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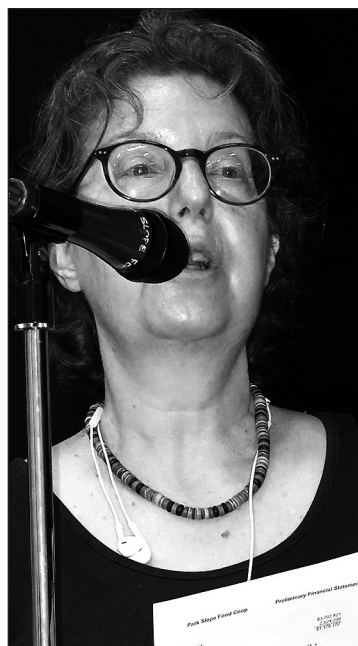
GAZETTE

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Volume JJ, Number 12

June 11, 2015

A Surprise at the May General Meeting Spurs More PSFC Debate



PHOTOS BY LISA COHEN

Susan Sternberg, of the Agenda Committee, talks about submitting agenda items. Karen Kramer, from the Disciplinary Committee, says that "People act out all the time, so we're busy all the time." Open Forum: Allen Zimmerman, to great fanfare, answers a question about San Marzano tomatoes.

By Eric Rosenbaum

General Meeting Chair David Moss had two copies of "Robert's Rules of Order" with him for the May meeting. There was little reason to doubt he might need both of them. Coming on the heels of an April meeting that spiraled out of control over the SodaStream boycott issue, with even a projector being taken hostage, tensions and faces were notable tight. Even before the meeting began, a single "Oy vey" went up from the packed house in response to a very vocal Coop member beginning the

BDS debate even before the meeting opened. "I can make myself louder, much louder," the response came.

Moss opened the meeting with a statement from the Chair on the April GM in which disruptors could not be removed. "Tonight, I will take the name of any person disrupting the meeting and warn them, a sole warning, and then if they don't comply I will submit a disciplinary complaint against that person."

Moss had reason to suspect that disruptions would occur, as he soon thereafter announced that an agenda

item from the General Coordinators that was described by the Chair as an "emergency," was being introduced and would supercede other business. After open forum items—which included a call for San Marzano tomatoes and a boycott of Driscoll strawberries—it was onto the Coop's most pressing issue: the BDS and whether the Coop can ever find a way to resolve it that meets the interest of all members.

Moss used section 4f of the "Park Slope Food Coop Guide to the Annual and General

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Handling Product Recalls at the Coop

By Taigi Smith

Every month, dozens of foods are recalled by the FDA, but it's usually up to the manufacturer of the defective products to report the items to the FDA. According to the website, www.foodhandler.com, the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act does not force manufacturers to report tainted products, but instead relies on manufacturers or distrib-

utors to voluntarily report potentially dangerous products to the FDA.

The problem with this system, says Park Slope Food Coop General Coordinator Joe Holtz, is that product recalls are often made months after the products have hit the shelves and been sold to consumers. It's a process, says Holtz, that makes

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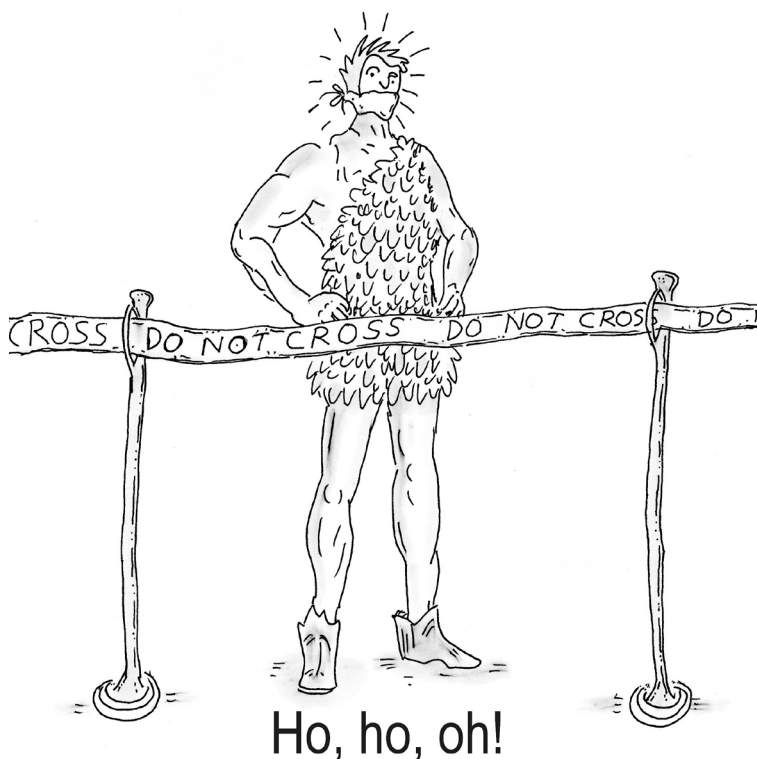


ILLUSTRATION BY ROD MORRISON

Annual & General Meeting on June 30

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

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

Coop Event Highlights

Sat-Sun, • Food Drive to Benefit CHIPS Soup Kitchen
Jun 13-14 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Fri, Jul 3 • Film Night 7:00 p.m.

Tue, Jul 14 • Safe Food Committee Film Night

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

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May GM

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Meetings” to base the Chair decision to supercede the published May agenda items and introduce an item for a Coop-wide ballot that would ask members to vote on the following: allowing continued General Meeting time, for a period of two years, to be taken up by topics on Israel, Palestine, the Middle East, SodaStream, BDS or boycotts thereof, or not allow GM time on these topics for a period of two years. Section 4f states: emergency items may take precedence over the established agenda.

On the published May agenda were two committee elections and a proposal about recycling, but on this night, it was the recycling of the BDS issue and bypassing of the Agenda Committee itself that had the floor for the most important part of the night.

Susan Sternberg of the

Agenda Committee spoke against the Chair's decision, saying that the Agenda Committee was not provided with any information before the Friday of the Memorial Day weekend, and was unable to meet or discuss the issue. She said it was “Hastily drawn and vaguely written.” She added, “I think this is an aberration and bypassing established protocols,” in raising her objection. A member in the audience made a motion to “overrule the Chair.” The ensuing brief discussion focused narrowly on this motion. Three minutes were allotted to speakers in favor of overruling the Chair; and then the Chair had three minutes to explain his decision.

Members speaking in favor of overruling the Chair echoed Sternberg’s comments that the item did not constitute an “emergency” and should be submitted to the Agenda Committee for

scheduling at a future GM. That was a question that would loom large, voiced by one Coop member who stood up to ask before the vote on the ballot measure, “How can we proceed with no definition of emergency?”

“The Agenda Committee was not provided with any information before the Friday of the Memorial Day weekend, and was unable to meet or discuss the issue.”

—Susan Sternberg, Agenda Committee

Chairman Moss said that from his point of view, the question was a narrow one: was it legally permissible for the General Coordinators to introduce the item. According to Moss, Section 4f of the Guide to the General Meeting made it permissible to insert an emergency item on the

agenda. “The General Coordinators submitted what they thought was a genuine emergency and I could overrule, but I’m just some guy with a Coop shift like the rest of you, so I don’t want to substitute my judgment for the General Coordinators’ judgment.”

He added, “If people don’t like it, they can vote it down, but the only legal move is to let it go forward.”

Section 4f of the Guide to the General Meeting made it permissible to insert an emergency item on the agenda, according to General Meeting Chair David Moss.

A hand vote was taken after the three minute discussion period. When the votes were recorded, the Chair was overruled, 119 to 109 and the General Coordinators did not present their item for a Coop-wide ballot.

And then it was on to the actual agenda items. Item one was re-election of Coop Revolving Loan Committee member Rachel Porter, also one of the Loan Committee’s founding member. While the Coop is yet to make a loan to another Coop that is trying to get off the ground, there are a handful of Coops in the metro area that are trying to start in the Coop member-labor model and to which the Coop has provided technical assistance. There is a total of \$60,000 in the loan fund and Porter said after spending a great deal of time on developing the loan application process over the past few years to ensure loan recipients have a sustainable business model, the committee may soon make its first loan. If it does, Porter will still be there to dispense the funds: she was re-elected by a unanimous vote.

The second agenda item was the filling of three vacancies on the Agenda Committee. Two of the Agenda Committee positions were to be filled, while a third would remain open until the fall. Fran Hawthorn and Gil Roman were selected by the existing Agenda Committee members after interviews showed their ability to remain unbiased and work with others. They were elected unanimously in a hand vote.

The third agenda item came from Rosemary Calderon, a member of the Coop’s Environmental Committee, to create a formalized partnership between the Coop and Terracycle, a company which

allows for materials not typically recyclable to be shipped to its facilities and re-used by packaging and manufacturing clients that pay Terracycle for the recyclables. (Donations, such as those from the Coop, are measured by points for poundage or particular in demand products, and based on the number of points Terracycle sends funds to the three charities designated by the Coop.) Three trial collections had been conducted in recent months and the proposal was to create at least two recycling collections per month, with three workslots per collection. The packaging does not need to be clean but must be sorted, and includes Ziploc/storage bags, the small plastic bags used for bulk items like nuts and the cling wrap for cheese. Baby food pouches, cereal and cracker box liners, energy bar wrappers, toothpaste tubes and Brita filter and filter parts are also accepted by Terracycle.

The creation of the Terracycle collection work shifts was unanimously approved.

At the Board meeting portion of the General Meeting, two members of the Coop Board of Directors took the floor to try and speak to the ongoing BDS debate. Board President Bill Penner said that at the end of the April General Meeting someone said he was a peacenik. “I don’t know if it was a compliment or accusation,” Penner said. “Tonight what I suggest to all members is that we all step back and assess how items important to us [as individuals] fit into the whole Coop. It’s easy to become focused on items important to individuals.”

Fellow Board member Imani O’Ryn said what had happened in April was “very disturbing and very scary.” She went on, “We have to protect this process. We have to protect our meeting. Most of us run on a slate of ratifying your voice; you settle everything,” O’Ryn said that when she first attended a GM what amazed her most was that “All I had to do to have a voice is come to the meeting. When I heard that long ago I said ‘wow’, that was very unusual to me.” Now she worried that “things that happened in the last month could change the character of the Coop.”

The five Board members present voted to accept the members’ advice on the elections to the Revolving Loan Committee and Agenda Committee and to establish a partnership with TerraCycle for recycling. ■

Living Rent-Free in NYC

Across

- 1. Fit
- 5. Lip
- 9. Squirrel's treasure
- 14. 1804 Weehawken event
- 15. Ancient Andean
- 16. Indian bread
- 17. Hurricane centers
- 18. List abbr.
- 19. Belief
- 20. Mustachioed New Yorker who lives the high life
- 23. Attempt
- 24. Hobbit's foe
- 25. Wood and Harris
- 26. Greek vowel
- 27. Disrespectful
- 29. Educ. group
- 32. In pieces
- 35. Soy product
- 36. Rip
- 37. Nightlife-loving New Yorker who might hang with 51-Across
- 40. Palindromic name
- 41. Chances
- 42. Crazy
- 43. Brooklyn-born rapper and actor
- 44. Impresses
- 45. 2013 film with a soundtrack by 9-Down
- 46. Belt
- 47. Insult, slangily
- 48. Bane of 20-Across, abbr.
- 51. Well-grounded New Yorker who seldom leaves but often leaves leaves
- 57. Stay away from

- 58. Yearn
- 59. Hawaiian art
- 60. Musical show
- 61. Grimm beginning
- 62. "Gilgamesh," e.g.
- 63. Bar measures
- 64. Undesired plant
- 65. Coordinate

Down

- 1. Expert
- 2. Customer
- 3. Apprehensive
- 4. Besides
- 5. ___ Club
- 6. Caper
- 7. Glance over
- 8. Successful pitch

- 9. ___ Fire
- 10. Weightlifting routine
- 11. Oil grp.
- 12. Change
- 13. Diner light
- 21. New York mobster
- 22. Sick and tired
- 26. Consequently
- 27. Paths
- 28. Roswell sightings
- 29. Nuisance
- 30. Stretched
- 31. ___ brat
- 32. Bard of ___
- 33. Hummus holder
- 34. ___ and crafts
- 35. Lunar effect
- 36. Peter the Great, e.g.

- 38. Like zugzwang
- 39. Corpulent
- 44. Homes
- 45. Depended
- 46. Hatred
- 47. Line or square, e.g.
- 48. Fruit with a pit
- 49. Sandwich purveyors
- 50. Instruct
- 51. Fat
- 52. Radio ending
- 53. Bright star
- 54. Farm equipment
- 55. Sole
- 56. 1954 sci-fi film

Puzzle author: Lars Roe. For answers, see page 7.

Product Recalls

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

it nearly impossible to catch many contaminated foods before they reach consumers.

"I am shocked at how cavalier the whole industry is," says Holtz, who receives email alerts from the FDA when items have been recalled. "I immediately say, 'Do we carry this product?' If it is a brand we carry, we look specifically at the details. We jump on it. We put up signs. We are scrupulous and we take it extremely seriously," says Holtz. In fact, the PSFC decided to end its relationship with Shady Brook Poultry after a product recall. Recalled items are pulled from the shelves right away. For the safety of the membership, items are pulled even if no one has gotten sick. The good news is the PSFC recalls less than five items per year.

The first stop for members looking for recalled product information is the Coop's website (foodcoop.com). Recalled items that the Coop carries are listed there with specifics on lot numbers or

expiration dates and details on how to return products for refunds.

The first stop for members looking for recalled product information is the Coop's website.

At the time of this writing, there were dozens of recalled items listed on the FDA's website including raw macadamia nuts possibly contaminated with salmonella, dried apricots with undeclared sulfites, and coconut chews that may have contained stainless steel wire. To be clear, the PSFC either doesn't carry these items or suppliers of these items that we do carry are not involved in any of these recalls.

The list of recalled items on the FDA's website is long and startling. Several items on the list contained foods that may have been contaminated with listeria, salmonella and nuts, which can be dangerous to those with deadly nut allergies. In fact, in 2013, more than 8,000 products regulated by the FDA were recalled. It's

an amount so high, that it's virtually impossible to track down all of the dangerous items after they have been sold to consumers. "We were told by Frontier Cooperative herbs that there was something wrong with their black peppercorns," remembers Joe. "We put a sign by the black peppercorns and we said if you bring back black peppercorns, we're going to give you xx amount of money. A few people brought back their peppercorns and other people probably used it and didn't get sick," Joe says, adding "it's really, really hard to keep track of everything."

Product recalls are often made months after the products have hit the shelves and been sold to consumers.

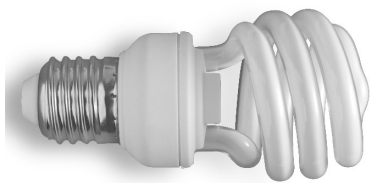
Still, says Joe, the PSFC will do everything within its power to keep members safe from potentially dangerous food. "When we get a recall, we consider it urgent and we move quickly. For example, back in 2012, Late July

ordered a recall of several batches of Organic Mini peanut butter sandwich crackers due to possible salmonella contamination. "We actually had members call people who purchased the crackers. I felt like, 'what can we do as a membership organization to tell our members about this?' We acted and we acted quickly."

"If you purchased something that has been recalled," Holtz says, "the Coop will issue a refund where appropriate. But it has to be an item that is carried by the Coop," warns Holtz because recalls are very specific. "Sometimes it applies to things we have and sometimes it does not. Many times, the products that have been recalled have already been sold because

things don't sit on the shelves here long. At times, we don't have anything to pull. Sometimes we don't have evidence of whether or not the item was ever purchased for the Coop."

Foodsafety.gov, another government run website, also keeps a comprehensive and timely list of items that have been recalled but Holtz believes the food industry needs to do a lot more to keep consumers safe. "There should be a better consumer protection ethic by the entire industry. I don't feel the entire food industry is moving fast enough. I'm just not impressed with the speed," says Joe, of the food industry's ineffective approach to product recalls. "Who's gonna tell the world?" ■



Are you a lighting designer?

Do you know a lighting designer?

Do you know someone who knows a lighting designer?

Do you know someone who knows someone who knows a lighting designer?

The Coop is looking for a member who is a lighting designer or an architect with lighting experience to work with the Energy Efficiency Committee to help improve the quality and energy efficiency of the lighting in the Coop.

If interested, or if you know someone who's interested, please contact the committee by going to the Contact Us page on foodcoop.com — <http://www.foodcoop.com/?page=contact> — and select "Workslot Needs" from the "Person to Contact" dropdown menu.

FTOP work credit will be given.

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THE GAZETTE INDEXES

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

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

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

Many of the Gazette issues referenced in these indexes are available as PDFs on the Coop's website. (Copies of these and additional issues are also available at Brooklyn's Central Library, located at Flatbush Ave. and Eastern Pkwy. on Grand Army Plaza.)

LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE



We seek members with extensive InDesign knowledge for the production teams.

Members needed for a Saturday or Sunday five-hour shift at the Coop. The teams meet every eight weeks. We are also looking for members to work at the Coop for FTOP credit, on Saturday or Sunday.

Please send inquiries to
annette_laskaris@psfc.coop.

An Update on the Campaign Against Bottled Water

By Hayley Gorenberg

With the California drought making Coop-related headlines, and the GreenNYC "B.Y.O." campaign to promote reusable mugs and bottles launched recently, the *Gazette* decided to check in on progress and setbacks in American campaigns against bottled water.

The Coop banned sales of bottled water by GM vote in April 2008, when Coop member Elizabeth Royte's book *Bottle-*

mania, How Water Went on Sale and Why We Bought It was in preview copies. Released in June that year, it has helped support years of activism, particularly but not exclusively on college campuses.

"It's the kids who give me hope," Royte said recently. She noted that since *Bottlemania* was published, American and Canadian college students have led the way, demanding "hydration stations" for refilling reusable bottles as well as basic water fountains and policies against purchasing bottled water on campuses. Students at the University of Central Florida recently filled the campus reflection pond with a quarter-million plastic water bottles to generate awareness about waste. Organizers handed out information to passers-by, and afterwards collected and recycled the bottles. But elders are not with-

out perspective and sway, said Royte. Those making waves against water for sale include "people who didn't grow up with bottled water."

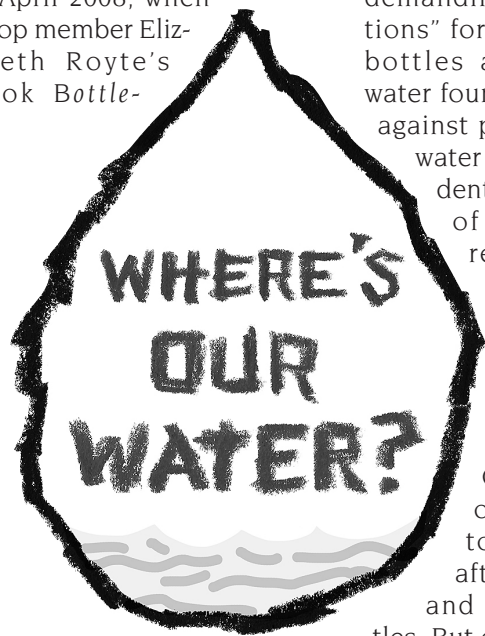
The documentary *Tapped* hit screens after Royte's book hit shelves, accompanied by a campaign urging watchers to sign a declaration pledging to curb bottled water consumption, write to government representatives asking they stop using tax money for bottled water, request that celebrities stop endorsing bottled water, and originate Ban the Bottle days in their workplaces and schools.

The carbon footprint of bottled water has garnered plenty of attention.

Since then, a few municipalities, including New York City, have banned bottled water from government offices—though an op-ed in *Crain's* last November ("Council should try the local waters") called attention to the persistent presence of bottled



ILLUSTRATIONS BY NINA FRENKEL



Edite Retires

Edite Eckroth, Receiving Coordinator, retired from the Coop on May 31 after 25 years of excellent work. By her example of dedication and hard work, Edite helped build the work culture we have today. Many Coop members will have no idea that Edite was the first Receiving Coordinator to embody the phrase "send send send." And send she did and fast fast fast. Eventually the Coop decided to carry vitamins and Edite became the Coop's Vitamin Buyer as well as the buyer for other products. In addition she continued to work on many other aspects of the Receiving Coordinator job and was a familiar, friendly face on the shopping floor many nights and weekends.

We want to thank Edite for her many years of service and wish her all the best in her retirement.



WEEKEND BIKE VALET PARKING

Saturdays (April 4 to Nov 21) 1 to 5 pm
Sundays (April 5 to Nov 22) 3:30 to 7:30 pm

Leave your bike, stroller, scooter, or cart while you work or shop. No locks, no worries, no theft!

Operates rain or shine. Look for us by the yellow wall under the green tent.

Brought to you by the Shop & Cycle Committee



**PSFC
Shop & Cycle
Committee**

water toted into City Council hearings. Concord, Massachusetts became the first town in the nation to ban single-serve water bottles in January, and octogenarian leaders of that reform in April received 2015 Environmental Merit Awards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The carbon footprint of bottled water has garnered plenty of attention. Given the petroleum used to produce the plastic for bottles and the fuel used to extract and ship water, Royte noted in her book that one could estimate every bottle of water to represent the expenditure of one-quarter of its volume in oil—which bottlers did not dispute.

Thus when Starbucks recently announced it would cease bottling in California due to drought, and shift production to Pennsylvania, Royte suggested consumers should, if they must purchase water, attend to the place of production. Cross-country shipping shifts one environmental impact to another. "People understand the implications. If they have to buy bottled, buy locally bottled."

The Coop's ban on the bottle was both environmental and philosophical. As the longtime Coop member Susan Metz, who proposed it, opined, "Water is a human right. Water is the commons, which we are responsible for managing collectively for the benefit of all living things and for the benefit of generations to come." For some of these very reasons, the National Coalition of American Nuns adopted a morally based resolution in 2006 asking members to "avoid drinking bottled water unless absolutely necessary."

After the Coop banished bottled water, it ushered in a wider array of reusable water containers of the sort that are a key component to the city's new "initiative to promote living a less disposable life by encouraging the use of reusable mugs, bottles and bags rather than their disposable counterparts," according to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's May 13 release. The city reports its sanitation department collects about 800 million water bottles annually. The GreenNYC bulletin highlighted the toll "disposable" litter takes on streets, subway systems, parks and beaches. It called for action to "reduce depletion of natural resources, carbon emissions associated with the production and transportation of the items and the impacts associated with transporting and land-filling the waste."

Reusables save money, too, both for the city and the consumer, who pays 1,000 times less for tap than bottled water, according to the city. "Each day, more than 1 billion gallons of fresh, clean water is delivered from upstate reservoirs—some more than 125 miles from the City—to the taps of nine million customers throughout New York state." DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd pointed out, "It takes roughly 1.5 million barrels of oil a year to produce plastic bottles in the United States—enough to power 250,000 homes or 100,000 cars all year."

The city's campaign against disposables constitutes part of the Mayor's Office of Sustainability's One New York;

The Plan for a Strong and Just City, which includes reducing waste disposal by 90 percent and eliminating use of landfills by 2030.

After the Coop banished bottled water, it ushered in a wider array of reusable water containers.

It remains the case that much of the water Americans purchase comes from filtered municipal sources, including Coke's Dasani and Pepsi's Aquafina. Meanwhile, pumping from springs, for bottling and irrigation, poses a mounting threat to natural resources throughout the United States. For example, Florida's renowned spring systems are in active decline due to pumping, and water disputes abound nationwide. As Royte wrote, surface waters such as oceans, ponds and

streams are "held in common as part of the public trust," but ground water falls under a hodgepodge of different state rules, many quite weak, leading to the nickname "law of the biggest pump." (Royte has pointed out that when the laws were drafted, the relationship between surface water and ground water was poorly understood.)

Royte's sobering conclusion was that our obsession with bottled water could ultimately lead to undrinkable tap water in the United States, since privatizing drinking water strips away support for municipal sources clean enough to drink.

She fervently hopes that a scattering of recent breaches in tap water quality provide a wake-up call for better protection of water sources, as we attempt further to beat back the bottled water tidal wave, because people have

to "trust their water." And the California drought continues to underscore the importance of water. "It's really coming home to people now," said Royte.

Royte is hard at work on a new topic: food waste. She anticipates coverage everywhere from *National Geographic*

to the *New York Times*. Pre-*Bot-tleman*, she published *Gar-bageland*. Her themes, she philosophized, tends toward "looking upstream where things come from, and downstream where things go."

Meanwhile, the next generation presses forward. Royte's daughter, Lucy, 16, is

"a careful consumer," Royte said. She and her mother welcomed five new hydration stations in Prospect Park, and when one water fountain was capped, Lucy mapped out a huge water droplet in blue painter's tape and spelled out the demand, "Where's our water?" ■

Looking to help new coops form in Brooklyn while getting a tax deduction?

Support the Fund for New Coops—a project of the Park Slope Food Coop.

THE FUND FOR
NEW FOOD COOPS
a Project of the Park Slope Food Coop

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

How can you donate?

- Use the scannable Fund for New Coops donation cards available on the shopping floor
- Donate directly from the Coop's website, foodcoop.com. Follow the link for the Fund for New Coops and select the DONATE button
- Mail a check—made out to the Fund for New Food Coops—to:
FJC, 520 Eighth Ave., 20th Flr., New York, NY 10018

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

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6 am - 7:30 pm

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Join a Bike Valet squad!
It's like coat-check for bikes for working and shopping members.
We need to fill Bike Valet shifts ASAP.
Contact the Membership Office for details and to sign-up.

Coop Job Opening / Early Mornings: Receiving/Stocking Coordinator

Description:

The Coop is hiring a Receiving/Stocking Coordinator to work at 5 a.m. or 6 a.m., five days per week including Saturdays and Sundays.

The early morning and weekend Receiving/Stocking Coordinators oversee the deliveries of fresh produce, inspect for high quality and ensure its longevity through proper rotation and placement in and out of coolers. These Receiving Coordinators also supervise produce processing, ensure that PLUs are active and UPCs scan, coordinate with compost and soup kitchen squads, restock and maintain the produce aisle.

All Receiving/Stocking Coordinators ensure the smooth functioning of the Coop. They generate work for members, answer members' questions and support squads to ensure that the Coop is well-stocked.

We are looking for an early-riser who wants a high-energy job. You must be able to repeatedly lift up to 50 lbs. and work for hours in walk-in coolers.

The ideal candidate will be a reliable, responsible self-starter who enjoys working with our diverse member-workers. Applicants must be excellent team players, as they will be sharing the work with several other Receiving Coordinators.

Applicants must have an excellent spatial sense, great people and communication skills, as well as patience. Applicants should be able to remain calm in hectic surroundings, have the ability to prioritize tasks, teach and explain procedures, delegate work, give feedback, and pay attention to several things at once. Comfort with math, computers and experience working in a grocery store is a plus.

As a retail business, the Coop's busiest times are during traditional holiday seasons. Applicants must be prepared to work during many of the holiday periods, particularly in the winter.

Hours: Approx. 38 hours in 5 days/week including Saturdays and Sundays: Primarily early morning, some shifts start at 5 a.m.

Wages: \$26.24/hour.

Benefits:

- Paid Holidays: July 4th, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day
- Paid Health and Personal Time: 11 days per year
- Paid Vacation: three weeks per year increasing in the 4th, 8th & 11th years
- Health Insurance
- Dental and Vision Plan
- Pension Plan
- Life Insurance
- 401(k) Plan
- TransitChek Program
- Flexible Spending Account

Prerequisite:

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

No Receiving/Stocking experience necessary to submit application materials. However, in order to be considered for an interview applicants must have worked at least two early-morning Receiving shifts in the Produce basement and two early-morning Receiving shifts in the Produce Aisle. After submitting your materials, if you wish to schedule shifts please contact the Coop at hc-receivingcoordinator@psfc.coop. Please put "Schedule Shifts" in the subject field.

How to Apply:

Please provide your resumé along with a cover letter explaining your relevant qualifications, skills and experience. Materials will only be accepted electronically. E-mail resumé and cover letter to hc-receivingcoordinator@psfc.coop. Please put "Produce Receiving Coordinator" 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.

Our Coop's Sustainability

I wonder about time, money, rancor, lots of money, psychic energy, focus, disorderly conduct, distraction, feeling unwelcome, unspoken implied violence, boycotting versus voting with your dollars, discord versus harmony, Coop survival. Should the GCs make our request again in one of our reports to the GM or would it be misunderstood again? How do we hear the voice of members yet not repeat a massive, dysfunctional, and very likely horrific meeting? In the interest of the Coop's future, we want to hear from a large portion of the Coop before we take on such a serious risk. ■

Last Name, First Name PLEASE PRINT	Member #

PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP, INC.

COOP-WIDE REFERENDUM BALLOT

Check ONLY ONE box.

☐

The Park Slope Food Coop will **CONTINUE to ALLOW General Meeting time**, inclusive of Open Forum, Coordinator Reports, Committee Reports or Agenda Items on the following and/or related topics: Israel, Palestine, the Middle East, SodaStream, "BDS-Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions" or boycotts thereof, for a period of two (2) years. At the end of the second year coinciding with the Annual Meeting mailing in that year, this ballot will be sent again to the Membership.

☐

The Park Slope Food Coop will **NO LONGER ALLOW General Meeting time**, inclusive of Open Forum, Coordinator Reports, Committee Reports or Agenda Items, on the following and/or related topics: Israel, Palestine, the Middle East, SodaStream, "BDS-Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions" or boycotts thereof, for a period of two (2) years. At the end of the second year coinciding with the Annual Meeting mailing in that year, this ballot will be sent again to the Membership.

Signature (Required)

Date / / 15

SAFE FOOD COMMITTEE REPORT

Fracking: Drilling Is Banned in the State But Pipelines and Storage Are Not

By Tom Angotti

When Governor Andrew Cuomo extended indefinitely New York State's ban on fracking in December of last year, safe food advocates, including the Park Slope Food Coop, cheered because it helped to protect upstate farmers who supply us with fresh food. Fracking injects water and chemicals into the ground so that gas is released and extracted for commercial sale. It can contaminate local water supplies, release methane, and most importantly, it is one of the latest schemes to expand the use of fossil fuels despite concerns about global climate change.

The next battle in the fracking fight is now upon us. Crestwood, a Houston-based energy corporation, wants to turn the giant salt caverns under Seneca Lake, in upstate New York, into an unlined storage tank for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) piped in from Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio, producers of fracked gas. This would be a major hub for gas pipelines in the Northeast. Gas Free Seneca (gasfreeseneca.com) is a broad coalition of businesses, farmers and residents organizing to stop it.

Seneca Lake is one of the Finger Lakes, a region known for wineries, tourism and incredible beauty. The lake is the main source for public drinking water for 100,000

people. Residents are concerned that any breach in the salt caverns below the lake could contaminate drinking water or result in a catastrophic collapse that could drain the lake and alter the regional ecosystem and economy. Perhaps the greatest risk is for escaping gas and explosions. The impact on the production of grapes and other fresh produce could be significant.

One problem is that approval of the Seneca Lake project depends on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), a federal regulatory body that works closely with big energy producers and is not accountable to local communities. FERC's decisions come out of narrow, technocratic reviews that do not have to seriously consider local and state government concerns. Most local governments have opposed the facility. For this reason, opposition to the project has engaged in civil disobedience as one of the few options left. Recently over 20 people were arrested trying to block the facilities. Josh Fox, director of *Gasland*, the documentary that successfully highlighted the dangers of fracking, was among those arrested. Fox has produced a short film about Seneca Lake, portions of which were shown on a recent segment of Democracy Now (at CUNY-TV). Continued pressure on state

officials, including Governor Cuomo and the state Department of Environmental Conservation, can also help ramp up the volume of protest. See gasfreeseneca.com, sign the petition, and get involved! ■

FOLLOW

the Food Coop on

twitter & Instagram

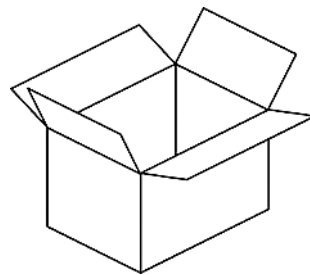
Pinterest @foodcoop

★ 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.



STORE EQUIPMENT CLEANING

Wednesday and Friday,
6 to 8 a.m.

The Coop is looking for members to clean the checkout area of the store. It entails cleaning the scales at each checkout and vacuuming around the base of the checkout station as well as sweeping and occasionally mopping. You will work under the supervision of a staff person.

OFFICE SET-UP

Monday-Thursday,
6 to 8:30 a.m.

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



ENTRANCE DESK

Tuesday and Wednesday,
5:45 to 8:00 a.m.

Supervised by Membership Coordinators, you will be staffing the Entrance desk in hours of the weekday before the Coop is open to shoppers. Primarily you will be checking in working members, informing them of their

member and household status, and handing out entrance desk slips to members who need them. Entrance workers provide an essential member service and must be welcoming, polite, able to read and interpret information on the entrance desk screen, able to clearly convey information about member status directly to members. Entrance workers also provide a key security function, and must remain alert throughout the shift, which may have slow periods. Therefore reading, writing, talking on the phone, texting, etc. is not allowed. Punctuality and good attendance will be essential, as you will be the only Entrance worker scheduled at this time of day. Paid Membership Coordinators will be present to train you on your first (and second) shift, and then to support you and answer questions going forward.



BATHROOM CLEANING

Wednesday, 12 to 2 p.m.

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

WALL CHART UPDATING

Sunday, 8 to 10:45 a.m.

This is the perfect job for a detail-oriented person who likes a quiet and pleasant work environment. You will be trained by a staff person who will always be available to answer questions. You are part of a team of 2 to 3 people, but you will work on your own. Please speak to Camille Scuria if you would like more information. She can be reached at camille_scuria@psfc.coop or call the Membership Office Saturday through Wednesday to speak to her.

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.

Crossword Answers

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

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

The *Gazette* will not knowingly publish letters, articles or reports that are hateful, racist, sexist, otherwise discriminatory, inflammatory or needlessly provocative.

The *Gazette* welcomes Coop-related articles, letters and committee reports from members that follow the published guidelines and policies. The following is a summary—please see the detailed guidelines for each type of submission on the Coop website: www.foodcoop.com.

All submissions must include author's name, phone number and e-mail address, conform to the following guidelines and to the Fairness, Anonymity and Respect policies. Editors will reject letters, articles and reports that do not follow the guidelines or policies. Submission deadlines appear each edition in the Coop Calendar section.

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

Letters: Maximum 500 words. All letters will be printed if they follow the published guidelines and policies.

Voluntary Articles: Maximum 750 words. A Voluntary Article is held to a higher standard than a letter and must meet at least the following criteria: A Voluntary Article must analyze the topic it is discussing; it must present accurate, verifiable corroboration for factual assertions; it can criticize but not attack Coop practices and personnel; if critical it must present positive solutions; it cannot be solely or mainly opinion. It must strive to make a positive contribution to the understanding of the reader on a topic. If a submitted Voluntary Article is substantially opinion, it must be re-submitted, under 500 words, as a Letter to the Editor, possibly to a future issue. Editors will reject articles that are essentially just advertisements for member businesses, those of family and friends of members, solely expressions of opinion or that do not follow the guidelines and policies.

Committee Reports: Maximum 1,000 words. Reports must follow the published guidelines and policies.

LETTERS, ARTICLES AND REPORTS SUBMISSION POLICIES

Letters must be the opinion of the letter-writer and can contain no more than 25% non-original writing.

All submissions must be written by the writer. Letters or articles that are form letters, chain letters, template letters or letters prepared by someone other than the submitting member will be rejected.

Letters, articles and reports must adhere to the Fairness, Anonymity and Respect policies. They cannot be hateful, needlessly inflammatory, discriminatory libelous, personal attacks or make unsubstantiated claims or accusations or be contrary to the values of the Coop as expressed in our mission statement.

All submissions must be legible, intelligible, civil, well and concisely written with accurate, attributed, easily verifiable statements of facts separated from opinions.

Letter and article writers are limited to one letter or article per issue.

Letter and article writers cannot write gratuitous serial submissions. Editors may reject submissions to consecutive editions of the *Gazette* on the same topic by the same writer.

Editor-Writer Guidelines: All submissions will be reviewed and, if necessary, edited or rejected by the editor. Writers are responsible for the factual content of their stories. Editors must make a reasonable effort to contact and communicate with writers regarding any questions or proposed editorial changes. Writers must be available to editors to confer about their submissions. If a writer does not respond to requests for editorial changes, the editor may make the changes without conferring with the writer, or reject the submission. If agreement between the writer and the editor about changes does not occur after a first revision, the editor may reject the submission, and the writer may revise and resubmit for a future issue.

FAIRNESS, ANONYMITY AND RESPECT POLICIES

In order to provide fair, comprehensive, factual coverage:

Fairness

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 unnecessary, not specific or are not substantiated by factual assertions. The *Gazette* will not publish gratuitous personalization. That is, no unnecessary naming of Coop members in polemical letters and articles. Writers must address ideas not persons.
3. Submissions that make substantive accusations against specific individuals, necessary to make the point of the submission and within the Fairness, Anonymity and Respect policies 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.

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.

Respect

Submissions to the *Gazette* must not be hateful, racist, sexist, otherwise discriminatory, inflammatory or needlessly provocative. They may not be personally derogatory or insulting, even when strongly criticizing an individual member's actions.

The *Gazette* is a collaboration among Coop members. When submitting, please consider the impact of your words on the writers, editors and production staff who use our limited workslot time to try to produce an informative and cooperative publication that reflects the values of our Coop community.

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

SUMMERTIME

DON'T FORGET YOUR COOP SHIFT!



If you plan on being away during one of your workslots, please make arrangements to have your shift covered.

One way to do it is to use the Shift Swap at www.foodcoop.com!

If you plan on being away for eight weeks or more, contact the Membership Office to take a leave of absence.

YOUR CO-WORKERS WILL LOVE YOU FOR IT!

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 presented 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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Final Proofreader: Lisa Schorr

Index: Len Neufeld

WELCOME!

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

Christopher Ameigh Samuel Anderson Romain Bachy Penelope Bagieu Betsy Baird Terhura Bankston Ashley Bisbano Bridgett Bolden Graham Bradley Glenny Carrero Farrah Chamseddine Rory Christian Ellen Chuse Sabina Ciari David Clark Jennifer Coleman Hannah Connor Natalie Darby	Tom Davidson Rebecca Davis Mies de Koning Mark de Wilde Dennis DeGraw Gessica Di Rosa Steven Difalco Regina Discala Hana Durakovic Lisa Esposito Vicki Farrell Arthur Felder Maggie Field Drey Fisher Sarah Fisher Evan Flath Rebecca Frans Julia Fuller-Kling	Elizabeth Ganley-Roper Iskra Georgieva Tsvetelina Georgieva Ian Goldstein Reina Gonzales Becky Havivi Sara Hayward Matt Hendley Elizabeth Hui Mark Ibold Rachele Jacques-Dureus Sophie Jamet Hagay Jellinek Noelle Kandigian Asia Kaul Lauren Kent Kimberly Kern Ayako Kigoshi	Laura Krasovitzky Emily Quinn Lemonier Jesse Liebman Kimiye Liebman Michelle Lin Marysia (Maria) Makowska Angela Manes Tara Marchionna Anthony Mastroianni Michele McGurk Yerry Mena Timothy Messler Monique Mizrahi Robert Mleczo Yazid Muhammad Kate Mullins Giovanni Nencini Any Oleck	Gustavo Ortiz Lauren Ostrowski Nurit Ozeri Wanda Palmer Azulie Pierre Ketia Pierre Pierre Pierre Aaron Quinn El Roy Red Andrew Reda Joshua Robinson Will Rogers Grace Rosenthal Michael San Soucie Izzy Sederbaum Edouard Servan-Schreiber Olga Servan-Schreiber Todd Somodevilla	James Stephens Karen Stone Christina Sutherland Michiru Tanaka Christoff Taylor Lance Thompson Michael Tondre Chikako Turner Martin Turner Grace Twesigye Frederic Volhuer Ethel Warfield Leigh Wells Anthony Wolbert Maria Zizka
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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

The fourth FRIDAY of the month at 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, JUN 30
ANNUAL & GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, JULY 7
AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m.
Submissions will be considered for the July 28 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:
June 25 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, June 15
July 9 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, June 29

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:
June 25 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, June 17
July 9 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, July 1

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 on foodcoop.com and at every General Meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 30, 7:00 p.m.

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

Location

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

How to Place an Item on the Agenda

If you have something you'd like discussed at a General Meeting, please complete a submission form for the Agenda Committee. Forms are available in the rack near the Coop Community Corner bulletin board and at General Meetings. Instructions and helpful information on how to submit an item appear on the submission form. The Agenda Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month to plan the agenda for the GM held on the last Tuesday of the month. If you have a question, please call Ann Herpel at the Coop.

Meeting Format

Warm Up (7:00 p.m.) • Meet the Coordinators • Enjoy some Coop snacks • Submit Open Forum items • Explore meeting literature
Open Forum (7:15 p.m.) Open Forum is a time for members to bring brief items to the General Meeting. If an item is more than brief, it can be submitted to the Agenda Committee as an item for a future GM.
Reports (7:30 p.m.) • Financial Report • Coordinators' Report • Committee Reports
Agenda (8:00 p.m.) The agenda is posted at the Coop Community Corner and may also appear elsewhere in this issue.
Wrap Up (9:30-9:45) (unless there is a vote to extend the meeting) • Meeting evaluation • Board of Directors vote • Announcements, etc.

Attend a GM and Receive Work Credit

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

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

- **Advance Sign-up required:**
To be eligible for workslot credit, you must add your name to the sign-up sheet in the elevator lobby. The sign-ups sheet is available all month long, except for the day of the meeting when you have until 5 p.m. to sign up. On the day of the meeting, the sign-up sheet is kept in the Membership Office.
Some restrictions to this program do apply. Please see below for details.
- **Two GM attendance credits per year:**
Each member may take advantage of the GM-for-workslot-credit program two times per calendar year.
- **Squads eligible for credit:**
Shopping, Receiving/Stocking, Food Processing, Office, Maintenance, Inventory, Construction, and FTOP committees. (Some Committees are omitted because covering absent members is too difficult.)
- **Attend the entire GM:**
In order to earn workslot credit you must be present for the *entire* meeting.
- **Signing in at the Meeting:**
After the meeting the Chair will provide the Workslot Credit Attendance Sheet.
- **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. We seek to maximize participation at every level, from policy making to running the store.

We welcome all who respect these values.

park slope
FOOD COOP

calendar of events

jun 13-14
sat-sun 9 am-7 pm

Food Drive to Benefit CHIPS Soup Kitchen

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

jun 14
sun 12 pm

Unhooking Shame from Pain

Pain often triggers shame and aggression toward oneself, as if being in pain was a personal failure. Why can't I get better? Why can't I do the things I used to do? If the root of the word "healing" is to make whole again, shame divides us and pits us against our own body. Over time, we might even feel a sense of isolation from others, or overwhelmed by emotions triggered by our pain. In this workshop, you'll find that being in pain doesn't have to mean being ashamed or feeling unworthy. You will learn a process for lightening the sense of shame and developing a wholesome relationship with your body. By treating our situation and ourselves with honesty and compassion, we can discover new possibilities for recovery and healing. Coop member **Dan Cayer** is a teacher and writer committed to helping others change habitual patterns, find freedom from pain, and create a sane relationship with their own body.

jun 26
fri 6:30 pm

ITES Public Forum

During the protests in Seattle against the World Trade Organization's free trade plans in 1999, many cameras were running. A team at IndyMedia edited the footage and created, *This is What Democracy Looks Like* (2000, 68 minutes), a documentary that "like the protests, makes art out of action" (*Village Voice*). Screening begins at 6:45 p.m. Update on Fast Track and free trade and then discussion will follow, organized by the International Trade Education Squad.

jun 30
tue 6:45 pm

College Admissions 101

Get your children into their first-choice college. Are you or your child stressed about applying to college? Want to know what goes into writing a winning college essay? If you've been wondering what you can do now to make things easier when application time comes, come to this free workshop. Time for Q&A afterward, and additional resources will be provided. **Steve Schwartz** is a professional college admission counselor in Park Slope with more than a decade of experience. He also writes the popular *Get Into College* blog and is a Coop member.

jun 30
tue 7 pm

PSFC JUN Annual and General Meeting



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

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

I. Member Arrival and Meeting Warm-Up

II. ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA:

Item 1: Presentation of Audited Financial Statement

Report & Vote: The Coop's outside auditor, Cornick, Garber & Sandler, LLP, will present the audited financial statement for the year ended February 1, 2015. Following the presentation, members will have the opportunity to pose questions to the auditor. Members will then vote whether to accept the audited statement.

Item 2: Board of Directors Election

Election: Two three-year terms are open. The candidates will make a brief presentation to the meeting prior to the vote.

Item 3: Approval of Bylaw Amendment

Proposal: To affirmatively approve the Article I Bylaw Amendment of the Park Slope Food Coop Inc. that went into effect on March 31, 2015, as follows:

Prior Bylaws Article I	Amended Bylaws Article I as of March 31, 2015
Type of Cooperative The Park Slope Food Coop, Inc. shall be a non-stock membership cooperative as defined in Article I section 3 of the New York State Cooperative Corporations Law. The Not-For-Profit Corporation Law shall apply to the Park Slope Food Coop as described in Article I section 5 of the New York State Cooperative Corporations Law.	Type of Cooperative The Park Slope Food Coop, Inc. is incorporated under the New York State Cooperative Corporations Law as a general non-stock cooperative corporation. Article I section 3 paragraph (d) of the New York State Cooperative Corporations Law states "A cooperative corporation shall be classed as a non-profit corporation, since its primary object is not to make profits for itself as such, or to pay dividends on invested capital, but to provide service and means whereby its members may have the economic advantage of cooperative action....."

III. GENERAL MEETING AGENDA:

Item 1: Renewing the Services of the Auditor

Proposal: To retain the services of Cornick, Garber & Sandler, LLP, to perform an audit of the Coop for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2016.

—submitted by the General Coordinators

Item 2: Election of Officers

Election: Following the election of members to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting, the General Meeting must elect officers of the corporation—President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The President and Vice President shall be, at the time of election, members of the Board of Directors. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer can be elected from the membership at large. Candidates for Secretary and Treasurer can be nominated from the floor.

IV. Board of Directors Meeting

V. Wrap-Up. Includes member sign-in for workslot credit.

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

jul 3
fri 7 pm

Film Night



Film to be announced.

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

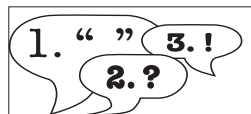
For more information on these and other events, visit the Coop's website: foodcoop.com

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.

jun 13–sep 18 2015

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

jul 11
sat 12 pm

Nutrition Response Testing

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

jul 12
sun 12 pm

How Money Works

The three root causes of the financial problems most families face are: failure to plan; being uninformed; and misinformation. This informative seminar will discuss the following issues: the Rule of 72; paying off your debt; credit card traps; how your life insurance policy works. These topics, once understood and applied, can have an impact on your personal finances. Deborah Mack is a Coop member and an independent representative with Primerica Financial Services, Inc. She empowers you to save money, get out of debt and strive for financial independence by educating you with financial concepts.

jul 14
tue 7 pm

Safe Food Committee Film Night



Film to be announced. **See upcoming events, past reviews and a comprehensive list of films shown at www.plowtoplatefilms.com which can now also be reached via a link on the Park Slope Food Coop's home page at www.foodcoop.com.**

jul 19
sun 12 pm

Alternatives to Boycotting

How many narratives are there in the Israel-Palestine conflict? One above all? Two competing ones? How about five narratives? How about one hundred? If you've always felt that “pro” or “anti” positions only put us at odds, and that angry resolutions help no one, you should come and bring your alternative solutions for peace in the Middle East and for our beautiful Coop. This will NOT be a debate on the pros and cons of boycotting. It will be a place for New Narratives. The conversation is changing. Finally! **Jesse Rosenfeld** is a Coop member since 2004, secretary for the General Meeting, and is helping to bring a new brand of Palestinian olive oil to our shelves. He believes in empowerment, not boycotts.

jul 28
tue 7 pm

It's Your Funeral

Planning for your own death now (as opposed to later) is a practice that can enable you to live in the moment, face your own mortality with courage—and create an end-of-life service that reflects your values. Join Coop member **Amy Cunningham**, former journalist and graduate of the American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service, in a conversation about fascinating advancements within the funeral business. The talk will cover how to plan a low-cost, back-to-basics funeral or memorial service, as well as offer information on green cemeteries near New York City, cremation pros and cons, biodegradable caskets and urns, blended-faith/alternative ceremonies, and more. You'll get a glimmer of what funerals of the future might look like—and leave with planning literature for yourself or for someone you love. Coop member Amy Cunningham is a licensed funeral director at Greenwood Heights Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc., a full-service funeral home on Fourth Avenue in Brooklyn.

jul 28
tue 7 pm

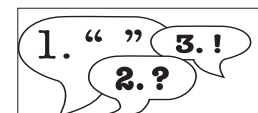
PSFC JUL General Meeting



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.**

aug 4
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, August 25, 7 p.m., at MS 51, 350 Fifth Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts.**

still to come

aug 11

Safe Food Committee Film Night

sep 8

Safe Food Committee Film Night

sep 3

Food Class

sep 11

Wordsprouts

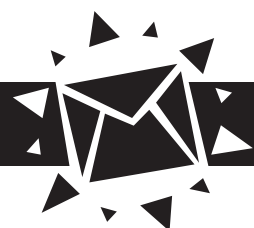
sep 4

Film Night

sep 18

Prospect Concerts

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



STOP REINFORCING STEREOTYPES

DEAR EDITOR,

In a recent *Linewaiters' Gazette* [May 14, 2015], an article called "Spring Cleaning" has an accompanying image with nine photos of Coop shoppers holding a cleaning product, around the words "My Favorite Cleaning Product." Judging from the shoppers' names and appearance, eight of the nine are women, with just one man. Such sexist imagery reinforces regressive gender norms and perpetuates harmful stereotypes. I was surprised to see such traditional constructions of gender in a publication of the usually progressive Coop. The fact that women do the majority of the housework in most homes is surely something that should change.

Cooperatively,
Danis Banks

HOORAY FOR OUR MEMBERS!

TO THE EDITOR,

We're all super busy people but lemme tell ya', attending a General Meeting sure is an education in democracy! Seriously, it was an amazing experience of direct democracy and a scary lesson to us all about how easily it can be subverted if we're not vigilant. Our Coop is too important as an institution and as an example of what a future of food justice could look like in what is otherwise a sadly broken system here in the U.S. not to take these meetings seriously.

Here's what happened: the membership was treated to a surprise Emergency Proposal (not on the agenda) from the General Coordinators requesting that a paper ballot be mailed out THE NEXT DAY to the ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP with a yes or no vote on ending ALL discussion of "Israel, Palestine, the Middle East, SodaStream, BDS...and/or related topics" for a period of two years. This would have included Open Forum, Agenda Items, and Committee Reports. One of the reasons given for this surprise proposal was because of costs incurred by such discussion, although we had JUST gotten a Financial Report indicating that the Coop was in great shape. Another reason was an inability to find a meeting space large enough to dis-

cuss these issues, given their "controversial nature." Last month's disruptive behavior by members who wanted to shut down the discussion and the unsafe climate generated by those behaviors was another reason given to justify this surprise referendum. This sudden and shocking proposal was further justified as being "for the good of the Coop" and as an emergency measure, with no definition given of what constitutes an "emergency."

Happily, a member of the Agenda Committee rose to object to the unorthodox and undemocratic way in which this was introduced and a lively discussion, pro and con, was allowed before the membership voted to dismiss the idea, and the referendum, outright.

What a disastrous turn of events for our Coop such a vote on a "gag order" would have engendered! What an amazing victory for democracy and democratic process, messy and divisive as it sometimes is! I'm so proud of our Coop and our membership!

And in answer to the issues of such genuine concern to the General Coordinators—and to so many of us!!—why not such a paper ballot to the entire membership with a yes or no vote on deshelling SodaStream? Wouldn't a full referendum like this finally help address this issue in a truly democratic way? We see now that it's possible after all!!

Let's make this happen, people. Enough, already.

Carol Wald

SUPPRESSION OF SPEECH ABOUT BOYCOTTING SODASTREAM

TO THE MEMBERS,

There was a joint maneuver of the General Coordinators and the General Meeting Chairing Committee at the May 2015 GM. The Coordinators wanted to persuade the Board of Directors to approve a Coop-wide referendum for a two year suppression of speech about "Israel, Palestine, the Middle East, SodaStream, "BDS-Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions" or boycotts thereof". By a vote of 119 to 109, the members attending the GM voted to overrule the decision of the Chairing Committee to add this "emergency" item to the agenda. The "refer-

endum" was therefore not discussed at the May 26th GM nor did the Board vote on it.

So what was the emergency? That some members, in an unprecedented action, had disrupted the April meeting because they objected to a presentation about boycotting SodaStream products? These products should be boycotted because of the exploitative policies of SodaStream's owners, formerly in the Occupied Palestinian West Bank and now in the Palestinian Bedouin region of Israel.

This attempt to remove the right to free speech, a right protected by the United States Constitution, is unworthy of those who have proposed it. The proposal appears to be an action by the General Coordinators to join those who want to stop discussion about Israeli policies and their impact on the Palestinian people. We saw a similar alliance in 2012 when the most senior General Coordinator called on members to "protect the Coop by voting NO" to have a Coop-wide referendum about boycotting Israeli products. (See *Gazette* archive for March 8, 2012, page 5)

In proposing to suppress all speech on these issues at the General Meeting, the General Coordinators' "cover letter" cited the disruption of the April 28, 2015 GM as a justification. They thereby conflated the menacing actions of those who oppose the boycott of SodaStream with the reasoned presentation of those of us who propose the boycott. By implication, we are blamed for raising the issue.

According to the GM report from the Disciplinary Committee, as of May 26, 2015, only PSFC Members for BDS had made complaints against the disrupters. Instead of trying to shut down all discussion of the SodaStream boycott at the GM for two years, why hadn't the General Coordinators taken any action to discipline the disrupters?

"At other institutions there have been similar attempts to silence opposition to the persecution of Palestinians. Among those are Northeastern University (Yvonne Abraham "Stifling Student Voices" Boston Globe June 13th 2013); Florida Atlantic University (Robert Tanen "ADL Clarifies its Position on FAU" Sun Sentinel, June 13, 2013); and Brook-

lyn College (Stanley Fish: Academic Freedom in Brooklyn" *New York Times*, February 11, 2013). In these instances and in many others, administrators, politicians and others have tried to suppress free speech about Palestine.

We must all be vigilant to protect our right to discuss food justice issues at the Park Slope Food Coop. And the General Coordinators, our employees, must do the same.

Naomi Brussel

GENERAL COORDINATORS RESPOND TO NAOMI BRUSSEL AND CAROL WALD:

The General Coordinators did not characterize our item at the May General Meeting as an "emergency" nor did we use the word "emergency" in either of the documents we made available to the members at the GM. In their ruling to allow our item to be on the May agenda, the Chair Committee used section 4f in the "Guide to the General and Annual Meetings" that provides for emergency items to be placed on the agenda. The word "emergency" arose from this decision. Had we the opportunity to speak at the May GM, the GCs would have explained our reasoning for asking the Board of Directors to authorize a Coop-wide mail ballot. Unfortunately the meeting voted to override the Chair and therefore we were not allowed to present.

ARTICLE ABOUT COOP IN HAARETZ; MAY GM DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE REPORT

MEMBERS:

The PSFC made headlines in the Israeli newspaper, *Haaretz* on May 22, 2015. "Brooklyn food co-op again becoming BDS battlefield?" was written by a Brooklyn-based reporter, Debra Nussbaum Cohen, not a Coop member. Two Coop members were quoted on separate issues relating to Israel's treatment of Palestinians. I was surprised at the misinformation in the quotes. I am providing up-to-date information on these two issues.

Yes, according to UNICEF, children were directly targeted by Israel during its summer 2014 military offensive on Gaza. (*Middle East Monitor*, 8/1/14). I also recommend an article that focuses on the report by Defense of Children International - Palestine: "Operation Protective Edge: A war waged on Gaza's children." (Rania Khalek, (*Electronic Intifada*, 4/17/15).

Yes, under the Oslo Accord, Israel has continued to discriminate in allocation of water between Israel and Palestinians. The basic source I recommend everyone to consult is B'tselem, The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories. They have a summary report, March 10, 2014, I recommend to you to read: 'Discriminatory water supply'.

We learned from the Disciplinary Committee report at the May GM that neither the Chairing Committee, the General Coordinators, nor the Board of Directors submitted complaints to the Disciplinary Committee. But, in a May GM handout, the General Coordinators described to the membership: a small number of attendees created a rancorous disturbance that felt threatening or intimidating to some, lasting 25+ minutes. So isn't this the basis for disciplinary action? I remain surprised and disappointed.

The membership deserves an explanation from the leadership.

Mary Buchwald
PSFC members for BDS
www.psfcbds.wordpress.com

STRIVE TOWARD DEMOCRACY, DISCUSS AND VOTE ON SODASTREAM

TO THE EDITOR,

We have a governance crisis—a deep challenge to our voluntary, autonomous and independent association. Our collective goal is revolutionary—to meet the needs of the members, maintain respectful relationships and make decisions about policy and planning together. We are experimenting with growing democracy among 16,400 members within hierarchical corporate capitalism. The dominant culture concentrates power and wealth into ever fewer hands. Greed and competition, systematized into ideology and built

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

into the structures of our increasingly globalized society, contaminate schools and workplaces and too frequently our family lives and personal relationships.

The Solidarity Economy grows from different roots. We envision institutionalized cooperation, with decision-making structures that can channel controversy. We have been building new structures together in our Coop. These structures are being tested.

A few members disrupted the April GM when they shouted and marched around the auditorium, refusing to allow the members present to discuss a boycott of SodaStream. In our Coop, the Disciplinary Committee (DC) is charged to investigate complaints of uncooperative behavior and decide on sanctions when necessary. DC members are elected and have shown their capacity. By identifying those who disrupted, we can support their work. Send information to foodcoopdc@gmail.com.

At the May GM, "the Coop's day-to-day administrators" presented a surprise. Identifying "an emergency," the General Coordinators distributed an elaborate substitute for the agenda that had been publicized. The chair presented their proposal—to send to all members the following week a referendum on whether to ban discussion of anything to do with the Middle East for two years. We were called upon to read, analyze, discuss and vote on a complicated proposal that very evening. Members at the meeting voted to "overrule the chair" and sustain the agenda as publicized. We elected members to two committees and passed a plan to expand recycling.

A vote after an open discussion is the way to decide whether the Coop sells or boycotts SodaStream. Trying to shut down discussion, via disruption or via manipulation by an influential sector, makes the tension worse.

The discussion was disrupted, so a discussion is pending. We all will need to be vigilant to maintain order. Members watching the proceedings who see misbehavior can surround the offender and ask her/him to either quietly wait for a turn to speak or leave. An announced three-minute limit on each comment and alternating speakers for and against can maintain rigid fairness. Everyone at the meeting,

remembering that democracy is under construction, can actively support the process.

With simple courtesy, the store will run and our regular activities continue. Building a large enterprise based on cooperation is our heroic and revolutionary intention. An opportunity to develop cooperative attitudes and practice cooperative behaviors can be offered in workshops via Non-violent Communication and Restorative Justice techniques among others.

There will be other controversies. Our time will have been well spent as we learn the lessons and develop towards participatory decision making in our community.

Susan Metz

VOTING TO THE EDITOR,

The vote is coming up for Board of Directors on June 30. Normally, this would be a standard, workaday item on the General Meeting agenda. Candidates and incumbents one and all normally support their own election by describing their work in social justice, or charity, etc. All candidates are fine people, of course. But in the end, all that matters is whether they are trusted to approve the votes of membership during the General Meeting. So far, they've always done their job faithfully. Like I said, it's normally standard and workaday business, and their outside activities are as relevant to running the Board as it is to running a register.

This election is different. Susan Metz has made her personal political agenda a platform in her official candidacy statement. She supports consumer boycotts, and since she obviously means Israel, it's time to draw the line. Her opinions are her own, but I feel that if she became a Board member she would vote against membership, ignoring her elected mandate in favor of making a symbolic gesture that could drag PSFC into a lawsuit for violating NY State Human Rights law. I hope that all candidates are aware of this new legal development at the GreenStar Food Coop in Ithaca, New York. A push to boycott Israel was rejected there on such grounds (http://www.ithaca.com/news/greenstar-council-rejects-boycott-of-israeli-products/article_9adba21a-fb2c-11e4-8f88-4fcee4cb05be.html).

Attorneys who provided legal counsel to GreenStar said, "...substantial possibility or likely implementation of any of the actions offered by the referendum ... would lead to potentially lengthy and expensive litigation and be judicially construed to be in violation of a provision of New York State Human Rights Law."

New York State Executive Law Article 15 deals specifically with discrimination. The law states that, "It shall be an illegal unlawful discriminatory practice for any person to boycott ... because of the race, creed, color, national origin ... of such person, or of such person's ... business associates, suppliers or customers."

People, people, people. At long last can we see that this is not and has never been, about boycotting? This is about the health and safety of our Coop and protecting everything for which we work every day of the week. Regardless of the law, it always has been about our unity over our disunity.

Look for your ballots in the mail, and don't play with fire whatever your politics. I urge you to vote NO for Susan Metz and NO for violating Human Rights law.

Meir Rosenberger

IN FAVOR OF THE REFERENDUM PROPOSAL

TO THE EDITOR,

In my view, the General Coordinators did the right thing in proposing a referendum at the last General Meeting. They were not proposing a referendum to prohibit boycotts, but rather a referendum to ask the membership if they want to continue devoting General Meeting time to Middle East issues or not. The General Coordinators did explain in their documents how boycotts have harmed and will continue to harm PSFC's finances and prestige, but indeed, that is their job. They are supposed to be trusted stewards of the Coop, to endorse the items that help our financial bottom line and to approve those things that facilitate our operations. For them, moral issues are not a Coop suicide pact, where we all have to go down with the ship because some of the crew decide that the food is not fit to eat. The General Coordinators have clear and verifiable facts to support how PSFC has devoted a disproportion-

ate share of OUR resources to tolerate a non-PSFC political screaming match.

Their ballot was voted down, narrowly, on the basis that it was a surprise and didn't go through the agenda committee. I encourage the Coordinators to try again but with more advance notice.

On a related note, I strongly support the Chair for holding firm to rules and procedures. Please keep it up. Too many people in past meetings have hogged microphone time, gone off-topic, projected images onto the screen that have no context or proof and blatantly disrupted the democratic process. People of all political stripes have shown contempt for our democratic process, especially the last two months.

Sincerely,
Saul D. Raw

PRO COOP: NO BOYCOTTING NECESSARY

TO THE EDITOR,

On Saturday May 30, I stood outside the Coop with a placard for two hours promoting a new Palestinian Olive Oil I helped to bring to our shelves. It read: "Al'Ard Palestinian Olive Oil. Boycott Israel??? No way! Empowerment of people? Now that's... PRO-COOP! (Fair Trade and EU Certified Organic)".

I announced: "Pro-Coop means empowerment of people, boycotting unnecessary. Al'Ard Palestinian Olive Oil is on the specialty shelves across from the chicken. I am anti-boycott of Israel, yet I believe in empowering Palestinians too. There is a third way of looking at things!" The vocal response was overwhelmingly positive, and even when a few people disagreed with my position the conversations were polite and relaxed.

When I explained that I am tired of how a single conversation (you're either pro- or anti-boycott) is spun as the only legitimate conversation, people nodded in exasperation. I explained how a "Pro-Coop" mindset frees them from someone else's game and someone else's rules. They looked at my sign and saw an example of how to play a different game, a rat race where you don't stay a rat, where winning demonstrates both moral and economic

outcomes. The best part of course was the first member to show me his Al'Ard Olive Oil on the way out. The second best part was one member yelling for me to go f*** myself, but I guess it must have been urgent enough to sound it off twice in front of someone's kids. Ah, politics.

People, I am making an effort because I love this place. We all work together and I want to see it thrive. Just about anyone I know is from the Coop and the community I find here is not an abstract one since everyday I see someone on the street from the PSFC. That's enough for me and I don't look to anyone here as my moral compass, especially since GreenStar Food Coop's legal team counseled the BOD to reject BDS, on grounds that such boycotts would likely violate NY State Human Rights Law. Membership, the General Coordinators and the Board of Directors here in Brooklyn would do well to heed GreenStar's example. I know I don't want PSFC to be the test case for whether the law has merit or not, and I feel only someone who didn't have the health of the Coop in mind would risk such a possibility.

We can continue to empower coffee growers, chocolate producers and Fair Trade organizations worldwide while watching our bottom line. Or we can march towards uncertain, damaging and expensive legal territory for the sake of symbolic gestures that were rejected out of hand three years ago at our General Meeting in Brooklyn Tech.

Please think Pro-Coop! The conversation is changing! Finally!

Jesse Rosenfeld

ON THE MAY GM TO THE EDITOR,

Three cheers to the Coop staff for bringing up at the May GM the question of whether, after five years, the argumentation over middle eastern politics is harming the community at the Coop. The Coop is something of a laughingstock as being coercive, difficult and PC in an annoyingly self-congratulatory way. The divisiveness wrought over the SodaStream boycott initiative, and the relentless campaign to use the Coop as a political platform has contributed to this. I'll say it again; I'd rather be spending

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

community time at the Coop figuring out things like ways to spread coops around Brooklyn as neighborhoods gentrify and low income people find affordable food hard to find.

And anyway, hello, people have a right to disagree—but not to hijack.

Ellen Freudenheim

AN UNFORTUNATE MISREPRESENTATION OF LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE POLICY

TO THE EDITOR,

A May 28, 2015 letter ("Drowning Out Facts on BDS Via Editorial Policy") was not a valid criticism of the *Gazette*, and did not help to advance BDS nor the current proposal for the Coop to boycott SodaStream.

According to this letter, "the new letter policy of the *Gazette* states that no more than 25% of a letter can be factual" and that 25% factual means "for every four sentences, one can be factual." Besides the aid to anyone confused about the meaning of "25%," nothing further was clarified, least of all the actual policy.

That policy states:

"Letters must be the opinion of the letter-writer and can contain no more than 25% *non-original writing* [emphasis mine]. All submissions must be written by the writer. Letters or articles that are form letters, chain letters, template letters or letters prepared by someone other than the submitting member will be rejected."

...a far cry from the policy as paraphrased in this letter. There's nothing in the *Gazette's* policy that explicitly—or even implicitly—mentions anything about the percentage of "factuality" allowed. The Palestinian cause did not need the aid of

this easily seen-through misrepresentation.

I'm no fan of the *Gazette's* latest policies, which have plenty to criticize, not least among them that they've been imposed unilaterally by the *Gazette*—not discussed and approved by the General Meeting.

I've occasionally weighed in on the Middle East debate to identify what I thought were hyperbolic and patently false anti-BDS claims and accusations. I was surprised to see so spurious a claim as made by this letter. Misrepresentations, distortions, and partial or half-truths simply cheapen and degenerate dialogues. They are, in effect, tactics. If some happen to work, or if the perpetrators in their foolishness think they are working when they aren't (they are often quite transparent) they can encourage a downward spiral of tactics and counter-tactics, up to and including the type of commotion many of us witnessed at the April GM.

David Barouh

IMPOSSIBLE TO TRANSLATE?

DEAR EDITOR,

I support the concept of a bilingual translator for our General Meetings, but I believe it could not work as suggested in this issue's *Gazette* letter. How could even the most skilled and sensitive Spanish translator convey the full venom, divisiveness and mutual hatred of what went on in the past meeting? We might even have flying chairs and other missiles next time.

I propose that the combatants (i.e., speakers) give their thoughts to a trained linguist who would then express them in fluent Latin or Esperanto to the expectant audience. This would surely be more effective (and

much more civil) than what is currently happening.

I live in hope,
Jules Trachten

GM PRESENTATIONS MUST BE ACCURATE

TO THE EDITOR:

The April GM generated much discussion regarding respect and democracy. Offering demonstrably false statements and unsubstantiated claims as a basis for decision making is an assault on both respect and democracy. The presentation by Park Slope Food Coop Members for BDS at the April GM has now been published at their website and its content can be examined for accuracy.

The proposal called for a "boycott of SodaStream products, which are manufactured in the Occupied Palestinian Territories." The factory was scheduled for closure the week following the April General Meeting. (The BDS movement claims credit for this move. However, SodaStream began construction in 2011 on a larger facility in a location within the 1949 Armistice lines.) Nonetheless, the members continued with the agenda item, accusing SodaStream of labor abuse and exploitation.

These accusations are very serious and the group provided absolutely no evidence, sources or substantiation for their claims. Just because something is published on the internet and repeated at a General Meeting does not make it true. In our system, it is incumbent upon the claimant to provide the evidence.

Israel's labor laws are highly regarded by international labor organizations and considered to be well-enforced. This is a societal value established

during Israel's pre-State and formative years, based on Israel's strong labor-socialist tradition. A March 2011 communication from SodaStream cites a 2011 audit conducted by BSCI, a highly respected and credible world-renowned organization for such audits. The report called the working condition, compensation plan and general employee atmosphere excellent. Multiple reports in main stream media outlets in early 2014 specifically cite employee satisfaction, good wages and favorable working conditions.

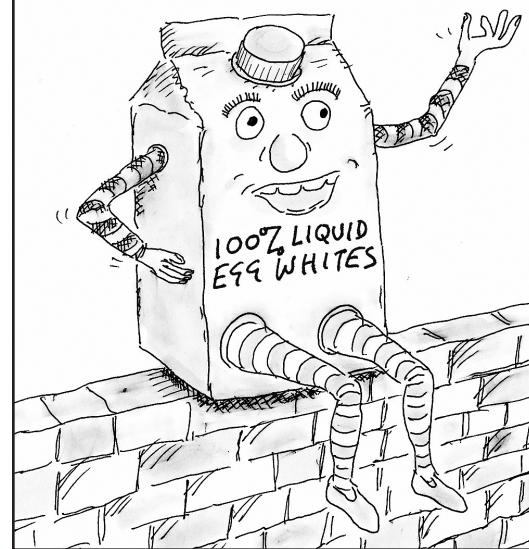
Yet without sources the BDS presenters claimed SodaStream pays workers "below minimum wage (sometimes half to a third less), discriminates against them, and [provides] other unsafe and poor working conditions." Also, without source or verification, twice they claimed Israel's labor laws are not enforced in the

factory. The presenters cited two labor disputes, neither presented in detail nor context. Both were presented in a manner to implicate the employer.

Whether the presenters knew their information was wrong or not is irrelevant. Every member privileged to use the platform of the GM should be obligated to perform due diligence and fact-check their presentation. Our members deserve at least that much.

Barbara Mazor

The Millennium Humpty Dumpty



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.

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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.

WED, JUN 24

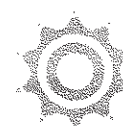
7 p.m. Book launch party and food tasting: *Van Leeuwen Artisan Ice Cream* by Laura O'Neill, Benjamin Van Leeuwen, Peter Van Leeuwen and Olga Massov. At the Powerhouse Arena, 37 Main St., Bklyn. For more info call 718.666.3049 or e-mail susanne@powerhousearena.com.

SUN, JUN 28

2 p.m. The Battery Park City Parks Conservancy is excited to announce a special Walk & Talk: History of Pier A. People of all ages are welcome to enjoy a free tour and discussion of the recently restored Pier A in Battery Park. For more info visit www.bpcparks.org/event/pier-a-tour/.

WED, JUL 8

7 p.m. The Taming of the Shrew in Teardrop Park performed by the New York Classical Theater in Battery Park City. More performances on July 10, July 11 and July 12. For more info: bpcparks.org.



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

Two three-year terms on the Board are open. To vote you may use a proxy or attend the Food Coop Annual Meeting on June 30, 2015.

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

You will have the opportunity to meet the candidates at the June 30 Annual Meeting. Candidate statements follow:

Monique Bowen



With the support of the General Coordinators, I write to ask for your continued endorsement of my candidacy to the PSFC's Board of Directors. I have been pleased to serve the membership for the last three years, and I hope to continue to bring my extensive knowledge of the Coop, my expertise in close collaborations with individuals, families and groups, and my skills as a trained listen-

er and observer to good effect in this position. In addition to my current term on the Board, I have had many jobs at the Coop, including cashier, office worker, childcare worker, attendance recorder, and as a member of the Hearing Officers Committee.

My family have been Coop members since 2003, and our relationship to the Coop and its mission remains an important aspect of our lives in Brooklyn. In my life outside of the Coop, I have worked for more than twenty years at nonprofit and educational institutions in New York City and Connecticut. In more recent years, I earned post-graduate degrees in psychology, and have a great deal of experience working one on one and in groups to solve problems, to mediate conflicts, and to counsel others as they make important life and professional decisions. I take a calm, thoughtful, common-sense approach to most things, and I make an

effort to collaborate with others whenever possible.

I continue to believe that I am well-suited to serve on the Board of Directors as I endeavor to 1) Be a reasonable person who listens well, 2) Be able to acknowledge the will of the membership without first prefacing my own opinions and perspectives, and 3) Be clear about the role of a Director at the Coop as voting to approve what the membership has decided, as opposed to what my own wishes might be. Moreover, I also understand that Board members must be able to discern when the advice of the membership on a particular issue might endanger the fiscal health or legal situation of the cooperative.

Thank you for taking the time to read my and other candidate statement(s), and I look forward to your ongoing support and your continued interest in the mission and business of the Coop. ■

Eunju Lee



I have been a member of the Park Slope Food Coop for 20 years and a member of the Coop's Board of Directors for the past three. Initially joining as an FTOP worker, I worked shifts in a variety of settings: shopping, receiving, childcare and the office. In 2000, I joined the staff of the Coop as a Membership Coordinator. I worked in this position for seven years and when I resigned to work full-time as a hospice social worker, I joined the attendance and compost squads.

Three years ago, I came before you, the membership, to request your support for my candidacy as a Board

member. I thank you for that support and having granted me the opportunity to serve on our Coop's Board of Directors. Coming to the end of my term, I come before you again to request your support for a second term.

When I asked for your support three years ago, I articulated my desire to function as a conduit of diverse membership voices, to thoughtfully weigh differences, seeking cooperation and respectful dissent. I viewed my role as aiding in the articulation of circumspect and reasoned positions that ensure the Coop's sustainability in a manner that is consistent with its founding values. My first term as a Board member has provided me with ample opportunity to do just this and I have learned a few valuable things along the way.

First, I have learned the importance of an engaged and vocal membership in ensuring the continued vitality of the Coop. It seems trite, but whenever I am sitting in a general meeting, I am reminded of the old Dr. Seuss saying, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." And the Coop is filled with people who care an awful lot about creating a

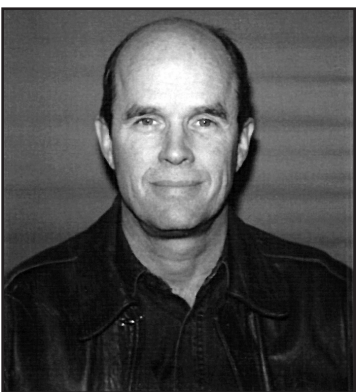
community that values social responsibility and justice.

Second, I have learned that the practice of democracy can be messy. The GMs are forums that accept, absorb, and contain diverse voices and opinions. Sometimes this means that we must muddle through a bedlam of rancor and conflict in parsing out the merits and faults of a particular position. Through this sometimes painful process, we affirm our common commitment to a decision-making process that trusts in the wisdom of a crowd.

Finally, I have learned that the Coop is indeed a unique place worth sustaining and nurturing. The Coop membership has ceaselessly embraced the challenges of change necessary to keep evolving and improving. In my 20-year membership history, I have witnessed many of these changes. In my three years as a Board member, I have been privileged to claim agency among them. I am grateful for this opportunity and request your support as I seek to continue to serve on the Board of Directors. I am also grateful to the General Coordinators who have endorsed my candidacy and hope I will have yours.

Thank you for your consideration. ■

Christopher McQuale



Shortly after my arrival here I spoke with a woman who told me that she had moved to Park Slope just to join the Coop, having fled from somewhere below the Mason-Dixon Line, which, I understand is the southern boundary for Coop membership, the Poconos

to the west, Montauk to the east, and to the north the rapidly receding glacier we can be thankful for leaving behind most of Brooklyn, Queens, and Long Island. And I was grateful to her because that has become the reason I now tell my friends why I moved here, even though I didn't know it at the time. But the day I walked in amongst you all to sign up for orientation, I felt like I had died and gone to heaven, or perhaps Valhalla would be more appropriate for the pagans and veteran heroes of times long forgotten.

So, what I bring to the Coop, whether I am elected to the Board or not, is fresh enthusiasm; and unfortunately not the longevity that most candidates have boasted in previous archival copies of this curious publication. Mine is a different but no less significant story of dedication, sacrifice, and renewal.

My interest in being considered for the Board of Directors is service oriented. Though new to PSFC,

I am not new to food coops, having been a member of the Huntington Food Coop in 1971, where I also helped establish an organic community garden, and the Queens Food Coop in 1973.

Truly, I have enjoyed and found board work for non-profits to be very rewarding. But that has been less from personal ambition and more because others I have worked with found the talents and skills I possess, coupled with the willingness to build consensus within a diverse community of independently minded individuals, and a sense of humor, all applicable to their common cause. It is up to you to decide whether the qualities presented below will be applicable and appreciated by the membership; one for all, and all for one.

I was the chairperson for the Board of Directors for the Charlottesville Waldorf School (CWS) for five years, while my sons were in attendance. It was at CWS that I learned the importance and challenges of consensus governance, a truly life-changing awareness. A chairperson under such circumstances is more of a facilitator than a decision maker: railroading simply slows things down. I also realized the importance of electing board members wisely, for their combined vision (non-pedagogical) and objectivity. Our responsibilities were for financial and legal matters, and during my tenure the school experienced their longest period of balanced budgets.

Since consulting firms and government tend to be hierarchical, management-wise, the benefits to the Coop from my 29 years as a professional environmental engineer (specializing in water resources), would tend to be more from budgetary planning, scheduling, and general technical expertise. In particular, this experi-

ence has included program and project management responsibilities that involve preparing technical scopes of work, cost estimates, schedules, and budgets for multimillion-dollar contracts providing a wide range of professional services to Federal and state governments and industries; negotiating contracts; developing work plans for multi-year projects and obtaining approvals from numerous regulatory agencies; coordinating with community organizations and other stakeholders; overseeing work, subcontractors, preparing status reports; and ensuring all work is completed on time. This type of work often resulted in my serving as an expert witness for the USDOJ, USDOT, and the DC Office of the Attorney General on technical/legal matters, and required a combination of technical and creative writing skills with public speaking thrown in for good measure.

On a more personal level, I have been an organic gardener and beekeeper since 1973. My mother and I ran a modest registered dairy goat operation and were founding members of the Long Island Dairy Goat Association, surreptitiously selling raw goat's milk to lactose-intolerant individuals, their children, and kindred health nuts. Before returning to college in the 80s to obtain a degree in environmental engineering and resource management from the University of Pennsylvania, I was a facility manager, composter, planter, salad chef, and janitor at a holistic nutritional facility, Hippocrates Health Institute, in Boston; an organic citrus farmer in south Florida; and helped raise my sons on a ten-acre homestead with dairy goats, chickens, an orchard, peafowl, in rural Virginia.

It would be an honor to serve our illustrious community. ■

CANDIDATES CONTINUE ON PAGE 16

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

Two three-year terms on the Board are open. To vote you may use a proxy or attend the Food Coop Annual Meeting on June 30, 2015.

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

You will have the opportunity to meet the candidates at the June 30 Annual Meeting. Candidate statements follow:

Susan Metz



An active Coop member since 1980, being involved in community is part of my identity. Raised in the Bronx, the only child of Jewish leftists, I worked with Bayard Rustin in the Youth Marches for Integrated Schools during the late 50s

and have continued participating in local initiatives for Peace, Racial Justice, Environmental Sustainability and in support of candidates for public office who present proposals for a more humane society. Without building a base, contesting state power can't bring the prosperity and liberty that we need and want. The Coop provides part of that base, outside of corporate hierarchical control. We are a community that is self-organized and independent, created to meet the needs of the members, where decisions can be made democratically. Defending that base and helping to build on it is why I am running for the Board.

I was a public high school English teacher for 27 years, prepared with an MA in Social Foundations of Education and (most of) an MFA in writing Poetry. Eight years before I retired in 1996 I founded the Human Services Academy at Prospect Heights High School. I was elected as UFT

(United Federation of Teachers) Chapter leader for eight years there. My main interest has always been in how we make decisions in groups and how we can engage each of our talents in that process.

My letters can be found in the archives of the *Linewaiters' Gazette*. I am always calling for greater participation. I practice collective creation in Playback Theatre—an improvisational performance form based on enacting personal stories of members of the audience. Playback helped keep my imagination and my sense of humor fresh while institutionalized in the public school system, and also to keep me balanced during the struggles with powerful adversaries, as well as with allies convinced that answers are in ideology, rather than in the value of caring for each other and thinking about how we can improve our common condition.

I have been doing research on the community cultural centers in Cuba for 15 years while learning Spanish. As that project drew to a close, I took urban agriculture classes at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Growing my own salad is a joy. My worms are another pet.

My accomplishments at the Coop include, as part of a team of comrades, the creation of the Trade Education Squad which can make obvious the links between international trade and the causes we defend—food safety, sovereignty and security, animal rights and environmental sustainability, particularly the urgent need to slow and stop further climate change. (Please contact congress today and ask them to vote NO on Fast

Track). I initiated the campaign to remove bottled water. I helped write the Mission Statement. And it was the Tuesday, B4 shopping squad while I was squad leader (for 18 years) that first offered work-slot credit for one of us to go to a GM. We used to send a squad member with the expectation that s/he would report back to our monthly squad meeting so we could follow what was going on in other parts of the organization.

After retiring from teaching, I did food processing on FTOP. When I began travelling, I served as loaned labor at the East New York Food Coop.

I understand that discussion will include disagreement. Controversy can be the basis of greater understanding and personal growth. I am still refining my skills at presenting my positions with passion and with an agnostic's sense that what will be will be. I believe in the collective action of workers in union. I believe that we can use our power as consumers in organized boycotts when we decide together to use that economic strength to influence policy. Above all, a transparent process and an open, honest and respectful debate are essential.

I will come to GMs, listen attentively and hold the continuity from one meeting to another. I am accessible, and look forward to conversation as we continue to share our work, build our culture and enrich our lives. I want to join the Board because my experience and my interest and my commitment to our Coop as part of the foundation for a just and productive society makes this the most meaningful thing I can do with this part of my life. ■

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Large, sunny room with queen bed, private bath, in spacious Prospect Heights townhouse full of Victorian charm with modern amenities. Smoke-free, no pets. Close to Q-B and 2-3 stations. Short walk to BAM, GAP, PP, BPL, BBG and BM. Call Margaret 718-622-2897.

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

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MADISON AVENUE HAIRCUTTER is right around the corner from the food coop, so if you would like

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LISSETT FERREIRA, ESQ. Guardianships, wills, elder & family law. lissett.c.ferreira@gmail.com. Tel.: 212-926-9771 / Fax: 917-551-6503. 299 Broadway, Suite 1310, New York, NY, 10007. Fala-se Portugues.

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Please protect your feet and toes while working your shift at the Coop by not wearing sandals or other open-toed footwear.

Thanks for your cooperation,
The Park Slope Food Coop

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