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1973

LINEWAITERS'

GAZETTE

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Volume II, Number 20

October 2, 2014

Dinner Table Advocacy And Eating Local: Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative

By Devin Harner

When I visited the Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative on a quiet morning toward the end of the summer, it was deceptively peaceful. People upstairs talked on the phone and typed at computers, and Executive Director Casey Spacht walked me around the downstairs shipping and receiving area, mentioned the laid-back vibe and the skate ramp out back and described what a typical day there was like.

A few hours later, the nondescript industrial building on Eagle Drive in Leola, Pennsylvania, just past an archery-supply store and a used-furniture dealer, would be buzzing with action as local farmers delivered the day's harvest, and they packed it and prepared it for shipment.

Produce that was being picked in the calm before the storm while we talked would arrive at Lancaster Farm Fresh later that day, and would be trucked out early the next morning with Brooklyn-bound, Coop deliveries arriving by 7:00 a.m.

As a Lancaster native, I was happy to hear that I could be back in Brooklyn, eating food grown a few miles from my parents' house, within 24 hours of it being picked.

Fresher, Better Produce Cooperatively

Lancaster Farm Fresh was founded in 2006 by nine farmers who wanted to spend more

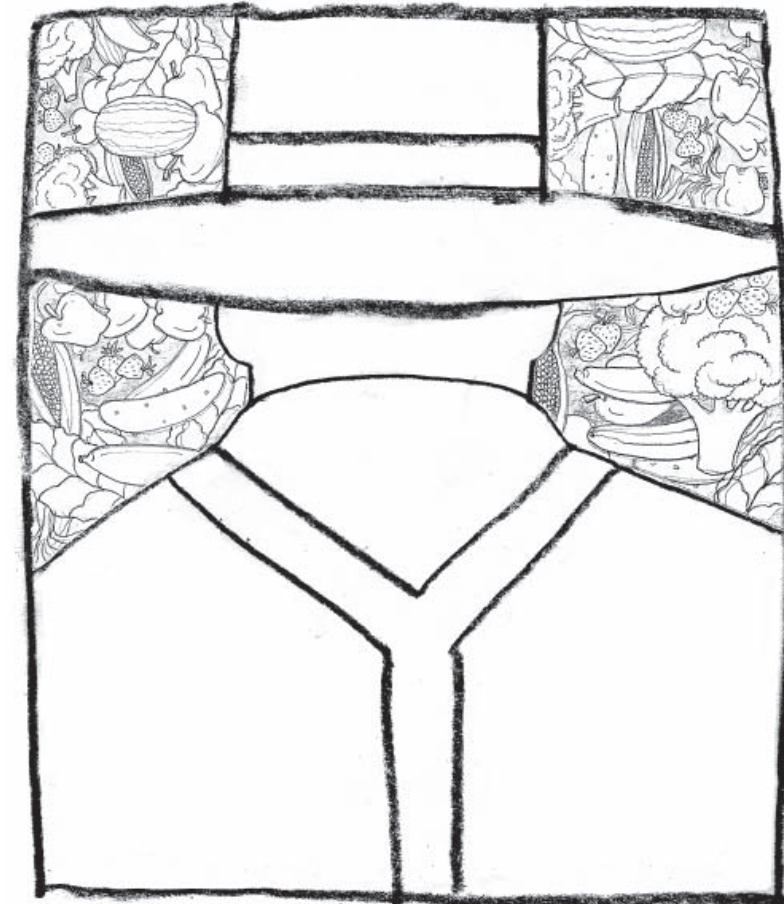


ILLUSTRATION BY CATY BARTHOLOMEW

time farming and less time worrying about how to get their products to market. They were primarily Amish and Mennonites who wanted to farm organically, and who wanted to control the production and distribution of their food without the meddling, and profiteering, of distributors.

It's hard to believe now, in Brooklyn, but Spacht explained that the resurgent organic movement is still not the norm in Lancaster, or nationally for that matter, and that the organic farmers weren't being treated fairly by the distributors and weren't getting a fair price

for their product or consistent follow through on orders.

*Fresher food grown in
some of the best soil on earth.*

By pooling their resources to sell directly to restaurants, coops and health food stores, Lancaster Farm Fresh is able to provide fresher, better-quality produce for their customers, and to secure a fair price and a livable wage for the farmers and their families. Once expenses are covered, any profits above and beyond overhead get split equally, said Spacht.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The Art of Pumpkin Picking

By Lily Rothman

Gertrude Stein

wrote that "a rose is a rose is a rose is a rose," and that may well be true. But, it turns out, a pumpkin is not a pumpkin is not a pumpkin.



ILLUSTRATION BY DIANE MILLER

Different Pumpkins for Different Purposes

As the Park Slope Food Coop prepares for the fall's onslaught of pumpkin-hungry shoppers, that truth is clearer than ever. The varieties of pumpkins available to shoppers are each unique; different pumpkins offer special qualities for a range of purposes.

"We experiment a lot," explains Amy Hepworth of Hepworth Farms, one of the Coop's main pumpkin suppliers, speaking of the many kinds of pumpkins her farm has grown. "There's a huge difference between a Long Island Cheese pumpkin and a Jack O' Lantern pumpkin."

Those Jack O' Lanterns have a big following at the Coop: Hepworth Farms is our only supplier of that pumpkin varietal, explains General Coordinator Allen Zimmerman, who is also the PSFC's head produce buyer. Hepworth Farms also supplies many of the Coop's cooking pumpkins—the Long Island Cheese, which tends to be squatter and a lighter color than the Jack O' Lantern's orange, is a good pie pumpkin—as do cooperatives like the Finger Lakes Organic Growers Cooperative and Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative. In addition, Hepworth Farms, along with Grindstone Farms, supplies the Coop with mini Jack-Be-Little pumpkins.

"The minis aren't so intimidating, because they're small," Hepworth says, recommending small pumpkins for a range of purposes. "You could just bake those and eat them."

The large variety of pumpkins available at farms in the region isn't overkill, she says. Since customers require different things from their pumpkins, a range is necessary. A large pumpkin can be expensive; they also take up a lot of room in a cramped New York apartment when they're displayed (or, unlike the minis, take a lot of prep time if they're destined to be eaten). And it's not matter of size and price. Farmers have bred pumpkins to suit customers' other needs, so a pumpkin meant for pie is

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Next General Meeting on October 28

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The October General Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 28, at 7:00 p.m. at MS 51, 350 Fifth Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts. Enter on Fourth St. cul-de-sac. The Fourth St. entrance is handicap-accessible.

For more information about the GM and about Coop governance, please see the center of this issue.

Coop Event Highlights

Tue, Oct 7 • Agenda Committee Meeting 8:00 p.m.

Tue, Oct 28 • PSFC October General Meeting
7:00 p.m. at MS 51

Tue, Nov 4 • Agenda Committee Meeting 8:00 p.m.

Thu, Nov 6 • Food Class 7:30 p.m.

Fri, Nov 7 • Film Night 7:00 p.m.

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

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Lancaster Farm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It All Started with Peppers

Park Slope Food Coop produce buyer Allen Zimmerman remembers that we were buying from Lancaster Farm Fresh member farmers even before they were a coop. A few of the farmers were driving up and selling produce at the Greenmarket at Grand Army Plaza and stopped in when they saw the Coop sign to see if we'd be interested in buying any of their produce. "It started out with two to three cases of peppers on a Saturday," said Zimmerman.

He also notes that Lancaster Farm Fresh was interested in growing crops to fill our produce gaps rather than in competing with farms we were already dealing with, like Hepworth Farms. Zimmerman is impressed with the diversity of crops and with the creativity of the farmers in Lancaster. It's not just corn, cabbage, cucumbers and tomatoes—traditional farmstand-style crops. In addition to staples, the farmers grow microgreens, the tiny, bitter, West Indian gherkin cucumbers, and nettles and other culinary and medicinal herbs.

Lancaster Farm Produce Extends the Season

The relationship has served us well. The Coop is Lancaster Farm Fresh's biggest customer, and they can grow things in Lancaster that won't

grow upstate late in the season. When the seasons change and the cold marches south, we can continue to buy from Lancaster.

The Coop gets deliveries from Lancaster Farm Fresh three times a week: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the summer, spring and fall, and twice a week in the winter (when they're our most reliable source of local sweet potatoes).

Last Friday our order totaled 95 cases of produce on three pallets and included raspberries, edamame, bok choy, celery root, lacinato kale, red romaine lettuce, thyme, two kinds of cauliflower, four types of squash and four varieties of sweet potatoes.

Lancaster Farm Fresh also supplies many cafés and restaurants in the city, including Cortelyou Road's the Farm on Adderley, and Spacht would like to increase their business in Brooklyn because more volume means lower delivery minimums and even fresher produce for customers.

Not Just Produce

The Coop also stocks groceries distributed by Lancaster Farm Fresh, including Seven Stars biodynamic yogurt, Bowman's apple sauce, Lancaster County honey, duck eggs, chicken eggs, frozen bison, gluten-free amaranth bread, and from McGeary's Mill in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, organic flour that's been produced on a site that dates to 1740.



PHOTOS BY WILLIAM FARRINGTON

Lancaster Farm Fresh was interested in growing crops to fill the Park Slope Food Coop's produce gaps rather than in competing with farms we were already dealing with.

Daily Activism and Food Justice

It's hard to work a shift at the Coop, attend a General Meeting or make a grocery run without encountering a cause or two. Coops are a great place for like-minded people to congregate and mobilize, and for people to debate and disagree civilly.

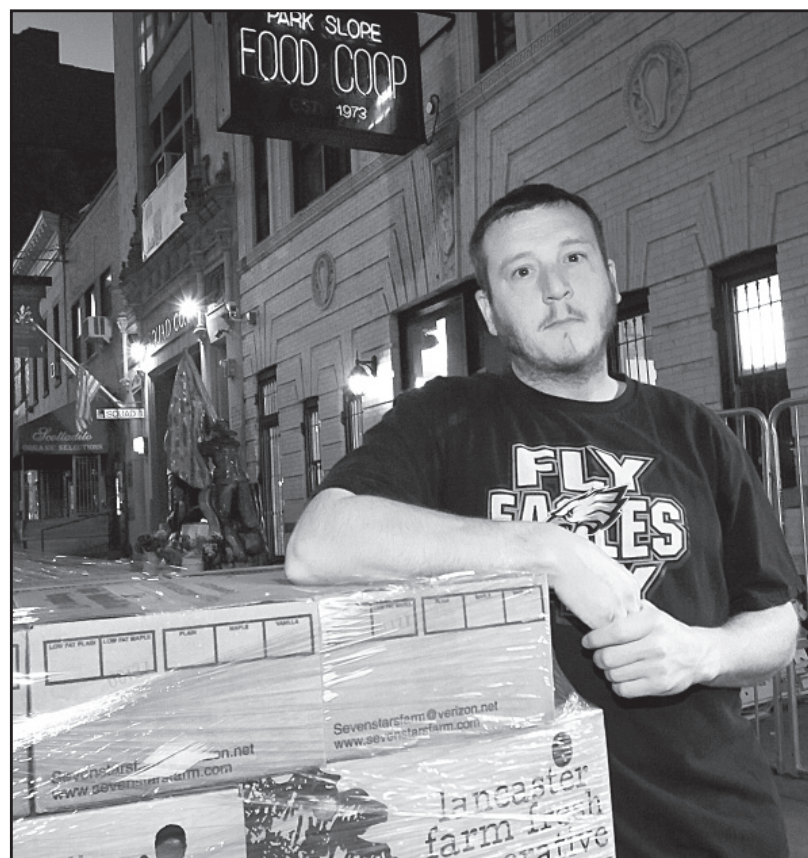
But after my conversations with Spacht, I'm convinced that even those among us who don't like to mix our politics with our grocery-getting are engaged in food justice and in living-wage advocacy just by buying Lancaster Farm Fresh food at the Coop and cooking it for dinner.

By purchasing produce and groceries from Lancaster Farm Fresh, we are supporting small farmers who sell directly to us without a middleman. We are paying them a fair price for their crops and we are helping second- and third-generation farmers to keep farming, and young would-be farmers to get in the game.

A lot of organic produce comes from California, Mexico, and even China*, and there's a massive carbon footprint associated with getting it to Brooklyn.

Organic farming has gone large scale, and factory, too. In contrast, Lancaster Farm Fresh's 93-plus members farm anywhere between less than an acre to 35 acres, and they can't compete with the marketing muscle, and the economy of scale of megafarms in California that are "bigger than Rhode Island," according to Zimmerman. What they can give us, though, is fresher food grown in some of the best soil on earth that's not been packed in plastic and imported from Mexico, or frozen and shipped from China.

Local isn't just a trendy marketing term for the Amish and



Adam Boyer

Mennonite farmers of Lancaster County, it's what they've been doing for centuries. But the resurgent interest in local produce and in organics means that Lancaster Farm Fresh has been able to engage in earth-friendly conservation and good stewardship practices that are good for all of us on a larger scale.

They might not always be able to compete with big, factory organic farms on price alone, or to grow organic everything. As some Coop members might not know, it's next to impossible to grow organic apples commercially in the Northeast, and, consequently, the vast majority of apples available here are either organic and shipped in from the Pacific Northwest or from South America, or minimally sprayed like Hepworth's. But Lancaster Farm Fresh's products are increasingly in

demand, and they're expanding and doing more volume, which should ultimately make them even more competitive and creative as far as growing difficult and exotic crops.

The food justice and ecological upside of buying local from Lancaster cannot be overstated.

"When California runs out of water, what are we going to eat if the people here have the water, but have turned their farms into golf courses," said Zimmerman.

Fellow Lancaster native and Coop staff member, Peter Wohlsen, agrees. "I grew up watching the farmland get turned into developments and wanted to preserve it," said Wohlsen. "Now our relationship with Lancaster Farm Fresh helps them and it helps us in Brooklyn." ■

*Editor's Note: The Coop's produce buyers do not buy any produce from China.

Sign up for this fun workslot!
THE LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE NEEDS A

PUZZLEMAKER

ARE YOU A CREATOR OF
PROFESSIONAL-CALIBER
PUZZLES?

Each issue of this paper features a member-created puzzle (such as a crossword or a sudoku). We need you to create another kind of puzzle/puzzles, amounting to seven or eight puzzles per year. Send some samples to annette_laskaris@psfc.coop.

Kid-friendly puzzles would also be welcomed.

Cooperative Consciousness— Interview with Daniel Pinchbeck

By Joanne Colan

Daniel Pinchbeck is the visionary author of *Breaking Open the Head*, 2012: *The Return of Quetzalcoatl* and *Notes from the Edge Times*. His articles and essays have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone*, *Wired*, *The Village Voice* and many other publications. Daniel is an oft-quoted authority on the ecological crisis and planetary consciousness. In this interview for the *Gazette*, he shares his thoughts on living more consciously in light of profound environmental, social and spiritual challenges.

JC: You are an authority in a quite controversial field, psychedelics. What is the connection between psychedelics and the environment?

DP: The essential problem we have now is one of consciousness: People are locked into old beliefs and ideologies and they can't free their minds to comprehend our situation as it is, right now. Psychedelics are tools for deconditioning you from your beliefs and preconceptions. Ayahuasca, particularly, reconnects many people to nature and spirit and gives them a feeling of deep responsibility for the future of the Earth.

JC: What are our biggest climate change concerns right now?

DP: We are currently in a biotic emergency. Our actions as a species directly threaten the continuity of all complex life on Earth; 150 to 200 species go extinct each day, where, before industrial civilization, the background number was 10 to 20 per year. The oceans are 30% more acidic than they were 40 years ago, as they absorb a huge amount of the excess CO₂ emitted by our cars and factories. The warming and acidifying of the oceans is breaking down coral reefs and even threatens the plankton at the bottom of Earth's food chain. We are looking at a probable four- to six-degree Celsius temperature rise by 2100, which would be utterly catastrophic. We are literally confronting an extinction event for ourselves, and yet we are blithely continuing business as usual. It is absolutely necessary at this point in time that people break the inertia of our society and commit themselves to a transforma-

tion of our social and technical infrastructure over the next decades, or our descendants will have no future on this planet.

JC: How will food production and food security be impacted?

DP: Everything is now threatened. If temperatures rise four to six degrees—predicted by the IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] and other relatively conservative scientific bodies—agriculture will be disrupted. The plants we depend on only grow in certain temperature regions. Already, we are seeing absolutely massive changes in weather patterns, growth patterns, migration patterns. California—a major food producer—is in a megadrought that appears to be a new climactic condition. And we have already locked in decades of further warming through release of CO₂ that will cause rapid changes to agriculture. One problem is that people have been deluded into thinking there will be glitzy technological fixes for our problems—in fact, technology created all of these problems. It would require a mass movement to change lifestyles and immediately build healthy sustainable communities to solve them.

JC: How concerned should we be, especially given the apparent abundance of food, clean water, energy and resources?

DP: The apparent abundance of resources has to do with overspending our natural capital. If you burnt all the furniture in your house to keep yourself warm during the first cold spell, you would eventually find yourself very uncomfortable. It is estimated that we would need five Earth-size planets to support the American lifestyle if it was the global norm. We are burning through our inheritance. All around the world, fresh water is becoming a massive problem. When the glaciers in the Himalayas are gone—within decades—hundreds of millions of people will have no water.

JC: Who is to blame?

DP: It doesn't really matter who is to blame at this point. It is certainly unfortunate that the U.S. government targeted all efforts to create alternatives or Left Wing political movements, for instance imprisoning or

assassinating the leaders of the Black Panthers in the 1960s, or recently using brutal methods of surveillance and suppression against the Occupy movement. Certainly, we could note that 85 people currently control more wealth than the bottom 3.5 billion people on Earth. We have essentially re-created a form of neo-feudalism, where capitalism siphons resources to the wealthy and turns everyone else into serfs. I think something like 93 cents from every new dollar of wealth created goes to the top one percent. So clearly it is difficult to "blame" the poorer people who have to struggle just to survive. It makes more sense to blame those with the luxury to look at what's happening.

*We are currently in a
biotic emergency.*

You certainly can't blame the indigenous people who have been the first line of defense against the extractive industries all over the world. If you wanted to point fingers of blame, I think you would have to blame the complacent and wealthy in the First World—for instance, people like the Ivy-educated lawyers and advertising executives who make themselves feel better about themselves by "going green" in the home or doing yoga, buying nice mansions for themselves in Brooklyn, while their professional lives support industries of distraction, militarization and financial extraction. Personally, I would probably blame the narcissistic Baby Boomers—soft liberals—who learned about all of this when they were young, reading Gregory Bateson and *Silent Spring*, but got scared off by the murders at Kent State and so on. They dropped the ball and passed the buck. However, as I said, blame is pointless. We are all to blame.

JC: So, what should we be doing about it?

DP: I think at this point people have to band together in some new hybrid global/local movement, interrupt business as usual in mass numbers and demand immediate changes on a level that has not been imaginable since times of great war and famine. According to people like Stanford professor Mark Jacobson and social theorist Jeremy Rifkin, we could



PHOTO BY CAROLINE MARDOK

Daniel Pinchbeck

transition to 100% renewable energy on a global scale within a decade or two. We could also create mass volunteer initiatives to plant forests, create wilderness corridors, remediate our local ecosystems and reduce CO₂ in the atmosphere through Biochar and other techniques. We could use the social technologies of the Internet to create new forms of direct democracy where people can participate directly in building a new society. I would propose every local neighborhood get together, create a miniparliament, declare itself a free republic, collectivize resources and begin to redesign society for everyone's benefit, sharing tools, instituting mandatory car-pooling, building gardens on every rooftop and commence the transition to a rational, empathic and regenerative society—sort of like the Paris Commune of the nineteenth century. I like the model of degrowth that French thinkers have developed—or post-growth.

JC: What is the next evolution of the conscious consumer? How can we take our Coop community to the next level?

DP: As Naomi Klein documents in her new book, *This Changes Everything*, the Green movement deluded itself with the idea of "conscious con-

sumerism," which is another fraud. In fact, neither consumerist culture nor capitalism will survive the current ecological emergency. We have to shift our whole way of thinking and being to become self-realized as conscious catalysts for a rapid transformation of planetary culture and civilization. The Coop community could become an initial political base from which to organize the entire neighborhood—and beyond. You could apply everyone's skills to awaken the still-sleeping people and start to build an ecologically regenerative society. You could do weekly trainings in permaculture, take over rooftops and vacant lots and plant food and have beehives. You could take the local homeless people and house them in currently unoccupied buildings and take care of them. You could interrogate liberal hypocrisy and white privilege. You could create a 24-hour liberated zone where people come together to speak their hearts about what is happening on the Earth right now, and commit themselves to changing it for the good of all. Or we can all keep fiddling as the planet croaks. ■

To learn more, visit:
www.danielpinchbeck.net
www.planetaryculture.com
www.planetaryculture.com/wiki

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").

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Friday, October 17, 8:00 p.m.

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

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**

PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP 782 Union St., Brooklyn, NY 11215 (btwn 6th & 7th Av.) • (718) 622-0560

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.

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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.

Peter Adams	Salvatore Caino	Lottie Gurvis	Ian Lesage	Maria Pushkareva	Mark Wenham
Jessica Alfano	Amy Caramore	Ed Heinssen	Jared Lewis	Eric Richardson	Claire Wiley
Leonardo Ballerini	Noah Chesnin	Johnson Ho	Quing Li	Rachel Brit Roth	Richard Bryan Willits
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Janelle Brathwaite	Skye Gilkerson	Lars Goran Karlsson	Helena Parriott	Jonathan Vergara	Etay Zwick
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Alison Burke	Ethan Grossman	Nick Krebs	Cassie Peterson	Julia Weiss	

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, OCTOBER 7

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m.
Submissions will be considered for the October 28 General Meeting.

Tue, OCTOBER 28

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Gazette Deadlines

Letters & Voluntary Articles:

Oct. 16 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, October 6
Oct. 30 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, October 20

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

Oct. 16 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, October 8
Oct. 30 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, October 22

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, October 28, 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

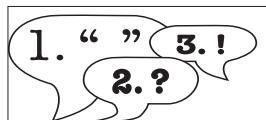
The Park Slope Food Coop is a member-owned and operated food store—an alternative to commercial profit-oriented business. As members, we contribute our labor: working together builds trust through cooperation and teamwork and enables us to keep prices as low as possible within the context of our values 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 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.

park slope
FOOD COOP

calendar of events

oct 7
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, October 28, 7 p.m., at MS 51, 350 Fifth Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts.**

oct 17
fri 7 pm

Miracles In the E.R.

One day a loved one, a family member or we ourselves will land in the E.R. or elsewhere in a hospital. How can we meet this challenge wisely? In this workshop we'll explore using breathing techniques, mindfulness, and loving-kindness meditation to find strength, courage, and hope in a medical crisis. Coop member **Mina Hamilton** is a yoga and meditation teacher, yoga therapist, and life coach. She is the author of the book, *Serenity to Go: Calming Techniques for Your Hectic Life*. Earlier this year, Mina spent 12 hours in the E.R. at Mt. Sinai Hospital.

oct 17
fri 8 pm

Annie Keating, Stephanie Jenkins



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. **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.**



oct 18
sat 12 pm

Women & Finance

Women worry about financial security. Stop feeling intimidated by the jargon or overwhelmed by the subject matter. Get the information and guidance you need. Discussion will include managing debt, building savings, and protecting against risk and unexpected events. Our presenter makes it easy by sharing information to help you understand your current financial standing and your future financial needs. During this educational workshop for women, expect: to understand your current financial situation and future financial needs; to be empowered to make informed financial decisions to protect your financial

future. All attendees receive a complimentary workbook that will reinforce what you've learned and keep you focused to reach your goals. Long-time Coop member **Mary Blanchett** is a financial service professional with New York Life Insurance and NYLIFE Securities LLC. Mary helps her clients with tax-free retirement options, reducing vulnerability and starting estate planning.

oct 18
sat 3 pm

Fossil Fuel Divest/ Reinvestment Meeting

We are stuck in a system where living a normal life means creating an unsustainable amount of pollution. Solutions abound, but powerful fossil interests make them very difficult and only accessible to those of us with extra time and resources to go against the grain. It does not make any sense for New York to invest in those companies that perpetuate this oppressive fossil fuel system. With one of the largest municipal pension funds in the world, New Yorkers again have a unique opportunity for local action. The City Council will be voting on a resolution of support for a process that pulls city funds out of fossil fuel companies and re-invests them in a greener New York—creating jobs and making NYC more resilient to Sandy-like storms. Additionally, when actions like the People's Climate March work and greenhouse gasses are controlled, fossil fuel companies will lose much of their value. We will be discussing how those of us at the Coop can help. For more information, contact Coop member **Devin Judge-Lord** at Devin.JL@gmail.com.

oct 19
sun 12 pm

Posture & Health

How the Alexander Technique can help your pain. Pain can make us feel helpless, frustrated, and less of the person that we'd like to be. This workshop will help you discover an upright, natural posture that distributes weight effectively so you can feel less pain and more energy. The Alexander Technique is a century-old method for improving one's coordination, balance, and well-being. Coop member **Dan Cayer** is a nationally certified Alexander Technique teacher working in the field of pain, injury, and stress. After a serious injury left him unable to work, or even carry out household tasks like cleaning dishes, he began studying the Alexander Technique. His return to health, as well as his experience with the physical, mental, and emotional aspects of pain, inspired him to help others.

oct 19
sun 7 pm

And When I Die: The Musical! A Funeral Planning Cabaret

Hesitating over end-of-life decisions? You're not alone—but don't die wondering! Learn about advance directives, funeral consumer choices and your next steps at this unique seminar-in-song. Ample time for Q&A and follow-up resources provided. The only requirement is the willingness to accept that you will not live forever in your current form. Coop member, chaplain and end-of-life sustainability activist **Regina Sandler-Phillips** is the founder of a Park Slope-based natural burial cooperative, which includes many other Coop members among its 70+ volunteers. Regina's work has been featured in *The New York Times*, and in the books *Parting Ways* (2011) and *Saying Goodbye to Someone You Love* (2010).

oct 24
fri 7 pm

Improve Your Health With Taoist Tai Chi

Can you benefit from the regular practice of the Taoist Tai Chi™ Arts? Well, first answer this question: do you have stress in your life? If you answered "yes"—and really, who didn't?—we'd like to introduce you to a form of moving meditation that is both a health-promoting exercise and an incredible stress reliever, for both the body and the mind. Taoist Tai Chi™ takes a holistic approach to good health. Learn the first few moves of the 108-move Tai Chi set, which can bring a wide range of health benefits to the muscular, skeletal and circulatory systems, with a soothing effect on the mind. In the hectic pace of today's society, that's a balance that can benefit us all. Longtime Coop member **Aaron Kirtz** invites you to a demonstration as a member of the International Taoist Tai Chi Society™,

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.

oct 7–nov 14 2014

which has just started classes in Brooklyn. Please wear loose and comfortable clothing and comfortable shoes. Kirtz has been practicing Taoist Tai Chi™ for 13 years and is a Continuing Instructor in Training.

oct 25
sat 10:30 am

Mind Meets Body

An integrative hypnosis workshop about investigating the absolute connection between brain and heart to inspire great change and power in the body, thus in the mind and world too! Learn how to transform the charge of your emotions as you locate where they register in your anatomy and kinesthetic awareness. Learn to trust that your body is working in your favor. Change patterns which no longer serve you, quickly! Through self-hypnosis tools to change the patterns in the brain, body meets mind in a profound way and perhaps even falls in love. **Shandoah Goldman** is a Coop member circa 2009 and Park Slope-based Shiatsu practitioner and Integrative Hypnotist, specializing in teaching her clients about their bodies intrinsic movement.

oct 25
sat 1 pm

Help Your Kids Succeed In Math

If your kids are struggling with math, come learn some simple practices that can boost their cognitive skills, as well as their attitude. This workshop brings you the latest findings in neuroscience and psychology on how to increase brain power and emotional resilience, along with practical steps to implement them in daily life. Here are the main tools we'll discuss: cognitive-motor exercises, meditation, and how to cultivate a growth mindset. We will also have a chance to practice these during the workshop! Presented by **David Wolovsky**, a Coop member since birth. He is a math teacher, tutor, and curriculum innovator, as well as a Positive Psychology Practitioner.

oct 25
sat 4 pm

New Paradigm Multidimensional Transformation

Discuss the energy of Shamballa, build vortexes, do clearing meditation, and receive activations calling on the Ascended Masters and Archangels for their healing love and light. Join **Esme Carino** for two hours to introduce New Paradigm Multidimensional Transformation. Carino is a New Paradigm MDT practitioner, an Angel Therapist and a Coop member.

oct 26
sun 7 pm

The Heated History of Cremation

This tour of cremation's history and its impact on the future of the funeral will take us from mankind's earliest known cremation in Australia 32 thousand years ago, to pagan cremations in ancient Rome, to a discussion of how Judaism's consistent objection to cremation led to 1,500 years of Christian burial. Mark Twain, Walt Whitman, Madame Helena Blavatsky, Jessica Mitford, Ann Landers and Reverend Billy Graham will all make appearances in this engaging, sometimes jolly talk. In the end, you'll learn how to choose an end-of-life mode of disposition that expresses your most deeply held beliefs and values. Who knew that woven into cremation's story were so many hotly contested views on how to face death, and so much passion regarding what's really right for the earth and all of civilization. Coop member **Amy Cunningham** was a magazine writer and blogger until 2007 when her father's memorial service got her invested in helping folks

plan more meaningful end-of-life services. She is now a licensed funeral director who sustains a blog called TheInspiredFuneral.com.

oct 28
tue 7 pm

iHelp Sandy Stress Relief

For those who are still experiencing distress as a result of Superstorm Sandy, we have iHelp Sandy Stress Relief through on-line CBT programs that are offered free of charge. Qualified program users can be survivors of Superstorm Sandy, live in a Sandy-impacted community or have been directly impacted in any way by Superstorm Sandy. This gives you access to free, confidential and effective, online programs that use cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) to help you regain a sense of emotional well-being. CBT is a tried, tested and effective way for people to learn new skills that help to overcome the distress that arises after a disaster. Most programs completed in 4 to 10 weeks. Shown to be as effective as face-to-face therapy. Confidential and secure. Available anytime, anywhere. 24/7/365 support through telephone, text and chat. **Lynn Kaplan**, Psy.D., is senior program manager for iHelp Sandy Stress Relief at MHA of NYC and Food Coop Member since 1993. **Katherine Polanco** is outreach and engagement counselor for iHelp Sandy Stress Relief at MHA of NYC.

oct 28
tue 7 pm

PSFC OCT General Meeting



Meeting Agenda to be announced. 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. **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.**

oct 31
fri 7 pm

Consciously Aging

It takes a community to grow older consciously! Honest talk and connection for women 55+. Who will join this community? Women 55+ who are inspired by others and are very curious about how they can shape their later lives according to their personal desires and life's challenges. What will be explored? The focus is on issues of aging, including your hopes and dreams, stresses, opportunities, and whatever concerns you as an older adult, such as resolving loss, illness, transitions, loneliness, finding your place in the world, and any unfinished business. The aim is to enhance the quality of your life, wherever you are on your life journey. Long-time Coop member **Margo Steinfeld**, LCSW, MA, CGP, is a licensed clinical social worker and certified group therapist. Call 718-783-5066 for further information.

nov 1
sat 12 pm

Qi Gong to Protect the Joints and Bones

Get in touch with your inner Dragon, Tiger or Bear at this fun and relaxing Qi Gong workshop. We will practice stretches that benefit the whole musculo-skeletal system and learn a simple massage to reduce pain. No experience necessary. **Ann Reibel-Coyne** is a NYS-licensed acupuncturist and a Coop member. She is currently practicing acupuncture at Shambhala Yoga & Dance and teaching Qi Gong at Spoke the Hub (both in Brooklyn).

still to come

nov 1

Reality, Truth and Conscious Light

nov 4

Agenda Committee Meeting

nov 6

Food Class

nov 7

Film Night

nov 8

Blueprint for Financial Success

nov 9

Bag-Making Event

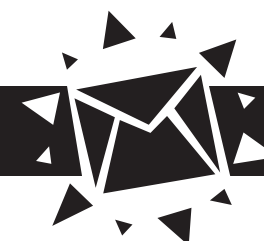
nov 11

Safe Food Committee Film Night

nov 14

Wordsprouts

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



COOP ID

DEAR FELLOW MEMBERS:

I think we should all have a new photo for our Coop ID cards taken every five years. I am a shopping squad leader. Today I was doing a makeup at the entrance desk. It was not easy to figure out if some of the people were the member or someone who looks somewhat like them. Members look different as the “years” go by. Some members have changed their hairstyle or color; while others have grown beards, shaved them off, either lost or gained weight. Those are just several things that may have changed a member’s appearance. Having a new picture for the card every five years would help the process of determining if the person presenting the card for entry is a member in the picture. While I was doing the shift, I found that a person who presented a member’s card was not a member.

*Cooperatively yours,
Toni Ceaser*

“IF YOU EAT . . .”

DEAR MEMBERS:

Thought while watching an especially cheerful receiving worker: “If you eat all those zucchinis, you’re definitely going to get sick.”

Robert Berkman

NO MORE

DEAR EDITORS:

Enough! Basta! No more of the political wrangling and name calling. We are a supermarket after all. No one ever got convinced to change his or her belief by reading the partisan political harangues that are taking up too much paper in the *Gazette*. Why should the Coop be a forum for this acrimony? Let the debaters go elsewhere since this is not related to food or Coop issues.

A great deal of negativity is being generated by this senselessness. Editors, have you run out of topics related to food or are you looking to fill space? The divisiveness is not good for

the morale of the readership. Shop but don’t read the *Gazette*.

Riva Rosenfield

Editor’s Comment: The *Linewaiters’ Gazette* policy is to print all letters that conform to the publication’s policies, including free speech.

STUDY AND DEBATE PROPOSALS FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION AS A TASK OF OWNERSHIP IN THE COOP

TO THE EDITOR:

When joining the Coop, each of us acknowledged the value of creative collective action. Opting out of the dominant for-profit food distribution system, we choose to band together and form a community—identifying common needs, dividing work and developing governance mechanisms to make decisions and to hold each

other responsible.

Collective action is unconventional in our mass capitalist society, which glorifies individual choice we call liberty. Little prepared to decide and act together because families and schools tend to be hierarchies of adults, we rarely learn and seldom practice shared decision making. Deciding on collective action inevitably involves controversy.

Controversy can turn into conflict. Some seem consumed by the need to win. Another fears hurt feelings or hurting someone else. Each of us and every identity group has had experience of abuse, neglect, repression and/or violence that leaves a residue of distrust. Those experiences filter information, and can result in the fierce passion of certainty and conviction.

On the other hand, open debate leading to collective action is immensely powerful and satisfying. Committing individual intelligence to enhancing the general

well-being brings a mighty sense of belonging. Acknowledging our interdependence as well as independence strengthens our on-going relationships and then our collective influence to improve the wider society.

Trust contradicts competition that assumes security comes from owning more resources than we need and maximizing personal control. Reaching towards cooperation, we participate “in good faith,” without guarantees that others will act in predictable ways or that the result will be what we consider the best. The reward I have experienced is some strange spiritual satisfaction that comes with solidarity.

Study and debate are part of the tasks of a collective that wants to thrive inside a confusing and contradictory context. Assigning a group of members to sorting through and presenting reliable information, facilitating dialog and debate and suggesting appropriate action will

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, factual 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.

BDS/MIDDLE EAST

BDS CAMPAIGN VICTORIES: FOOTBALL AND THE WEST BANK

MEMBERS:

September 19, 2014: The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) rejected an Israeli Football Association’s bid to host games in Jerusalem during the 2020 European championships. The tournament will take place across 13 cities. Israel was one of six countries that failed in its bid to host games. Pressure to deny Israel the bid mounted from several sources.

BDS solidarity supporters: 75 Palestinian football teams and NGOs wrote to UEFA president, Michel Platini, arguing it would be tantamount to “rewarding” Israel for its massacre of more than 2,100 Palestinians, including over 500 children, during its recent 52-day assault on Gaza. Sit-ins were held by Palestine solidarity activists at the headquarters of the French and Italian football federations to protest plans to allow Israel to host UEFA 2020 games. Online

campaigning by thousands including a Twitter storm action (September 17) to tell UEFA that awarding Israel the right to host UEFA 2020 tournament games would amount to a message of approval for its massacre in Gaza. Palestinian groups also warned that hosting games in Jerusalem would legitimize Israel’s forced displacement of Palestinians from occupied East Jerusalem, which is recognized as occupied Palestinian territory by the EU and UN. Israel recently announced plans to further expand illegal Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem, a step the UN and other agencies have warned will lead to further expulsions and forced evictions of Palestinians from their homes.

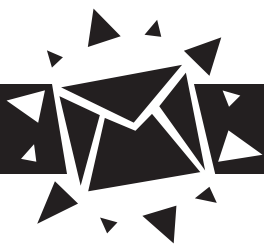
Israel has launched a war on football in Palestine: Abdulrahman Abunahel, the coordinator in Gaza with the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee, further said that footballers have been killed, stadiums bombed and players have been refused permission to travel to matches. UEFA must suspend the membership of the Israeli Football Association if it continues to main-

tain its links with the Israeli government that practices occupation, colonization and apartheid.

During the Gaza massacre: two 19-year-old football players at the start of their careers were killed. The 49-year-old football legend in Palestine, Ahed Zaqout, known as ‘the voice of football’ for his live commentaries, was killed. 32 sport facilities and around 500 houses of athletes were damaged. The coordinator remarked: “The UEFA has made the only sensible decision.” (www.bdsmovement.net)

Sales of Israeli goods in West Bank decreased 50% due to boycott accompanying the Israeli aggression on the Gaza strip. This has resulted in increased demand for Palestinian dairy products. Palestinian factories have hired 40 new workers to increase production. The boycott campaign intersects with West Bank development policies to increase the share of Palestinian production in local markets to 35% while decreasing unemployment. (Ahmad Melhem)

A recent World Bank report details how Israel’s military occupation works to fragment local Palestinian markets using controlled



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

enable our cooperative to thrive.

Supporting the Coop, we recognize that listening and pondering are required of member/owners. A group of us wrote the mission statement nearly 20 years ago. After months, that team agreed on the articulation of shared values, one of which is “to educate ourselves and others.” With care, we can evaluate “true facts” even when bombarded with advertisements, infomercials, propaganda and emotional tirades.

Shutting down dialog/debate to avoid controversy invites relinquishing power over a wide range of policy decisions that affect our lives. Decisions devolve to established authority and minimize individual responsibility for the collective. In the Coop we share privileges as shoppers. We have obligations as workers and we have to accept responsibilities also as owners.

I trust that we will continue to accept controversy,

respect process, form study/education squads and take collective action.

Susan Metz

RESPONSE FROM THE DEC

DEAR EDITOR:

This response is from the Diversity and Equality Committee (DEC) to S. Lowenthal's August 7 letter and R. Bolletino's member contribution. While we understand that international political conflicts can stoke passions, it is not the DEC's role to mediate such debates nor is it within the scope of the DEC's mandate. With respect to its own membership, though, the DEC affirms the right of its members to hold and voice private opinions, and to act politically outside of their role on the DEC so long as their views do not affect their ability to perform their duties within the committee, and do not guide the committee's overall stance on particular issues.

The DEC's goal is to promote and implement the Coop's mission with regard to diversity. Thus, the DEC strives to prevent and address discrimination in the Coop's policies, procedures and operations, particularly interpersonal interactions among Coop members and paid staff. The DEC is comprised of up to 20 Coop members who meet on a monthly basis. All Coop members are welcome to apply to become a member of the DEC. All candidates complete a written application and participate in a rigorous group-interview process. During this process, the mission of the DEC and committee member responsibilities are reviewed in detail. The full committee evaluates each candidate, with close scrutiny of the expertise and skills the candidate has to offer and their ability to perform their responsibilities in a balanced and impartial way: necessary for the DEC to function effectively. Appropriate candidates are

invited to join the DEC and are appointed to various committees.

The DEC currently has two primary subcommittees. The first offers educational and development opportunities to the membership, including workshops as well as trainings and special events about diversity, discriminatory treatment and conflict-resolution methods. The second subcommittee reviews complaints directed to the DEC to determine whether there has been discriminatory conduct and, if so, provides individualized intervention to resolve such issues, recommends preventive measures to avoid future inappropriate conduct and refers the case to the Disciplinary Committee for further action if necessary.

The Coop membership is an ever-changing and evolving collective of people. The DEC has and will continue to work toward the establishment of a respectful, safe and productive environment that honors diversity in all of

its manifestations, including race; gender; religion; political affiliation; sexual orientation; class; and personal perspectives, attitudes, values and beliefs. The DEC is committed to ensuring that every individual member has support and a resource ready and able to address and resolve her/his personal experience of discrimination in the Coop.

Understandably, the DEC cannot and will not wade into geopolitical controversies. Nor will the DEC police the personal convictions of Coop members so long as they do not interfere with members' ability to perform their functions as members, shoppers and owners. The DEC remains steadfastly committed to robust inquiry and dialogue about all issues concerning diversity and equality; and to addressing, with the goal of alleviating, invidious discrimination within the bounds of the Coop.

Paul Warren for the Diversity and Equality Committee (DEC)

commercial crossings, checkpoints and procedural barriers, while keeping West Bank in relative isolation from the global economy.

Remember to support Palestinians at the Coop with your purchase of Equal Exchange, Fair Traded, Organic Extra Virgin Olive Oil from Palestinian small farmers.

Mary Buchwald
BrooklynForPeace.org
PSFC members for BDS
www.psfcdbds.wordpress.com

HORRIFIED

DEAR EDITORS:

The Arab and Muslim world is horrified at Hamas' callous treatment of the Palestinian people who elected them, and their contempt for international law. How could a democratically elected government let its own people suffer this way?

Abdulateef Al-Mulhim of Arab News (6.16.14): “A question answer of which is not known to anyone is: Why Gaza does not have bomb shelter? It seems Hamas does not pay much attention to the number of dead Palestinians...Hamas know well that Israel will hit back and hit hard if attacked. So, why Hamas was successful

in spreading a sophisticated network of tunnels and fail to build simple bomb shelters if they knew there would be armed conflicts?...Hamas leaders are jet setters. They travel high class, stay at the best hotels and eat the best food but their people are not paid their salaries on time and what is worse is that they are always under constant pressure from Hamas rule and the Israeli missiles. And Hamas did not even think of building bomb shelters...if Hamas really wanted an armed conflict, then they should have at least built some bomb shelters for the poor innocent Palestinians. Most of them don't want this armed conflict.”

Palestinian representative to the UN Human Rights Council, Ambassador Ibrahim Kraishi: “The missiles that are now being launched against Israel, each and every missile constitutes a crime against humanity, whether it hits or misses, because it is directed at civilian targets.

“As for the missiles launched from our side, we never warn anyone about where these missiles are about to fall or about the operations we carry out.”

Barham Salih and Masoud Barzani, former prime minister and president of the Kurdistan Regional Government: “Compare us to other liberation movements around the world. We are very mature. We don't engage in terror. We don't condone extremist nationalist notions that can only burden our people. Please compare what we have achieved in the Kurdistan national-authority areas to the Palestinian national authority. ... We have spent the last 10 years building a secular, democratic society, a civil society. We had the opportunity to use terrorism against Baghdad. We chose not to.”

Best,
J. Rosenfeld

RESPONSES IN THE GAZETTE

DEAR GAZETTE EDITORS:

I noticed in the September 18 *Gazette* Naomi Brussel is given an opportunity to respond to Ruth Bolletino's letter questioning how a BDS advocate could also be part of the Diversity and Equality Committee. Also, Mary Buchwald was given

the opportunity to respond to David Meltzer's reaction to Mary's August 7 letter.

I also noticed a letter by Elizabeth Jones. Elizabeth accuses Ruth Bolletino, Jesse Rosenfeld and Sylvia Lowenthal of “try[ing] to cut off debate and silence others.” Elizabeth says Ruth, Jesse and Sylvia “claim those who criticize Israel are doing so because they harbor some sort of racist animus towards Jews,” and they do so “without so much as a shred of evidence.” These are very harsh words. Yet, neither Ruth, Jesse nor Sylvia were contacted to respond to Elizabeth's accusation.

Oddly, Elizabeth acknowledges “letters will occasionally be published that contain inaccurate factual [sic] claims, willful distortions or what some may regard as extremely tendentious presentations of the facts of some issue.” She is referring to the constant barrage of false defamatory statements about Israel, that cannot be categorized as legitimate criticism. How is it possible not to interpret this constant demonization as intended to incite hatred?

At the very least, it appears that *Gazette* editors

have unequal standards when it comes to discussing BDS and Israel. This an inconsistent application of a rule. Would it be wrong to perceive this as bias, even if unintentional?

Barbara Mazor

IN RESPONSE TO THE EDITORS AND MEMBERS:

The editors forgot my invitation to reply to two accusations.

One is that my account of the suffering Hamas inflicts on Palestinians was simply an attempt to distract from awful things Israel does. I assure you, Ms. Brussel, that isn't true. I cannot conceive of anything that could possibly distract you and fellow BDS crusaders from your messianic mission to vilify and delegitimize Israel, with no regard for the whole picture of events—or truth.

Are you interested in Israel's futile peace efforts? In 2005, for example, Israel removed all its citizens, some forcibly, from Gaza, leaving infrastructure for a new economy and a future Palestinian state. (New Yorkers sent contributions

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

BDS/MIDDLE EAST

to stock greenhouses for a new export industry. They were destroyed when the settlers left.) Then Hamas took over. Rather than building schools, hospitals and an economy, Hamas used Gaza as a rocket-launching pad. That Hamas never protected its people by building shelters is a travesty. Worse, installing rocket launchers in heavily populated centers, schools, hospitals, mosques and homes was criminal.

Decreased interactions between Israelis and Palestinians is lamentable, but the barrier wall was installed to protect against more years of terrorist attacks.

As for “occupation,” Israelis and Palestinians believe the other is the “occupier.” Do you really begin to understand this complex situation?

Elizabeth Jones accuses me and others of labeling

anyone criticizing Israel as anti-Semitic. I have no problem with honest, informed criticisms of Israel in the *Gazette* or elsewhere, notably in many Jewish periodicals. And I hardly believe that Jewish and Muslim Israeli parliament members, experts in criticizing their government, hate Jews. I have monumental problems with international BDS, those identifying themselves with BDS and their hypocrisy. They condemn only Israel while the world witnesses horrendous atrocities, from Gaza (by Hamas) to Syria (by ISIS) to Iran, Sudan and Congo, atrocities BDS ignores. So what can I think? Unlike some *Gazette* letter writers, BDS’ agenda is not honest criticism, but obsession with destroying Israel.

Informed criticism of Israel’s policies is different from opposition to Zionism (Israel’s existence, development

and protection as a Jewish state) and anti-Semitism. Martin Luther King Jr., speaking to a Harvard student making anti-Zionist remarks, said: “When people criticize Zionists, they mean Jews. You’re talking anti-Semitism!”

[Reported by Harvard Professor Seymour Martin Lipset, *Encounter* magazine, 12/69] (www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwdYRrWAB9E; www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/issue/Quote/king/html)

No U.S. or European university supports BDS. Over 245 U.S. universities, every major academic organization, 124 Congress members, some state legislatures and city councils condemned the American Studies Association’s attempts at academic boycotts and BDS activities on university and college campuses. Their petition was also signed by 60 national Jewish organizations, including Reform, Conservative and Orthodox movements, both

Democratic and Republic groups, plus groups from Australia, Mexico, Belgium and the U.K. It states that BDS provokes “deep divisions among students, creating an atmosphere of intolerance and hatred.”

Such divisions and that atmosphere are now in the Coop, fueled by BDS letters, which are irrelevant to the Coop, and contrary to *Gazette* policy and PSFC’s mission statement.

Ruth Bolletino

Editor’s Comment: We strongly believe that *the Linewaiters’ Gazette* Letters section is a free speech platform where Coop members can express themselves regarding issues of concern. In order to maintain civility, letters must adhere to the Fairness, Anonymity and Respect Policies, published in each edition of the *Gazette*. Part of the Fairness Policy refers to a Right of Simulta-

neous Response and reads: “...submissions that make substantive accusations against specific individuals will be given to those individuals to enable them to write a response, and both submissions and response will be published simultaneously...” It’s not always easy to judge when to apply the policy of the Right of Simultaneous Response. If it is invoked whenever someone is named and their opinions criticized, then it would make editing the Letters section impossible. Often the touchstone is whether the criticism calls into question the competence or integrity of the named individual. If it is dealing with the substance of the ideas presented by the named individual, then naming the person is deemed a shorthand for identifying the source and can be construed as part of a civic dialogue.

Pumpkins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

designed—via seed selection over generations of growth—to be sweeter, while a Jack O’ Lantern pumpkin is designed to be pretty and orange.

In addition, each crop of pumpkins has to be vetted once they’re grown, in order to ship only the best to market. That has been a big job this year, Hepworth notes. A dry, early fall meant that pumpkins ripened earlier than most years, and the farm has had to take measures to try to keep them in good shape until late October. All in all, sorting the crop for sale is a “labor of love” for the staff says Hepworth. “You leave a lot of pumpkins in the field [unharvested] because people like a perfect pumpkin and they don’t grow perfect,” she adds. “There are all kinds of things that go into making sure that you guys get a pretty-looking pumpkin.”

A pretty-looking pumpkin, it turns out, is about more than a nice shade of orange

and a nice, round shape. Though the body of the pumpkin tends to get the most attention when customers are choosing one for a jack-o-lantern, the stem is just as crucial—if not more so. “For a jack-o-lantern what’s important is the stem,” Hepworth says, “and that’s hard to do, to get it big and green and long without breaking.” Jack-o-lantern experts concur. “One thing we’re always looking for is a pumpkin with a healthy stem,” says Marc Evan, a cofounder of Maniac Pumpkin Carvers, a Brooklyn-based pumpkin-art company.

“People like a perfect pumpkin and they don’t grow perfect.”

—Amy Hepworth

Maniac Pumpkin Carvers Know Their Stuff

Evan and his cofounder Chris Soria started Maniac when they were in art school at Parsons, carving pumpkins “as a goof,” he says, for bars and restaurants. Each year, however, the “goof” pumpkins

got crazier and cooler and more intricate, and word of mouth began to spread. When they managed to pull off a huge rush order in 2009—50 World Series pumpkins for the Yankees, who had seen their work featured in *Wired*, with only two days to get the job done—they decided to make a full-time job of pumpkin carving. “Every year since then, it’s growth. Pumpkin carving in general has grown,” Evan says. “It’s gone from a craft to an art form now.” In addition to orders for Yankees-level clients, the company does live demonstrations, which Evan says have a performance-art quality to them. They also maintain a social-media presence (they’re on Instagram, naturally) and an Etsy shop, which sells custom-carved pumpkins that can be shipped around the country. One of Evans’ favorite recent clients was the Museum of Modern Art, which commissioned Maniac Pumpkin Carvers to make pumpkins inspired by works of art. “It’s amazing to see your work in MoMA,” Evans says with a laugh.

When Maniac started, their pumpkin suppliers were pretty typical for New York City students: local bodegas. These days, they work with growers, experts and scientists to make sure they end up with the best pumpkins

possible. Which is where the stem comes in.

It’s All about the Stem

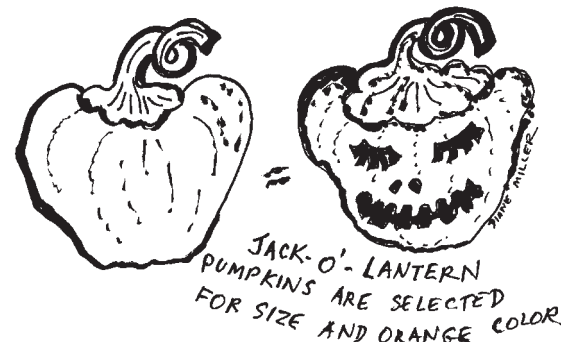
Though many amateur jack-o-lantern carvers use the stem as a handle, Evan describes that as a “major no-no” in terms of pumpkin handling, since it risks breakage. Also, the stem can play a far more important role: telling shoppers whether the pumpkin is worth buying. “The stem indicates the health of the pumpkin,” Evan says. “It’s like the lifeline for the pumpkin. It’s like the umbilical cord.”

A good pumpkin stem should be green and thick; a bad pumpkin stem will be dry and brittle. What the stem is like will give a clue as to what carvers will find when they cut the pumpkin open, whether it will be healthy and fresh—or best left uncarved.

The other way to “see” what a pumpkin will be like on the inside prior to actually cutting it open is, Evan says, to pay attention to the relative

weight and size of the squash. If you pick up the vegetable and find that it’s surprisingly light considering how big it is, the walls of the rind are likely to be rather thin. Conversely, finding that the pumpkin is surprisingly heavy tends to mean that the walls are very thick. Neither thin or thick walls are inherently good or bad for pumpkin-carving purposes, but they’re best suited to different types of design. A more three-dimensional sculptural pumpkin design works best with a thick wall, which allows a greater depth to the design. On the other hand, an etching-based jack-o-lantern design, which light is meant to shine through, works best with a thin rind.

No matter what kind of pumpkin a Coop shopper is looking for—whether it is destined for a pie or Halloween decoration, whether it is heavy or light or bright orange or sugary sweet—the educated gourd-getter is more likely to be pleased with his or her pick. ■



ILLUSTRATIONS BY DIANE MILLER

☆ EXCITING WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITIES ☆

Bathroom Cleaning

Wednesday, 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.

Kitchen Cleaning

Wednesday, 9 to 11 a.m.

Deep clean all three kitchens in the Coop: childcare, meeting room and staff room. You will work independently to clean countertops, cabinets, drawers, kitchen equipment, sinks and refrigerators. Must be reliable as you are the only person coming to do this job on your day. Please speak to Adriana in the Membership Office if you are interested.

Laundry and Toy Cleaning

Saturday, Sunday, 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.

Office Set-up

Monday, Wednesday, 6 to 8:30 a.m.

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

Receiving Produce

Monday-Friday, 5 to 7:30 a.m.

The Coop is looking for members to work in the produce area. Responsibilities include: lifting boxes, unloading deliveries, stacking boxes in the basement. You should be willing to get or have wet hands while you are working. Boxes usually weigh between 2-20 lbs., a few may weigh up to 50 lbs.

Receiving Maintenance

Tuesday, 9 to 11 a.m.

The Coop is looking for members to do various light maintenance tasks throughout the Coop. You will work under the supervision of a staff person. Must be willing to clean, sort returned bottles, work in the backyard organizing, lifting up to 25 lbs.

Store Equipment Cleaning

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 to 8:45 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.

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.

**BROOKLYN
FREE
SCHOOL**

**Open Houses:
Oct 22, 6pm
Nov 19, 6pm**

**To learn more about our unique
Pre-K thru High School program,
visit brooklynfreeschool.org**

CLASSIFIEDS

BED & BREAKFAST

HOUSE ON 3RD ST AT 6TH AVE
Parlor floor thru sleeps four in privacy, AC, wifi, kitchenette, deck, 12' ceilings, \$170 a night for two. Visit our site at houseon3st.com or call us, 718-788-7171. Enjoy modern comfort in true Park Slope style. Grandparents our specialty! We want to be your hosts in the Slope.

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.

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.

PAINTING, PLASTERING & WALL-PAPERING. Over 25 years of doing the finest prep and finish work. Mesh and skim coating. All work guaranteed. Call Fred Becker @ 347-661-6634.

CLASSES/GROUPS

Park Slope Psychotherapy Workshop with Dr. Sandra Haber. Weight loss: success without stress. Wednesday, November 5, 2014, 437 Fourth St. downstairs entrance. Registration required. Limit 10 participants per workshop. There are no drop-ins. Fee \$85. Register by calling 212-246-6057.

HOUSING AVAILABLE

Large, bright bed/sitting room in Prospect Heights brownstone available to a mature, responsible, friendly person from late Nov. thru early Feb. Share kitchen—bath with retired teacher and a sweet, long-haired cat. Moderate rent includes bills and Internet. Susan at susanslists@yahoo.com or 718-636-9089.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

ATTORNEY—Personal Injury Emphasis—36 years experience in all aspects of injury law. Individual attention provided for entire case. Free phone or office consultations. Prompt, courteous communications. 24-year Park Slope Food Coop member; Park Slope resident; downtown Brooklyn office. Tom



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.

SUN, OCT 5

4 p.m. BPL Chamber Players present: Clarosa Piano Quartet, Juliette Kang, Violin; Che-Hung Chen, Viola; Thomas Kraines, Cello; Natalie Zhu, Piano with Peter Weitzner, Double Bass at the Dr. S. Stevan Dweck Center for Contemporary Culture Central Library. 10 Grand Army Plaza, Bklyn. Admission Free.

SAT, OCT 11

10 a.m. Kings County Fiber Festival. Spend the day with natural fiber artists, crocheters, dyers, felters, knitters, quilters, spin-

ners 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.

SAT, OCT 11

8 p.m. Peoples' Voice Cafe: The Filthy Rotten System is a folk/rock/protest band grounded in the values of the Catholic Worker Movement, to which many of the members belong. At the Community Church of NY Unitarian Universalist, 40 E. 35 St. For info call 212-787-3903 or see www.peoplesvoice-cafe.org. Suggested donation \$18, member \$10.

8 a.m. The Run for the Rings, Half marathon or 5k benefit run for Michael Ring, Coop member and Prospect Park Track club events organizer/volunteer. For more info: www.nycruns.com/races/?race=run-for-the-rings.

THU, OCT 16

7 p.m. Book Launch: *Brooklyn Spirits*, by Peter Fornatale and Chris Wertz with Bridget Firtle and Steve DeAngelo. *Brooklyn Spirits: Craft Cocktails and Stories from the World's Hippest Borough*, is the first distillery-to-glass cocktail book. At the powerHouse Arena, 37 Main St. Bklyn. For info call 718-666-3049. Rsvp@powerhousearena.com.

MEMBER SUBMISSION

The Trap: America's Political Catch-22

By David Barouh

It's common knowledge that American politicians prostrate themselves to corporate lobbying and campaign finance in a system of legalized bribery. Politicians facilitate the agendas of the biggest corporations in banking, agribusiness, armaments and oil, impervious to the inevitable corporate effluents of poverty, hunger, war and ecocide. But do corporations control politics so completely that citizens are irrelevant? Can't we "vote the bums out"? Theoretically, yes, but there's a catch—Catch-22—the Two-Party System.

Democrats and Republicans distinguish themselves by focusing on cultural and social issues—certainly important, but *nonetheless secondary* to war, environment, poverty and corporate corruption of politics—on which there's little debate and less action. Mainstream politicians owe their electoral survival to corporate goodwill, and *must* commit to implementing their agendas.

Most voters now understand this dilemma, but continue supporting Democrats or Republicans. Voting Green, Socialist, Libertarian, Constitutionalist or other alternatives—given their near-complete media blackout—are seen as "unrealistic" options.

Democrats—the default choice for most New Yorkers—have increasingly supported the country's wars, the economy-destroying free-trade agreements, the relaxing and repealing of

Wall Street laws and regulation with now familiar results and the 1996 Telecommunications Act that enabled media to consolidate into giant conglomerates, heralding the demise of smaller independents and sabotaging the country's cherished free press—now virtual government and corporate propaganda mills. Only corporate-funded or super-rich candidates can afford the requisite exposure on corporate media.

The Two-Party trap came into stark focus in 2000 when George W. Bush lost the *popular* vote to Al Gore but became president by *carrying the Electoral College*. That marked the obvious time to introduce a Constitutional amendment to eliminate this antiquated institution. But it wasn't discussed, nor will it within the two-party stranglehold it reinforces.

Instead, Ralph Nader, the very symbol of opposition to corporate criminality and control, took unfair criticism for allegedly siphoning—stealing!—votes from Gore. The simple reality, though, is that no voter who preferred Gore voted for Nader instead. But perhaps tens of millions who preferred Nader voted for Gore instead. *Who stole votes from who?*

Those who criticize Nader for "costing" Gore the election should direct their anger—to the warped and antiquated electoral system.

Those who revile Nader for not dropping out should ask themselves why Gore didn't drop out and support Nader,

the person Gore supporters knew very well would make a more representative and transformative president. By this totalitarian and unconstitutional logic, only Democrats and Republicans should be allowed to stand for office.

And those who blame Nader for the Iraq invasion are fooling themselves—Gore was among Congress' most hawkish Democrats, voting for or approving of every U.S. military action during his tenure. Gore expressed concern over Bush's go-it-alone belligerence but accepted Iraq's supposed WMD threat and expressed no opposition in principle to the invasion. A substantial number of Democrats supported that invasion. The policy of Iraqi regime change was, in fact, a Clinton-Gore initiative, including frequent bombings. Believing President Gore wouldn't have heeded calls to invade Iraq is simple self-deception.

Believing change can come from politicians of the two corporate parties is also illusory, as Obama's presidency should have illustrated. Violent revolutions are often betrayed, seldom yield completely satisfactory results and are increasingly remote possibilities given unimaginably advanced crowd-control methods. Electing candidates from alternative political parties or independents may be the closest we come to a people's revolution in today's America.

Progressives and conservatives share more with each other than with the neo-fascist or collaborationist

Republicans and Democrats, whose only commitment is to corporate domination. Greens and Libertarians, Socialists and free-market Constitutionalists all oppose the out-of-control militarism, crony capitalism, disappearing civil liberties and cheapening of life and culture.

But could an alternative candidate win? People may agree down the line with the positions of alternatives—compared to those of the corporate parties—yet be unwilling to vote for them until alternatives demonstrate an ability to "compete." But here's the catch—Catch-22—it's only by voting for alternatives that they *can* compete. Withholding support effectively seals their fate.

It's a mistake believing one knows what's possible in politics. Massive voter defections

to alternatives would make the impossible possible, likely causing enlightened politicians from both corporate parties—not today's poseurs and corporate fronts but politicians escaping the death-trap of corporate money—to reform even those entities.

Responsible citizens don't capitulate to imposed "traditions"—they try to change them. They seek alternatives. The vote is a franchise, the one bit of real political power citizens have, except that the Two-Party deathtrap steals even that. ■



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.

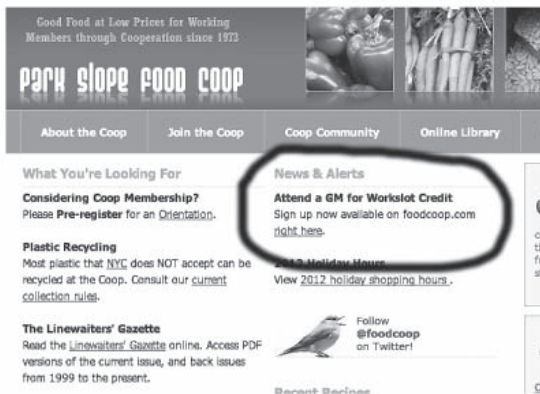
Note: no bike check-in on Saturdays after 5 p.m. or Sundays after 7:30 p.m.

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



**PSFC
Shop & Cycle
Committee**

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**