Next General Meeting on September 24

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The September General Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 24, at 7:00 p.m. at MS 51, 350 Fifth Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts. Enter on Fourth St. cul-de-sac. The Fourth St. entrance is handicap-accessible.

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.

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August GM Focuses on Trade Agreement

By Ed Levy

The end-of-summer GM had a light agenda, medium attendance, and a heavy focus on the pending Trans-Pacific Trade Partnership, a far-reaching international trade agreement that could negatively impact both food quality and food prices. The meeting began with two Coordinator reports.

Perk Report and Coop Job Openings

General Coordinator Janet Schumacher reported on the trip she took to Italy last June at the invitation of the makers of Jovial Foods and Bionature products, one of the Coop’s suppliers, to visit their family farm. A number of the Jovial products are made with einkorn, an “ancient” grain that may trigger a less-severe allergic reaction in wheat-intolerant individuals. Jovial is also planning to grow rice without water, a technique that would reduce the amount of arsenic lanet, who had previously visited coffee.

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Celebrations of Autumn: A Sample of Festivals, Farm Visits and Programs, Fall 2013

By Frank Haberle

On the Coop’s shelves, as well as in stores and farmer’s markets around the neighborhood, the fall harvest season gives us all a wonderful opportunity to reap the bounty of what other people have sown. While we can enjoy autumn’s bounty here at home, the fall also offers a wide range of festivals and programs for those of us who may want a closer look at where our food (and in one example, clothing) came from. Following is a sampling of some opportunities to learn more about the fall harvest in the upcoming weeks—including, but not limited to, activities geared specifically for children and/or families. This brief sampling of activities includes those just a short walk from the Coop, those in other boroughs and day trips outside of New York City.

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IN THIS ISSUE

Puzzle .................................................. 2
Locavore Challenge ............................... 4
Coordinator’s Corner ............................ 5
Food Coop Job Openings ......................... 6-7
Loan Committee Report ......................... 7
Coop Calendar, Governance Information, Mission Statement .................................. 9
Calendar of Events ................................. 10
Letters to the Editor ............................... 12
Classifieds ............................................. 14
Exciting Workslot Opportunities .............. 15
August GM  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

growers in Nicaragua at their invitation, said trips like these by Coordinators can be “interesting and informative.”" She also announced that anyone who’d like the perk of working for the Coop, three jobs with excellent benefits are open: Java/Web Software Developer, Membership Coordinator and Receiving Coordinator. Produce Buyer Visit the Coop’s website: www.foodcoop.com for application details.

The Coop will soon acquire another coffee grinder, so there will be less waiting time for those who grind their coffee beans. Members are reminded to acquire another coffee grinder, so there will be less waiting time for those who grind their coffee beans. Members are reminded to grind their coffee beans. Members are reminded to grind their coffee beans.

The Coop is carrying two unusual and hard-to-come-by fruits that are cousins to the lychee, guinep and longan. The quenepas are small and green and are also known as Spanish limes. The longan are smaller and a bit drier than the lychee. Most of these lychee-like fruits are grown in Florida. Allen noted that he prefers not to buy lychee nuts, or any other produce, from China.

Morning Produce Inspection

It may look like they’re just feasting on watermelon at the members’ expense, but each morning the produce buyers taste and inspect melon, and many other pro-
duce items, Allen said, to ensure that the store doesn’t accept a large shipment of something that looks good and tastes awful. Corn, for example, can look great but have a starchy flavor, or no flavor at all. Why is watermelon sometimes yellow or orange? The color, it turns out, has noth-
ing to do with the sweetness or quality. First discovered in South Africa, watermelon was originally yellow and white. Allen urged members to take a risk and try out the new hues. The melon is not GMO. And speaking of corn, he stressed that the Coop is buying only organic corn—no GMO corn—which is why there was none on the shelves from December to June.

Trans-Pacific Trade Partnership

Marshia Champlin, Susan Johnson, and Susan Metz offered a discussion item about the Trans-Pacific Trade Partnership (TPP), now being negotiated in secret by 12 Pacific-rim nations. Based on leaked information about the shape of the agreement so far, progressive groups are concerned about its scope (the TPP could ultimately cover 30 percent of the world’s agricultural exports), and its privileging of corporate over local, civilian, nation-
al, and environmental interests. There is great concern, as well, that President Obama is asking for fast-track authority to expedite approval of the TPP if implemented, according to the hand-outs at the GM, the TPP could:

● Empower corporations to challenge food policies designed to protect public health, and to demand com-

penstation when their profits are threatened.

● Undermine local sys-
tems of growing and dis-
tribution. Under the North
American Free Trade Agree-
ment (NAFTA), for example, Mex-
ico has been forced to buy North American corn, throwing millions of its own farmers out of work.

● Open the door to imports of products, like Viet-
namese shrimp, despite safety and environmental impact issues. According to the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IAT), in other trade forums, the U.S. has sought to lower food safety stan-
dards “in order to increase export opportunities for agribusinesses.”

● Allow the use of rac-
topamine (an asthma drug used to accelerate growth in hogs and cattle) and Recom-
binant Bovine Growth Hor-
mon (rBGH).

● Make it easier for agri-
giants to use new untested technologies, such as engi-
neered nanoparticles. The U.S. Grocery Manufacturing Association has estimated that nano-packaging could constitute 25 percent of the annual food-packaging mar-
ket. The effect of nano-silver coatings on produce and in food supplements to retard spoilage has not been widely studied, but the ability of nano-particles to pass through cell walls, including the bloodbrain barrier, suggests that some nanoparticles could result in mutagenic changes at the molecular level,” according to the IAT.

● Require that domestic regulations abandon the precautionary principle. This principle supports prevent-
ive action and the enact-
mnt of policies to protect public health when in doubt, before all the scientific evidence is available.

● Restrict governments to favor foreign companies over local suppliers. For example, a policy that requires food for school lunches to be grown locally and sustainably could be deemed to discriminate against foreign suppliers, according to the agreement.

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Takina Kuwai/foodcoop.com

Taking Action

The discussion item’s sponsors collected member signatures at the General Meeting to forward to Brooklyn’s Congressional represen-
tatives/find. Or they may contact the Park Slope Fire Coop Justice Group c/o Daniel Zeitlin@mail.house.gov. Daniel Zeitlin@mail.house.gov. Daniel Zeitlin@mail.house.gov.

Retiree Health Benefits

The meeting passed an amendment to the Coop’s retiree health benefits plan that would bring it in line with current Medicare terminology. The amendment did not make any substantive changes to the plan itself.

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

Square Meals

Each of these squares holds a single set of words, written both across the rows and down the columns. For example, in the first 3x3 square beginning with YAM, the words ACE and MEN complete the square, reading either across or down. Starting words are filled in, and diagonal letters are given as an extra hint.

YAM  PEA  COD  EAC  T       RAM  EAD  HAY  E
ACM  PEW  OAD  OBC  E       NAC  MNA  EDC  E
MAN  EAC  DEH  T       HAN  AEA  CED  E

BAGEL  BEANS  FARRO  PEA  O       LLO  CAF  EAF  E
AOE  GON  EAD  RUR  E       GEL  EAD  RER  C
BAE  GD    O       EAG  GDE  ORU  A

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

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

Read the Gazette while you’re standing on line OR online at www.foodcoop.com
Celebrations continued from page 1

In The Bronx, New York

dern music and dancing.
pony rides and country-west-
tures including Fall Tillage
works and activities including Fall Tillage

Queens County Farm Museum: Two upcoming events at the Queens County Farm Museum offer families the opportunity to celebrate the harvest season. The Museum, described as a hidden gem, occupies the largest greenhouse in New York City (the farm dates to 1697). Its 75-acre site includes historic farm buildings, livestock, farm-vehicle fields, orchards and a greenhouse. At this site, the Queens County Fair (September 21-22, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.) offers traditional blue-ribbon competitions in livestock, pro-
duce, home crafts, and arts and crafts, pie-eating contests, pig racing, carnival rides, a corn maze, and an eco-friendly booth where families can learn how to develop home compost bins. The fair also fea-
tures a Bavarian Garden with performances by traditional German and Irish bands. Later in the fall, the museum offers a Children’s Fall Festival (October 27, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.) with children do garden crafts while profes-
sional chefs offer cooking demonstrations with items cultivated from the garden. These events are followed by a three-course family-style dinner of seasonal dishes. October 19 and 20, an additional treat for the families is witnessing two master carvers create Halloween creatures out of extra-large pumpkins.

Brooklyn Grange: A shorter excursion that provides an opportunity to learn about urban farming may be found with the Brooklyn Grange, an organization operating two rooftop organic farms in Brooklyn. Brooklyn Grange grows more than 40,000 lbs. of organically cultivated produce across the country descend on this annual event for opportunities to meet and purchase wool and crafts from mer-
chants and learn about knitting, dyeing and weaving. Competitions range from live-
stock shows, to a daylong “sheep toshawl” contest where teams work from shorn animals to create beautiful woven masterpieces. As a final note, the Sheep and Wool Festival hosts a live “Pumpkin Chuckin’” contest where local agriculture and engineering students create siege-like catapults to hurl perfectly good pumpkins at distant targets. As a witness to the end result of these strange contraptions during last year’s festival, this reporter can verify that there is no sound on earth quite like the “thunk” heard when large pumpkins, jettisoned hundreds of feet through the air, meet their final destination.

New Jersey Botanical Garden and its annual Harvest F Est (October 5 and 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) is directed by this botan-
ical garden’s beauty. Highlights this year include hayrides, face painting, pumpkin painting, music and food, as well as an autumn plant sale.

Howell Living History Museum: Further into New Jersey, in Lambertville, the Howell Liv-
ing History Museum—a work-
shop farm run by volunteers who offer ongoing programs in traditional agri-
culture—will host its Fall fes-
tival on October 5 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and October 6 (12 to 4 p.m.). Throughout the fall, the Howell Museum offers a wide range of workshops and activities including Fall Tillage, Pumpkin Raising (October 26), a Harvest Moon Dance (Novem-

Bridgewater, the New Jersey Botanical Gar-

The Bridge and Tunnel Excursion

New Jersey Botanical Garden: A short drive across the George Washington Bridge to Ringwood, New Jersey, will take you and your family to the

and crafts, pie-eating contests, pig racing, carnival rides, a corn maze, and an eco-friendly booth where families can learn how to develop home compost bins. The fair also features a Bavarian Garden with performances by traditional German and Irish bands. Later in the fall, the museum offers a Children’s Fall Festival (October 27, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.) with Halloween-themed activities that include a haunted house, pony rides and country-west-

New York Botanical Gar-
den: In The Bronx, New York Botanical Garden—with its

Revolving Loan Management Committee

On January 31, 2012, participants in the General Meeting overwhelmingly approved the Coop’s new Revolving Loan Program. This initiative allows the Coop and our individual members to donate money into a fund that will make loans to startup coops using the PSFC model. As part of that resolution, an interview process formed to develop, oversee and report on the loan program. The committee is seeking two new members. The selection process involves an interview for those who express interest and a vote for candidates at a future GM, probably in September or October.

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

Committee members will receive work credit.

Once the interviews are completed, candidates seeking committee placement will write a statement to be published in the Line waiters’ Gazette, and will stand for a vote at a General Meeting.

To sign up for an interview, please send a statement of interest and your resume to loancommittee@psfc.coop and we will contact you.
Locavore Challenge
By Alison Rose Levy

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA) launched its annual “Locavore Challenge” for the entire month of September. Detailed on the NOFA website, www.nofany.org/?q=events/locavore-challenge, its aim is threefold, to:
• Connect people who enjoy local organic foods with the farmers who grow it.
• Educate about how food is produced.
• Move toward public policy changes that promote local organic farming.

“Generally people think about food only from the consumption standpoint,” says Tanya Smolinsky, NOFA’s Communications and Development Director. “But it’s vital to understand the production that goes into local organic food. Here at NOFA, our underlying premise is that if you want local organic food, it’s not enough to just shop for it. There needs to be greater involvement in the food system, and the Locavore Challenge aims to get people involved.”

With a wide range of activities, wherever people are on the food-farm connection, the Challenge will help them to take the next step in supporting an organic local farm system nationally and in New York State.

For people new to local organic food, and who don’t benefit from membership in the Park Slope Food Coop, this might entail going to farmer’s markets, or joining a CSA, which offers food grown via community-sponsored agriculture. This represents a greater commitment to local farming than just going to the grocery store and hoping to purchase local produce. For those already engaged in support of a coop, Farmer’s Market or CSA, the Locavore Challenge invites them to a range of other activities. For example, people might wish to introduce local organic food into their community’s school cafeteria. A further step could entail getting involved with the GMO-free or GMO-labeling legislation and campaigns. The Challenge also encourages people to become more active on the national level, through writing legislators to assure a Farm Bill that better supports small and midsized farmers. By participating in the Challenge, together people can bring about institutional change that truly makes a difference.

Here at the Coop, members already vote for healthy local food with their pocketbooks. When we choose a Hepworth Farm–raised head of lettuce over a bag of salad greens flown in from California, we both get superb quality greens in regions, protecting regional air and water supplies.

On the NOFA website, people can choose their challenge. For some, it might begin with connecting with and buying directly from local and organic farmers via farm stands, U-picks, farmer’s markets, CSAs or coops. The Challenge has many creative suggestions, such as composting your scraps, swapping sugar for local honey or organic maple syrup, learning how to can food or building a makeshift root cellar for winter storage crops (an activity less-applicable to urban dwellers).

But some activities even urbanites can do, such as assessing local food systems and community access to local foods, growing herbs in a window garden, or reading Locavore-recommended books on NOFA’s Pinterest page: www.pinterest.com/nurturenature/organic-farming-good-earth/. Further, people can participate by hosting a Harvest Dinner, in which they prepare and serve local organic foods to friends and family. For busy New Yorkers, it’s also good to know that a number of area restaurants are supporting NOFA and the Locavore Challenge through hosting a special dinner one evening and donating a percentage of its net revenue to NOFA-NY to support its work to promote local, organic food and farming.”

In Brooklyn, the Applewood Restaurant at 501 11 St. (between Seventh and Eighth Aves.) will donate 15% of its proceeds on Saturday evening, September 28. In Manhattan, the Angelica Kitchen and Candle Café will also host dinners.

Smolinsky advises that, “You can support the Challenge by patronizing a restaurant. If not that night, go another night. Or go in and thank them for supporting NOFA. In general, if you dine out, go to restaurants that are involved in local sourcing. Or encourage other restaurants to do that.”

The website also offers ways to take action, such as asking lawmakers to enact land-conservation programs that support local agriculture, or encouraging New York State legislators to enacting labeling of GMO foods.

Actively involved in the campaign for GMO labeling, NOFA went to Albany in June and helped draft legislation. It is also educating people about GMOs via social media. Along with the Farm Bill, it is NOFA’s biggest effort, and they would like more people to get involved. By signing up on their website for their e-blasts, people can be informed about the ongoing status of the GMO-labeling...
campaign in New York State Community action at local, state, and national levels is critically important because, according to Smolinsky, New York State has the third-largest number of organic farmers in the U.S. That’s why New Yorkers require a Farm Bill attentive to small and mid-sized farmers. As one of this country’s most populated states, New York also uses the Farm Bill’s current SNAP benefits [Ed. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, aka Food Stamps], at risk from legislators who seek to cut them. Such cuts would force many people to purchase cheap, highly processed, and obesogenic foods, that cost less because they are highly subsidized.

In addition, since a typical CSA share costs about $550, people living below the poverty line cannot afford to participate. To assure food justice, NOFA seeks to make CSAs accessible by subsidizing participation for people without means.

“We assume that everyone has equal access to food and that’s not true. Policies affect what people have on their plate,” says Smolinsky. “People are made to think we have so much freedom and choice as a consumer. But policies affect the choices we can make.”

Why is it tough for people to step beyond their consumer role to protect ongoing access for all to the food we care about?

According to Smolinsky, it’s because “we’re taught in this country to be consumers and not citizens. The core ethos of our society emphasizes attaining satisfaction through purchases. It’s about buying something, not about how happy we are, how fair our country is, or how satisfied we feel with our lives. Deviating from that goes against the grain,” she notes.

Smolinsky lauds the Coop for its organizational support of NOFA. And it would love to see more individuals get involved via the Locavore Challenge. “If there is any group that can more easily appreciate another way, it’s likely to be Coop members, who already participate in a cooperative economy. We’ve heard many times that social change occurs through voting with your pocketbook. But that’s not enough. The Locavore Challenge makes it fun to get more involved. Food is life-giving and there is power and joy in appreciating and being involved in our food system—and New York is a fabulous place to do it.”

New York State has 19.4 million people, and less than 1,000 organic farmers growing our food, Smolinsky says. “Get involved and get invested in our farmers. There’s a person behind that tomato you buy at the Coop.”

Bylaw Amendments Proposed for September 24 General Meeting

By Jar Holtz and Ann Herpel, General Coordinators

These amendments, which will be voted on in the September 24th GM, are prompted by a letter from the Coop’s auditing firm, Cornick, Garber & Sandler, suggesting that the Coop consult with legal counsel in regard to maintaining separate accounting of members’ investments according to member status. The proposed amendments, written with advice from Coop counsel, more clearly define Membership/Ownership, including termination of Membership, and codify the process of refunding or reclassifying Member Equity Investments. Below are printed Articles I and II of the bylaws, first as they stand now, followed by the proposed amendments. The proposed amendments did not change the substance of Coop procedures that have been followed for years. The original bylaws written in 1977 did not speak to Member Equity Investments because the Coop did not start requiring membership investments until 1978. This Membership requirement is too central to the concept of Ownership to continue to be left out of the Coop’s bylaws. In order to define Ownership, we also had to define when Ownership ended. Therefore we added a paragraph on termination of Membership.

Amended Bylaws of Park Slope Food Coop, Inc.

(Artended as of 9/27/2011)

ARTICLE I

Membership

Membership shall be open to any natural person who agrees to comply with the membership requirements which the Board of Directors may adopt by resolution. The Board of Directors may require the payment of a membership fee, which shall be established by the Board of Directors. Each Member shall be issued a membership card which shall be a certificate of membership.

ARTICLE II

Type of Cooperative

The Park Slope Food Coop, Inc. shall be a non-stock membership cooperative as defined in section 3 of the Cooperative Corporations Law. The Not-For-Profit Corporation Law shall apply to the Park Slope Food Coop as described in section 5 of the Cooperative Corporations Law.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

ARTICLE I

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The Park Slope Food Coop, Inc. shall be a non-stock membership cooperative as defined in section 3 of the Cooperative Corporations Law. The Not-For-Profit Corporation Law shall apply to the Park Slope Food Coop as described in section 5 of the Cooperative Corporations Law.

ARTICLE II

Membership

1. Members/Owners: The terms Member and Owner shall be interchangeable and for the purposes of this bylaw, the terms Member and Owner shall be used to describe a person who is no longer a Member/Owner. Alternatively, a Member/Owner shall be considered terminated after two years of inactivity. Inactivity shall be defined as the absence of working and shopping or the non-responsiveness to written inquiries and/or mailings by the Coop, if any.

2. Eligibility: Membership/Ownership shall be open to any natural person who agrees to comply with the Membership/Ownership requirements. A Member/Owner shall be required to pay a Membership Fee. The Board of Directors shall require that each Member pay a Membership Fee.

3. Termination of Membership/Ownership, Former Members: Membership shall be terminated by a Member upon notice to the cooperative. A Member/Owner shall terminate their Membership/Ownership from the cooperative by telephone, in person or any other means that shall be determined by the cooperative’s Chief Administrative Officer (as defined in Art V, sec 1). Terminating Membership means the Member no longer owns part of the cooperative and is not a Member/Owner. The terms former Member or terminated Member shall be used to describe a person who is no longer a Member/Owner. Alternatively, a Member/Owner shall be considered terminated after two years of inactivity. Inactivity shall be defined as the absence of working and shopping or the non-responsiveness to written inquiries and/or mailings by the Coop, if any.

4. Membership Fee: The Board of Directors shall require that each Member pay a Membership Fee.

5. Membership/Owner Equity Investments: The Board of Directors shall require that each Member/Owner make a non-interest bearing monetary investment in the cooperative in amounts that the Board of Directors by resolution shall set. The investments shall be known as “Member/Owner Equity Investments.”

6. Return of Member/Owner Equity Investments: Any former Member or terminated Member can request a refund of their Member/Owner Equity Investments. A Member/Owner shall be required to make a capital contribution to the cooperative. If a former Member or terminated Member has not requested a return of their Member/Owner Equity Investment, then the cooperative, after two years has elapsed, shall assume that the intent of the former Member was to make a capital contribution to the cooperative and shall reclassify the amount of the Member/Owner Equity Investment as an accumulated capital contribution. However, at the written request of a former Member, or the legally designated representative of the former Member, the Member/Owner equity investment shall be refunded.

7. Certificate of Membership: All Members shall be issued a membership card that shall be considered a certificate of Membership.

8. Transfer of Membership: Membership shall be nontransferable.

Attention Web Developers

Do you want to help build the new PSFC website and fulfill your Coop work requirement at the same time? The Coop IT staff is conducting a survey of our membership to determine the popularity of various web technologies. Based on the results of the survey we’ll be working with members to begin new development on foodcoop.com. If web development work for the Coop sounds good to you, please take the survey by either scanning the QR code above, or visiting: http://websurvey.foodcoop.com/
Coop Job Opening: Java/Web Software Developer

Description:
The Park Slope Food Coop has an immediate opening for a Java/Web Software Developer. You will be joining our staff to be Java developer and system/system administrator. Our staff plays to build software and services using open-source and open standards.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Participate in designing a new application framework for the Coop.
- Lead the maintenance of the backoffice.com website.
- Create documentation, including code and procedures, to share your knowledge and expertise with other team members.
- As a member of the team, help with everyday technical issues (e.g. printer, usage issues, new hardware, performance, etc.)

Requirements:

- Proficiency in Java and Web technologies.
- Experience developing and integrating a variety of software components.
- Experience working in an Agile software development environment.
- Knowledge of a standard end-to-end development process, including version control, build scripts, and automated testing.

How to Apply:

Please mail a letter with your resume to hrc-programme@pscoop.com. All members who submit both a cover letter and resume will receive an application. Please do not call the office to check on the status of your application.

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

Coop Job Opening: Membership Coordinator

Description:
The Coop is hiring a Membership Coordinator to fill an afternoon/evening and weekend schedules. Membership Coordinator divides their time between shifts of approximately 4 hours in the Membership Office. 

Technical Support shifts of approximately 4 hours working on the shopping floor, and overnight coordinates of the Coop’s administrative functions. Applicants must have excellent communication, organizational, administrative and people skills, as well as patience, comfort with computer technology, and the ability to do detailed record keeping. Applicants must be able to work in a fast-paced environment, attending to the needs of various internal departments, as well as the Coop’s members. Applicants must have strong customer service skills, be flexible, able to work independently, and work late when needed. Applicants must be able to work on a flexible schedule.

Requirements:

-Must have a B/S in computer science/programming or equivalent experience.
-Comfortable with computer applications.
-Experience working in an Agile software development environment.
-Proficiency in Java and Web technologies.

How to Apply:

Please mail your resumé along with a cover letter explaining your relevant qualifications, skills and experience. Materials must only be accepted electronically via e-mail to hr@membership@pscoop.com. Please put “Membership Coordinator” in the subject field. Applicants will receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt of their materials.

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

Coop Job Opening: Bookkeeping Coordinator

Description:
The Coop is seeking a Bookkeeping Coordinator to help in the oversight and coordination of our bookkeeping activities. Bookkeeping may include many areas of bookkeeping including reconciliations (bank accounts, deltahot, individual GL accounts), accounts payable, cash received, bookkeeping, processing of member investment refunds, product refunds, and more. All staff positions also coordinate and oversee member label issues.

We look for applicants who maintain high standards of accuracy, and display initiative, common sense, and a troubleshooting/questioning mentality. Excellent organizational and social/communication skills are required.

Requirements:

-Approximately 39 hours distributed evenly over 5 days. The initial schedule will be Monday through Friday during a training period, transitioning to a Tuesday through Saturday permanent schedule. At times, schedule flexibility (and additional hours) will be necessary when covering work for other bookkeeping staff.
-Proficiency in Accounting is preferred. Experience using enterprise-level accounting software is essential (our current package is QuickBooks). As is the capability to coordinate and test account software releases.

How to Apply:

Please mail a letter with your resume to hrc-programme@pscoop.com. All members who submit both a cover letter and resume will receive an application. Please do not call the office to check on the status of your application.

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

Coop Job Opening: Receiving/Stocking Coordinator

Description:
The Coop is hiring a Receiving/Stocking Coordinator to work evenings and weekends. The evening and weekend Receiving/Stocking Coordinators oversee the smooth functioning of the Coop. They work with squads to ensure that the Coop is well-stocked, and food quality is maintained. The ideal candidate will be a reliable, responsible self-starter who enjoys working with our diverse member-workers. Applicants must be excellent team players, as they will be sharing the work with several other Receiving/Stocking Coordinators.

Applicants must have excellent people skills, excellent communication and organizational skills as well as patience. Applicants should be able to work evenings and weekends, have the ability to prioritize tasks, teach and explain procedures, delegate work, give feedback, and pay attention to several things at once. Comfort with computers is preferred.

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

As a retail business, the Coop’s busiest times are during traditional holiday seasons. Applicants must be prepared to work during many of the holiday periods, particularly in the winter.

How to Apply:

Please provide your resume and cover letter to hrc-programme@pscoop.com. All members who submit both a cover letter and resume will receive an application. Please do not call the office to check on the status of your application.

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

Read the Gazette while you’re standing on line OR online at www.foodcoop.com
Coop Job Opening:
Receiving Coordinator: Produce Buyer

Description:
The Park Slope Food Coop is seeking two people to become Receiving Coordinators and join the produce buying team. These are entry-level positions. Under the supervision of a General Coordinator/Lead Buyer, team members are responsible for purchasing the Coop’s fresh produce in a fast-paced environment driven by high sales volume. The produce buying team makes and coordinates complex buying decisions, negotiates prices, nurtures vendor relationships, and maintains the high quality and extensive selection of produce available to our members. The produce buying team must respect and promote local/sustainable ethical principles.

Required Skills:
- Continue our longstanding buying practices: high quality, low prices, fair return to farmers.
- Analyze and monitor sales history to create accurate orders.
- Check deliveries for accuracy, freshness, appearance, and flavor. Reject poor quality produce upon delivery.
- Maintain accurate assessment of inventory through quality assessment and inventory checks.
- Review invoices for accuracy, price changes and make adjustments for shortages and overages, coordinate returns and track credits due from suppliers.
- Prepare authorizer/vendor payment information into the Coop’s accounting system.
- Communicate ordering deadlines and changes in delivery time to relevant staff.
- Share responsibility for daily setting and maintenance of the produce aisle. Supervising and directing the work of other staff members and to provide a fresh, bountiful, attractive produce display and accurate price information.
- Regular supervision and training of members working in the produce aisle. Contribute to the development of a robust, ongoing training program aimed at increasing overall knowledge among and support of members working in the produce aisle.
- Communicate with members about product availability and use, production trends, new products and interesting facts in person, over the phone, in the Laminated Gazette, at General Meetings and on foodcoop.com.
- Continues to expand product knowledge.

Requirements:

Required Skills:
- Handle multiple demands, work under pressure, meet deadlines, and follow through.
- Skillfully delegate work, and manage and motivate others.
- Professional level verbal and written communication skills.
- Attention to detail and good organizational skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills. Able to cooperate with a diverse group of co-workers and members.
- Supervision and training.
- Flexibility, openness, willingness to learn and take on new responsibilities.
- Facility with computers, Macintosh plus.
- Comfortable with math. Knowledge of weights, and measures.
- Ability to lift or move up to 50 lbs. repeatedly, every day.

Desirable Skills:
- Professional experience working with produce and/or purchasing and negotiating skills.
- Knowledge of produce varieties and growing seasons.
- Experience in planning, developing and implementing systems, procedures and policies.

Work Environment:
Buying produce at the Coop is tiring, both physically and mentally. Ours is a fast-paced environment driven by high sales volume (14 times the national average per square foot overall, more than 100,000 pounds of produce sold per week) and extreme weather conditions. These positions will involve juggling competing priorities under very tight and inflexible deadlines, intense physical activity such as lifting, standing for long periods, working inside produce coolers, working outside in all weather, maneuvering in small crowded spaces, working in noisy environments near loud equipment. Staff offices are crowded and require working in close physical proximity to others. Our staff must be able to focus on details while attending to our paging system, phones and radios, member questions and the ambient noise created by the work of other staff and members.

Hours:
Monday-Friday, approximately eight hours a day. At least three days will start between 3:30 am and 9:00 am. We strive to create jobs that can be completed within 40 hours a week. Based on the needs and intensity of produce work, these positions may frequently require more than 40 hours a week, in particular during the training period. Busy times of the year and during vacation coverage. In addition, there is an expectation that produce buyers will make themselves available to our vendors via phone and e-mail outside of normal working hours.

Wages:
$24.40 per hour

Benefits:
Paid Vacation: Three weeks per year increasing in the 4th, 8th & 11th years.
Paid Health and Personal time: 11 days.
Health Insurance*
Dental and Vision Plan*
Pension Plan*
Life Insurance*
401(k) Plan
Transit/Check Program
Flexible Spending Account
*Benefits with no payroll deduction.

Prerequisite:
Must be a current member of the Park Slope Food Coop for at least one continuous year immediately prior to application.

How to Apply:
Provide your resume and along with a cover letter explaining your relevant qualifications, skills and experience. 
Materials will only be accepted via e-mail to: ho-producecoordinator@psfc.coop and put “Produce Buyer” in the subject field.

The Coop is looking for one member to represent the Coop on the Steering Committee of a newly-forming, citywide solidarity/cooperative sector organization.

Project expected to last through May 2014.

Interested members must have excellent attendance, been a member for 5+ years, have a thorough knowledge of the Coop’s member-owned and democratically-run nature and values, and professional experience in strategic planning.

Travel to/from meetings, attendance at meeting and any additional committee work included in workload credit.

If you are interested or have further questions, please contact Ann Herpel or Joe Holtz at 718-622-0560 or ann_herpel@psfc.coop.

Funds for New Food Coops Needed

By Glenn Brill

O ver the past 40 years the Park Slope Food Coop has provided good food at low prices for working members. We have shared the benefits of working together to create an organization and a shopping experience that reflects our collective will as consumers and members of our local community. The Coop’s success is so great that many members often travel great distances to shop. While it is a testimony to the vitality of our Coop, no doubt many members would prefer to shop closer to home at their convenience.

The Coop is committed to promoting the benefits of “working-member” cooperative grocery stores and assisting like-minded community members to grow cooperative grocery stores in the New York metropolitan area and beyond. The Coop freely shares its experience and expertise and provides advice to fledgling coops in the U.S. and around the world. We have learned that hard work is not enough and that a coop needs cash and credit to grow a sustainable long-term business.

Today, there are a number of citizen groups that have been actively operating young cooperative grocery stores and planning for their future growth. We believe The Fund for New Food Coops can make a difference for their success by lending money for the facilities, equipment and inventory they need to grow their businesses and expand the benefits of working-member coops in local communities.

We believe the opportunity for working-member cooperative grocery stores is greater than ever, but the investment needed to grow viable coops is also great. Please consider making a tax-deductible charitable contribution to The Fund for New Food Coops. Visit our website (www.foodcoop.com) and use PayPal or pick-up a donor card on the shopping floor and scan a contribution at the cash register. You and your neighbors will be glad you did.

About The Fund for New Coops

The Fund for New Food Coops was established by the Coop to provide growing coops loans for equipment, facilities and inventory and help them expand the benefits of a working-member coop in their local community. The Fund’s Loan Committee is elected by the General Meeting and works to raise funds and make loans to eligible coops. PIC, a donor-advised 910(c)3 charitable organization acts under the direction of the Loan Committee and accepts tax-deductible charitable contributions on behalf of The Fund for New Coops and administers the loan program. The Coop has been authorized by the General Meeting to make a $20,000 tax-deductible charitable contribution per year to The Fund for New Food Coops.


**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 essentially just advertisements for member businesses and services.

**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, all submissions to the Gazetteletters 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. The e-mail address for submissions is GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop. Drop disks in the wallpocket described above. Receipt of your submission 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”).

**Printed by:** Tri-Star Offset, Maspeth, NY.

**Linenewaters’ Gazette**

The Linenewters’ 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.

**PLACEMENT GUIDELINES**

All printed ads must be camera-ready and business card size (2”x3”). Printed ads up to 750 characters may be run for $15. (Ads in the “Merchandise–Commercial” category are free.) All ads will be placed in the wallpocket labeled “Editor” on the second floor at the base of the ramp. Classified ads may be up to 315 characters and spaces. Display ads must be camera-ready and business card size (2”x3”).

**Printed by:** Tri-Star Offset, Maspeth, NY.

**September 19, 2013**

**Park Slope Food Coop, Brooklyn, NY**

**COOP HOURS**

**Office Hours:** Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 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

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**Prospect Concerts**

**Friday, October 18, 8:00 p.m.**

The Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture and the Park Slope Food Coop present:

**PROSPECT CONCERTS**

Jodi Shaw is a Canadian-born poet/performer with a unique voice and vision. Her music has been described as “hauntingly erotic,” “mystical” and “hard to pin down.” One reviewer, upon hearing her latest release In Waterland for the first time, remarked that he was “partially shocked.” Another calls the album “a revelation, nothing less than stunning.” Her work has drawn comparisons to Feist, Fiona Apple, Imogen Heap, Tori Amos, and the Beach Boys.

Downbeat calls Melissa Stylianou “a gifted composer and an appealing singer” and, moreover, “an original.” Stylianou’s newest album—Silent Movie, her fourth disc and first for the New York–based Anzic Records—is an evolutionary step, with Stylianou presenting her fresh takes on beloved jazz standards, original compositions, and left-field songs from Johnny Cash to Joanna Newsom, backed by a collective of top musicians from the New York scene. Of the new recording, JazzTimes had this to say: “Now, with Silent Movie, she settles into a spellbinding groove that advances her to the forefront of contemporary vocalists, rivaling the storytelling élan of Joni Mitchell and Carly Simon.”

www.ProspectConcerts.tumblr.com

53 Prospect Park West [at 2nd Street] • $10 • 8pm [doors open at 7:45]
Performers are Park Slope Food Coop members and receive Coop workslot credit.

**Booking:** Bev Grant, 718-788-3741

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**This Issue Prepared By:**

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**Puzzle Master:** Stuart Marquis
**Final Proofreader:** Nancy Rosenberg
**Index:** Len Neufeld
**Advertisement:** Eric Bishop

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

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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.

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**Old Member Orientations**
- No new member orientations.
- 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.

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

**Meeting Format**
- **Warm Up:** (7:00 p.m.) • Meet the Coordinators
- **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.
- **Meeting Announcements:**
- **Meeting Review:**
- **Adjourn:**

For full details, see www.foodcoop.com and look at the “Join the Coop” page.
Rob Garcia’s Soap Box and Ilusha Tsinadze

Rob Garcia’s Soap Box featuring Jean Rohe, “A prime mover in the current Brooklyn jazz scene…” (Time Out-New York) drummer/composer Rob Garcia leads this group featuring vocalist/composer Jean Rohe. They will perform unique arrangements of songs with a story to tell and a message to deliver covering such songwriters as Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan, Woody Guthrie as well as original material by Rob and Jean. “Garcia is a drummer of invention, grace and considerable fire.” (Downbeat) “Ms. Rohe is a confident young singer whose compositions tend toward a literate and impromptu tone.” (Nate Chinen, New York Times) “There are plenty of talented artists out there, but what sets Jean Rohe apart are the sup- pleness 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). Ilusha Tsinadze hasn’t been on work alert in a couple months now. Cashiering is his favorite shift so far, but nothing comes close to getting credit for playing a concert. Tonight he presents some of his favorite acoustic music with some of his favorite Coop musicians.

Concert takes place at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West (at 2nd St.), $10, doors open at 7:45. Prospect Concerts is a monthly musical fundraising partnership of the Coop and the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture. To book a Prospect Concert event, contact Bev Grant, 718-788-3741.

What the Tooth Fairy Never Knew!

This workshop on nutritional, homeopathic, preventive dentistry is geared for those who want to take responsibility for improving or maintaining their dental health; and, to learn about the connection between dental problems and systemic diseases. You will be taught how to analyze oftentimes undiagnosed etiologies of dental problems, TM joint problems, headaches and loosening teeth. Dental controversies like mercury fillings, root canals and placing nickel on your child-en's teeth will be included in this symposium. Dr. Stephen R. Goldberg DDS, is a Nationally Certified Clinical Nutritionist (CCN), Acupuncturist and Oral Myofunctional (Swallowing) Therapist.

Handling Your Child’s Anger, Frustration and Fears

Many parents have questions about handling the anger, frustration or fears that their children express. Share stories with other moms and dads and hear perspectives to help your child with these important issues. Sharon C. Peters, M.A. is the founder and director of Parents Helping Parents on President Street in Park Slope. She has worked with hundreds of individual families for more than 15 years and has led many parent workshops for schools and organizations. She is a happy longtime Coop member.

PSFC SEP 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: MS 51, 350 Fifth Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts. Enter on Fourth St. cab-de-auc. Fourth St. entrance is handicap-accessible.

I. Member Arrival and Meeting Warm-Up
II. Open Forum

Ilusha Tsinadze

“Ilusha Tsinadze has been on work alert in a couple months now. Cashiering is his favorite shift so far, but nothing comes close to getting credit for playing a concert. Tonight he presents some of his favorite acoustic music with some of his favorite Coop musicians.”

Meet Your Mind

A class in basic meditation. The fundamental nature of our mind is stable, strong and clear—but these qualities become obscured by the stress and speed of our lives. Meditation opens and calms the mind. This is a basic meditation class for beginners, and for anyone who would like a renewed understanding of the technique. Allan Novick has practiced meditation since 1976. He is a meditation instructor at the New York Shambhala Center and Nalandabodhi New York and has taught meditation at corporate venues. He lives in Park Slope, has been a Coop member for many years, and is a retired school psychologist.

The Coop’s 40th Birthday Party

Eat, drink, and celebrate your Coop in the school yard next door to the Coop. The Park Slope Food Coop is celebrating its 40th anniversary of providing great food at great prices to members working through cooperation, and we hope you will join in the fun. A group of talented Coop chefs will prepare delicious food for sale at the party, and the Coop will provide drinks and free birthday cake for all. Mingle with other Coop members, and enjoy live music and face painting for the kids.

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 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.

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.

Read the Gazette while you’re standing on line OR online at www.foodcoop.com
It’s Your Funeral
Planning for your own death now (as opposed to later) is a practice that can enable you to live in the moment, face your own mortality with courage—and create an end-of-life service that reflects your values. Join Coop member Amy Cunningham, former journalist and graduate of the American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service, in a conversation about fascinating advancements within the funeral business. The talk will cover how to plan a low-cost, back-to-basics funeral or memorial service, as well as offer information on green cemeteries near New York City, cremation pros and cons, biodegradable urns, blended-faith/alternative ceremonies, and more. You’ll get a glimpse of what funerals of the future might look like—and leave with planning literature for yourself or for someone you love.

Everyday Kitchen Improvisation
Following the flow of ingredients. This class will introduce you to a revolutionary, ingredient-driven, zero-waste strategy for cooking efficient, creative, impromptu meals at home. You will learn how to break down and prepare ingredients, using parts you might otherwise throw away, and how to let what you have on hand guide you as to what to make next. Ronna Welsh is the founder/chef of Purple Kale Kitchenworks, a Brooklyn culinary studio that teaches home cooks ground-breaking systems for cooking everyday improvised meals. She has been a Coop member for 12 years.

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 7:30 and 7:45 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. The next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 29, 7 p.m., at MS 51, 350 Fifth Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts.

Food Class: Power Foods for Performance
Whether you are a recreational athlete or a casual exerciser, learn more about sport and exercise nutrition and hydration strategies at this sports nutrition class. Chef Lisa Fencik will offer both a scientific approach to eating for performance as well as the practical how-to approach, including menu ideas and recommendations for pre- and post-exercise meals and snacks. Lisa is a registered dietician with training in sports nutrition from Teachers College, Columbia University. Menu includes: green pre-sorkout smoothie; cabbage and tempeh with a curry almond sauce; chocolate aduki bar. ASL interpreter may be available upon advance request. Please contact Ginger Jung in the Membership Office by September 19 to make a request. Materials fee: $4. Food classes are coordinated by Coop member Susan Baladassano.

Film Night: The Mosuo Sisters
The Mosuo Sisters is a tale of two sisters living in the shadow of two Chinas. Juma and Latso, young women from one of the world’s last remaining matriarchal societies, are thrust into the worldwide economic downturn when they lose their jobs in Beijing. Left with few options, they return home to their remote village in the foothills of the Himalayas. But home is no longer what it was, as growing exposure to the modern world irreparably alters the provocative traditions of the Mosuo. Determined to keep their family out of poverty, one sister sacrifices her dream of an education and stays home to farm, while the other leaves to try her luck in the city—changes in fortune that test each sister in unexpected ways. Editor/producer Amy Foote is a freelance editor based in Brooklyn. To book a Film Night, contact Faye Lederman, squeezestone@hotmail.com.

Safe Food Committee Film Night: The Corporation
In the mid-1800s, corporations began to be recognized as individuals by U.S. courts, granting them unprecedented rights. The Corporation, a documentary by filmmakers Mark Achbar and Jennifer Abbott and author Joel Bakan, delves into that legal standard, asking: “What kind of people would they be?” Applying psychiatric principles and FBI forensic techniques, and through a series of case studies, the film determines that this entity, which has increasing power over the day-to-day existence of nearly every living creature on earth, would be a psychopath. The Corporation won the Best Documentary World Cinema Audience Award at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival.

Wordsprouts: Publishing Party
Memorist Donna Minkowitz and novelist Thomas Rayfiel will read from their recently published books. Donna’s new memoir, Growing Up Golem: Learning to Survive My Mother, Brooklyn, and Some Really Bad Dates, was published in September by TriQuarterly Books. She won a Lambda Literary Award for her first memoir, Ferocious Romance: What My Encounters with the Right Taught Me about Sex, God and Fury, and she has also written for The New York Times Book Review, Salon, The Village Voice, Ms., and The Nation. Tom Rayfiel’s latest novel, In Pinelight, was published in September by TriQuarterly Books/Northwestern University Press. Tom is the author of five previous novels, including Colony Girl (a Los Angeles Times Notable Book of the Year) and Parallel Play (“a Pick” in People magazine.) When not writing, he stocks the Food Coop’s dairy cooler at 5:30 a.m. To book a Wordsprouts, contact Paula Bernstein, wordsproutspsfc@gmail.com.

still to come
Prospect Concerts
Chronic Pain: A Different Response
Cheese Class
Sound Meditation & Health
PSFC OCTOBER General Meeting
Improve Your English Pronunciation

Read the Gazette while you’re standing on line OR online at www.foodcoop.com
BDS TOPICS:

BDS OBSESSION

TO THE EDITOR,

It would be so appreciated if the BDS obsesive took their distortions of reality to another venue rather than the pages of the Linewriters’ Gazette. This is a FOOD Coop, not the General Assembly of the UN.

In cooperation and exasperation,
Steven Berke

BDS SOUTH AFRICA: “SHOOT THE JEW”

TO THE EDITOR,

Ruth Bolletino’s article, “National and International Organizations Condemning BDS” (8/9/13), established what appears to be the campaign for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions of Israel is not only anti-Israel but also anti-Semitic. Sadly, Coop leadership and relevant committee members will likely shrug their shoulders at the conclusions of these widely respected human rights organizations: the Anti-Defamation League, Scholars for Peace in the Middle East, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, and the Gatestone Institute.

For no matter the perniciousness of BDS—the antithesis of our purport ed Coop ethic—the movement, with its monomanical disproportionate condemnation of Israel, has been given a permanent platform tantamount to official Coop sponsorship. To add more fuel to the fire, here’s a recent news clip about what we’ve welcomed into our Coop (quoted in algemine.com):

“A concert at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in South Africa featuring Israeli saxophonist Daniel Zamir turned ugly when members of the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) group began to sing, “dubula e juda,” a paper published in the Letters to the Editor section, [September 19, 2013 Park Slope Food Coop, Brooklyn, NY]

BDS FABRICATIONS, DECEPTIONS, FALSEHOODS, MYTHS AND DELUSIONS

TO THE EDITOR,

Gazette letter writers of the PSFC—BDS arm of the Palestinian lobby care no more about the Coop and its members than about reality and truth. They are obsessed with denigrating Israel. Although their baseless “news reports” are refuted repeatedly, the Gazette continues to publish them.

Such myths as that Israelis kill Palestinians without cause, context or provocation (for example, as in a recent letter about the Jenin “massacre”) are the least of BDS fabrications.

“Massacres.” Israel has been attacked from almost every territory on earth. The Zionist price is an effort toward peace. Whenever Israel acts to defend itself—from terrorist attacks or rockets fired on civilians—BDS reports “massacres” or “murders.”

“Apartheid.” BDS likened Israel to an apartheid state, segregating and discriminating against Arabs. South Africa’s apartheid policies were denounced by political critics in their own country. Gaza and the West Bank are not part of Israel. Palestinians there are not Israeli citizens. Unlike apartheid South Africa, where blacks were denied citizenship rights, all Israeli citizens (Jews, Muslims, Christians, others) are equal under the law with the same rights, liberties and protection. Arab Israelis vote, participate in every level of government, attend universities and technical institutes, work in various professions, and own businesses.

“Occupation and Colonization of ‘Palestinian’ Land.” There never existed a Middle East political state, terming the country near Palestine.” Jewish West Bank settlers are on legally disputed land. Both Israelis and Palestinians have legitimate claims to some land in the West Bank and Gaza.

“The Wall.” No natural boundaries separate Israel and the West Bank. The Hamas-led Palestinian government, continuously calling for Israel’s destruction, hasn’t stopped terrorist attacks or arms smuggling. When terrorism reached unprecedented levels (2001), Israel began building a security barrier. Not a “wall,” 97% is a chain-link fence. The other 3%, 10 miles, is a concrete wall to prevent sniper attacks. Since it was erected attacks dropped by 90%. The U.S. has similar “walls” along its borders.

“Right of Return.” When Israel became a state 160,000 Arabs remained, many more left. neighbor ing Arab states (except Jordan), would not resettle Palestinian Arabs. They were confined in refugee areas, refused citizenship, and used as anti-Israel propaganda. BDS claims some mythical “right” for them and their descendants to return. Nasser (1961) stated, “If Arabs return to Israel, Israel will cease to exist.” That is precisely the aim of the “right of return.” BDS never mentions thousands of Jewish refugees expelled from Arab lands. Israel resettled 600,000 Today they and their descendants comprise half of Israel’s population.

Other False Reports in the Gazette: that the pension fund TIAA-CREF divested from Caterpillar and SodaStream because of associations with Israel; that Bruce Willis, Jean Claude Van Damme, Woody Allen, Stevie Wonder, Lenny Kravitz and Meg Ryan refused to appear in Israel. All false. No reputable public can accept or publish false information and hate speech. Why does the Gazette continue to do so?

Raibi Bollindio

(EDITOR’S NOTE: All reports cited as published in the Linewriters’ Gazette were published in the Letters to the Editor section, a generally free speech platform limited only by our Fairness, Anonymity and Respect policies published in each edition, and expressed the opinions of the letter writers.)

FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT ADVICE DUTCH ENGINEERING GIANT TERMINATES SEWAGE PLANT FOR SETTLERS IN EAST JERUSALEM

MEMBERS:
Dutch government’s advice: Reported August 26 (Haaretz): Royal HaskoningDHV was asked to rethink its participation (design stage) in a wastewater project with the Jerusalem municipality. It includes the construction of a sewage treatment plant for settlers (East Jerusalem). The Dutch government (the Green Line to the Palestinian side of the 1967 border, toward the settlement of Ma’aleh Adumim and the Dead Sea. The plant is to be built in Area C (West Bank, under full Israeli military control). The government warned: such a project would violate international law leading to the company to consider pulling out to avoid financial, legal and image problems.

The government discourages investments by Dutch companies in or servicing the settlements in the West Bank. This is not a new policy. The settlements are illegal according to international law. While the Dutch government does not prohibit Royal HaskoningDHV from engaging in such economic relationships, the responsibility rests with the company.

The government follows the advice of the Netherlands Advisory Council on International Affairs, a well-respected independent body advising the government and parliament on foreign policy. It urged the authorities to “actively discourage Dutch companies from doing business with Israeli companies in the settlements.”

Netherlands national public prosecutor’s office has made it clear that international law prohibits (1) Israel’s transfer of parts of its civilian population into the West Bank including East Jerusalem; (2) the unlawful destruction and appropriation of Palestinian property. Individual involvement in these violations is a crime according to the Dutch International and Treason Act. With continued involvement, Royal HaskoningDHV risked losing future public contracts.

Royal HaskoningDHV’s commitment: The firm is committed to the principles and standards contained in the UN
Global Compact and OECD’s 2012 report on corporate responsibility, to support, respect, protect human rights no complicity in human rights abuses. In its termination statement, the firm stated future involvement in the project ceased in violation of international law.

Palestinian Response: The Palestinian Authority repeatedly expressed strong objection to the Dutch government and then facilitated corporate takeovers from East Jerusalem and Bethlehem to be used for the development of Palestinian agriculture. Israel denied this vital project.

PLO Executive Committee member Dr. Hanan Ashrawi commented that “the West Bank, since 1995, only four out of thirty sewage projects were approved by the Joint Water Committee (JWC). Israel has the right to veto JWC decisions. In December 2010, IWC approved a sewage plant treating wastewater flowing from East Jerusalem and Bethlehem to be used for the development of Palestinian agriculture. Israel denied this vital project.”

The project deepens Israel’s annexation of East Jerusalem, consolidates its occupation of the West Bank and constitutes another obstacle to the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state in the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.”

Sources: Aditi Nieuwhof, Barak Ravid

Mary Buchanan
Brooklyn For Peace
PSFC Members for BDS
www.psfbds.wordpress.com

THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

TO THE EDITOR,

Can foreign corporations sue the United States government for the loss of expected future profits because we passed some food safety or environmental regulations? I can’t believe it. It’s as if I woke up from a bad dream. But then I found out that under previous trade agreements which is in line with EU policy.

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THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

TO THE EDITOR,

I am convinced that we must stop the Trans-Pacific Partnership “free trade agreement” (TPP). The first step is to slow it down so that we know exactly what it says—to study the policy implications of the 29 articles that were negotiated in secret over two and a half years. Lobbyists for corporate investors are working hard to pass Fast Track authorization so that President Obama can quickly push the agreement through Congress. Our Coop can join more than 400 civic, labor, faith, community, environmental and human rights organizations asking Congress members to vote “No” on fast tracking the agreement.

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.

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.

Anonymity

Unattributed letters will not be published unless the Gazette knows the identity of the writer, and therefore must be signed when submitted.

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

Our Coop was founded on clear values articulated in our mission statement, which I helped to write. Many of us see it, the TPP is a massive multi-national corporate power-grab, an international coup d’état, to form a New World Order that will protect profit taking by the 1%. We can join the movement to expose it. Then, I am sure we will debate how to defeat it.

Sasian Metz

VOTE TO ALLOW THE COOP TO REACH OUT TO LEGISLATORS TO OPPOSE TPP FAST TRACK AT SEPTEMBER GM

DEAR COOP MEMBERS:

In December of 2010, after that month’s General Meeting Coordinator Joe Holtz wrote an open letter to state legislators asking for a statewide ban on hydro-fracking. The letter did the following:

Addressed to Members of the NYS Senate, and Assembly, Governor Paterson and then Governor-elect Cuomo, the letter informed lawmakers of a constituency that was active and would hold them accountable.

It stated, on behalf of the 15,800 membership of that time, that a majority of shareholders present at the December General Meeting voted to support a statewide ban on hydro-fracking. Fifteen thousand eight hundred members are a powerful constituency with vast purchasing and political power, and Joe indicated that if fracking ever did come to the region, it would be C O N T I N U E D O N P A G E 14
Members Sought for PSFC Personnel Committee

If you know how to work collaboratively and believe you could make a contribution to the Coop, we would love to hear from you. The Personnel Committee is an elected group of members that serves in an advisory capacity to the General Coordinators (the Coop’s collective managerial team), supporting them with/in performance evaluations, succession planning, developing human resources policies and in the hiring/termination of General Coordinators when/if either of those actions is necessary.

We would like the Personnel Committee to reflect the diversity of the Coop. We are especially interested in people who have skills in finance, running a business, upper-level management, organizational development, personnel and human resources. Applicants should have a minimum of one year of Coop membership immediately prior to applying, experience doing workshifts at the Coop and excellent attendance. E-mail an explanation of why you would like to be part of the committee to pc.psfcrec@gmail.com and go to http://bit.ly/12mOhnc to fill out a short questionnaire.

Classified advertising in the Linewaiters’ Gazette is available only to Coop members. Publication does not imply endorsement by the Coop.
EXCITING WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITIES

Bathroom Cleaning
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 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.

Laundry and Toy Cleaning
Monday and Thursday, 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.
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 Iana in the Membership Office for further information.

Entrance Desk
Friday, 5:45 to 8:15 a.m.
Supervised by Membership Coordinators, you will be staffing the Entrance desk in hours of the weekday before the Coop is open to shoppers. Primarily you will be checking in working members, informing them of their member and household status, and handing out entrance desk slips to members who need them. Entrance workers provide an essential member service and must be welcoming, polite, able to read and interpret information on the entrance desk screen, able to clearly convey information about member status directly to members. Entrance workers also provide a key security function, and must remain alert throughout the shift, which may have slow periods. Therefore reading, writing, talking on the phone, texting, etc is not allowed. Punctuality and good attendance will be essential, as you will be the only Entrance worker scheduled at this time of day. Paid Membership Coordinators will be present to train you on your first (and second) shift, and then to support you and answer questions going forward.

Office Data Entry
Thursday and Friday, 4 to 6:45 p.m.
Must have been a member for at least one year with excellent attendance. Are you a stickler for details and accurate on the computer? Do you like working independently? If this sounds like you, then Office Data Entry will be your perfect shift. Please speak to Ginger Jung in the membership office (or put a note in her mailbox) prior to the first shift for more information and schedule training. Must make a 6-month commitment to the workslot.

Interested in Engaging Coop Work? Disciplinary Committee Seeks NEW Members

Requirements:
• In order to be considered for this position, any candidate must:
  • be a member for at least a year
  • have good attendance record
  • possess the ability to work on a team
  • communicate clearly
  • have good writing skills
  • have computer proficiency (excel, word, emails) is essential
  • attend an evening meeting every six weeks

We work on average 6 hours per month, more than the required work shift hours. You will be credited and your hours banked for future use.

We recognize the importance of various points of view when considering cases brought to us. WE ARE SEEKING A CANDIDATE POOL THAT REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF THE COOP’S MEMBERSHIP.

Join us to make the Coop the best place it can be for everyone.

Interested? Please call Jeff: 718-636-3380

Celebrate the COOP’s 40th Birthday!

Saturday
9/28/13
2–6 p.m.
School yard next door (enter on Union)
take its business elsewhere holding legislators responsible for the loss of revenue for food producers in NYS.

A quote from the letter expressing the Coop’s position reads: “If hydrofracking is allowed to go forward, our shoppers are certain to be asking us if the fruits, vegetables, dairy products, eggs and meats from New York State are produced in areas where hydrofracking is taking place. It will not take many inquiries into whether hydrofracking is taking place. If hydrofracking is taking place, we can use to address the Moratorium on fracking that is still in effect.

The precedent set by Joe’s 2010 letter is one that we can use to address the most recent threat to our state: a potential corporate coup known as The Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade agreement negotiated in secret without Congressional oversight, but with 600 corporate advisors in attendance. If passed, the TPP will undermine food safety, animal welfare, environmental protections and human health.

It will ban labeling so that consumers would be unable to ascertain the origin of their food.

It will also present the shoppers with a new array of mind numbing vocabulary words to which he/she has no frame of reference such as raclopramide, nanosilver packaging, enrofloxacin. All and others all food-related.

We need our elected representatives to oppose fast-tracking the TPP for approval in early fall—and instead protect the wishes of the people they represent. President Obama is attempting to put this legislation on Fast Track before our representatives have had a chance to study it. Our members of Congress are in an untenable situation: how can they responsibly vote on a trade agreement to which access to the thousands of pages of which it is comprised has been denied access to them?

We need you to be present at the September General Meeting to vote to allow the Coop to reach out to our legislators and ask them to say no to Fast Track. Please make an effort to attend.

Alice Joyce Alcala

ONE QUESTION AND TWO SUGGESTIONS

TO THE EDITORS:

Two suggestions:

1. The Gazette should charge advertisement fees to publish letters regarding the BDS/anti-BDS nightmare.

Most of the letters are just disguised advertisement.

2. As a Shopping Committee squad leader—closing shifts 8:30 to 11 p.m. Saturday—I noticed that some of the workers return to the Coop after 11 p.m. It’s usually OK with me as I live in the area and it’s not a problem to close late, but it is unfair to the walkers. Can we have a policy limiting the assistance of the walkers after 10:30 p.m.? Between 10:30 and 11 p.m. the walkers can work inside the building, as we must clean the shopping area, etc.

One question:

3. The Coop is looking to hire some staff—Office and Receiving Coordinators as well as a Java/Web Software Developer. There is substantial difference in the paid vacation periods: three weeks for the first three years for the Coordinators and five weeks in the first year for the software developer.

The salaries are already related to the positions’ educational requirements, therefore, the difference in paid vacations seems to me as excessive, particularly in the current job market.

Is there a work-based rationale for the difference?

Sincerely,

Gay Vienna Biskof

BAY RIDGE FOOD CO-OP

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NOW WE NEED YOU!

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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 coop 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 coop. 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 FOTP credit for their work!

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

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LETTERS (CONTINUED)

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