

Volume II, Number 19

September 18, 2014

No Garden of Eden at the August General Meeting

By Thomas Matthews You might think that the last week of August would find Coop members scattered to the four winds, but the General Meeting held on August 26 drew a packed house and generated several lively discussions.

Even though no votes were scheduled, the auditorium at MS 51 was packed with about 300 people, according to my unofficial count. They came to discuss three agenda items: what to do about Eden Foods, which is challenging contracep-

tive provisions in the Affordable Care Act; whether the Diversity and Equality Committee should be "formally recognized" by the GM; and what the Coop could do to support the People's Climate March, scheduled for Sept. 21 in Manhattan.

Fortunately, the Open Forum and the Coordinator and Committee Reports were brief, because we needed all the available time to discuss the three agenda items.

In the Open Forum, Susan, a member of 22 years, suggested that the Coop's retirement fund investments be more transparent. Natalie wondered if the Coop could carry almond milk that didn't contain carrageenan a thick-



Alan asked that line management practices be extended to the checkout area seven days a week.

Coordinator and Committee Reports

Allen Zimmerman, a General Coordinator and our long-time produce guru, gave an impassioned response to a letter he had received asserting that the Coop's focus on expensive organic produce "caters to the one percent."

Allen responded that he looks for the best possible produce available, given swings in seasonality. He focuses on organic and local goods, but also keeps price in mind.

"You trust me," he said. "I trust the people I buy from. I realize I can't serve everyone's needs all the time. I try to balance. I hope you respect that I'm trying to serve the members as best I can."

The crowd responded with applause.

General Coordinator Ann Herpel requested that all members take the ongoing survey about the Coop's website. It can be found at www. new.foodcoop.com; paper surveys are available in the store.

Piper Hoffman of the Animal Welfare Committee reported that they are working on guides to milk, chicken and beef, along with a guide to turkey, which should be ready by November. She encouraged members to check out the committee's blog, available on the Coop's



From left to right, Melissa Morrone, June Reich and Arpita Base.

Deep Dive in the Coop Archives

By Pat Smith

I first heard about the Coop Archive Committee from Membership Coordinator Ellen Weinstat, who told me that the archivists had asked for some of the old attendance cards for the collection. That got me wondering what else might be gathered there. I imagined a Victorian cabinet of curiosities containing memorabilia like colorful labels from produce cartons, maybe examples of our sturdy "U-boat" and "Hollywood" carts, and certainly one of the ubiquitous banana boxes that serve so many Coop functions. My admittedly fanciful idea of the Coop archives, however, was well off the mark.

To begin with, an archive is not a museum. Even a quick Wikipedia search tells you archives are generally understood to be "records that have been naturally and necessarily generated as a product of regular legal, commercial, administrative or social activ-CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Next General Meeting on September 30

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The September General Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 30, at 7:00 p.m. at MS 51, 350 Fifth Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts. Enter on Fourth St. culde-sac. The Fourth St. entrance is handicap-accessible.

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

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NEW-MEMBER ORIENTATIONS Due to renovations on the Coop's second floor we will NOT hold orientations until early October.

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No Garden of Eden

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There was no financial report. Ann Herpel noted that the General Coordinators present 10 such reports per year and that staff vacations made preparing one for August not feasible.

Eden Foods Discussion

Eden Foods supplies about 70 products sold by the Coop, including popular items such as soy milk, applesauce and canned beans, amounting to about \$5,000 in weekly sales, according to a document presented at the meeting.

However, the company has filed a lawsuit to exempt itself from a provision in the Affordable Care Act that would require its employee health plan to cover contraceptives. Eden Foods argues that this is government overreach and an infringement of its right to act in accordance with its religious beliefs.

The July General Meeting had been scheduled to discuss whether the Coop should stop carrying Eden Foods products. However, the item's presenter was absent then, so the discussion was tabled until the August meeting, where two other members, Lisa Guido and Matthew Wills, presented a modified agenda item: "What should be the Coop's response to Eden Foods?"

Matt noted that several other coops had taken Eden Foods items off their shelves, or protested to the company. But Lisa conceded that "Eden Foods is good on food issues. As a food company, they're fantastic. So it's complicated, and there are no easy answers."

About two dozen members spoke on the issue. Darryl felt the company had a right to operate according to its values, whatever they might be. But Rebecca warned that "a whole wave of companies are working to take away reproductive rights. I like the idea of a community voice to express our values." However, since the lawsuit has not been ruled on in court, Regina said that the discussion was too hypothetical. "It's like asking if you had a brother, would he like noodles?"

Jan seemed to speak for many when she said, "I feel distressed that the Coop is wading into so many issues that are not food-based. We are a diverse community. Let's have information available so that members can make their

own informed decisions." After nearly an hour, the chair gaveled the discussion to a close. The next step would be to petition the Agenda Committee to schedule a formal proposal and a vote.

Diversity and Equality Committee

George Perlov, a member of the Diversity and Equality Committee (DEC), filled us in on the background and functions of the committee. He said it was founded in 2003 and currently has 20 members who review complaints by members about incidents of bias and discrimination; research member attitudes about these issues; and work to educate people to value diversity and equality. (He



also noted they were recruiting new members.)

The discussion centered on the committee's request to be "formally recognized by the GM," which the committee felt would give it more visibility and leverage to address these issues.

Ann Herpel noted that all committees must be approved by the GM. But a few committees—those that operate around issues of governance, finance and discipline undergo more scrutiny: each of the members of these committees must be voted on by the GM. This results in more accountability. Currently, the DEC is not an elected committee of the Coop.

The members who spoke seemed less concerned about the agenda item than about the actions, character and credibility of the committee itself. There were accusations that reports of bias had not been adequately addressed. Perlov and other committee members offered evidence to the contrary.

"We continue to get reports of bias and discrimination at the Coop," Perlov said. "It is not an unusual situation."

People's Climate March

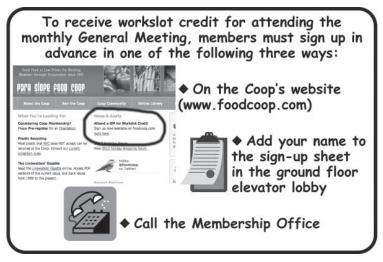
There was more consensus on the final item, presented by Jessica Roff.

"This will be the largest gathering of people to protest climate change in the history of the country," Jessica said. The organizers are hoping that hundreds of thousands of people will march in Manhattan on Sept. 21.

More than 750 organizations are formally on board, including many of our neighbors, such as the Brooklyn Food Coalition, the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, the Park Slope Jewish Center and the Park Slope United Methodist Church. Jessica wondered whether the Coop could have an official presence.

Ann Herpel expressed doubt that an official endorsement was possible at this late date, or that members could earn workslot credit for march-related activity. However, Allen Zimmerman suggested that he could see no obstacle to people making a Coop banner and marching behind it wearing Coop t-shirts.

Jessica said that people who were interested in supporting the march were meeting weekly at Mayday Artspace at 214 Starr Street in Bushwick. She encouraged members to learn more about the march at the peoplesclimate.org website. The discussion ended at 9:22. The minutes of the July meeting were accepted; the Board of Directors held their meeting; and the August General Meeting was adjourned at 9:25. The next General Meeting will be held on September 30 at 7:00 p.m. ■



Sudoku

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

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Fromage to Catalonia

By Brian Dentz

A goat grazes on grass on a sun-baked mountain covered in hardy scrub brush in Catalonia, Spain. The goat is later milked. And thus starts the process of making the cheese that could end up in a Park Slope Food Coop member's sandwich or salad.

Two drivers from Formatges Montbru, a small cheese factory whose products can sometimes be found at the Coop, drive from small farm called curd which is broken up by large mixing blades and sent streaming through a black hose into molds. There it's bathed in a saltwater solution that gives the cheese flavor and helps preserve it. The molds are removed from the salt water and go into a large humidity- and temperature-controlled white room.

Many of the cheeses at Formatges Montbru age in this room for about four weeks, where they grow a thin, hairlike outer coat. These cheeses



Cheese must be flipped daily during fermentation.



Formatges Montbru is best known for its cheese made with 100% buffalo milk.

to farm, picking up milk, mostly goat and also buffalo. They collect 48,000 gallons of milk each month, the raw material to make the 300 tons of cheese produced annually at their factory in Moià, about an hour's drive north of Barcelona. When the raw milk is brought back to the factory it is tested for fat content, protein content and bacteria content, among other attributes that determine which milk is best for each class of cheese. The milk is pasteurized, cooled and placed in a large metal container where cultures are added. It then transforms into a Jell-O-like substance

are semi-cured. Other cheeses require months of aging. The softer cheeses, similar to farmer's cheese, can take a few days to a week. "It's incredible, the flavor of cheese changes so fast, if you eat it today or in a few days," says Imma Antúnez-Llonch, who helped found the company more than 25 years ago. The business started in her family's kitchen. Imma and her husband, Pere Antúnez, had a goat farm that produced meat. One day Imma was talking with her mother-in-law, who owned a butcher shop that sold the meat they raised, and they discussed how there were periods

when raising goats produced no income. Her mother-in-law suggested she milk the goats and make a typical Catalan cheese called Mató, which is a soft cheese similar to Italian ricotta. It is often eaten as a desert with honey on top.

Her mother-in-law taught her the traditional way to make the cheese, using plants collected in the mountains. At night they would milk the goats, take the five liters of milk and make Mató cheese in the kitchen. "First I used my finger to test the temperature of the milk, later we bought a thermometer," Imma remembered. They sold the cheese in the butcher shop and soon in other stores as well. In time they were buying milk from other farmers to keep up with the demand.

It was one thing to make the cheese, but Pere quickly realized the importance of marketing. "I was in the streets selling the cheese. Selling the product was very important," he said.

As they expanded, they purchased another cheese company and a year later realized it was time to sell their remaining goats and focus exclusively on making cheese.

As their children grew older, they too joined the family business. Today, both sons, Oriol and Pere (junior), are integral parts of the team. The factory is over 4,000 square feet and they employ 38 people. They sell most of their cheese in Catalonia, but Formatges Montbru also exports to the US, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Andorra and Germany.

While there still is little demand for the more expensive organic cheese in Spain, clients abroad are increasingly requesting the organic certification. At the time of this reporter's visit, a large order of organic cheese was being filled for export to Germany. All the crates of organic cheese in production were clearly labeled, "Ecologic."

It might have started with goats but Formatges Montbru is best known for its cheese made with 100% buffalo milk. While representing his family's cheese business at a commercial food fair in Madrid, Oriol was approached by



Cheese ready to eat.

Michele Buster, a co-founder of Forever Cheese, which imports cheeses primarily from Spain and Italy and is one of the main suppliers of Southern European cheese to the PSFC. Michele had heard a rumor of a Spanish company, which was producing 100% buffalo milk cheese. The connection was made.

According to Pere (junior), buffalo milk has a special flavor, is low in cholesterol, low in fat and the fat is non-saturated. He describes the taste as strong and bitter and the texture as creamy. The Coop has carried their buffalo milk Oriol de Montbru, although it is not currently in stock.

As is the packaging practice of the PSFC, many of the cheeses they sell have an almost generic look to them, a white label with black print stating only the basics; the place of origin, class of cheese, weight and expiration date. But behind each of these cheeses, there is a story.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

SAT, SEP 20

12 p.m. PermaFest 3 Theme: "Building Resilient Communities" Skill sharing, services, a barter market, a gift circle, a talk about soil nutrition and climate change, live music and a picnic dinner at 6 p.m. This year's event will be held in conjunction with the Climate Change Convergence. Old Stone House Washington Park 336 Third St., Bklyn.

SAT, SEP 27

8 p.m. Peoples' Voice Cafe: Mountain Maidens & Friends; Lizzie Hershon & The Living Room Singers, playing British and American Folksongs. At the Community Church of NY Unitarian Universalist, 40 E. 35 St. For info call 212-787-3903 or half marathon or 5k benefit run see www.peoplesvoicecafe.org. for Michael Ring, Coop member

MON, SEP 29

7 p.m. Book Launch: All or Nothing by Jesse Schenker. He celebrates the release of his new memoir, a moving story of obsession, addiction, and a passion for cooking that led to redemption. At the power-House Arena, 37 Main St., Bklyn. For info call 718-666-3049. Rsvp@ powerhousearena.com.

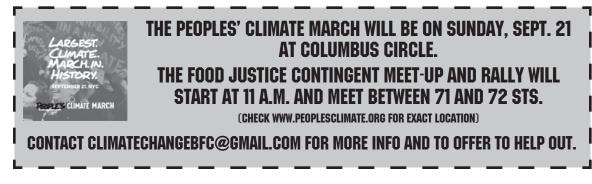
SAT, OCT 11

10 a.m. Kings County Fiber Festival. Spend the day with natural fiber artists, crocheters, dyers, felters, knitters, quilters, spinners and weavers in the second annual fiber fair. At the Old Stone House in Brooklyn. Fifth Ave. and Fourth St. For more info: kingscountyfiberfestival.org.

8 a.m. The Run for The Rings, Suggested donation \$18, mem- and Prospect Park Track Club

ber \$10.

events organizer/volunteer. For more info: www.nycruns.com/ races/?race=run-for-the-rings.



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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



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

Friday, October 17, 8:00 p.m. The Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture and the Park Slope Food Coop present: FROSPECT CONCERTS

Talent spotted by BBC Radio 2's Bob Harris, **Annie Keating** appeared live on the Bob Harris show in 2008 and 2011 and has gone on to perform at leading national and international festivals including Take Root (Netherlands), the Glasgow Americana Festival (Scotland), the NJ Folk Festival, NXNE in Canada, NEMO and MEANY music fests and the Mountain Stage NewSong finals. She has performed on the bill with the John Hiatt, Dan Bern, Bon Iver, Hot Club of Cowtown, Anne Heaton, Boris McCutcheon and Shannon McNally. Keating is currently finishing recording her sixth independent CD release due out later





this year. She will join other incredible Coop musicians to put on a true singer-songwriter, alt-country/americana evening of original songs (for fans of Lucinda Williams, Gillian Welch, Bob Dylan, Patty Griffin, John Prine and Joni Mitchell)... don't miss this trio acoustic show!

Stephanie Jenkins grew up in a musical family in Manhattan's Upper West Side. She started playing old-time banjo at 16 and has never looked back. Now a Brooklynite, Steph works in documentary film and plays with local all-girl stringband The Calamity Janes, as well as Ithaca-based bands The Pearly Snaps and Evil City Stringband. She'll be joined by her brother, Reid Jenkins.

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 Park slop

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.



CAN I RETURN MY ITEM?

Produce* Bulk* (incl. Coop-bagged bulk Cheese* Seasonal Holiday Items Books Special Orders

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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.

Calendars Refrigerated Supplements RETURNABLE & Oils Juicers *A buyer is available during the week Sushi days to discuss your concerns RETURNABLE ONLY IF SPOILED Refrigerated Goods (not listed above) BEFORE Frozen Goods EXPIRATION DATE Meat & Fish Packaging/label Bread nust be present ed for refund Items not listed above that are unopened RETURNABLE and unused in re-sellable condition

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

Photoshop:Steve FarnsworthPreproduction:Kendall Speten-HansenArt Director (production):Lynn Cole-WalkerDesktop Publishing:Matthew LandfieldMidori NakamuraMidori NakamuraMichael WaltersMichael WaltersEditor (production):Michal HershkovitzPuzzle Master:James VasileIndex:Len NeufeldProofreader:Nancy RosenbergAdvertisement:Eric Bishop

September 18, 2014 🖛 5

★ ★ ★ ★ EXCITING WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITIES ★ ★ ★ ★

Bathroom Cleaning Tuesday, 12 to 2 p.m.

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

Office Set-up

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 6 to 8:30 a.m. Need an early riser with lots of energy to do a variety of physical tasks including: setting up tables and chairs, buying food and supplies, labeling and putting away food and supplies, recycling, washing dishes and making coffee. Sound like

your dream come true? This job might be for

you. Please speak to Adriana or Cynthia in the Membership Office for more information.

Store Equipment Cleaning Monday, 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.

Vitamin Assistant

Saturday, 6 p.m.

Are you a detail-oriented worker who can work independently and in a busy environment? The Coop's vitamin buyer needs you to help her check in orders, organize the vitamin supply area in the basement and on the shopping floor, label vitamins and supplements, and other related tasks. If you are interested in this workslot, please contact the Membership Office for more information.

Compost Haulers

We need members with a van or truck to haul the compost from the Coop to various community gardens. It is a regular work slot, every four weeks. The time of day is flexible. If you are a member with a truck and not afraid to haul buckets of compost, please consider this very important work slot. For more info talk to Annette Laskaris in the Membership Office or e-mail your interest to annette_laskaris@psfc.coop.

General Meeting Set-Up Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.

Adaptable, physically energetic, team workers with

excellent attendance needed to help set up and break down the space where the General Meeting is held. Contact Adriana Becerra, Membership Coordinator, adriana_becerra@psfc.coop

Van/Truck Driver for GM Delivery/Pick-Up

Last Tuesday night of the month

Member with a van or truck needed to pick up and load the team of workers and gear from the Coop at 5:30 p.m. and drop them off at the local General Meeting venue (currently M.S. 51) and help unload. Then, be on call to return to venue for pick-up and loading of workers and gear between hours of 8:45-10 p.m., and drive back to Coop. You must be dependable, with good attendance. Contact Adriana Becerra, Membership Coordinator, adriana_becerra@psfc.coop.

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CÖPCALENDAR

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, SEPTEMBER 30 GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, OCTOBER 7

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m. Submissions will be considered for the September 30 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines

Letters & Voluntary Articles:

 Oct. 2 issue:
 12:00 p.m., Mon, September 22

 Oct. 16 issue:
 12:00 p.m., Mon, October 6

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

Oct. 2 issue:7:00 p.m., Wed, September 24Oct. 16 issue:7:00 p.m., Wed, October 8

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-forworkslot-credit program two times per calendar year.

Certain Squads not eligible:

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 pro-cessed 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.

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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 tradi-

tion 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, September 30, 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

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:

 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. Enjoy some Coop snacksSubmit Open Forum itemsExplore 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.

6 September 18, 2014

Coop Archives CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ities." So much for banana boxes and stocking carts.

To get the real picture of the Coop collection I interviewed Archive Squad member June Reich. "The archive squad had its first iteration years ago," she explained. "They collected stories from prominent Coop members and created scrapbooks, which were very beautiful, but more like a curation project than an archive. The backbone of their work was cataloguing the Linewaiters' Gazette, so we have an almost complete run of three originals, from the beginning, when it was just a little newsletter."

A Team of Professionals

After a stretch of time without a regular archives squad in place, the Coop put out a call for new members. June remembers seeing a message on an archives e-mail list serve. "It was sort of a Will-Archive-For-Food thing," she said. Following a subsequent call for archivists in the Gazette, the squad in its current incarnation now has five members. All are either professional archivists or librarians. "We all have different strengths," June said. "One of us knows conservation, another is a digital librarian who interned with StoryCorps," the oral history project that airs on National Public Radio. "Everybody on the squad is committed and creative. Once our committee was reinstituted, we went back through the Gazette, and we created an Excel spreadsheet, nothing fancy, just to catalogue all the issues," June said. "The Brooklyn Archives collection at the Brooklyn Library has taken a set, and they are going to keep collecting issues."

Pro and Contra Dance Party Pictures

What else did the current squad inherit? "There was a bin full of snapshot photographs, mostly of Coop events like contra dances and parties from the '90s, mostly unmarked," June said. Contra dances? "The contra dances so overwhelm the collection of photographs," she said, laughing. "They were sort of like square dances. We did our best to glean what information we could from them. Because they had come to us in a jumble, we decided there wasn't really an original order we could maintain. There is a concept of original order in archives. If a library's impulse is to impose order on things, like keeping all the books on a single topic together, archivists try to preserve whatever creative organization that was inherent. With just a bin of photographs to start with, we organized them thematically. We've got a huge section on the dances and dinners.

Permaculture SATURDAY SEPT 20 12pm-8pm Skill Share esti Stone House & Music facebook.com/permfestNYC PRESENTED by PARK SLOPE PERMACULTURE GUILD **OPEN CALL!** NY PERMACULTURE EXCHANGE THE OLD STONE HOUSE for Skill Shares endors & Eco ART deadline: Sept I permafestnyc@gmail.com Held in Solidarity with the Peoples Climate March on Sunday, Septer

There's a very big collection of Gazette photographs. Those you can easily distinguish from random snapshots; they're pegged to a story. And there are pictures of the building, exterior and interior."

Access vs. Privacy

"We're at a midpoint now with what we're doing," June explained. "We've been working with the Video Squad. Archivists at work. They're interested

in the photographs as part of a documentary history of the Coop. We've been scanning them, but we're trying to figure out the next step, a digital asset management system. We're at the point where people want to be able to look at stuff and that opens up a host of questions on a lot of levels. Not only organization and access, but also privacy rights. What do we want to do, say, for members who just happen to be in a snapshot, dancing? Nobody had any intention of getting their permission, or preserving their privacy. So we're feeling our way through those issues."

New Acquisitions

What has recently been added to the archives? "We're starting to collect papers related to the newest renovations upstairs," June said. "Joe Holtz gave us some boxes of his papers, and we really want to encourage the other coordinators to give us stuff. We've started doing oral histories in concert with the Video Squad. We've done just one so far, with Joe, and we loved that. We just finished the transcript. The idea is that we're doing some active story telling, history gathering, as well as artifact preservation."

How can members see what's in the archives? "Certainly having access to the complete run of the Gazette at the Brooklyn Library is fantastic," June said. "It's a first point of entry for so much research. It's great to be able to direct people there. But unless the Coop expands again, and builds up a little more space, our stuff is not easily accessible without stepping on somebody's desk. It's a hassle. There's a steady flow of researchers who are interested in the Coop, for one reason or another and they usually go through Coordinator Ann



Herpel. We've had people come to look through photographs while we were meeting, or if I can manage it, I'll meet somebody after hours."

History and Social Media

If privacy issues can be addressed, June imagines a Coop website presence for archives. "It would be great to have a social media history project online," she said. 💹

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"You could **From the archive: 1976 fruit-buying record.** invite people

to tag photos and tell stories around the images. The online stuff would be mainly images. For instance, there's a signed Cesar Chavez poster from the grape boycott in the 1960s. It's great, but it was kept out forever, so his signature has practically faded to invisible ink."

Would archives include something like the daily produce lists? "The daily course of business stuff is, on the one hand, fascinating, but on the other hand, we would just be snowed under by the sheer amount of stuff," June said. "But in the context of, say, an oral history interview with [General Coordinator] Allen Zimmerman, a daily produce list would be totally fascinating, along with any papers he could give us." "What's fun about archives is that I'm charged, as a professional archivist, to be neutral," June explained. "The judgments are not mine to make. You can't keep absolutely everything, but who knows what questions, what future interests will become? You can imagine cultural historians asking about the trends in people's eating. What fruits were super popular, say, in the 1980s? How did the Coop grow? How did we end up where we are?"

The Archives and You

Can members submit material to the archives? "We don't have a formal collection policy," June said. "We have been trying outreach and we're going to keep at it. We'll accept things, with some consideration-no guarantees. We have all of the Gazette, for instance; we don't need anyone's complete collection." Members interested in donating Coop-related ephemera to the archives, such as fliers, posters, outreach materials, or proposals for oral histories, can contact the committee at archives@psfc.coop. ■

"Soil Nutrition & Climate Change" Conversation with: Dan Kittredge

Music Mission The mission of the NYC Permafest is to strengthe Kelly Fragale

Kelly Fragale Wild Bone Skills pertaining to urban homesteading, environmental stewardship, personal wellness and community interdependence.

Children's Eco Activities Gift Circle Barter Skill Sharing Picinic Dinner Wellness Services Garden Walks Vendors Eco Art... JOIN US to celebrate health, wellness, self reliance, urban homesteading, community interdependence & local food

park slope FOOD COOP

Calendar of events

sep 19 fri 8 pm

Stephanie Rooker & Ben Tyree; **Mamie Minch**



Potently intelligent, pensively psychedelic, vocalist Stephanie Rooker draws her influences as deeply from conscious hip-hop as from jazz, soul, and funk. She delivers songs

of personal and societal empowerment with a voice that is at once evocative and healing. Guitarist Ben Tyree wields virtu-

osic ability, eclectic tastes, and the power to move peopleeither with a buoyant groove to get audiences out of their seats or with emotional depth to touch a listener's soul. Park Slope local singer and guitarist Mamie Minch sounds something like a well-fleshed-out 78-rpm record. She's known around town for her Piedmont-style fingerpicking chops, her big deep voice and her self-penned antique-sounding songs. She's played music all over the world and Brooklyn, with all kinds of excellent people, including Dayna Kurtz, the Roulette Sisters, Jimbo Mathis and CW Stoneking.



PSFC SEP General Meeting

Items will be taken up in the order given. Times in parentheses 2 10 10 5 are suggestions. More information on each item may be available on the entrance table at the meeting. We ask members to Jplease read the materials available between 7 and 7:15 p.m.

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

I. Member Arrival and Meeting Warm-Up

II. Open Forum

III. Coordinator and Committee Reports

IV. Meeting Agenda

Item 1: Annual Hearing Officers Committee Election (20 minutes) Election: One current committee member will stand for re-election. Hearing Officers work on an FTOP basis when needed and serve three-year terms.

--submitted by the Hearing Officer Committee

Item 2: Proposed Cancellation of December 2014 General Meeting (10 minutes) Proposal: Proposal to cancel the December 2014 General Meeting.

—submitted by General Coordinators

Item 3: Formation of an International Trade Education Squad (30 minutes) Proposal: Formation of an International Trade Education Squad to keep members informed about how they affect our ability to maintain our values and realize the goals of the Park Slope Food Coop. -submitted by Susan Metz

Item 4: Study of Member Characteristics Pertinent to Retirement Policy (30 minutes) Proposal: The General Meeting shall authorize and supervise implementation of a demographic study of Coop members, relevant to work shift policy, retirement, disability, and related issues. —submitted by David Laibman

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.

The Food Coop's second-floor meeting room will be unavailable for

sep 27-28 Food Drive to Benefit

sat-sun 9 am-7 pm CHIPS Soup Kitchen

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 fund-

raising partnership of the Coop and the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture.

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

Coop events through early October, due to office renovations on that floor.

LETT

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RETIREMENT POLICY

TO THE EDITOR:

While the Coop may not have demographic data on members, we certainly do know when each member joined the Coop. Perhaps the retirement policy study can begin with a letter sent to every current member who joined before September 1994 (20 years or more). I am assuming that this can be done based on member numbers issued as of then. The letter can explain the current retirement policy and invite a response from any members age 65 or over who want to retire. Based on the responses we will know the extent of the impact on work slot coverage.

One of the proposals cited in David Laibman's submission in the *Gazette* of August 21 is that "retirement should be based on years of work alone." If that proposal becomes the retirement policy then every member from before September 1994 would be eligible for retirement now.

Paul Friedman



BDS/MIDDLE EAST

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IN DEFENSE TO THE EDITORS AND MEMBERS:

The previous issue included an Editors' apology to Naomi Brussel for not inviting her to respond to an article (mine) in which she was named.

I did indeed name her: as having submitted two letters—one as spokesperson for the Diversity and Equality committee and another as spokesperson for BDS. I don't believe this constitutes an "attack," as one letter writer, Amina Ali, M.A., claimed. My point, which I thought was clear, was not about Brussel, but rather about the DEC itself. It is bizarre that the committee dedicated to fighting bias has a spokesperson who also speaks for an international organization dedicated to single-minded bias against the only democracy in the Middle East, the only Jewish country in the world.

The editors also apparently forgot to invite me to respond to accusations against me. Since the Israel boycott issue first arose in the Coop, I've submitted *Gazette* letters and articles. It is not true, as Ali charged, that I (and writers of other anti-BDS letters I've read) regard all criticism of Israel as anti-Semitic. (If you ever want to hear combative criticisms of Israel, check out what goes on in the Israeli Parliament!) Neither, by the way, have I expressed animosity against the Palestinian people because I have none.

One of my strongest objections to BDS is their deception and dishonesty. Masquerading as a human rights organization, like Hamas they do absolutely nothing to help the Palestinian people. Their interest, their obsession, lies only with delegitimizing Israel, without ever condemning or even mentioning Hamas' destructive impact on the lives of Palestinians.

Hamas has turned Gaza into a bastion of totalitarianism, terrorizing its people. They use civilians, including children, to shield rocket and ground operations. They use Sharia to justify barbaric treatment of women (including honor killings) and homosexuals (including the death penalty). Punishments also include lashings, stoning, amputations and assassinations. They have executed many of their own people. At the time of this writing they opened fire on 22 alleged collaborators with Israel, without trying and convicting them. They siphon off money intended for the people for their own use. They intimidate the press. They teach children in schools and summer camps to hate Jews, and they glorify martyrdom. Clearly they are interested neither in the welfare of their people nor in peace. Their charter clearly states their purposes: to establish an Islamic state and kill Jews.

OR

They have been described accurately as Palestinian fascist neo-Nazis. They have murdered hundreds of Jewish civilians in terrorist attacks, desecrated Jewish holy sites, and recently used a Gazan church (along with hospitals and schools) to launch rockets.

It would be helpful if anyone responding to Gazette letters first read the letters carefully before misrepresenting them, and also become informed about what has actually been going on in Israel and Gaza.

Better yet, how about just eliminating the BDS letters section, Editors? At the least, these letters violate *Gazette* policy in that they are totally irrelevant to the Coop.

Ruth Bolletino

[Response from Naomi Brussel]

I address Ms. Bolletino's assertions as a Coop member and an activist in the group Park Slope Food Coop Members for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (psfcbds.wordpress.com). The Diversity and Equality Committee (DEC) is preparing a response, to be published soon, to the letter above and to her earlier Member Contribution in the August 7 *Gazette*. I am not a spokesperson for the DEC, nor is anyone else.

Ms. Bolletino refers to me as speaking "for an international organization dedicated to single-minded bias against the only democracy in the Middle East, the only Jewish country in the world." In fact, I speak only for myself. She thus defines criticism and non-violent action against the Israeli persecution of the Palestinian people as "single-minded bias." The BDS movement is part of the international struggle to end the Israeli Occupation of Palestine. Its "bias" and mine is against discrimination, apartheid laws and overwhelming military force faced by Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza and inside the 1948 Israeli borders.

The Israeli Government claims to speak for all Jews and denounces as anti-Jewish those of us who oppose its policies. By implication, Ms. Bolletino repeats this claim, calling Israel "the only democracy in the Middle East and the only Jewish country in the world". In fact, Israel's Government is becoming less democratic and more repressive in its policies. (See the article "The End of Liberal Zionism" by Antony Lerman in the NY Times Sunday Review August 24, 2014) With her accusations of "deception and dishonesty" against those of us who support Palestinian liberation,

LETTERS POLICY

Fairness

In order to provide fair, comprehensive, factual coverage: 1. The *Gazette* will not publish hearsay—that is, allega-

tions 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.

Solution to this issue's sudoku puzzle												
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You may submit on paper, typed or very legibly hand-

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 other-

must include your name and phone number and be typed

or very legibly handwritten. Editors will reject letters that

The maximum length for letters is 500 words. Letters

written, or via email to GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop or on disk.

Anonymity

wise discriminatory

are illegible or too long.

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.

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.



Ms. Bolletino tries to divert attention from the atrocious brutality of Israel's recent assault on Gaza and the more than 2,100, people, mostly civilians, whom the Israeli military has killed in the past two months.

Naomi Brussel

ISRAEL AND U.S. MISSED MANY CHANCES SINCE 2006 TO AVOID WAR IN GAZA

MEMBERS:

Highlights on this theme are drawn from Sandy Tolan's article (8/13/2014), author of The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East. He is an associate professor at the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. www.juancole.com/2014/08/ blown-chances-Israel.html

2006: Surprise victory for Hamas over Fatah in free and fair elections. Israel and the Quartet (U.S., European Union, Russia and UN) refused to recognize the outcome of the democratic elections, labeling Hamas a "terrorist organization," which sought Israel's destruction. George W. Bush's administration strongly pressured Abbas not to join a unity government. Quartet suspended economic aid. Israel severely curtailed the flow of goods, in and out of Gaza.

June 2006: A hand-written note by Ismail Haniyeh (Hamas), addressed to President Bush, requested a direct dialogue with the administration. The letter, delivered by Jerome Segal, founder of the Jewish Peace Lobby, to the State Department and National Security Council called for a unity government with the rival Fatah faction. Despite Hamas's charter calling for the elimination of Israel, Haniyeh's conciliatory note conveyed a different message: "We are so concerned about stability and security in the area that we don't mind having a Palestinian state in the 1967 borders and offering a truce for many years." (Essentially a de facto recognition of Israel with a cessation of hostilities, both key U.S./Israeli yeh to Bush: 'the continuation of current situation will encourage violence and chaos in the whole region.' The Bush team chose to ignore Hamas's overture, opting with Israel for violence and chaos. Three weeks after Haniyeh's unanswered letter was delivered, Hamas abducted an Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, and fired rockets into Israel. Israel launched a massive retaliation, Operation Summer Rains.

demands of Hamas). Hani-

2007: Hamas and Fatah again discussed forming a unity government. U.S. pressured against this while arming, training a Fatah faction in Gaza to take control. America's plan leaked. Street battles ensued. Hamas police and militants drove Fatah fighters from the Strip.

2009: The sporadic efforts for Palestinian unity following Operation Cast Lead were opposed by the U.S.-Israeli military-industrial alliance.

2014: Hamas and Fatah signed a unity agreement. New government formed without a single Hamas member. Hamas pledged nonviolence, recognition of Israel, adherence to past agreements. Netanyahu responded: Hamas was "a terrorist organization bent on the destruction of Israel." Following abduction/murder of 3 Israeli teenagers, Israel launched Operation Brother's Keeper: searched 2200 West Bank Palestinian homes, arrested 400+ (mostly Hamas). Hamas's denied involvement, later substantiated by Israeli police, but not before Hamas responded with rockets from Gaza. Israel launched Operation Protective Edge, 51 days of sophisticated lethal power v. Hamas's mostly primitive rockets.

Continued support for a unity government will strengthen prospects for a long-time reconciliation between Hamas and Fatah—the very condition Israel went to such lengths to destroy. Israel's massacre has created worldwide sympathy for the Palestinian people, and momentum for global boycotts. Mary Buchwald BrooklynForPeace.org PSFC members for BDS www.psfcbds.wordpess.com

HAMAS REPORTER INTIMIDATION

DEAR EDITORS,

As journalists yourselves, you should be aware of how your fellow professionals were and are being intimidated by Hamas in the Gaza strip. It is only by the bravery of relatively unknown news organizations that stories of Hamas firing their weapons from deep inside civilian areas are finally getting out to the public. Apparently, more established organizations like the Wall Street Journal and Liberation (of France) have more to lose and understandably back down under Hamas' violent threats, even to the point of deleting stories and Twitter posts. I feel this is the reason why Thomas Cox chooses to believe that reports of Hamas using human shields are not verified. He is relying on the mainstream media for his information, or lack thereof.

www.ndtv.com/article/ world/ndtv-exclusive-howhamas-assembles-and-firesrockets-571033

"In the minutes before the ceasefire kicked in at Gaza this morning, Hamas fired a flurry of rockets towards Israel—30 according to some counts.

Israel has argued that that these rockets are fired from civilian areas, and this is why its retaliatory strikes can result in civilian casualties.

But this morning, NDTV witnessed one such rocket silo being created under a tent right next to the hotel where our team was staying. Minutes later, we saw the rocket being fired, just before the 72-hour ceasefire came into effect."

"This report is being aired on NDTV and published on ndtv.com after our team left the Gaza strip—Hamas has not taken very kindly to any reporting of its rockets being fired. But just as we reported the devastating consequences of Israel's offensive on Gaza's civilians, it is equally important to report on how Hamas places those very civilians at risk by firing rockets deep from the heart of civilian zones." Does the Gazette staff have an official stance on reporter intimidation? I'd like to hear it. Henny Hanuna

THIS ISN'T ABOUT BDS

DEAR EDITORS,

In my last letter to you, I made it clear that my letter should not wind up in the BDS section, even going so far as to put the request in the final paragraph. You put it there anyway with the addendum: "[Editor's note: because of layout issues and other reasons we are placing this letter in the BDS section.]"

The editors are no higher up on the food chain than any other member. To expect anyone to be satisfied with "and other reasons" is unprofessional and arrogant.

As for your "layout issues," you managed to find the time and space for an outsized and bolded headline, "This letter does not mention BDS," plus your italicized addendum. But you couldn't find space elsewhere for my letter itself?

Perhaps the problem lies within your insistence on having a BDS section itself.

I would like to know by the next issue of the Gazette what these "other reasons" are.

> Best Regards, Uli Gradinger

NOT IN MY NAME

DEAR EDITOR,

Leafy, lovely Prospect Park. Our park. We all love it. Imagine it was twice that size. Nice, eh? That's roughly the size of the latest illegal land grab committed by Israel in the West Bank. As a member of civil society I'm deeply offended. But what's to be done? I won't resort to violence. I'm not brave enough to stand before the bulldozer like Rachel Corrie (who was crushed to death). Politics? The international community already condemns such settlements as illegal. The only thing I can do is write this letter in support of a boycott of Israeli goods, not so much as a way to "hurt" Israel but as a simple way of saying NOT IN MY NAME. NOT WITH MY DOL-LAR. In the face of such vile arrogance it's the very least I can do.

STOP STIRRING THE POT

DEAR MEMBERS,

Ms. Amina Ali wrote last issue: "I am tired of the charge of anti-Semitism being thrown at anyone who criticizes the government of Israel."

I dispute Ms. Ali's opinion wholeheartedly. No one has ever called me an anti-Semite or a self-hating Jew for criticizing Israel right here in these pages. There is a growing voice though of those who deserve that charge (not in the Coop, I'm glad to say), a voice that criticizes the government of Israel as cover to threaten Jews.

I and many others worldwide are speaking out about how constant hyper-charged accusations against Israel (which does happen in the Coop I'm sad to say) have become a stepping stone for some towards hate speech. My letter from the last Gazette described how the word "Hamas" and a Nazi symbol were recently spray-painted together on a South Florida synagogue. It's obvious that this criminal viewed his actions as a grade above gutter-hate simply because he tossed in the name of a political party. This criminal was urging Nazis to kill more Jews, and hoping Hamas will lend a hand.

Can I draw a direct line, proving my theory with data and white papers? No, and I won't either because I'm tired too, tired of having to prove the obvious.

I appreciate Ms. Ali taking time to submit her opinion, and I hope that she will write an equally powerful letter next issue where she urges BDS to stop stirring the pot every week.

Jesse Rosenfeld

THIS ISN'T ABOUT BDS

Sincerely, Emmet McGowan

DEAR EDITORS:

I have some questions about your editorial policies and how things do or do not get placed in the BDS section. Please provide me with clarification.

On July 24, 2014, the letters section was flooded with calls to boycott Eden foods.

Park Slope Food Coop, Brooklyn, NY



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

BDS/MIDDLE EAST

Subsequent issues have featured calls as well to boycott Eden foods. Can the editors please explain why these letters were not put in the BDS section?

Also there have been letters lately concerning the Israel/Gaza conflict that don't mention BDS or boycotts at all. Why were they published in the BDS section?

> Sincerely, Murray Lantner

BLURRY LINES

NAOMI BRUSSEL,

You say that "Judaism and Zionism should not be conflated." Terrific, but why do you assume it is your political adversaries who do this?

According to CRIF.org and the Times of Israel, a 60-year-old French-Jewish male was assaulted on August 12 outside his home by several people. The leader was screaming, "Dirty Jew, this isn't Gaza, I'm going to kill you and your family." There is also the South Florida synagogue that was recently spray-painted with a Nazicross and "Hamas" above it. Note the blurry lines between Jew and Zionist.

It's time to look in the mirror, and at the websites of your allies, and admit who are the ones truly conflating Judaism with Zionism. If anti-Israel rhetoric is ever anti-Semitic hate speech it is because the constant barrage of anti-Israel rhetoric in these pages and on the Internet in general is predictably pushing the needle in that direction. If you feel it's the moral thing to do, then keep it up. But look at your Jewish friends first (yes, even the progressive ones) and ask yourself, is putting Jews in danger worth the price? Or just ask your Jewish friends instead, because they're the ones who will actually pay it. Meir Rosenberger

guidelines as published in their "Be Aware—Social Media Activist Awareness Campaign":

"Anyone killed or martyred is to be called a civilian from Gaza or Palestine, before we talk about his status in jihad or his military rank. Don't forget to always add 'innocent civilian' or 'innocent citizen' in your description of those killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza."

"Avoid entering into a political argument with a Westerner aimed at convincing him that the Holocaust is a lie and deceit; instead, equate it with Israel's crimes against Palestinian civilians."

"Do not publish close-ups of masked men with heavy weapons, so that your page will not be shut down [by Facebook] on the claim that you are inciting violence."

Editors, please also be aware that on August 11, 2014, the Foreign Press Association published this statement:

"The Foreign Press Association protests in the strongest terms the blatant, incessant, forceful and unorthodox methods employed by the Hamas authorities and their representatives against visiting international journalists in Gaza over the past month.

In several cases, foreign reporters working in Gaza have been harassed, threatened or questioned over stories or information they have reported through their news media or by means of social media. We are also aware that Hamas is trying to put in place a 'vetting' procedure that would, in effect, allow for the blacklisting of specific journalists. Such a procedure is vehemently opposed by the FPA."

The proliferation of documentation of Hamas war crimes (e.g. Hamas fighters donning civilian clothing firing missiles from within Gaza civilian quarters) AFTER the end of hostilities and AFTER foreign journalists have left Gaza is a clear indication of the presence of such intimidation during the seven-week conflict. Reporters currently in Gaza still must abide by these unethical "arrangements". The Gazette editors should step forward in professional solidarity and make notations after every letter that relies on primary sources from inside Gaza to describe conflicts between Hamas and Israel. Each notation should state: "Primary sources from inside Gaza are under direct physical threat, or threat of being removed

from the territory, as part of Hamas official policy. The *Gazette* takes a stand against intimidation of reporters."

You have said many times that the *Gazette* editors are professionals and therefore deserve this work slot. This is your chance to show it.

Gil Ronen

STAND BY ISRAEL

MEMBERS,

It's time to stop the anti-Jewish, anti-Israel assault. I don't care how many Jews have gone over to the BDS side, it's bizarre. When one looks at why Israel came into existence, the reason to nurture and protect it couldn't be more obvious.

When Hitler wrote Mein Kampf (published: July 18, 1925), he told the world he had genocidal plans. The world laughed at the Bohemian Corporal, thinking that he would never rise to a position of power. He did and the outcome is history.

When the PLO, Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood, Hezbollah and a whole coterie of terror organizations and Islamic nations clearly state that they have the same agenda. Whatever is said to the contrary is a lie. How can the Little Land by the Sea make peace with opponents who want to kill all Jews?

BDS and its one state solution will be a fast track to genocide. Can generations of "Palestinians" raised on a hate campaign that rivals the indoctrination of the SS or the Hitler Youth, ever respect a people that have been reviled when they are in the majority?

I have no idea how the problems of Israel with these groups can ever be resolved, but one thing I do know. If we do not stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel in its struggle against terror and hate, the world will witness another final solution. No one can be happy about Gaza civilians being killed or injured. But when an organization sends thousands of increasingly sophisticated missiles into Israel from or near hospitals, UN schools, and other civilian areas and refuses to end the terror, Israel has no choice. It was the decision of Hamas to sacrifice its own people for political purposes that is principally responsible for the body count.

If they can do that to their own people, what would they do to a hated enemy? We must stand by Israel.

Rodger Parsons

TIRED OF PERSONAL ATTACKS

MEMBERS,

While I understand that the Coop has a very permissive policy when it comes to publishing letters, I feel this is causing the *Gazette*'s letters page to take on an unacceptable tone when it comes to the Israel-Palestine Boycott/ Sanctions issue.

I have no beef with contributors making their points vigorously, and accept that the *Gazette* staff cannot undertake to be gatekeepers who edit or fact-check what contributors submit. Inevitably, then, letters will occasionally be published that contain inaccurate factual claims, willful distortions or what some may regard as extremely tendentious presentations of the facts of some issue.

On the web, there are few restrictions on what once can write and post and basically anybody can claim anything, within reason and it's "reader beware." Maybe this is the price of free speech.

But I think it is a mistake to have an "anything goes" policy for the Coop's official publication. As members of a supposedly cooperative community, we should treat all other members of that community with a standard of decency, courtesy and respect. I am heartily sick of seeing every week—and I mean every single weeksome members feeling they can use the Gazette's letters page to freely accuse other Coop members of anti-Semitism or worse, without so much as a shred of evidence. Anti-Semitism is a vile and poisonous form of racism and an accusation of it should not be thrown around lightly. I think making such accusations weekly definitely constitutes that.

in it can be adjudicated and sanctioned if proven. Could I suggest, though, that, defamation, (the making of serious accusations against a fellow member which turn out to be false), also be grounds for sanction, perhaps via the Coop's Disciplinary Committee?

So, Ms. Lowenthal, Mr. Rosenfeld, Ms. Bolletino, it is perfectly OK to disagree vigorously with someone who has a different view of the actions of the government of Israel than you. It is most definitely not OK, though, for you to try to cut off debate and silence others. That is what you do when you claim that those who criticize Israel in these pages are doing so because they harbor some sort of racist animus towards Jews. Respond to what people actually say, strongly, vociferously if you will, but please stop smearing those who disagree with you as anti-Semites unless you have specific, concrete evidence. Enough!

Questioning the actions of the government of any nation state, or even questioning the basis of its foundation, is a basic free speech right we all have. We do not lose that right because the government of a particular state attaches an ethnoreligious label to itself. Yes, anti-Jewish prejudice does exist, and should be condemned. But criticism of the Jewish state of Israel should no more be assumed to stem from anti-Semitism than someone's criticism of the actions of the government of, say, Iran being assumed to be motivated by hostility towards Persians.

Elizabeth Jones

RESPONSE TO BUCHWALD LETTER

DEAR MEMBERS,



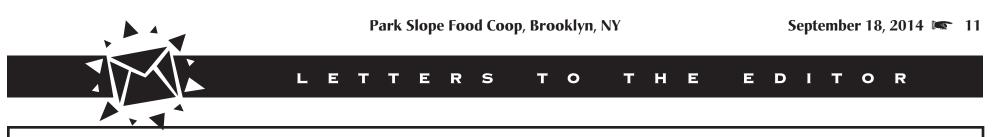
FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION DEPLORES HAMAS INTIMIDATION

DEAR EDITORS,

Please take professional note of the Hamas media

The Coop's Diversity Committee is the appropriate forum for submitting an accusation of racism, where_____,

I am writing to respond to Ms. Buchwald's latest inflammatory letter. Once again, the entire brunt of her anger is focused on Israel, and Hamas gets a free pass. Hamas' rain of missiles and rockets into Israel is ignored. Hamas repeated truce violations and refusal to agree to truces is similarly ignored. Hamas building of tunnels for the sole purpose of killing or kidnapping Israelis is



again ignored. Hamas using UN schools to store their missiles is ignored. There is the bold headline "Israel Does Not Want Peace." And yet, the Hamas Charter is entirely disregarded. In fact, here is what the Hamas Charter states about the peace process [Article Thirteen.] "[Peace] initiatives, the so-called peaceful solutions, and the international conferences to resolve the Palestinian problem, are all contrary to the beliefs of the Islamic Resistance Movement. For renouncing any part of Palestine means renouncing part of the religion; the nationalism of the Islamic Resistance Movement is part of its faith, the movement educates its members to adhere to its principles and to raise the banner of Allah over their homeland as they fight their Jihad." Is this the voice of peace and reasonableness?

Under the heading "What Does Hamas Really Want?"

Ms. Buchwald stated that Hamas does not have "one unjust demand." In my opinion the destruction of the State of Israel and the murder of Jews does not rank as a just demand. In Article Eleven Hamas clearly calls for the destruction of Israel. "The Islamic Resistance Movement believes that the land of Palestine has been an Islamic Waqf throughout the generations and until the Day of Resurrection, no one can renounce it or part of it, or abandon it or part of it." But it is not just Zionism that Hamas is against, it is also against ALL Jews. This language also comes directly from the Hamas Charter [Article Seven], "The prophet, prayer and peace be upon him, said: The time will not come until Muslims will fight the Jews (and kill them); until the Jews hide behind rocks and trees, which will cry: O Muslim! there is a Jew hiding behind me, come on and kill him!" I am sorry, but these are not just demands.

I am not a fan of many of the actions of the Netanyahu government. I am also a believer in the rights of Palestinians for self-determination. However, the once sided anti-Israel arguments that have continually been provided in the Gazette simply do not state the true nature of Hamas. The Hamas Charter lays out exactly what they believe in. And it is not peaceful co-existence.

David Meltzer

[Response from Mary Buchwald] David Meltzer references (August 7 letter to the editor: Gideon Levy, Ha'aretz Israeli Journalist....) This includes headlines of four articles by Gideon Levy in Ha'aretz. Disagreements should be addressed to the well-known, widely read, Gideon Levy. You'll know him by sight by checking www.democracynow. org.

Mary Buchwald

KNOCK IT OFF ALREADY

DEAR EDITORS,

In a previous Gazette, Carol Wald expressed her sadness, her commiseration in members' fright or feelings of victimization surrounding BDS and events roiling Israel and Palestine. Her attempt to reach across the aisle was terribly thoughtful, but she seems to have forgotten where all this negativity comes from. It originates in the General Meeting discussions and proposal to boycott Israel, a proposal she authored herself.

Ms. Wald and her allies threw off quite a lot of smoke those years ago, and haven't stopped. I seem to remember a lot of talk about demanding democracy, how democracy failed, how people were being denied a voice yet all they had to do was show up at a General Meeting to be heard clearly. No one from the BDS camp talks about that anymore, and that's because all the while it was a transparent sham in search of publicity. In the aftermath of the vote at Brooklyn Tech, BDS advocates crowed about how it was worth all the Coop time, Coop money, and extra staff to get this non-Coop issue out into the open. Now Ms. Wald is waking up to how the only real result was to create the very negativity she claims to abhor. I can say with a great deal of confidence that not one pro-Israel letter or anti-BDS letter would appear in the Gazette, a paper serving a cooperative grocery store, if it hadn't been for Ms. Wald and her "allies" efforts.

So if Ms. Wald is truly interested in how others feel, is truly interested in healing the Coop, I suggest that she take the lead once more and urge her friends to knock it off already. Because really, who are they helping except their own egos?

Nancy Spitalnick

BROOKLYN FOOD COALITION

Food Justice Contingent at the People's Climate March

By Nancy Romer

What are you doing Sunday, September 21? Save the date to participate in one of the most important public protests in the history of the planet: the People's Climate March. Hundreds of thousands will be gathering, starting at Columbus Circle in Manhattan, to make our voices heard: we want a sane climate policy that will decrease greenhouse gases and support human life on this planet. This march aims to launch the mass climate movement we need, much like the 1963 March on Washington helped propel the civil rights movement "We need everyone to change everything" is the slogan for the march. Labor, environmental, food justice, student and faith groups will be linking arms to demand that the U.S. go to the UN Climate Summit the next week with a commitment to a strong global climate treaty. Superstorm Sandy gave us a little taste of the havoc that extreme weather caused by climate change can create. We can

slow down this process through at least three major strategies: 1) substituting fossil fuels with renewable energy; 2) ending wars that devastate people's lives and their environments and spew enormous amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere; and 3) by transforming the food system to work with nature through organic and agro-ecological methods that sink carbon into the soil instead of releasing it.

Anna Lappe, former PSFC member and author of Diet for a Hot Planet, describes how the present food system produces one-third of all greenhouse gases. Through heavy use of machinery, fossil fuel-based pesticides and fertilizers, reliance on mono-crops that attract insects and enter into a battle of one-upsmanship with pesticides, through factory farming of meat that produces lots of methane (the most dangerous of the greenhouse gases), enormous processing and packaging of prepared "convenience" foods and the global distribution

of these products, the food system just keeps adding dramatically to climate change. On top of that, the food system has created extremely low paid jobs (the Food Chain Workers Alliance reports that food workers are much more likely to have lower wages than other workers and to apply for food stamps and other forms of public assistance).

The food justice movement looks toward the concept of "food sovereignty" as its guide. Food sovereignty would put control of the food system into the hands of those who grow, produce and consume food on a local level. It would take the principles of the Park Slope Food Coop and put them into practice guiding the entire food system. Eat locally, minimize profits, share decision-making, minimize waste and packaging, compost as possible and work collaboratively with farmers and food producers who share our values of healthy food produced by people who can earn a living doing this important work for all of us.

In many ways the Park Slope Food Coop stands as an example of living food sovereignty. We know how fortunate we are to be members and to share in its benefits for us and the broader world. That's what the Food Justice contingent of the People's Climate March is all about: creating a food system that can help cool the planet instead of cooking it, use progressive methods of growing, processing, and distributing local food to help insure a more stable future for our kids and future generations.

Logistics:

Where and when to meet on Sept. 21: Come to Columbus Circle at 11 a.m. and look for the Food Justice contingent. We will be assigned one of the side streets east of Central Park West but as of this writing, street assignments are not available. Contact Climate ChangeBFC@gmail. com for exact location. What to bring to the March: Please wear your PSFC T-shirt and bring a hat, sun block and lots of water. Bring a sign if you want to

create something completely original. If not, you can carry one of the prepared signs or make a sign of your choosing once you get to the meet-up location of the Food Justice contingent. Bring the kids for this historic march. They will want to have been there.

Helping out: Please e-mail us at ClimateChangeBFC@ gmail.com if you'd like to help out by leafleting public events, your workplace, your faith organization or school, and other locations. If you want to take some responsibility for logistics on the day of the march or before, e-mail us and we'll try to give you what you ask for.

FTOP is possible for significant contributions of time.



MEMBER SUBMISSION

Voices from Israel

By Thomas Cox

A she lay recovering in a hospital bed in Haifa, Israel, I met 94-year-old Dov Yermiya in June 2008. He had recently received an invitation from Defense Minister Ehud Barak to attend a ceremony in honor of all veterans of Israel's 1948 "War of Independence." He had just responded, saying in part,

"As a veteran of the 1948 war, who was already wounded in face to face combat two weeks before the Declaration of the State, I feel obliged herewith to return the invitation to you, as Minister of Defence. I do so regretfully but see this as my duty."

I consider you, Ehud Barak, as one of the top military commanders and prominent political leaders who were responsible for converting the army from 'the Israeli Defence Force' to an army of occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people and defender of the criminal settlements in their country.

Forty years of occupation have utterly corrupted the Israeli army and all strata of Israeli society.

The following year Yermiya wrote in an open letter,

"I, a 95 year old Sabra (native born Israeli Jew), who has plowed its fields, planted trees, built a house and fathered sons, grandsons and great-grandsons, and also shed his blood in the battle for the founding of the State of Israel,

Declare herewith that I renounce my belief in the Zionism which has failed, that I shall not be loyal to the Jewish fascist state and its mad visions, that I shall not sing anymore its nationalist anthem, that I shall stand at attention only on the days of mourning for those fallen on both sides in the wars, and that I look with a broken heart at an Israel that is committing suicide and at the three generations of offspring that I have bred and raised in it."

...for 42 years, Israel turned what should have been Palestine into a giant detention camp, and is holding a whole people captive under an oppressive and cruel regime, with the sole aim of taking away their country, come what may!!!

For those readers of the *Gazette* who are reluctant to believe accounts put out by "enemies of Israel," there is a growing chorus of Jewish Israeli writers, academics and artists who, like Dov Yermiya, reveal an Israel far at odds with those whose support for Israel is unconditional and unexamined.

Ilan Pappe, author of The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine, uncovered archival evidence demonstrating that the forcible, illegal removal of the indigenous Palestinian population was a central plank in Israel's founding ideology, a strategy that continues to the present day.

Journalist Gideon Levy, columnist for the Israeli daily Haaretz, wrote that initially he "was totally blind to the occupation. It was a word I didn't dare to pronounce. I was a typical product of the Israeli brainwash system, without any doubts or questions. I had a lot of national pride; we are the best...It was really a gradual process in which I realized this is the biggest drama: Zionism, the occupation. And at the same time I realized there was no one to tell it to the Israelis."

Breaking the Silence is a group providing a forum for Israeli soldiers to talk about their experiences in occupied Palestine, invariably involving abuses of Palestinians.

Machsom Watch, women against the Israeli occupation of Palestine and for human rights, offers reports on abuses of Palestinians by Israeli soldiers at checkpoints.

Here at the Coop we have an opportunity to speak in one voice, "No, we do not condone oppression, colonization, discrimination, or any abuses of human rights. We will not buy Israeli products until Israel ends the illegal occupation of the West Bank, dismantles the land-confiscating wall, ends the siege of Gaza, and institutes equal rights for Palestinians living within the borders of Israel."

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



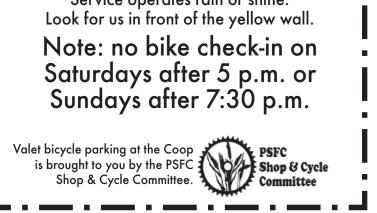
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Skewers



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