

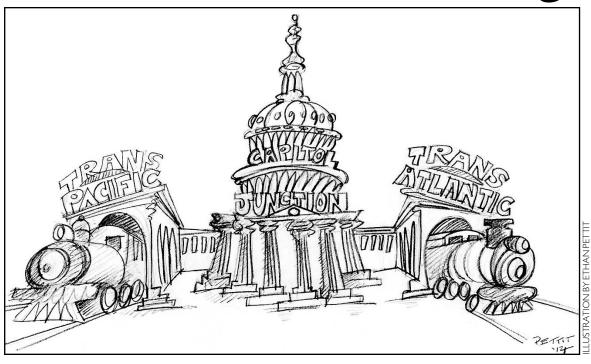
Volume II, Number 1

Established 1973

B CUNION GCIU LABEL

January 9, 2014

December General Meeting



By Alison Rose Levy

The December 17 General Meeting took place at Bishop Ford Central Catholic High School in Windsor Terrace. It was opened and moderated by Carl Arnold and two other members of the Chair Committee.

During the Open Forum, one member noted the agenda item to elect two new members to the Revolving Loan Committee and expressed interest in being nominated. Rachel Porter of the Revolving Loan Committee responded that these position openings had been announced via Linewaiters' Gazette ads, and explained there will be future openings.

General Coordinator Jess Robinson appealed to FTOP workers to help the Coop's

early morning Receiving shifts over weekends, throughout the holidays and beyond. She pointed out that some shifts (such as Shopping squads at certain hours) regularly have a surplus of workers, while others are often understaffed. Receiving shifts begin at 5:00 a.m. and able-bodied FTOP-ers who can perform that work are encouraged to take those shifts.

Next, General Coordinator Mike Eakin reported on the December 2013 financial statement. The Coop's 21% markup of product sales over costs results in a gross margin of 16.80%. In comparison to a typical "extra large" coop, this is unusually low. Most mark up their products by 61% to yield a gross margin of 38%,

slightly more than twice the amount of the Coop's yield. Given the low markup, the Coop's annual sales volume of \$48 million would equate to a \$64 million for other large Coops.

Greg Todd of the GMO Shelf Labeling Committee took a straw poll of the GM to ask approval for the Coop to affiliate with GMOFreeNY, a NY-based GMO labeling group, which is seeking to require GMO labeling via the New York State Senate in 2014. The straw poll was affirmative.

Susan Metz reported back to the General Meeting on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and TransAtlantic Partnership on Investment and Trade, following a GM approval at September's

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Sat, Jan 11 • Fun Committee Game Night

Tue, Jan 14 • Safe Food Committee Film Night: Gasland Part II 7:00 p.m.

Fri, Jan 17 • Wordsprouts: Get Healthy 7:00 p.m.

Sat, Jan 25 • Coop Kids' Variety Show Auditions 3:00 p.m.

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

Bill de Blasio Takes the Stage: What Does It Mean for Food Policy?

With Bill Clinton holding FDR's Bible, and The New York Times calling him a galvanizing force for a reawakened liberalism across the country, Bill de Blasio took office as the city's 109th mayor on January 1. His arrival and the departure of Mike Bloomberg—once a Democrat, once a Republican, then an Independent, (but fundamentally a benevolent billionaire)—promises to bring significant change to New York City and beyond. A number of grassroots organizations have examined what this could mean for food policy.

Considering this question at a meeting last November and reported by the Huffington Post's Alison Rose Levy (full disclosure: Alison is my wife) were the Brooklyn Food Coalition (BFC), the Food Chain Workers Alliance, the New York City Community Garden Coalition, Just Food and other food activist organizations. "We have to thank outgoing Mayor Bloomberg for raising consciousness about the health consequences of what we eat," Jan Poppendieck, a professor at Hunter College reminded the food activists. But the former

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Coop closing early! Sunday, February 2, at 5:00 p.m. for year-end inventory.

Members whose shifts are affected by the closing will be contacted by the Membership Office.

Next General Meeting on January 28

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The January General Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 28, 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 wheelchair-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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December GM

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meeting to follow up on this new international trade agreement. Negotiations are currently taking place behind closed doors with a "Fast Track" vote in Congress expected early in 2014. An article Metz quoted from CounterPunch reported that, "The U.S. delegations have more than 600 corporate trade advisors," but the public and press are being kept "in the dark until a final deal is signed." Fast tracking would block disclosure of the deal's contents and subvert any debate concerning the issue. "This international law, if passed, will supersede democracy," said Metz. She urged Coop members to contact their Congressional representatives, telling them to vote "No" on Fast Track.

The next agenda item was the vote for two new members of the Revolving Loan Committee. Rachel Porter, chair of that committee, explained that its role is to oversee the Fund for New Food Coops, which supports startup coops that follow the PSFC Coop model of relying on member labor. Formed in 2012, the PSFC annually donates \$20,000 to the Fund. The Fund also solicits donations from Park Slope Food Coop members and other supporters.

These low-interest loans will help pay for critical items, like rent deposits, refrigeration, other major equipment and physical upgrades that allow startup coops to grow and generate income.

Members can now contribute on line via a "donate" button on the Coop website. New scannable cards are available throughout the store, which can be used at checkout to make taxdeductible donations.

According to the committee, "Providing favorable financing and thereby demonstrating the credit worthiness of new coops is one concrete way the Park Slope Food Coop...is aligned with the Cooperative Principles that encourage mutual support."

The two members nominated to the committee were Sam Marks and Kate Sawyer. Marks has worked in economic development for non-profits, and currently works for the Economic Development arm of Deutsche Bank.

Sawyer is an attorney who has worked in municipal finance and investment banking doing quantitative analysis for municipal bonds. She has also worked as an attorney in New York and Europe.

Although the vote was initially planned to be balloted, it was accomplished by a show of hands. Both were elected. Marks will serve until May 2016 and Sawyer until May 2015.

General Coordinator Tricia Leith addressed the next agenda item. Since 2011, the Coop has built a relationship with the People's Alliance Federal Credit Union to allow Coop members to join the credit union and to open bank accounts, get debit/VISA cards and do Internet banking. Due to what Leith described as this "successful relationship," the General Coordinators proposed building on that by opening financial accounts on behalf of the Coop itself. However, they required a resolution to do so. Therefore the meeting voted to permit the PAFCU to "serve as depository" for Coop funds. The GCs also now have the authorization to open financial accounts with other credit unions as well.

The last agenda item was a discussion and vote on two bylaw amendments, presented by General Coordinator Joe Holtz along with the Coop's attorney, Mike Salgo. In 1978, what most Coop members know as "member investments" were first instated. In addition to contributing Coop members' labor to the Coop, these member investments, known as "equity investments," allowed Coop members to own equity in the Coop. There is a distinction between "member equity investments" and ordinary bank accounts. The proposal to amend the bylaws that govern member investments was crafted to better reflect these distinctions.

When typical bank accounts or uncashed dividend checks are lost or abandoned (often because people move), they automatically revert to the state—specifically to New York State's Office of Unclaimed Funds. Since Coop members also not infrequently move or cease to be active Coop members for a variety of reasons, Holtz and Salgo investigated whether member investments could be construed to be the types of investments that would return to New York State. In researching that question, they ultimately determined that the NYS Abandoned Property

Board of Directors Election

The General Meeting & The Board of Directors

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 votes at the end of every GM whether to accept the advice of the members that night. Members of the Board are required to act legally and responsibly.

Openings

There are two openings on the Board. Each position is for a term of three years.

Candidate Deadline

If you wish to place your name into nomination, you must declare your candidacy by submitting a statement of up to 750 words to: gazettesubmissions@ psfc.coop. Please include a small photo for publication in the Linewaiters' Gazette and the member proxy mailing. Deadline for candidacy submission is Saturday, March 1, 2014.

Duties of the Directors

The Board of Directors is comprised of five elected Coop members and the senior General Coordinator present. Members serve threeyear terms. Members of the Board are expected to attend GMs monthly. They receive Coop work credit for their attendance.

Deciding And Voting

Candidates will have the opportunity to present their platform at the March 25, 2014, General Meeting.

Every member will receive a proxy package in the mail in late May. Members may vote by returning their ballot by mail or by bringing it to the Coop. Members may also vote at the Annual Meeting on June 24, 2014.

Law does not apply to the Coop in regards to member/owner equity investments. However, bylaw changes were advisable to insure NYS does not become confused by the Coop's ownership structure.

Holtz first made it quite clear that if Coop members move or cease to be active participating members for any reason whatsoever, they are welcome to ask for—and will receive—the return of their member investment (now to be known as "member/owner equity investments"). Nevertheless, following and tracking the comings and goings of members is impractical for the Coop to administer. As a result, the responsibility to contact the Coop to ask for a return of the member investment rests with departing members. Otherwise, the investment remains in the Coop and the member remains an ongoing Coop member/owner, though no longer participating. In other words, even though people no longer do their workslot or shop, by dint of this equity investment, they still retain their status as member/owners. The new bylaws make it clear that membership in the PSFC is non-transferable.

The bylaw changes, which were accepted at the meeting, reflect the above-stated clarification.

Finally, the Board of Directors met and adopted the votes recommended at the General Meeting. This was the last General Meeting of 2013. ■

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle. You are presented with a 9x9 grid of squares, and that grid is divided into 3x3 zones. You solve the puzzle by filling the empty squares with single-digit numbers so that every zone, column and row uses each of the numbers from 1 to 9.

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

Puzzle author: James Vasile. For answers, see page 16.

Bill de Blasio

CONTINUED FROM PAGE I

mayor has left a lot unfinished. According to Joel Berg, executive director of the New York City Coalition Against Hunger (NYCCAH), one out of five children in New York live in food-insecure homes—homes where families cannot regularly put food on the table. And as Rose Levy writes, the former mayor's most ambitious innovation in the food sector misfired. "He correctly targeted supersized sodas as a major cause of mass obesity. But when he tried to ban them, met with strong public opposition, perhaps in part due to Bloomberg's Wall Street over Main Street style."

But as Katrina vanden Heuvel of The Nation noted, despite the disappointments of the Bloomberg and Giuliani eras, progressive groups have not been idle. "There are a host of groups and organizations that have been working for 20 years to lift up the issues of inequality of wealth and opportunity into the political arena. Now they are ready to advance new programs and agendas," vanden Heuvel said. "These include universal free breakfast in school, community gardens, citywide composting, promotion of an upstate agricultural 'food shed,' and the elimination of hunger."

Campaign Positions

Campaign documents point out that de Blasio has taken the following positions on food issues:

- Removing barriers to food stamp and other public assistance enrollment; offering language assistance and waiving face-to-face interviews when these will present a hardship.
- Ending fingerprinting of applicants to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and promoting healthy food choices by (for example) limiting sugary beverage purchases by SNAP.
- Adopting a more activist approach to letting people know the benefits they qualify for. This includes signing people up for assistance at community organizations, using staff hired to sign people up for health care and Medicaid to sign them up for food assistance and other benefits, and reaching out to undocumented workers.
- Having all schools participate in the breakfast-in-

the-classroom program (New York currently ranks last among large cities in the U.S. in school breakfast participation).

 Offering free school lunch for most public school children by replacing the current application system with one that eliminates the stigma children in poverty feel by being singled out for ple, he believes we need to redevelop Hunts Point with a more sustainable system reoriented to purchase produce locally (that is, from the tri-state area) and he wants to support that effort by making better use of the city's purchasing power. He has also said that he supports the expansion of community gardens and urban



lunch assistance. He would improve nutritional quality through capital investments in school cafeterias.

The Larger Context

While de Blasio became interested in food issues out of a primary concern with hunger and poverty, he has for some time shown an awareness of how these connect to environmental issues. One such issue on the food activist agenda is local agriculture. That includes more community gardens, citywide composting and reserving prime upstate agricultural land to build a sustainable regional food shed. Notes Nancy Romer, chair of the BFC Governance Board and an organizer of the NYC Food Forum, "If the city builds infrastructure, programs and jobs that promote upstate agriculture...the city could ask for reciprocity—for instance by asking the state to increase the income tax on wealthier New Yorkers." Proposed Romer, "The city could also rewrite contract codes to favor businesses with fair labor practices. That would increase worker compensation in food services." At present, due to low wages, food workers often use SNAP benefits, says Diana Robinson, campaign and education coordinator, of the Food Chain Workers Alliance. Robinson proposes including "tip" workers in these wage guarantees.

de Blasio has made a clear commitment to some of these issues. For examfarms, especially in disadvantaged communities. However, according to the Hunger Action Network, he has yet to decide where he wants to go on other issues favored by the progressive agenda. These include restricting the number of fast food restaurants permitted to open in lowincome areas, increasing the amount of funding for emergency food and tying city subsidies to businesses to living wages.

Shrinking the Foodprint

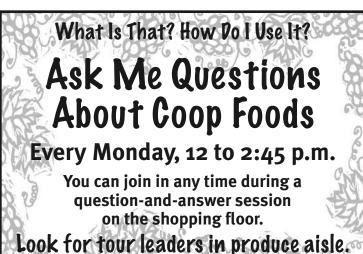
Writing in Civil Eats, Mia MacDonald recounted how, in 2009, a member of New York's City Council agreed to support a resolution to reduce the city's climate "foodprint." What's a foodprint? Food and agriculture both contribute to global warming through animal waste, carbon emissions from transport, deforestation and poor farming practices. In fact, 30 percent of the country's greenhouse gas emissions can be linked to unsustainable agriculture, according to the sponsors of the Foodprint NYC resolution, which was drafted by foodie groups like Brighter Green, Just Food, the Small Planet Institute, Farm Sanctuary and Why

The resolution called for the launch of a "city-wide initiative that would establish climate-friendly food policies and programs, financial and technical support [for them], a public awareness campaign regarding the city's food consumpand production patterns, and greater access to local, fresh, healthy food." The resolution targeted agriculture and land use, the long distances (typically 2,500 miles) that food travels from farm to table in the U.S. and the lack of access of the city's low-income residents—a population among whom chronic, diet-related diseases are common—to

healthy, fresh, locally-grown produce.

That resolution was introduced on the steps of City Hall by then Councilman Bill de Blasio. Although it garnered cosponsors, it never went anywhere in the Council. But de Blasio does not appear to have forgotten the thinking behind it. In July 2013, at the first-ever mayoral candidates' forum on food, de Blasio was the only candidate on the stage to raise the issues of global warming and sustainability.

MacDonald hopes the Foodprint concept will contribute to "a visionary de Blasio policy that brings together food justice and sustainability, green jobs and greener eating, public health and equity, climate change and urban agriculture." If de Blasio's own words are any indication, they have good reason for optimism: "I think that food can and should be produced locally and can reach people in an efficient manner," he said back in 2009. "It's better for people and gives us all a sense of the importance of a sustainable environment. This is the shape of things to come." ■



COMPOST COMMITTEE NEEDS HAULERS WITH VEHICLES

JOIN THE SQUAD THAT HELPS TO COMPOST MORE THAN 2,000 BUCKETS OF FOOD SCRAPS! WORK OUTSIDE IN LOVELY BROOKLYN GARDENS.

WORK IN TEAMS OF TWO, HAULING BUCKETS OF THE COOP'S PRODUCE SCRAPS TO LOCAL GARDENS FOR COMPOSTING.

WORK ANY TIME ON YOUR SCHEDULED DAY. THE WORK IS PHYSICAL AND IS DONE IN DELIGHTFUL WEATHER AS WELL AS INCLEMENT WEATHER, RELIABILITY IS A MUST - IF YOU ARE PRONE TO MISS YOUR SHIFT, THIS IS NOT THE SPOT FOR YOU.

If you are interested or want to find out more, please contact Sherry (Squad Leader) at 718-398-4454 or Annette Laskaris (PSFC) annette_laskaris@psfc.coop.





The Story of Fran: Coop Member Moe Kornbluth's Book Captures His Family's Struggle with Parkinson's Disease

By Frank Haberle

ongtime PSFC member Morris (Moe) Kornbluth and his wife, Fran Justa, moved to Carroll St. in **■**1973. For more than 40 years, Moe and Fran have been neighborhood fixtures and committed community activists (Fran's career includes 17 years as executive director of Neighborhood Housing Services). Ten years ago, their lives took a sharp detour when Fran was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Now Moe—a computer programmer by trade—has written a book, Fran, about their life together. The Gazette interviewed Moe to learn more about his book.

Gazette: How long have you been a PSFC member and what's been your favorite shift?

MK: I have been a member of the Coop almost since its inception. I remember when it was called the Mongoose and we placed orders in advance and picked it up on the second floor of a single building. Over the years I have been primarily a receiver/stocker. I enjoyed the physical and social aspects of the work, as my day job was solitary and sedentary. The workslot that I really enjoyed was when

the illness, Parkinson's disease, brought that to an untimely end. At first I couldn't comprehend the changes that were happening to her. I didn't respond well to her changing condition because she became so different from the person she had been and that I knew. The disease progresses so slowly and steadily while continuously limiting the physical and mental abilities of the person it attacks. It was only when I came to understand that she was beset by a "sickness" that altered her personality, her where many of our activities were centered. We were unaware of the neighborhood's reputation as a declining community, as almost every neighborhood in NYC was declining due to financial disinvestments, called "redlining." The area provided everything for our shopping and transportation needs. Once we moved in we met other couples, called "pioneers" at the time, who had also purchased their homes for reasonable prices. Our interests in community and progressive causes led us to the Food Coop as well as forming our block association and joining a childcare collective when our daughter was born. We loved the neighborhood, even with its urban problems. Fran taught Sarah, our daughter, her first words: "Abandoned building." Park Slope's border extended to Seventh Ave. back then but we found a rich and diverse environment populated with interesting, caring people beyond that border. We didn't own a car; and there were fewer banks, nail salons, real

exciting and livable. Gazette: Fran's story as a community organizer and housing activist is worthy of a book by itself. Among other accomplishments, she was a founder of the Fifth Avenue Committee and the executive director of Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City. What can young community activists learn from Fran's example? What qualities made her so successful?

estate brokers and restau-

rants; and it seemed pretty

was very strong. She had very high standards and expectations for herself and the results of her own projects. She was ethical, trusted and respected by neighbors. friends and colleagues alike. I try to explain these qualities in the book as the qualities to her success, and that is true, but one can't neglect her persistence in working for causes that she perceived as necessary for a just society. She actually felt responsible and wanted equity for all, in all of the aspects that a society can bestow on people.

Gazette: What has been the public reception to the book?

MK: I wanted to write the story of a strong woman who deserved recognition even though she was now at a low point in her life. I never thought of the memoir as a love story, that I now recognize, because many comments point to this as one of the strongest threads in the book. Some said they read it at one sitting, "Couldn't put it down," while others found it difficult

to read because it brought

them to tears. Some felt I

divulged too much personal

information but I feel that that

is the only way I could get to

the truth and be honest about

what was happening to us and

helpful to others. I have been

very gratified by the comments

I have received and am certain

that anyone reading the book

will be touched by the story,

never bored and will love the

The book was self-pub-

pictures.

lished and I started promoting it in mid-September. I gave 400 copies of the book to Neighborhood Housing Services. They used it for a fundraiser, as there were many people who remembered Fran and all that she accomplished. I sent copies to Parkinson's and

Alzheimer's organizations

to see if they could find it

useful in their promotions. I



From left to right: Carroll (dog), Moe, Sarah and Fran on Sheepshead Bay in 1981.

the Coordinators reached out to me, as I had a flexible schedule and a car, to pick up or drop off an item for repair, clothes to a shelter or products that could not be delivered. Annually, I would rent a truck and pick up the Passover matzo order from a warehouse in New Jersey. It was a pleasant change from my regular workslots and I really felt good about helping the Coop in a unique way.

Olgy Taylor.

Moe and Fran in 2014 at home, with home care nurse,

Gazette: Your book, Fran, is a real-life heartbreaker: the story of the impact of Parkinson's disease on your wife, yourself and your family. But it is also surprisingly uplifting, celebrating the life that you and Fran have shared. What inspired you to write a book? How can it help other people who may be facing similar circumstances?

MK: Fran was an extremely independent, charismatic person, with a dynamic personality and leadership skills. She was very successful in her career in the affordable housing movement, but

physical and cognitive abilities, that I was able to come to terms and adapt to this new situation. And that is why I wrote this book: in the hopes that it could help people finding themselves in a similar situation come to this realization faster than I did. I wanted to prepare them so they would not be devastated by the illness. Perhaps they could learn from my mistakes, recognize their own weakness, possibly gain strength and understanding, and take something positive from my experience to better deal with their changing situation.

Gazette: You provide an amazing description of Park Slope when you first moved here in 1973—which, incidentally, is the year the Coop was founded. What did the neighborhood look and feel like then?

MK: We picked Park Slope as a place to live because housing prices were reasonable and it was easy getting anywhere in Manhattan, **MK:** Fran's moral compass

for her fellow human beings

carry several books with me, almost all the time, on the chance that I will meet people who would be interested in our story. I plan to do book readings and the first one is at Union Temple on January 5. ■

Morris Kornbluth's Fran is available online at Amazon and Barnes and Noble. To learn about upcoming readings and events, please contact Moe at moecsba@ earthlink.net.



Fran and Sarah outside their Carroll Street house with dog leaping the fence.

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

SAFE FOOD COMMITTEE

Plow-to-Plate Movie Series Presents: Gasland Part II

By Adam Rabiner

Josh Fox's 2010 film Gasland helped bring hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, to the attention of millions of Americans. By 2011, fracking was the third most cited word of the year, after "occupy" (#2) and "deficit" (#1). No longer obscure, there is still plenty to say about fracking, as Fox's devastating 2013 sequel for HBO, Gasland Part II, makes clear.

Gasland Part II opens in the

same dreamy, dizzy, semidelirious style, with Fox narrating from the backyard of his childhood home, which sits on top of the Marcellus Shale in rural Pennsylvania, near an idyllic, beloved but endangered stream. As with its prequel, there's tipsy, handheld camera cinematography and Fox's banjo picking that has a hallucinogenic and menacing effect (think Deliverance). There's also more footage of water going up in flames due to escaped methane but this time, because we've seen it before, it is not quite the signature shocker it was in the first film. There are odd juxtapositions, for example, dogs and chickens forced to drink Nestlé bottled water. All of this sinister strangeness is no doubt intentional, but one begins to wonder if Fox has anything new to say. In short order you realize that he does. In fact, Gasland Part II is sad and upsetting in ways that the first is not. It's a more political film, challenging not only the energy industry, but also our very notions of, and faith in, democracy.

ILLUSTRATION BY DEBORAH TINT

The film opens with audio and video clips of Bill and finds that the water Hillary Clinton, Mitt Romney and Barack Obama, all of **>** is now safe; the tout pipeline is never hydraulic fracturing

as our energy future. Then Fox reminds the audience of the recent past, revisiting the devastation of the 2010 British Petroleum oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, a region that survives as a source of fuel but not as a productive ecosystem. The stage is set. This is a David and Goliath story.

It's not clear though, as in The Bible, if the underdog will prevail. Fox is a talented filmmaker, tireless and monomaniacal (Gasland's his franchise as long as this battle continues and there's an audience for it) and an effective advocate. But Fox makes clear that the environmental community is facing one of its greatest challenges.

Fox illustrates this point quite effectively through the actions of the Environmental Protection Agency. Lisa Jackson, former chief environmental watchdog and head of the EPA, tells Fox that the agency strictly enforces safety standards and subsequently investigates Dimock, PA, where well-water contamination allegedly due to fracking has forced residents to buy bottled water. The EPA concludes that the water is unsafe and gas extractors are at fault, and orders the construction of a pipeline, to be paid for by private industry, to bring in clean water from a neighboring town. Machinations, a smear campaign against the EPA and slap suits to keep people quiet follow. A new pro-business governor is elected, and Obama praises natural gas and energy independence in a State of the Union address. Jackson resigns, and a followup inquiry by the EPA

> This saga illustrates that fracking, whether or not it is allowed to happen whether or not the problems it creates are remediated, and by whom, are all about money and influence. People are more will

ing to openly acknowledge this fact than they were several years ago. In Gasland, in one memorable scene, Fox fights a phalanx of secretaries and answering machines in an unsuccessful attempt to get a gas company head on record. In Gasland Part II, Jackson and more than a dozen members of Congress are willing to speak to him. But what they overwhelmingly say is that the gas lobby is vastly powerful.

If at the time of Gasland the industry was surprised and unprepared for the assault on fracking, now it is not. The public relations battle is in full pitch. The environmental slogan ("Go Frac Yourself") has been countered with Fracosaurus, the friendly cartoon dinosaur, who explains the benefits of "clean" energy in a book donated by corporate sponsors to public schools and libraries. The industry purchases Josh Fox's



domain name to control information on the Internet. It hires Hill & Knowlton—the global public relations company used by the tobacco industry in the 1950s and 1960s to counter claims that cigarettes and smoking led to lung cancer. It sends spies to infiltrate community meetings and even goes so far as to employ PSYOP (psychological operations) to deal with an "angry public" even though it is illegal to use against Americans. PSYOP, defined in Wikipedia as "planned operations to convev selected information and indicators to audiences to influence their emotions, motives, objective reasoning, and ultimately... behavior"

was developed by the military during Vietnam and has been widely used more recently to counter insurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Gasland Part II concludes with Fox getting arrested at a public Congressional hearing because he refuses to stop filming. He's angry but also exhausted. After three and a half years of shooting this film, he says it was the most that he could do. He's been silenced for the moment, but he's made his point, and you know he'll be back. ■

Gasland Part II will show on Tuesday, January 14, 7 p.m. Park Slope Food Coop, 782 Union St., 2nd floor. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Attention Coop Squad Leaders!

- * Do you want your shift to operate more smoothly?
 - ♣ Are there folks on your squad who seem to irritate one another, and it's difficult to see what the problem is?
- * When a conflict occurs between shoppers during your shift, what can you do to ease the situation on the spot?
 - **❖** Do you know what resources are available for people who want to follow up?

Saturday, February 1 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 19

Saturday, February 22 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Park Slope Food Coop's Diversity and Equality Committee is holding a series of workshops for Squad Leaders. The goal of the two-hour workshop is to increase awareness and understanding of diversity in the Coop.

Through interactive discussions we will talk about the values of diversity, how differences can create both collaboration and conflict and strateaies for dealing with issues of diversity.

We will discuss conflicts that have arisen in the Coop, the findings of the diversity survey and what you can do to make the Coop a more welcoming place for all.

Please call 888-922-COOP (2667) box 89 or send an e-mail to reply@psfc.coop (with "SL Training" in the subject line) to confirm your attendance and/or for more information. In either case, please tell us your name, Coop member number, contact information and the date you are interested in attending. We will reply with a confirmation within a week.

> **Diversity and Equality Committee PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP** Workslot credit (make-up or FTOP) is available to those who attend.

MEMBER SUBMISSION

Fast Track for the TPP Expected to Come Before Congress in January

By Susan Metz

At the June General Meet-ing (GM), we began a discussion about the attempts of the Obama administration to "Fast Track" through Congress the document that resulted from secret trade negotiations with 12 Pacific-rim nations and 600 corporate advisors called the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Concerned with the impact of the treaty on food safety, we brought the item to the Agenda Committee, and they assigned 40 minutes of the August GM to discuss the topic—"Vote NO on Fast Track for the TPP." Articles appeared in the Linewaiters' Gazette about Fast Track, the TPP and the results of previous "free trade agreements" or FTAs (NAFTA, DR-CAFTA, the Colombia FTA). At the September GM, the item was on the agenda for a vote. The motion was for the Coop to send a letter to all Congress members from NYC calling on them to Vote NO on Fast Track for the TPP. Many had questions and made comments. Because the full TPP text is not available to the press, advocacy groups, nor even to Congress members, too many of the questions about the text cannot be answered. That's why we are calling for a NO on Fast Track—so we can see the text and debate the policies. Much information is available at the website of Public Citizen Global Trade Watch. The September GM voted virtually unanimously to join the national campaign on behalf of the PSFC as an institution calling for members of Congress to Vote NO on Fast Track

In the sidebar is the letter that was sent to all NYC Congress members signed on behalf of the 16,400 members of the PSFC by General Coordinator Joe Holtz and Board of Directors member Bill Penner.

Reports on each meeting and a series of letters attempting to address questions and concerns we have heard from Coop members have been published in the Gazette and are archived on the website. On Friday evening, December 13, we held a widely publicized discussion in the meeting room that was well-attended and animated.

The critical point is that the negotiations on the TPP have been kept secret. The administration wants a document of 29 chapters that took more than four years to negotiate to go through Congress with no debate, consultation nor amendment. We in the Coop need to know what the TPP says in chapters that deal with food safety, labeling of GMO foods and country of origin, the buy-local initiatives and gas extraction such as fracking, among others. Along with members of Congress, the press and advocacy organizations, we need to study the text. Fast Track on the trade agreements would prevent this

The legislation authorizing Fast Track has been written and is expected to come before the Congress shortly after their return to Washington, early in 2014.

Lori Wallach, the director of Public Citizen Global Trade Watch, writes "To a degree not seen since the 1999 WTO protests in Seattle, the AmerOctober 8, 2013

Representative Nydia Velazquez 2302 Rayburn HOB Wash. DC 20515

Dear Representative Velazquez,

Given that the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) as well as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) reportedly will contain stipulations that affect food safety and imported animal products, among many others, it is appropriate for the Park Slope Food Coop (the Coop) to study and express our concerns about these treaties. Granting President Obama 'Fast Track Authority' would deprive us of an opportunity to debate the policy implications for us as individual consumers and for the Coop as our buying agent.

Therefore, the Park Slope Food Coop, where 16,100 members buy our food collectively, call upon you and all our elected representatives in congress, to **Vote NO on authorizing 'Fast** Track Authority' for President Obama to push through congress the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

Democracy requires:

1-Full transparency, so that all trade negotiations are done entirely in the open, including public information about who participates, who originates a proposal, and the precise language under consideration.

2-Enough time after the conclusion of negotiations and before the vote for congress members, as well as scholars, journalists and those representing various interest groups, to thoroughly study all relevant documents and to debate the points, especially those that might supersede and overpower state and federal laws.

We greatly appreciate your signing the letter initiated by Representative Rose DeLauro and look forward to your leadership in opposing Fast Track Authority.

Most respectfully,

Joe Holtz General Manager Park Slope Food Coop

Bill Penner President

Park Slope Food Coop

Editor's Note: A letter identical to the letter to Representative Nydia Velazquez was sent to Representative Gregory Meeks, the only difference being the last paragraph, which read in the Meeks' letter: "We greatly appreciate your telling us your thoughts on Fast Track Authority. Because there has been so little in the press, we intend to continue keep our members informed.'

ican people have awakened to the threats the TPP poses and have moved to action. New forces—from the Tea Party to Internet freedom activists—have bolstered

veteran fair-trade campaigners from small business, union, environmental, consumer, health, development and faith communities. Thanks to impressive fairtrade activism nationwide in 2013, already a large bloc of

House Democrats and Republicans have announced opposition to Fast Track. 151 Democrats and 27 Republicans signed letters and a number of others have declared their opposition. The bottom line: 2014 could be Fast Track's funeral.

Call the Capitol switchboard to connect with your representative at 202-224-3121. Tell them to vote NO of Fast Track for the TPP. Then, contact everyone you know and ask them to do the same thing. ■

Join us on Friday evening, January 10, at 6:30 p.m., when we will screen the documentary This is What Democracy Looks Like, about the 1999 Seattle protests, in the Coop's meeting room on the second floor. The film will begin promptly at 6:45 p.m. to allow time for discussion.

Looking to help new coops form in Brooklyn while getting a tax deduction?

Support the Fund for New Coops—a project of the Park Slope Food Coop.

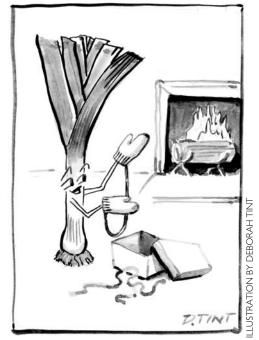
THE FUND FOR

loans to start-up coops that use the full-member NEW FOOD COOPS labor model like ours. Loans will be extended to qualified start-ups to address problems and a Project of the Park Slope Food Coop maximize the chances that start-ups will flourish.

The Fund for New Coops will make low-interest

How can you donate?

- Use the scannable Fund for New Coops donation cards available on the shopping floor
- Donate directly from the Coop's website, foodcoop.com. Follow the link for the Fund for New Coops and select the DONATE button
 - Mail a check—made out to the Fund for New Food Coops—to: FJC, 520 Eighth Ave., 20th Flr., New York, NY 10018
- Help nascent coops that want to use our model: Contribute today!



MEMBER SUBMISSION

Park Slope Food Coop, Brooklyn, NY

A Sister Holistic Healthcare Coop to PSFC: A Concept Whose Time Has Come!

By Heidi McClure

Heidi McClure, longtime Coop member, is spearheading a proposal to expand the food cooperative movement into a healthcare cooperative movement. Working on a proposal to be presented this spring at a General Meeting, she will be asking PSFC to take on a supportive role as a sister Coop to a holistic healthcare coop, she is currently leading. The intention is to create a healthcare cooperative movement that recognizes the importance of food as medicine AND holistic healthcare. She sees cooperative availability to holistic healthcare as an essential component of creating that new world we have all been waiting for...that green, sustainable one. Only Heidi is not waiting. She is leading the movement and she is looking for kindred spirits to join in.

The Story

Back in 2011, Heidi and her 21-year-old son, Mahdi, were creating a business together. He had just completed his massage-therapy training and alongside Heidi's massage and dancetherapy business, they were working together as a mother/son team. After Mahdi's sudden death when falling off the side of a cliff while hiking, Heidi was catapulted into understanding the eternal nature of our lives and the sacred nature of our bodies as vessels for our spirits. She has awakened more fully to the understanding that it is extremely important for all awakening people to come together and create a new world where we take care of each other in the most compassionate and natural way possible. Like the Phoenix rising from the ashes, her son's death has inspired her to expand the food cooperative movement to become a healthcare cooperative movement.

The Vision

The vision of this holistic healthcare cooperative includes receiving support in the role of guidance, advertising and potentially finances from PSFC. It will be similar to PSFC, where

members work to offset the high prices of holistic healthcare. Soon to be renamed the Prospect Heights Healthcare Cooperative or PHHC, it currently has the title Spirit Freedom Mahditation Cooperative in dedication to her now deceased son, Mahdi... whose name means the Path to God, The Way, The Prophet, The Guided One. It has a home at 603 Bergen Street in Prospect Heights.

The vision also includes members' ability to receive healthcare for their emotional, physical, mental and spiritual woes at an affordable price both because;

- 1. Work exchange will offset maintenance costs AND
- 2. Receiver members (clients) and Worker members (practitioners) will have the ability to exchange goods and services in an Energy Bank, where members can either work their minimal required monthly hours like PSFC requires OR they can get up to 100% of their services in exchange for increased service and goods exchange. The vision also includes getting insurance for as many services that the holistic healthcare coop provides, as possible.

The Energy Bank... Money is Energy

This new healthcare coop will operate an Energy Bank. Money is just a form of energy that is being controlled and manipulated by a small percentage of people that are not in alignment with their divine selves. An Energy Bank, where energy is exchanged in the form of goods and services will create a feeling of trust, community support and holding each other in our divine selves which can accelerate the creation of the new world that we are all wanting to create.

Why Now?... A Call to Awaken

Many people are either struggling with their own health or are misguided and confused so that they are unavailable to be a part of this movement of awakening, many are calling The Shift. Healthcare crises can be seen as a wake-up call, as a healing crisis that is call-

ing one to listen to something beyond the realm of his or her physical understanding. Taking care of one's health in a holistic way in community, is the key to freeing oneself to become fully actualized to become the a part of the change that is so desperately needed in the world today.

An Invitation to Growth

The proposal for PSFC to become a sister Coop to this new holistic healthcare cooperative will be presented in an upcoming General Meeting this spring 2014 and we are looking for like-minded,



kindred spirits to join us. Currently the Coop has 10 holistic health practitioners.

If you are interested in being a part of this newly developing cooperative

movement that includes healthy food and holistic health, please contact Heidi at 646-242-8477 or visit us at www.spiritfreedom.org and the soon-to-come website: prospectheightshealthcoop.org.

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 that produce 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 Coordinators.

Applicants must have excellent people skills, excellent communication and organizational skills as well as patience. Applicants should be able to remain calm in hectic surroundings, 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 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.

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.

Hours: Approx. 39 hours in 5 days/week: Primarily evenings and weekends, some shifts until 11 p.m.

Wages: \$25.80/hour.

Benefits:

- Paid Holidays: July 4th, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day
- Paid Health and Personal Time: 11 days per year
- Paid Vacation: three weeks per year increasing in the 4th, 8th & 11th years Health Insurance*
- Dental and Vision Plan*
- Pension Plan* Life Insurance*
- 401(k) Plan
- TransitChek Program
- Flexible Spending Account *Benefits with no payroll deduction.

Prerequisite:

Must be a current member of the Park Slope Food Coop for at least six months immediately prior

No Receiving/Stocking experience necessary to submit application materials. However, in order to be considered for an interview applicants must have worked at least four Receiving shifts. After submitting your materials, if you wish to schedule shifts please contact the Coop at hc-receiving coordinator@psfc.coop. Please put "Schedule Shifts" in the subject field.

How to Apply:

Please provide your resumé along with a cover letter explaining your relevant qualifications, skills and experience. Materials will only be accepted electronically. E-mail resumé and cover letter to hc-receivingcoordinator@psfc.coop. Please put "Receiving Coordinator" in the subject field. Applicants will receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt of their materials. Please do not call the Membership Office to check on the status of your application. Applications will be reviewed and interviews scheduled on a rolling basis until the position has been filled. If you applied to a previous Coop job offering, please re-submit your materials.

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

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 through 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

Childcare Hours:

Monday through Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.

15 minutes after closing time.

Telephone:

718-622-0560

Web address:

www.foodcoop.com

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. The e-mail address for submissions is GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop. Drop disks in the wallpocket described above. 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, January 17, 8:00 p.m.

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



PROSPECT CONCERTS



Jenny Hill & Liquid Horn. Jenny Hill presents an evening of music inspired by Brazil, Africa, and American jazz, featuring Todd Isler on drums and percussion, Jerome Harris on bass, Kevin Moehringer on trombone, and Stefan Bauer on vibes. Jenny Hill, saxophonist and flautist, is currently working with the Easy Star All-Stars, Denis Leary and the Enablers, and leads her own jazz group, Liquid Horn. Bill Milkowski of Jazz Times calls her "an accomplished composer-arranger and first-rate soloist, with some bold playing on tenor, soprano and flute. Highly recommended."

Tomas Rodriguez has a unique repertoire for the solo guitar based in the folkloric music of Galicia, Spain, of his ancestors, coupled with little-known and unique arrangements of the music of the African kora and touching on contemporary flamenco. Rodriguez' own compositions, emerging from these diverse musical inspirations, include original choros, Venezuelan waltzes and flamenco granainas. Critic Norman Weinstein (Christian Science Monitor) wrote, "Rodriguez plays with a passionate originality, with an individual touch, drawing from the musical heart of the Latin world. The folk and classical traditions of Spain and South America are richly evident in his playing, but he transmutes them into a sound clearly, fervently his own." He is joined by Barry Kornhauser (bass, cello) and Urbano Sanchez (percussion).



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**

RETURN POLIC

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 The Paid-In-Full receipt MUS be presented. within 30 days of purchase

CAN I EXCHANGE MY ITEM? No, we do not "exchange" items. You must return the merchandise

RETURNABLE

RETURNABLE

ONLY IF SPOILED

BEFORE

EXPIRATION DATE

Packaging/label

nust be present ed for refund.

RETURNABLE

CAN I RETURN MY ITEM?

Cheese* Juicers

Produce* Bulk* (incl. Coop-bagged bulk Seasonal Holiday Items Calendars Refrigerated Supplements

& Oils *A buyer is available during the week Sushi days to discuss your concerns

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

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

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

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WELCOME!

Park Slope Food Coop, Brooklyn, NY

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.

Dylan Aquino Erika Aquino Dan Arrigo Anna Avrekh Mikhail Avrekh Janet Babin Levi Balkany Natasha Becker Yevgeniya Berelekhis Bridget Berry Sarah Bloomquist David Bookman Mikki Brammer Chana Braude

Matthew Canada Grace Carnev Leticia Chand Pearl Chen John Corcoran Lisa Costanzo **Iames Crombie** Peter Edidin Amy Egashira Gabe Eisenberg Shervl Eisenberg Hannah Emler Saba Fadavi Packwood Edward Fearon

Adrienne Fedorko David Ferguson Iorge Fernandez Oristelia Ferreira Mark Franke Julie Freese Dhruva Ganesan Natasha Garrett Christina Georgalas Margaux Gindi Kristin Gladnev Allissa Gold Janice Gomez Julio Gonzalez

Lena Greenberg Yaye Gueye Iohn Harris Mayumi Hayashi Justin Higgins Lesley Hoffman Carl Jakubowsky Saralee James Laura Ana Iardieanu Cynthia Iones Chizu Kawagoe Chance Krempasky Joshua Levin Benjamin Lightle

Khalid Livingston Brian Long Joanne Manfredi William Mayton **Iessica McCarthy** Lindsey Melki Siddhartha Mitra Anat Mooreville Laurie Muchnick Rosalind Muggeridge Paula Murrien Kent Nickerson Miva Osaki Joshua Packwood

Pardis Partow Lucas Paul Debbie Pellegrino Jamie Penkethman Kimberly Peters Jordan Reisner Erik Reitinger Sydney Rose Adam Rosenberg Michelle Russell Eric Salitsky Scott Sasso Kody Schumm Stephanie Schwartz Gordon Smith Birgit Para soerensen Nathalie Thandiwe David Thomas Nathalie Torrenegra David Townsend Luke Tracy Martin Travers

Olga Tuchapska Daniel Verdejo Laura Vladamirova Erica Wides Julietta Willix Carolyn Wilsey Liza Zapol



COP 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 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Channels: 56 (Time-Warner), 69 (CableVision), 84 (RCN), 44 (Verizon), and live streaming on the Web: www.bricartsmedia.org/ community-media/bcat-tv-network.

General Meeting Info

TUE, JANUARY 28

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, FEBRUARY 4

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m. Submissions will be considered for the February 25 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

12:00 p.m., Mon, Jan 13 Jan 23 issue: Feb 6 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Jan 27

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

Ian 23 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Jan 15 7:00 p.m., Wed, Jan 29 Feb 6 issue:

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-forworkslot-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 signups 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

• Two GM attendance credits per year:

Each member may take advantage of the GM-forworkslot-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 mem**ber-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 nontoxic, 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, earthfriendly 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.

ABOUT GENERAL MEETING

Our Governing Structure

From our inception in 1973 to the present, the open monthly General Meetings 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 at the Coop Community Corner and at every General Meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 28, 7:00 p.m.

The General Meeting is held on the last Tuesday of each

Location

MS 51, 350 Fifth Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts. Enter on Fourth St. cul-de-sac. Fourth St. entrance is wheelchair-accessible.

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 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 at 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) • Meeting evaluation • Board of Directors vote • Announcements, etc.

park slope FOOD COOP

calendar-of-events

jan 10 fri 6:30 pm

This Is What Democracy Looks Like

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an early mechanism built to implement corporate "free trade." This Is What Democracy Looks Like (Big Noise Films, 2000, 72 minutes) weaves the footage of 450 media activists into a gripping document about what happened on Seattle's streets during the November 1999 massive protests that crippled the WTO. Informative, instructive, inspiring and important as we struggle with yet another commercial treaty, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, that would give a corporation the same legal standing as a nation. Screening will begin at 7 p.m. followed by an open discussion until 9:30 p.m. At the September GM we voted to oppose Fast Track Authority for the President to push through Congress the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). We want to slow it down and find out what 12 trade ministers and 600 corporate advisors have been negotiating in secret for three years. Coop member Susan Metz is presenting on behalf of Coop members organized against fast-track fracking. A Coop member since 1980, she was a Shopping Squad Leader for 22 years.

jan 11 sat 1 pm

BodyTalk: The New Language of Health

BodyTalk utilizes state-of-the-art energy medicine to optimize the body's internal communications. This extremely gentle hands-on modality helps the body to operate more efficiently and more effectively respond to any kind of injury or illness. Please join Jean Chuang Menges, Advanced Certified BodyTalk practitioner and licensed acupuncturist, for a free hands-on workshop to experience the incredible benefits of this exciting healthcare phenomenon. Participants will learn a simple, quick and powerful BodyTalk Cortices Technique to help balance the brain, reduce stress, relieve pain, improve sleep, and boost mental focus and clarity. You will also learn how the BodyTalk Access Health Routine can benefit yourself and others and receive a full Access session. Talk moderated by Coop member and BodyTalk Access Technician Stephanie Krause.

sat 5 pm

Game Night

The PSFC Fun Committee invites you to the next Coop Game Night. Free admission, all ages welcome. Bring your friends. Refreshments for sale. Come join us to play with a friend, an opponent or simply to challenge yourself. Bring your favorite game(s): Scrabble, Taboo, chess, checkers, bridge, Nim, Boggle, Candyland, Trouble, Stratego, Pictionary, Monopoly, Trivial Pursuit, etc.

jan 12 sun 12 pm

Interested in Vegan Eating?

In the New Year, many Coop members will resolve to change their eating habits. In recent years, there has been an increased interest in vegan eating, with people like Bill Clinton and Ellen DeGeneres touting the benefits of their vegan diets. Growing evidence shows that vegan diets have positive impacts on human health and are better for the planet. Whether you want to commit to a vegan diet or start eating more plant foods, this workshop will help. Join us for an introduction to vegan eating. We will discuss recipes, shopping staples, and basic nutrition. Space is limited. Please RSVP on our blog, psfcanimals.blogspot.com, to reserve your seat today. This workshop is being hosted by the Food Coop's Animal Welfare Committee. The committee was formed in 2010 to provide animal-related reference materials, articles, and product suggestions as they relate to Coop products.

jan 14 tue 7 pm

Safe Food Committee Film Night: **Gasland Part II**



Gasland Part II is the explosive follow-up to Gasland. Josh Fox uses his trademark dark humor to take a deeper, broader look to PLATE at the dangers of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, now occurring in 32 countries worldwide. The stakes have been raised on all sides in this important environmental issue. The film

argues that the gas industry's portrayal of natural gas as clean and safe is a myth, that fracked wells inevitably leak over time, contaminating water and air, hurting families, and endangering the earth's climate with the potent greenhouse gas, methane. The film also argues that powerful oil and gas industries are "contaminating democracy."

ian 1*1*

Wordsprouts: Get Healthy



Noted journalist Michael Moss will go inside his four-year investigation of the processed-food industry. Moss' investigation resulted in his #1 New York Times bestselling book, Salt The Park Slope Food Coop's Reading Series | Sugar Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us. With much help

from the audience, he'll explore how Americans who don't yet have a coop can get unhooked. Moss has been an investigative reporter with The New York Times since 2000. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for explanatory reporting in 2010, and was a finalist for the prize in 2006 and 1999. He is also the recipient of a Loeb Award and an Overseas Press Club citation. A Food Coop member, he lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Eve Heyn, who joined the Coop way back in 1985, and two sons.

To book a Wordsprouts, contact John Donohue, wordsproutspsfc@gmail.com.

jan 17

Jenny Hill & Liquid Horn, **Tomas Rodriguez**



Jenny Hill presents an evening of music inspired by Brazil, Africa, and American jazz, featuring **Todd Isler** on drums and percussion, Jerome

Harris on bass, Kevin Moehringer on trombone, and Stefan Bauer on vibes. Jenny Hill, saxophonist and flautist, is currently working with the Easy Star All-Stars, Denis Leary and the Enablers, and leads her own jazz group, Liquid Horn. Tomas Rodriguez has a unique repertoire for the solo guitar based in the folkloric music of Galicia, Spain, of his ancestors, coupled with little-known and unique arrangements of the music of the African kora and touching on contemporary flamenco. Rodriguez' own compositions, emerging from these diverse musical inspirations, include original choros, Venezuelan waltzes and flamenco granainas. He is joined by





Barry Kornhauser (bass, cello) and Urbano Sanchez (percussion). 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.

ian 18 sat 1:30 pm

Rock Painting



Calling all children! The Tree Care Squad needs your help to create painted rock gardens in the winter tree beds on Union Street. Roll up your sleeves, grab a paintbrush, and come paint rocks! Parents welcomed. For more information, contact treepep@gmail.com.

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.

jan 10-jeb 8-2014

jan 25 sat 12 pm

Workshop for Couples Affected by ADHD/ADD

If any one of these sound familiar: "I can't count on my partner for anything!" "Sometimes it feels like I'm a single parent with an extra kid!" Or..." I feel like my partner is such a control freak!" "If my partner would start being affectionate again instead of pissed off all the time, everything would be fine." This workshop is for you. Come explore the strengths and challenges of ADHD/ADD traits from a perspective of mutual empathy and understanding. Partners in attendance will start to develop new systems and strategies unique to their particular issues, so they can begin to create a more loving, supportive and fulfilling life together. Reservations strongly suggested: 917-804-9572. In addition to being a Coop member since 2004, Rahti Gorfien, PCC, ACCG, is certified by the International Coach Federation and the ADD Coach Academy.

jan 25 sat 3 pm

Coop Kids' Variety Show Auditions



Auditions for Coop members ages 4-18, in the second-floor meeting room. To reserve an audition spot, contact Martha Siegel at 718-965-3916 or msiegel105@earthlink.net. You must audition to be in the show. Polished act not required for audition; we can help you polish it. We encourage singers and other musicians, poets, jugglers, stand-up

comics, rappers, dancers, magicians, gymnasts, etc. (no lip-syncing please). Performance date is Saturday, March 8, 7:00 p.m., at the Old First Church. We look forward to hearing from you!

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-tobasics funeral or memorial service, as well as offer information on green cemeteries near New York City, cremation pros and cons, biodegradable caskets and urns, blended-faith/alternative ceremonies, and more. You'll get a glimmer of what funerals of the future might look like—and leave with planning literature for yourself or for someone you love.

jan 28 tue 7 pm

Report from Librarians and Archivists to Palestine

Last summer, a group of international librarians and archivists traveled to Palestine to connect with colleagues in libraries, archives, and related projects. The delegation explored issues of access to information under occupation and colonialism in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and 1948 Palestine (Israel). The delegation bore witness to the destruction, theft and appropriation of books and historical documents, and was inspired by the many projects, institutions, and individuals engaged in daily resistance to settler-colonialism. More information is at librarians2palestine.wordpress.com. Coop members Bronwen Densmore, Rachel Mattson, and Melissa Morrone will discuss their experiences on the delegation, share some of the projects that were visited, and talk about the next steps for the delegation's ongoing solidarity work.

jan 28

PSFC JAN 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. cul-de-sac. Fourth St. entrance is handicap-accessible.

I. Member Arrival and Meeting Warm-Up

II. Open Forum

III. Coordinator and Committee Reports

IV. Meeting Agenda

Item 1: Expand Green Squad Area (30 minutes)

Proposal: Expand Green Squad tree care efforts to formally adopt six additional trees and expand number of shift workers from five to six. In the first season of the Tree Care Squad, we learned there is ample time during the work shift to provide care for additional trees. Regular squad workers support the adoption of six additional nearby trees, three of which are young and vulnerable. The locations of these trees are as follows: three trees on west side of Seventh Ave. between Union and President Sts.; two trees closest to Seventh Ave., on north side of President St. between Sixth and Seventh Aves.; one tree on northwest corner of Seventh Ave. at Union St. (in front of Bank of America). Expanding the tree care coverage from 15 to 20 trees will enable the squad to care for additional vulnerable trees and will qualify us for additional free resources from Million Trees, including access to the Tree LC truck, which delivers high-quality mulch door-to-door. Expanded coverage area would include: 1) north side of Union St. between Six and Seventh Aves.; 2) north and south side of Union St. between Seventh and Eighth Aves.; Seventh Ave. corner trees only; 3) Seventh Ave. between Berkeley and President Sts. —submitted by Talia Wilner

Item 2: Coop Theft (30 minutes)

Discussion: Discussion to solicit ideas from membership to address \$1,200/day losses —submitted by Barbara Mazor

Item 3: Ban of New GMO Foods at Coop (30 minutes)

Discussion: Effective at a date to be determined, no new foods containing GMO ingredients, that is, ingredients considered high risk by the Non-GMO Project, shall be added to the Coop shelves. —submitted by GMO Labeling Committee

V. Board of Directors Meeting

VI. Wrap-Up. Includes member sign-in for workslot credit.

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.

Aging Consciously

It takes a community to grow older consciously! Honest talk and connection for women over 55, who are inspired by others and who are curious about what later life has to offer and its challenges. The focus is on issues of aging, including your hopes and dreams, stresses, opportunities, and whatever concerns you as an older adult, such as resolving loss, illness, transitions, loneliness, finding your place in the world, and any unfinished business. The aim is to enhance the quality of your life, wherever you are on your life journey. Following the introductory workshop, an ongoing group will be formed, which is intended to be a psycho-support group, focused on learning about oneself through emotional interaction with the other members and coping with one's daily life through self-exploration. Coop member Margo Steinfeld is a licensed clinical social worker and certified group psychotherapist with a private practice in Park Slope.

Critical Mass: A Tale of Two Bicycling Cities

Global Impacts of Clothing Manufacturing

Agenda Committee Meeting

Food Class: Jacques Gautier feb 6

See What the PAFCU Offers feb 7

feb 7 Film Night

See What the PAFCU Offers feb 8

Valentine Card-Making Party feb 8

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NEW YORK STATE TO HOLD HEARING ON IVORY TRADE

TO THE MEMBERS:

If we don't care about elephants, they'll go extinct. In areas where elephants live, they tromp down the grass and help fertilize the earth. Every one of us needs to be responsible for these endangered animals.

New York State is one of the main areas where illegally taken ivory is sold. The Wildlife Conservation Society has initiated a campaign called 96 Elephants to mobilize public support for laws aimed at the illegal trade in ivory, thereby stopping the killing of elephants by poachers by removing the market for ivory.

You can help save the elephants by making your voice heard. The NYS Assembly Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation is holding a hearing on Thursday, January 16, at 11 a.m. at the Assembly Hearing Room, 250 Broadway, Room 1923, 19th Floor, in Manhattan.

I urge people to come to this meeting and see how they can participate in stopping the sale of ivory in NYC. Please join me and have your voices help make a difference.

For further information, see: www.newswise.com/articles/new-york-state-to-hold-hearing-on-ivory-trade.

Rhudi Andreolli

GMOS

TO THE EDITOR:

In recent letters to the *Gazette*, Coop members are speaking up about a preference for intelligent discussion of GMOs, in contrast to the "information" provided by the GMO labeling

committee. Others might find these sources useful, as I have:

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- 1. "The science of genetically engineered foods is clear: they are not harmful to our health...What passes for public debate on the topic—as with climate change and childhood vaccines—too often rests on a dangerous dismissal of science. This needs to change." That's from the Boston Review, one of the left's most important and intellectually responsible journals. You can find the full article—with opposing views—here: www.bostonreview.net/forum/pamela -ronald-gmo-food.
- 2. This is from the more mainstream liberal *Slate*: "Such acceptance by lefties of what everyone else in the reality-based science community derides as patently bad science is 'just plain depressing,' writes a medical researcher..." www.slate.com/ articles/health_and_science/ science/2012/09/are_gmo_foods_safe _opponents_are_skewing_the_ science_to_scare_people_.html
- 3. "Fight the GMO Food Scare," an editorial from *Scientific American*, is here: www.scientificamerican.com/article.cf m?id=labels-for-gmo-foods-are-a-bad-idea

Mark Dow

FUKUSHIMA AND OUR

DEAR EDITOR,

The impact of Fukushima on food safety is a complex issue. It requires careful reporting. Yet, the recent article "Is it Safe to Eat Rice Crackers and Seaweed Snax?" (Linewaiters' Gazette, November 28, 2013), misled the reader on several important points.

The reporter states that cesium and iodine have a half-life of eight days. And therefore these contaminants "would not build up in fish." True as regards the iodine. False as regards the cesium. The half-life of cesium-137 is 30 years as is the half-life of strontium-90. These toxins will be of concern for decades. Both of these long-lived materials are being released at Fukushima.

Equally misleading: the article states that radionuclides, because they are an "energy," do not transfer like other contaminants. And, therefore, people don't need to worry. Left out? Radionuclides bio-accumulate. Thus, toxins such as cesium and strontium, build up in algae, sea grasses, smaller fish and then bigger fish. It is simply not known what degree of cont-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

Anonymity

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

Fairness

In order to provide fair, comprehensive, fac-

tual coverage:

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

Interested in Engaging Coop Work?

Disciplinary Committee Seeks NEW Members

Skills needed:

Communication
Problem solving
Conflict resolution
Dealing with difficult
situations and people
Investigation
Writing
Research

Currently we have members from the following fields:

Social work, education, law, dispute resolution, holistic medicine, design, and journalism

Our work includes

- Applying Coop's rules and regulations
- Discussing policy issues related to the DC's work
- Investigating allegations of uncooperative behavior by members and engaging in problem solving
- Daily email contact with DC members to discuss cases
- Participating in mediation, disciplinary hearings, and other conflict resolution methods

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 abilty 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.

Contact: Karen: 718-208-7897 or foodcoopdc@gmail.com

To receive workslot credit for attending the monthly General Meeting, members must sign up in advance in one of the following three ways:



♦ On the Coop's website (www.foodcoop.com)



◆ Add your name to the sign-up sheet in the ground floor elevator lobby



Call the Membership Office





ETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BDS TOPICS:

ISRAEL'S POLICIES THROUGH THE PRISM OF ZIONISM: WEST BANK, GAZA AND AFRICAN ASYLUM SEEKERS

MEMBERS:

"How is Zionism then not a mistake," David Remnick (New Yorker, editor) says to Ari Shavit (Israeli author). (92nd Street Y, October book talk).

Zionism was a 19th century international movement to establish a Jewish national homeland in Palestine. Britain consented (Balfour Declaration, 1917); later incorporated into British Mandate for Palestine (1922). Zionism was eventually successful in establishing Israel, 1948. After 1967 War, Israel captured East Jerusalem, Gaza, the West Bank (Judea and Samaria to Israel); considered it part of Greater Israel, land for Jewish settlement.

Critics of Zionism: it is a colonialist or racist ideology that led to the denial of rights, dispossession and expulsion of the "indigenous population of Palestine" (the Nakba).

International consensus: Israel is the occupying power of East Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza. Settlements are illegal under international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention. Israel is obligated to ensure the humane treatment and protection of occupied Palestinians at all times.

West Bank, Bethlehem, cradle of Christianity: Palestinian Christians struggle to protect their land and homes from Israeli takeover. Bethlehem is surrounded by an 8-meterhigh concrete wall (lost land: 12%), a series of Jewish-only settlements (land lost: 76%). 12% left will be reduced with checkpoints and major highways for Jewish settlers to reach Jerusalem.

Ramallah and Jericho: UNRWA condemns Israel's "Christmas Eve" house demolitions displacing 68 people (32 children). Families given tents. 750 head of sheep and goats, without shelter for freezing nights, threaten families' livelihoods. UNRWA figures: 2013: 1,103 Palestinians displaced in West Bank and East Jerusalem. Israeli demolished 663 structures (259 residences, West Bank).

Israel's near-total economic blockade of Gaza (1.7 million) since 2006 has led to de-development, aid dependence, collapse of infrastructure, deeply weakened capacity when harsh storms hit Gaza (UNRWA). Prestorm: severe fuel shortage (started November) diminished Gaza's electricity for sewage pumps (sewage flooded streets). During the storm, 10,000 to 40,000 displaced from homes.

With minimal electricity, pumping stations unable to clear flooded areas. Gaza's port suffered \$100,000 damage, lacking sufficient protective barriers because Israel limits cement imports. UNRWA calls on international community to get Israel's blockade lifted for storm recovery and long-term solutions for Gaza.

60,000 African asylum seekers (Sudan, Eritrea) in Israel: denied review to determine refugee status (U.N.'s 1951 Refugee Convention). Interior Minister: "I have the responsibility to safeguard the Jewish and Zionist character of the country."

2012 Human Rights report (U.S.

State Department): government officials, media outlets refer to asylum seekers as "infiltrators" associated with crime, disease, terrorism, threaten mass arrests and deportation. December 10: "Prevention of Infiltration Law" passed allowing for one-year "detention" without trial for African asylum seekers entering illegally. Those already in Israel can be held indefinitely without judicial review in detention camps (Negev Desert). 200 Africans, walking two days from Negev prison to Jerusalem, protested the legislation. Following their arrests, thousands of Africans demonstrated in Tel Aviv.

> Mary Buchwald Brooklyn for Peace PSFC members for BDS www.psfcbds.wordpress.com

CRITICISM OF ISRAELI POLICIES GAINS SUPPORT ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

TO THE MEMBERS:

Two significant events in the past few weeks show the growth in U.S. colleges of the campaign against Israeli Occupation and Apartheid policies. On December 9, the Swarthmore College Hillel Board of Directors declared that it will "depart from the Israel guidelines of Hillel International, declaring itself to be an Open Hillel." (Hillel was an ancient Jewish scholar. Hillel International calls its Hillel chapters the Centers of Jewish Campus Life. There are more than 500 of them, mainly in the United States.)

On December 15, the 5000+ member American Studies Association voted by a two-to-one majority to

join the academic boycott of Israeli institutions of higher learning,

The Swarthmore statement goes on to say, "Across the country, Hillel's suppression of freedom to speak and believe things that are not narrowly pro-Zionist are the direct result of Hillel International's Israel Guidelines." It further declares, "All are welcome to walk though our doors and speak with our name and under our roof, be they Zionist, anti-Zionist, post-Zionist or non-Zionist. We are an institution that seeks to foster spirited debate, constructive dialogue and a safe space for all, in keeping with the Jewish tradition. We are an Open Hillel."

Thus the Swarthmore Hillel chapter moves toward open debate of Israeli policies.

Open opposition to the Israeli Occupation of Palestine is seen in the activities of the more than 80 chapters around the U.S. of Students for Justice in Palestine. Support for the international campaign for Boycott Divestment and Sanctions is growing among college students.

The support for academic sanctions against Israeli educational institutions now includes the American Studies Association as well as the Association for Asian American Studies, which joined the boycott in April 2013 and the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association which also joined in December 2013.

An excerpt from the ASA resolution reads, "[It is] in solidarity with scholars and students deprived of their academic freedom and it aspires to enlarge freedom for all, including Palestinians. The ASA endorsement of the academic boycott emerges from the context of U.S. military support for Israel's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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.

The Personnel Committee meets with the General Coordinators on the third Tuesday of every month from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m.

Additional work outside the meetings is also required.

If you are interested, please do the following two things: e-mail your resume and a letter explaining why you would like to be part of the committee to pc.psfc@gmail.com, and go to http://bit.ly/120Dn2s to fill out a short questionnaire.

The Coop will not be accepting **special orders**through Monday, February 3, 2014.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

Our paid staff will be focusing on keeping the store fully stocked through the winter holidays. Special orders will resume after the annual year-end inventory.

Special orders can be placed through the Membership Office beginning again on Tuesday, February 4, 2014.

Vitamin/Supplement orders remain indefinitely suspended.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

amination is occurring in Pacific fish, such as sardines and tuna.

Finally, the author states all the "trustworthy, verifiable science organizations out there have concluded that the effects of Fukushima on Park Slope Food Coop members is minimal." But many of the "trustworthy" sources quoted by the author, such as the Japanese Government, are seriously biased. From the outset the Japanese government and Tepco spoke as one. They consistently lied regarding the severity of the accident and the risk from radiation releases. Ditto the International Atomic Energy Agency whose purpose, not incidentally, is the promotion of nuclear energy. Further, the testing being done by agencies such as the FDA is

Please let's have more informed reporting on this vital issue.

The author of this letter formerly was Director of the Sierra Club Radioactive Waste Campaign, a Research Associate at Radioactive Waste Management Associates and has spent 18 years researching and writing about nuclear issues.

> Sincerely, Mina Hamilton

FUKUSHIMA

DEAR EDITOR:

I literally wept when I read a recent article in the Linewaiters' Gazette, "Is It Safe to Eat Rice Crackers and Seaweed Snax," (November 28, 2013). Would that it were so easy to dismiss, the long-term dangers of nuclear power and their technological twin nuclear weapons, threaten everything we love at every moment of every day.

The main thrust of the article implies Fukushima is nothing to worry about. Its spawn will be diluted in the vastness of the Pacific, barely detectable in the fish that might arrive at our table—safe for

However, at this moment, there is a lot to worry about. TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company) is removing irradiated fuel, piece by betaemitting piece, from the fuel pool of Unit 4 at Fukushima Daiichi, where there are in excess of 1,200 fuel assembles exposed to the open air. Should an earthquake disrupt this already dilapidated building, a radioactive fire could ensue, making it humanly impossible to intercede;

thus creating a steady spew of longlived radionuclides to circulate the Northern Hemisphere.

Furthermore, citing the International Atomic Energy Agency is no countermand to "pseudo-science." The main purpose of the IAEA is to promote nuclear power. Dr. Karl Z. Morgan, the father of Health Physics, offers a different point of view. He worked on the Manhattan Project and also at Oak Ridge nuclear weapons plant in Tennessee. He later became an opponent of nuclear weapons and nuclear power when he realized that the U.S. nuclear industry was suppressing the dangers regarding radiation exposure. Dr. Morgan pioneered research that suggests there is no safe level of radiation. More recently, the National Academy of Sciences report on Health Risks from Exposure to Low Levels of Ionizing Radiation (BEIR VII, 2006) asserted that there is no "safe dose threshold" and that any dose of radiation may be harmful.

Radiation is nebulous. It moves in secret, evading our senses. In its near timelessness, it also evades our responsibility. The fact is we have manufactured a poison fire that lasts the lifetime of mountains. For hundreds of thousands of years, longlived radionuclides will remain carcinogenic and mutagenic. For example, plutonium, the by-product of nuclear energy and the raw material for the bomb, has a half-life of 24,000 years.

Reading the article, I was most dismayed with the apparent lack of regard for Japanese Coop members who may have loved ones affected by Fukushima. 160,000 people have evacuated as a result of the triple meltdown. There may well be Coop members personally affected by this ongoing radiological tragedy. And all of us may be affected too, and from not so far afield. Our own Fukushima on the Hudson is currently operating without a license. Indian Point, 25 miles as the crow flies upriver, is one if the oldest operating reactors in the U.S. (Imagine for one moment, evacuating our beloved City of New

Indian Point ought to be immediately shut down.

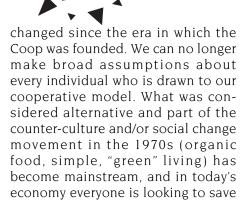
> Kathleen Sullivan, Ph.D. Program Director, Hibakusha Stories

THEFT AT THE COOP

DEAR COOP MEMBERS:

The upsurge of theft at the Coop brings to mind one possible part of the solution, namely a more stringent screening process for potential members. This could possibly take the form of an in-person interview, which would serve to better ascertain a person's interest and motives in becoming a member.

Our world and city have greatly



money. Not everyone is motivated by

the same mindset.

My personal sense is that a potential Coop member should be screened the way most of us would want to check out a potential roommate in order to ensure a basic level of personal honesty and integrity, and to weed out those who would become liabilities. Unfortunately it seems that is what some of our members have become—bad roommates, and worse.

I also think the duties and functions of the exit worker need to be revisited. From what I understand they are supposed to check the number or bags or parcels with the receipt, but that does not prevent theft. In addition, very frequently someone doing a makeup is assigned to the exit job without adequate training. Many times it seems to me the person doing the exit job is not paying attention to what they are doing, and is more focused on having a conversation with another worker. It is not a job that is taken seriously.

I think the prior suggestions submitted to the Gazette concerning better vigilance and monitoring of repeat visitors who shop are good ones, and I hope these items come up at a General Meeting in the near future. I welcome future discussion of any and all suggestions including my own.

> In cooperation, Amina Ali

THANKS, COOP **MEMBERS!**

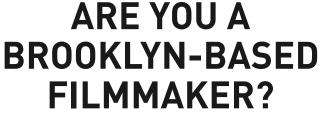
TO THE EDITORS:

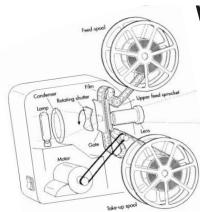
Just a note to say thanks to all of you who stopped to talk with me while I was leafletting about Sodastream in front of the Coop in early December and to the Coop members who came to Target to demonstrate against Sodastream on the National Day of Action on December 7! I know that opposition to our carrying Israeli products (and especially products like Sodastream, that are manufactured in illegal settlements) has been a contentious issue at the Coop, but even those of you with another viewpoint spoke to me courteously and with respect that day. Thank you!

Now let's start stocking more Isi Seltzer Makers! I've had mine for years, and love it.

Carol Wald

our children.





Would you like to screen your work at the Coop?

> Then submit your film for possible inclusion in the Coop's Friday Film Night Screening Series.

If you're a Coop member you'll receive one FTOP credit for screening and offering a Q+A with your film. If you're not a member, it's still a chance to spread the word about your work and build your fan base by screening for a local audience.

We accept documentary and fiction, both features and shorts (we program shorts as a group).

Please e-mail **Faye Lederman** for details at **squeezestone@hotmail.com** or mail your DVD to: Faye Lederman, 2000 Linwood Ave, #9E Fort Lee, NJ 07024





ETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

violation of international law and UN resolutions; the documented impact of the Israeli Occupation on Palestinian students; [and] the extent to which Israeli institutions of higher learning are a party to state policies that violate human rights."

PSFC members for Boycott Divestment and Sanctions are heartened by the growth at U.S. institutions of higher learning of the international movement to end the persecution of Palestine.

We encourage members to boycott Israeli products, in particular the Sodastream carbonation devices, manufactured in the Occupied West Bank.

> Naomi Brussel PSFC members for BDS www.psfcbds.wordpress.com

RESPONSE TO BDS'S DEFENSE OF ACADEMIC BOYCOTT

TO THE EDITOR & READERS:

Nothing about BDS is particularly relevant to the Coop and this is especially true about the American Studies Association resolution for an academic boycott of Israeli institutions, reported nevertheless in a *Gazette* letter by Mary Buchwald (12/12/13).

Even in academia itself, there's not been a whole lot of support.

The list grows daily of American universities rejecting this boycott. At the time of this writing, the Association of American Universities, representing 62 top U.S. and Canadian institutions, has expressed strong opposition, as has the American Association of University Professors, with chapters on 450 campuses. And presidents or chancellors of the following universities and colleges have publicly rejected the boycott:

American University (DC), Birmingham Southern College, Boston University, Bowdon College, Brandeis University, Brooklyn College, CUNY, Brown, Case Western

Reserve, City University of NY, Columbia, Cornell, Dickinson College, Duke, Florida International University, Fordham, George Washington University, Hamilton College, Harvard, Haverford College, Indiana University, Johns Hopkins, Kenyon College, Lehigh, M.I.T., Michigan State, Middlebury College, N.Y.U., Northwestern, Ohio State, Princeton, Purdue, Rhode Island College, Rutgers, Smith College, Stanford, Trinity, Tufts, Tulane, the University of Alabama system, University of California-Berkeley, University of California-Irvine, University of California-San Diego, University of Chicago, University of Cincinnati, University of Connecticut, University of Delaware, University of Illinois-Urbana, University of Kansas, University of Maryland-Baltimore, University of Maryland-College Park, University of Miami, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh, University of Southern California, University of Texas-Austin, Washington University-St. Louis, Wesleyan University, Willamette University, Yale, Yeshiva.

To date, the following institutions' American Studies programs have withdrawn their ASA membership: Brandeis, Indiana University, Kenyon College, Penn State-Harrisburg. Others have publicly denied being ASA members, even though ASA lists them as such: Brown, Hamilton College, Northwestern, Temple, Trinity College, Tufts, University of Alabama, University of Southern California, Willamette University.

The ASA resolution has also brought unprecedented levels of overwhelmingly negative media coverage across the political spectrum. A Washington Post editorial characterized it as "utterly narrow-minded." Criticism has come from far left journals like The Nation, left-center publications like The New Republic, and numerous others from the center and right. In a Charlie Rose interview, former Harvard president and Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers reiterated his position that BDS is "anti-Semitic in practice if not in intent."

In a letter to ASA President Curtis Marez, Representative Eliot Engel, Senior Democratic member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee wrote, "I fail to see how cutting off ties to Israel's universities furthers the interest of peace or peaceful coexistence."

The ASA leadership is apparently surprised by all the negative reactions. When questioned, ASA president Curtis Marez acknowledged that Israel is not the world's leading human rights abuser but, he stated, "One has to start somewhere." In view of what's happening in the world today, it's hard to know how to respond to this chilling statement. But hey! Here's a thought: How about starting by banning BDS from the *Gazette*?

Ruth Bolletino

DISTORTING THE FACTS, AGAIN

TO THE EDITORS:

As the Coop enters its sixth (!) year of Israel-bashing—in clear violation of the spirit of its mission of respect for diversity and inclusiveness—we have another grossly misrepresented fact to bolster the BDS crusade against Israel (Buchwald, 12/26/13), distorting and oversimplifying highly complicated human rights issues. Reference is made in that letter to "the urgency of finding a solution for millions of Palestinian refugees displaced by Israel, before and during its establishment in 1948," a solution for which the author seems to believe falls in some measure within the Coop's business and power.

Based on census records, in 1945 there were 756,000 permanent Arab residents in Israel. On November 30, 1947, the date of the UN vote for partition, the total was 809,100. A 1949 census counted 160,000 Arabs living in the country after the war. Therefore, no more than 650,000 Palestinian Arabs could have become refugees (the sources below provide details of how they came to be refugees). A report by the UN Mediator on Palestine arrived at an

even lower figure, 472,000, certainly nothing like the *millions* Buchwald conjures, a number that more accurately represents what remains of the original refugees *plus* several generations of descendants, whose refugee status is non-heritable under International Law as they never resided in Israel—just as neither my parents nor I have ever been refugees of the Eastern European countries from which all of my grandparents were driven to flee in the early part of the 20th century.

And let us not forget that at the same time, roughly the same number of Jews were expelled or escaped from Arab countries. Of the 820,000 Jewish refugees, 586,000 were resettled in Israel at great expense, without any offer of compensation from the Arab governments who had confiscated their possessions.

The contrast between the reception of Jewish refugees in Israel with the reception of Palestinian refugees in Arab countries is even more stark when one considers the difference in cultural and geographic dislocation experienced by the two groups. Most Jewish refugees traveled hundreds—and some traveled thousands—of miles to a tiny country whose inhabitants spoke a different language. Most Arab refugees remained inside the vast Arab world that they were part of linguistically, culturally and ethnically.

Perhaps the solution, then, is for these millions of stateless Arabs to be given citizenship in either the Arab countries where they have resided for many decades—Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan—or for them to be repatriated to the Palestinian territories in anticipation of a two-state solution.

Source: jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/refugees.html

For a more authoritative, peer-reviewed and comprehensive analysis of the problem, see Bartal, S., "The Palestinian Refugee Problem Resolved," Middle East Quarterly. Fall 2013, pp. 29–40. At: www.meforum.org/3643/palestinian-refugee-problem.

Sylvia Lowenthal

THANK YOU!

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

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SEEKING SPANISH TUTOR for afternoon conversation class consisting of two women, intermediate level, in Park Slope. Call Rose 718-789-9251.

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The Agenda Committee is urgently seeking new members! Join the Committee and help set the monthly General Meeting agenda.

Requirements:

- ◆ Attend monthly Committee meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 8:00 p.m.
- ◆ Attend at least five General Meetings per year
- ◆ Have a cooperative spirit and willingness to work in a collaborative committee environment
- ◆ Be interested in the ongoing business of the Coop
- ◆ Have a good attendance record

If interested, contact Ann Herpel at 718-622-0560 or ann_herpel@psfc.coop.
The Committee will interview applicants before submitting candidates to the GM for election.
We are seeking an applicant pool that reflects the diversity of the Coop's membership.

EXCITING WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITIES 🕸

Office Set-up

Monday and Wednesday, 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 in the Membership Office for more information.

Store Equipment Cleaning

Monday and Wednesday, 6 to 8 a.m.

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

GM Audio Person

12 times per year, 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Live audio engineer needed for set-up of equipment, running sound during the General Meeting, and possible miscellaneous tasks. Reliable team player with excellent attendance, who is willing to take direction. If interested, please contact Adriana Becerra by phone in the Membership Office between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Monday through Thursday.

GM Set-Up/Mike Runner 12 times per year, 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Miscellaneous worker needed for various tasks working with General Meeting set-up workers and sound person. Reliable team player with excellent attendance, who is willing to take direction. If interested, please contact Adriana Becerra by phone in the Membership Office between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Monday through Thursday.

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