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Volume II, Number 26

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December 25, 2014

LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

By Allison Pennell

I've learned a LOT during my multi-year tenure as a reporter for the *Linewaiters' Gazette*. And because it's the most wonderful time of the year, I'm sharing a compendium of my favorite factoids to be swilled with your organic soy-based eggnog and gluten-free matzo ball soup this holiday season. Thank me later.

In no particular order...

1. There was a time back somewhere in the 1980s when a giant carrot on the shopping floor wall advertised the membership goal of one thousand members.
2. Joe Holtz did NOT attend Woodstock.
3. The Food Coop hosted a member workshop titled "And When I Die: The Musical! A Funeral Planning Cabaret."
4. The PSFC produces some 30,000+ gallons of food scraps per year, which go to local gardens and parks in Red Hook and Park Slope for composting.
5. Until the mid 90s it was not against the rules to hire somebody to work your shift for you. A neuroscientist now, then 14-year-old Matthew Malter Cohen had a successful business pimping himself and his friends for shifts at \$15 a pop.
6. Coop sales are expected to exceed \$49 million in 2014.



ILLUSTRATION BY ROD MORRISON

7. The Food Coop once threatened to sue Barneys New York for calling themselves Barneys "Co-Op," a flagrant violation of New York's Cooperative Corporations Law, which restricts the use of the term "coop" to cooperative businesses. A General Meeting voted down the lawsuit proposal in 2010.
8. Coop member, renowned direct democracy scholar and hijacker of GMs, Albert Solomon, ran unsuccessfully for a seat on the Coop Board of Directors many times.
9. Overheard at the Coop: "If they put arsenic in glu-

ten-free foods, it would solve a lot of problems."

10. Jazz Hands—aka twinkling and/or silent applause—has been around for over 20 years.
11. The recession of 2007-2008—and introduction of debit card use—drove a surge in Coop membership. It rose to a high of 16,450 in the spring of 2012 before the General Coordinators slowed down the rate of membership growth. Now it's around 16,000.
12. The recent renovation and expansion of the shopping floor increased the number of checkouts by around

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Coop Confronts Mexican Produce Worker Abuses

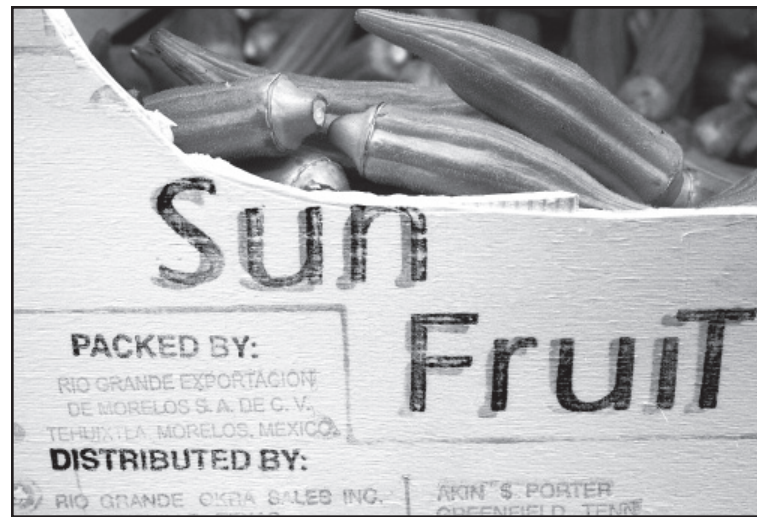


PHOTO BY KEVIN RYAN

The Coop buys a lot of produce from Mexico in the winter.

By Hayley Gorenberg

The *Los Angeles Times'* in-depth series exposing work conditions for farm laborers in Mexico triggered challenging reflections and creative strategies from General Coordinator Allen Zimmerman, PSFC produce buyer for 20 years. He says yes, the Coop carries some produce from Mexico. More on that in a moment.

The 18-month investigation in nine Mexican states found that workers picking produce often were

not free to leave. Some were actually held against their will and beaten if they tried to escape. Others were in effect kept in labor camps. As the *LA Times* reported, "Some camp bosses illegally withhold wages to prevent workers from leaving during peak harvest periods." At half the 30 camps visited, the *Times* reported workers could not leave because their pay was withheld or they owed money to the company store.

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The December General Meeting Is Canceled

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is typically held on the last Tuesday of each month. The December General Meeting, however, has been canceled.

The January General Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 27, 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

Fri, Jan 2 • Film Night: *Portrait of Wally* 7:00 p.m.

Tue, Jan 6 • Agenda Committee Meeting 8:00 p.m.

Fri, Jan 9 • See What the PAFCU Offers 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**Fri, Jan 9 • Wordsprouts:
New Poetry for a New Year 7:00 p.m.**

Sat, Jan 10 • See What the PAFCU Offers 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Sat, Jan 10 • Auditions For Our
Coop Kids' Variety Show 2-5 p.m.**

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

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50 Facts

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- 30% and has cut down on all the time we spend "line waiting."
13. Joe Holtz is most likely to cheat on the Food Coop with Key Food. Q: When you have to go beyond the hallowed walls of the PSFC for some groceries, where do you go? A: Key Food. I feel like I'm in spaciousness heaven when I go to get my two items. I also might go to the Associated on 5th near Union.
14. A member once tried to return a cooked chicken because it was too rubbery.
15. In 2011, a Coop member devoted to watching Castle was hustling to finish a shift to get home in time for his episode and accidentally locked three fellow members in the Coop. The fire department was called in to cut the lock.
16. At any given time, a quarter of all working Coop members owe makeups. Most shifts owed: a daunting 34!!!—all according to 2012 data.



ILLUSTRATION BY ROD MORRISON

17. Number of weddings, brisses, bar mitzvahs, quincinieras held on the shopping floor of the Food Coop: zero. But the Coop did host one ad hoc wedding: upstairs, with Kristopher Marx officiating.
18. There are actual ghostwriters for some of those BDS section Gazette letters.
19. The PSFC buys two cows, four pigs, four lambs and sold 1,280 pounds of whole chicken from New York

- State farmers each week.
20. The Coop bought its first property for \$50,000 in 1980: the amount you'd be lucky to buy a parking spot at the nearby garage these days.
21. The *New York Times* film and social critic (and Coop food processing worker) A.O. Scott envisions a movie about the Food Coop as "a slow, sad, Neo-realist fable involving cheese." But he really thinks it should be a workplace sitcom like *The Office* or, alternately, a competitive reality show.
22. The PSFC turns over inventory about 74 times per year. In effect, we sell out our entire store's worth of inventory every five days.
23. Members have launched an ad hoc campaign to create a dog-care shift.
24. Joe Holtz was both the first and third paid employee of the Food Coop. Apparently, he took a leave of absence and somebody took his place for a few months.

Members have launched an ad hoc campaign to create a dog-care shift.

25. Blue Ribbon Excuse For Missing A Shift: A Coop member's wife came in very apologetic about her husband being unable to make his shift and needing to do a makeup because they were in the weeds. The husband, Shaun Donovan had to go to a meeting in Washington, DC. Turned out it was his confirmation hearing to become Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, which he served as from 2009-2014.
26. The Coop's sales per square foot of selling space are 14 times the national average for supermarkets. The meat section, for instance, sells close to 1,000 pounds

Murray R.
Brooklyn, NY
0 friends
3 reviews

Share review
Compliment
Send message
Follow Murray R.

★★★★★ 4/22/2013

for those who think that aisles packed with smelly leftists, tiles on which various locally sourced argula races to see which can rot quickest and Levitan-like public service announcements denouncing fracking, gender roles, individual liberty and everything else that Franz Fanion and Howard Zinn hate, this is for you. If you think civilization summited in the 1903s, when Stalin was starving millions of Ukrainians to death in pursuit of socialist utopia, you'll feel right home hear. Progressives ARE fascists and fifteen minutes inside this hellhole will demonstrate the truth of this proposition. A blot on the body politic, and the an aggregatete of nasty, pretentious, self-righteous Obama worshippers that is the borough of Brooklyn writ large.

- of free-ranging boneless chicken breasts per week, which means it sells on average \$2,656 of chicken breast per square foot every month.
27. There is a beer aficionado shift at the Food Coop. Other odd jobs: bike valet, food tour guide, mop cleaner, bulletin board manager, coin counter, coupon processor, launderer.
28. Overheard at the Coop: "I'm from the beer squad. I'm here to help."
29. The feedback binders at the front of the shopping floor hold 50 pages of handwritten notes including requests for free Wi-Fi, a DJ squad, fresh fish, with 40% of notes agitating for better chairs because people's butts are delicate and need cushioning. A staffer reads them all.
30. Most of the Food Coop's mean reviews on Yelp are from people pissed they couldn't get in without joining. Murray R. from Brooklyn takes first prize: "for those who think that aisles packed with smelly leftists, tiles [sic] on which various locally sourced argula [sic] races to see which can rot quickest and Levitan-like public service announcements denouncing fracking, gender roles, individual liberty and everything else that Franz Fanion and Howard Zinn hate, this is for you. If you think civilization summited [sic] in the 1903s, when Stalin was starving millions of Ukrainians to death in pursuit of socialist utopia, you'll feel right home hear. Progressives ARE fascists and fifteen minutes inside this hellhole will demonstrate the truth of this proposition. A blot on the body politic, and the an aggregatete [sic] of nasty,

- pretentious, self-righteous Obama worshippers that is the borough of Brooklyn writ large."
31. Noted vegan author and Park Slope resident Jonathan Safran Foer has never been a member of the Park Slope Food Coop.
32. At 14, your kids can start working your shifts for you... with a work permit of course.
33. Joe Holtz's former doctor retired in 2004 to become a farmer. Ken Jaffe left medicine and the city to start Slope Farms in Meredith, NY, which supplies a good share of the beef sold at the Coop.
34. John Turturro is scared of the Food Coop. Cathy Borowitz Turturro: "My husband doesn't come from a family of male grocery shoppers. He's offered to push the cart home. I think he is a little afraid of the Food Coop." John Turturro: "It's that whole thing about having to wait on that line and then you have to pay and then you have to bag it and you have to wait on the other line to get checked. For certain people it's like the mental block of 'I've joined a commune.' I can't do it. I don't know. I just think it's a mental block." All from a *Gazette* interview.
35. The Food Coop website is being redesigned by Coop members who are *New York Times* staffers.
36. The Food Coop is a tourist destination.
37. The Food Coop officially has 30,000 members. Around half of them are absentee owners who no longer have shopping rights but technically still own a piece of the PSFC. The actual numbers: 16,258 active participating members; 14,500 non-participating member owners

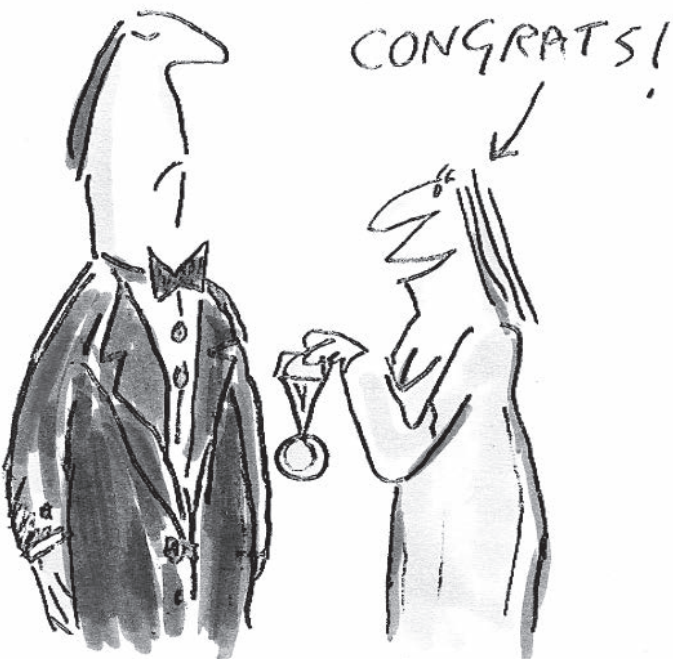


ILLUSTRATION BY ROD MORRISON

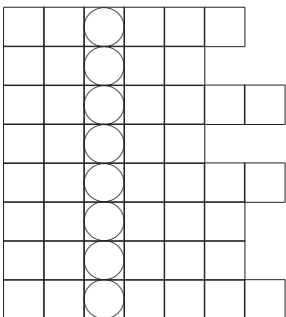
X Out

Sometimes you can remove a single letter from a word to get a new word. For example, if you remove the third letter from SUPPER, you get SUPER. You will find nine more of these pairs in this puzzle. In each line below, the first clue describes the larger word. If you remove the letter that goes into the circled spot, you get a word described by the second clue. After you've solved all of these, you will find an additional pair from the circled letters.

CLUES

- "Ocean's ___"; Like Legolas
Saying; Hurt
Kneecap; Rice dish
Visitor; Strong wind
Wood finish; Disappear
Having assets; Having debts
Smart; Salty
Recover; Wild

ANSWERS



Puzzle author: Lars W. Roe. For answers, see page 15.

kyle ranson-walsh
@kylorw

Follow

it delights me that so many @nytimes people are redesigning the @foodcoop website. bless you.

11:24 PM - 4 Aug 2014



Unlike · Comment · Share

You, Allison Deutsch Andersen, Amy Shapiro, Nicole Craig Stanton and 17 others like this.



Nicole Craig Stanton Too bad you couldn't buy those shirts because you are NON-MEMBERS
13 October at 13:36 · Like · 2

38. The Coop sells a case of produce every minute.
39. Retirement rates at the PSFC have jumped from 379 out of 16,000 in 2013... to 425 today.
40. Overheard at the FC: "Is there a brain function section in the vitamin and supplements aisle?"
41. According to 2013 data, 16% of the Food Coop membership turns over each year, with around 2,600 members quitting and about the same number joining.
42. Office workers used to serenade each other with an operatic aria written by a guy named Vinny, a former Membership Coordinator and titled: "I'm Suspended, and I Don't Know and I Don't Know Why."
43. In addition to serving as Deputy Managing Editor at the *Daily News*, Coop member Gersh Kuntzman is also at work on a new play called *Murder at the Food Coop*.
44. Coop sales numbers fluctuate—but the all time high in sales was around \$1.1 million dollars the week before Thanksgiving 2014.
45. Chuck Schumer has never
- been a member of the PSFC.
46. According to recent numbers—every day \$700 worth of goods goes missing from Coop shelves.
47. Badge of Honor for being Excused from a Shift: a member called to let the office know that she would need to miss a shift... because a member of her family would be at the White House... accepting the Medal of Freedom.
48. Overhead at the Coop: "A gentle reminder to please

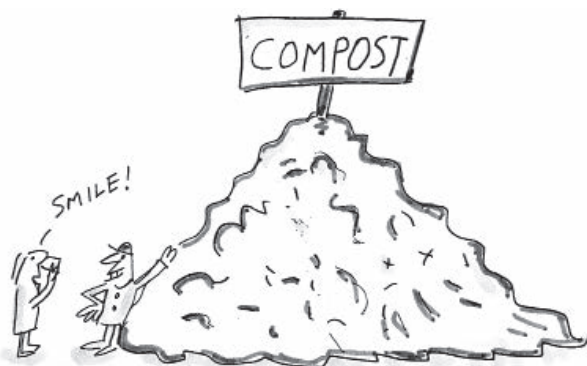


ILLUSTRATION BY ROD MORRISON

- not leave your babies and strollers unattended in the middle of an aisle."
49. There is a member named Willy Appelman who has a YouTube channel devoted to reenactments of hilarious loudspeaker announcements he's heard such as "Will Indigo's mother please come to childcare; Indigo's mother: childcare NOW!" and "Hey, where would I find ethically killed wheat-free vegan Peking Duck?"
50. There used to be a life-guard chair on the shopping floor to keep watch for shoplifting but nobody wanted to do the fink shift so the Coop got rid of it. ■

Coop Confronts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Get more details from:
www.graphics.latimes.com/product-of-mexico-camps/

And though workers sought the camps to make a living, earning the equivalent of \$8-\$12 daily that is often entirely withheld until the end of the three-month harvest season, the *Times* found that "laborers often go deep in debt paying inflated prices for necessities at company stores. Some are reduced to scavenging for food when their credit is cut off. It's common for laborers to head home penniless at the end of a harvest."

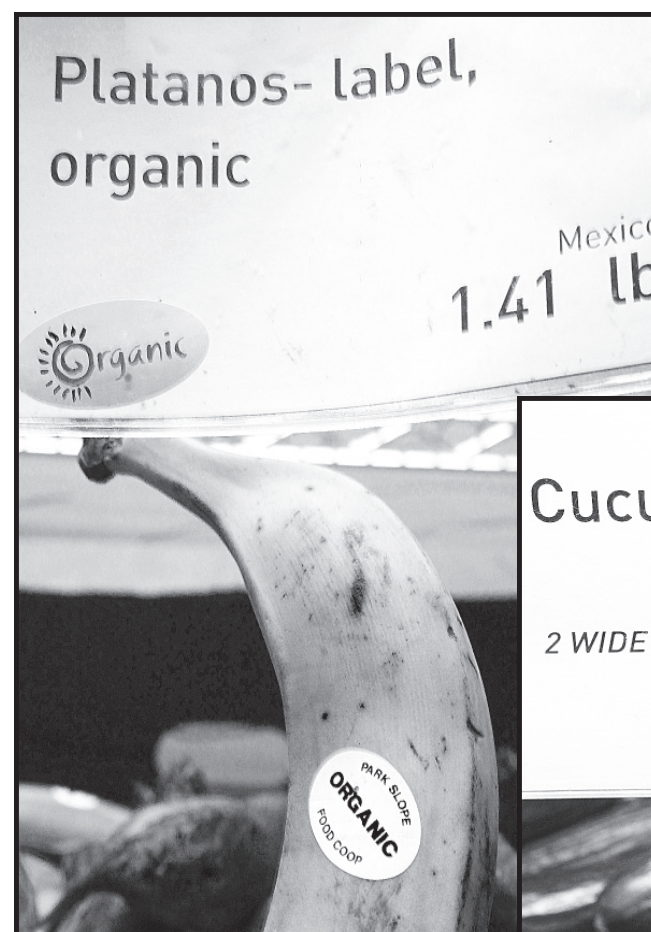
trimmed so the fruit will arrive unblemished in U.S. supermarkets."

And some of that beau-



PHOTO BY ANA GALLO

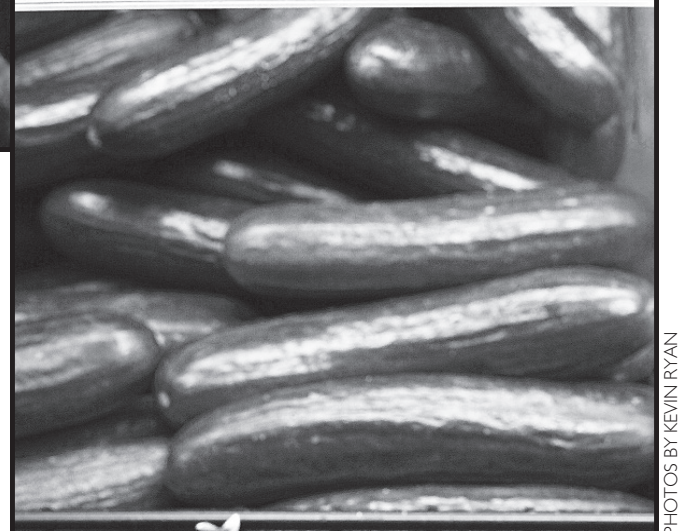
With that reality as his previously established base, Zimmerman welcomed the *LA Times* series as impetus "pushing us further in a direction we're already going." That direction includes prioritizing local produce, small family farms and reducing the PSFC carbon footprint by cutting transportation distances. Thus, once winter cold sets in, the Coop prioritizes produce from Florida over produce from California, and



Cucumber-Persian

2 WIDE

Dominican Republic or Mexico
1.70 lb



PHOTOS BY KEVIN RYAN

The physical conditions were wretched. "Many farm laborers are essentially trapped for months at a time in rat-infested camps, often without beds and sometimes without functioning toilets or a reliable water supply."

And to those who ask whether any standards or regulations exist, the *Times* responded, "major U.S. companies have done little to enforce social responsibility guidelines that call for basic worker protections such as clean housing and fair pay practices."

The *Times* remarked that "[t]he contrast between the treatment of produce and of people is stark. In immaculate greenhouses, laborers are ordered to use hand sanitizers and schooled in how to pamper the produce. They're required to keep their fingernails carefully

tiful fruit does, indeed, reach the Coop—especially in winter. Without buying from Mexico and countries in South and Central America, "people would be surprised how little food they'd be eating that came out of the ground a week ago," said Zimmerman. "They'd be amazed how little choice they have. California isn't the answer in the winter. We can make informed choices, but we're not going to boycott a country."

produce from California over produce from Mexico.

For those who react to the *Times'* expose by seeking to avoid Mexican produce, the Coop's compliance with "COOL" (country of origin labeling) allows them to choose other sources. COOL reveals that some "Hawaiian" ginger comes from China, and that carelessly labeled "Holland" peppers and tomatoes may have a provenance different from what one expects.

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Brooklyn Ex-Pat Brings the Spirit of the PSFC to Berlin

By Taigi Smith

When Kathryn Werntz moved to Berlin several years ago, she missed the PSFC so much that she started her own food cooperative. She talked to me about the challenges of starting the Dickes Bee Coop. While Kathryn has been in Berlin for several years, she still remains a proud member of the PSFC and is doing her best to bring the spirit of the Coop to her current home.

sometimes looked down upon. The idea is that the state should be taking care of people's needs. The idea of doing "menial" work, no matter how meaningful, seemed beyond comprehension to many.

We have about 40 active members and maybe another 20 who show up once in a while. We've cycled through at least another 60 members.

We have moved the coop four times, and for

or environmental scene in NYC. I then realized it was time for much bigger change. I came here based on a deep attraction and appreciation of German culture and wanting to live in a country where environmentalism runs deep.

How long were you a member of the PSFC?

I signed up fall 2001. I was skeptical at first—the entire idea was quite new to me and all the restless energy and hotheads almost put me off—but as soon as I did my first few shifts and met more level-headed people and felt the comfortably communal, but non-commune vibe, I was sold. I have since left the country "for good", but couldn't bring myself to leave PSFC, so, I am on a long hiatus.

Were you inspired by your time at the Park Slope Food Coop?

I was 100% inspired by PSFC. Everything from the model, to logistics, to thinking about what I would want to do differently... it all influenced me. I continue to sing the praises of PSFC and I am very clear to members, visitors and reporters that the Coop is what has inspired me. I made a few trips back to the PSFC and tearfully told a few employees what an impact the PSFC had on me—not only in terms of operating a coop, but the reasons behind having one. What may be different is we get to know each of our farmers personally. That is, at least one of our members has information and a connection to each one of our farmers.

Even after explaining how the PSFC works and after instituting things to



PHOTOS BY JESS KAMENS

Dickes Bee sells its own jam.

move in that direction, it still seems people here in Germany who have never worked in a coop have a hard time grasping the concept. I have worked in a "true" coop in my mind, that is, a working membership and a closed one—this is much more dynamic than a blind buying club which is essentially what I find in Berlin and all over Germany.

jars and then decide how much you want on-site.

We also get bread, beer and fruit juices from local, and sometimes locally sourced companies. Additionally, we have a pretty diverse assortment of dried goods. For example, we get coffee from a women's coop in Honduras. The coffee is roasted by a "social justice" roaster in Hamburg. We



Kathryn Werntz, PSFC member and founder of the Dickes Bee Coop in Berlin.

Tell me about your food cooperative. When did you start it and why?

As soon as I got to Berlin, I started looking for a food coop, but after 1½ years of searching, and unable to afford the farmers' market prices, I decided to launch my own food coop. I explicitly remember hovering longingly over a bunch of leafy dark greens and lamenting over being unable to afford it.

In February 2011, I posted an ad asking if anyone was interested in starting a coop and outlined a few ideas I had. About 15 people came to the first meeting. From there, I held several more meetings, where I asked questions and tried to set ground rules for what would later become our "constitution" of sorts.

The Dickes Bee Coop was really, really hard to start. The idea of volunteerism is not nearly as popular in Germany as it is in the USA. In fact, it is

three months it was operating out of my hallway! The room we now rent is this funky multi-purpose room that also has a small "bar." It is part of a type of communal living situation that exists in Berlin—where the building itself is a coop of sorts. It has two courtyards and a general feeling of "in progress" in every way. There are typically art installations in the room we rent. There's also a communal kitchen where some residents run an informal cooking service for the nearby preschools, so we leave one another any little leftover goodies. There's also an adjoining studio/theatre space that we sometimes rent out to do special events.

What made you move to Berlin?

I decided to quit my PhD on international food security in May of 2009 in order to get back to having direct impact. Then I spent a few months trying to work my way back into the food



Dickes Bee printed materials.

What items do you sell at the Dickes Bee Coop?

We have weekly choices of local fruits and veggies—and sometimes nuts—from about 20 different farms. You order on weekends online. We sell other things like yogurt out of huge tubs. You must bring your own refillable

were blocked from tracking down the exact farmer of our figs from Turkey—then we had a long conversation about if we should still buy them or not. We decided to purchase the figs because they are so popular and most of us would just buy them in the local organic shop anyway. For things like cleaners, with the exception of some bulk organic dishwashing soap, we encourage people to make their own and share recipes and ideas on this and other make-your-own or make-from-scratch ideas.

We sometimes have super special products depending on seasons and connection of members. We now have amaaaaazing bulk olive oil from Italy, and when they're in season, I organize mangoes from Senegal. In the past, we have had a local organic



Noodles

chef who would make ready-to-eat meals.

How is your cooperative structured? Are your members required to work for food or is this more of a CSA model?

I work with another coordinator to run the Dickes Bee Coop. He is also our IT wizard and coordinates

Mayan methods, but with chocolate from Ecuador and mangoes from Burkina Faso and maté from Brazil. In this case, we are in touch with the entire value chain.

According to our philosophy, not every product or farm must be organic, fair-trade, or certified in any way. We have a series of questions we answer before buying a product,

in the end, appreciated the difficulty of trying to grow organic asparagus and felt good about the farm's other produce which is organic, so we wanted to support them.

In your opinion, how important is locally sourced food?

I think locally sourced food is the key to nourishing our bodies, minds, souls and soils! Not to say that I think all of our food or products or services or neighbors should be locally sourced—there is a benefit to moving all of these around the world through some global markets, but having locally sourced food has the potential to impact our lives in so many ways.

I think most important to emphasize, is how nourishing it is for our bodies and our spirits to have some connection to the land, even if it's a once-a-year open farm day where



Shopping at Dickes Bee is reminiscent to the early days of the PSFC.

pick-up and banking logistics. I still oversee the entire vision, the coordination of members, product research, farmer contact, and the education and advocacy and partner activities. We are constantly in flux on how to decentralize tasks and share information. We use Facebook, Google docs, and our private online food ordering system to communicate and assign tasks.

Each member is required to work about three hours per month. This was somewhat based on PSFC model and what people seemed willing to give. During the first two years, we tracked all the hours it took us to do things and what we wanted to do. We had everyone log their hours. Eventually, that became too much to handle and now everyone works on an honor system.

Where does your coop's food come from?

All of the fresh products come from mostly farmers and farm cooperatives within a 1½-hour drive from us. Some of our fresh goods come from several organic farms within the Berlin city limits. Throughout the year, we have products from probably about 20-25 different small farms, of which 10 or so we have visited. Our chocolate is manufactured using ancient



Goat-milking field trip.

and while official certification is on that list, we have more questions about environmental, social and economic sustainability which interest us. And when we have big questions, we go visit the farm first.

"Spargel," or asparagus, is the pride of Germans and has a culture in and of itself. Before deciding to buy non-organic Spargel, we went for a farm visit and

you go pet the goat that makes your cheese.

How do Berliners' ideas and relationship with locally sourced food differ from those of Americans?

Germans are so used to their local farmers markets, that I am not sure how much they think about it. What I can say is disappointing from Germans is that they



Weekly choices of fruit and vegetables.

are obsessed with this idea of everything being "bio"—that is, organic. They are also quite proud of their world-renowned "Demeter" certification and I guess they should be. From what I can tell, Demeter seems to embody much of permaculture tenets. I am not sure how much the average German thinks beyond these certification schemes or how much they are influenced when the media smears one of them.

There's a recent push by Germany and the EU to allow GMO products in. There is plenty of uproar and discussion about that. We Americans living here are also not happy about it either. We thought we were "safe" here in GMO-free land and where so many chemicals allowed in the USA are not allowed here.

Germans are obsessed with this idea of everything being "bio"—that is, organic.

How is your food cooperative different than the PSFC?

We want to know our farmer, and possibly the entire value chain, for every product—and personally. We also still do not offer meat, and our few dairy products took us years to finally source and agree upon. We also are nowhere near the level of organization and strength of PSFC! Also, sadly, we still do not have bins for bulk items. My intention is to make Dickes Bee as much like PSFC as possible, though it will always be Berlin style, that is, closer to the farmers, eons more relaxed, and with requisite revolutionary attitude and piercings.

Have you met other Brooklynites living in Berlin? What about other (former) members of the PSFC?

There are puh-lenty of Brooklynites living in Berlin and many of them go back and forth (artists or musicians, mostly). I try to steer clear of American hangouts and meet-ups, though over the years have allowed a few in as close friends.... those who mostly have left the USA for good and know why. I have met at least five former PSFC members, and each time, the discussions with them about PSFC and what I am trying to do with the Dickes Bee Coop completely reinvigorate me.

What do you miss most about the PSFC?

Hmm, you mean besides the fantastic use of the PA system? Asking do we have this, have you seen this, can you substitute x for y, anyone going there?

I miss the heated discussions and the constant dynamism that seemed to seep into me by being surrounded by a bunch of people who care enough to give two hours and 45 minutes of their life every month to a good cause and would splatter the stairwell with all sorts of ideas to stretch my mind. ■



MEMBER SUBMISSION

Dear Membership

By Jesse Rosenfeld

Equating Jews with Nazis. Division instead of cooperation. Demonization instead of dialogue. Mirroring the world's conflicts instead of working together towards alternate visions.

Are these "our" values at the Coop? These values are repellent and do not speak in my name, and I can say definitively that my views

are mirrored by thousands of others in the Coop, mainly those that years ago voted against boycotting Israel. I can safely count even tens of thousands who stand against such values, those that found the discussion so unrelated to Coop business that they didn't show up to vote.

I called last issue for productive solutions to discuss the Middle East

conflict that is has occupied *Gazette* space for so long. I still call for those who find it compelling to hold a regular monthly meeting to discuss the complexity of the Middle East conflict. There is ample meeting room, time, and space at the PSFC to accomplish this and those that meet should agree to drop letter writing during this time. It may seem like pie-in-the-sky, but all it takes is for people to agree

to meet and it comes down to earth.

I also call upon all membership to reject the "Israel-Palestine" label from now on, because a simple glance at the newspapers show how the region's widely variant and historical issues steer the I-P conflict, not the other way around. Please show your rejection of that anachronistic label by saying so in print.

Can anyone who regularly writes letters who call

to boycott Israel, as well as work against the boycott, sacrifice the letters for a few issues and agree to meet?

I await your spirit of cooperation and compromise. I hope I don't wait long, because the longer you ignore a call to compromise and sacrifice only demonstrates how long you ignore a call to compromise and sacrifice.

It's time to change the conversation. ■

FUN COMMITTEE REPORT

Park Slope Food Coop Fun Committee

By Martha Siegel

Every time I shop at the Coop and walk to my car with a Walker, I introduce myself then ask the Walker his or her name and when they joined the Coop. I do

this so that they will ask me the same question. When I answer, they stop in their tracks and say "What?" I repeat my answer, "1973." They usually reply, "I wasn't even born yet!" I enjoy this

little routine. I tell them that I'm on the Fun Committee, and again, they stop in their tracks. "What's that?" they ask. I explain that it's a committee that has been in existence since the found-

rather playing pool), pub nights (singing traditional songs, co-sponsored with Pinewoods), spoken-word events, crafts shows, Valentine's card-making events, band nights featuring Coop musicians, contra dances, other types of dances, singles events, fun and games, potluck lunches in Prospect Park, adult variety shows and the annual Kids' Variety Shows (since 2004). We're always brainstorming to invent events to attract a wide variety of participants. We even welcome suggestions from Coop members.

When we plan an event we publicize it in the *Gazette* and our poster designer hangs a beautiful, eye-catching poster on the wall behind the cashiers. But the big question is do Coop members see these posters and announcements in the *Gazette*? If they do, are they lured to come to the event? I am personally disappointed every time we produce an event that is under-attended. It makes me question the purpose of our committee.

So, after reading this article, I hope you will take note of our efforts and notice the publicity and participate at our events! The Coop is not just a food store; it's a community.

Parties!

By Sarah Safford

My favorite events were the dance parties. I remember these from before I was on the committee (when it was still called the Fundraising committee), and I felt happy to be supporting a good cause while dancing the night away. These were potlucks with wonderfully diverse casseroles, salads

and healthy baked goods, and the DJs music was eclectic and funky. The atmosphere was informal and homey, and it felt like we were all there for the same reason—to dance and have fun!

When I joined the Fun Committee we held a few dance events with live music, but they were never as well attended as the parties from the '80s and '90s. Now my wish for our committee is to bring back dance events where everyone in our Coop community can come to share food, dance and have a funky good time!

Musicians, Artists & Writers

By Daliene Majors

I joined the Fun Committee in 2005. The Committee meets once per month to plan events and assign jobs for each member to fulfill. The events are created and produced using the Committee members' individual talents. Musicians organize the Children's Variety Show, Pub Night and Band Night; visual artists prepare event posters and host Valentine's Day card making; writers host readings; and recently an International Folk Dance Night brought 50 Coop members together to learn dances from around the world. The variety of the Committee's events keeps us involved in the PSFC's diverse community and we continue to thrive with the energy that it creates. ■

To learn more about the Fun Committee and its events, check out our blog on the Coop's website. If you have an idea for a fun event, please e-mail: Msiegel105@earthlink.net.

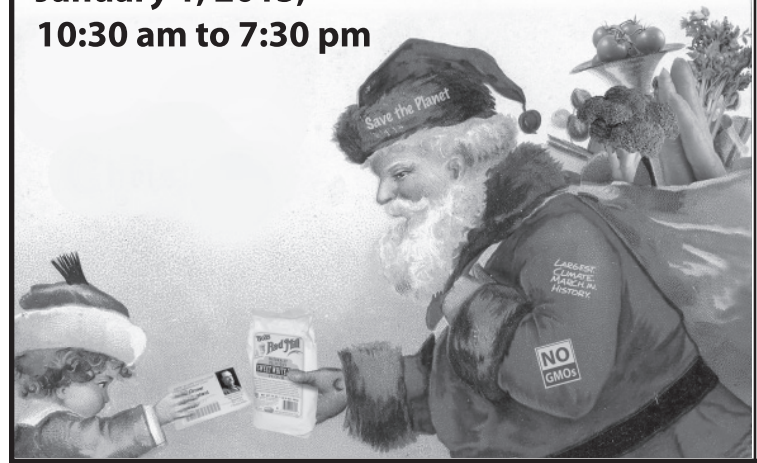


International Folk Dance Night, Fun Committee Event, Dec. 7, 2014.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING HOURS WILL BE:

December 31,
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

January 1, 2015,
10:30 am to 7:30 pm



ing of the Coop except that it used to be called The Fundraising Committee. Now we just raise "fun," to which they reply, "I've never heard of it." And that's when I get sad. The purpose of our committee is to create community, and if members don't know we exist and don't know what we do, it defeats the purpose of our committee. And that's why I'm writing this article.

Since the early days of the Coop, we have produced auctions, every-five-years birthday parties for the Coop, music festivals featuring over 100 talented Coop musicians and attracting over 1,000 audience members (1983-87), chamber music concerts, potluck suppers, game nights, poker nights, pool parties (not swimming but

MEMBER SUBMISSION

Is This Your Coop?

By Barbara Mazor

The Consumers' Cooperative of Berkeley, a food co-op, operated from 1939 to 1988. At its peak, it had over 100,000 members and operated 12 supermarkets with \$83 million in sales. A number of factors contributed to its collapse. There was a series of bad financial and managerial decisions that may or may not have been surmountable. In addition, the sense of community necessary to sustain the business was undermined by endless political infighting. This revolved mainly around the endorsement of consumer boycotts. The CCB lost the loyalty of its customer base, its members. It is a cautionary tale for all PSFC members, but especially for those entrusted with the well-being of PSFC.

Coop membership, like

all economic decisions, is a matter of benefits outweighing disadvantages. The main benefit, of course, is the low prices. But gone are the days when the Coop was the only source for health food products and local or organic produce. Now we have Whole Foods, Union Markets, green markets and other food coops. Also gone are the days when the store was tiny and you knew not only everyone on your squad, but also the people who regularly shopped during your shift. There is also the advantage of the sense of community, the idea of being part of an alternative way of shopping and running a business. It is the affirmative answer to the question "Do I want to be a part of this?" that sustains us as Coop members.

There are a number of us who are Israelis and/or Jews whose identity includes a

sense of people-hood that causes us to have concern for the physical well-being of Jews everywhere, including the 49% of our people who live in Israel. We are feeling increasingly marginalized and have to wonder if we can still answer "yes" to the question "Do I want to be part of this?"

Nearly six years ago the subject of BDS was introduced during open comments at the General Meeting. Two years later a BDS proposal was added to the agenda lists. Despite our protests that this initiative was detrimental to the Coop community, the Coop felt that the proposal had to follow the course of Coop "democracy." We identified the lies and distortions published in the pro-BDS letters. They were ignored, and the editors continued to publish the same lies, calling them "opinions." We saw our letters to the *Gazette* rejected for infringement

on the editorial policy, while pro-BDS letters with worse violations were permitted. We were personally attacked in the *Gazette* and we were not notified and provided with the opportunity to respond in the same issue. When we pointed out the anti-Jewish racism of the BDS movement, our complaints were flippantly dismissed as "trying to stifle discussion of Israel." The irony and racism of that statement is stunning.

Nearly three years ago, the Coop spent thousands of dollars to provide a General Meeting to vote on a proposal to run a referendum on joining the BDS movement. At that meeting, we were treated to a multi-media hate-fest of lies and distortions. Despite the extraordinary nature of the meeting and well-known dissent, the Chair Committee felt it appropriate to follow standard procedure, and denied us the

opportunity to provide a prepared rebuttal. Nonetheless, the proposal was soundly defeated by more than 60% of the voters at that meeting. We thought that would be the end of it and life could return to normal.

No. That was not to be. The BDS crowd continues to regularly submit letters. In the last few months the level of vitriol has risen to unacceptable levels. Even in the face of our reasoned counter-arguments, the *Gazette* editors continue to display a shocking insensitivity. At a time when we see BDS supporters assaulting Jewish students at American college campuses, when anti-Semitic graffiti is a regular occurrence in Brooklyn, when local synagogues feel a need to post guards outside, we have to ask ourselves "Is the Coop, too, becoming a hostile environment for us?"

Ask yourself: "Is this how I want my Coop to be?" ■

Coop Confronts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

While Zimmerman can fairly easily tell produce distributors that members don't want to see labels from the growers covered in the

thought, but not very much worse than I imagine the life of a farm laborer may be anywhere. I think there's no magic answer, and I don't want members to fear that the Coop will buy from Mexico. The Coop can learn

challenging "organic protectionists" pressing to label genetically modified foods, Zimmerman opined that the Coop has moved past such debates, and that members have settled the question for themselves many years ago: the Coop sources foods organically as much as possible. "It is now accepted here that we want the cleanest and safest food." The Coop's newer focus is "working toward sustainability, and organic is a piece of that."

"I picked strawberries for an hour once, and I'd rather die than do it for another five minutes."

—Allen Zimmerman,
General Coordinator
and produce buyer

But Zimmerman urges that PSFC ought not sit on supposed laurels. "We can walk around feeling like we do a lot of good, but we don't spend a lot of time wondering how we can do better." Zimmerman has set his sights on improving the Coop's practices and amplifying its impact. With the onset of freezing weather, "it is the perfect time to see if we can be more careful about what we get from far away," he said.

He believes the Coop should "spend every produce penny" supporting small family farms and fairly traded produce, and making those sources sustainable. So in recent days, following the *LA Times* series, which gave him "motive and opportunity," Zimmerman has rededicated the Coop to actively pursuing getting more fair

trade produce into the supply stream. His strategies include pressing distributors to foster relationships with fair trade sources, so that other buyers, aside from PSFC, have access to them and can help build demand. "If we can get it into the supply stream, that gets fair trade produce on a list of produce for thousands of stores." ■

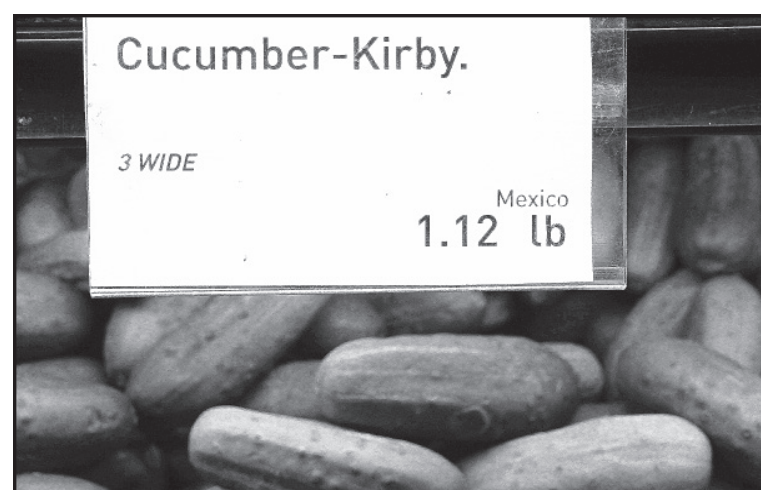


PHOTO BY KEVIN RYAN

Shelf signs in the produce aisle display country of origin.

LA Times article, he knows the expose did not target Mexico because that's the single locale where worker abuse prevails. "Agriculture isn't free of exploitation just because you've avoided the target of the *LA Times*."

Zimmerman harbors no illusions about the treatment of farm workers in the U.S., either. "I picked strawberries for an hour once, and I'd rather die than do it for another five minutes," he said. So while he lauded the *Times*' series, he concluded, "It's probably worse than I

names of the targeted farms with the worst records. We'll make choices with our eyes open." But ultimately, he acknowledged, "I don't think I'm going to give members much comfort with this."

Recognizing not only the likelihood of low-wage worker abuse, but also the fact that farm labor is hard labor, regardless, the Coop has increased its purchase of fair-trade products. Coop bananas are sourced nearly 100% fair trade. And while the *Wall Street Journal* recently published an article

Special Ordering
Temporarily Suspended

We will NOT be taking
special orders
from Fri 11/14/14
to Sun 01/04/15

Special ordering will resume
Mon 01/05/15

Vitamin/Supplement special orders are
suspended indefinitely and will NOT
resume on Mon 01/05/15

COOP HOURS

Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Shopping Hours:

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 10:00* p.m.
Saturday
6:00 a.m. to 10:00* p.m.
Sunday
6:00 a.m. to 7:30* p.m.

*Shoppers must be on a checkout line
15 minutes after closing time.

Childcare Hours:

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

Telephone:

718-622-0560

Web address:

www.foodcoop.com

LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

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

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

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

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

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

Committee Reports: Maximum 1,000 words.

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

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

Digital Submissions: We welcome digital submissions. The e-mail address for submissions is GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop. Drop disks in the wallpocket described above. Receipt of your submissions will be acknowledged on the deadline day.

Classified & Display Ads: Ads may only be placed by and on behalf of Coop members. Classified ads are prepaid at \$15 per insertion, business card ads at \$30. (Ads in the "Merchandise-Non-commercial" category are free.) All ads must be written on a submission form (available in a wallpocket on the first floor near the elevator). Classified ads may be up to 315 characters and spaces. Display ads must be camera-ready and business card size (2"x3.5").

Printed by: Tri-Star Offset, Maspeth, NY.

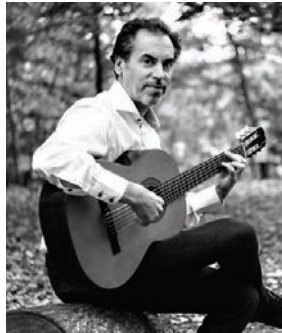
Friday, January 16, 8:00 p.m.

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



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

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



www.ProspectConcerts.tumblr.com

53 Prospect Park West [at 2nd Street] • \$10 • 8pm [doors open at 7:45]
Performers are Park Slope Food Coop members and receive Coop workslot credit.
Booking: Bev Grant, 718-788-3741

RETURN 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
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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CLASSIFIEDS

BED & BREAKFAST

HOUSE ON 3RD ST. B+B. Parlor floor thru apt. Sleeps 4. Wi-fi, kitchenette, deck, 12' ceilings, private bath. Visit our website, houseon3st.com, or call us, 718-788-7171. Enjoy modern comfort in true Park Slope style. Grandparents are our specialty.

MERCHANDISE
NONCOMMERCIAL

FOR SALE: Beautiful black leather women's attache case, Nook, 7-day cruise for two to Baha-

mas! Call 347-581-1380. E-mail kdg2010@verizon.net.

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

Guccione, 718-596-4184, also at www.tguccionelaw.com.

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 & WALLPAPERING. Over 25 yrs of

doing the finest prep & finish work. Mesh & skim coating. All work guaranteed. Call Fred Becker @ 347-661-6634.

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN Call Art Cabrera of Horizon, Est. 1983, original coop member #225 and electrician. Residential specialist. Rewiring, new circuitry. Add a switch or rewire your whole home. Troubleshooting specialist, fans, low voltage, bells and rewiring light fixtures. Call 718-965-0327 or call 646-239-5197.

SERVICES-HEALTH

DAILY PSYCHOLOGICAL TIPS for weight loss, cancer management, anxiety and parenting. DrHaber.com. [facebook.com/drshahaber](https://www.facebook.com/drshahaber).



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, JANUARY 6

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m.

Submissions will be considered for the January 27 General Meeting.

TUE, JANUARY 27

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Gazette Deadlines

Letters & Voluntary Articles:

Jan. 8 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, December 29
Jan. 22 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, January 12

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

Jan. 8 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, December 31
Jan. 22 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, January 14

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 online at foodcoop.com, in the literature rack in the elevator lobby and at every General Meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday,
January 27, 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 literature rack in the elevator lobby 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.)

- 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 or sign up online at foodcoop.com. 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.

• Eligible Squads:

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 Workslot Credit Attendance Sheet will be available for signing in.

• Being Absent from the GM:

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

Park Slope Food Coop
Mission Statement

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

park slope
FOOD COOP

calendar of events

dec 30
tue 7 pm

Learn to Read Your Labels

Reading labels on your food can be tricky. What does “all-natural,” “USDA-organic,” “GMO-free,” “gluten-free” mean? Learn to read your products and the meaning of ingredients. Having the knowledge gives you the choice of what you buy. This presentation will define the different food labels and teach you how to read your produce and packaged food labels. Learn how to read your cosmetics and how to have a safe kitchen and bathroom for you and your family. Coop member **Arianna Sertoli** is a health coach certified from the Integral Institute of Nutrition, is a yoga teacher certified at Yoga Works and Bend & Bloom, and is an advocate for Beautycounter cosmetics. She is from Italy and moved to the United States 11 years ago.

jan 2
fri 7 pm

Film Night: Portrait of Wally



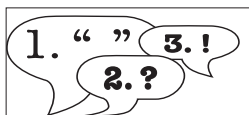
Portrait of Wally chronicles the 13-year court battle over the restitution from the Austrian government and The Leopold Museum to the Bondi family for the war time theft of art work by Egon Schiele. The “Wally” case brought the story of Nazi art looting into the open, eventually forcing museums in Europe and the

U.S. to search their own collections for suspect objects. Many museums ended up returning art to Jewish families who had abandoned hope until “Wally” showed that institutions could be held accountable for holding property stolen during the Holocaust. Cinematographer, two-time Emmy-award winner and Food Coop member **Samuel Henriques** will be in attendance for a brief Q & A after the screening.

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

jan 6
tue 8 pm

Agenda Committee Meeting



The Committee reviews pending agenda items and creates the agenda for future General Meetings. 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, January 27, 7 p.m., at MS 51, 350 Fifth Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts.

No General Meeting will be held in December.

jan 9
fri 4–6 pm

See What the PAFCU Offers

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

Representatives from the PAFCU will also meet at the Coop on January 10.

jan 9
fri 7 pm

Wordsprouts: New Poetry for a New Year



Join us for an evening with three Brooklyn poets, reading some of their new poems, and discussing writing poetry.

Taylor Mali is one of the most well-known poets to have emerged from the poetry slam movement and one of the original poets to appear on the HBO series “Def Poetry

Jam.” A four-time National Poetry Slam champion, he is the author of two collections of poetry and a book of essays, *What Teachers Make: In Praise of the Greatest Job in the World*. **Susan Brennan**’s poems appear in various publications. Her chapbook, *numinous*, is forthcoming from Finishing Line Press. *Drunken Oasis*, her full-length book of poems, is published by Rattapallax Press. She co-wrote *Vegas—Based on a True Story*, which premiered in competition at the 2008 Venice and 2009 Tribeca Film Festivals, and wrote the script for the award-winning, million-plus-hits Web series, *Verse*, a poetry murder mystery. **Caitlin Grace McDonnell**’s chapbook of poems, *Dreaming the Tree*, was published by Belladonna Press in 2003 and her first full-length book, *Looking for Small Animals*, was published by Nauset Press in 2013. Her poems and book reviews have been published in *JMWW*, *Washington Square*, *Chronogram* and others periodicals.

jan 10
sat 10 am–12:30 pm

See What the PAFCU Offers

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

jan 10
sat 2–5 pm

Auditions For Our Coop Kids’ Variety Show



Coop members ages 4-18 may audition on Saturday, January 10, 2-5 p.m. or Sunday, January 18, 12-3 p.m. in the Coop second-floor meeting room. To reserve an audition spot contact **Martha Siegel**, 718-965-3916, msiegel105@earthlink.net. You must audition to be in the show. Polished act not required for audition; we can help you polish it. Singers and other musicians,

poets, jugglers, stand-up comics, rappers, dancers, magicians, gymnasts, etc. (no lip-syncing please). Performance date is Saturday, March 7. New show time is 5 p.m. at the Old First Church. We look forward to hearing from you!

Another audition takes place on Sunday, January 18, 12-3 p.m.

Performance date is Saturday, March 7, 5 p.m., at Old First Church.

jan 13
tue 7 pm

Safe Food Committee Film Night: The Story of Seeds



Open Sesame: The Story of Seeds. A film by Coop member **Sean Kaminsky**. Most people don’t know that one of the world’s most precious resources is at risk. Seeds provide the basis for everything from fabric, to food, to fuels. Seeds are as essential to life as the air

we breathe or water we drink. Over the past 100 years, seeds have steadily shifted from being common heritage to sovereign property. Large corporations are stealing seed varieties from under us by slowly patenting them. Corporate-owned seeds now account for 82% of the worldwide market. This groundbreaking film will help others learn what is at stake and what can be done.

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.

dec 30 2014—feb 7 2015

jan 16
fri 8 pm

Jenny Hill & Liquid Horn, Tomas Rodriguez



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

Deane on vocals, and **Stefan Bauer** on vibes. Jenny Hill, saxophonist and flautist, is currently working with the Easy Star All-Stars, Denis Leary and the Enablers, and leads her own jazz group, Liquid Horn. Bill Milkowski of *Jazz Times* calls her "an accomplished composer-arranger and first-rate soloist, with some bold playing on tenor, soprano and flute. Highly recommended." **Tomas Rodriguez** has a unique repertoire for the solo guitar based in the folkloric music of Galicia, Spain, of his ancestors, coupled with little-known and unique arrangements of the music of the African kora and touching on contemporary flamenco. Rodriguez' own compositions, emerging from these diverse musical inspirations, include original choros, Venezuelan waltzes and flamenco granainas. Critic Norman Weinstein (*Christian Science Monitor*) wrote, "Rodriguez plays with a passionate originality, with an individual touch, drawing from the musical heart of the Latin world. The folk and classical traditions of Spain and South America are richly evident in his playing, but he transmutes them into a sound clearly, fervently his own." He is joined by **Jerome Harris** (bass), **Barry Kornhauser** (bass, cello) and **Urbano Sanchez** (percussion) and possibly a few surprise guests. **Concert takes place at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West (at 2nd St.), \$10, doors open at 7:45. Prospect Concerts is a monthly musical fundraising partnership of the Coop and the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture.**



and riding her bicycle to the Food Coop. Menu includes: omega-3 citrus tapenade; creamy parsnip and cauliflower soup; rich dairy-free hot cocoa.

ASL interpreter may be available upon advance request. If you would like to request an ASL interpreter, please contact Ginger Jung in the Membership Office by January 8. Materials fee: \$4. Food classes are coordinated by Coop member Susan Baldassano.

jan 24
sat 2 pm

Qi Gong Health Practices to Rehab Neck/Shoulder Pain

This two-hour class will introduce attendees to the fundamental principles of practicing Qi Gong and will cover several simple exercises that can be practiced at home to increase mobility and range of motion in the neck and shoulders and to reduce aches and pains from old injuries or general stiffness. Participants will learn general exercises to support neck and shoulder wellness as well as have the opportunity to discuss specific neck and shoulder injuries and learn exercises geared to help heal the people taking the class. Coop member **Adam Wasserman** has been studying and practicing Qi Gong for more than 10 years. In addition to practicing Qi Gong, he studies and teaches a martial art known as Ba Gua Zhang, has an acupuncture practice in Park Slope and teaches Qi Gong and Chinese massage at the Pacific College or Oriental Medicine. Adam has been a member at the Coop for more than two years and is looking forward to sharing his knowledge with the community.

jan 27
tue 7 pm

PSFC JAN 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.**

jan 18
sun 12-3 pm

Auditions For Our Coop Kids' Variety Show



Coop members ages 4-18 may audition on Saturday, January 10, 2-5 p.m. or Sunday, January 18, 12-3 p.m. in the Coop second-floor meeting room. To reserve an audition spot contact **Martha Siegel**, 718-965-3916, msiegel105@earthlink.net. You must audition to be in the show. Polished act not required for audition; we can help you polish it. Singers and other musicians, poets, jugglers, stand-up comics, rappers, dancers, magicians, gymnasts, etc. (no lip-syncing please). Performance date is Saturday, March 7. New show time is 5 p.m. at the Old First Church. We look forward to hearing from you! **Performance date is Saturday, March 7, 5 p.m., at Old First Church.**

jan 22
thu 7:30 pm

Food Class: Women, Food and Desire



Eating to answer your cravings. Chef **Alexandra Jamieson** will discuss her latest book, *Women, Food and Desire*, which addresses cravings and how to listen to our bodies for a healthier fuller life. Books will be available for sale at this class. Chef Alex, CHHC, AADP, is a best-selling author, functional nutrition coach, detox expert, professionally trained healthy gourmet chef, and "cravings whisperer." She has been seen on *Oprah*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *CNN*, *Fox News*, *USA Today* and *People* magazine. Alex was the co-star and co-creator of the Oscar-nominated documentary *Super Size Me* and *The Great American Detox Diet* and offers remarkably sane—and tasty—advice on how to detox, live healthfully and feel fantastic. Her books *Vegan Living For Dummies* and *Vegan Cooking For Dummies* offer plant-based advice to anyone who wants to eat healthier. She lives in Brooklyn, where she juggles, somewhat gracefully, raising her eight-year-old son, running her company AlexandraJamieson.com,

jan 30
fri 7 pm

Cheese Class

We invite Coop members to learn more about the wonderful cheeses the Coop has to offer. Guest speaker will be **Cara Warren**, highlighting the Coop's newest vendor, Crown Finish Caves, in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. Cara is the cheese manager and buyer at Greene Grape Provisions, overseeing a cheese case inventory with at least 200 different cheeses, working directly with small farms to purchase small-batch cheeses and organizing and maintaining a charcuterie selection. She's visited Crown Finish Caves to increase her knowledge of affinage—the craft of aging cheese. She has trained numerous mongers in the art of fresh mozzarella making and has schooled many future generations of mongers in their knowledge of cheese, storage, cutting and wrapping. This workshop is brought to you by Coop member **Aaron Kirtz**, who has worked in the cheese industry since 2003, and sells cheese to the Coop via Forever Cheese. Aaron actually got his job through the Coop, where as a Food Processor he met many cheeses and then members of Forever Cheese, who hired him for a sales position.

jan 31
sat 1 pm

Exercises for Brain Mastery

Brain Body Mastery combines the age-old brain-training technologies of juggling, physical agility training, thinking games, and mindfulness. The exercises enhance focus, memory, and creativity, while integrating the mind-body, leading to better balance and physical coordination too. While they're beneficial for humans of all ages, this workshop is geared mostly toward adults. Presented by Coop member **David Wolovsky**, an educational innovator and certified Positive Psychology Practitioner. He has brought Brain Body Mastery to humans of all ages, from kids to senior citizens. Find out more by visiting his website at www.effortwise.com.

still to come

feb 3

Agenda Committee Meeting

feb 6

Film Night

feb 5

Food Class

feb 7

Valentine Card Making

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHEESE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm not sure to whom to direct this question but my daughter is a vegetarian and she has just discovered that most cheeses contain "rennet" an enzyme that comes from the kidneys of a calf. Some cheeses use a vegetarian type of renin. Here is a list: www.cheese.joyousliving.com/CheeseListBrand.aspx

Would it be possible for the Coop to identify vegetarian cheeses?

Eric Sloan

ANSWERS FROM THE COOP'S CHEESE DEPARTMENT:

Most cheeses actually contain "microbial rennet" (an enzyme made from fermented mold or fungus extract) and are vegetarian friendly. Secondly, animal rennet is derived from the stomach lining of immature animals. The two cheeses that the Coop carries regularly that contain animal-derived rennet are Gruyere and Comte. We

are currently working to post more information about cheeses that we sell and hope to have something available by Spring 2015. We had planned to have the information available on the cheese labels themselves, but it will likely end up being a constantly updated list due to the changing suppliers that the Coop uses to maintain stock and price.

In Cooperation,
Yuri and Britt

VITAMIN SPECIAL ORDERS

MESSAGE:

Please reconsider special ordering vitamins and supplements. I don't expect the "vitamin person" to be solely responsible for searching out new products. They come from member requests. Two items I first had special ordered through the Coop—one a multi vitamin the other a calcium combination—continue to be permanently stocked. As far as the extra work of placing special orders, isn't that an opportunity for a new committee. If we can

have a bike valet, why can't we have a vitamin/supplement special order committee?

Helen McHayle

NO MORE SPLIT HEADS!

MEMBERS,

I make the indexes to the *Linewaiters' Gazette*. In an index, people's names are a persistent problem because they often show up in different forms, resulting in split heads (so called because they give the indexer a splitting headache)—for example, my name might appear as a heading in an index under any of the following forms:

Neufeld, Leonard
Neufeld, Len
Neufeld, Lenny
Neufeld, L.

A person using the index would have no way of knowing whether these all refer to the same person.

I'm asking all members who submit articles or letters to the *Gazette* to always sign their submissions and refer

to themselves under a single consistent form of their name, which would then be the only form in which the name appears in the *Gazette* indexes.

P.S.: If you would like the PDF files of the *Gazette* indexes (an index of article titles and a subject index, covering all issues from 1995 to the present), send me an e-mail at LenNeufeld@verizon.net.

Len Neufeld

EDEN FOODS

DEAR GAZETTE:

Regarding the move for us to join the Eden Foods boycott.

A steady chorus of anti-BDS letters has loudly proclaimed that we are in the business of food, not politics, that we have no business getting involved in boycotts. So how is the call to boycott Eden not a call to get involved in politics? This is deeply inconsistent.

The BDS vote and many letters to the *Gazette* evidence that many members are apparently not repelled by the murders of over 2,000 people, the entire neighborhoods reduced to rubble, the bombing of universities, UN shelters, and schools, and a country laid waste and held captive. Nor is the Coop troubled by the international protests against Soda Stream, for its exploitation of Palestinian workers, and its support for the IDF's policies.

We're totally OK with that, because of a higher good—our right as consumers to continue buying our Soda Stream machines, our cous cous, and our imported hummus free of the intrusion of "politics."

But somehow we are up in arms and incensed that one company's discriminatory health insurance policy dictates that we speak out, make our voices known, and punish them by removing our dollars from their income stream.

And lest we not forget—the Coop published an article on the horrific reality of cashew production in Africa and Asia, that is on a par with "conflict diamonds," which includes cashews we sell. Did members vote to boycott cashews? Not an ounce of indignity for African child labor: We've still got our Dr. Cow cheese, bulk cashews, and cashew butter, and all's right with the world.

I have been following a macrobiotic diet since 1987. Eden's entire inventory serves people in the macrobiotic community, a fact that is apparently lost on those supporting the boycott.

Many people adopt a macrobiotic diet to recover from serious illness or cancer. Eden is also the only company who proclaims its cans are BPA-free, another reason I buy their products.

The personal consequences for me if this resolution goes through are that my weekly food bill would just about double, and it would double my shopping time, as I'd now have to go to Whole Foods for everything I normally get at the Coop.

The Coop carries many varieties of hummus. A boycott against Israel would not negatively impact on any constituency losing their basic food-stuffs. People can live without Soda Stream machines and imported hummus. People cannot live without basic food-stuffs. The Coop can't have it both ways. We can't prohibit a referendum on BDS by saying we must stay out of politics, but then vote to boycott Eden.

Cooperatively yours,
Carol Lipton

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Coop staff says there was no GM discussion about the Coop boycotting Eden. Writing a letter was discussed.*

EDEN FOODS DRAFT LETTER

TO THE EDITORS:

The draft letter to Eden Foods in the 12/11/14 *Gazette* seems to me beautifully nuanced and written, except that it becomes didactic. I disagree strongly with the point of the letter, but am putting that aside to comment on text.

The letter claims to speak for "the concerns of our member-owners," "the membership of the PSFC," "On behalf of our 16,200 members." This is an exaggeration because a vote by the entire membership was not conducted. Many members, like me, cannot attend a GM on a Tuesday night because of work and/or distance. The small percentage of members that attends a GM may be representative in this instance, but that is unknown. "Strong sentiment" at the GM favored one position, and no strong counter-position seems to have been presented.

Can the letter be corrected to reflect that this was a vote of the GM rather than the membership?

There are references toward the end of the letter to "all aspects of [a woman's] health care and reproductive management," "birth control coverage," "healthcare decisions," "quality

ADDITIONAL NEW POLICIES ON LETTERS AND MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

In the interest of promoting civil discourse and upholding the main purpose of letter and member submissions to the *Linewaiters' Gazette*, the Editorial Board of the *Gazette* has created additional policies for "Letters to the Editor" and member submissions:

Letters and member submissions cannot contain gratuitous personalization—that is, needlessly identifying a Coop member and directing the substance of the letter/article to him or her, as in a polemical debate. Letters and articles should deal mainly with ideas and not persons. Letter/article writers will be asked to reword their submissions in accordance with this guideline.

Letters and member submissions must be mainly (that is 75% or more) original writing, and the opinion of the writer. Submissions that are essentially cut-and-paste, pass-along writing from other publications will be rejected, and the writer asked to re-submit with original writing.

Punctuation and Formatting Disclaimer:

Because of typesetting-software limitations and the compressed schedule of producing each *Linewaiters' Gazette* issue, there is no guarantee that special formatting, including boldface, italics and underlining, will be reproduced accurately.

—The Editors, *Linewaiters' Gazette*

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

health insurance." In this context, these expressions beg the question and are euphemisms. "Control" and "reproductive management" are directed not toward a woman's health nor birth, but toward the destruction of the health of another human life within her.

These "health" euphemisms for abortion are particularly inappropriate considering that conditions in the abortion industry generally are so atrocious that facilities are being closed by the dozens across the country, so that some states are close to having none.

Regardless of conditions, it is arguable how such procedures affect women's health. I am amazed when those who can empathize with profound trauma often suffered by women who have had miscarriages or lost fetuses in accidents, cannot give women permission to feel, and support women through, suffering extreme trauma and stress, sometimes delayed, after terminating their own choice.

Therefore, can the letter be directed toward ACA/HHS compliance and access to legal reproductive services (e.g., abortion), rather than health?

A letter writer accuses Eden's President of considering women "less than fully human beings". As a man, he doesn't get to say what makes women fully human. But what does Eden's President object to?

Making the freedom of conscience affirmation quoted in the draft, Eden's President objects to the ACA/HHS mandate as vastly "discriminatory." "Illogical, inconsistent" exemptions include, for instance, "McDonald's Inc. and 166 unions," small employers, individuals of certain faiths (but not others), and Federal employees ("hypocritical"). He notes that Eden's comprehensive employee benefits package does not cover "lifestyle drugs" generally, an insurance industry classification including contraceptives, Viagra, smoking cessation and weight control drugs, etc. (Press Release, web site, 4/25/13)

A reasonable position.

This illustrates the risk of bringing partisan political debates into the Coop—not because they are political, as the same letter writer alleges, but precisely because they are partisan, divisive, and unresolved and therefore any position must profoundly misrepresent a large number of members.

Daniel Marshall

BDS/MIDDLE EAST

BDS: A GROUP LETTER

DEAR GAZETTE,

The undersigned 73 members oppose the continued use of Coop funds for the promotion and distribution of BDS and other anti-Israel rhetoric in the *Linewaiters' Gazette* and at the General Meeting.

To add your name, send an e-mail to morehummus@gmail.com.

Anita Aboulafia, Rhudi Andreolli, Maurice Appelbaum, Eva Aridjis, Roberta Arnold, Steven Berke, Danielle Bernstein, Esther Bernstein, Shalmon Bernstein, Ruth Bolletino, Alan Brown, Art Brown, Matthew Brown, Eta Chaya Brummel, Michael Brummel, Darrin Cabot, Nathalie Cabot, Henny Chanina, Dana Dasch, Mike Epstein, Arthur Finn, Carol Freeman, Yoav Gal, Frieda Givon, Yokhai Givon, Felicia Gluckman, Sybil Graziano, Naftali Hanau, Deborah Herschkop, Esther Hertz, Constantine Kaniklidis, G. Evelyn Lampart, Corrine Lang, Harvey Lang, David Leveson, Margaret Leveson, Chana Lew, Sylvia Lowenthal, Diana Maislen, Ramon Maislen, Avishay Mazor, Barbara Mazor, Juliet Milkens, Sally Minker, Alex Musayev, Marjorie Ordene, Jan Orzeck, Rodger Parsons, Robert Porter, Saul D. Raw, Jeffrey Rickin, Lila Rieman, Michael Rieman, Meir Rosenberger, Mirele Rosenberger, Jesse Rosenfeld, Dorothy Rosensweig, Matthew Roth, Irvin Schonfeld, Rivkah Siegel, Chaya Silberberg, Alan Silver, Renee Silver, Nancy Spitalnick, Malkah Spitalny, Israel Spitalny, Marion Stein, Ron Stein, Ruth Steinberg, Alan Tobias, Rabbi Jerry Weider, Fran Weiner, Itta Werdiger.

Barbara Mazor

More Hummus Please
stopbdsparkslope.blogspot.com

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE FOR BDS

TO MEMBERS AND EDITORS:

Both Houses of Congress, unanimously and with no objection, have passed a resolution condemning Hamas'

use of civilians by terrorist groups as a violation of international humanitarian law.

The resolution states: "The U.S. Congress stood resolved in condemnation of the despicable actions of the terrorist group, Hamas, and its use of children, women, and men as human shields."

The bipartisan Congressional resolution was based on the Senate's version coauthored by Senators Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Joe Manchin, and the House version coauthored by Ted Deutch (D-Fla), and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla).

The House version included a statement praising Israel for going to "extraordinary lengths this summer in Gaza to protect innocent civilian lives," and blasting Hamas for "placing the Palestinian people directly in harm's way by using them as human shields, and placing its rockets near densely populated areas and near schools, hospitals and mosques."

Senator Cruz said, "The Senate has sent a united signal that we denounce Hamas' barbaric tactics and unequivocally support Israel's right to self-defense."

The resolution calls on the international community to condemn Hamas's use of human shields, and places responsibility for rockets attacks from Gaza against Israel on Hamas and other terrorist groups. It also condemns the UN Human Rights Council's biased resolution establishing a commission of inquiry into Israel's Gaza operation.

Hamas was also condemned by the U.S. and the European Union, among others, for using Palestinian civilians as human shields and firing thousands of rockets into Israeli population centers before and during last summer's Gaza conflict.

(www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-resolution/526) (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-concurrent-resolution/107>)

(www.foreignaffairs.house.gov/press-release/congress-condemns-hamas-use-human-shields)

Ruth Bolletino

BDS; ACTION IN BRAZIL

MEMBERS:

BDS is a protest vote against Israel's violent policies directly impacting the lives of Palestinians living in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza where Israel is the military occupying power. Israel's indiscriminate violence against the Palestinians, perpetrated at a frenzied pace, continuously shocks the world.

The Swiss government, defying pressure from the US and Israel, called for a short conference of signatories (196) of the Fourth Geneva Convention, on December 17, to discuss the situation in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. In April, the State of Palestine signed the convention. The Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 deals with protecting civilian populations under occupation or in combat zones. An occupying power must protect the civil rights and the property of the occupied civilian population. Prohibit the settlement of the occupying power's citizens in the occupied areas and prohibit collective punishment against the occupied people. Israel, the US, Canada and Australia were expected to boycott the conference.

In a Haaretz article prior to the summit, it was surmised that there would be no decision to establish an international mechanism to monitor implementation of the Geneva Convention in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt). What is expected is an intensification of international criticism of Israel's policies, particularly the settlements. So once again, this 'tempest in a teapot' brews impunity for Israel.

By way of contrast, the BDS movement aims to disrupt, to obstruct Israel's policies, halting 'business as usual' by applying economic pressure against companies benefiting economically from Israel's illegal policies in the oPt. They include Israeli companies, companies providing equipment, resources including financial that facilitate Israel's illegal actions in the oPt. Collective action underpins the global BDS solidarity movement, a non-violent tactic initiated by a large coalition

of Palestinian organizations, in 2005, to pressure Israel to change its policies that violate international norms, violate human rights protection for Palestinians, policies without any semblance of justice for Palestinian people.

In Early December, the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul canceled its contract with the Israeli weapons company, Elbit Systems, to develop a major aerospace research center for military and commercial purposes. The explanations cited were cuts in federal funding and strong protests over Elbit's role in the oppression of Palestinians. Elbit installed surveillance technology in the separation/apartheid wall in the West Bank. Elbit tested new drone models used against Gaza during Operation Protective Shield, killing over 1,200 civilians in the summer. The groups opposed to the deal included Brazil's major trade union federation, World March of Women, local student groups, political parties and the Palestinian group, Stop the Wall, based in Rio Grande do Sul since 2013. It is noteworthy that the cancellation, a major victory for BDS, followed a twelve-year investment by Brazil of tens of millions of dollars with Elbit including drones used to quash protests leading up to the 2014 World Cup. (Charlotte Silver, www.bds-movement.net)

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

BDS

MEMBERS:

Could we drop this subject? The facts and counter facts, accusations, misrepresentations, selective representations, etc. are going round and round and round and it is becoming increasingly tiresome to read the comments or try to ignore them. I don't think anybody is denying the holocaust and I don't think one can accuse the Palestinians of having been responsible for it. And I leave it at that.

But please, do change the subject; let's concentrate our efforts and energies on our own, homegrown problems—heaven knows there are plenty.

Ruth Marchese

ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Five Freedoms for Animals—Plus One for Coop Members

By Kama Einhorn,
Animal Welfare Committee

The welfare of animals involved in food production has been a major concern for many since the beginning of our industrialized food system. Coop members are, of course, no exception. The Coop's Animal Welfare Committee seeks to address these concerns by educating and providing facts to our fellow Coop members about what's happening on the farms from which our animal products originate.

In the 1960s, as factory farming became increasingly standard practice in the UK, the British government commissioned an investigation into the welfare of "intensively farmed animals." Soon after, they created the Farm Animal Welfare Council, which developed a set of guidelines now known in the animal welfare movement as the Five Freedoms:

Freedom from thirst and hunger: by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.

Freedom from discomfort: by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

Freedom from pain, injury, and disease: by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

Freedom to express normal behavior: by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.

Freedom from fear and distress: by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

It seems quite simple and reasonable. The Five Freedoms describe the world that all animals (including humans) should live in—and you can even count them on one hand.

If Old MacDonald really did have a farm once, surely that's how he would have organized

things. And yet, 98% of the animals most Americans eat won't see any of these freedoms. What's happening in modern industrial farming is something Old MacDonald would never recognize.

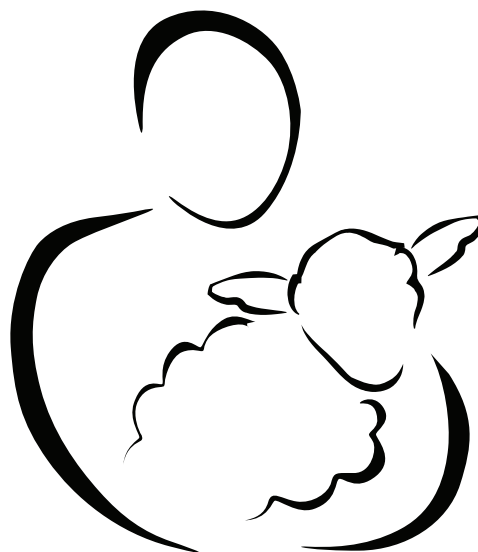
While the Coop's meat, dairy, and eggs generally come from animals more well-treated than most in intensive factory

farming settings, the animal welfare practices of the Coop's vendors vary significantly. So an important task of the Animal Welfare Committee is to leverage another precious and fragile freedom—the freedom of information.

Check out the Animal Welfare Committee's blog at psfcanimals.blogspot.com

for buyers' guides to eggs and milk (and soon, chicken and beef). Each comprehensively researched guide details the practices of each of our vendors.

And write to us with your thoughts at psfcanimals@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page (Park Slope Food Coop Animal Welfare Committee). ■



ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

park slope
FOOD COOP

Coop Job Opening:

Part-time Repairs/Maintenance Receiving Coordinator

Description:

The Coop is hiring a part-time Receiving Coordinator to focus on maintenance and repairs. Schedule will include Sunday evening and one weekday to be determined.

The position entails general Coop facilities upkeep in coordination with other staff. Candidates should have demonstrated experience in several of the following:

- Electrical including circuits, lighting, and small motors
- Plumbing including copper pipes, pvc pipes, bathroom fixtures, and pumps
- Carpentry including building repairs and painting
- Mechanical duties including product assembly and installations
- Sourcing, ordering and picking up supplies from local vendors
- Interfacing or sourcing with outside contractors
- Keeping maintenance records, planning maintenance schedules and documenting procedures

This Receiving Coordinator will also supervise member-labor to deep clean areas of the Coop including refrigerated cases, coolers, and back yard on Sunday evening; and provide support to the Sunday evening maintenance Squad Leaders and squads to keep the store clean and well maintained.

The ideal candidate will be highly energetic, organized, and a reliable, responsible self-starter who is able to cooperate with a diverse group of co-workers and members. This position requires an ability to prioritize tasks, teach/explain procedures, delegate work and give feedback. Candidates should be able to lift or move up to 50 lbs. and work in cold environments.

Hours: Approx. 16 hours in 2 days, Sundays 4 p.m.-12 a.m. plus another weekday to be determined.

The Coop is looking for candidates who strongly desire a part-time schedule for the foreseeable future. Ability to occasionally work another shift during the week is a plus.

Wages: \$26.24/hour.

Benefits: This position offers New York City mandated sick pay only.

Prerequisite:

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

How to Apply:

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

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

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.

Math Tutor

I am a NYS-certified/NYC-licensed math teacher with 23 years experience. I provide clear, precise explanations to develop problem-solving skills, while building confidence and ease in the world of math. I have successfully tutored students for Regents, SAT, GRE and all school levels. For remediation or enrichment, traditional or common-core, call David Cohen at 917.679.5193 or go to www.mathtutor.nyc for more information

**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**

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Fracked Food? Consumer Reactions

By Joseph Holtz,
General Manager

We are a retail food cooperative that is owned by our 16,200 member/owners who spent over \$49 million dollars at the Coop last year. Every year, we purchase millions of dollars of New York State produced agricultural products that we make a concerted effort to do because of our commitment to NYS farmers.

More than four years ago we voted to support a state-wide ban on hydrofracking. Our mission statement

includes a strong commitment to being a good environmental citizen.

As members of the Pride of New York program we have taken our responsibility to buy New York State produced food very seriously. But no one thinking clearly would think for a minute that hydrofracking will not quickly destroy that commitment.

As New Yorkers, yes even though we are urban New Yorkers, we want to preserve New York State farms. Please insure that we are not wondering

about whether the grass fed cows we buy were drinking contaminated water and breathing the air fowed by numerous enormous trucks that will support the hydrofracking process and the process itself. I guarantee that our members will not want the fruits and veggies that come from farms in an industrial area. What about the dairy products and the beer etc.? They will ask their employees to look elsewhere, and we will.

Will we be alone? Absolutely not, many stores will follow.

In addition to concern for the environment, our food cooperative (as well as many others) has historically been a leader in supporting local agriculture, and in protecting the safety of consumers, in supporting efforts to improve safety and fair benefits for workers.

For example, just a few years ago, we were the first store to remove prod-

ucts from our shelves produced by a company that was ignoring a ruling by the National Labor Relations Board. Over 100 hundred other stores followed.

The same will happen with food from fracked areas. That food will be avoided by many, many stores. Please do not be short sighted. Ban fracking now, please! ■

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community calendar listings are free.

Please submit your event listing in 50 words or less to
GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop.

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

FRI, JAN 16

1:00 p.m. *New Yorker* Magazine Discussion Group. A discussion group for devoted readers of the *New Yorker* magazine is forming, and will meet monthly beginning in January. Responsibility for selecting the readings will rotate among group members, and includes fiction, non-fiction, poetry, Talk of the Town and, of course, cartoons. Central Library, Grand Army Plaza. For info: email BPL.NewYorker@gmail.com.

SUN, JAN 18

4 p.m. BPL Chamber Players present: The Enso Quartet. Maureen Nelson violin, John Marcus violin, Melissa Reardon viola, Richard Belcher, cello at the Dr. S. Stevan Dweck Center for Contemporary Culture Central Library. 10 Grand Army Plaza, BKLYN. Admission Free.



★ EXCITING WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITIES ★

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.

Office Set-up
Monday, 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

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.

Check Office Supplies
Thursday, 8:30 to 11:00 p.m.

This workslot is responsible for restocking supplies at desks in all offices on the Coop's second floor, at checkout lanes, entrance desks and the cashier stations. Some light maintenance, such as light cleaning of desktops and phones, is

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

Laundry and
Toy Cleaning
Friday, 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. Please contact Annette or Jana in the Membership Office for further information.

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.

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.

The Coop will be closing early for shopping at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 1, so that we can conduct our annual Coop-wide inventory.

Some shifts will be affected, others will not.

Please help inform our membership about this early closing by telling your Coop housemates and friends.

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

X Out
Answer

E	L	E	V	E	N
M	A	X	I	M	
P	A	T	E	L	A
G	U	E	S	T	
V	A	R	N	I	S
O	W	N	I	N	G
B	R	A	I	N	Y
S	A	L	V	A	E



WHAT'S BEING COLLECTED:

- 1) Plastic sandwich bags and small plastic bulk bags (NOT large roll or shopping bags)
- 2) Baby food pouches & caps (any brand)
- 3) Cereal bag liners (plastic liners from cereal, crackers, bulk cereal bags, and similar liners)
- 4) Energy bar wrappers (any brand)
- 5) Snack bag wrappers (seaweed snacks not included)
- 6) Brita water filters and components

NOTE: No need to clean, rinse, or remove stickers.

NOW YOU CAN RECYCLE MORE!

The Environmental Committee is promoting a new partnership between the PSFC and **TerraCycle**, an innovative recycling company that transforms hard to recycle waste into new products- keeping more waste out of landfills.

We will be presenting a proposal for discussion at the January General Meeting and holding preliminary collections in January and February.

Save up your eligible waste for upcoming collection dates.

QUESTIONS: ecokvetch@yahoo.com

LEARN MORE: www.terraCycle.com

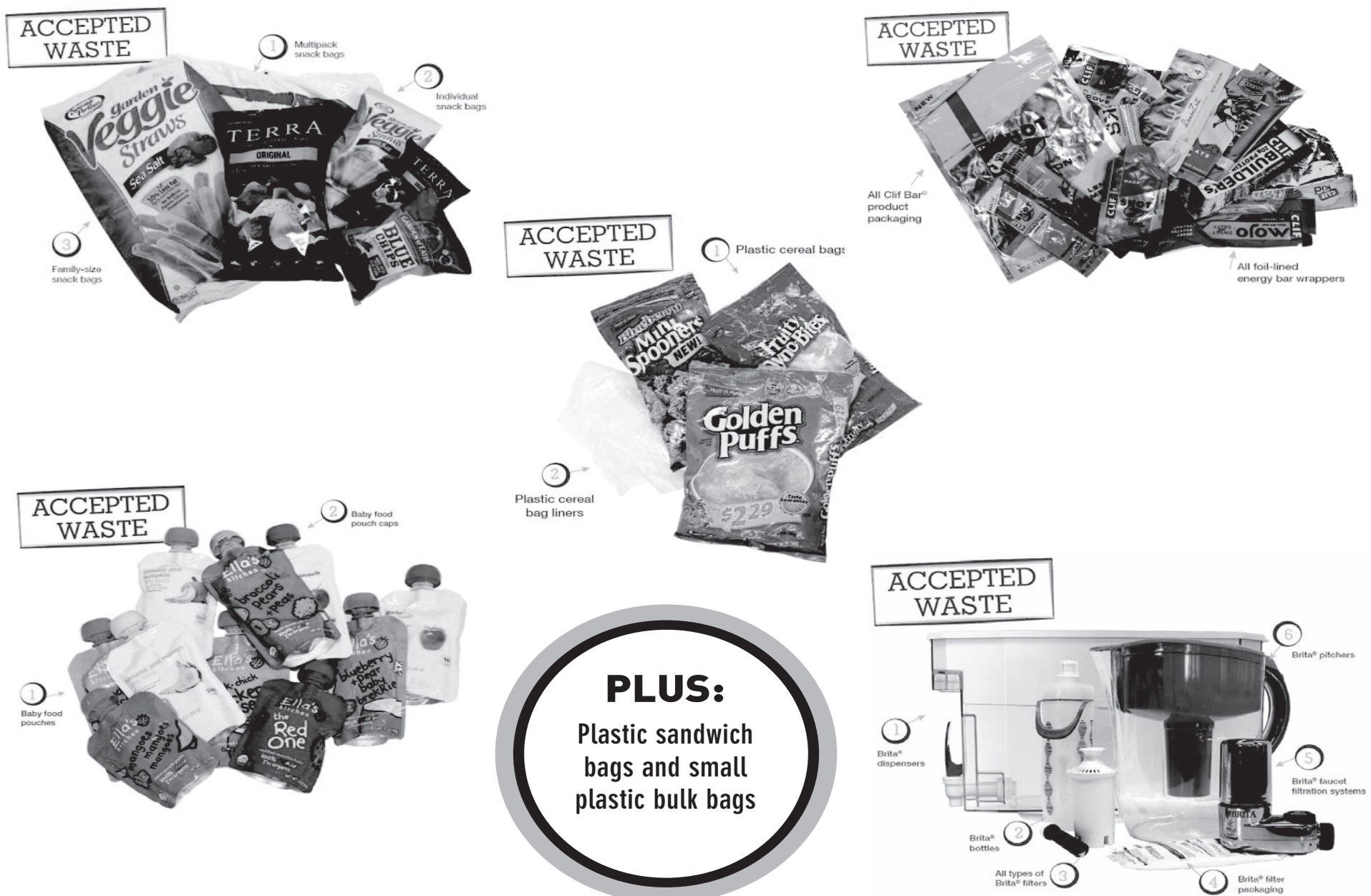
WHEN:

January 24th
2pm - 4pm

February 28th
2pm - 4pm

WHERE:

In front of the Coop
or inside if the
weather is frigid.



PLUS:
Plastic sandwich
bags and small
plastic bulk bags