Meeting Whole Foods Halfway

Whole Foods’ new Brooklyn location on the Gowanus Canal.

Everybody’s talkin’ bout the new kid in town…
—The Eagles, 1976

By Thomas Matthews

IN 1976, when The Eagles had a #1 hit with their song “New Kid in Town,” the Park Slope Food Coop was three years old and an oasis of good food in Brooklyn. But last December, when Whole Foods Market opened their first store in Brooklyn, everybody’s talkin’ bout the new kid in town.

Whole Foods began scouting locations in Brooklyn. They settled on the banks of the Gowanus Canal, at Third Avenue and Third Street, but negotiations for permits and environmental cleanup took six years, and construction on the store only began in 2012. The store finally opened on Dec. 17, 2013.

The Brooklyn store drew wide media attention, with stories in The New York Times (“The Most Important Whole Foods Opening of Our Time” ran the headline), The New Yorker and The New York Observer, along with special-interest publications such as Earth Tending and Maltby Fool. Borough President Marty Markowitz cut the ribbon at the grand opening, and the store seems to have been packed ever since.

And, it can’t be denied, for good reason. The store is beautiful, with a thoughtful layout that makes shopping intuitive. It offers thousands of products, many of them identical or similar to those sold in the Coop. The fresh meat, fish and cheese stations are especially alluring, with their butchers, fishmongers and cheese cutters on hand to help. Samples are offered in almost every aisle: smoked salmon, ice cream, frothy whey drinks.

Vote on Proposal to Reduce Plastic Roll Bag Use at February 25 General Meeting.

See page 11 for Agenda & Location.

Organic Love

Tying the Knot at the Coop

By Suzan Sherman

More often than not, people join the Park Slope Food Coop for its reasonably priced organic food, though an aspect to membership not often discussed is the romances that have sprouted as a result. A shared passion, say, for gluten-free, discovered in an off-hand conversation on one’s shift, or waiting in a circuitous line around the Coop’s periphery, have for some budded and bloomed into lasting love. Just in time for Valentine’s Day, the ‘Linewaiters’ Gazette speaks to a handful of married members who met their mates at the Coop.

Next General Meeting on February 25

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The February General Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 25, at 7:00 p.m. at Bishop Ford Central Catholic High School, 500 19th St., between 10th Ave. and Prospect Park West.

The agenda is in this Gazette, on the Coop website at www.foodcoop.com and available as a flier in the entryway of Catholic High School, 500 19th St., between 10th Ave. and Prospect Park West.
Whole Foods
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

More than 200 items are sourced from Brooklyn purveyors. Dinosaur Pasta, Allegrino Coffee Roasters, frozen pizza from Roberta's. And many more are touted as "local" in shelf-talkers, with the names of the farms, bakeries and breweries where they originated, according to Whole Foods Market spokesman Michael Sinatra. "Local items come to us from throughout New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania."

Beyond the goods offered, the store itself embodies what might be called Brooklyn values.

Solar panels top a 20,000-square-foot rooftop greenhouse, which grows organic produce in partnership with Gotham Greens. Wind turbines, gray water-reuse systems, low-demand refrigeration systems and special landscaping reduce energy requirements and waste production. The construction materials include re-purposed wood from the Coney Island boardwalk and old bricks from a demolished New Jersey abortion clinic.

The store employs about 400 "team members," more than two-thirds of them Brooklyn residents. This Whole Foods has made significant efforts to engage both its environment and its community. Plus, there's a restaurant with a view over the Gowanus Canal. What's not to like?

Shopping at Whole Foods

On a Saturday morning in January, I set off from my home in Windsor Terrace to compare and contrast Whole Foods with the Coop. I made a list of about three dozen items that we purchase regularly at the Coop, and planned to compare availability and prices at both stores.

I approached the task with trepidation; I dislike shopping, and mostly my wife, Sara, takes on that burden. Though I have been a PSFC member since the mid-1990s, I rarely set foot in the store more than once or twice a year.

This trip began inauspiciously. Whole Foods' 240 parking spaces were all full when I pulled into the lot. I spent 10 minutes jockeying for a spot, quite rudely dueling with competitors. Finally, a family with a very full shopping cart loaded up their SUV and pulled away. The store too was crowded: The shoppers looked like Brooklyn—multicultural, parents with small children, younger hipsters, a smattering of older folks. People were distracted, engaged with their kids, steering their strollers, dazed by the abundance. Navigating the aisles, wide as they were, was perilous. But helpful "team members" continually offered assistance and advice. None of them gave my notebook a second glance.

The PA sounded: "I need one team member to the front for bagging assistance, please. One team member to the front." I went to the front and counted 18 people in line for the registers. It was a bit like all the healthy and organic products. That's what I like to serve my daughter." "What about the prices?" "I'm trying to be sensible. It seems as though if you buy their store brand, 365, it's okay. But the other stuff." She shook her head. "It's Whole Foods."

"Have you ever considered joining the Park Slope Food Coop?" "Oh yes! I would like to. We looked into it. But I live in Cobble Hill, and I need parking. Also, my husband is a musician and he travels a lot. So covering his work shift would be a problem. Plus, all those rules and regulations!" She smiled and shrugged.

Shopping at the Coop

Leaving Whole Foods, I thought about the parking lot, and the car culture it fostered, and the mix of convenience and social isolation that entailed. I was feeling good about the Coop. Then I circled Union St. for 10 minutes without finding a parking space, and finally pulled into the garage next to the Coop. Parking for less than two hours cost me $16. (It would have cost me $4 if I had known about the discount sticker we can get at the Coop.)

Once inside, the melees was much like Whole Foods, with, perhaps, more children, and less expensive strollers. A worker was picking up lemons that had spilled onto the floor. The PA came on. "Could we please have some receiving workers to the basement? There's a U-boat of frozen food that needs to be moved to the freezer. I know you're eager to shop, but the shift doesn't end for another 15 minutes. Please?"

I found almost all of the items on my list in about half an hour, a slightly greater hit rate and with slightly less time spent than at Whole Foods. The accompanying chart compares only items that were identical in both stores. In every case, when I compared similar products, the Coop price was lower than Whole Foods, sometimes much lower. Whole Foods was running sales on some of these items, and the Coop had good products, and it's affordable.

Whole Foods: Threat or Menace?

Not everyone in the community welcomed Whole Foods with open arms. Some are adamantly opposed to the economics and ethos of "big-box" stores. Some felt the market was contributing to the gentrification and the suburbanization of the borough. Others worried about its impact on competing local shops—including the Coop.

Shortly after Whole Foods
opened, a Brooklyn-based blog called Gowanus Your Face Off fretted about the market’s potential effects on small local food businesses, from specialty shops to restaurants.

“I probably will work Whole Foods into my shopping, but it will never replace the Coop,” Kirstin said. “It’s easy to shop here. I know some trustworthy person has selected these products according to values I share. The Coop is important to the neighborhood and for lots of reasons, beyond the products and even beyond the prices. I don’t think Whole Foods will make this place go away.”

**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.

Duties of the Directors

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

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 is one opening on the Board. This 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 Literature Gazette. If you are the member proxy mailing Deadline for candidacy submission is Saturday, March 1, 2014.

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 pack 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.

**Comparison Shopping: The Coop vs. Whole Foods**

**Hours/week open for shopping:**
- PSFC: 99.5 hrs
- WF: 105 hrs

**Square ft/shopping:**
- PSFC: 6,000 sq. ft
- WF: 56,000 sq. ft

**Cash registers:**
- PSFC: 13 checkout lanes
- WF: 32
- 4 cashier stations

**Parking spaces:**
- PSFC: 0
- WF: 240

**Pricing comparison:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PSFC</th>
<th>WF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Page Creek Yogurt 500g</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>3.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silk chocolate soy milk 32 oz</td>
<td>2.05</td>
<td>2.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spectrum canola oil spray 6 oz</td>
<td>4.62</td>
<td>6.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bragg apple cider vinegar 16 oz</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td>4.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eden organic kidney beans 15 oz</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwards brown rice snacks 3.5 oz</td>
<td>2.05</td>
<td>3.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yogi lemon ginger tea 16 bags</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>4.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecover fabric softener 32 oz</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>5.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Generation tall kitchen 30</td>
<td>4.83</td>
<td>6.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofurky sausage 14 oz</td>
<td>3.40</td>
<td>4.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broccoli organic 1 lb</td>
<td>2.39</td>
<td>3.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clementines 5 lb box</td>
<td>6.53</td>
<td>6.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red onions 1 lb</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>1.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bananas organic 1 lb</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Now, it stands to reason that not everyone is going to flock to Whole Foods and completely abandon their neighborhood businesses,” wrote B. Umanov. “The specialty stores will still probably do well with the older set, and anyone who lives west of Court Street. But even if Whole Foods cuts into just a portion of these establishments’ bottom lines that could be the difference between life and death.”

Joe Holtz, a General Coordinator and one of the Coop’s founders, Way back in 1973, offered a mix of optimism and caution:

“I am a strong believer in not being over-confident,” Joe wrote in an e-mail. “With hard work and improvement the Coop will be fine, but there is never a reason to rest. I have never considered co-existing with Whole Foods, Trader Joe’s, etc., just existing.

“The Coop’s competition takes place inside each member’s head. If enough members feel that the Coop makes practical sense in their lives [and] feel good enough about the Coop to recommend it to their friends, then the competition inside the heads of each member is generally won and the members stay members. We don’t have competition from other stores, we have the challenge of being good enough for our members.”

Kristen, waiting on the Coop checkout line, took a nuanced position on Whole Foods that seemed to support Joe’s analysis.

“I did go there one time,” she confessed. “It was very seductive. I bought a few things. I felt guilty when I left.”

Kristen and her family were Coop members 13 years ago, until work took them to the West Coast, where they unsuccessfully tried to replicate the PSFC model. They were happy to move back to Brooklyn a year ago and re-join.

“[I]t’s early to shop here. I know some trustworthy person has selected these products according to values I share. The Coop is important to the neighborhood and for lots of reasons, beyond the products and even beyond the prices. I don’t think Whole Foods will make this place go away.”

**Crossword Puzzle**

Across
2. Eco-friendly
3. Inventor of a coil that bears his name
4. Chill
5. Poker pot starter
6. Whoppe-der
7. Cleopatra’s killer
8. Train crew
9. Civil rights activist Evers
10. Construction worker
11. Spanish bear
12. Facetious “Who, me?”
13. “The Lord of the Rings” tree creature
14. Mai (drinks)
15. Lunch bars
16. Part of DPA, Abbr.
17. “Here’s what happened next…”
18. Tent alternative
19. Greater than
20. Doctor’s orders
22. It’s shown “In Catch Me If You Can”
23. It’s shown “In Catch Me If You Can”
24. “$350 tallissimplon
25. Abbr. in food engineering
26. Greek salad ingredient
27. Sweeter than, with “onset”
28. Peau topinambur
29. 1960 Olympics Series hero, familiarly
30. Heckin
31. White House policy honchos
32. Sound asleep
33. Musician Ostert
34. Cookies that flavor some ice cream
35. Championship
36. Design dog
37. Batteries for remotes, perhaps
38. Phil and Oz, or two
39. Beaver’s work
40. Regret

Down
1. Neighbors of Grout
2. Eco-friendly
3. Inventor of a coil that bears his name
4. Chill
5. Poker pot starter
6. Whoppe-der
7. Cleopatra’s killer
8. Train crew
9. Civil rights activist Evers
10. Construction worker
11. Spanish bear
12. Facetious “Who, me?”
13. “The Lord of the Rings” tree creature
14. Mai (drinks)
15. Lunch bars
16. Part of DPA, Abbr.
17. “Here’s what happened next…”
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39. Beaver’s work
40. Regret

**Puzzle author: David Levinson Wilk. For answers, see page 6.**
**Forever Cheese**

By Brian Donz

Some $10,000 worth of cheese. That’s how much the Park Slope Food Coop buys each week from Forever Cheese, a Long Island City-based importer with longstanding and personal ties to the Coop.

Yuri Weber, the PSFC’s cheese buyer, says the large majority of the Italian, Spanish and Portuguese cheese sold at the Coop is from the company, which also imports artisanal foods from Croatia.

The Coop buys two or three 80-pound wheels of its Parmigiano-Reggiano every week and has been purchasing their cheeses ever since.

The Coop has been purchasing their cheeses since 2006.

Weber, who has been purchasing cheese for the Coop since 2006.

Weber says that the Coop’s relationship with Forever Cheese goes back to 2001, according to Marty Stiglich, the Coop’s cheese purchaser at the time.

Back then, he says, there was a Coop member named Brad Dubé, who was a sales representative for Forever Cheese and approached him to talk about buying cheese.

**Personal Connections**

The relationship between the PSFC and Forever Cheese is unique and mutually beneficial. Forever Cheese receives large quantities of cheese each week and

has to make room by clearing out cheese already in their warehouse. While the company sells its newer shipments to its big distributors, which take more time to get the cheese to the consumer, the Coop can buy the older product and get it to the consumer faster. In the process, “We get to sell some really great artisanal cheese that normally we wouldn’t,” Weber says. “And we buy it at a great price — that’s the best part; we can cut some deals.”

The company itself was born of a passion for cheese.

Michele Busted is a communications director in the world of professional tennis.

When she decided to pick up a tennis racket, she found the Manchego cheese.

Airports and hotels.

She landed a job in Spain during the 1992 Olympics.

And had the chance to sample many of Spain’s unique artisanal cheeses. Later, while working in Rome for World Cup Golf, she met Pierluigi Sini, whose family had a company that made cheese.

One of their cheeses was a sheep’s milk cheese made in the countryside right outside of Rome. As Michele and Pierluigi’s romance blossomed, Michele sampled the cheese his family produced and was introduced to cheese making and selling.

They talked about going into business together and importing the cheeses to the U.S.

Michele made a deal with Pierluigi’s family: “You teach me cheese and I’ll put it where it needs to go.” She was determined to find the right way to market their products in America.

Michele also thought Spain’s cheeses had great potential. So they agreed to allow Michele to import Spanish Manchego as well as part of the venture.

In 1998, Michele and Pierluigi created Forever Cheese.

Michele travels throughout Spain, Italy and Portugal to select cheeses to import.

When asked how she chooses a cheese, she replies, “I have to be passionate about them.” She goes to trade fairs and has many friendships with people in the cheese world in Spain, Italy and Portugal.

Michele’s fluency in Spanish and Italian is essential.

“Whats foods are typical of a country is the window into its culture,” Michele explains.

Each cheese is emblematic of the people who make it, the land and the animal.”

For her, importing cheese is not just about buying fermented milk and selling it. For her it’s a way to share her love of artisan cheese and to “bring my love of a country to a lot of people.”

Forever Cheese has their own brand called Mitica to help unify its product line of Mediterranean foods. Many of these items are in the end of the aisle opposite the chicken section in the PSFC.
Organic Love continued from page 1

but there were moments to chat,” Mary explained. The two seemed destined to meet, since after a cursory back and forth they discovered they were next-door neighbors in Clinton Hill and had a shared interest in bike riding. “At the end of our first date, William asked noncommittally, ‘We should go for a bike ride sometime.’”

And they did. A couple of days later, with William uncertain as to whether this was a friendship forming or something else, he pedaled with Mary through the autumn streets of Brooklyn. As their ride neared its end, he asked, “Should I ask you out on a real date?” and Mary replied, “I think you should.”

“We met on Columbus Day weekend, and got married on Columbus Day weekend four years later. We had to miss our shift, but everyone under-stood,” Mary said. To this day, both Mary and William faithfully work their D week shopping shift together.

The two were married at Byrdcliffe Arts Colony in Woodstock, NY, in 2012. “We brought our Coop values to our wed-dings by they have farm-to- table food catered by Heather Ridge Farm in Schoharie Coun-ty,” William explained. A friend of theirs—Park Slope born and raised, and a Coop member—officiated at their wedding. There were also a significant number of Coop members who witnessed the big day.

As a result of his experience meeting Mary, who is a grants manager with Doctors Without Borders, William, a freelance film and TV producer, sees the Coop as an untapped roman-tic resource. “It’s a small commu-nity, and that enables people to get to know each other better. I encourage my single friends to get more involved with the Coop, in this day and age when so much dating goes on through online media. If you’re meeting a fel-low Coop member, you assume they have the same values regarding sustainability and care about food.” According to William, the best shifts to meet other people are walk-ing and receiving.

Squad Leader, Matchmaker

Erika Simonian and Steve Curtis were introduced by their Shopping Squad Leader, Christina Ziegler. Erika, who was 36 at the time, explains, “Christina was really Stev’s Squad Leader, and my friend, as well as a quasi-matchmaker who was excited to see us become friends. I switched shifts to sit next to Steve once a month at the front desk, and the rest is history. We’ve been married for the past five years and are expecting our second child in May.”

Steve, a musician and pro-ject manager, was 36 when he met Erika, who is a home-opath in private practice, as well as a musician. After their first shift together, he went on tour with his band, Hem, for live weeks. His first morning back in Brooklyn, he had his shift at 8:00 a.m., and was admittedly happy to see Erika again. Every month after that they sat next to each other, checking people’s cards, and got to talking and laughing. They kept saying how they needed to get together for a lunch sometime. “It was a monthly ritual that we would look forward to,” explained, “being side by side. It was how we learned who the other person was.”

Eventually, the two went out for drinks, and then began to date. Both have a particular affinity for acoustic guitar and vocal harmonies, and ended up forming a contemporary folk duo called Little Silver. “Stolen Souvenir” was their debut EP, and they are now recording a new LP. The two have performed at such well-known local venues as Fred- dy’s and the Living Room.

Christina Ziegler, the Squad Leader who brought them together, was at Steve and Erika’s wedding, as were many other Coop members. Besides their deep and lasting love for each other, both have strong, com-mitted feelings toward the Coop. “We love the Coop, our friends make fun of us because we’re a very Coop-y couple, and totally buy into the cooperative spirit of the place,” says Erika. “Plus, you simply can- not get this quality of food for the price any-where else.”

Falling in Love with a Non-Member!

Park Slope residents Katia Righetti and Bob Goldberg have been married for 25 years, and are expecting their second child—Park Slope born and raised, and a Coop member—this June. “I was always interested in the ongoing business of the Coop,” Bob said. “I had a Band Nite

The Fun Committee is looking for bands (various genres including rock, folk, rock, funk, indie, etc.) to perform at a free event on April 26, 8-11 p.m. at Rock Shop (249 Fourth Ave., Brooklyn, bet. Carroll & President)

At least one member of your band must be a Coop member.

Please contact Sarah Safford at saff01953@gmail.com or drop off demo CD with Jason Weiner at the Coop.

Deadline for submission is March 16.
Reasons to Oppose Environmental Committee’s Proposed Charge of 20¢ per Plastic Roll Bag

By Ann Herpel and Jess Robinson for the General Coordinators

The General Coordinators have many areas of concern. The following are three compelling reasons to oppose the mandatory 20¢ charge per roll bag.

1. This proposal markedly departs from the Coop’s principles guiding our pricing policy and flat mark-up of 21%.

The Coop has never created a unique mark-up for an individual product—in this case, plastic roll bags—in order to ‘tax’ members who purchase that product. Charging 20¢ per bag represents a 2500% percent mark-up on a product for which the Coop pays less than one penny. This proposal would set a precedent that products disliked by a group of members should be “taxed” to make the product more expensive, thus discouraging consumption. The next “taxed” product might be something you favor. The packaging of yogurt, sushi, hummus and seaweed snacks all use a much higher percentage of plastic per ounce of food than the vast majority of items purchased in roll bags.

2. Purchasers of minimally packaged products will be most affected by the mandatory charge.

Roll bags allow members to purchase high volumes of minimally packaged, local, organic food. Every week members purchase 161,000 pounds of produce, bulk, and bread. 96% of these items taken home in roll bags come from these three departments. If this proposal passes, members who purchase the Coop’s most minimal packaging products will have to pay a mandatory charge.

Many members who purchase bulk and produce are cost-conscious shoppers. Instituting a 20¢ charge on plastic roll bag adds to the cost of groceries and will erode the savings gained by buying bulk and loose produce. The average member uses 161 roll bags a year (3 a week) which, at 20¢ each, would cost $30 a year. Members purchasing primarily produce and bulk will use more than 3 new bags per week and will spend significantly more than $30 per year on packaging the Coop now makes available as a member service at no direct cost to the individual.

3. The mandatory charge will hurt the Coop’s efforts to be financially accessible and welcoming to people from all walks of life.

Environmental concerns are not the only ones we should prioritize as owners of a cooperative enterprise. Our co-members who receive EBT (or SNAP) benefits cannot pay the mandatory roll bag charge or buy roll bags with their EBT benefit. (EBT rules are determined by the USDA.) A mandatory charge for roll bags will require these members to pay for bags for extremely limited out-of-pocket. Our mission statement is that the Coop “strive to be welcoming and accessible to all and to respect the opinions, needs and concerns of every member” and “seek to maximize participation at every level.” This includes, of course, members with limited financial resources. This proposal creates an obstacle for our most economically stressed members, at a time when EBT benefits have recently been cut by the federal government. Members with religious or health concerns (i.e. allergies) will have to pay for bags that are the food they purchase from the Coop. This proposal will make the Coop more expensive and less welcoming to people whose primary concern is not the reduction of the Coop’s use of roll bags.

Over the years, the GCs have frequently been asked the following questions concerning plastic roll bags. We share our answer and position and contribute to an informed debate at the February 25th General Meeting.

Crossword Answers

Read the Gazette while you’re standing on line OR online at www.foodcoop.com
Hungry For Change is an entertaining and thought-provoking film. It’s about hunger in all its manifestations. Hunger for food, of course, but also more broadly for attractiveness, youthfulness, status, and mating. We see a key partner, and other trappings of the good life. And it’s also about the change—weight loss and gains, emotional highs and lows—that put our bodies through yo-yo diets.

The film’s 12 narrators are a chorus of well-intentioned subject matter experts who themselves have hungered, and continue more than most of us have. Now fit, trim, and healthy, Joe Cross and Kris Carr and Evita Ramparte, who once weighed 400 pounds and is the star of the film May I Be Frank about Transformation, is filmed wearing a shirt that reads, “I love my life!” That Hungry For Change borders at times on the spiritual is not a bad thing. We all know how hard change can be and we can use the help and motivation.

Though these health gurus are opposed to fat diets because they don’t work (rather one must “live it” by regularly making smart food choices), the hosts advocate something akin to the Paleo diet or eating like a caveman or cavewoman. Organic vegetables, fruits, nuts, seeds, healthful fats and oils like flax seed and avocado, and local, sustainable, grass-fed meats, wild fish/seafood, free-range eggs, are fine. Refined and processed foods, by contrast, are not. For example, the cocoa leaf makes a mildly relaxing tea that is good for you but when isolated and concentrated into cocaine is harmful. Analogously, other purified and “pharmaceutical” products such as white flour, rice, and sugar are also to be avoided. The discourses of these isolates, which lack the nutrient complexity and bioavailability of real, wholesome foods found in their natural state, draws parallels to Michael Pollan’s observations of the dangers of monocultures.

White foods are not the only target. In fact, the film argues that most items in the supermarket these days are adorned, enhanced, and given a near-infinite shelf life. They’re made to look like food but are, in fact, “food like” products. One breakfast cereal, blueberry Pomegranate Total, has neither blueberries nor pomegranate in it, but fruit flavorings derived from propylene glycol (also used in antifreezes, coolants, and aircraft deicing fluids), plenty of sugar, and food coloring.

Hungry For Change is at its best when it focuses on hard nutritional facts and advice but does not shy from delving into a bit into self-help, pop psychology. An actor looks at a bathroom mirror and makes the following affirmation, à la Stuart Smalley, “I accept myself unconditionally.” Other aphorisms that Dr. Phil would love crop up, including, “It’s not just what you are eating, it’s what’s eating you” and “It’s what you eat, drink, and think.” In addition to a section on juicing and one on detoxifying/cleansing, there’s an Oprah-like segment on love. Frank Ferrante, who once weighed 400 pounds and is the star of the film May I Be Frank about Transformation, is filmed wearing a shirt that reads, “I love my life!” That Hungry For Change borders at times on the spiritual is not a bad thing. We all know how hard change can be and we can use the help and motivation.

This film gives you hope that if you hunger for it enough, change is not just possible, but inevitable.
**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

All submissions must include author’s name and phone number and be camera-ready and business card size (2”x3.5”).

Fled ads may be up to 315 characters and spaces. Display ads must be typewritten or very legibly handwritten and formatted in Times New Roman, size 12, single spaced. All ads are subject to 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.

SUBMISSION POLICY:

The Gazette will not knowingly publish articles that are racist, sexist or otherwise discriminatory.

**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 letter’s 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.

**Digital Submissions:**

We welcome digital submissions. The e-mail address for submissions is GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop. Performers are Park Slope Food Coop members and receive Coop workslot credit.

**This Issue Prepared By:**

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Index: Len Neufeld

Proofreader: Nancy Rosenberg

Ads: Eric Bishop

**Puzzle Master:**

David Levinson Wilk

**Index:**

Len Neufeld

**Proofreader:**

Nancy Rosenberg

**Advertisements:**

Eric Bishop


Visit www.foodcoop.com for original songs, both of which are available on iTunes.


Return Policy:

The Coop strives to keep prices low for our membership. Mini-

mizing 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.

**CAN I RETURN MY ITEM?**

Yes, we do not “exchange” items. You must return the merchandise and re-purchase what you need.

**RETURNABLE ONLY IF SHIPPED BEFORE EXPIRATION DATE**

Package/label must be present for return.

**NEVER RETURNABLE**

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

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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.
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.

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 “How to get 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.

Attend a GM and Receive Work Credit

Since the Coop’s inception in 1973, the General Meeting has been our decision-making body. At the General Meeting (GM) members gather to make decisions and set Coop policy. The General-Meeting-for-Friday is an optional program that was created to increase participation in the Coop’s decision-making process. The agenda is posted at the Coop Community Corner 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, February 25, 7:00 p.m.

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

Location

Bishop Ford Central Catholic High School, 500 19th St., between 10th Ave. and Prospect Park West.

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 co-op.

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 • Co-op Committee Reports

Agenda (8:00 p.m.)

The agenda is posted at the Coop Community Corner and may also appear elsewhere in this issue.

Workload (9:45-10:30) (unless this is a vote to extend the meeting) • Meeting evaluation • Board of Directors vote • Announcements, etc.

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

Park Slope Food Coop Mission Statement

The Park Slope Food Coop is a member-owned and operated food store—an alternative to commercial profit-oriented businesses. As members, we contribute our labor, which helps the Coop build 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 part of and support the cooperative movement. We offer a diversity of products with an emphasis on organic, minimally processed and healthful foods. We seek to avoid products that depend on the exploitation of others. We support non-toxic, sustainable agriculture. We respect the environment. We strive to reduce the impact of our lifestyles on the world we share with other species and future generations. We prefer to buy from local, earth-friendly producers. We recycle. We try to lead by example, educating ourselves and others about health and nutrition, cooperation and the environment. We are committed to diversity and equality. We oppose discrimination in any form. We strive to make the Coop welcoming and accessible to all and to respect the opinions, needs and concerns of every member.

Find out what we’re up to at our Coop Calendar and Gazette.

Letters & Editorial Assistant

Evelyn Ellis

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.

Meet the Coordinators

Debbie Cho

Lisa Chow

Ashley Cunningham

Michael Cosmo

Lisa Darling

Erika Driskel

Anna Donahue

Adham Duffoul

Jonathan Durham

Gina Eichenbaum-Pikser

Manesekh Exdellman

Evelyn Ellis

Theresa Elwell

Emil M Fitzgerald

Elise Plowzlaw

Brooke Freeman

Leslie Howell

Kath Harley

Lorna Hudson

Jacob Israelow

Daniel Garwood

Kyle Goldhart

Christopher Glover

Suzanne Glickstein

Cindy Goen

Gregory Gomes

Erica Goodman

Joshua Gottsmann

Ethel Gerald

Andrew Green

Hilary Harper

Elisa Haggen

Anthony Hartman

Jonathan Harris

Nathan Hersch

Thomas Howard

Joelwinn Howell

Kathleen Long

Elizabeth Marlowe

Suzanne Matarasso

Anneli Mccullough

Zachary McDermott

Rebecca Medina

WELCOME!

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 each 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.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOTARY ARTICLES:
Feb 20 issue: 12:00 p.m. Mon, Feb 10
Mar 6 issue: 12:00 p.m. Mon, Feb 24

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:
Feb 20 issue: 7:00 p.m. Wed, Feb 12
Mar 6 issue: 7:00 p.m. Wed, Feb 26
February 6, 2014  Park Slope Food Coop, Brooklyn, NY

**Food Class: Jacques Gautier**

Chef Jacques Gautier will demonstrate the culinary versatility of fresh masa (dough made from dried corn.) He will demonstrate recipes and provide tastings, preparing his fillings prior to the classes. Before Gautier opened his Park Slope restaurants Polo Santo (Latin-inspired) and For Reno (good quality and delicious barbecue), he worked in New York and Azie in San Francisco. He spent most of 2004 traveling and working as a winemaker’s assistant in Argentina. At age 20, he was invited to cook at the James Beard House and remains the youngest to have received this honor. Gautier is a graduate of the Natural Gourmet Institute and is presently a member of its Advisory Board. Menu includes: tortillas; tacos; tostados; quesadillas; sopes; huraches; pupusas.

**See What the PAFCU Offers**

Representatives from People’s Alliance Federal Credit Union will be at the Park Slope Food Coop in the Meeting Room to sign up members for credit union membership. Learn about: $5 minimum savings balance; loans starting at 2.99%; holiday club account; debit/Visa cards; mobile/text message banking; no-fee checking; Internet banking; kids’ accounts; vacation club accounts. Any new member to open an account, any existing member to add a PAFCU product, or any member to refer a new member to the credit union will be entered to win a Drive Away Vacation Package. Stop by for a chance to win a surprise gift. Representatives from the PAFCU will also meet at the Coop on February 8, February 28 and March 1.

**Film Night: Occupy Bakery and Chocolate Country**

Two films by Rachel Lears and Robin Blotnick. Occupy Bakery is about shy sandwich-maker Mahoma Lopez and his undocumented immigrant coworkers who set out to end abusive conditions at a New York restaurant chain owned by powerful investors. The epic power struggle that ensues turns a single city block into a battlefield in America’s new wage wars. This 6-minute short was recently featured in The New York Times Op-Docs section and is adapted from the feature documentary in progress The Hand That Feeds, to be broadcast on PBS in 2015. Chocolate Country takes place in the isolated hill towns of the Dominican Republic, where cacao farmers have been fighting a losing battle with the global economy for as long as anyone can remember. In the village of Loma Guacome, things are about to change. Rachel Lears has worked as a filmmaker and writer for more than seven years and holds a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from New York University. A product of backwoods Maine, Robin Blotnick has worked in motion-picture development and as a freelance editor of everything from cage-fighting matches to celebrity home movies. To book a Film Night, contact Faye Lederman, squeezestone@hotmail.com.

**Nutrition Response Testing**

If my test results are all normal, then why do I feel so bad? Fatigued? Trouble losing weight? Always cold? Sinus problems? Join us for a discussion of common thyroid symptoms and why conventional testing/treatment isn’t always the answer. Nutrition Response Testing is a unique system of analyzing the body for nutritional deficiencies and designing the precise nutritional correction. We can be successful identifying the root cause of your symptoms when others have failed. Come find out how! Diane Paxton, MS, LAc, is the owner and principal of Inner Fire Integrative Health Services, with offices in Manhattan and Park Slope. She is also a long-time Coop member.

**Cheese Class**

We invite Coop members to learn more about the wonderful cheeses the Coop has to offer. This event will be limited to 30 people on a first-come, first-seated basis. Our guest speaker will be Diane Stemple, Ph.D., who is based in Brooklyn as a part-time rep for The Cellars at Jasper Hill. She also hosts a monthly book-review segment on the Heritage Radio Network show called “Cutting the Curb.” During more than 12 years in the cheese world, Diane trained at both Artisanal Fromagerie and Bistro and Murray’s Cheese Shop in Greenwich Village. Dr. Stemple is also a clinical psychologist with a private practice in Port Washington and Williamsburg. This workshop is brought to you by Coop member Aaron Kirz, who has worked in the cheese industry since 2003, and sells cheese to the Coop via Forever Cheese.

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

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

Read the Gazette while you’re standing on line OR online at www.foodcoop.com
The New Students, Axel's Axiom

The New Students are a Brooklyn-based band with one foot in the 21st century and the other firmly planted in traditional American folk music. In New York City, Long Island, and faraway towns on the East Coast, the New Students, with their uplifting harmonies and thoughtful lyrics, are a delight to audiences young and old. The New Students have recorded two albums of original songs, both of which are available on iTunes. Visit them on the web at: www.thenewstudents.com. Axel’s Axiom is a group of Brooklyn-based jazz musicians with varying members. Led by pianist Axel Schwinzer, the band plays mostly original instrumental music that stylistically ranges from samba-influenced grooves to funk- and pop-oriented tunes to swinging jazz melodies and ballads. Traditional jazz standards are also part of the repertoire. The styles cross over into one another to create a blend that stays interesting for the casual as well as the experienced listener. Concert takes place at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West, Sat, 10 am–12:30 pm.

PSFC FEB 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: Bishop Ford Central Catholic High School, 500 19th St., between 10th Ave. and Prospect Park West.

I. Member Arrival and Meeting Warm-Up
II. Open Forum
III. Coordinator and Committee Reports
IV. Meeting Agenda
Proposal: Reduce Plastic Roll Bag Use (90 minutes)
(The original “Plastic Roll Bag Phaseout” proposal has evolved based on feedback and suggestions from the membership.) This proposal aims to reduce the Coop’s dependence on plastic roll bags on the shopping floor by:

• Ending the free distribution of plastic roll bags and making them available for purchase at a minimal cost of 20¢ per bag.
• Ensuring the Coop stocks a selection of low-cost, lightweight, reusable roll bag alternatives.
• Improving floor signage and access to reusable bags.
• Encouraging members to reuse plastic bags already taken from the Coop and elsewhere.
• Providing educational activities and communications to help with member transition.
• Ensuring the Coop implements a method of selling plastic roll bags by April 2014.

The Coop’s free distribution of plastic roll bags, when sustainable options and practices are available, violates our Mission Statement and Environmental Policy. The goal of this proposal is to encourage bag reuse, help reduce plastic waste, and raise awareness about this environmentally damaging material. —The Environmental Committee

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

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

See What the PAFCU Offers

Representatives from People’s Alliance Federal Credit Union will be at the Park Slope Food Coop in the Meeting Room to sign up members for credit union membership. Learn about: $5 minimum savings balance; loans starting at 2.99%; holiday club account; debit/Visa cards; mobile/text message banking; no-fee checking; Internet banking; kids’ accounts; vacation club accounts. Any new member to open an account, any existing member to add a PAFCU product, or any member to refer a new member to the credit union will be entered to win a Drive Away Vacation Package. Stop by for a chance to win a surprise gift.

BRINGING ADVANCED TECHNIQUE TO CHRONIC PAIN

Pain tends to have a shrinking effect: we tighten our muscles around the discomfort and stiffen our bodies to either numb or protect against further injury. In this workshop, you will be introduced to a set of skills to respond differently to pain, so that it can become a wake-up call to expand and grow rather than retreat and shrink. The Alexander Technique is a century-old method for improving one’s mind-body coordination, balance, and well-being. Coop member Dan Cayer is a nationally certified Alexander Technique teacher working in the field of pain, injury, and stress. After a serious injury left him unable to work, or even carry out household tasks like cleaning dishes, he began studying the Alexander Technique. His return to health, as well as his experience with the physical, mental, and emotional aspects of pain, inspired him to help others.

Still to Come

| Mar 4 | Agenda Committee Meeting |
| Mar 6 | Food Class: Cooking Made Easy |
| Mar 7 | Film Night |
| Mar 8 | Normal Language Development in Children |
| Mar 8 | Choices in Childbirth |
| Mar 8 | Coop Kids’ Variety Show |
| Mar 11 | Safe Food Committee Film Night |
| Mar 12 | Fund for New Coops |
MORE THOUGHTS ON COOP THEFT

MEMBERS:

PSFC will always experience thefts, as in any other business. But if some kind of screening process were adopted, who would do the interviews? What kind of qualifications would they have? Who sets guidelines for member acceptability? Would screeners get a salary? Would a written "test" be given? At what cost? Would it even be reasonable? How do you guarantee against bias?

Would political affiliations or charitable contributions be taken into consideration? Church attendance? Age? Would a person be asked to reveal all his financial information as is done with housing coops? How would you provide access to medical records to "prove" you haven't been treated for kleptomania? What kind of crimes would disqualify you from membership?

Applicants for jobs and housing have a pretty good idea what kind of answers any interviewer wants, and are more than happy to give the "correct" answers and provide only good references, which may be nothing more than "you scratch mine and I'll scratch yours" favors in kind.

Choosing a roommate is a much easier task (though like marriage, even that can go sour quickly). People with radically different lifestyles will recognize the difficulties of having to accommodate someone else whose style of living is very different from their own. Presently, the only thing that might make a potential Coop applicant decide not to join the Coop is probably the time involved in doing work shifts. Perhaps resentment over this requirement might cause some to justify theft? So, should anyone caught parking their carts on a checkout line and then going to fetch more groceries be assumed to be a potential thief because he/she apparently hasn't sense of entitlement?

Since "information is power," it might be useful to first determine through inventory controls what type of items are disappearing. But short of adopting an expensive, unreliable, invasive qualifying process or exit searches that resemble airport security measures, perhaps all we can do is appeal to those who have at least some conscience. And that starts with regular, prominent reports to the membership on PSFC theft losses. At least this should shed some light on thefts committed by those who have been telling themselves that slipping a $2 candy bar into their pocket when on line or helping themselves to a bagel when on their shift "won't make any difference."

Jane Williams

REDUCE PLASTIC ROLL BAG USE

TO THE COOP:

We have reused these plastic bags many times. They are strong and seldom get broken. I have nine of the smaller plastic bags and six of the larger plastic bags. When I use them I rinse them out; if there is some oily residue, I put them in with detergent for washing dishes and hang them over the sink. In an hour or two the outside of the bag is dry and I turn it inside out to dry the other side. I fold them and put a clothespin to keep them orderly and ready for the next trip to the Coop. These are very strong bags and I wouldn't be surprised if the ones I have now were gotten more than a year earlier.

I started to be a member in 1987.

Helene Ratliffs

SENIORS' COST OF LIVING

DEAR MEMBERS:

Seniors: let us get organized and demand that the city, state and country consider our financial status, when they raise real-estate taxes, utility rates or just simple MTA fares.

I am asking you to please join me in asking all elected officials to put caps on our theft. Last this shoplifting in the above mentioned, in the past six months. My real-estate tax went up $120 per month. Did my pension or social security go up that much? NO. When the fare is raised even a little that means it will cost us 25 cents more per ride. I know that sounds small but when added to everything else that goes up 50 cents can make a small dent in your holiday budget. When utilities go up 5, 10 or 15% will our incomes increase to meet these costs? I don't think so.

We should not have to sacrifice food, clothing or simple pleasures to meet the rising cost of real-estate tax, utility bills or public transportation.

We have all worked very hard, contributed to our society. We all looked forward to the day we retired and could enjoy the fruits of our labor (right now I feel that my fruit is sour cherries or just plain rotten and in our old age we have to look for a job just to keep our property warm and have lights."

Those of us who rent should also have a cap that landlords can't keep on raising rents. When everything around us keeps going up, at least our rent should be stable.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining my fight for seniors for realistic living conditions. We truly deserve better and more respect than we are getting. Let us show everyone we are still a force.

Sharone Eagle

CURBING THEFT

MEMBERS:

Thinking about ways to curb theft, I have a suggestion to make as a checkout worker. More often than not, I notice that checkout workers enter the number of bags OR boxes a person uses to pack their groceries, leaving the others unknown. This creates an opportunity for a thief to fill up another bag OR box (or two), ink in the corresponding number, and waltz by the exit workers. Squad leaders should be instructed to remind checkout people to enter a zero when a person is not carrying either bags or boxes. Make sense?

Janine Nichols

CONTROL THEFT

MEMBERS:

When the chances of getting caught are low, deter the crime the penalty has to be more severe. From reading the past two articles on coop theft, it appears that the penalty for stealing from the Coop is most often a forced resignation. This is not a severe penalty. Especially for someone that joined the Coop for the purpose of stealing from what they considered an easy target. Most stores have the person arrested on the first offense, no matter how small it is. Some convenience stores have put up a wall of shame with pictures of the people caught shoplifting. Some stores do both.

As long as the penalty for shoplifting from the Coop is minimal, the problem isn't going to go away. Potential shoplifters need to know that they are going to get an arrest record for the smallest theft. And then the Coop has to carry through with it.

Dave Wiss

ATHEISM UNDER ATTACK, PHYSICALLY

MEMBERS:

In countries around the world, all of them Muslim, people who openly espouse atheism or reject the official state religion of Islam face execution under the law, according to a detailed study newly issued.

Even some of the West's apparently most democratic governments at best discriminate against citizens who have no belief in god and at worst can jail them for offenses dubbed blasphemy.

The study, The Freethought Report 2013, was issued by the International Humanistist and Ethical Union (IHEU), a global body uniting atheists, agnostics and other religious skeptics, to mark United Nations' Human Rights Day on Tuesday.

"This report shows that the overwhelming majority of countries fail to respect the rights of atheists and free thinkers although they have signed U.N. agreements to treat all citizens equally," said IHEU President Sonja Eggerickx.

The study covered all 192 member states in the world and involved lawyers and human rights experts looking at statute books, court records and media accounts to establish the global situation.

A first survey of 60 countries last year showed just seven where death, often by public beheading, is the punishment for either blasphemy or apostasy. This report is even better or the switching to another religion which is also protected under U.N. accords.

But this year's more comprehensive study showed six more, bringing the total to 22 in Afghanistan, Iran, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and...
NOT ALL PALESTINIAN ACADEMICS SUPPORT ASA BOYCOTT

TO THE EDITOR:
The recent decision by the American Studies Association to boycott Israeli universities is not supported by all Palestinian academics. Some Palestinian institutions and scholars maintain ties with their Israeli counterparts. The president of Al-Quds University in East Jerusalem, San Nuseibeh, opposes the boycott. The university’s Director of American Studies, Mohammed S. Dajani Daoudi, says he will continue to work with Israeli colleagues and to encourage his students to do the same.

“I’m against the boycott in general,” Mr. Dajani said. “We need more dialogue with the other. That’s why I believe you should not have a general boycott against Israel, or a boycott against Israeli universities. Don’t target those Israelis and universities and institutions which actually are our partners.” Dialogue, he said, should be encouraged, even between enemies.

One professor in the college of Pharmacy at Al-Quds, who asked to remain anonymous, rejected the boycott as having no practical value. He said that more than fifty Palestinian professors were involved in joint research projects with Israeli universities, funded by such international agencies as the U.S. Agency for International Development (New York Times, January 20).

“Of the time of this writing, 217 universities have denounced the ASA resolution on the grounds that it would interfere with academic freedom. Six universities have canceled their ASA membership, and some withdrew the American Studies program they had offered.”

Palestinian Nakba is Ongoing: Haifa; BDS Threatens Israeli Businesses

MEMBERS:
The Palestinian Nakba: In 1948, 1.4 million Palestinians lived in 1,300 Palestinian towns and villages in historic Palestine. The Israelis destroyed 531 Palestinian towns and villages during the Nakba. More than 800,000 Palestinians were driven out of their homeland to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, neighboring Arab countries and other countries (an estimated 154,000 remained). Israel barred Palestinians their right to return to reclaim lost land, homes, personal property and bank accounts. This catastrophe for Palestinians, the Nakba (in Arabic), is commemorated as a day of mourning May 15 (www.israeli-occupation.org).

Haffa al-Mahatta, an historic Palestinian neighborhood in Haifa, will be demolished, replaced by railroad tracks, new housing, parks, restaurants to increase tourism. Thirty families (160 Israelis) faces eviction. Before the Nakba, more than 600 Palestinian families resided. In 1990’s, 1,500 Systematic neglect by local/state government (providing only electricity and water, no schools, clinics or street lights) forced Palestinian residents to move.

Palestinian residents are denied input on development projects whereas in Jewish neighborhoods the mayor encourages public forums to discuss development. George Esken- dar, chairman of al-Mahatta’s neighborhood committee: ‘there is a policy of erasing the entire history of Palestinian people in Israel. Unfortunately our neighborhood is just another example of the policy of expulsion.’

Local activist, Orwa Swiat: development plans should include preserving Palestinian heritage but there is little hope among residents because ‘our presence threatens the Zionist narrative of this country’s history.’

‘BDS Threatens Israeli Businesses: Justice Minister Tzipi Livni: ‘if there’s one thing the world does not understand it’s the settlements.’ Boycott is moving and advancing uniformly and exponential-ly. Barkan Industrial Zone (West Bank settlement): Shammal Salads owner admitted boycotts cost his company $143,000 in lost sales per month. Finance Minister Yair Lapid: ‘if the boycott continues and exports are hurt, it will hit every Israeli in the pocket.’

Israel’s President: the world’s third-largest pension fund and two major European investors are consid-ering divesting from Israeli banks for financing illegal settlements. Horizon 2020, recently signed scientific coop-eration agreement between European Union and Israel, prohibits EU funding for academic research conducted in settlements. Haarot: Germany is extending the funding ban to private companies located in West Bank settlements East Jerusalem, ‘a signific-ant escalation in European measures against the settlements.’ (Ali Abunimah, Barak Ravid)

Mary Buchwald
Brooklyn For Peace
PSFC, members for BDS
www.psfc BDS.org

What’s Wrong with SodaStream?

By Thomas Cox

Often we hear from mem-
bers who don’t under-
stand the relevance of Palestinian-Israeli issues to
our Food Coop. Here is an attempt to further members’ understanding of this topic, and to show why we should immediately discontinue sell-
ing all SodaStream products.

Just this month, an extremely influential television news program aired a five-minute feature on the boycott of Israel in a prime-time 8 p.m. program. Did you miss it? Probably—it was shown in Israel, not New York.

Larry Derfner was a column-
ist and feature writer for The Jerusalem Post, as well as the correspondent in Israel for the U.S. News and World Report, for many years. In a January 19 column on 92mag.com titled “Boycott goes prime-time in Israel,” he wrote:

“On Saturday night the boy-
cott of Israel gained an impres-
sive new level of mainstream recognition in this country. Channel 2 News, easily the most watched, most influential news show here, ran a heavily promoted, 16-minute piece on the boycott in its 8 p.m. prime-time program. The piece was remarkable not only for its length and prominence, but even more so because it did not demonize the boycott movement. It didn’t blame the boycott on anti-Semitism or Israel-bashing. Instead, top-
drawer reporter Dana Weiss treated the boycott as an established, rapidly growing phenomenon that has sprang up because of Israel’s settlement policy and whose only remedy is that policy’s reversal.”

A report from The Institute for Middle East Understand-
ing, dated January 21, notes: “SodaStream International Ltd. is an Israeli company that produces carbonization devices and syrup for making soft drinks at home. In recent years, it has become the target of human rights activists because its main production facility is located in an industri-
al park, Mishor Edomim, in the Israeli settlement of Ma’aleh Adumim on Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank.

‘According to international law, as an occupying power Israel is forbidden from altering the occupied territories in any way, including through the con-
struction of settlements and industrial parks, except for rea-
sions having to do with military necessity or to benefit the occu-
pied population specifically.’

“They are not demonizing the boycott, they are not demonizing the movement,” said Hazan. “They are demonizing the policy and whose only remedy is that policy’s reversal.”

Mr. Dajani said. “We need more dia-
logue with the other. That’s why I believe you should not have a general boycott against Israel, or a boycott against Israeli universities. Don’t target those Israelis and universities and institutions which actually are our partners.” Dialogue, he said, should be encouraged, even between enemies.

One professor in the college of Pharmacy at Al-Quds, who asked to remain anonymous, rejected the boycott as having no practical value. He said that more than fifty Palestinian professors were involved in joint research projects with Israeli universi-
ties, funded by such international agencies as the U.S. Agency for Inter-

As of the time of this writing, 217 universities have denounced the ASA resolution on the grounds that it would interfere with academic free-
dom. Six universities have canceled their ASA membership, and some withdrew the American Studies program they had offered.

Palestinian Nakba is Ongoing: Haifa; BDS Threatens Israeli Businesses

MEMBERS:
The Palestinian Nakba: In 1948, 1.4 million Palestinians lived in 1,300 Palestinian towns and villages in historic Palestine. The Israelis destroyed 531 Palestinian towns and villages during the Nakba. More than 800,000 Palestinians were driven out of their homeland to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, neighboring Arab countries and other countries (an estimated 154,000 remained). Israel barred Palestinians their right to return to reclaim lost land, homes, personal property and bank accounts. This catastrophe for Palestinians, the Nakba (in Arabic), is commemorated as a day of mourning May 15 (www.israeli-occupation.org).
Situation was severe in Austria, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Malta and Poland where blasphemy laws allow for jail sentences up to three years on charges of offending a religion or believer. In these and other EU countries, with the exception of the Netherlands and Belgium which the report classed as “free and equal,” there is systemic discrimination across society favoring religions and religious believers.

Across the world, the report said, “there are laws that deny atheists’ right to exist, evict their citizenship, restrict their right to marry, obstruct their access to public education, prevent them working for the state.” EU countries are not exempt. The situation was severe in Austria, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Malta and Poland where blasphemy laws allow for jail sentences up to three years on charges of offending a religion or believer.

Saying that while the report recognizes new legal restrictions on religious expression in non-Muslim countries, an “incredible” number of such rules “are aimed at atheists or other non-believers.”

In Latin America and the Caribbean, atheists faced systemic discrimination in most countries except Brazil, where the situation was “mostly satisfactory,” and Jamaica and Uruguay which the report judged as “free and equal.”

In European countries, the report found that while adherents of Judaism are granted exemptions from secular laws, including those that require the wearing of face coverings in public places, “there is no equivalent protection for non-believers.”

In a separate section of the report, the authors write that “atheists are not just unfairly treated in their personal lives, but also in the public representation of their beliefs and values.”

There are varying levels of state support for religion in Europe. In Malta, a European Union country, for example, there are state-funded schools and church-related cultural events. In Greece, there is a state-funded church

In many European countries, religious identity is enshrined in the constitution, with the consequence that the state takes a “favorable attitude towards religious organizations.”

While the report found that “the vast majority of the provisions concerning religious expression are in favor of believers,” it concluded that “the trend is to restrict religion in public spaces.”

The authors note that “in many instances, atheists are denied the same rights as believers, and are even denied recognition of their religion in laws, which in many cases is detrimental to their rights.”

The report also examines the impact of religion on the political process. In countries such as France, Germany and Spain, religious organizations are actively involved in the political process.

In Spain, the authors note, “the government has made an effort to improve the situation of non-believers by allowing them to have a seat in parliament, and by proposing changes to the law on freedom of religion.”

The authors write that “the situation in Europe is far from ideal, and there is still much work to be done to ensure that non-believers are treated equally.”

The report also highlights examples of good practice, such as the case of the Netherlands, where the government has taken steps to improve the situation of non-believers.

The authors recommend that “member states should be encouraged to adopt similar measures, and to ensure that non-believers are treated equally in all aspects of public life.”

The report concludes that “the situation of non-believers in Europe is far from ideal, and there is still much work to be done to ensure that non-believers are treated equally.”

Read the Gazette while you’re standing on line OR online at www.foodcoop.com
Volunteers Needed
Art Director, Designers, Videographers
For CHIPS Charity Events

CHIPS (Christian Help in Park Slope) is a 43-year old nonprofit organization in Brooklyn. Thanks to the generosity of churches, businesses, schools, and volunteers in the community, it serves daily meals to the poor and homeless, and seeks to provide a family atmosphere and support for those in need.

Last year, it served 33,000 hot lunches to people who couldn't afford a meal, and 28,000 dinners to young mothers and their babies, helping them take charge of their lives and their children's future.

CHIPS is planning several major fundraising initiatives that kick off through the February-August period, a few hours per week. However, two in-person team meetings are planned for kickoff and debriefing purposes.

Contact Mary Tan if you would like to join CHIPS in making these events happen: 917-647-5723 or mary4778@aol.com

These are volunteer positions for CHIPS and are not for Food Coop work credit.

Check Store Supplies
Monday, 6 to 8:30 a.m.
This workslot is responsible for restocking supplies on the shopping floor, at checkout lanes, entrance desks and the cashier stations, and in the basement. This is a task- and detail-oriented job, ideal for someone who likes working independently and is proactive. Please speak to Alex in the Membership Office or contact him at alex_marquez@psfc.coop if you are interested.

Bathroom Cleaning
Tuesday, 12 to 2 p.m.
Work with a partner to deep clean the Coop's bathrooms. Tasks include scrubbing floor tiles, cleaning toilets, mopping floors and stocking the bathrooms. You will work with only natural cleaning products. This job is perfect for members who like to clean and are conscientious about doing a thorough job.

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.

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.

To Submit Classified or Display Ads:
Ads may be placed on behalf of Coop members only. Classified ads are prepaid at $15 per insertion, display ads at $30. (Classified ads in the “Merchandise—Non-commercial” category are free.) All ads must be written on a computer form. Classified ads may be up to 315 characters and spaces. Display ads must be camera-ready and business card size (2” x 3 ½” horizontal). Submission forms are available in a wallpocket near the elevator in the entrance lobby.
Rock Painting Event
By Talia Willner

Who painted the beautiful rocks adorning the Union St. tree beds? We did.

On January 18, the Tree Care Squad invited Coop members of all ages to paint 130 rocks to brighten up the gray days of winter with eye-catching, colorful rock gardens in our block’s tree beds. Receiving Coordinator Yuri Weber provided musical accompaniment to inspire the artists.

Parents, who brought their kids to paint, couldn’t resist joining the fun!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community calendar listings are free. Please submit your event listing in 50 words or less to GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop.

Submission deadlines are the same as for classified ads. Please refer to the Coop Calendar in the center of this issue.

SAT, FEB 8
8 p.m. Peoples’ Voice Cafe: Rod MacDonald. At The Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 E. 35 St. NY, NY. Wheelchair-accessible. For info 212-787-1903 or see www.peoplesvoicecafe.org. Donation $18 general/$10 members/more if you choose, less if you can’t/one turned away.

THU, FEB 20
7-9:30 p.m. BOOK SALE - PREVIEW SALE: $20 admission. Tens of thousands of new & used books, DVDs, CDs & records. Most books priced at $1 or $2. PSUM Church, Sixth Ave. at Eighth St. (Book donations welcome; details at www.parkslopeumc.org).

SAT, FEB 22
9 a.m. Free admission. Tens of thousands of new & used books, DVDs, CDs & records. Most books priced at $1 or $2. Incredible bargains! Terrific Children’s Room! PSUM Church, Sixth Ave. at Eighth St. Details at www.parkslopeumc.org. Also on Sunday from 12:30 to 5:00 p.m.

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 New Coops will make low-interest loans to start-up coops that use the full-member labor model like ours. Loans will be extended to qualified start-ups to address problems and maximize the chances that start-ups will flourish.

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 Coops—to: FJC, 520 Eighth Ave., 20th Flr., New York, NY 10018.

Help nascent coops that want to use our model: Contribute today!

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 workshits 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.