughout the conference day. As Jesse describes it, "Everything is ongoing; folks can be a part of this whether they get there at 10 a.m. or they come in closer to two or three." Lunch, priced at less than \$10, will be available on-site.

For those who want to be hands-on in their activism, there will be food demos and lots of information and surveys about how to become involved in food sustainability and access issues. Many elected officials, mostly from Brooklyn, will be at the conference to hear from and witness a constituency dedicated to change. As Jesse describes it, they will "organize and mobilize folks to re-create this local food system that we all envision," whether at the household or

community level.

With on-site childcare and children's activities for kindergarteners through fifth-graders, the conference will be a standout family-friendly affair. Planned children's events include learning about starting a garden, choosing healthy food for meals and composting—worms included!

There will also be a youth summit, planned by young people for young people, with the goal of equipping participating teens with the knowledge and resources necessary to make healthy decisions for themselves and their communities. The forum will be based on interactive, empowering workshops covering a range of topics, such as access to healthy food, nutrition and school food improvement.

With workshops, demos and an expo, think of the conference as one-stop shopping to learn about the different parts of the food chain and how they are connected. The May 12 Brooklyn Food Conference is an opportunity to meet your neighbors, learn and work toward healthy food options for all, justice for food workers and an ecologically sound food system right here in Brooklyn. ■

A Brooklyn Food Conference Invitation From Nancy Romer, Cofounder of the Brooklyn Food Coalition

"We can't wait to hear the many voices of people who want to see these changes; we want to learn from each other. We also want to see these changes happen now. And we plan to do it by having a great time together! Join us at the Brooklyn Food Conference on May 12th."

If you would like to be a conference volunteer, there are two additional dates for PSFC

FTOP volunteers to attend for orientation: Saturday, April 21, 1:30–3 p.m.; or Sunday, April 22, 7–8:30 p.m. Both meetings will take place in the upstairs meeting room at the Park Slope Food Coop. If you can't make either of those dates, please contact Ali Duveen at info@bkfoodconference.org for more information.

Greenshoots

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fresh Cooperative, which includes 75-plus local farmers in Pennsylvania. Since they are further south than the New York farms, Garbriel starts seeing her orders come in first. “We just got our first spring garlic,” she says. “Ramps and baby chard will be next.” Asparagus will likely be in late April, “but this has been an early spring so we might see it sooner,” she explains. Like Zimmerman, Gabriel is also excited about the bok choy-type vegetables that will start to arrive mid-April. With these greens and many others found at the Coop, a simple sauté with oil or butter and garlic or onion is a delicious way to enjoy them. But I wanted to dig a little deeper to see how members can make the most of these new spring offerings.

Julie Gabriel orders from Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative, which includes 75-plus local farmers in Pennsylvania.

“We just got our first spring garlic,” she says. “Ramps and baby chard will be next.”

In addition to the information Zimmerman and Gabriel gave me, I got notes from Robert Newton, my all-time favorite local chef and owner of Seersucker, a restaurant in Car-

roll Gardens (329 Smith Street) that celebrates local food. Newton is currently using fiddlehead ferns and ramps in his exquisite local and seasonal menu. Ned Baldwin, the Chef de Cuisine at Prune, my favorite Manhattan restaurant, offered his very favorite way to eat mizuna greens.

Ramps: Zimmerman and Newton agree that ramps are the best harbinger of spring—at least in Brooklyn. “I have been cooking with ramps since my first sighting a few weekends ago,” Newton says. “I’m currently doing house-made ricotta dumplings with ramps and kale. I like to cross over one season that is coming and one that is going to stay as seasonal as I can.” He also likes to grill ramps. “I char them and then chop them into a vinaigrette,” he explains. This vinaigrette is currently served over a spring vegetable fricassee that includes trumpet mushrooms and baby carrots. These are a few of the fancier ways to work with ramps; for novices, try one or both of these recipes:

Ramp Butter:

Puree one-half cup of whole cleaned ramps in a food processor. Transfer to a mixer with a paddle attachment and mix in one cup of tempered butter.

The oniony butter keeps frozen for six months, or it can stay in the fridge for at least a week. Spread on toast, incor-

porate into pasta or serve on top of a steak or fish. Whichever way you eat it, it won’t last long!

Ramp Pesto:

½ cup ramps, roots trimmed and roughly chopped
½ cup basil
3 Tbsp. olive oil
1 tsp. lemon zest
¼ cup pine nuts, toasted
Salt and pepper to taste
¼ cup Parmigiano reggiano

Place all ingredients in food processor and blend until smooth. Use on pasta, chicken or fish, or as a spread for sandwiches.

Fiddlehead Ferns: These curlicue oddities are delicious when sautéed. The baby shoots of the ostrich fern, fiddleheads are often foraged, but should not be eaten raw, as they will make you sick. Newton is currently serving them with a trout and morel dish at his restaurant. “You need to wash the fiddleheads well—two or three times—to make sure you get all the dirt from the tight fronds,” he explains. Then he likes to do a quick blanch—a plunge into boiling, salted water for a few minutes, followed by a plunge into cold water. “Then they are good to go,” he says. Sauté them with a little garlic and serve as a side dish, or toss in pasta.

Spring Garlic: Along with ramps, these baby garlic stems are another sign of spring. “They look a lot like a scallion,” Gabriel says, and can be used in a similar way as well. The long blade-like leaves can be chopped up and sprinkled over fish or any protein that would do well with a taste of sweet garlic. They can be used instead of their spicier, matured counterparts in pesto, or used to make a sweeter version of *pasta aglio e olio* (recipe follows). For a more adventurous and festive way to experiment with the baby bulb, you could turn to Newton’s “shrimp and grits 2.0” for inspiration. Newton was inspired by a recent batch of spring garlic, which he sautéed with maitake mushrooms (also available at the Coop). He switched shrimp for Maine lobster, and is serving the seafood ragout with grits. “The spring garlic’s sweetness complements the sweetness of the lobster meat,” he explains—a perfect way to celebrate the new season.

Young Garlic Pasta Aglio e Olio:

Thinly slice three medium young garlic heads, including



PHOTO BY TRAVIS HARTMAN

one inch of the tender green.

Add four tablespoons of high quality olive oil to skillet and add garlic.

Turn heat to medium and cook slowly, around five minutes, until garlic starts to turn golden. At that moment, add a splash of dry white wine and continue cooking for a few seconds before turning off the heat.

Meanwhile, boil enough pasta for two and, after draining, add to the sauce along with a pinch of red pepper and a handful of chopped parsley. Serve with parmesan cheese.

Alongside ramps, garlic and fiddlehead ferns, spring is also known for baby and Asian greens.

Here are just a few the Coop is offering:

Mizuna greens: Ned Baldwin, the Chef de Cuisine at Prune, likes to use Mizuna greens whenever he can. “Just toss them with lemon juice, olive oil and a bit of salt and enjoy,” Baldwin says.

Komatsuna greens: These are not as intimidating as they sound. Also known as Japanese mustard spinach, they resemble a long skinny bok choy and can be used in a similar manner: chop bulb and greens into bite sized pieces, sauté in a pan with olive oil and young garlic, and *voilà!* a perfect side dish.

Yu choy: Yu choy is a leafy looking bok choy that Allen is particularly excited about. “I have been trying to get a true baby bok choy for years,” Zimmerman explains. “I keep asking our growers if we can get them—I think if everyone decides to do it we will be overrun!” This year, he was excited to secure yu choy, which, like the Komatsuna greens, can be simply sautéed or incorporated into a stir-fry. They can also be braised, like many other spring greens, such as Red Russian kale, Garnet Giant mustard and tatsoi.

Baby beet greens: These are Zimmerman’s favorites—

they are sweet and delicious. You can eat them raw in a salad, Zimmerman suggests, or throw them into a hot soup just before serving so they wilt. You can also quickly sauté them. These come from Hepworth Farms.

This year, Zimmerman was excited to secure yu choy, which, like the Komatsuna greens, can be simply sautéed or incorporated into a stir-fry.

One of the most exciting things I learned from my conversation with Zimmerman and Gabriel is that some of the farms that supply the store will actually plant certain things specifically for the Coop. “Lancaster Family Farm Cooperative will plant for us to a small extent,” Zimmerman says, “and Hepworth will, too. A member once asked me about getting bitter melon, which is used in North Indian and other Asian dishes. I sent a photo of the vegetable to Gail Hepworth along with a description from the Johnny Seed Company, and her e-mail response was, ‘I have purchased them, and we should harvest in mid-June.’”

This makes being a Coop member that much more exciting: not only can you get fiddlehead ferns and early Wonder beets in the spring, but you can ask Gabriel or Zimmerman about ordering other favorite vegetables. People do it all the time, Zimmerman says. “When people see ramps and fiddlehead ferns, I inevitably get the question ‘When do the garlic scapes start?’” What are garlic scapes? Zimmerman says, “They are the flowering stalks of the garlic, which are long and green and curl around to end in a flowering bud.” But they are not an early spring vegetable for a good reason: the flower takes a while to form. “Scapes come in around mid-June,” he adds, “which gives us something else to look forward to.” ■

EXPERIENCED REPORTERS Please Apply



Workslot Description

We have four distinct *Linewaiters' Gazette* teams—each producing an issue every eight weeks. You will develop and produce an article about the Coop in cooperation with your team’s editor every eight weeks.

For More Information

If you would like to speak to an editor or another reporter to learn more about the job, please contact Ann Herpel in the Membership Office or email her at ann_herpel@psfc.coop.

To Apply

Please send a letter of application and two writing samples at least 800 words long (one sample must be a reported interview) to ann_herpel@psfc.coop. Your letter should state your qualifications, your Coop history, relevant experience and why you would like to report for the Coop. Your application will be acknowledged and forwarded to the coordinating editors, Stephanie Golden and Erik Lewis.

Seeking Diversity on the *Gazette* Staff

The *Gazette* is looking for qualified reporters. We are interested in using this opportunity to diversify our staff. We believe that we can enrich the quality of the *Gazette* and serve the membership better with a reporting and editing staff that more closely resembles the mix of Coop members.

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Concerns Regarding the Proposed Phasing Out of Plastic Roll Bag Distribution on the Shopping Floor

The Advantages and Dangers of HDPE Plastic Roll Bags

“Plastics and other types of packaging have helped the United States achieve the lowest rate of food spoilage in the world...In addition, plastic packaging may have some waste disposal advantages.”

“Of all the plastics, polyethylene and polypropylene have the least environmental impact. They are competitive with paper for many uses.” [*Plastic Waste Primer*, The League of Women Voters, 1993]

By Mike Eakin,
General Coordinator

While plastics manufacture causes environmental problems and plastic products may contaminate the environment, surely there is a difference between various plastics. The PSFC has been using polyethylene (Glad Wrap) for more than 30 years to wrap cheese, eschewing the widely used large rolls, which, while generally not identified, turn out to be PVC.

The specific plastic used for roll bags is HDPE (High Density Polyethylene), which is typically produced from natural gas.

So what are the specifics regarding HDPE manufacture? Obviously, if the bags we supply are supposed to be “toxic,” that would certainly merit thorough investigation.

A recent *Gazette* article warned that “molecules from plastic, and additives used to make plastic, leach into food at an accelerated rate when the plastic is exposed to common stresses like the UV radiation from sunlight, microwave radiation, and boiling and dishwashing (the use of moist heat).” But it is highly unlikely that a roll bag will be exposed to any of these stresses!

While the T-shirt bags we no longer supply contribute to pollution on land and in lakes and oceans, roll bags discarded by PSFC members will almost certainly end up in a sanitary landfill where they will take up much less space than alternative forms of packaging when discarded.

We are talking about a fairly small amount of plastic here. Thirteen thousand pounds sounds like a lot, but comes to only 36 pounds a day for all of us, and only 13 ounces per year, per member.

We initially introduced roll bags in part to reduce the use of plastic, since members were purchasing numerous boxes of White Rose (Krasdale) food storage bags made of much heavier plastic, forgetting to bring them shopping and then taking another box.

For years, the roll bags we supplied came 2,000 to a roll, were very flimsy and tore so easily that some folks used them double. Sadly, they were not worth saving and we got in the habit of disposing of them.

Today our 10x15 roll bags come 690 to a roll and are very durable, do not tear easily and can be reused many times. Perhaps we can teach this!

A single purchased reusable bag can cost more than an average PSFC member's year's worth of roll bags.

Operational Concerns
In Case of Roll Bag
Discontinuance

Even if the vast majority of members were to purchase reusable bags and remember to bring them every time they shop, there will inevitably be a slowing of the checkout process when members doing checkout can no longer see what is in each bag. And any slowing will be reflected in longer lines moving more slowly, a more crowded store, etc. Ultimately it will tend to decrease the number of members we can adequately accommodate in our intensively used facility (and therefore increase our fixed costs per member).

There will be an increase in theft, already a problem that we must constantly cope with. For products on which we must take the shopper's word as to its identity, we know there is some degree of

cheating (theft). For instance, we apparently “sell” more of the cheapest coffee (and less of the more expensive ones) than we purchase. And there are regular claims that members did not get items appearing on their register tape—claims that we more

often than not refute or clarify using the saved camera recordings of all checkout transactions. If we cannot see what is in the bags, we will be unable to investigate these claims as well as larger instances of actual theft which occur regularly.

The Tare Problem

Our checkout system is operationally limited to supplying a single tare for all goods sold by weight. That tare is currently set at 0.01 of a pound, the minimum possible, which exceeds the weight of a roll bag and gives the shopper a tiny extra bit of product. Alternative bags that weigh more inevitably shortchange the shopping member a bit, which some members may accept but others might reject. ■

PSFC HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) Roll Bag Statistics for 16,000 Members								
Roll Bag Size & Type	Yearly Usage	Yearly Cost	Yearly Weight (Pounds)	Weight Per Bag (Pounds)	Cost Per Bag	Annual Bags Per Member	Annual Cost Per Member	Annual Weight Per Member (Ounces)
10" x 15" produce/ bulk	1,869,120	\$14,205	7,666	0.0041	\$0.0076	117	\$0.89	7.7
12" x 20" produce/bulk	710,400	\$8,596	5,453	0.0077	\$0.0121	44	\$0.54	5.5
	2,579,520	\$22,801	13,119			161	\$1.43	13.1

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. 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.

SAFE FOOD COMMITTEE REPORT

Why Grow Food at Home?

By Helen Zuman

As a Park Slope Food Coop member, you already have access to an abundance of succulent local produce. Maybe you supplement Coop purchases at your local farmers' market or belong to a CSA. Great! You still have lots to gain from growing food at home. Read on for the top five benefits of turning your yard, roof, patio or windowsill into a farm.

1. Increase vitality and variety in your diet. The two greatest determinants of what foods are available for purchase in a store (or even, to a lesser extent, at a farmers' market) are how well they hold up to being transported and how broadly they've been integrated into the Standard American Diet (SAD, for short). This means that of the thousands of edible varieties capable of thriving in our climate, only a few dozen ever show up on the shelves. To eat Dragon's Egg cucumbers, Crisp Mint lettuce or Cream Sausage tomatoes, you might just have to grow them yourself.

Part of eating better is eating fresher. Sullivan County farmer John Gorzynski (of Gorzynski's Ornerly Farm) says that greens (for exam-

ple) lose 40% of their nutrients within three days of harvest. Even as a Coop member benefiting from our quick turnover, you'd have to shop every day to get those veggies in your mouth within that three-day window. Why not skip the crowds and checkout lines and plant your own produce aisle at home?

2. Get to know the plant kingdom! When you buy food, you glimpse one part of the plant—the edible part—at one stage of its development. When you grow food, you witness every stage of the plant's life cycle: seed, sprout, seedling, mature producer, seed bearer, mulch. Despite its reputation for inducing boredom, you might actually find it fascinating to watch plants grow.

Earth Island Journal editor Jason Mark, speaking at the 2008 Chicago Green Festival, used a short slide show to illustrate one widespread side effect of detachment from food-growing: First, he flashed images of three corporate logos; then he showed the foliage of three common food plants—including the potato—growing on a farm. Everyone in the audience could identify the logos; only a few could identify the

plants. Which body of knowledge is more vital to our health and survival?

3. Experience our food system as a web of relationships. Shopping at the Coop, you sometimes know what farm your produce is coming from; shopping at a farmers' market, you always do. That's a start on linking what you eat with the living network that brings it into being. Still, much remains invisible: the soil the food's grown in, the farm ecosystem, the work of farming, the choices and forces driving how that work is done.

Growing food at home offers a hands-on intro to the world of the farmer, in microcosm. As you tend your crops, you'll notice how your site and its flows—of sun, wind, water, pets, insects, wildlife, people, vehicles, pollution—influence your plants' health and productivity. When looking for materials such as mulch, soil and fertilizer, you'll get a feel for the market's tilt towards "cheap" inputs made possible by "cheap" oil. You'll need to form a strategy for relating to weeds and other pests. Chemicals? Compromise? Cooperation? Best of all—and especially if you

compost—you'll witness the activity, and learn the quirks, of the countless creatures who build the soil your plants call home.

4. Gain essential competence. Not so long ago, we were a nation of farmers. Along with the three R's, most children learned the basics of food growing. Only in the past few generations, as the gush of oil into agriculture has crested, have we come to assume that we'll be able to eat without understanding how food gets to us, or having to participate in that process.

This assumption—like the oil age—is an anomaly. We'll be far more confident in our ability to thrive amidst the "proportunities" (problems recast as opportunities) accompanying "peak everything" once we take the vital step of reclaiming our agricultural heritage.

5. Save money. How much it costs to start growing food at home depends on how much you already know about food growing, how much your friends and family know, how creative you are at repurposing materials from the waste stream and how much time and energy you're willing to invest (see Dave Hamilton's *Grow Your Food for Free* (Well, Almost) for

an extreme DIY perspective). Your home-farm installation could cost anywhere from zero to thousands of dollars.

Once you're up and running, you'll find it's even easier to keep costs low, especially if you're able to mine the waste stream for fertility (e.g., make your own soil out of food waste and fallen leaves). You may only need to buy seeds—and you can eliminate even that cost by saving your own or swapping with neighbors. (For seed-swapping in Park Slope, attend the April 21 Seed Celebration at the Old Stone House. Visit permaculture-exchange.org for more info.)

Of course, all of the above benefits accrue for those who grow food in a community or school garden, as well as to those who grow food at home. Do both! Let the two pursuits support each other. Enjoy both the sociability of farming with others and the intimacy of daily interaction with your live-in plants. ■

Are you already growing food in the city? Are you eager to teach others? You might enjoy working with the Brooklyn Backyard Brigade. Email brooklynbackyard@gmail.com. FTOP credit available. For more on urban food growing, visit brooklyn-backyard.wordpress.com.

Follow the Food Coop on

twitter



@foodcoop


ecokvetch
the environmental
committee blog

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

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

ecokvetch.blogspot.com

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:

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

Sunday, April 22, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m.

Sunday, April 29, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 1, 9:30 a.m.

Friday, May 4, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 6, 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

Heeding Dr. King's Words

By Priya Chandrasekaran

"I am cognizant of the inter-relatedness of all communities and states.... We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny... Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial 'outside agitator' idea," wrote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from inside Birmingham jail. King goes on to name apathy as the most destructive force to justice and growth. Teaching his letter in a class at Hunter College two days after the BDS referendum vote, I was struck by its resonance in our situation.

I fear that our choice against the referendum carries far greater negative implications than whatever a vote would have determined. Democracy, at its best, is a *process of mutual engagement with differences*, and it has the potential to invigorate our connections to each other and to the Coop as a place and an ideal. It helps us to discover the contours of our community, and moreover, contributes to shaping them. That kind of looking within—whether personal or collective—inevitably requires courage; it is a gesture riven with uncertainty. Yet, it prods us towards a place of both strength and humility. For it entails accepting that what

we believe is right might not be the chosen course; it entails reflecting, questioning, accepting, reading, asking, listening and speaking one's truth.

The Coop's history is a testament to the fact that boycotts harness our collective power in a way both material and symbolic. Here the question at hand was how do we feel we should use our power—as a group whose country supports a state that occupies a territory in which people do not have citizenship, the right to vote, the right to mobility, access to water or basic safety? The decision to vote on this question would have reflected a commitment to learn more about this issue and discuss the implications of our choices. The decision we have made against this vote communicates (to each other and the world at large) apathy and a desire to hinder such conversation.

Structures of the Coop appear to inhibit inclusive democratic processes. While a majority vote on issues themselves might make sense, a *referendum*—the question of whether something is worthy of voting upon—should require a smaller percentage. We should respect and be willing to actively engage with the concerns of a significant minority.

Also, as a friend suggested, employing member labor to provide an additional two-week voting period at the Coop would enable greater participation. In my opinion, this is crucial because votes held on weekday nights potentially exclude parents/guardians without childcare, those who work evenings with hourly wages and those who live farthest away from the central hub of Atlantic Avenue. Considering our city in realistic terms, it disproportionately excludes women, minorities and those in precarious economic circumstances.

It is no surprise to me that the Coop is a place of radical difference in perspectives, especially such as those expressed on the subject of BDS. It is a surprise to me that our shared "ownership" does not translate to a shared commitment to democracy. My naïveté has now been tempered by an overdose of cynicism—that we should "fight for the right to party," that the Coop is no more than a place whose mission is to sell food and remain blithely "happy" (as if that were ever an ethics of inclusion or peace), that a brand of hummus is more important than the rights of human beings and that honest discussion about the ethical implication of our choices in a world where the violence of hunger, poverty and military might abound is anything remotely akin to "war."

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

Whereas before I felt anchored in a deep sense of belonging at the Coop, I will now assume a more watchful stance. Are we a group that recognizes our power, privilege and connection to the world at large? Are we self-reflective? Will we get better at *cooperation*—which demands, by its very definition, that we grapple with the tensions and differences among us—or will

we let our core tenets become lax in order to maintain a fragile yet "happy" veneer?

In the same letter King writes: "I must confess that I am not afraid of the word 'tension'.... there is a type of constructive, nonviolent tension which is necessary for growth."

Yes, the path of least resistance is easier to walk, but does it lead to a place worth going? ■

RETURN POLICY



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

REQUIRED FOR ANY RETURN

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

CAN I EXCHANGE MY ITEM?

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

CAN I RETURN MY ITEM?

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

NEVER RETURNABLE

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

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

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

RETURNABLE

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

What Is That? How Do I Use It?

Ask Me Questions About Coop Foods

Monday, April 30, 12 to 2:45 p.m.

Friday, May 4, 8 to 10:45 a.m.

Monday, May 7, 12 to 2:45 p.m.

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

Look for tour leaders in produce aisle.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

We Can Do Better

By Brian Shuman,
Food Processor

Though I am opposed to the Coop joining the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, last night's meeting was a profound disappointment to me. First, the initial proposal: a short film and round-robin of speakers urging us to recognize Israel's abysmal human rights record, and assuring us that doing so will bring our views into alignment with Pink Floyd's bassist. No explanation of the referendum's format, no addressing the financial hurdles, just an emotional appeal for all present members to do the right thing and boycott Israel.

And then the floor opens. This is ostensibly where well-considered views are shared, seeking influence among Coop members who have not achieved the same level of entrenchment that the speakers have. But what is the issue? Is it whether or not to boycott or whether or not to vote? With few deviations, anti-referendum meant anti-boycott, and pro-referendum equaled pro-BDS. I was grateful for the rare member who advocated for the storewide referendum, regardless of his or her intended vote. But again, the proposers offered no substantive explanation of how the votes would be cast, collected and tallied, so the entire discussion was based on assumption.

Now, let's say the referendum was feasible. Why aren't we voting? Because this is an issue we want to avoid? Or because, as I sense, members opposed to boycotting Israeli goods are concerned that the boycott would pass? Before exploring this further, I would like to address the argument, voiced repeatedly last night, that politics is too divisive to sprinkle on our groceries. Bless you folks, but that's ridiculous. Civil society is utterly predicated on ethical consumption. Where I grew up, we called this *kashruth*. But be it dietary laws, buying local or dealing politely with the person too engrossed in his smart phone to let you and your two children through the bulk aisle, the more spirit and mindfulness we bring to our Coop, the stronger our Coop becomes. And in the spirit of mindful-

ness, I must express my dismay with the mass opposition to the vote. One line of argument that has developed around the Israel-Palestine conflict is that while Israel has behaved like a serious nation, fortifying herself militarily and economically to ensure her citizens' security amid unrelenting hostilities, Palestinians have pursued comparable global clout through propaganda, playing on the sympathies of champions of freedom and justice the world over. So in a typical confrontation between an older supporter of Israel and a younger pro-Palestinian activist, emotions convolute and frustration and conde-

scension undermine a truly progressive dialogue. The supporter of Israel develops suspicions about the means of influence and becomes worried that some shadowy crypto-liberal puppet master will exploit the young and impressionable, and sway the tide of public opinion, not in favor of freedom and justice, but in handicapping Israel to render the conflict more competitive.

But this argument is predicated on the notion that BDS has cornered the market on propaganda. One only need order a ketubah online, or have his daughters receive lifetime memberships to Hadassah by a doting bubbe,

to invite a flood of literature mailed in the hopes of engendering a household's greater love for the State of Israel. The resources to compete for influence are readily available. If they lack the appeal that the other side's literature offers, a need to adapt is exposed. So adapt. Don't stifle.

But what if the referendum had occurred and the Coop had joined BDS? To what end? When BDS attached successfully to a host organization in Olympia, Washington, they said the boycott would end when Israel adheres to UN Resolution 194 (Palestinian Right of Return), grants equal rights to all Palestinian Israeli citizens and withdraws to pre-1967 borders. So, first five

million Palestinians move to Israel, then Israel retracts her own Law of Return granting citizenship to any Jew in the world, then Israel reverses military gains and recasts her borders. Then the vegan marshmallows can go back on the shelves. Of all of the absurdities entailed in this proposition, perhaps the most inane is the insistence on equal rights within Israel. Gasp! But here's why: Jewish Israeli citizens perform compulsory military service, while Bedouins and Druze have the option to enlist and Palestinians do not. Would BDS have every 18 year-old Palestinian in Israel conscripted to protect the new border? Good luck finding more than 653 people who'd say yes to that! ■



PHOTO BY KEVIN RYAN



Food Coop Band Nite

The Fun Committee is
looking for bands
(various genres including rock,
folk rock, funk, indie, etc.)
to perform at a free event
on June 2, 2012
at Bar 4.
At least one
member of your
band must be a Coop member.
Maximum of five members per band
(stage is very small)



Please contact Sarah Safford at
saffo1953@gmail.com or drop off demo CD with
Jason Weiner at the Coop.
Deadline for submission is May 15.

Park Slope Food Coop Video Squad Workslots Available For FTOP credit

There are current
workslot openings for:

1. Show Host (preferably a talented chef or cook)
2. Researcher/Storyboarder
3. Post Production: Editing and Compression

For more information, contact
videosquad@psfc.coop and include
"PSFC Video Squad" in the subject line.

The Coop has a regular show on Brooklyn Cable Access Television and will soon be expanding to podcasting via the Internet. The shows features members and issues related to the Coop and the larger Brooklyn community. Past shows include health, improv performance, live music, cooking classes and ideas for living ecologically.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

Teetering on the Edge of Democracy

By Rebecca Giordano and Carol Wald

Carl Arnold announced at the beginning of the March General Meeting that

this was officially the largest meeting in the history of the Coop. This included meetings on beer, meat and store expansion—all of which,

incidentally, ended up having referendums. In fact, if you add up all of the people who came to each of those three meetings, you would still have fewer people than those who attended the March General Meeting. Arnold said there had never been more than about 350 people at one meeting, and that this one had close to 1,700 attendees. As members who have been helping to educate people about the global movement for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against the state of Israel, being at that meeting felt like an incredible success. Seeing the number of people who came to say that this issue mattered to them (whether they voted for or against the referendum) reminded us precisely why we created the proposal. Coop members care about what is happening in the Middle East, and many continue to see the connection between food and justice.

With that said, it was disappointing to see that because of the results of the meeting, only 1,700 of our 16,000 members were allowed to vote on this passionately-debated issue.

Thousands of members—unable to come to the GM because of childcare, work, transportation, health or other concerns—have been disenfranchised. It was painfully clear from looking around the room that younger members and members of color were under-represented at the GM. Considering the level of verbal and (at times) physical harassment that pro-BDS Coop members experienced just leafleting outside of the Coop, it is no wonder that some people felt intimidated or uninterested in being at the meeting.

Additionally, it was hard to feel like the process was even inclusive of everyone who came out that night, since there was not enough room in the auditorium. When the chair invited the presenters up to speak, he announced that there might still be 2,000 people outside, but that we would be beginning without them. People were told they could vote and leave, instead of hearing the proposal or the discussion, because there was no room for them when the meeting began.

These are important things for us to note as a community. This is not the last time there will be a so-called “divisive” issue in our

Coop. Politics of food are complicated and will continue to lead to issues that are difficult to decide on and at times difficult to talk about. Joe Holtz, a co-founder of the Coop and a General Coordinator, used his position to speak “for the Coop” and claimed that hotly debated issues should not be settled by the full membership. He defined cooperation as agreeing not to talk about things that people disagree on. We will continue to reiterate that those are precisely the issues that all members should be allowed to weigh in on.

We are deeply appreciative of the support shown to us both before and after the vote. And we thank those of you who opposed the BDS referendum and campaign with decency and respect. One man sheepishly apologized to a pro-BDS leafletter and said, “I’m coming to the meeting but I’m voting against the referendum.” Our response was, “Great! We want you to come and have your voice heard.” Of course, we would rather that people had voted for the referendum so that everyone could have a say but having such a huge turnout at the meeting was a great first step.

Despite having lost the opportunity we’d hoped for on March 27, we’ve succeeded in one of our goals. BDS has entered into the consciousness of thousands of Coop members and even, thanks to media attention (both positive and negative), into conversations worldwide. The facts about the struggle for justice and human rights—and the important role of BDS as a nonviolent movement to end Israel’s brutal occupation of Palestine—have begun to reach a wider audience.

Desmond Tutu said, “The abuses the Palestinians face are real, and no person should be offended by principled, morally consistent, non-violent acts to oppose them.” We are committed to continue the BDS campaign with such acts and thank those of you who, whether or not you agree with BDS, commit to act in principled, morally consistent, nonviolent ways as we go forward. ■



BAY RIDGE FOOD CO-OP

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

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

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

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

PSFC members receive FTOP credit for their work!

www.foodcoopbayridge.com
hello@foodcoopbayridge.com
347-274-8172

LEFFERTS FARM FOOD COOPERATIVE

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

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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

JOIN OUR PLANNING GROUP

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

GET INVOLVED

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

JOIN US: www.meetup.com/plgfoodcoop

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

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



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.

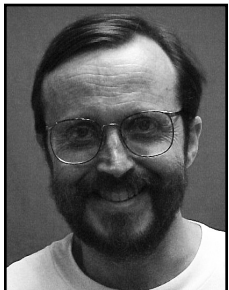
The Coop has changed dramatically since 1994. I recall the dust and havoc of construction as we expanded. As the square footage of the shopping floor grew, so has the membership. Despite these changes, the core of the Coop remains a community of people who believe in the values of working for our food, 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 11

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

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.

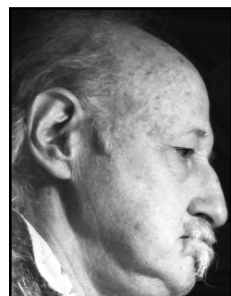
When the Board of Directors vote, I will always base my decision to the best of my ability on criteria that are no different from any other board member.

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 Meadowslands—or both!) once a month for three hours and make all our decisions? Nice idea, huh? And it's SSSsssoooo 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-syn-dicalism 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. ■

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
May 18

8:00 p.m.

very
The Good Coffeehouse
COOP CONCERT SERIES



Jean Rohe

sings and plays multi-lingual original music of the Americas, North and South. Jean brings the full breadth of her stylistic attractions to bear, exploring the intersections of American folk music, jazz, Brazilian and Afro-Peruvian traditions. Jean has performed everywhere from the National Theater in Cuba to the Montreux Jazz Festival, where her refreshingly honest performance won her the audience prize in 2006. Jean Rohe—voice, mandolin, percussion, songs; Ilusha Tsinadze—

guitar and singing; Liam Robinson—accordion and singing. "There are plenty of talented artists out there, but what sets Jean Rohe apart are the suppleness of her voice, the integrity of her vision, and the grace she shows in her wide-ranging journeys across the musical landscape."
—John Platt, WFUV New York

AFARA

(Hasan Bakr, Kevin Nathaniel and Tomas Rodriguez) bring a rich and widely divergent musical background to create AFARA. The boundary-breaking collaboration that results draws from the music of the African and Spanish diasporas and celebrates their union in the musical landscape of the Americas. Award-winning music journalist Norman Weinstein said, "This trio mines the deep spirit encoded musically throughout the African Diaspora, a rare achievement in itself. Marking their sound is an engaging groove, touching harmonies, and a mesmerizing exploration to discover how to bring the tonal continent Africa into a global symphonic world map."



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
APRIL 29
10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Second Saturday
MAY 12
10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Third Thursday
MAY 17
7:00 P.M.—9:00 P.M.

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

PLASTICS

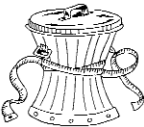
What plastics do we accept?
Until further notice:

- #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:

Coordinating Editors: Stephanie Golden
Erik Lewis

Editors (development): Anne Kostick
Petra Lewis

Reporters: Diane Aronson
Liz Welch
Willow Lawson

Art Director (development): Patrick Mackin

Illustrators: Diane Miller
Photographers: William Farrington
Travis Hartman

Traffic Manager: Barbara Knight
Thumbnails: Mia Tran

Preproduction: Sura Wagman

Photoshop: Steve Farnsworth

Art Director (production): Dilhan Kushan

Desktop Publishing: David Mandl
Dana Rouse
Joe Banish

Editor (production): Nancy Rosenberg

Puzzle Master: James Vasile

Final Proofreader: Teresa Theophano

Index: Len Neufeld



WORKSLOT NEEDS

Bathroom Cleaning

Wednesday, 12 to 2 p.m.

Work with a partner to deep clean the Coop's bathrooms. Tasks include scrubbing floor tiles, cleaning toilets, mopping floors and stocking the bathrooms. You will work with only natural cleaning products. This job is perfect for members who like to clean and are conscientious about doing a thorough job.

Office Set-up

Thursday, 6 to 8:30 a.m.

Need an early-riser with lots of energy to do a variety of physical tasks including: setting up tables and chairs, buying food and supplies, labeling and putting away food and supplies, recycling, washing dishes and making coffee.

Sound like your dream come true? This job might be for you. Please speak to Adriana or Cynthia in the Membership Office for more information

Laundry and Toy Cleaning

Sunday, 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

This work slot has two responsibilities. You will load laundry into dryer, fold it and redistribute it around the Coop. While the laundry is washing/drying, you will clean toys in the childcare room. You will be working with a partner on these tasks. Please contact Annette or Jana in the Membership Office for further information.



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 or contact the Membership Office. Visit in person or call 718-622-0560 during office hours.

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

The Coop on the Internet

www.foodcoop.com

The Coop on Cable TV

Inside the Park Slope Food Coop

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

General Meeting Info

TUE, APR 24

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, MAY 1

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m.

Submissions will be considered for the May 29 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

May 3 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Apr 23
May 17 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, May 7

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

May 3 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Apr 25
May 17 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, May 9

ALL ABOUT THE GENERAL MEETING

Our Governing Structure

From our inception in 1973 to the present, the open monthly General Meetings, to which all members are invited, have been at the center of the Coop's decision-making process. Since the Coop incorporated in 1977, we have been legally required to have a Board of Directors. The Coop continued the tradition of General Meetings by requiring the Board to have open meetings and to receive the advice of the members at General Meetings. The Board of Directors, which is required to act legally and responsibly, has approved almost every General Meeting decision at the end of every General Meeting. Board members are elected at the Annual Meeting in June. Copies of the Coop's bylaws are available on the Coop Web site, foodcoop.com, at the Coop Community Corner and at every General Meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 24, 7:00 p.m.

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

Location

The Temple House of Congregation Beth Elohim (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place.

How to Place an Item on the Agenda

If you have something you'd like discussed at a General Meeting, please complete a submission form for the Agenda Committee. Forms are available on the Coop Web site, foodcoop.com, in the rack near the Coop Community Corner bulletin board and at General Meetings. Instructions and helpful information on how to submit an item appear on the submission form. The Agenda Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month to plan the agenda for the GM held on the last Tuesday of the month. If you have a question, please call Ann Herpel at the Coop.

Meeting Format

Warm Up (7:00 p.m.) • Meet the Coordinators
• Enjoy some Coop snacks • Submit Open Forum items
• Explore meeting literature

Open Forum (7:15 p.m.) Open Forum is a time for members to bring brief items to the General Meeting. If an item is more than brief, it can be submitted to the Agenda Committee as an item for a future GM.

Reports (7:30 p.m.) • Financial Report • Coordinators' Report • Committee Reports

Agenda (8:00 p.m.) The agenda is posted on the Coop Web site, foodcoop.com, the Coop Community Corner and may also appear elsewhere in this issue.

Wrap Up (9:30-9:45) (unless there is a vote to extend the meeting) • Board of Directors' vote • Meeting evaluation • Announcements, etc.

Attend a GM and Receive Work Credit

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

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

• Advance Sign-up required:

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

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

• Two GM attendance credits per year:

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

• Certain Squads not eligible:

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

• Attend the entire GM:

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

• Signing in at the Meeting:

1. After the meeting the Chair will provide the Workslot Credit Attendance Sheet.
2. Please also sign in the attendance book that is passed around during the meeting.

• Being Absent from the GM:

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

Park Slope Food Coop Mission Statement

The Park Slope Food Coop is a member-owned and operated food store—an alternative to commercial profit-oriented business. As members, we contribute our labor: working together builds trust through cooperation and teamwork and enables us to keep prices as low as possible within the context of our values and principles. Only members may shop, and we share responsibilities and benefits equally. We strive to be a responsible and ethical employer and neighbor. We are a buying agent for our members and not a selling agent for any industry. We are a part of and support the cooperative movement. We offer a diversity of products with an emphasis on organic, minimally processed and healthful foods. We seek to avoid products that depend on the exploitation of others. We support non-toxic, sustainable agriculture. We respect the environment. We strive to reduce the impact of our lifestyles on the world we share with other species and future generations. We prefer to buy from local, earth-friendly producers. We recycle. We try to lead by example, educating ourselves and others about health and nutrition, cooperation and the environment. We are committed to diversity and equality. We oppose discrimination in any form. We strive to make the Coop welcoming and accessible to all and to respect the opinions, needs and concerns of every member.



park slope
FOOD COOP

calendar of events

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.



apr 24
tue 7 pm

PSFC APR General Meeting



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

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

Item #1: Annual Disciplinary Committee Election (30 minutes)

Election: The Disciplinary Committee will present candidates to fill openings. The Disciplinary Committee goes through an extensive interviewing process. There are no nominations from the floor. —submitted by the Disciplinary Committee

Item #2: Board of Directors Candidate Presentations (60 minutes)

Discussion: Presentation by the six candidates for the Board of Directors followed by questions for the candidates from the meeting. —mandated by the General Meeting

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.

apr 26
thu 6:30 pm

Intro to Bicycle Repair—Flat Fix 101



Many things that go wrong with a bicycle can be handled at home or on the road with a few simple tools. Learn the basics of how to adjust, repair, and maintain your bicycle. At the end of the class, we will hold a hands-on session on patching tubes. Participants will take home a newly patched “spare”

tube for their own use. Please RSVP to bikecourse@5bbc.org, so we can bring enough materials. Presented by the PSFC Shop & Cycle Committee with the Five Borough Bicycle Club. Coop member **Ed Ravin** has been volunteering for bicycling organizations for the past 25 years. He is a current board member of the Five Borough Bicycle Club and a past board member of Transportation Alternatives.

apr 21, 22
sat, sun

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. 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! Sign-up sheet for these training sessions are in the Membership Office. 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: Saturday, April 21, 1:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 22, 7 p.m.

apr 24
tue 7 pm

Healthy Thyroid

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

apr 27
fri 7 pm

Wordsprouts: The Raw Extreme Manifesto



Co-authored with Fred Ho, *Raw Extreme Manifesto* is one man's journey into raw food extremism. Much more than 25 original recipes and tips about going raw and staying raw, this is an indispensable handbook for everyone who ever wondered if they have what it takes to change their lives and ultimately their society for the better. Enjoy raw food samples from RawLivity. So come join the Raw Food Revolution! **Peter Lew** has been a raw-live vegan for eight years. His catering and lifestyle coaching company, RawLivity, co-founded with Tagenyahu Swao, was recently launched. He is currently working on developing a Farmers Market on the campus of Medgar Evers College and is a community activist supporting health and wellness.

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

apr 28
sat 12 pm

Volunteers Needed

Ever wanted to volunteer your time and make a difference in the community? Now is your chance to meet with representatives from several organizations in need of volunteers. Whether you are looking for a long-term project or just to volunteer for an afternoon, we have plenty of opportunities. You don't need to have a special skill to be a volunteer, just a commitment to helping others. Current volunteers will be available to answer any of your questions. **Allen Spector** has been a Coop member since 2000, and a volunteer at New York Methodist Hospital since 2007.

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

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

apr 20–jun 1 2012

apr 28
sat 3 pm

Experience Healing

Learn to draw the Prema Agni healing symbol for yourself and on others in this hands-on workshop. Healing is a process through which a person is brought from a state of dis-ease (imbalance) to a state of ease (health and balance). Energy healing works with the channels of energy in your body and gently opens blockages that keep us stuck in old patterns. Prema Agni means “Fire of Divine Love” and this symbol opens the heart for love to flow in and expand your heart. In this workshop, you will experience and learn to work with healing energy. **Becca Gee** is a Coop member, rising star practitioner and prema birthing practitioner/teacher.

apr 28
sat 6 pm

Parents: Do Your Children Ever ‘Push Your Buttons’?

Share stories and hear perspectives that can help you “keep your wits about you” while raising your children. Long-time Coop member **Sharon C. Peters**, MA, is the director of Parents Helping Parents and a step, birth, and adoptive parent. In her work she meets with individual families and leads workshops at her Park Slope office and for schools and community organizations throughout New York.

may 1
tue 6:30 pm

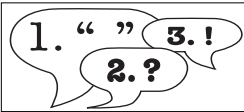
How to Ride a Bicycle In NYC Traffic



Would you like to bicycle (or bike more) in New York City, but don't feel comfortable riding in traffic? Volunteers from the Five Borough Bicycle Club (5bbc.org) will explain your rights to the road, the skills needed to assert them, and how to safely fit in with motor vehicles and ride without stressing out. Presented by the PSFC Shop & Cycle Committee. Please RSVP to bikecourse@5bbc.org. Coop member **Ed Ravin** has been volunteering for bicycling organizations for the past 25 years. He is a current board member of the Five Borough Bicycle Club and a past board member of Transportation Alternatives.

may 1
tue 8 pm

Agenda Committee Meeting



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

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

may 3
thu 7:30 pm

Food Class: So You Want to Be a Culinary Tour Guide?



Do you dream of an exciting life of culinary travel to exotic locations, meeting interesting people and tasting fabulous food? As director and owner of “To Grandmother's House We Go” cooking tours, **Susan Baldassano** has brought dozens of

travelers to Mexico, Italy and Turkey, exploring authentic traditional cuisines. Sue will share recipes, stories and tips from her 20 years as a culinary tour guide and chef. Susan has coordinated the Food Class at the Park Slope Food Coop for more than 15 years. She is currently Director of Education at the Natural Gourmet Institute for Health and Culinary Arts. She is a graduate of the Institute of Culinary Education. *Menu includes: lentils with pineapple and plantain (Mexico) (vegan); pickled carrots with red onion and poblano chile (Mexico) (vegan); pasta alla norma (pasta in red sauce with eggplant, garlic and basil) (Sicily) (opt dairy); stuffed apricots with mascarpone cheese and pistachio nuts (Turkey) (dairy).*

Materials fee: \$4. Food classes are coordinated by Coop member Susan Baldassano.

may 4
fri 7 pm

Film Night: RFK In the Land of Apartheid



Using never-before-seen archival footage and interviews in South Africa and the U.S., this film tells the unknown story of Robert Kennedy's 1966 visit to South Africa during the worst years of Apartheid. Evoking the connections between the American Civil Rights Movement and the Anti-Apartheid Movement in South Africa, the filmmakers find witness to this

special moment in time through the sights and sounds of present-day South Africa. *RFK in the Land of Apartheid* follows Senator Kennedy to the site of his famous “Ripple of Hope” speech at the University of Cape Town and his encounter with Afrikaans students at Stellenbosch, the pro-Apartheid university. **Tami Gold** is a filmmaker, artist and educator who began working in media in the early 1970s in the Newsreel Film Collective of the anti-Vietnam War movement. She is a Professor at Hunter College and the Hunter Chapter Chair of the PSC CUNY.

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

may 5
sat 11 am

Integrative Bodywork

Does your body hurt? Find out how integrative bodywork can put your physical, emotional and spiritual body into a state of balance—a state of ease. We'll explore how pain gets activated and what works best to release it. Find out why doctors (even the specialists) sometimes fail to relieve pain, and how to determine when you do need their care. Integrative bodywork incorporates massage, corrective exercises, breathing techniques, supportive touch, stretches, spinal alignment, guided meditation and injury rehabilitation. In this fun and relaxed workshop, you will learn simple self-massage techniques, stretches, deep breathing and guided meditation you can use at home. **Harriet Miller**, L.M.T., is a former dancer and has been a licensed massage therapist since 1986.

may 5-6
sat-sun 9 am–7 pm

Food Drive to Benefit CHIPS Soup Kitchen

CHIPS Soup Kitchen, located at 4th Avenue and Sackett Street, is the recipient of much of our edible but unsaleable perishable food. They also need donations of nonperishable foods. This food will go to CHIPS to help them feed people in the neighborhood who are in need of a nutritious meal. Consider contributing nonperishable foods and commercially packaged foods; canned fish; canned fruits and vegetables; pasta sauce; pasta; pre-packaged rice; pre-packaged beans; canned beans; canned soups; Parmalat milk; dry milk; peanut butter; cooking oil; or boxed raisins. Give donations to the collection table outside the Coop.

still to come

may 6

Energy Healing

may 8

Safe Food Committee Film Night

may 11

Brooklyn Food Conference Film Screening

may 18

The Very Good Coffeehouse Coop Concert Series

may 19

Pieces of Eight

may 29

PSFC MAY General Meeting

may 29

Essential Skills for Parents of Teens & 'Tweens

jun 1

Film Night

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FULL-SERVICE
SUPERMARKET

*Food grown organically,
Fair trade preferably,
Chosen selectively,
Served up sodium-free,
Handled selectively,
And, critics will see,
Politicized mightily—
Our enlightened grocery
Has a foreign policy!*

Leon Freilich

RE: FDNY AND COOP
PARKING

TO THE EDITORS:

I read with some degree of alarm the open letter from Joe Holtz (March 2012) about “severe sanctions from FDNY” and I’m confused.



PHOTO BY YIGAL RECHTMAN

The FDNY parks in the Coop’s loading only area. Policemen’s car park wherever they want, the FDNY itself blocks their own entrance (see above).

However, let’s say that NY’s bravest and finest get a dispensation to park wherever they want, whenever they choose to. Still, why is it the Coop’s responsibility to manage the traffic on a City street? What—beyond trying—

can we do? And why is it the Coop’s responsibility, and not the City’s?

I propose responding—with all due deference to the FDNY—that whatever rules they apply on City streets should apply here. Let the City enforce the rules, not the Coop.

(Oh, and what sanctions are being threatened and what is the section code in the law that the FDNY is threatening the Coop with?)

Attached a recent parking job by the FDNY in front of the firehouse and hydrant, right here on Union Street.

*Cooperatively,
Yigal Rechtman*

LAY IT TO REST

TO THE EDITORS:

Can we finally lay to rest the divisive Boycott issue? We are a food Coop, and the issue became a rant. Boycott? Sure! Don’t buy products from the countries who you don’t like.

f. martha slavin

ENDORSEMENTS FOR
BOARD ELECTIONS

TO THE EDITOR:

Sadly, my “Plea for a More Democratic Coop, Pt. 2” (*Gazette*, 1/26/12) appears to have fallen on deaf ears. The General Coordinators have again made endorsements for the Board of Directors, but with a twist: for the first time in my experience, they have endorsed non-incumbents, and without any public explanation of how they came to their decisions. The time has come for the members to take action. I think the most democratic

solution is to encourage everyone who knows candidates to make endorsements of their own. Here are mine:

1. I wholeheartedly endorse the reelection of **Audrey Miller Komaroff**. She is a longtime board member, regularly present at the GM. Kind, caring, welcoming, interested in your opinion. Exactly what the Coop needs in a board member.

2/3. For the second and third seats I am torn between **Monique Bowen**, **Eunju Lee**, and incumbent **Tim Platt**. Of the three, I only know Platt: we have worked together for about two years, first on the Rules Revisions Committee and later the Chair Committee. But that presents a conflict of interest for me, as I consider him a friend. So I will not officially endorse him although I will vote for him. Bowen and Lee appear from their statements to have the right attitude and equally deserve a chance. I officially endorse them equally with Platt, although I will have to flip a coin when deciding between them for my vote.

Why not the other two candidates, Jesse T. Rosenfeld and Albert Solomon? Rosenfeld has clearly encountered difficulties in fulfilling his role as Coop Secretary, from attendance at the GM to preparation of the minutes, so I worry that he would have a very steep learning curve as a member of the board. Perhaps more fundamentally, I am concerned by his statement about how he would vote. We expect our board members to put the opinions of the GM ahead of their own, and I worry that he is not prepared to do that. Solomon, meanwhile, is a knowledgeable and personable fellow and knows our town-hall system of democracy well. He even assists the chair from time to time, including once when he advised me on the specifics of the rules. But his is explicitly an anti-GM candidacy. I believe that the vast majority of the membership approves of our town-hall system of governance, and I feel that a vote for Solomon is a vote in opposition to that.

I call upon all members of (and groups at) the Coop who know any of the candidates to write official endorsements as letters to the Editor of the *Gazette*. I also encourage committees to do the same, but only as long as the General Coordinators continue to do so. All in the hope that someday we will have no endorsements at all and be forced to read the entire statement of each candidate and use our own best judgment.

David Hamilton Golland

WE’RE BETTER THAN
THAT

TO THE EDITORS:

Our membership closely identifies with democracy, a contested term for better or worse.

The GM at Brooklyn Tech spoke democratically to vote against a referendum. In letters next to mine likely, it is argued “Democracy failed,” or “Democracy worked.”

I believe democracy worked at the General Meeting, serving the interest of our cooperation, inclusiveness, and financial integrity.

My opinion aside, let’s put this manufactured kerfuffle about democracy to rest. Core boycott supporters were never truly invested in it—PSFC’s voting procedures were not a concern starting their campaign, and it’s not a component of their philosophy now. It was marketing, like when GMO’s shout “organic” so they can sponsor Earth Day. My point will be made when boycotters return. Absent a vote, they will misappropriate different ideas, “targeted boycott”, “the Israel Lobby” probably, lip service to other causes with no meaningful action, anything to lure the Coop into their extremism. Even with a vote, they have lost the virtue to preach democracy since everyone witnessed how they practice it: side-stepping democratic procedures by attempting to change the proposal’s text mid-meeting; refusing to surrender the microphone which insufferably jammed the democratic process and stole others’ comment time; tarring the entire membership as murderers and complicit abusers of human rights; and their own website stating that should their boycott ever pass, it ought to remain valid even if we vote again otherwise. Whatever your political opinions, their extremist non-democratic spirit hurts our Coop.

Liz Roberts boasts, “BDS has entered into the consciousness of thousands of Coop members...” That’s fine. Let’s stay conscious about them claiming support from universities and respected scholars who actually reject and mock them. About world-renowned pro-Palestinian activists labeling them “a cult.” About how a boycott would obligate PSFC to follow marching orders from non-PSFC entities. Let’s all be conscious, as soon as they open their mouths, about how desperately BDS needs the Coop but the Coop doesn’t need them.

From now on let’s utilize the Coop’s mission as a productive embrace, engaging in fair-trade relationships with small cooperative businesses everywhere. Let’s not abuse it as an obscene weapon of punishment.

Congratulations PSFC! We have finally spoken, “We’re better than that!”

Jesse Rosenfeld

SLIPSHOD BALLOT
HANDLINGTO THE EDITORS AND
MEMBERS

The slipshod way in which the ballots were handled after the vote on the BDS Referendum on March 27th,

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 firsthand observation.

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

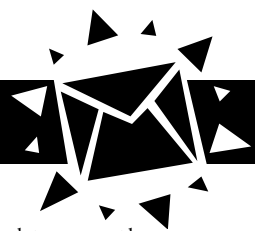
3. Copies of submissions that make substantive accusations against specific individuals will be given to those persons to enable them to write a response, and both submissions and response will be published simultaneously. This means that the original submission may not appear until the issue after the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



demonstrated to me, there was not a sincere effort to ensure that the vote of each member was counted. If perhaps it had been planned for marked ballots to be dropped into boxes, left near the exits attended and secured by a working Coop member, I could feel that the process was in fact, a good faith effort to practice democracy. I think if we say we want to protect the democratic process, by allowing members an opportunity to vote on issues that affect the interest of the Coop and its members, then there should be at least the appearance, that we actually believe that.

Vera Osborn-Julian

IMPRESSED WITH COOP BOARD

TO THE EDITORS:

I continue to be impressed with the skills of our Coop board members.

Last night I attended the Coop's monthly general meeting. 1,662 people voted on the topic of holding a referendum. 46 members were given the chance to speak on the topic (not counting the members who presented the topic, or the board members themselves). The facilitators were dealing with logistical nightmares (an overflow crowd, the lack of access to the balcony, one speaker refusing to leave the stage, etc.), an emotionally charged discussion, an unprecedented turnout, and they *still* got us out of there on time.

While waiting in line, I was speaking with another member who had never attended a general meeting before. I told him how impressive our facilitators' skills were, and I was not disappointed.

Unfortunately, I *was* disappointed in a number of my fellow Coop members. Heckling, attempting to shout down speakers they disagreed with, or just generally talking out of turn, a shocking number of my fellow Coop members behaved in a way that I would not have tolerated from the students whose auditorium we were borrowing, let alone from supposed adults. I think they owe a public apology to both the speakers they heckled as well as to those of us who were attempting to listen to the discussion.

Hope Anne Nathan

THANKS FOR THE COMEDY

DEAR EDITORS,

Thanks to the General Coordinators, staff, Board of Directors, Chair Committee and all other members who conducted the well-run General Meeting on Tuesday, March 27. Their efforts made it possible for us to listen to each other and vote more calmly than I could have imagined ahead of time. Thanks also to those who spoke. They helped me clarify my views and be at peace with my vote. I

loved our cooperative before, but now I'm proud of us too. It's not the decision I'm talking about.

It's the process. Last but not least, thanks to you many members who gave us comedy. We needed the relief.

Sincerely,
Sean Mullane

COOP MEMBERS HAVE A RIGHT TO VOTE

TO THE EDITOR,

I've belonged to the Park Slope Food Coop for thirty-five years. I remember when we boycotted California grapes in solidarity with the Farm Worker's Union. Boycotts can be an effective and legitimate non-violent means for citizens to stand against state- or corporate-sponsored injustice. Boycotts of slave produced sugar ended slavery in England without a civil war. The Coop is one of the few places where New Yorkers of all ethnic, racial, religious, and political persuasions work and shop together. The Coop sells a large selection of Kosher foods; the Pesach matzos and other seasonal treats have been on the shelves for weeks. Allegations of "an anti-Semitic crusade" or of wanting "Israel to be torn apart" are extraordinarily unfair and unhelpful, if not shocking, when coming from elected officials. The Coop is a democratic institution; its members have a right to vote.

Karen Malpede

WE ARE THE 39 PERCENT

TO THE EDITORS,

In the *NY Times*, Clyde Haberman asked about the referendum: "Why is Israel singled out for economic ostracism and not China?"

Several answers:

1) Israel claims to speak in the name of all Jews everywhere—including me. I support the boycott of Israel because I refuse to allow the fact that I'm Jewish to be used by the Israeli government as a ruse rationalizing the horrors that State is perpetrating against the Palestinian people. Not in my name!

2) Israel is the largest recipient of U.S. foreign military aid. Its war machine is propped up by our tax dollars (\$27 billion in the last 10 years). Thus, we have an added responsibility to speak out against Israel's egregious policies and our own government's as well.

3) I, and most others at the Coop, are deeply involved in campaigns for labor, human, social justice and environmental rights as well.

The resolution contained two issues wrapped in one: Democracy at the Food Coop, and whether to boycott products from Israel.

Rabbi Andy Bachman explicitly

argued that all members NOT be polled: "Some issues are not for everyone to vote on. This is one of them."

I beg to differ. Regardless of one's view of the proposed boycott, one should uphold the right of all Coop members to vote on the issue free from intimidation and fear. (I spoke to several non-Zionist Coop members who didn't even want to go to the meeting because they feared harassment and intimidation.)

To do otherwise thrashes a core principle of why we're a Coop and NOT just a cheap grocery store, though some would have it otherwise.

I was actually thrilled that almost 40 percent of those present at the meeting—around 2x what I'd thought—agreed, and bucked the heavy artillery, voting to put the issue before the entire membership. Wow! That's a huge achievement. Recall, please:

- NY City public officials opposed the resolution. (Bloomberg & deBlasio actually made statements denouncing it);

- the entire NYC media editorialized against the referendum;

- local Rabbis rallied their congregations against the resolution;

- several of the Coop's paid administrators campaigned hard against the resolution;

- the pro-Zionist group published virtually the same letter in every *Gazette*; "Self-Hating Jew" was the least of what I and others were called;

- pro-Israel disruptors yelling out repeatedly when pro-Resolution speakers criticized Israel;

Many of the 45 speakers at the meeting made statements criticizing Israel's crimes. That overwhelming criticism of Israel is itself an achievement. Only two speakers spoke in favor of Israel's policies per se. Many argued, though, that whatever the horrors committed, it wasn't the Coop's place to settle the world's problems.

As a compromise, I'm introducing a new resolution to boycott products made by Israeli settlers *in the colonized territories*. I hope you'll vote for it.

Mitchel Cohen

Brooklyn Greens/Green Party

ANTIBOYCOTT LAW: A CONTRARY VIEW

TO THE EDITORS:

In his recent letter [3/22/12] Coop Attorney Michael Salgo argues, from a response from one Office of Antiboycott Compliance (OAC) official, that U.S. antiboycott laws [15 C.F.R.760.1-760.5] are "not intended to regulate consumer boycotts" and hence don't apply to our Coop. But responses from OAC have been inconsistent, and variable as to respondent and responder. In collecting the experiences of trade and antiboycott experts in this arena,

feedback from OAC officials as to scope of applicability has been divergent even among officials (see below), and has not always been coherent, sometimes even in manifest contradiction to the regulations themselves (below). There is no foundation anywhere in the regulations themselves that sanctioned antiboycott activity is restricted to non-consumer transactions.

So for instance, concerning the claimed limitation against consumer boycotts, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement Darryl Jackson and Director of Antiboycott Compliance Ned Weant [9 Apr 2008] explicitly recognized consumer boycotts, and also noted that for example a U.S. company "... by saying that some product is not made in Israel" may commit a antiboycott violation if "made with the intent to comply with an unsanctioned foreign boycott" [which as this author's memorandum on the subject has argued, is constituted here since BDS's central coordinating body, the BDS National Committee (BNC), is a presumptive foreign entity]. And on OAC records, companies engaged in consumer sales may fall within the ambit of the OAC regulations: Safeway Stores [3/14/88] paid fines and settled charges of antiboycott activities, as cited by Paul Freedenberg, then Undersecretary of Commerce for Export Administration.

Mr. Salgo goes on to proffer, again from response from this Commerce Department official, that the federal antiboycott regulations only apply between nations, or nations and "large political organizations," in complete contradiction to the regulations themselves, to the BIS Antiboycott Training Module, and to the facts: "These provisions apply to a 'United States person' with respect to that person's activity in the interstate OR foreign commerce of the United States," United States including both individuals and companies [15 C.F.R.760.1-760.5]. And neither Safeway, nor for example Cook Composites and Polymers (Missouri) fined under these regulations in 2003, are "large political organizations."

These are admittedly complex issues, aggravated by contradictory messages all over the map from Commerce officials: colleagues consulted in trade and antiboycott law have collected among them half a dozen inconsistent "clarifications" from as many different officials over the years. But as suggested above, the overconfident statement of arguable "facts" from the Coop attorney neither resolves the inconsistencies nor accords with the facts (further contradicted by a Sacramento Superior Court judgment in a food coop "consumer" case)—to say nothing of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

unchallenged NYS Executive Code (§ 296) antiboycott laws. I therefore contend the attorney is in error—and he would likely repay me the compliment—but one thing is certain: case not closed.

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

THIS ISSUE ISN'T
GOING AWAY

TO MY FELLOW COOP
MEMBERS:

I have not previously spoken out on the boycott referendum issue, but wish to do so now in the wake of last night's vote.

Thank you to the pro-BDS Coop members who put much effort, courage, logic, and civility into their campaign. I'm impressed by their arguments for an ethical stand in favor of non-violent action to support long-overdue justice for Palestinians.

I have been a leftist activist in Brooklyn since the 1970's. I am a white non-Jew who for many years partnered with a Jewish feminist, someone who bravely plunged into the Israel-Palestine fray. I'm very familiar with the gut-churning emotions I experienced last night before the GM, when several women ahead of me on line started brandishing the word "anti-Semitic" in connection with the referendum proposal. I remember the battles among Jewish women following the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, dissecting how to properly criticize that action without incurring the dreaded label of "self-hating Jew." I remember the eminent African-American poet June Jordan being lambasted as an anti-Semite for a poem identifying her oppression with that of Palestinians after the massacres at Sabra and Shatila. A friend who, like me, ended up in the Central America solidarity movement later said ruefully, "We were at each other's throats about the Middle East, and then we looked around and said, "Nicaragua—now *that's* something feminists can agree on!!"

I've spent most of the last 30 years avoiding this issue, and I'm not proud of it. In that time, the plight of Palestinians in the occupied territories has worsened, while the dangerous partnership between radical right-wing forces in the U.S. and in Israel has reached obscene dimensions. I no longer believe it is ethical *not* to act, or that my own identity can be an excuse for thinking this is about "other people." I fully acknowledge the positive dimension of many Jews' visceral identification with Israel, and I honor the feelings of those who say what I heard again last night, "As a Jew, I always think I could be headed for the ovens." But that doesn't mean I can ignore the colonial dispossession, and many outright murders, of Pales-

tinians. In fact, my desire to stand against one set of atrocities is directly linked to my need to speak out on the other. Israel must cease its human rights violations and comply, at long last, with international law.

At the GM, I was particularly impressed at how many young people spoke eloquently in favor of justice-oriented actions that acknowledge what is actually happening in Palestine/Israel. As an activist who's been around the block, I view the attitudes of some of their opponents—from a plea that we just "focus on food," to a kneejerk defense of Israel, to a coordinator's misuse of his bully pulpit to suggest that referendum supporters were anti-Coop—as the geopolitical equivalent of climate change denial. Trust me, this issue isn't going away.

Jan Clausen

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
AND ISRAEL: 2012 'CERD'
REPORT

COOP MEMBERS:

The International Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination commits states to adhere to "elimination of all forms of racial discrimination," "eradicate racial segregation and the crime of apartheid" within its jurisdiction including territory under its control.

CERD: THE WATCHDOG BODY

The Convention established the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), 18 elected human rights experts, tasked with monitoring the implementation of the Convention. States submit reports every two years. CERD hears complaints from individuals regarding violation of their rights protected by the Convention. CERD issues its concluding observations highlighting violations along with correctives to bring compliance with the spirit of the Convention.

The following are cited in CERD'S report to Israel:

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ISRAEL

- The Basic Law (Israel's bill of rights) makes no general provisions for equality and prohibition of racial discrimination; neither does legislation.
- Israel maintains two systems of education: one in Hebrew, one in Arabic; 2 separate municipalities: Jewish and "municipalities of the minorities."
- 2011 law gives private committees full discretion to reject applicants "unsuitable to the social life of the community."
- Land laws discriminate against non-Jewish communities. Bedouin in Negev subjected to house demolition, forced displacement, denied equality with Jewish inhabitants to land, housing, education, employment, public health.
- Laws confer social and economic

benefits after completion of military service excluding non-Jewish communities.

- Law restricts political participation for non-Jewish minorities.
- Discriminatory marriage laws target Palestinian citizens of Israel: suspending family reunification with spouse residing in West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza; recently upheld by High Court.
- Recent laws stigmatize migrant workers and asylum seekers.
- Recent increase in racist and xenophobic acts and words against Palestinian citizens, Palestinians in OPT including East Jerusalem by public officials and religious leaders.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN OCCUPIED
PALESTINIAN TERRITORY (OPT)

In West Bank including East Jerusalem:

- Jewish settlements are illegal under international law.
- Changes in demographic composition violate International humanitarian law.
- De facto segregation: two separate legal and judicial systems: Jewish and Palestinian. Two population do not enjoy equal use of roads, infrastructure, basic services, water resources; separation enforced by restricting movement, Separation Wall, roadblocks, permits.
- Discriminatory planning policies: construction permits rarely for Palestinians and Bedouin; demolitions target Palestinians and Bedouin; "state land" for Jewish settlements.
- Gaza: Israel must end blockade policy, allow construction materials to rebuild homes and civilian infrastructure; ensure respect for Palestinian's right to housing education, health, water, sanitation.
- Increase of arrest and detention of children tried in military courts.
- Administrative detention for children and adults based on secret evidence for security reasons.
- Increase in racist violence and acts of vandalism by Jewish settlers

targeting non-Jews: Muslims, Christians and their holy places; minimal prosecutions.

Regarding Israel's \$6 million campaign to counter a perceived (BDS) delegitimization campaign, Israel has only to hold up a mirror to see the culprit.

References: CERD, Electronic Intifada.

Mary Buchwald
Brooklyn For Peace

A ONE-SIDED ANSWER TO
A MANY-SIDED PROBLEM

DEAR EDITOR,

Last night (Tues, 3/27), at the end of a contentious process, an organization called BDS (which vilifies and promotes the boycott of Israel) was soundly defeated via a democratic vote at the Park Slope Food Coop (of which I've been a member for 20 years). At the start of the meeting (to a full auditorium of 16-1700), the BDS folks presented a slideshow with heart-wrenching images of Palestinians wounded and killed in this conflict. I admit these images were awful and did tug at my heart—just as images of any human suffering does.

What was missing were any images, or mention, of Israeli civilians maimed and wounded in like manner—from rockets, suicide bombers and other forms of attack. My point is that this organization, (and I believe many similar groups) presents a one-sided answer to a many sided problem. Conflict cannot be resolved by vilifying one side. In my opinion, both parties have valid points, and until both parties are willing to listen to each other's grievances, little will change. I'm very glad our Coop had the sense to say no to this organization, which I strongly believe does nothing but promote conflict and division in the middle east and here.

Art Brown

Solution to this issue's sudoku puzzle

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



CLASSIFIEDS

BED & 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. 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.

HOUSING AVAILABLE

MOVE RIGHT IN!! Immaculate house in Windsor Terrace on a quiet tree-lined block, short walk to the F train & Prospect Park. Newly-renovated huge kitchen, completely redone bathrooms, new boiler & hot water heater, upgraded electrical service, new front walk & garden, new deck. Three bedrooms, two full baths, finished basement used as a playroom & a music studio. Hardwood parquet floors and original details. Visit www.103vanderbilt.com or contact 103vanderbilt@gmail.com.

MERCHANDISE NONCOMMERCIAL

TUNTURI STATIONARY EXERCISE BIKE. 40"L x 20"W. \$50, cash only. 718-541-4668.

PEOPLE MEETING

NEW GRANDPARENTS - We have a 3-months-old grandson. Would like to meet other grandparents of infants for socializing w/ baby. 718-499-4154.

SERVICES

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

EXPRESS MOVES. One flat price for the entire move! No deceptive

hourly estimates! Careful, experienced mover. Everything quilt padded. No extra charge for wardrobes and packing tape. Specialist in walkups. Thousands of satisfied customers. Great Coop references. 718-670-7071.

ATTORNEY—Personal Injury Emphasis—33 years experience in all aspects of injury law. Individual attention provided for entire case. Free phone or office consultations. Prompt, courteous communications. 22-year Park Slope Food Coop member; Park Slope resident; downtown Brooklyn office. Tom Guccione, 718-596-4184, also at www.tguccionelaw.com.

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

SERVICES AVAILABLE

PAINTING & WALLPAPERING- 25 yrs exp. doing the finest prep + finish work. One room or an entire house. Free estimates + full insurance coverage. Call Fred Becker @ 718-853-0750.

HAIRCUTS HAIRCUTS haircuts. Color, high lights, low lights, oil treatments in the convenience of your home or mine. By appt., call Leonora 718-857-2215. Adult cuts \$35.00. Kids cuts \$15.00.

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

SERVICES-HEALTH

HOLISTIC DENTISTRY in Manhattan (SOHO). Dr. Stephen R. Goldberg provides comprehensive family dental care using non-

mercury fillings, crowns, dentures, thorough cleanings, non-surgical gum treatments with minimal X-rays. For a free initial exam in a nutrition-oriented practice and for insurance information, please call 212-505-5055.

DOES YOUR BODY HURT? Get lasting relief! The Miller System of Integrative Bodywork is a gentle, holistic approach—incorporates breathing techniques, massage, stretches, exercises and more. Customized sessions promote rapid recovery from injuries and reduce mental and physical stress. Call Harriet LMT at 718-788-1864.

MD-SUPERVISED WGT LOSS program to burn fat, save muscle, prevent diabetes. Low dose allergen therapy for inhalent, food & chemical allergy. Bio-identical thyroid & hormone replacement. Non-drug treatment for depression, anxiety, insomnia. Call Dr. Ordene @718-258-7882. Insurance reimbursable, Medicare accepted.

SERVICES WANTED

GARDENER with pond experience wanted. Small backyard. Please contact MERieman@aol.com.

VACATION RENTALS

CATSKILL RENTAL. Secluded. Plan your spring getaway now at oasishill.com. Coop members discount. Dave 212-289-6282.

WHAT'S FOR FREE

HARMONIC INSURGENCE, an acappella vocal ensemble, has openings for an alto, two tenors and a bass. We sing songs of peace, freedom and social change from around the world. Rehearsals are every Wednesday evening. more information, call Gene Glickman or Nancy Hoch at 718-693-5751.

NYC Mac SupportSM

Human-oriented Mac pros since 2001

By Appointment



471 9th Street 917 338 9557
Brooklyn, NY 11215 help@nycmac.com

To Submit Classified or Display Ads:

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

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

Prompt & Courteous
Licensed & Insured
Free Estimates



MEMBER
METROPOLITAN
NEW YORK



Residential & Commercial
Packing & Supplies
Local & Long Distance



Top Hat Movers, Inc.

718.965.0214 718.622.0377 212.722.3390

summer rentals available

lakehuntingtonsummercommunity.com

Thyroid Diet Coach

Give your thyroid a chance, and:

- regain energy
- lose stubborn pounds
- free yourself off depression and anxiety attacks
- get off or reduce thyroid medication

www.ThyroidDietCoach.com I cured my thyroid. So can you.

Call or Email Us Today!
917.463.0399
childcare@beyondcare.coop

beyondcare

"Beyond Care" is a socially responsible Childcare Cooperative created and run by women. We're trained to educate & engage children in ways that nurture & stimulate their development.

Our professional service is based on 3 principles: Caring, Educating & Engaging
www.beyondcare.coop

"Even if life isn't fair, it doesn't mean we can't make our school fair." —David age 16

BROOKLYN FREE SCHOOL
Where Children Are Free to Be Themselves

There's still space for 5 to 14 year-olds to join this amazing community for the 2012-2013 school year.

www.brooklynfreeschool.org • 718-499-2707

WELCOME!

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

David Aguilar
Jay Bachhuber
Sia Balabanova
Solange Beasley
Gabriel Bermeo
Sarah Blackwell
Edward Brown
Erica Bryan
David Butler
James Cantres
Amanda Cartagena
Emily Cassignac
Paul Chandeysson

Lily Chang
Dan Chaparian
Fanny Charrier
Amy Choi
Liz Collins
Christopher Cortier
John Curran
Jessica Dulong
William Ellerbe
Matthew Ellis
Mathilde Emeriau
Camilla Engstrom
Jonathan Evans

Kady Ferguson
Justin Flagg
Chaya Friedman
Sara Grady
Leonie Hahn
Evan Hahnsen
Jacob Hanin
Hiromi Hirayama
Richard Hsieh
Paul Hyun
Nicholas Kass-Johnson
Josh Kriegman
Arnaud Kurze

Brad Leiber
Eileen Leiber
Michael Leston
Genevieve Lizotte
Elizabeth Meyers
Stephen Muscarella
Michelle Myton
William Naess
Topher Naylor
Amy Nazer
Kara Nygaard
Adam Oelsner
Rodrigo Pintado

Macarry Pobanz
Solomon Pobanz
Rachael Rakes
Lauren Rauh
Julia Read
Luis Robayo
Doyle Robertson
Jennifer Robertson
Ines Roman
Rivka Rothman-Gremont
Benjamin Rubin
Randall Rubinstein
Maki Sakai

Miriam Samoylova
Lauren Sanders
Maggie Semrau
Steve Shiffman
Phillip Shipman
Donnie Smith
Lauren Smith
Deborah Sobelman
Robert Sobelman
Beth Steidle
Gigi Stoll
Emily Task
Bjorn Torgersen

Jason Treuting
Katherine Tsan
Michael Tsan
Lois Tyler
Philip Weinrobe
Alexander Weishaupl
Tara Weishaupl
Brittany Williams
Asaf Yuria
Eduard Zaydman

Celebrate Earth Day!

Sunday, April 22
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Union St. in front of the Food Coop

✿ Chat with members of Coop committees: Environmental, Safe Food, GMO Shelf Labeling, Recycling and Animal Welfare

✿ See Grow NYC's Rainwater Harvesting Exhibit

✿ Learn about worm bin composting

✿ Handouts, raffles & more!

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is April 28, 2012



There will be collection sites throughout Brooklyn (and the rest of the U.S.). Check

ecokvetch.blogspot.com for more information.

Proper disposal of your prescription drugs will keep them out of our lakes, rivers and streams.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

An asterisk (*) denotes a Coop member.

SAT, APR 21

11 a.m.-3 p.m. 6th Annual Seed Celebration. The Old Stone House, 5th Ave. & 4th St, Park Slope. This free event explores our seed heritage with art, games, displays, hands-on learning, seed trading and gardening information. A talk by Jude Hobbs of Cascadia Permaculture precedes the event @ 9:30 a.m. For info: www.permaculture-exchange.org or permie@earthlink.net.

WED, APR 25

7-9 p.m. Book launch party. Seamus Mullen's: *HERO FOOD: How Cooking with Delicious Things Can Make Us Feel Better*. The powerHouse Arena at 37 Main Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. For more information, please call 718.666.3049 RSVP: rsvp@powerHouseArena.com.

SAT, APR 28

11 a.m.-5 p.m. 8th Annual Brooklyn Peace Fair at Brooklyn College Student Center. Free. Theme is "Ending War, Promoting Peace." Featured speakers: Jeremy Scahill, investigative journalist,

and Capt. Paul Chappel, Peace Leadership Director of Nuclear Age Foundation. Workshops, dance, poetry, tabling. Info: peacefair@brooklynpeace.org or 718-624-5921.

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. "Palestine and Global Justice" workshop by Dr. Nikhil Singh, recently returned from a U.S. scholars delegation to Israel and Occupied Palestine. Brooklyn College Student Center @ the 8th Annual Brooklyn Peace Fair, For info: ispales@brooklynpeace.org or 718-624-5921. Free.

SUN, APR 29

2-5 p.m. Harmony Singing workshop, Upper West Side Manhattan \$35. Improve your harmony singing skills in early American country/old-time/bluegrass music with renowned musicians Val Mindel & Gene Yellin, Register & pay online by Apr. 23 at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/236901. For more info visit www.folkmusicny.org or email education@folkmusicny.org.

1-5 p.m. Enjoy principles from the healing system, Zero Balanc-

ing. Through exercises, writing, discussion, explore the practical existence of energy and how to make clear choices in daily life. Learn a bodywork sequence, calming for everyone, including children. Scale \$50-75, Athena Malloy, starhealingarts@gmail.com.

SUN, MAY 6

4 p.m. Central Library Dr. S. Stevan Dweck Center for Contemporary Culture; BPL Chamber Players: The Claremont Trio Emily Bruskin, violin; Julia Bruskin, violoncello; Andrea Lam, piano Free Admission.

1-3 p.m. Mississippi Fiddle Tunes workshop, Park Slope,\$20. Learn their history & fiddle techniques—for fiddle, banjo, guitar. Led by Harry Bolick, veteran fiddler living in NY, born in Mississippi, Register & pay in advance online by Apr. 27 at www.folkmusicny.org#fiddle. More info at www.folkmusicny.org or email education@folkmusicny.org.

THE GAZETTE INDEXES

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

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

◆ An alphabetized list of the titles of all articles published in the Gazette from 1995 to the present, with issue dates.

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

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

