

Established
1973

LINEWAITERS'

GAZETTE

100%
SOY BASED
Ink System
Contains no lead or other
toxins

Volume II, Number 6

March 20, 2014

Plastic Roll Bag Measure Voted Down At February General Meeting

By Allison Pennell

As I jockeyed for a parking spot across Greenwood Cemetery on February 25th—where I was running late for

drove a station wagon instead of getting on my bike—can say that whatever the outcome of the evening's vote on their latest prescription for

willy nilly. No, I won't be attending a muslin bag-making workshop anytime soon but I'm down to very few bags from my prior times of profligate overuse. And I'd venture that I'm not the only one.

But educating Food Coop members about the deleterious effects of plastic roll bags on oceans and ecosystems wasn't what was on the slate this winter evening. After much discussion and internal debate, the Environmental Committee had put forward a motion moving away from their first inclination of instituting a six month phase out of plastic roll bags to charging twenty cents a bag in an effort to limit their use.

The Coop's nine General Coordinators have been unanimously opposed to either scenario, arguing that it would wreak havoc on the functioning of the Food Coop and create even longer lines at checkout. General Coordinator Ann Herpel argues that the Environmental Committee has eschewed an educational approach favored by the PSFC Coordinators in favor of punitive measures that put the onus on the staff to figure out logistics and implementation.

The crowd was large—the vote showed at least 622

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PHOTO BY ROD MORRISON

A video supporting the motion was shown.

this most momentous of recent General Meetings—I wondered if the outcome was going to ride (so to speak) on who drove their gas guzzler to the meeting and who hoofed it. I hadn't even carpooled. The ramifications on my carbon footprint were damning. I saw crunchy people hanging their heads in shame as they locked their cars.

And yet even I—who routinely recycles my plastic produce bags at the morning dog run without first reusing them five times and shamefully

limiting the use of plastic roll bags, the Environmental Committee is winning the war even if they didn't know it.

I know that in the two years this motion has been discussed and crafted—from the first time I covered the heated and at times fervent debate at a GM in 2012—the Environmental Committee's call to consciousness about the overuse of environmentally taxing plastic bags hasn't fallen on deaf ears. No longer do I place my Persian cucumbers and fennel into plastic all

Thou Shalt Not Steal From the Park Slope Food Coop



ILLUSTRATION BY CATHY WASSILENKO

By Taigi Smith

Have you ever sampled a handful of grapes without paying for them? Or perhaps given your child a bagel to keep her occupied while shopping? Have you ever found something in your bag that you later learned wasn't paid for? If so, then under the rules set forth by the PSFC Disciplinary Committee, you could be found guilty of shoplifting.

According to the Disciplinary

Committee rules, theft includes "shoplifting or stealing or removing property belonging to the Coop or to a Coop member," "consuming food without paying for it," "failing to pay for all items that are checked out," "switching of price tags or mislabeling items," or "misrepresenting the price or furnishing false information about merchandise that is being purchased or returned."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Next General Meeting on March 25

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The March General Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 25, at 7:00 p.m. at MS 51, 350 Fifth Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts. Enter on Fourth St. cul-de-sac. The Fourth St. entrance is handicap-accessible.

The agenda is in this *Gazette*, on the Coop website at www.foodcoop.com and available as a flier in the entryway of the Coop. For more information about the GM and about Coop governance, please see the center of this issue.

Coop Event Highlights

Thu, April 3• Food Class:
Spring Cleaning: Cleanse & Detox 7:30 p.m.

Fri, Apr 4• Film Night:
Six Short Films by Julie Dressner 7:00 p.m.

Tue, Apr 8• Safe Food Committee Film Night:
Brewed In Brooklyn 7:00 p.m.

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Puzzle	3
Local Soccer Coach Masterminds Intl. Donation Drives	5
Safe Food Committee Report	6
Coop Calendar, Governance Information, Mission Statement	9
Calendar of Events	10
Letters to the Editor	12
Classifieds	14
Community Calendar	14
Exciting Workslot Opportunities	15
Board of Directors Candidate Statement	16

Plastic Bags

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

members were there. Over the course of the next two plus hours, dozens would get up to weigh in with questions and opinions. After a short open forum during which we learned that somebody's Brazil nuts were stale, the Coop is not getting rid of GMO food labeling, the membership manual is outdated and the checkout area is getting a makeover, the floor was opened to the Environmental Committee's proposal to reduce plastic roll bag use.

The Environmental Committee's Jenna Spevack introduced a new movie produced to promote the measure—not as entertaining as the black and white silent one they had two years ago—but a professionally produced PSA arguing that the overuse of plastic roll bags violates the Coop's environmental mandates, is bad for the health of kids and women, encourages fracking and adversely affects farmers. On the basis of public feedback and a concern that an outright ban wouldn't carry in a vote, three representatives of the Environmental Committee told the audience that their proposal had evolved to begin charging twenty cents per plastic roll bag in April 2014. The specific implementation was to be worked out

by the Coop staff.

The questions and comments began. Ivan, an office worker, asked how this could possibly be implemented by April and whether we have alternative reusable bags in stock yet. The EC reps said that they had encountered resistance in trying to get bags in place.

Jessica Childs, an orientation worker, asked if compostable roll bags had been investigated. The EC reps said that they had looked at them but that they are not usually composted anyway.

Bill from the invoicing shift (who knew?) asked about implementation and how checkout workers could verify how many bags to charge for. The EC replied that the implementation was being left up to staffers and would likely be an honor system. Logistics, they said, weren't the Environmental Committee's purview, and they felt they didn't have jurisdiction to instruct the staff over how to put the new policy in place. They didn't want to undermine the General Coordinators but had made several suggestions such as selling produce bags in pre-priced bunches of five for a dollar and hosting muslin bag making workshops for members.

Another member asked where the bag charges would go and whether they would be donated to any good cause.



Joe Holtz pointed out that no municipality had banned plastic pull-off bags, only plastic shopping bags.

es. The Environmental Committee said the moneys would go back to the Coop and it was a fantastic idea to donate profits but would be left up to General Coordinators to administer and determine this.

Somebody asked how it would be more ecological to pay for a plastic bag. The Environmental Committee said that the impetus was to promote reuse of plastic bags and more mindfulness. Another person commented that logistics seemed integral and asked how they can be put off to another day given the starting date of April 2014. The reply from the Environmental Committee was that this was a roomful of intelligent, thoughtful people and there is always a creative solution.



Members queued up to state their views.

The issue of unintended consequences was raised when a few members worried that charging for plastic bags may encourage shoppers to buy pre-bagged and packaged items coming from far away and with worse environmental impacts. A number of cooperators raised concern about the differential impact on people of different income levels and said that what for some might be a gentle reminder would be a cruel tax for others. Eric of the Environmental Committee, estimated that the potential costs would add up to a little over a dollar a year and wouldn't be a cruel tax.

When asked why they had backed away from voting to eliminate plastic roll bags altogether, the EC reps said that they would love to just propose removing them but that the word ban seemed to

make people sweat and they moved toward deterrence instead. They said they had run into such resistance and a huge wall among certain General Coordinators that they decided on the charge as an alternative.

A member said that toilet paper is now being made of bamboo shoots and sugar cane and that surely the Food Coop could pursue biodegradable bag options. The video had argued that plastic bags were killing sea creatures and never break down.

When queried about where they see plastic bag usage going a year after implementation, the EC reps said that couldn't predict statistics but that bag charges elsewhere have significantly lowered usage.

Moving back to the fairness issue, staff bookkeeper Kathy mentioned that EBT customers won't be able to use food stamps to purchase bags or muslin bags. The Environmental Committee rep replied, "the last thing we want is to create an abstract policy that doesn't work for everybody. That's a failure if it doesn't. We don't want to disenfranchise anybody." She suggested bag workshops to make and give away bags for the financially challenged as one option. Sighs and muttering about damn hipsters at that one from the guy behind me.

Why twenty cents, one woman asked? Wouldn't a nickel have done the trick? The EC rep said they thought of it as a deterrent and that there could be an EBT exemption for those unable to pay.

From there, the discussion moved on to tare weights and washing and sanitizing and me checking to see whether my imaginary Coop boyfriend real journalist Chadwin Matlock, or Chadwick Matlin, was live tweeting the festivities. He was.

And finally to a slew of

COOP BAND NITE

**Come support fresh talent
at the Food Coop's Fifth
Annual Band Nite!**

**Saturday, April 26
at ROCK SHOP
249 Fourth Ave., Brooklyn,
between Carroll & President
Doors open at 7:30 p.m.**

**30-minute
sets,
15-minute
changeovers**

Performances by:

RASHMI
Bob Van Pelt - Royal American
Elijah Tucker
Micro Titans
(John Mettam and Laura Cromwell)
Combat Jazz



**Sunday April 6
12:00 p.m. at the Coop**

FREE
Non members Welcome

Join the Animal Welfare Committee



Did you know that the Coop has an Animal Welfare Committee?
We do... and we're looking for new members. Come find out more about us and apply!
We are looking for applicants with design, publicity, branding, or investigative journalism skills. We meet monthly at the Coop (Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m.).
We will distribute a link to online applications at the workshop.
If you can't make it, please check out our blog for more information
on the committee and how to apply:
www.psfcanimals.blogspot.com

We strive to reflect the diversity of the PSFC, including dietary diversity (omnivores, vegetarians, and vegans are equally welcome!).



Jesse Oldham and Kama Einhorn are members of the Animal Welfare Committee.



The auditorium was approximately 60% filled.

opposing and supporting viewpoints including but not limited to:

- The cultural and socio-economic prejudices inherent in implementing such a charge for plastic bags.
- The “speciousness” of an argument that reusing plastic bags and washing them is any better for the environment than using a new one.
- The impracticability of an honor system.

- The fact that this conversation has veered off to a weird place and people should be nicer.
- The question of how to vote for a measure where hard decisions are left for later.
- Worries that the evidence about effects on the environment isn’t clear cut.
- A reminder that people of limited means are no less capable of being compas-

sionate about environmental issues than bourgie people and that in every other country in the world, people take baskets and sacks and don’t have plastic bags.

- Another reminder that plastic roll bags are a convenience, not a necessity, and that people have gotten by for centuries without them.
- Change may be hard but we’ve already figured out how to live without plastic check-out bags we used to depend on and we can do it again.
- How about a surcharge on bringing cars to the Coop?
- What doesn’t kill you makes you strong (or something like that).

Finally, at long last, and without a contemplated amendment that could have prolonged the meeting beyond—god forbid—two hours and forty-five minutes... the measure came to a vote. The votes were cast at 9:27 p.m. and in the end the motion was defeated with 354 voting against and 263 in favor. ■

Coop Job Opening: Receiving Coordinator

Description:

The Coop is hiring a Receiving Coordinator to work **early mornings, Monday through Friday**. The ideal candidate will be a reliable, responsible self-starter who enjoys working with our diverse member-workers and must be an excellent team player, sharing the work with other Receiving Coordinators.

Applicants must have excellent organizational, communication and people skills. Applicants must be able to remain calm in hectic surroundings, have the ability to prioritize tasks, teach and explain procedures, delegate work, give feedback and follow up on tasks. Experience and/or training in food is preferable. Comfort with math and computer skills are required, as is attention to detail.

This early morning Receiving Coordinator position will include inventory control, ordering product, receiving and putting away deliveries in the basement, and making sure that the Coop shelves are well stocked and the Coop functioning smoothly.

We are looking for a candidate who wants an early morning schedule, starting at 6 a.m., Monday through Friday. This is a high-energy job for a physically fit candidate. You must be able to lift and work for hours on your feet, including in the walk-in coolers and freezer.

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

Hours: Approx. 39 hours in 5 days/week: Mondays through Friday, starting at 6 a.m.

Wages: \$26.24/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.

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” and your member number 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.

Prerequisite:

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

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-receivingcoordinator@psfc.coop. Please put “Schedule Shifts” in the subject field.

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

What Is That? How Do I Use It?

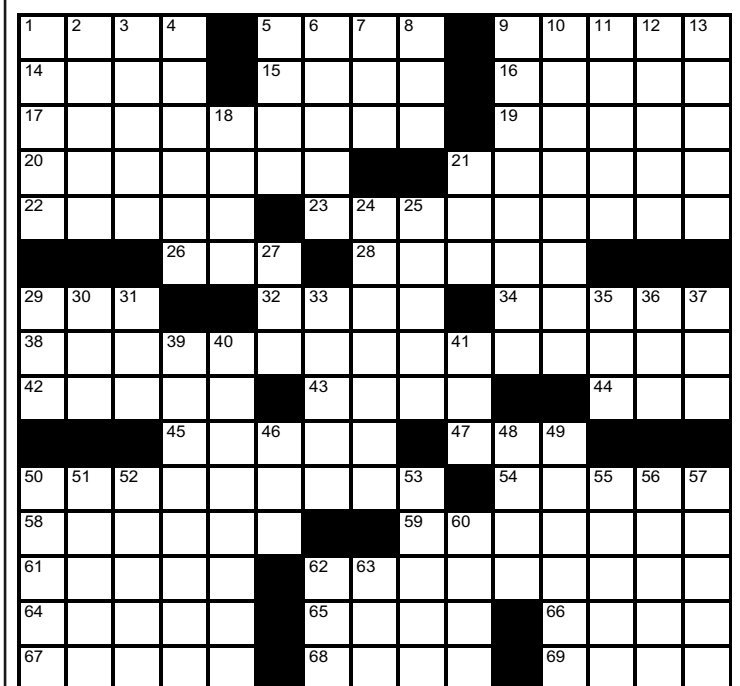
Ask Me Questions About Coop Foods

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

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

Look for tour leaders in produce aisle.

Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Author who was once surprised to get a letter from a Nebraska man named Willy Wonka
5. He got a tennis scholarship from UCLA
9. Amore
14. Think piece?
15. Listing on eBay
16. Vex
17. It might be approaching in a chilly weather report ... or an apt clue for 62-Down
19. Journalist Alexander who was the first woman to write for Life magazine
20. Capital east of the Black Sea
21. Historic figure who, like Jimmy Carter, was born in Georgia
22. Blush-inducing H.S. class
23. What a sober person has ... or an apt clue for 62-Down
26. Moines
28. No longer working for the Company
29. Slugger’s stat
32. Spicy Asian cuisine
34. Abu
38. 21-Across, for one ... or an apt clue for 62-Down
42. Once more
43. Melanie’s character in Working Girl
44. Laudatory poem
45. Little Richard’s Up
47. Clunker
50. Wacky entertainer born Scott Thompson ... or an apt clue for 62-Down
54. Chinatown screenwriter Robert
58. Belt
59. Please!
61. Photographer Cartier-Bresson
62. Kitchen gadget ... or an apt clue for 62-Down
64. Explorer Vasco de Balboa
65. Cut in stone
66. Word on a cornerstone
67. Classic Bogart role
68. Eternally
69. Great American Ball Park team

Down

1. Ref. books
2. Sun-dried brick
3. Spiral staircase, essentially
4. Served, as soup
5. Snobs put them on
6. Hard to stir
7. French
8. CPR expert
9. Take for a spin
10. LOL! ROFL!
11. Dickens title starter
12. Lost actress Raymonde
13. It’s taken by witnesses
18. Bona
21. Cul-de-
24. Charge for using
25. They’re marked with lit signs
27. Depot: Abbr.
29. Sony rival
30. Quagmire
31. John Denver’s Thank God Country Boy
33. Cry to strike up the band
35. Hubbub
36. Crash site?
37. Fury
39. Looked like
40. Improve one’s bargaining power, in a way
41. Acid
46. Game tally: Abbr.
48. Lone Star State sch.
49. Reader’s place marker
50. Sportscaster Linda and others
51. Your 15 minutes of fame!
52. Lisa of Melrose Place
53. -Nez glasses
55. Crossword inventor Arthur
56. Ceaselessly
57. Transnational cash
60. Nobel name of 1922 and 1975
62. Answer to “Artichoke heart?” Lincoln center?” and many other fun crossword clues
63. Off-rd. transport

Puzzle author: David Levinson Wilk. For answers, see page 14.

Shalt Not Steal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Since 2013, six members have been expelled from the Coop for shoplifting and three of those members were arrested, but due to possible legal ramifications, the Coop leadership will not release

might find yourself handcuffed, arrested and taken to the 78th Precinct in the back of a police car.

Recently, a former member was arrested for stealing “three rolls of scotch tape, a rolling pin and a cookie cutter,” according to a recent report by *The New York Times*.



ILLUSTRATION BY CATHY WASSYLENKO

hard facts on whom those people are, what they took, how often they stole or the amounts that were taken by each individual. However, the Coop's leadership made one point very clear. If the Coop's video cameras catch you stealing, you will be expelled from the Coop. And if someone physically catches you in the act of stealing and you're caught on videotape, you

The grand total of that theft? About \$25.

Not only was the member arrested and expelled from the Coop, but the article included her name, profession, and a lengthy interview with General Manager, Joe Holtz, who told *The Times* the Coop loses about \$1,200 a day to theft. When asked about the embarrassment the article may have caused the shoplifter, Holtz

replied via email, “I did not reveal any personal information to *The Times*. I was quite surprised to read her name since I did not reveal it. *The Times* reporter must have known how to access the info.” General Coordinator Ann Herpel added, via email, “We did not release that information to *The New York Times*. The reporter did his own investigating and discovered the name of the former member.” Several telephone numbers for the woman outed in the article have since been disconnected.

There are cameras in the Coop, says Holtz, and in the case of the cookie-cutter bandit, those cameras were used to catch her in the act. “Those caught in the act are arrested.”

When an investigation is commenced due to a report of alleged theft, we look back at past camera footage. “Those caught by only looking at the camera footage are not arrested,” said Holtz. However, those shoplifters “caught in the act,” will be arrested. Holtz added that the member who stole the \$25 worth of goods had been suspected of repetitive stealing and found on the Coop's videotape stealing. So the value of the total number of items the member stole was likely much higher.

Since 2013, six members have been kicked out of the Coop for stealing and three of those members were arrested. In 2011, shoplifting reached a high, resulting in 13 expulsions and five arrests. According to Tricia Leith, the staff liaison to the Disciplinary Committee, when members are not arrested, they are “contacted with a blow by blow detail of their shoplifts.” And all of those members, reports Leith, voluntarily agreed to leave the Coop when faced with the evidence against them. “We study our information and when we are 100% sure of what is happening, we proceed,” says Leith.

Still, the move to arrest people for minor infractions—like \$25 dollars—makes some members uneasy. “They should have to work an extra two Coop shifts. That's inconvenient enough,” says Coop member Elsa Mehary. Outspoken member, David Barouh agrees. “The minor instances, when discovered, should get spoken to and nothing further. Allowing a guest to shop, especially if it has been on multiple occasions, should get a serious warning. Occasional theft of

minor amounts should get suspension and repeated instances should get permanent expulsion.”

But what about parents who give their children bagels while waiting in line for 45 minutes? Should those parents be prosecuted? Or arrested? “There is a no eating while shopping rule,” says Sarah Prior, the mother of two young children. “I think we can all follow that rule. Personally, I like teaching kids to wait. I think it builds character and teaches them that we all follow rules to function together as a community.”

Longtime member Audrey Komaroff has been thinking about the shoplifting issue for a while, especially since she apprehended a member many years ago after she saw him stealing. “When I was a Squad Leader, I once saw a man take batteries. At the checkout, I demanded he empty his pockets, and he did. It was foolish, but he didn't succeed in stealing batteries,” remembers Komaroff. “It seems that theft is a moral characteristic that is ingrained in people who feel they don't need to abide by the rules of their circumstances. By the time they become an adult, they either steal or they don't,” says Komaroff whose stance on stealing is clear. “I think any person or persons who are found stealing should be expelled forever. If someone forgot to pay for a bagel or something else they ate on line, they should be fined ten times the amount they stole.”

It's a sentiment echoed by Rene Brinkley, a stickler for rules who works her shift in the Membership Office. Brinkley, a marketing executive, believes the Coop should adopt a zero tolerance policy when it comes to stealing. “Arrest them,” says Brinkley. “They are breaking the law! Why should they be treated any differently than if they stole from Whole Foods? We should follow standard operating procedures. They are committing a crime and don't deserve special treatment.”

But at Whole Foods, there are special provisions in place for people who don't necessarily have the money to pay for high-priced items. This writer, while a proud Coop member, lives across the street from Whole Foods and on occasion, shops there. It was Thanksgiving, and I needed a bottle of vanilla extract for my sweet potato pie. But this was Whole Foods and that small

bottle of imported extract cost a whopping \$13. While I never considered stealing the bottle of extract, I did ask a clerk where I could find a bottle of “imitation vanilla extract to bake my pie because I don't have \$13 for pure vanilla.”

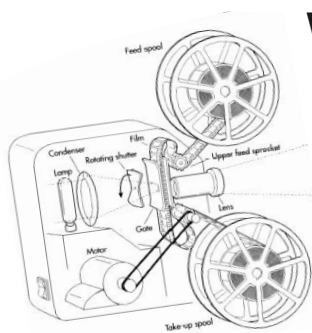
Without hesitation, the clerk wrote me a voucher for a “free sample.” He assured me that when I walked up to the counter and presented my voucher, I would receive the vanilla free of charge. And he was right. I took the vanilla to the checkout counter, gave the voucher to the cashier, who quickly bagged up the vanilla and wished me a Happy Thanksgiving. A safety net was in place for me when I couldn't afford at that moment. And according to reports on the Internet, people caught shoplifting at Whole Foods are photographed, banned for life and sent a bill for the stolen goods. No one caught stealing from Whole Foods ever mentioned being arrested.

“I wonder if some people don't have a real need, and whether there is a way to set up a support system for those who aren't able to make ends meet so they can eat without stealing,” says Sarah Prior. “On the one hand, stealing from the Coop is terrible, it's like stealing from your family—or weirdly from yourself, since we're all owners—but should we be a tough-love family or a forgiving one?” asks Prior. “I also wonder if some people don't have a real need and whether there is a way to set up a support system for those who aren't able to make ends meet, so they can eat without stealing?” It's an altruistic solution that Prior offers, but one that also assumes those caught stealing are low-income or in need of financial assistance. “The least expected shoplifters, according to society, are the most likely, and I doubt it is the people on food stamps,” says Squad Leader, Leo DeLeon. “Shoplifters are those who think they can go undetected because they don't fit the ‘general description.’”

Stealing may be wrong, says Sarah Prior, but as a Coop, we still need to take members' individual circumstances into account, especially before we prosecute them for seemingly minor infractions. “I wouldn't support calling the police for every theft. I think some people make mistakes and can fix them.” ■

ARE YOU A BROOKLYN-BASED FILMMAKER?

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**

Local Soccer Coach Masterminds International Donation Drives

By Hayley Gorenberg

It's not unusual for Bruce Shearouse to wake up on a bright June morning and find he's been barricaded into his Park Slope home by his neighbors.

But it's not that they want to keep him confined—rather, they are well-intentioned locals with clothes and laptops and sports equipment to spare, and they know when they dump bags of donated goods on his doorstep that Shearouse will get the supplies to people in need.

Starting about a decade ago, Shearouse, a commissioner for the American Youth Soccer Organization, decided to collect leftover soccer cleats and outgrown uniforms at the end of the spring season and put them to good use.

With an email list of approximately 11,000 soccer-enthusiast families, a polite bit of outreach went a long way. Soon his home was piled with supplies.

He researched online, and Kenya was the first country that popped up when he searched for “donate clothing.” He reached out to a former Kenyan soccer player in Westchester County and a supply line quickly began to flourish, lasting for years.

When his contact moved permanently to Kenya, Shearouse searched out other people to connect his supplies to those in need. He tapped the former Zambian ambassador and his wife who hails from the Philippines, and whose cousin was a missionary in Manila. Another connection helped him start a small library of used computers in Burma. A friend at work drew him to Haiti. His local contact there was a top soccer player 40 years ago who has since set

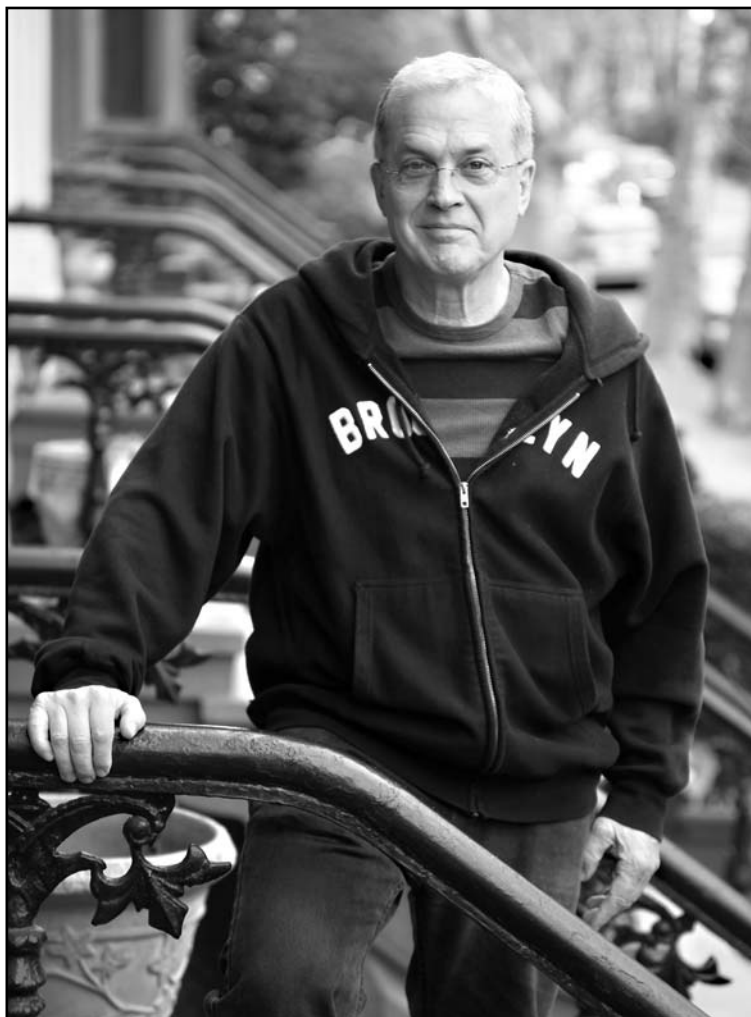


PHOTO BY KEVIN RYAN

Bruce Shearouse on his stoop, where he accepts donations of clothes, laptops, sports equipment and more.

up 11 community centers across Haiti. For those centers, Shearouse collects gear for Haitian afterschool programs—books in English and French for the academic side, and cleats and outfits for playing soccer.

The international ties grew organically, especially since Shearouse's day job was at the United Nations. At age 62, he retired last year from his post working at job classifications in the UN's human resources program. He goes back as needed to his position as a job classifier, essentially working to help decide how much people get paid, with consistency, around the world. His assess-

ments of job complexity and salaries does not necessarily require travel, though his career has taken him to Addis Ababa, The Hague and Santiago, Chile.

His wife, meanwhile, travels to the Philippines for work every other year, and Shearouse could see “the poverty there, and the need.” Some of the deprivation, particularly with children, played out in ways that were somewhat familiar. “Kids are kicking around bags of rocks for soccer balls,” he said. So when it came to donating sports supplies, “It was a natural thing to do.”

Many donations find use close to home. Last year,

Shearouse rounded up hundreds of coats for the New York City coat drive. Donated clothes reached Superstorm Sandy victims throughout Brooklyn and recent immigrants in New York.

In 2010 OnlyTheBlog-KnowsBrooklyn.com ranked Shearouse among “100 people, places and things that make Park Slope such a special place to live. 100 Stories, 100 ways of looking at the world.”

Shearouse, who moved to Park Slope in 1975, has created what he calls “almost a no-cost program,” which works particularly well in an affluent neighborhood. “When I was commissioner, I wanted people to think of more than just themselves and their kids playing soccer. We can do so much more!”

Tons more. Shearouse sent 20 cargo boxes to the Philippines right after the Tacloban storm hit. Then he sent 15 more for a resettlement village. And he still had four minivans full of supplies for Haiti.

With his e-list, collections are the easy part. A note asking for volunteers to pack donations routinely yields a dozen people. Some parents and children show up together during his “sorting drives” at the end of each season, which can turn into a family event. Students contact him from time to time, seeking to do community service for their schools. “We work like dogs, and everybody wins.”

When Shearouse retired as the local soccer commissioner about four years ago, he created a new title of “community affairs director” (with the new commissioner's blessing). And his email list came with him. While he receives an occasion-

al request to unsubscribe, in general people have “jumped at the opportunity” to participate in his donation drives.

As for the original coaching gig, Shearouse began coaching after his daughter, now 27, started playing soccer at age five. He coached under-14 and under-19 teams. (His daughter is an accountant for Price Waterhouse in London, and his son, age 14, now plays.) Inexperienced when he started, he joked, “Hopefully I'm a bit better now than I was 20 years ago.”

“We work like dogs and everybody wins.”

—Bruce Shearouse,
Brooklyn AYSO

community affairs director

Meanwhile, a lot of people at home and abroad are doing “a bit better” with Shearouse's help. “Most people look forward to donating,” he said. “It gives them a chance to go through closets and drawers and weed out things they no longer need or want, and we find a place for it.”

If there's any problem with his system, it's that he doesn't have much money to pay for shipping the donated haul. “Some people have the opposite problem,” he said, explaining that they have a pipeline but not enough donations to put in it. Shearouse often teams up with someone with shipping capacity or finds other creative solutions.

Shearouse will rev up his next collection drive June 14 and will accept donations through mid-July. His address is 491 First Street between Seventh and Eighth Aves. During that time he invites neighbors to “drop off 24 hours a day, seven days week.” ■

THE GAZETTE INDEXES

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

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

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

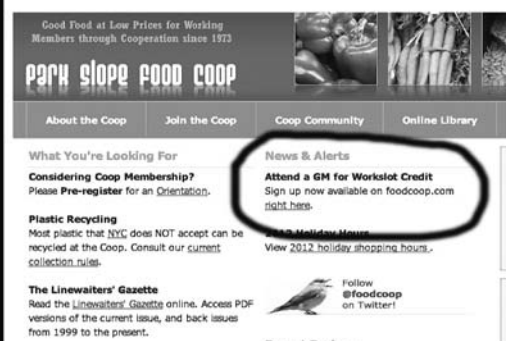
An alphabetized list of all subjects (including people's names) discussed in *Gazette* articles from 1995 to the present, with article titles, issue dates, and page numbers.

Many of the *Gazette* issues referenced in these indexes are available as PDFs on the Coop's website.

CLARIFICATION

The Revolving Loan Committee Report: “Fund for New Food Coops Hits the Ground” (*Linewaiters' Gazette*, March 6, 2014), was reprinted with permission from *Crain's New York Business*© Crain Communications Inc. The *Crain's* article was not written by Coop member Kathy Martino.

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

SAFE FOOD COMMITTEE REPORT

Growing Herbs Indoors

By Megan Davidson

This winter has been hard on us all, but I weathered the February snowstorms with kale and herbs on my windowsill. Their fresh, green smells and flavors have been a welcome reprieve. Growing potted herbs on your windowsill is a great way to extend the growing season into the harsh winter or an excellent way for people without backyards or garden plots to grow indoors. For a small investment of time and money you can harvest fresh herbs and greens from inside your apartment. You will need: a suitable container to grow in; some potting soil or growing medium; seeds or established seedlings and the desire to grow some food.

The first step is choosing what to grow. I grew kale, dill, and cilantro this winter, but

oregano, chives, rosemary, thyme, mint, lavender, basil, lettuce, chard, spinach and other greens can also easily brighten your home. Some plants, like basil, will prefer warmer indoor temperatures day and night, so it grows best in a warm apartment without windowsill drafts. Other plants, like mint, tend to grow so well that they need their own container or they will take over the whole space quickly. Chives and parsley tend to grow easily and require lower light, so they might be more ideal for a gardener with limited light coming through the windows. Plan your seed purchases with these types of considerations in mind.

Seeds can be procured from a wide variety of online and local sources including the PSFC. I have found the greatest success with seeds

that are organic and/or heirloom. Depending on the season, seedlings might also be available locally or through mail order. Starting your indoor garden from already established plants will be easier perhaps, but there is also something magical about sprouting your own plants from seed.

Any container that can safely sit on your windowsill will do. It should have holes in the bottom for drainage so your plants won't sit in excess water. It is common to place containers on a tray of some sort so excess water has somewhere to go as it drains out. If you select a container without holes already in it (as I did) you can use a drill or a punch to create holes in the bottom. Size is an additional consideration. For indoor herbs, you don't need a very large container, but the size your plants can grow to will

depend in part on the container size. For example, growing in pint sized pots will likely yield petite plants. Larger pots will help you grow larger, more robust plants that can withstand more aggressive harvesting.

Seeds need a light, spongy, moist medium for sprouting, preferably one that is sterile or at least very clean. A variety of potting soils with balanced composition for moisture retention, drainage and slow-release nutrients can be purchased online, at local nurseries or hardware stores and here at the Coop. I purchased a bag of organic potting soil for my windowsill garden, and it has worked well. Ordinary garden soil can get crusty and heavy when used indoors and carries additional risks of pests and disease. Furthermore, high levels of lead contamination are found throughout Brooklyn and could turn your indoor herb project needlessly toxic. Unless you have had your soil tested or it is soil that you created through composting, you are better off with purchased, clean soil for indoor projects.

You will need to carve out a sunny spot on or near a windowsill for your containers. South and southwest facing windows are ideal, but other windows can work too if your plants get several hours of direct sunlight per day. North facing windows and windows in basement or garden level apartments that get mostly reflected light will be more challenging. Also note, as your plants grow taller, touching window glass for any prolonged period in the winter might make them too cold, so keep them from getting too close to the window.

Once you have a good place selected, you can fill your con-

tainers with moistened soil and plant your seeds. Purchased seed packets usually have directions about the depth your seeds would prefer to germinate at, and how close you can plant them to each other. For windowsill herbs, I often plant them a little closer together than described, and then thin them out once I see how well they've sprouted.

As days and weeks pass, test the moisture level in your pots by pressing a finger one inch under the surface, lifting a pot to gauge its weight, and observing the surface soil quality. Factors like the size/shape of your containers, ambient humidity, sun exposure, and soil composition will all affect moisture retention. Good advice is to water when it's dry, as most herbs prefer not to be overwatered. Yellowing leaves, for example, may actually indicate overwatered, soggy roots. To avoid damaging thin-stemmed seedlings when watering in smaller or more shallow containers, gardeners often let water absorb up into the soil from below by pouring water into the tray that holds their pot rather than pouring water into the soil from above.

Herbs grown indoors can be less robust than outdoor plants but can still withstand regular harvesting for many months. In 4-6 weeks you should be able to start harvesting leaves from your plants without negatively affecting their growth. Cutting off as much as one third of a healthy herb plant should only encourage further growth for continued harvests.

To share pictures and stories of your windowsill garden projects and for more information on starting from seed, please visit our blog Brooklyn-Backyard.wordpress.com. ■

CHIPS

PARK SLOPE CHRISTIAN HELP
FOOD FRIENDSHIP & HOPE SINCE 1971

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 operates a small residence for pregnant teens.

Last year, it served 93,000 hot lunches to people who couldn't afford a meal, and sheltered nine 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 this spring to enable it to continue its mission of helping the less fortunate—collaborative events with local restaurants, a 3K run in Prospect Park, and a gala in April. CHIPS needs help designing posters, handouts, newsletters, and collateral materials and filming short videos to publicize these events and get people excited.

Volunteer participation will mostly be virtual via e-mail and phone 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 mary477@aol.com

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

Do you want your old Coop
attendance records?

Up until September 2009, the Coop kept
attendance on index cards.

If you were a Coop member before then,
we may still have your old partial or
complete cards.

If you would like to have this as a souvenir,
please come to the Membership Office and
ask for it. If we have it, it's yours!

We will be recycling them shortly.

MEMBER SUBMISSION

The New Same Old: Reflections on the Proposed Linewaiters' Gazette Policies

By David Barouh

The *Gazette's* 3/6/2014 article ("Linewaiters' Gazette (LWG) Policies") lays out new guidelines the Coordinating Editors (CEs) intend to discuss at a future GM. The proposed guidelines are in response to criticism of the *Gazette's* editorial practices, which include forcing changes of content on member-writers, arbitrary title changes without permission or notification, unequal allocation of *Gazette* space, and the editors' practice of arbitrarily waiving their own guidelines, all of which violate either the still-standing 10/16/1977 GM resolution—which requires *the writer's permission to edit content*—or common fairness.

Little has changed from the already-existing policies. The one real change is that editors will not change titles, although one suspects that an editor can always find a creative way to invoke the Respect policy for that purpose. Until now, they would routinely change titles without notifying the writers.

The biggest disappointment is the retention of the *Gazette's* most loathed policy—forcing content changes and rejecting member submissions outright, with no recourse for the writer, as indicated here:

The editorial board has the *final say* on what goes into an article and what goes into the *Gazette*. [emphasis mine]

The term "editorial board" is newly introduced, but means the CEs and copy editors. It describes a convoluted process that boils down to the above sentence—in other words, a sham and a reassertion of their long-standing and naked violation of the still-standing 1977 GM resolution. They're clearly unwilling to budge on this issue—common sense, GM resolution and democracy be damned. Then there's this:

Editors are not required to do extensive line editing on member-submitted material...Member submissions that are very poorly written

and/or incoherent will be rejected.

Besides illustrating the hollowness of their claim that they "work closely with writers in crafting their submissions" ("Statement by *Gazette* Editors and Reporters" 10/29/2013 GM hand-out) the CEs have defined—and still define—their editors' workslots as *not requiring that effort*. What the CEs have done is abrogate the responsibility of—indeed the very notion of—helping member-writers clarify and strengthen their expression. At best they receive cursory checks for grammar and spelling, but no stylistic help. Rather, editors are redirected to scrutinize for "inappropriate material," as expressed in this passage:

Editors also review articles and letters to make sure they follow the Fairness, Anonymity and Respect policies.

These criteria, especially the Respect policy, can be—and have been—easily abused by editors. Not mentioned is that editors—until just the recent past—would freely cut whatever content they chose, and can still force changes based on *criteria the individual editors set themselves*. All this adds up to one word—censorship!

The CEs act as if they're the exclusive owners of the paper. They're not. They're fellow members doing their workslots. The publisher is the entire membership and editors have no right to determine unilaterally what can and can't be said in the *Gazette*—nor that they will serve as

prosecutor, judge, and jury for which speech is out of bounds.

The Coordinating Editors' vision for the *Gazette* long ago veered in an ugly direction, losing sight of the wealth of literacy and thought residing in the Coop community, of which they are the gatekeepers, unfortunately. In a 5/7/2009 letter, the CEs wrote that editing of *content* became necessary because of "factual inaccuracies, incoherent writing, unsubstantiated claims and potentially libelous attacks." But one would be hard-pressed to find actual examples in the early *Gazettes*.

Rather than encouraging this potential wealth, the CEs appear to fear the various fanatics and "crazies" peddled by the stereotype mongers of the *New York Times* and its more low-brow imitators. The CEs have assembled a sterling all-professional staff, but instead of assigning them their natural work of turning raw copy into

sparkling writing they have misdirected them toward a role they're ill-equipped for—that of censors, of arbiters of appropriateness.

The CEs have turned their copy editors into the disinterested and uncaring workers of the stereotypes, doing slipshod work and leaving a trail of unhappy and abused members in their wake. In their 5/7/2009 letter, the CEs excused this slipshod work by identifying their editors with the Coop's unpaid and therefore supposedly inconsistent and unreliable workforce, ignoring the Coop's unparalleled efficiency statistics, achieved mostly with that same unpaid member labor. In some perverted Freudian projection, the CEs have attributed the unreliability of their staff to the entire membership itself.

We thank the CEs for their (at least apparent) concession preserving writers' titles. But this new proposal is essentially the same old guidelines it's been ever since the *Gazette's* historical hijacking from the membership—and still unacceptable. ■

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 FOOD 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 Food 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 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.

Follow the Food Coop on

twitter



@foodcoop

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
15 minutes after closing time.

Childcare Hours:

Monday through Sunday

8:00 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Telephone:

718-622-0560

Web address:

www.foodcoop.com

LINEWAITERS'
GAZETTE

The *Linewaiters' Gazette* is published biweekly by the Park Slope Food Coop, Inc., 782 Union Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215.

Opinions expressed here may be solely the views of the writer. The *Gazette* will not knowingly publish articles that are racist, sexist or otherwise discriminatory.

The *Gazette* welcomes Coop-related articles and letters from members.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All submissions must include author's name and phone number and conform to the following guidelines. Editors will reject letters and articles that are illegible or too long. Submission deadlines appear in the Coop Calendar opposite.

Letters: Maximum 500 words. All letters will be printed if they conform to the guidelines above. The Anonymity and Fairness policies appear on the letters page in most issues.

Voluntary Articles: Maximum 750 words. Editors will reject articles that are essentially just advertisements for member businesses and services.

Committee Reports: Maximum 1,000 words.

Editor-Writer Guidelines: Except for letters to the editor, which are published without editing but are subject to the *Gazette* letters policy regarding length, anonymity, respect and fairness, all submissions to the *Linewaiters' Gazette* will be reviewed and, if necessary, edited by the editor. In their review, editors are guided by the *Gazette's* Fairness and Anonymity policies as well as standard editorial practices of grammatical review, separation of fact from opinion, attribution of factual statements, and rudimentary fact checking. Writers are responsible for the factual content of their stories. Editors must make a reasonable effort to contact and communicate with writers regarding any proposed editorial changes. Writers must make a reasonable effort to respond to and be available to editors to confer about their articles. If there is no response after a reasonable effort to contact the writer, an editor, at her or his discretion, may make editorial changes to a submission without conferring with the writer.

Submissions on Paper: Typed or very legibly handwritten and placed in the wallpocket labeled "Editor" on the second floor at the base of the ramp.

Digital Submissions: We welcome digital submissions. 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, April 18, 8:00 p.m.

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



PROSPECT CONCERTS



Cincha (aka Cynthia Hilt) writes songs about the moon as a smoky mystic saint, about beautiful lost girls and hope, about hurricanes and comet light and peace, and yes, about groundhogs. Cincha's great talent as jazz composer, pianist and vocalist, infuses her songwriting with unusual depth and color. She'll perform original songs with some great Coop musicians. "This lady writes terrific, refreshingly new songs and then delivers with piano and lyrics in her dusky, sexy voice," Grady Harp.

Canadian-born pianist, improviser, composer and educator, **John Stetch** has performed across Canada, the U.S., Japan, Europe, Ukraine, Brazil, and Israel. He has released 11 CDs under his own name, has five Juno Award nominations (Canada), and won the Prix Du Jazz at the Montreal International Jazz Festival. He has been frequently recorded by the CBC and NPR and has appeared on such programs as "Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz" and "Weekend Edition with Leanne Hansen."



www.facebook.com/ProspectConcerts

**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 POLICY



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

REQUIRED FOR ANY RETURN

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

CAN I EXCHANGE MY ITEM?

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

CAN I RETURN MY ITEM?

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

NEVER
RETURNABLE

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

RETURNABLE
ONLY IF SPOILED
BEFORE
EXPIRATION DATE
Packaging/label
must be present-
ed for refund.

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

RETURNABLE

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

This Issue Prepared By:

Coordinating Editors: Stephanie Golden
Erik Lewis

Editor (development): Wally Konrad
Tom Moore

Reporters: Hayley Gorenberg
Allison Pennell
Taigi Smith

Art Director (development): Mike Miranda

Illustrator: Rod Morrison
Cathy Wassylenko

Photographers: Lisa Cohen
Kevin Ryan

Thumbnails: Sarah Lang-Wiehart

Photoshop: Adam Segal-Isaacson

Preproduction: Susan Louie

Art Director (production): Dilhan Kushan

Desktop Publishing: Diana Quick
Maxwell Taylor
Heloisa Zero

Editor (production): Nancy Rosenberg

Advertising: Mary Robb

Puzzle Master: David Levinson Wilk

Final Proofreader: Lisa Schorr

Index: Len Neufeld

WELCOME!

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

Sunil Abraham	Jaimee Caruso	Katherine Goksh-	Kelly Ifill	Courtney Lockemer	Diana Panora	Beth Ricciardone	Antonio Stephens
Guillaume Amrouche	Federico Castagnini	steyn	Daniel Impellizeri	Amanda Macdougald	Krzysztof Pecak	James Rigney	Jonas Tauber
Brett Aresco	Veronika Cetin	Nancy Goldfarb	Iospha Inna	Mercedes Madanire	Alexandre Pevzner	Leslie Rigney	Joyce Tawil
Elizabeth Bastidas	Jocelyn Chase	Patty Golsteyn	Sara Jayanthi	Hannah McBride	Toyba Pevzner	Brian Robinson	Alexis Tenenbaum
Nicole Baum	Jennifer Chou	Emily Gorski	Sidra Kamran	Tracy McNeil	Emily Porter	Nicolas Rost	Joshua Underwood
Mark Berelekhis	Eve Claxton	Scott Graffman	Tom Kane	Rachel McPherson	Zeiland Powell	Maisie Nicole	Jetlunt Veliu
Alexander Berger	David Cone-Gornam	Alan Hagins	Mark Karum	Abel MSurely	Grant Quigley	Rubinstein	Aurelien Vetil
Rachel Bishop	Shannon Costello	Mary Hamaoui	Savera Kashmiri-Rost	Bradshaw	Sankofa Ra	Vjolca Salihu	David Wilburn
Matteo Boffo	Gilonne d'Origny	Tony Hamawy	Maureen Keleher	Charles Meys	Adam Raabe	Emmy Santiamo	Mary Willems
Stefan Borsje	Miriam Davenport	Deborah Hart	Cooper K.G. Klings	Nicole Mikuta	Matthew Rainville	Kalmen Schlafrig	Bob Wirtz
Nadide Bulbul	Chris Durrance	Ai Hayatsu	Krystian Kukulski	Jennifer Molini	Sonia Rainville	Stephen Shubu	Danika Wong
Shana Bush	Liza Eyster	Casey Hohs	Kendra Landon	Eugenie Montaigne	Lizzie Redman	Nancy Sommer	Adam Yamaguchi
Don Byrd	Linn Fernstrom	Charis Hoo	Yun Lee	Logan Moseley	Lola Regenthal	Nicole Spector	Casey York
Margie Byrd	David Fishkind	Jason Huff	Aneta Lesniewska	Rachel Nolan	Richard Reyes	Hannah Spring	
Nick Carey	Simon Gokhshteyn	John Humphrey	Elizabeth Lim	Maggie Ollove	Frederic Riccardi	Alexander Steinberg	

COOP CALENDAR

New Member Orientations

Attending an Orientation is the first step toward Coop membership. Pre-registration is required for all of the three weekly New Member Orientations. To pre-register, visit foodcoop.com or contact the Membership Office. Visit in person or call 718-622-0560 during office hours.

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

The Coop on the Internet
www.foodcoop.com

The Coop on Cable TV
Inside the Park Slope Food Coop

FRIDAYS 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, MARCH 25

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, APRIL 1

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m.

Submissions will be considered for the April 29 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

Apr 3 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Mar 24
Apr 17 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Apr 7

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

Apr 3 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Mar 26
Apr 17 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Apr 9

ALL ABOUT THE
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,
March 25, 7:00 p.m.

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

Location

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

Attend a GM
and Receive Work Credit

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

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

• Advance Sign-up required:

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

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

• Two GM attendance credits per year:

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

• Certain Squads not eligible:

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

• Attend the entire GM:

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

• Signing in at the Meeting:

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

• Being Absent from the GM:

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

Park Slope Food Coop
Mission Statement

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

park slope
FOOD COOP

calendar of events

mar 21
fri 7 pmTen Living Points for
The Creative Spirit

There are millions of books already on how to be a better writer, or painter, or graphic artist, etc. These points instead show you how to lay a foundation for artistic living in general. Themes covered will include: using the five senses, definition of the self, and lack of inspiration. Bring pencil and paper and firm surface to draw upon. You will not be graded on your artistic ability. Chocolate will be served. **Jesse Rosenfeld** (a.k.a. Jesse Greene) is an artist, a workshop leader on creativity for Connecticut College Gender Women's Studies Department, a published author of the graphic novel *Andy Hero of Brooklyn!*, a Coop member since 2004, and once shook Lou Reed's hand standing in line at a Broadway show.

mar 21
fri 8 pm

Flying Home, Swing Dancing



Flying Home returns to Prospect Concerts for a night of swing dancing! Performing classic swing hits of the '30s, '40s, and '50s, Flying Home

carries on the hot style and "light on their feet" approach to swing music made famous by the Benny Goodman Ensembles. Starting with a strong foundation in the classic repertoire and arrangements of the early sextet with Charlie Christian, Flying Home then explores the various incarnations of the small ensemble and big band favorites that made them a musical force for more than 30 years. With an ever-expanding repertoire, the ensemble takes dancers and listeners on a musical journey through the hot jazz and swing eras. With John Mettam (drums), Mike McGinnis (clarinet), Brian Drye (trombone), Sean Moran (guitar), Tom Beckham (vibraphone), Jim Whitney (bass) and Toby Williams (vocals). There will also be free dance lessons with professional dance instructor **Arturo Perez**, who will be partnered by **Carolynn Murphy**.

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.



- I. Member Arrival and Meeting Warm-Up
- II. Open Forum
- III. Coordinator and Committee Reports
- IV. Meeting Agenda

Item #1: Presentation of Board of Directors Candidate (20 minutes)

Discussion: Presentation by the candidate for the Board of Directors followed by questions for the candidate.
—mandated by the General Meeting

Item #2: Annual Disciplinary Committee Election (20 minutes)

Election: Two current committee members will stand for re-election, and the committee will present three additional candidates for the committee to fill openings.
—submitted by the Disciplinary Committee

Item #3: Special Agenda Committee Election (20 minutes)

Election: One candidate will be presented for election to fill a partial term that ends in October 2015.
—submitted by the Agenda Committee

Item #4: Support the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act (30 minutes)

Proposal: That the Coop become a supporter of the Justice for Farmworkers Campaign and send letters to N.Y. State Senators in support of A.1792-A (Nolan) and S. 1792 (Espaillat).
—submitted by Steven Beck and Jean Weisman

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.

mar 25
tue 7:30 pmStories of Conscious
Consumption

Thinking through your apparel purchases. Coop member **Libby Chisholm Fearnley** is often asked where to shop for sustainably-made or ethical fashion. However, many times the "right" decision varies from person to person. Sometimes, fulfilling a need does not require a purchase at all. She will discuss how to prioritize what is important to individuals and how to establish a meaningful connection with your apparel purchases. She will give examples from her life and will help find ethical and resourceful solutions to your own apparel needs. After 10 years designing apparel, Fearnley has chosen to devote herself to establishing a new and sustainable business model in the textile industry. She is currently working toward the Sustainable Design Entrepreneurs Certificate at FIT.

mar 22
sat 2 pm

Hot & Healthy

Eat till you are full. You don't have to cut out sweets. You don't have to cut carbs. You can keep eating nuts. And never restrict your calories—eat till you are full! Enjoy delicious foods like avocados, bananas, sweet potato, cashews, mango, arugula, basil, peanut butter. Coop member **Nataliya Ostrovskaya** will show you some delicious recipes that will have your mouth watering. She will show you a new way of eating that sheds all your excess body fat, gets you down to your ideal weight, eliminates inflammation, and gives your skin a healthy glow. Come—this can change your life! Ostrovskaya loves good food, and for years battled the war between food that tastes good and makes you look good. She is very excited to have found the solution and looks forward to sharing it with you.

mar 25
tue 7 pm

PSFC MAR 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.

mar 28
fri 6:30 pmThe Trans-Pacific
Partnership and You

What is the connection between the growing food monopolies, the Trans-Pacific Partnership and you? Join a lively discussion with **Alice Joyce-Alcala**, who has been Coop member since the 1970s. She first introduced the topic of fracking at a General Meeting in 2010 where she asked for Coop involvement to oppose fracking. She is a member of The Sierra Club and has volunteered with several grassroots organizations including United For Action on environmental issues.

mar 29
sat 1:30 pm

Thyroid Disorders

If my test results are all normal, then why do I feel so bad? Fatigued? Trouble losing weight? Always cold? Sinus problems? Constipation? Infertility? Acne? Join long-time Coop member **Diane Paxton** 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! Paxton, MS, LAc, is the owner and principal of Inner Fire Integrative Health Services, with offices in Manhattan and Park Slope.

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.

mar 21–apr 27 2014

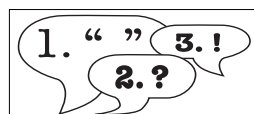
mar 30
sun 12 pm

Hidden In Plain Sight

What's really in the natural foods you are eating? When lemonade is made with artificial flavors and furniture polish is made with real lemons, something is wrong. Learn why the term "natural flavor" is not really true! What are the dangers of artificial flavors? How known carcinogens are still allowed in our processed foods. Organic is not always OK when you have allergies to the food—and vice versa, when you think you have an allergy to a food but it's really the chemicals on it. (Bring a food to be tested for sensitivity.) Learn what food additives are sometimes hidden by using other names. Presented by Coop members **Dr. Jeffrey Goodman** N.D., naturopathic physician for more than 30 years, and **Gregg Bromberg**, flavor chemist for more than 30 years, and by Dr. Emanuelle Gallin M.D., Internal Medicine, Holistic Health for You in Park Slope.

apr 1
tue 8 pm

Agenda Committee Meeting



The Committee reviews pending agenda items and creates the agenda for this month's General Meeting. Drop by and talk with committee members face-to-face between 8:00 and 8:15 p.m. Before submitting an item, read "How to Develop an Agenda Item for the General Meeting" and fill out the General Meeting Agenda Item Submission Form, both available from the Membership Office or at foodcoop.com. **The next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 29, 7 p.m., at MS 51, 350 Fifth Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts.**

apr 2
wed 5 pm

The Fund For New Food Coops

Do you want to start a food coop in your neighborhood? Come to the informational panel on the new lending initiative for full-member participation coops. Join General Coordinators Joe Holtz and Ann Herpel, the Revolving Loan Committee and start-up coops that use the PSFC member-labor model for a presentation of the new Loan Fund. The evening will include: discussion of how the PSFC helps coops in start-up; an overview of eligibility and application for loans; and time for questions.

apr 3
thu 7:30 pm

Food Class: Spring Cleaning: Cleanse & Detox



Explore the basics of cleansing and the ideas behind some of the well-known cleanse programs out there like Blue Print, Organic Avenue, Joulebody, etc., and that cleansing does not have to be torture! This class will include demos of easy

recipes for juices, smoothies, and healthy, raw foods that can be incorporated into any at-home cleanse program for anyone to enjoy. Chef **Megan Huylo** is a graduate of the Chef's Training Program at the Natural Gourmet Institute in New York City. She trained at Morimoto New York and worked in the kitchens of popular juice and cleanse companies, Joulebody and LuliTonix, as sous chef and head chef, respectively. Her plant-based food and lifestyle service, Downtown Epicure, offers personal chef, catering, customized cleansing, cooking instruction, and consulting services to individuals and businesses throughout the NY-metro area. *Menu includes: cleansing green juice with pear, cilantro, and fresh turmeric; antioxidant-rich green smoothie with blueberries, coconut, and ginger; raw, blended savory green gazpacho.*

ASL interpreter may be available upon advance request. If you would like to request an ASL interpreter, please contact Ginger Jung in the Membership Office by March 20. Materials fee: \$4. Food classes are coordinated by Coop member Susan Baldassano.

apr 4
fri 7 pm

Film Night: Six Short Films by Julie Dressner



The first half of this program takes us to the former Soviet Union. In *An American at the Bolshoi Ballet*, we encounter the fierce passion of a 15-year-old Texan girl who moves to Moscow on her own to train at the Bolshoi Academy. *On the Farm After the Fall* examines agritourism in the post-Soviet republic of Georgia, which draws visitors eager to help with farm chores and reap the bounty at the dinner table. And the film *An Education* follows three American siblings attending an experimental school in Moscow where they are pushed to their intellectual and emotional limits by creativity-centered instruction taught completely in Russian. The second half of our program returns to NYC with films about the human impact of the New York Police Department's stop-and-frisk practice, a civil rights movement among undocumented student activists in Queens, and the collateral consequences of marijuana arrests. **Julie Dressner** produces short documentaries for the Web on issues including civil rights, education, immigration and criminal justice. She lived with her family in Russia for five years and shot her first three films in Moscow and Kakheti (Georgia). Her work has appeared online at *The New York Times*, *The Guardian* and *Buzzfeed*. Her film about her children's experience at a Russian school in Moscow received a National Magazine Award for video.

To book a Film Night, contact Gabriel Rhodes, gabrielrhodes@me.com.

apr 5
sat 5 pm

Unmarried Couples & Money

Any relationship has important, potentially challenging issues around finances, but being unmarried and thus "legal strangers" adds another layer of complexity. This seminar will look at strategies for dealing fairly with money day to day and how to plan for the future. **Arthur Goodman** is a long-time Coop member and fee-based financial planner who practices in Brooklyn, specializing in meeting the needs of the LGBT community and of unmarried opposite-sex couples.

apr 6
sun 12 pm

Join the Animal Welfare Committee

Did you know that the Coop has an Animal Welfare Committee? We do...and we're looking for new members. Come find out more about us and apply! We are looking for applicants with design, publicity, branding, or investigative journalism skills. We meet monthly at the Coop (Mondays, C week, 7-8:30 p.m.). We will distribute a link to online applications at the workshop. If you can't make it, please check out our blog for more information on the committee and how to apply: www.psfcanimals.blogspot.com. We strive to reflect the diversity of the PSFC, including dietary diversity (omnivores, vegetarians, and vegans are equally welcome!). **Jesse Oldham** and **Kama Einhorn** are members of the Animal Welfare Committee.

apr 6
sun 7 pm

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**, graduate of the American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service, in a conversation about fascinating advancements within the funeral business. The talk will cover how to plan a low-cost, back-to-basics funeral or memorial service, as well as offer information on green cemeteries near New York City, cremation pros and cons, biodegradable 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. Cunningham is a licensed funeral director at Greenwood Heights Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc., a full-service funeral home on Fourth Avenue in Brooklyn.

still to come

apr 8 Safe Food Committee Film Night

apr 18 Cheese Class

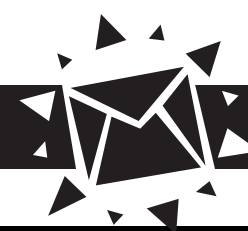
apr 18 Prospect Concerts

apr 19–20 Food Drive to Benefit CHIPS Soup Kitchen

apr 26 Band Nite at Rock Shop

apr 27 Qi Gong to Protect the Joints & Bones

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



BDS TOPICS:

TWO FAILED EMBARGOES

TO THE EDITORS:

CUBAN EMBARGO

"Future students of American history will be scratching their heads for decades to come. Our embargo and refusal to normalize diplomatic relations has nothing to do with communism. Otherwise, we wouldn't have had diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union throughout the Cold War, with China since Nixon. Cuba was pure politics. It started out as resistance to Castro's politics, but became a veto over rational, mature diplomacy."—Former Senator Hart.

Hillary Clinton: "It is my personal belief that the Castros do not want to see an end to the embargo and do not want to see normalization [as it provides a scapegoat for all Cuba's problems]."

Cato Institute: "The embargo has been a failure by every measure. It has not changed the course or nature of the Cuban government. It has not liberated a single Cuban citizen."

74 Cuban dissidents signed a letter to Congress in support of lifting the U.S. travel ban, stating "We share the opinion that the isolation of the people of Cuba benefits the most inflexible interests of its government."

ARAB LEAGUE BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

Started in 1948 (and officially still ongoing), it aims to isolate Israel economically by preventing commerce with Israel by Arab states and non-Arabs. In its heyday, the boycott had a minor impact on Israel but a significant negative effect on economies of participating Arab countries due to lower direct investment and reduction in trade.

In 1957 *Fortune* wrote: "Under the boycott there is today no telegraphic connection between Israel and the Arab states, nor is there any rail or sea communication. Planes using Israeli airfields are forbidden to fly over Arab land and ships calling at Israeli ports are blacklisted... [however] the boycott has served as a stimulus to Israel by promoting the need for greater self-reliance."

Arab boycotts of Jewish interests started as early as 1922 and included all Jewish owned business operating in the areas of the British Mandate. A renewed call for boycott in 1936 failed as Jewish physicians and hospitals were heavily integrated into Palestinian society.

In 1994, Gulf Arab States ended their participation and recognized that total elimination of the boycott is a necessary step for peace and economic development in the region.

Palestinian-Jordanian Mudar Zahran writes: "the tendency to blame Israel for everything has provided Arabs leaders an excuse to deliberately ignore the human rights of the Palestinians in their countries. While the world is furious over Gaza, the media deliberately ignore the conditions of Palestinians in Lebanon and other Arab countries."

Ed Husain: "People condemn settlements and call for boycott, but I saw that Arab builders, plumbers, and taxi drivers maintained Israeli lifestyles. Separatism in the Holy Land has not worked and it's time to end it. How much longer will we punish Palestinians to create a free Palestine? Humanizing Israel to Arabs—by addressing anti-Semitism in school textbooks and in mosque sermons, by permitting Arabs to visit and trade with Israel—are requisite first steps."

Gil Ronen

THE GROWING TREND: MORE GROUP DEFAMATION, LESS RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

TO THE EDITORS,

The modus operandi of the Israel delegitimization campaign is to KEEP REPEATING THE SLANDER and that's what BDS has done at the Coop for five years, thoughtlessly abetted by *Gazette* editors who, in contradiction to their policy of "respect," publish incendiary and false claims about Israel, even ones that have been responsibly discredited in previous issues. So I won't respond to Ms. Buchwald's latest iterations (3/6/14) of her unfounded and hyperbolic claims about "Israel's systematic violence against Palestinian children" and "medical neglect of Palestinian prisoners."

But I will address a new one, which she copied verbatim from one of the many anti-Israel websites repeating the claim that "Germany's largest bank, Deutsche Bank, has included the Israeli Hapoalim bank in a blacklist of 'unethical companies' not to deal with or invest in because of its involvement in funding settlement activities in the West Bank."

A similar claim by the left-wing *Haaretz*¹ was followed the next day with a denial by Deutsche Bank²: "We wish to make it explicitly clear that Deutsche Bank is not boycotting any Israeli company ... we have many funds that invest in Bank Hapoalim and many other Israeli companies." The *Wall Street Journal*³ clarified further: "Deutsche Bank has excluded Hapoalim from a single investment fund it set up for a specific client; otherwise, it is doing business with Israel as usual." (The other companies mentioned in Buchwald's letter—Boskalis, Condote, and Jan De

Nul—are also hoaxes^{6,7}.)

The claim about Deutsche Bank was also refuted by Reuters⁴ in an article that additionally contradicts BDS claims of its growing success and impact: "All the while, foreign firms continue to pour into Israel. According to the latest Bank of Israel data, direct investment was \$10.51 billion in the first nine months of 2013, up from \$9.5 billion for the whole of 2012. Exports to Europe rose 6.3 percent last year. Global brands such as Google, Cisco, Microsoft, Twitter, Apple, AOL and Facebook have all invested in Israel, so, like it or not, users of computers, smartphones and apps could well be supporting Israeli engineering."

And note that despite notorious BDS activism on campuses in California, liberal Governor Jerry Brown and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu just signed an agreement to work together to solve California's water problems (*San Francisco Chronicle*, 3/8/14)⁵.

It's scandalous that the *Gazette* editors don't recognize and accept that they're out of their league with this complex and sensitive subject and have unloaded the burden of fact-checking on Coop members who find the persistence of this hateful propaganda—widely described by reputable sources as anti-Semitic—an odious and blatant violation of the Coop's policy of respect for diversity and of the basic Principles of Community that any cooperative association should follow.

Sylvia Lowenthal

1. www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/1.574743
2. www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/1.574915
3. online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303426304579402771597851680?mg=reno64-wsj&url=http%3A%2F%2Fonline.wsj.com%2Farticle%2FSB10001424052702303426304579402771597851680.html
4. www.reuters.com/article/2014/02/23/us-palestinians-israel-boycott-analysis-idUSBREA1M0OI20140223
5. www.sfgate.com/opinion/article/Brown-s-deal-with-Israel-good-for-California-and-5298344.php
6. www.haaretz.com/business/premium-1.575234
7. www.camera.org/index.asp?x_context=9999&x_article=2662

JERUSALEM PRE 1948: RELIGIONS CELEBRATE TOGETHER; POST 1948: ISRAEL FOMENTS RELIGIOUS DISCORD AND VIOLENCE: CHRISTIAN LEGISLATION, AL-AQSA

MOSQUE; BDS: LUXEMBOURG, NORWAY'S YMCA-YWCA

TO THE EDITORS:

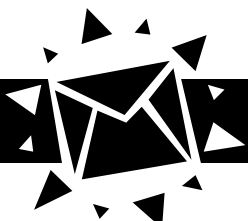
A newly published memoir: "The Storyteller of Jerusalem: The Life and Times of Wasif Jawhariyyeh, 1904-1948, provides a social history, through the observations and experiences of Wasif, a celebrated musician (*oud*) during late Ottoman and British Mandate Jerusalem (b.1897-1972, Christian). During the 1920's, "Muslims, Christians and Jews not only lived alongside one another, but participated in each other's religious festivals and cultural celebrations, drawing no meaningful distinctions between one community and another. The Jewish festival of Passover and Christian Easter were celebrated almost as one huge event in Jerusalem, with participants from the highest ranks of Muslim officials." (Sarah Irving)

Christian Legislation: February 24, 2014: Israel enacted a law giving separate seats, for the first time, to representatives of Muslim and Christian Arab workers' groups on an expanded equal opportunities employment commission. Quoting the bill's sponsor: "We [Israelis] and the Christians have a lot in common. They're our natural allies, a counterweight to the Muslims who want to destroy the country from within."

Palestinians rejected the legislation. Hanan Ashrawi, PLO spokeswoman: "This law aims to create a new reality among our people based on religion and not national identity." Eighteen Palestinian civil society organizations in Israel released a joint statement: "We vehemently reject all attempts by the Israeli government to fragment and segregate the Arab Palestinian society along sectarian lines of Christians and Muslims. We assert that we were and will continue to be one people united—albeit with different religions and ideological affiliations—and an integral part of the Arab Palestinian people." (Patrick Strickland)

Al-Aqsa Mosque: Tensions mounted over the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third-holiest site, February 25, 2014, with the unprecedented debate in Israel's parliament over a plan to place the holy site under full Israeli jurisdiction. The discussion, without a vote, sparked anger in the region. The parliament of Jordan, custodian of the site since 1994, voted to expel Israel's envoy, warning Jordan might review its peace treaty with Israel. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (57 members) condemned the debate as a "dangerous escalation," calling it part of Israel's goal to "Judaize Jerusalem."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



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

A CASE AGAINST SUPPLEMENTS

TO THE EDITORS:

In the March 6, 2014, issue of the *Linewaiters' Gazette*, Alison Rose Levy asks, in her article "Why Supplements?" as a lead-in to her second paragraph, "Show me the science."

Well, here's the science, from the editorial page of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 17 December 2013, Vol 159, No. 12 (www.annals.org/article.aspx?articleid=1789253). Titled "Enough Is Enough: Stop Wasting Money on Vitamin and Mineral Supplements," quotes large studies, longitudinal studies and meta-analyses, with the conclusion that is worth including here: "Although available evidence does not rule out small benefits or harms or large benefits or harms in a small subgroup of the population, we believe that the case is closed—supplementing the diet of well-nourished adults with (most) mineral or vitamin supplements has no clear benefit and might even be harmful. These vitamins should not be used for chronic disease prevention. Enough is enough."

Honestly, if you are buying food at the Coop, and are not well-nourished without taking supplements, you are doing it wrong.

Cooperatively yours,
Bruce Lokeinsky

A NEW PROPOSAL FOR PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION

TO THE EDITORS:

I would like to thank the Environmental Committee for their good-faith and heartfelt attempt to reduce plastic bag usage at the PSFC. Their agenda item's final vote tallied at 263

for the proposal and 354 against, demonstrating strong desire among membership for a positive solution palatable to all. Myself, I must admit that though I spoke out against it, a number of pro-agenda commenters convinced me to vote for it.

I now propose an alternative solution. Earlier in the meeting I offered an idea over an unrelated topic, that of speeding the checkout lines. Why not, I suggested, introduce the already widespread practice of pre-weighed containers? Think the size of a 32 oz. yogurt tub, a 2 ft. x 1 ft. box, etc. PSFC could create officially designated containers for all to use at-cost, or for a small profit, just like any item. It was greeted with, I'm pleased and surprised to say, enthusiastic applause.

During the EC's agenda item, I made the mental connection and floated the idea again. The practice would neatly sidestep the thorny issue of charging \$0.20 for a roll-bag to those who are low-income, and it would encourage rather than legislate a change in our shopping habits. I was approached by a small number of people later on who were excited about the idea, and so I am floating it today for all who are interested.

During my two years as General Meeting secretary, I've heard many good arguments against bringing your own bags for the purpose of reducing disposable roll bags, though these arguments were obviously not against reduction of plastic in general. From an operational standpoint, Joe Holtz and Ann Herpel have warned about Tare Weight, that you must calculate the weight of the empty container into the price of the item bought, then subtract. Multiple types of bags means multiple types of calculations, slowing everybody down.

But the Tare Weight of pre-weighed containers could, at some cost which PSFC could easily afford, be programmed into the registers. A few keystrokes later, any member could walk out with 1.23456 pounds of oatmeal in a sturdy reusable container. The speed of the line is likely kept the same, plastic usage as well as environmental degradation is reduced (scientific calculations opposing this will be introduced, but hey, I'm trying!), and everybody wins.

If you are interested in joining me

to eventually write an agenda item, please contact me at: [jessetr3 \(at\) gmail \(dot\) com](mailto:jessetr3@gmail.com).

Jesse Rosenfeld

REFLECTIONS ON THE ROLL BAG VOTE

TO THE EDITORS:

Reflecting on February's \$0.20 roll bag vote, I want to express renewed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

Anonymity

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

Fairness

In order to provide fair, comprehensive, fac-

tual coverage:

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

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

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

The above applies to both articles and letters. The only exceptions will be articles by *Gazette* reporters which will be required to include the response within the article itself.

Respect

Letters must not be personally derogatory or insulting, even when strongly criticizing an individual member's actions. Letter writers must refer to other people with respect, refrain from calling someone by a nickname that the person never uses himself or herself, and refrain from comparing other people to odious figures like Hitler or Idi Amin.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The site is also revered by religious Jews as the Temple Mount, a holy site for housing the temples destroyed in 586 BC and AD 70; where they want to erect a third temple. For 45 years, intensive Israeli excavations beneath Al-Aqsa have failed to find evidence of a temple dating back several millennia. The danger of Al-Aqsa collapsing in the process is very real. (Ben Lynfield)

BDS: Luxembourg's state pension fund FDC has excluded five major Israeli banks plus four firms from its \$18 billion investments based on complicity in illegal Israeli settlements. Norway's Young Men and Women's Christian Association (YMCA-YWCA) has called for support of the BDS movement until Israel ends the occupation of Palestine and complies with international law.

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

BOYCOTT SODASTREAM

TO THE EDITORS:

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), the non-violent movement called for by Palestinian civil society in 2005 to end the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine, continues to grow. All over the world governments, financial institutions, pension plans and not-for-profit organizations are beginning to divest from such Israeli projects as the building of Israeli colonial settlements in the Occupied West Bank Territories. Scholarly organizations are joining the academic boycott of Israeli government-sponsored institutions and conferences.

Supporters of Israeli persecution of Palestinians fear the success of the BDS movement. They see that the end of the occupation and the beginning of Palestinians' right to return to land inside the 1948 borders, from which they were expelled, would change the nature of the Israeli state. Justice for Palestinians would also mean their full equality with Jewish people inside

the 1948 borders. Jewish people would no longer have rights that are denied to Palestinians.

Recent letters to the *Gazette* have focused on SodaStream, a water carbonation system, sold by the Food Coop, which is made on stolen land in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. To help members understand why SodaStream is a product they should boycott, let's look at the issues its production raises. These became international news in January, 2014 when the film star Scarlett Johansson became a "brand ambassador" for the SodaStream Corporation. International pressure then caused her to give up her status as a "global ambassador" for the charity Oxfam which for years has condemned the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

West Bank industrial zones on the ruins of Palestinian villages, like the one in which SodaStream is located, are subsidized by the Israeli government. The Palestinian economy is crippled by Israeli occupation, including land confiscation, restriction of

movement, restriction of access to financial institutions, usurpation of resources (such as water) and Israeli settler violence against Palestinians. Wages paid to Palestinians by an Israeli corporation like SodaStream are better than those offered by Palestinian enterprises because they are deprived of normal economic development. That lack makes Palestinians a captive pool of desperate workers.

For a more extensive explanation of the SodaStream production issues, see the article by Benjamin Katz-Nussbaum "A Model Factory for a Colonialism in Trouble: the SodaStream Saga Revisited" at mondowiess.net.

Park Slope Food Coop Members for Boycott Divestment and Sanctions encourages members to boycott SodaStream and all other Israeli products sold at the Coop.

Further information is available at the websites electronicintifada.net, endtheoccupation.org, bdsmovement.net and at our website, psfcbds.wordpress.com.

Naomi Brussel

CLASSIFIEDS

BED & BREAKFAST

THE HOUSE ON 3rd ST. B&B - serving the Slope for over 20 yrs. Parlor floor-thru apt. sleeps 5 in comfort & privacy, queen bed, bath, double living room, kitchenette, outdoor deck. Visit our website at house-on3st.com. Click our FB link or call Jane at 718-788-7171. Ask about bargains for last minute bookings. Let us host you!

MERCHANDISE
NONCOMMERCIAL

FOR SALE: Women's beautiful green suede Susan Bennis Warren Edwards cowboy-style boots, size 10, \$100 or BO; tall, red Hunter rubber boots, new, size 9, \$50; Merrell shoes, gray, new, size 8 1/2, \$25. call 718-768-1598.

SERVICES
AVAILABLE

ATTORNEY—Personal Injury Emphasis—35 years experience in all aspects of injury law. Individual attention provided for entire case.

Free phone or office consultations. Prompt, courteous communications. 23-year Park Slope Food Coop member; Park Slope resident; downtown Brooklyn office. Tom Guccione, 718-596-4184, also at www.tguccionelaw.com.

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

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

TAX & ACCOUNTING SOLUTIONS Take the pressure off your tax worries. 30 years experience serving individuals & small businesses, including the arts, finance, startups & IRS negotiations. Kind & reassuring manner. Free yourself by calling

Jeffrey Gilfix, CPA, 917-337-1319.

Do you or a senior you love need to move? Are you eager to get organized? Paper Moon Moves is a senior move management company helping New Yorkers to: get organized; sell, donate or discard things no longer needed; and manage moves. Call 917-374-1525 for a free consultation!

HAIRCUTS HAIRCUTS HAIRCUTS color, highlights, low lights in the convenience of your home or mine. Adults \$35-\$40/ Kids \$15-\$20. Call Leonora 718-857-2215.

SERVICES WANTED

FREELANCE TALENT WANTED Non-profit has a unique opportunity for talented writers: Sales-Copy, Advertizing, Promotions, Brochures, Articles, Web-Content. Web Site: Designer/Builder. Radio: Agent, Program Producer. Motivational, Metaphysical. Designers: Graphic. Men's Fashion. Costume. Researcher and a P/R Person. Email to: PLCMcan@gmail.com.

To Submit Classified or Display Ads:

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

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

SANSKRITI
INDIAN

54 7th Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11217

(718) 638-6033 • (718) 638-6060

FREE DELIVERY

Order quickly online at:

www.sanskritibrooklyn.com

Spend a week
with your
family on 700
gorgeous acres
in Vermont this
summer!



www.cgvt.org

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.

FRI, MAR 21

8-10 p.m. SWING DANCE NIGHT with FLYING HOME - Playing the music of Benny Goodman. Evening begins with dance lessons with Arturo Perez! Then dance the night away to classic swing hits of the 30s, 40s, and 50s. Prospect Concerts, Brooklyn Society of Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West. Info: www.flyinghomeband.com

MON, MAR 24

7 p.m. Book Launch & Discussion: My Usual Table, by Colman Andrews in conversation with Ruth Reichl. At the power House Arena, 37 Main St. Bklyn NY for info call 718-666-3049. Rsvp appreciated: rsvp@powerhousearena.com.

TUE, MAR 25

1 p.m. Nature Talks, Remarkable Fishes of NY Harbor presented by Battery Park City Parks Conservancy; Free admission, Location: 6 River Terrace Battery Park City Manhattan. Info at info@bpcparks.org.

FRI, MAR 28

7 p.m. Women's Open Poetry and Performance Event. Women and

Trans Folk only. The Commons, 388 Atlantic Avenue, BKLYN, Donations go to Lynne Stewart for medical care - \$10 to \$20 with dinner. Trains: (A,C,G Hoyt-Schermerhorn); (F Bergen Street); (B,M,Q,R, 2,3,4,5 Atlantic/ Pacific) Resistance in Brooklyn. Information call Elspeth at 718- 783-8141.

FRI, MAR 28

8 p.m. Concert: Peggy Seeger, a singer of traditional Anglo-American songs and activist songmaker, plays six instruments, and has recorded over 50 albums. Peggy with Ewan MacColl, was instrumental in the 1960's folk revival in England where she now lives. Second Presbyterian Church, 6 W 96th St, NYC, \$22. Info: 212-957-8386.

SAT, MAR 29

2:00 p.m. The Image of Women in Anglo-American Traditional Song. Peggy Seeger will explore the ways in which women historically were portrayed in songs. She presents her response in her own songs. Pearl Studios, 519 8th Avenue, NYC 12th Floor, Studio H, \$20 Reservations or information, Steve Suffet 718-786-1533.

SAT, MAR 29

8:00 p.m. Peoples' Voice Cafe: Terry Kitchen; Pat Lamanna; Mara Levine & Caroline Cutroneo. At The Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 East 35th St. NY. Wheelchair-accessible. For info 212-787-3903 or see www.peoplesvoicecafe.org. Donation: \$18 general/\$10 members/more if you choose, less if you can't/no one turned away.

SUN, MAR 30

4 p.m. BPL Chamber Players at the Dr.S.Stevan Dweck Center, Central Library 10 Grand Army Plaza Bklyn featuring American Brass Quintet, Kevin Cobb and Louis Hanzlik, trumpets, Eric Reed, french horn, Michael Powell, trombone, John Rojak, bass trombone. Admission is free.

SAT, APR 5

4 p.m. Cookbook Tasting: The Homesick Texan's Family Table by Lisa Fain featuring recipes prepared by Melissa Vaughan (The New Brooklyn Cookbook) at the powerHouse 1111 8th Ave (btw 11th & 12th St), Brooklyn, NY 11215. Call for info 718.666.3049 rsvp@POWERHOUSEon8th.com.

BROWNSTONE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

"tech support for people"

Mac, Windows, phones, tablets and more.....

www.tech11215.com

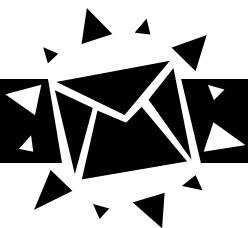
718-930-2286 • info@tech11215.com

Crossword Answers

D	A	H	L		A	S	H	E		T	H	A	T	S
I	D	E	A		I	T	E	M		E	A	T	A	T
C	O	L	D	F	R	O	N	T		S	H	A	N	A
T	B	I	L	I	S	I				S	T	A	L	I
S	E	X	E	D			C	L	E	A	R	H	E	A
			D	E	S			E	X	C	I	A		
R	B	I				T	H	A	I		D	H	A	B
C	O	M	M	U	N	I	S	T	L	E	A	D	E	R
A	G	A	I	N			T	E	S	S			O	D
			R	I	P	I	T			D	U	D		
C	A	R	R	O	T	T	O	P			T	O	W	N
O	R	I	O	N	S				I	B	E	G	Y	O
H	E	N	R	I			C	A	N	O	P	E	N	E
N	U	N	E	Z			E	T	C	H		A	N	N
S	P	A	D	E			E	V	E	R		R	E	D

Classified advertising in the *Linewaiters' Gazette* is available only to Coop members. Publication does not imply endorsement by the Coop.

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



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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

appreciation for our general coordinators who, despite repeatedly proving themselves to be stalwart, intelligent, thoughtful stewards of our eco-consciousness as an organization, have to put up with half-baked proposals at the GM on top of their regular work week. I doubt we grant them comp time. They deserve it. Alas, it's the price of our open governance.

The good news is, behavior is changing. Mine is anyway—the roll bags save me from using much heavier packaging, and I voluntarily reuse some of my bags. I hope compostable bio-bags get better so we can use those instead.

Punitive measures are such bad method—when we got rid of plastic shopping bags years ago, we didn't sell them instead! It was cold turkey and there were other obvious options that made it workable. The staff people supported “that” measure.

I don't put anything into a roll bag that doesn't need to be there. I hope the bag debate will encourage members who still use extra bags for big stuff like apples (so they stay together in the big cart and are easier to check out) to reuse more too, or stop the practice and deal with their loose produce at checkout. Positive reinforcement!

Lisa Guido

SELLING IT

TO THE EDITORS:

My favorite section in *Consumer Reports*, called “Selling It,” highlights the outrageously deceptive marketing that some companies practice. It's quite funny. But not so funny is when a committee in my coop does this to me.

In a handout available at the last General Meeting, “Plastic Reduction Policies Worldwide,” the Environmental Committee listed many cities, states and countries that have banned plastic bags or their free distribution. The clear implication of this handout is that the Coop needed to jump onto this bandwagon, which the Committee felt we could achieve by charging \$0.20 per roll bag.

The problem is that plastic bags of the type covered by this handout—plastic carry-out bags—have not been distributed at the Coop since April 2007. The Environmental Committee makes no claim that these cities, states and countries have banned roll bags.

I did a simple search on the web for just two of the places cited in the handout as banning plastic bags. In Hawaii, for example, “shops will still provide plastic bags for bulk items such as meat, grains or fresh produce” (LiveScience.com, reporting on this issue). From the website of the city of Issaquah, WA, I read that among sever-

al exemptions, “plastic bags are allowed for meat; bulk foods; fruits and vegetables.”

I think the Environmental Committee's handout is pretty deceptive, and I don't like being manipulated. I urge the committee to exercise a higher level of integrity in their publications.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hieatt

Bookkeeping Coordinator, PSFC

STEALING AT THE COOP

TO THE EDITORS:

The Coop Mission Statement should be amended to read: The Coop has a zero-tolerance policy for stealing and will implement any means necessary to eliminate it permanently.

No one goes hungry in New York. There are an abundance of food banks and soup kitchens in all areas serving hot, nutritious meals three times a day.

Persons that steal from the Coop are stealing for profit and greed.

Off with their heads or hands. Better still, out the door, down the road and furhgetaboutit.

Judith May

EXPERIENCED REPORTERS
Please Apply

Workslot Description

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

For More Information

If you would like to speak to an editor or another reporter to learn more about the job, please contact Annette Laskaris in the Membership Office or e-mail her at annette_laskaris@psfc.coop.

To Apply

Please send a letter of application and two writing samples at least 800 words long (one sample must be a reported interview, *not* a Q&A) to annette_laskaris@psfc.coop. Your letter should state your qualifications, your Coop history, relevant experience and why you would like to report for the Coop. Your application will be acknowledged and forwarded to the coordinating editors, Stephanie Golden and Erik Lewis.

Seeking to Diversify the Gazette Staff

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

★ ★ EXCITING WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITIES ★ ★

Office Set-up

Tuesday or Thursday, 6 to 8:30 a.m.

Need an early riser with lots of energy to do a variety of physical tasks including: setting up tables and chairs, buying food and supplies, labeling and putting away food and supplies, recycling, washing dishes and making coffee. Sound like your dream come true? This job might be for you. Please speak to Adriana in the Membership Office for more information.

Laundry and Toy Cleaning

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

This workslot has two responsibilities. You will load laundry into dryer, fold it and redistribute it around the Coop. While the laundry is washing/drying, you will clean toys in the childcare room. You will be working with a partner on these tasks.

Bathroom Cleaning

Monday-Friday 12 to 2 p.m.

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

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 detailed-oriented job, ideal for someone who likes working independently and is pro-active. Please speak to Alex in the Membership Office or contact him at alex_marquez@psfc.coop if you are interested.



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.

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

One three-year term on the Board is open. To vote you may use a proxy or attend the Food Coop Annual Meeting on June 24, 2014.

Every member will receive a proxy package in the mail in late May.

You will have the opportunity to meet the candidate at the March 25 GM and also at the June 24 Annual Meeting. Candidate statement follows:

BILL PENNER



I am writing to ask for your support for reelection as one of the six members of the Board of Directors of the Coop.

I have been a member of the Board of Directors for 8 years, I also serve on the receiving committee as a squad leader. Outside of the Coop, I am an architect with my own practice in Brooklyn and before receiving my degree in architecture, I apprenticed as a chef and cooked professionally for 6 years. The Coop is an important part of my life, it is a place where I connect with my passion for food and see the significance of food and food production in our society as a cultural, environmental, and economic force of incredible importance.

Because the Coop is a corporation, it is required to have a board of directors. Our Board of Directors meets every month in public at the General Meeting. Unlike most corporations, the Coop is unusual in that it relies on a town hall style of governance for the majority of its policy decisions. At our General Meeting, any Coop member can bring an item for dis-

cussion or make a proposal to be debated and voted on by the Coop membership present. At the end of the General Meeting, the Board of Directors votes on taking the advice of the membership. This is how the Coop combines its corporate structure with its town hall style of democracy.

In my opinion, there is often confusion as to the primary role of the Board of Directors within the Coop's decision making process. I believe an important distinction is that the Board's role is one of oversight rather than one of advocacy. Each member of the Board of Directors has a responsibility to act for the benefit of the Coop as a whole not to any one constituency or group. Proposals covering many different topics are presented, debated and voted on by all members present at the General Meeting. However, when the Board of Directors votes, I base my decision to the best of my ability on three criteria: 1) Will a proposal ratified by the General Meeting jeopardize the financial health of the Coop? 2) Will the proposal expose the Coop to unnecessary legal risk? 3) Does the proposal violate the spirit of the Coop's own by-laws? Historically, it has been extremely rare that the Board of Directors votes to overturn a decision made at a General meeting. I believe that this is testament to the

strength of our democratic process and the commitment both the members and the paid staff place on contributing to that process. The current Board of Directors is a diverse group of talented and dedicated people and I am honored to work with them on behalf of all members of the Coop.

The Coop just celebrated its 40th anniversary. I see the coming years as very important to prepare and lay the groundwork for our next 40 years of cooperation. There will be management changes that need to be addressed and planned for. Further, the Coop is more diverse than ever, and it will take a concerted effort to remain responsible to our cooperative mission and our commitment to inclusiveness for all people of different cultural and economic backgrounds without succumbing to divisive politics and all or nothing viewpoints.

As I have in the past, I have ended this letter with a dedication to the late President of the Board of Directors Israel Fishman. Israel used to say that the Coop saved his life—the different viewpoints and different people all working together for a common purpose gave him the perspective and patience to see beyond himself towards what was really important. I still think of this more than ever each time I attend a General Meeting and when I shop. ■

VALET BIKE PARKING IS HERE ON SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS!

strollers & scooters & carts too!



**Every Saturday,
April 5–November 22,
1:00–5:15 p.m.
and
Every Sunday,
April 6–November 23,
3:30–7:45 p.m.**

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

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

No locks, no worries, no theft.

Service operates rain or shine.

Look for us in front of the yellow wall.

Note: no bike check-in on Saturdays after 5 p.m. or Sundays after 7:30 p.m.

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



MEMBER SUBMISSION

Take the Whole Foods Price Comparison Challenge!

By Robin Burdulis

On Feb. 17th, Coop receipt in hand and no other commitments that evening, I went to Whole Foods to do an item-by-item price comparison.

I was so inspired by the recent *Linewaiters' Gazette* article on 2/6/14, by Thomas Matthews, that I wanted to add my two cents to this discussion by approaching it from a slightly different angle. Unlike Mr. Matthews, I am the main shopper in my household, doing almost all of the shopping exclusively at the Coop.

My shop ranged widely: from produce to cheese, and from canned goods to health.

I expected to find a significant price difference, but what I discovered was staggering: out of an \$85.40 shop at the Coop, I ended up saving \$26.47—an almost 30% difference! In other words, this shop would have cost me \$111.87 at Whole Foods. This was a relatively small shop—a larger shop

would most likely have saved me even more.

Surprisingly, though Whole Foods is a much larger store, they did not have three items on my list: Ronnybrook coconut yogurt, Meyer lemons and honeycrisp apples. Despite Whole Foods' stated commitment to providing locally grown options (posted on signs all over their produce section), the overwhelming majority of their apples were from Washington state.

Of additional note, this savings is not only limited

to Whole Foods. I have been a Coop member since 1987, and over the years as a percussionist, I have frequently traveled to perform in other parts of the country. When I'm out of town and need to shop, I regularly seek out other coops in the area. Without fail, our Coop outshines the prices I've found in other coops. This attests to the significant savings that member-only labor provides for each of us!

What follows is the list of 26 items and their price differences:

ITEM	COOP	WHOLE FOODS	DIFFERENCE
1/2 gal. Natural By Nature 0% milk	4.07	5.39	1.32
1 qt. Natural By Nature 0% milk	2.29	2.99	0.70
Canadian super-sharp cheddar (.42 lb.)	5.15 (@12.26/lb.)	7.56 (@17.99/lb.)	2.41
Pacific 7-grain beverage (32 oz.)	1.97	2.00 (on sale)	0.03
1 qt. Santa Cruz apple juice	2.67	3.49 ("365" house brand)	0.82
Pacific almond chocolate beverage (small)	0.78	1.12	0.34
Bruce Cost ginger ale (x 5 bottles)	8.05 (@1.61/ea.)	8.75 (@1.75/ea.)	0.70
G.T.'s kombucha	2.62	3.69	1.07
Amy's Thai Coconut soup (x2 cans)	5.54 (@2.77/ea.)	7.38 (@3.69/ea.)	1.84
Santini organic condensed milk (x2 cans)	6.40 (@3.20/ea.)	8.78 (@4.39/ea.)	2.38
Ghirardelli's bittersweet chocolate chips	2.68	4.69	2.01
coconut chips-organic, bulk (.42 lb.)	1.11 (@2.65/lb.)	1.97 (@4.69/lb.)	0.86
Nature's Path corn flakes	3.11	5.19	2.08
Applegate oven roasted turkey	5.57	6.99	1.42
Bioron 30c kali bich. homeo. remedy (x2)	11.40 (@5.70/ea.)	13.98 (@6.99/ea.)	2.58
Ecover dish detergent (32 oz.)	3.60	4.99	1.39
Hass avocado-organic	2.50	2.79 (non-organic)	0.29
cherry tomatoes-organic	3.34	3.49	0.15
loose carrots-organic (1.17 lb.)	1.47 (@1.26/lb.)	1.51 (@1.29/lb.)	0.04
Yukon Gold potatoes (.92 lb.)	.92 (@1.00/lb.)	1.37 (@1.49/lb.)	0.45
bananas-organic (1.13 lb.)	.97 (@.86/lb.)	1.11 (@.99/lb.)	0.14
jicama (.64 lb.)	.65 (@1.01/lb.)	1.27 (@1.99/lb.)	0.62
onions-organic (.34 lb.)	.42 (@1.24/lb.)	.50 (@1.49/lb.)	0.08
garlic (.25 lb.)	.77 (@3.07/lb.)	2.69 (@3.49/lb.)	1.92
portobello mushrooms (1 lb.)	4.28 (@4.28/lb.)	4.99 (@4.99/lb.)	0.71
TOTALS	\$85.40	\$111.87	\$26.47