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GAZETTE

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Volume JJ, Number 15

July 23, 2015

New Research Raises Further Questions About Safety of GMO Soy

By Alison Rose Levy

This year has not been a good one for the promoters of GMO foods and agriculture.

First, came a World Health Organization (WHO) study last spring. It found that glyphosate, a key ingredient in the a pesticide used with GMO soy, corn, canola, alfalfa, cotton and sorghum crops, is a "likely carcinogen." <http://web.mit.edu/demoscience/Monsanto/about.html>

A comprehensive review by MIT-trained Dr. V. A. Shiva Ayyadurai, published July 2015 in the peer-reviewed journal *Agricultural Sciences*, announced a breakthrough finding about genetically modified soybeans, one of the two key GMO crops.

Dr. Ayyadurai used CytoSolve, a new systems biology assessment method, that was able to integrate 6,497 in vitro and in vivo laboratory experiments, from 184 scientific institutions, across 23 countries. The study found that, in a comparison with non-GMO soy, the genetically modified variety

has a disrupted plant metabolism, which causes the beans to bio-accumulate formaldehyde, classified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a known carcinogen.

The two most widely used GMO foodstuffs are soy and corn. Yet apart from snacking on edamame, people rarely sit down and eat a bowl of soy beans. Nevertheless, as an ingredient in products like soy sauce, tofu, tempeh—and a host of food mimics, like soy milk, protein powders, cheese, ice cream, pasta, burgers, protein bars and other processed foods—soy food is a staple of the American, and indeed the global diet.

Until the last decade or so, doctors and nutritionists nearly universally praised and recommended soy as a healthier alternative to consuming meat. They cited lower rates of heart disease and cancer among Asian populations. Of course, American food manufacturing ingenuity has developed a more extensive soy derived product menu than exists in

the Asian diet. Even the FDA recommended that a "diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol that include 25 g of soy protein a day may reduce the risk of heart disease." <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2213453013000438>

Soy oil, the second most consumed oil in the world, is in everything from mayonnaise to chips. http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/agriculture/soy/facts/ If you start reading package ingredient lists you will find that it is nearly impossible to avoid. Soy oil even crops up in some skin creams, <http://www.webmd.com/beauty/skin/beyond-first-blush-an-upclose-look-at-natural-skin-care-products> shampoos, <http://www.fresh.com/US/haircare/soy-shampoo/H00000505.html>, and beauty products.

The average American is unlikely to consume more than a single serving a day of even very common fruits and vegetables, such as, apples or broccoli. But because of its neutral

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Matthew Marvel

We are deeply saddened to announce the unexpected passing of our co-worker and friend, Matthew Marvel, Receiving Coordinator/Beer Buyer. We received news of his death on Monday, July 13. Since joining the staff on January 20, 2010, Matthew was an invaluable member of the Receiving team. This is truly a great loss to the Coop and to our community as a whole. Matthew will be deeply missed.



A memorial for Matthew will be held Sunday, July 26, 1 to 4 p.m., at Sunny's Bar, 253 Conover St., Red Hook, Brooklyn.

Send condolences to:
Ivy Marvel
192 Brooklyn Ave.
Brooklyn NY 11213

See the memorial Web site:
www.forevermissed.com/matthew-james-marvel/#about

RECYCLE GALORE!



WHAT'S BEING COLLECTED:

Toothpaste tubes, any brand and size (toothbrushes OK too)

Baby food pouches and caps (any brand)

Energy bar wrappers (any brand but only energy bars—no other wrappers please)

Brita filters (other filter brands okay) plus other Brita filter-related items

Plastic food storage zip lock bags (any size), plastic cling wrap, and small bulk bags (NO PLASTIC ROLL BAGS OR SHOPPING BAGS)

Cereal bag and cracker bag liners or bulk cereal bags (any brand)



WHEN: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 4pm - 6pm
4th Saturday of the month, 2pm - 4pm

WHERE: Outside in front of the Coop
or inside during inclement weather

PSFC / TerraCycle Recycling Collections

The vote is in and members at the May GM unanimously voted to create work shifts to collect a variety of hard-to-recycle packaging in partnership with TerraCycle.

Save up your eligible waste for upcoming collection dates.

QUESTIONS: ecokvetch@yahoo.com

LEARN MORE: www.terracycle.com

Note: Presort and separate items by category. No need to clean or remove labels. Do not bring items other than those listed here.

Next General Meeting on July 28

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

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

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GMO Soy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

taste and versatility, and the government seal of approval, soy has become pervasive in our food. Following the FDA recommendations, the average soy enthusiast could easily eat a soy product at every meal and snack, from the morning smoothie to the lunch time soy burger, to the soy pasta at dinner, with soy protein bars in between.

According to Dr. Ray Seidler, a former EPA Senior Scientist, "soy is widely grown and consumed in the U.S., including by infants fed baby food products, with 94% of soy grown here being genetically engineered." While organic soy oil does exist, unless a product is 100% organic, it may still contain GMO soy. Many products carried by the Coop do.

The "U.S. retail soy foods industry totaled \$4.5 billion in 2013, up from \$1 billion just 17 years ago," according to sales data collected by the Soyfoods Association of North America. <http://www.soyfoods.org/soy-products/sales-and-trends> Soy is also a major ingredient http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/agriculture/soy/facts/ in animal feed given to cattle, chicken and pigs, and therefore a secondary source for humans via meat and dairy consumption.

American soy consumption has increased steadily, and

most of the soy consumed is genetically modified. Because of this, the healthfulness of soy and soy products merits further scrutiny. But independent research into soy and corn, the other ubiquitous GMO food ingredient, is hard to come by—because Monsanto and the biotech companies that have patented GMO foods do not readily allow scientists access to them for research purposes, says David Murphy, Executive Director of the food advocacy group, Food Democracy Now! As a result, much of the research is conducted by biotech industry scientists themselves. These industry studies don't address whether consumption of GMO soy is safe at the levels it is currently consumed.

Why the lack of independent scientific scrutiny? Because in 1992, over-ruling the stated concerns of FDA scientists, the Food and Drug Administration, under the direction of former Monsanto General Counsel, Michael Taylor, unilaterally declared genetically modified foods "substantively equivalent" to non-GMO varieties and hence in no need of further vetting and research.

Nevertheless, from the FDA scientists who first raised concerns to the succeeding decades of research by independent scientists, who have conducted animal and plant studies, all the way up to the present, it is clear that the regulatory doctrine of "substantial

equivalence," which pre-emptively limits normal scientific inquiry into GMOs, does not satisfy scientists.

And some have persisted in pursuing the scientific inquiry into the health risks of GMO foods.

The Ayyadurai study reveals how a small, single recombinant DNA event may create large, unpredictable, systemic perturbations to molecular systems," notes the International Center for Integrative Systems. <http://www.integrativesystems.org/systems-biology-of-gmos/> The study found a "substantial difference in concentrations of formaldehyde and glutathione in the genetically engineered soybean (GMO) tissues. These significant changes in key biomarker concentrations could cause deleterious biological impacts."

The two-fold changes in GMO soybeans were absent from the non-GMO controls: Formaldehyde was present at significantly higher levels. Glutathione was found to be dramatically depleted.

"Formaldehyde is a known class 1 carcinogen. Its elevated presence in soybeans caused by a common genetic engineering event is alarming and deserves

immediate attention and action from the FDA and the Obama administration," says former EPA scientist Siedler.

Glutathione is crucial to "many metabolic processes, its role cannot be overestimated," stated in a review article in the *Journal of Amino Acids*. <http://www.hindawi.com/journals/jaa/2012/736837/>

Why are the increase in formaldehyde and the decrease in glutathione so meaningful?

There are many industrially-generated substances to which people are exposed over a lifetime. These life-long chronic low-grade exposures may tax the body's innate capacity to function, heal, recover, and maintain health.

The primary reason that doctors recommend eating healthy foods is so that we can acquire their nutrients and chemicals and use them to support the body's ability to function. If we shift our diet from foods replete with necessary nutrients, to ones that are devoid, it is like downgrading a car to a lower grade, less efficient fuel. Over time, the car will run less well and suffer more breakdowns, along with damaged parts, rusting and functional failures. Glutathione is the body's

high grade fuel, possessing many properties that people need to stay healthy. It helps us to detoxify, slow aging, repair DNA, manage inflammation, and counter free radicals. It has been characterized by Dr. Mark Hyman, director of the Cleveland Clinic's Center for Functional Medicine, as the "master anti-oxidant."

In contrast, a toxin is considered "toxic" because it decreases (or outright undermines) our bodies' healthy functions. Formaldehyde is characterized as a class 1 carcinogen (a lot more toxic than your average toxin)—because it *more actively degrades healthy function*, increasing the risk for developing cancer with increased exposure to it.

For example, what are the health risks of transforming one of the most common foods in the modern diet into a delivery system for the very same carcinogen that, inhaled in cigarette smoke, lead to increased rates of cancer? <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0278691506001293> Glyphosate, the prime ingredient in the pesticide deployed to grow most soy, is itself, also, "likely" carcinogenic.

Meanwhile GMO simultaneously downgrades the very nutrient people require to safely rid their bodies of toxic substances.

Dr. Ayyadurai's findings are both significant in their own right, while also revealing the need for in-depth scientific inquiry to assure safety. He says that, "This is not a pro- or anti-GMO question. But, are we following the scientific method to ensure the safety of our food supply? Right now, the answer is 'no.' We need to, and we can, if we engage in open, transparent, and collaborative scientific discourse, based on a systems biology approach." ■



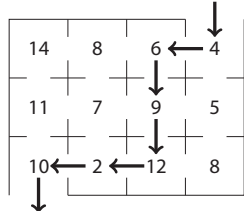
ILLUSTRATION BY LYNN BERNSTEIN

Primemaze

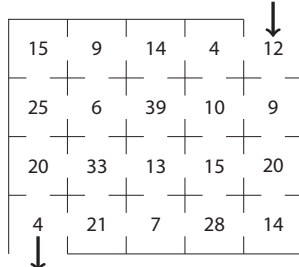
In the mazes below, two adjacent rooms are connected if their numbers are both divisible by a number other than 1. Can you find a path through each maze?

In the example, you can move from 4 to 6 since both numbers are divisible by 2. Similarly, you can move from 6 to 9 since both are divisible by 3. You could have moved from 6 to 8 since they are both divisible by 2, but this path leads to a dead end. There is only one path through each maze.

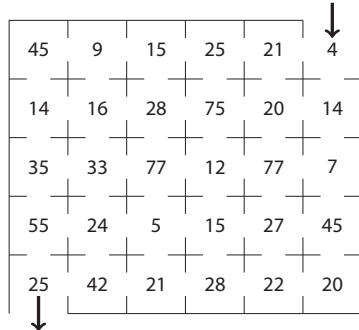
EXAMPLE



MAZE 1



MAZE 2



Puzzle author: Lars Roe. For answers, see page 10.

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**

June 30 Annual and General Meeting Covers Audit, Board Elections, By-Laws

By Frank Haberle

On the evening of June 30, the Park Slope Food Coop hosted its Annual Meeting. On the agenda were the presentation of the audited financial statements by Robert Reitman of Cornick, Garber and Sandler, LLP, the Coop's outside auditor, presentations by candidates for the two open seats on the Board of Directors and an amendment to the by-laws. For the General Meeting agenda, the membership voted on whether to renew the services of the auditor and elected Officers for the Board of Directors.

Hosted every June, the Annual meeting and June General Meeting occur on the same night, as required by the by-laws of the Coop. According to the "Guide to the General and Annual Meetings," a document handed out at the beginning of the meeting, these combined meetings "follow a different format than the other General Meetings of the year, and their purpose is to elect Board members, review the Coop's audited financial statements, elect Coop officers and secure the services of an auditor for the following year."

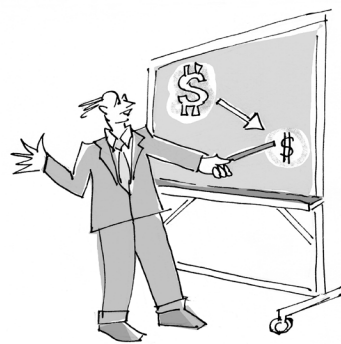
Carl Arnold of the Chair Committee began the meeting by summarizing the Annual/General Meeting structure and emphasized the importance of members attending and voting at General Meetings. "The General Meetings are the decision-making function of the Coop," Carl said. "The more members that vote at our meetings, the more we have complete representation of our members in our decisions."

Reviewing the February 2015 Audit

The presentation of the audit for the fiscal year ending February 1, 2015 opened with General Coordinator Joe Holtz introducing auditor Robert Reitman. "We have a special opportunity here," Joe said. "Usually, at General Meetings throughout the course of the year, if you have questions about our finances, you get to ask one of the Coordinators. Tonight, you get to ask an auditor."

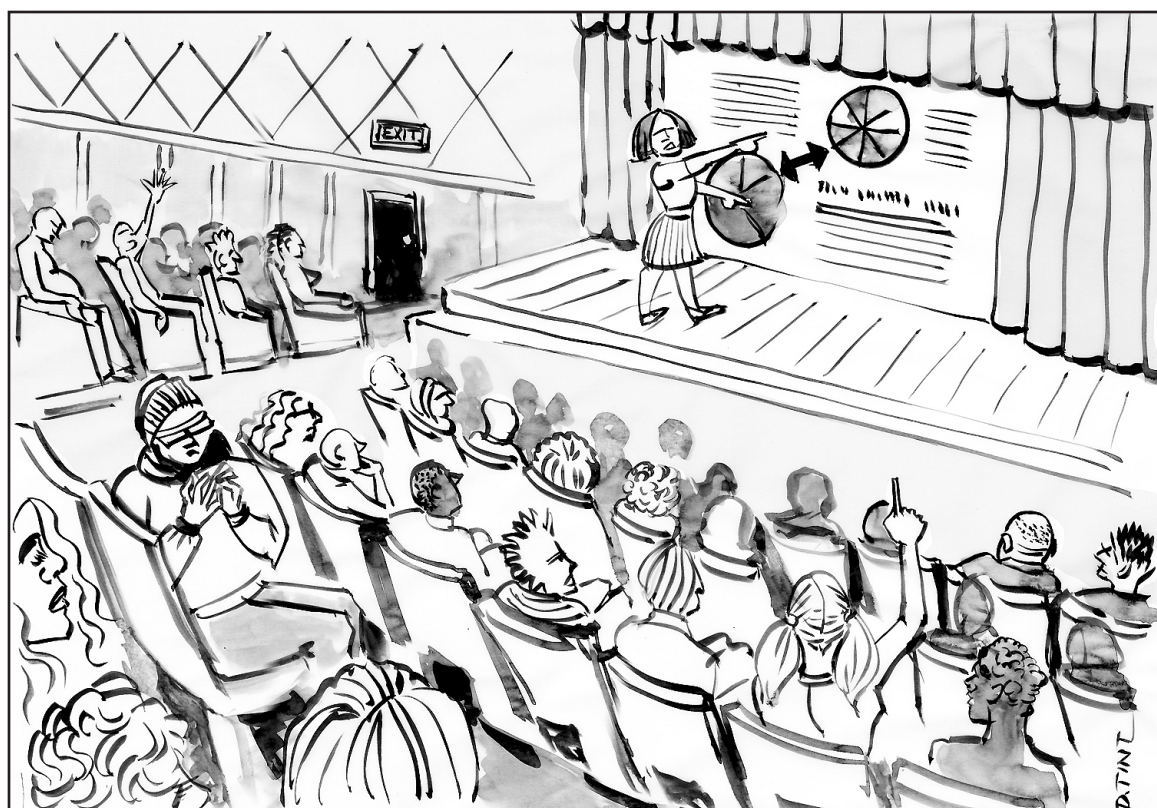
Reitman, who is not a Coop member, promised to make his presentation as "painless as possible." His report culminated with the final finding that the Coop ran at a deficit in its fiscal year 2015. Robert credited this change, for the most part, to the increase in salaries, health care expenses and other personnel-related costs over the course of the last two and a half years, a time frame during which nine staff members left the Coop and 13 were hired. "All other expenses went down or stayed even," Robert pointed out.

Questions started with Jesse Rosenfeld, Coop Secretary, asking: "Are we in the red? In the black? Where are we financially?" Reitman responded that we are currently in the red, but in part because of the pension plan. Another member asked, "Why did we have to hire 13 new employees?" "When Allen Zimmerman retired," Joe responded, "we had to hire two new people to replace him. And we needed



to hire a new person in IT. And we needed to increase our receiving staff." Looking forward, Joe said that "we're taking measures to make sure that our staff numbers don't continue to go up."

Further question and answers ensued, including a question about how the Coop decides what it can and can't afford. General Coordinator Ann Herpel spoke to the health care costs, responding that "we changed plans this year when the costs were growing, and employees now share part of the cost of the new plan. We hope this helps to slow the increase in health insurance expenses." Joe added that the decision to add staff was made by



ILLUSTRATIONS BY DEBORAH TINT

the General Coordinators. He added a number of other factors: sales only went up 1% from the prior year (the slow growth was attributed in part to the opening of Whole Foods) and repairs were made to the outside walls and installation of new produce cases. We also finished the new front end renovation. "We welcome every question about stability," Joe said. "But overall I think the Coop is in good shape, and we're taking measures to improve it." Following other questions and answers on the pension, the financial liabilities that accompany accumulated sick leave, and the cost of rubbish removal, the members voted to accept the audit.

Voting for Board of Directors

Candidates for the Board of Directors were invited to make brief presentations on their candidacy. Monique Bowen, a current Board Member up for re-election, said that, "I want to be a good listener at these meetings and accept the views of the members at all times." Eunju Lee, a Coop member for 22 years and a Board Member for the last three, referred to Carl's opening remarks about the need to "trust the process" and what a pleasure it is, as a member and a Board Member, to see that in action. "It is our responsibility to steward the membership. When we see the process break down, like we have in the past few meetings, it's very troubling to see the pieces fracture. We have a responsibility and a duty to each other. This is not just a place for

cheap food—I hope we can get better, and my commitment is to facilitate that."

Susan Metz, a Coop member since 1980, said that "we are doing okay, and I think we can be proud of the Coop; the store prices and products are in great shape and that's why we join the Coop. But now we're dealing with governance. The General Meeting is necessary but it is not sufficient." Christopher McQuale stated that as a member of the Coop for six months, he was "the new guy." "I want to move things forward," he said. "I don't have a mission or an agenda. My background is managing money and projects. I've been a member of coops for 30 years and when I found the Park Slope Food Coop, I felt as if I'd died and gone to heaven."

An open question period brought a range of inquiries from the membership. Several members voiced concern about Susan's past political affiliations, to which she responded, "The Coop is a consumer cooperative. We have a collective responsibility to uphold the mission of the Coop." Other members asked how candidates would respond to people disrupting meetings, as happened recently. Monique answered that "we need to stand up for the meeting and the members who were disrupted." Christopher said that "this meeting is a great forum for members to get up and express our views. My commitment as a Board Member would be to not let the meeting get disrupted." Eunju added that the disruption came from something "much deeper and more painful" than the products that were

the center of the disruption. "I don't want this community to become a microcosm for that pain," she said. "We have much more in common as a community, than we have differences." Following the questions, a ballot vote was held, in which Monique Bowen and Eunju Lee were re-elected to the Board of Directors.

Other Agenda items: By-laws Amendment, Renewing the Services of the Auditor, Officers

A third item for the Annual Meeting concerned a slight adjustment of the language of the by-laws, which was approved by a very wide margin. General Meeting items were then brought to the membership. After a short debate about the process of selecting an auditor, a vote was held as to whether we should retain the auditor for another year (accepted by a wide margin). Officers of the Board were nominated with Bill Penner returning as President, Imani Q'ryn selected as Vice President, Tricia Leith returning as Treasurer and non-Board member Jesse Rosenfeld nominating himself as Secretary; all were accepted. ■



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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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.

Annie Ackerman	Eric Bigman	Joe Cross	James Esposito	Sharon Givens	Fraida Klug	Camille McMorrow	Seth Peichert	Ashwini Shridhar	Peter Strong
Tara Adiseshan	Stacy Blackman	Jason Crystal	Susana Esposito	Iryna Gnatyshak	Abbey Kornhauser	Elise Mogensen	Zachary Pek	Tarik Silk	Sergey Tsoy
Miriam Aikon	Kala Boisvert	Andrew Dayton	Joseph Evers	Samuel Greenlee	Kornhauser	Maria Monferrer	Rayanne "Roin" Phillips	Noel Siminerio	Jeff Turrentine
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Lascelles Atkins	Julia Bosson	Claire Dechant	Meghan Fergusson	Yoursr Guitaouni	Henry Laurence	Ben Morgenroth	Andrew Ringel	Emma Grace Skove-Epes	James Ullenes
Yrvine Augustin	Lauren Branchini	Andres Despres	Alexandria Fiorini	Jenna Hammerslag	Aviva Lenoff	Michelle Mruk	Carolyn Roiter	Kianah Smith	Emily Wack
Matthew Baer	Andrew Brin	Sara Despres	Rebecca Fleischman	Brian Heck	Matthew Lewis	Isabel Newlin	Megan Rosen	Victoria Spicer	Miriam Weiner
Mamadou Bah	Kristen Burke	Jenny Dewar	Keith Fleury	Song Hee	Daryl Llamas	Elizabeth Newton	Cathy Rought	Rachel Eve Stein	Candace West
Alexandra Bailey	Alejandro Canada	Keith Dewar	Sophie Foss	Jocelyn Henin	David Raphael Lockard	Lennie Jr Nurse	Rejina Sabur-Cross	Victoria Steeves	Tomoe White
Daniel Bailey	Carter Casady	Raina Dimmitt	Jeanie Fried	Simon Henin	Goretti Lopez-Heredia	Michele Nurse	Kevin Schlickeisen	Arielle Sternberg	Jenn Williams
Elizabeth Behrend	Leo Cavaille	Anna Du	Ashley Garcia	Bryan Kershnar	Kevin Madera	Denise Pagan	Josh Sternberg	Chika Yoshii	Shain Williams
Gregg Bellows	Tess Colwell	Dubovick	Anne-Charlotte Geoffroy	Sari Kisilevsky	Michael Masello	Erika Pahk	Jasmine Stine	Rachel Yucht	Chika Yoshii
Cory Benjamin	Lee Crawford	Barbara Ely		Ariel Kitch		Sara Peichert	Tammy Shell	Lynn Strong	Nina Zilka

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, JULY 28
GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, AUGUST 4
AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m.
Submissions will be considered for the August 25 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:
August 6 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, July 27
August 20 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, August 10

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:
August 6 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, July 29
August 20 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, August 12

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, July 28, 7:00 p.m.

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

Location

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

How to Place an Item on the Agenda

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

Meeting Format

Warm Up (7:00 p.m.) • Meet the Coordinators
• 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 published on foodcoop.com 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.

calendar of events

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



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. Open Forum

III. Coordinator and Committee Reports

IV. Meeting Agenda

Item 1: Changes to Diversity & Equality Committee (30 minutes)

Discussion: To formally recognize and vote in Diversity and Equality Committee members and give DEC the right to suspend shopping privileges to non-responsive members in an investigation.

—submitted by the Diversity and Equality Committee

Item 2: Authorization to Join National Cooperative Grocers (30 minutes)

Proposal: Resolved that the Park Slope Food Coop Inc. shall join National Cooperative Grocers (NCG) subject to the acceptance of our application by NCG and subject to final details being worked out to the satisfaction of the General Coordinators. The Officers of the Coop and the General Coordinators are authorized to sign any necessary documents on behalf of the Coop.

—submitted by the General Coordinators

Item 3: A Smarter, More Cooperative Boycott Policy (30 minutes)

Discussion: Officially establish PSFC's boycott policy. The guidelines are too vague suggesting a 51%-49% majority to pass a boycott. The official majority should be at least 75%.

—submitted by Jesse Rosenfeld

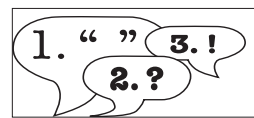
V. Board of Directors Meeting

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

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

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.

aug 7
fri 7 pm

Film Night: A Series of Short Films



The Marion Lake Story is a compelling tale of an ecological crisis: the complete degradation—and eventual restoration—of an 18-acre lake on the east end of Long Island, NY, that provides crucial habitat for migrating birds, rare turtles and other flora and fauna, but is being choked to death by the invasive reed, the australis phragmite. Directed by Great Schiller. *Chronicle of a Death Postponed* explores the observations and routines of a physically challenged man during a long and difficult illness as he fights to reclaim his life. Directed by Richard Millen. *Touch of Grey* is a coming-of-age story about a young couple living together in New York City. Set in the mid '80s, this film explores the hardships of human emotions. Experience Frank Montero as Eddie, a hard-working janitor who grew up on the mean streets of New York City. Watch Eddie as he tangles at the strings of his heart over his girlfriend Cynthia portrayed by Emma Marks. Cynthia, a privileged farm girl from Wisconsin is a struggling dancer trying to climb up the ladder of New York City's performing-arts scene. Directed by Jesse Barrera.

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

aug 25
tue 7 pm

PSFC AUG General Meeting

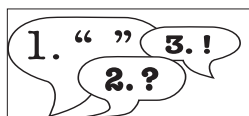


Meeting Agenda to be announced. For information on how to place an item on the Agenda, please see the center pages of the *Linewaiters' Gazette*. The Agenda Committee minutes and the status of pending agenda items are available in the Coop office.

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.**

sep 1
tue 8 pm

Agenda Committee Meeting



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sep 3
thu 7:30 pm

Food Class



Class subject, chef and menu to be announced. Materials fee: \$4.

sep 4
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.

jul 28–oct 2 2015

sep 8
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.

sep 11
fri 7 pm

Wordsprouts



Authors to be announced.

Bookings: John Donohue, wordsproutspfc@gmail.com.

sep 12
sat 12 pm

Test Prep Sanity

How to help your child excel on standardized tests without driving each other crazy. Test-prep tutor and best-selling author **Elie Venezky** walks you through every step of the testing process, including which tests to take, how to talk about the test with your child, and how to handle complaining. Learn how to create a calm, sane environment at home and avoid the biggest mistakes that dissuade children from studying. Coop member Elie Venezky has been preparing students for standardized tests for more than 15 years. He is the Educational Director of Prestige Prep and the author of three books on education: *Test Prep Sanity*, *Test Prep Sanity for Students*, and *Hack Your Brain*.

sep 12
sat 3 pm

Building Co-operative Power

Stories and strategies from worker co-operatives in the Connecticut River Valley. *Building Co-operative Power* is a guide and inspiration for co-operative development in any region. It introduces the history and concept of worker co-operation and relays past and present stories. It addresses obstacles and opportunities for building a regional co-operative economy of worker co-ops, food co-ops and credit unions. **Michael Johnson** co-founded the Ganas Intentional Community in Staten Island, NY, in 1980 and the SolidarityNYC organization in 2011. He is an editorial member of the *Grassroots Economic Organizing* (GEO) journal, where he also blogs.

sep 13
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.

sep 19
sat 12 pm

Help Your Kids Grow From Challenges

In this short workshop, we'll delve into the psychology of attention and resilience, as well as learning a few simple tools for helping kids—and adults—overcome and grow from challenges. Supported by scientific research, these methods have been shown to improve focus, emotional regulation, and pattern recognition skills. You'll also leave with some practical tips for implementing these simple and effective techniques in daily life. Presented by Coop member **David Wolovsky**. David is a teacher, educational innovator, and certified Positive Psychology Practitioner.

sep 19
sat 3 pm

Be-Friending Your Inner Critic

Nonviolent/compassionate communication for greater self-empathy, understanding, and connection. Are you your own best friend—or your worst enemy? Come learn some simple and powerful tools to transform negative self-talk and demands into greater awareness, self-compassion, action and choice. Transform those nasty inner critics into advocates! **Dian Killian**, PhD, has been a Coop member for 15 years and is a Certified Trainer with the international Center for Nonviolent Communication, director of Work Collaboratively, LLC, and co-author of the popular book, *Connecting across Differences as well as Urban Empathy*, that features a story set in the Coop!

sep 25
fri 6:30 pm

ITES Public Forum: Analyzing the Text of the TPP

Guest experts will concentrate on the sections about campaigns in which the Coop participates: country of origin and GMO labeling; buy local and buy America; and no to fracking. As well as aspects which affect us all: extension of pharmaceutical patents and Internet access and U.S. jobs; and especially the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) which invites investors to sue a government that regulates corporate behavior to protect human rights or labor rights, the environment. Our blog, CoopITES.wordpress.com has articles to prepare for the discussion. Non-members are most welcome. And please join us at a community forum with CD 9 Representative Yvette Clarke and others scheduled for Wednesday evening, August 19, at the Park Slope United Methodist Church. Check the blog to confirm the day and time.

still to come

sep 26 Anger Management 101

sep 26 Money Madness

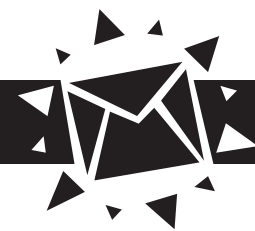
sep 29 College Admissions 101

sep 29 PSFC SEPTEMBER General Meeting

oct 1 Food Class

oct 2 Film Night

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



THE BEST PEACHES. EVER.

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to thank the produce buyers (and growers) for what are the most amazing peaches I've ever eaten. For the last few weeks, I've been buying pounds of peaches, letting them ripen in a paper bag on the counter and at the moment there's the faintest hint of give, slicing open peachy goodness. I consider summer fruit nature's compensation for the hot, muggy days we must endure.

Thank you Food Coop.

Lorin Wertheimer

RESPECT FOR THE GENERAL COORDINATORS

TO THE EDITOR:

The General Coordinators have made clear their desire to see an end to General Meeting discussions and proposals related to BDS. The March 2012 meeting cost \$5,000 for room rental, \$7,000 in staff overtime, and 1,000 work slots. Another meeting is anticipated to cost much more; Brooklyn Technical High School will not rent us space to hold a meeting on BDS. The General Coordinators call conducting a BDS proposal "an undue hardship" on them and the staff, citing the "dauntingly huge efforts" required to obtain space and

security for any future meeting on the topic. The tension created by the BDS efforts interferes with the staff's ability to concentrate on critical Coop operations. The staff is further disrupted by inquiries from the press, as well as complaints from members. PSFC-BDS (PSFC members for BDS, as they call themselves) want the Coop staff to do the work and pay the price of promoting their cause.

I can understand the disappointment of PSFC-BDS that the Coordinators will not sponsor them. However, the language used in their *Gazette* letters against the General Coordinators seems to me to be highly disrespectful and menacing. PSFC-BDS accuse the General Coordinators of attempting to "remove the right to free speech, a right protected by the United States Constitution." On their website, they say the Coordinators are part of "an international strategy" to suppress speech.

The accusation implies that the General Coordinators are being disingenuous when they cite the extreme costs in money, time, energy and labor entailed in entertaining BDS at a General Meeting. Without providing any supporting evidence, PSFC-BDS impugn the General Coordinators are motivated by something other than the best interest of the Coop.

Our Coop is committed to providing a workplace that respects the rights and

dignity of its employees. The language and behavior of PSFC-BDS abuses both. It is unacceptable. If PSFC-BDS has any regard for the Food Coop and the people who have made its success their life's work, they will withdraw their proposal and never introduce it again.

P.S. The above letter below was submitted for the July 9 LWG, and rejected because the editor questioned the source of the statement regarding BTHS. The source is Joe Holtz in a letter distributed at the May GM and republished in LWG. I did not see the editor's email within the six-hour window offered to provide an answer and the letter was not published.

Previously I asked the editors to provide a list of what they consider reliable sources and to produce evidence to support certain assertions published in the letters section. They have done neither. This is not a rhetorical request.

Barbara Mazor

A REAL POSSIBILITY, NOT AN IDLE THREAT

TO THE EDITORS, MEMBERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

New York State's Human Rights law prohibits boycotts based on national origin. If PSFC were to participate in a BDS boycott, the Coop would be exposed to the risk of litigation. This statement is not "an intimidation tactic with extremely flimsy legal basis," as one letter writer in the July 9 *Gazette* said, but rather a very real possibility.

Recently the Board of Directors of GreenStar Natural Foods Market, a coop in Ithaca, NY, rejected a member-initiated petition to hold a referendum on "boycotting goods from Israel." The GreenStar Board had sought independent legal opinions from two separate attorneys, neither of whom had any connections to the issues involved. Both attorneys concluded that GreenStar would likely be found to be in violation of the New York State's Human Rights Law which prohibits companies from participating in boycotts based on national origin. In addition, they advised, disregarding the legal advice provided could jeopardize

GreenStar's insurance coverage in the event of a lawsuit. [<http://www.greenstar.coop/council/1438-a-message-to-the-membership-of-greenstar-co-op-from-its-council-on-the-decision-to-reject-a-referendum-on-boycotting-goods-from-israel>]

Our own Board of Directors "are legally bound to use their business judgment and act in the best interests of the corporation" (PSFC Membership Manual: <http://foodcoop.com/go.php?id=48>) and, similarly, would also be obligated to reject any pro-BDS resolution.

Moreover, on June 18, 2015 the New York State Assembly passed a resolution rejecting BDS, saying that "the movement and its agenda are damaging to the causes of peace, justice, equality, democracy, and human rights for all peoples in the Middle East." [http://search.aol.com/aol/search?q=new%20york%20state%20assembly%20resolution%20concerning%20BDS&s_it=keyword_roll-over&ie=UTF-8&VR=3430]

All Coop members would do well to consider that PSFC BDS activities could not only damage the Coop legally and financially, but also violate our commitment to its Mission Statement: "We strive to make the Coop welcoming and accessible to all, and to respect the opinions, needs and concerns of every member."

Ruth Bolletino

ARE WE RUNNING FAIR ELECTIONS? DOES ANYONE CARE?

TO THE EDITOR,

The June 11 issue of the *Gazette* should be renamed "The Susan Metz Edition." Her picture and candidate's statement grace the top half of the back page, she is quoted in an article about the PSFC's boycott of bottled water, and a letter of hers appears on pages 14-15. In addition, she is the subject of a highly critical letter that immediately follows her own.

It's the latter I wish to address. The letter-writer, Meir Rosenberger, writes: "Susan Metz has made her personal political agenda a platform in her official candidacy statement. She supports consumer boycotts and she obviously means Israel....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...."

Let's look closely at his statement. A) "...her personal political agenda." I myself would find it refreshing if candidates stated their beliefs, rather than using such canned statements as "I love the Coop," or "I've worked hard for the Coop." So what does Susan actually say? "I believe in the collective action of workers in union. I believe we can use our power as consumers in organized boycotts when we decide together to use that economic strength to influence policy." Susan says straight out what she thinks. But does she believe what Meir alleges she believes?

B) "...she obviously means Israel...." Unfortunately for Meir, Susan says (page 4): "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." Susan sponsored the bottled-water boycott, which PSFC adopted in 2008. In that instance, she "obviously" did not mean Israel or BDS, but H₂O. But let's say she now supports BDS. She wouldn't be the only person in PSFC who does. And this brings us to—

C) "I feel that if she became a Board member she would vote against membership, ignoring her electoral mandate...." Meir is entitled to his "feelings," but he offers absolutely no documentation to support them. Here he's skating on the thin edge of the *Gazette's* policy, which states, "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." Where are Meir's "first-hand observations"? Where is his "substantiation"?

Moreover, the *Gazette* did not adhere to its own stated policy: "3. Submissions that make substantive accusations against specific individuals... will be given to those persons to enable them to write a response, and both submissions and response will be published simultaneously." I asked Susan about this. She said that, despite the imminence of the Board election,

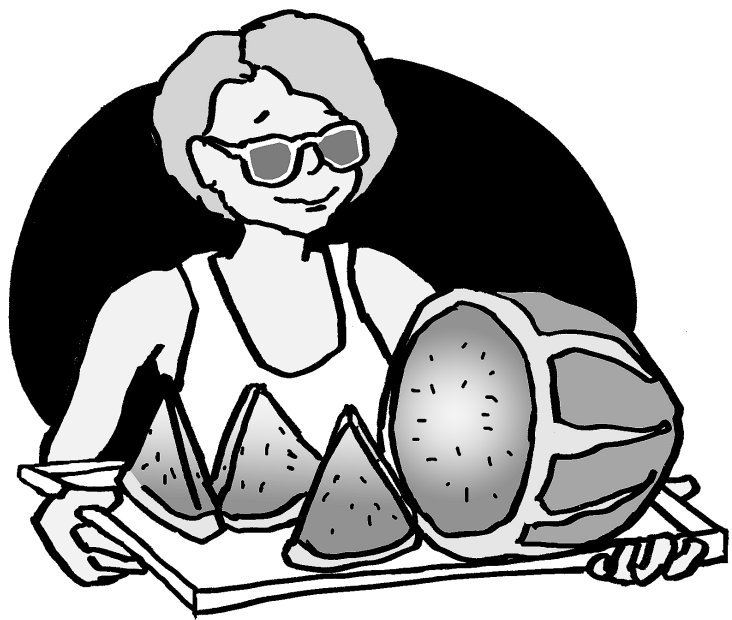


ILLUSTRATION BY LYNN BERNSTEIN

ANNOUNCEMENT

The printing of Letters and Articles relating to BDS and anti-BDS subjects will be suspended to allow the *Gazette* staff to devise and propose a fair and comprehensive editorial policy regarding the management of controversial issues. The suspension will be lifted if a topic appearing on the GM Agenda warrants it to allow discussion before and after the GM presentation. This suspension is regarded as temporary until such time as a new editorial policy is in place. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

she was offered no opportunity to write a response to be "published simultaneously" with Meir's letter.

If one of four candidates is attacked right before an election with no chance for reply, should this invalidate the election?

Gene Glickman

LET'S BE PRO-COOP: NO BOYCOTTING NECESSARY TO EMPOWER OTHERS

TO THE EDITOR:

To great dismay, the US Congress just passed Fast Track legislation. This is the final step towards the Trans Pacific Partnership, a trade bill that looks like NAFTA on steroids. Perhaps the Coop could have weighed in more heavily on that national debate, used its considerable purchasing power to urge our nation's senators in the correct direction, to make us a great public voice for an issue that directly affects the Coop and the world. But unfortunately the creator of our International Trade Education Squad focused on winning a spot on the Board of Directors with a drive to boycott Israel as one of her platforms. One of PSFC's more efficient organizers lost a great opportunity to galvanize the Coop around environmental justice issues that affect all of us, to rally people to action, to stand as pro-Coop which means empowering people without demonizing others.

I hope that this awakens those who are watching or participating in the endless shouting match surrounding a push to boycott Israel. Look at what happens when people distract the Coop from the issues that really drive the conflict in this world such as unfair trade deals concocted by powerful men who stay out

of the public eye. Let's wake up and admit that Israel-Palestine is far from the Coop's central problem. Indeed, Israel-Palestine is far from the Middle East's central problem. With 4 million Syrian refugees created in a matter of a couple of years, that's pretty obvious (<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-33457886>).

Those who want to boycott Israel, not the Israel-Palestine conflict itself, are causing PSFC great harm because they insist there is only one legitimate conversation: their own. It's draining memberships' and the PSFC staff's energy away from more constructive pursuits. I'd like to think positively that if we'd had real leadership on the Trade Squad, our efforts could have gotten attention worldwide, and stopping Fast Track could have been within the nation's reach. An opportunity to corral the abundant energy and creativity of our 16,500 members was squandered on trotting out the same destructive, divisive, dead-end and entirely irrelevant conversation that is BDS. The price we all paid for such folly is sitting on Obama's desk waiting for his signature. Fellow reader, perhaps your paycheck will also be the price when your job is farmed out to someone in Asia for 1/10th of your salary.

There are better conversations to have if we want to support the politically under-represented of the world. For example, I (a committed anti-boycotter) brought Al-Ard organic, Fair-Trade Palestinian olive oil to our shelves because it's tasty, inexpensive, and it enables people to support themselves without demonizing anyone. The conversation should always be about how the Coop can build, not destroy, things. It's really very simple and I hope that by the time you have read

this letter I will have met you at our second Alternatives to Boycotting meeting.

The conversation is changing! Finally!

Jesse Rosenfeld

THE COOP IS ABOUT GREAT FOOD, NOT YOUR PERSONAL POLITICAL AGENDA

TO THE EDITOR:

Lately we've seen some members handing out postcards and writing letters about how democracy is under threat here at the Coop, ostensibly because of proposals to limit debate about certain topics despite the fact that they have already been debated ad infinitum. It is interesting to note that many of them can't do so without blaming Israel for something. One can wonder whether they would be as fervent without their underlying addiction to boycotting the Jewish State. I certainly have my doubts. I don't recall their expressing a similar point of view when a pro-boycott supporter stubbornly jammed our parliamentary process three years ago at a General Meeting at Brooklyn Tech, refusing to move from the microphone and showing contempt for democracy and free speech. (Though I didn't witness it myself, this is well-documented and can be backed up by the Secretary of the General Meeting, the Chair Committee, and the minutes for the meeting.) I don't recall any follow-up plea for the Disciplinary Committee to swoop in expel this member. Maybe that whole situation deserves a second look,

or would a second look be out of the question if it involved a pro-BDS supporter?

I do not think that democracy and free speech are the goals of these self-proclaimed social justice activists. They are disposable, sometimes hypocritical, and relativistic notions on the way to a hateful and morally compromised boycott of Israel which they would like to impose on you whether you like it or not. The Coop deserves better than this useless divisive logic, and we deserve better activists who know what's really important at the PSFC. I believe that democracy and free-speech are alive and well here, and it would indeed be more useful to the purpose of the organization if people stopped cynically hijacking these terms to further their own agendas. It's time for all of us to change the conversation towards something more productive, like continuing to provide quality products sustainably produced at reasonable prices, which is really what the PSFC is all about!

Sincerely,
Saul D. Raw

WHY BDS IS BAD FOR THE COOP, WITH A LOOK AT SOME BOYCOTTS THAT DID NOT HARM THE COOP

TO THE MEMBERSHIP:

The boycott of non-UFW (United Farm Workers) produce started in the 1970s. It was supported by members who identified as pro-union, anti-exploitation of farm

workers or ethnic minorities. There was little or possibly no opposition. The actual effect on shoppers was the absence of grapes for many years and almost no iceberg lettuce.

A boycott of South African goods was supported, with little or no opposition, by members who were anti-apartheid. The actual effect on shoppers was the absence of steady access to apples and grapes during winter and spring.

A boycott of Chilean goods was supported, with little or no opposition, by members who opposed that country's right-wing dictatorship. The actual effect on shoppers was the absence of a broad range of fruits during winter and spring.

These boycotts were so popular or unopposed that they were good for the Coop. They did not alienate members but in fact united and educated us. They enhanced cooperation.

Our Coop's democracy relies on transparency, equal access, and no censorship. I wrote this because I believe that the pro- and anti-BDS letters have worn out their welcome and their usefulness in the *Gazette*.

I maintain that the Coop may be very good for BDS, but that BDS is very bad for the Coop. They have their priority; I have mine.

I wrote this because pro- and anti-BDS speech is taking too much time from our membership meetings, leaving inadequate time left to deal with members' interest in food, sustainability and other food issues, and to deal with the Coop's problems, potential innovations, and future.

Allen Zimmerman



ILLUSTRATION BY LYNIN BERNSTEIN

NOTICE TO COOP MEMBER/OWNERS

CHANGE OF DATE

INTERIM BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

WHEN? REQUIRED GENERAL MEETING, OCTOBER 27, 2015

The Members of the Board of Directors have received written notification from Zoey Laskaris that she will resign her seat on the Board of Directors as of the end of the day on August 31, 2015. Our By-laws state "In the case of a vacancy on the Board of Directors, there shall be an election held at a regular Board of Directors meeting to fill the vacancy. Such meeting shall be held no less than 30 days nor more than 60 days after the vacancy occurs. The Board may hold the vacancy open to be filled at the next Annual Meeting provided that the vacancy is created with less than six months remaining before the Annual Meeting and provided there is only one vacancy. A Director elected to fill a vacancy shall serve only until the next Annual Meeting, at which meeting the membership shall elect a Director to serve for the balance of the term."

Therefore the required date is for the election is Tuesday, October 27, 2015. Furthermore the By-laws state that "The ballot used for the Directors election shall provide for voting 'yes' or 'no' or 'abstain' for each candidate. Any candidate who receives more 'no' votes than 'yes' votes is deemed ineligible for election."

If you're interested in running for this Board opening, come to the October 27, 2015 General Meeting and nominate yourself from the floor. Please be prepared to say a few words about yourself and your interest in joining the Board of Directors. ■

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Joining the National Co+op Grocers

By Joe Szladek,
General Coordinator

The General Coordinators are seeking authorization at the July 28 General Meeting from the Coop membership and Board of Directors to apply to be members of the National Co+op Grocers (NCG), a business services and development cooperative for retail food co-ops in the United States. As part of the application process, the Coop's Board of Directors, as expressed in a vote by the membership at the General

Meeting, must show support for the application.

NCG's 143 member and associate co-ops operate over 190 stores in 38 states with combined annual sales over \$1.7 billion. NCG helps unify natural food co-ops in order to optimize operational and marketing resources, strengthen purchasing power and ultimately offer more value to natural food co-op member-owners everywhere.

They form a virtual chain of food co-ops that join together nationally to compete with

larger nationwide chains.

The most important benefit to the PSFC would be increased purchasing power with our largest supplier, UNFI, securing for us better wholesale pricing than we could achieve on our own. UNFI is our largest supplier of grocery products (that includes dry goods, some bulk, yogurt and frozen food). The Coop purchased \$14 million of goods from UNFI in fiscal year 2015. As one of the largest single-store accounts at UNFI, the Coop already receives a level of preferred wholesale pricing.

Joining NCG will increase that preferred pricing and allow us to pass those savings on to members in the form of lower prices. We will also have access to bi-weekly sales—called co+op deals—that will further lower the prices on hundreds of items. When we receive more information from NCG about pricing structure, the GCs will evaluate the savings to members compared to the cost of joining NCG as part of our deliberation process to pursue NCG membership.

The General Coordinators share with NCG the mission

to strengthen and extend the cooperative movement. We also believe that we should be seeking ways to further reduce our wholesale cost of goods wherever available so that Coop members can benefit from those lower prices. Finally, we want to ensure that our Coop remains as competitive as it can possibly be in an ever-changing food retail landscape that doesn't just include competition from the likes of Whole Foods and Trader Joe's but from the growing array of low-cost online food options as well. ■

MEMBER SUBMISSION

GM Approval? We Don't Need No Stinkin' Approval!

By David Barouh

The memorable *banditos* of the 1948 film classic *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, when asked to show their Federale badges, famously declared "we don't need no stinkin' badges." Similarly, the *Linewriters' Gazette's* editors have imposed

new editorial policies—unilaterally—scuttling General Meeting approved policies, and rejecting the GM process. These policies are an intimidating minefield of admonitions, reiterated multiple times for good measure.

There's an unfortunate

editorial history for all this, including arbitrary, paternalistic, and *uncooperative* behavior affecting member-writers.

The Gazette's Editorial Evolution

An early GM Resolution (10/16/1977) established what was until then understood informally—that the *Gazette* was a "free press." The resolution required the writer's permission to edit *content*, and thus required writer-editor collaboration.

In the 1980s, with changed leadership, the *Gazette's* transformation into an all-professional cadre commenced. The leadership eliminated the GM from policy deliberations, and began placing restrictions on the content and length of member articles, and—inevitably—editors began cutting or changing text from member writing they disliked or disagreed with. Members would learn of the changes only when seeing them in print. The editors had tacitly nullified the 1977 resolution and its tradition.

They would meanwhile print periodic pieces denouncing the General Coordinators for routinely changing text of the *Gazette's* reporters, something the Coordinators hotly dispute. The editors were, in effect, tightening their control over speech while proclaiming themselves its defenders.

Complaints about these practices flared up periodically, particularly GM discussions in 2002 and 2003 that included accusations of censorship by *Gazette* reporters. The 8/25/2009 GM discussion included stiff member outrage about the editors' practices. Based on this, they—again unilaterally—modified their policies, announcing they would

henceforth call member-writers to "confer" about proposed changes. But they did *not* change the power relationship they had assumed for themselves. If the editor wanted something out—it was out!

This history *predates* the BDS controversy. The editors contend that their transformation into an all-professional elite was to eliminate "factual inaccuracies, incoherent writing, unsubstantiated claims and potentially libelous attacks" (5/7/09 letter). However, they've admitted that fact-checking in the current—professional—*Gazette* is essentially *nonexistent* (4/29/2003 GM). And a review of the early—pre-professional—*Gazette's* reveal competent, entertaining, and informative writing. There could be contentiousness; but incoherence? No! Libelousness? The contemporary *Gazette* is where we see that.

More recently, they've exempted themselves from actual editing for member-submitted material, limiting themselves to simple proofreading for grammar and spelling ("Gazette Editorial Policies" 12/29/2011). I've mentioned this in previous articles, which they've attacked, claiming that: "[e]ditors work closely with writers" in a "collegial, cooperative process" (10/29/2013 GM handout). This is a manipulation of language, a half-truth. They are referring to their relationships to staff reporters—not member-writers, who've been subjected to the practices described above.

Most significantly, they review for what they deem unacceptable writing—*by definition*, censorship. Many no doubt support censoring "racist, sexist, and otherwise discriminatory" writing, unlikely as those might be. But others

will defend free speech, which means nothing if not applying to unpalatable writing. Some will ask "what are we being protected from, and why?" Others will ask "who decides?" Editors have *no more expertise* than others in determining notoriously subtle and elusive concepts.

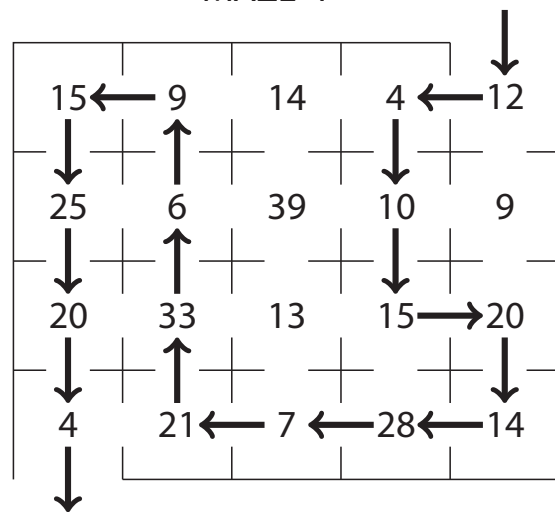
Implications for the Coop

We cannot fault the *intent* to professionalize, which must have seemed like a no-brainer at the time. But member-writers have derived little benefit from our professional editors. Simple proofreading can be done by highly literate laypersons. A mixture of professionals and laypersons, combining mentorship with enthusiasm, dedication, and diligence, could have provided real editing, while preserving egalitarian cooperation and insuring members their say. The Coop didn't become today's efficient powerhouse through the efforts of supermarket professionals. Far from it.

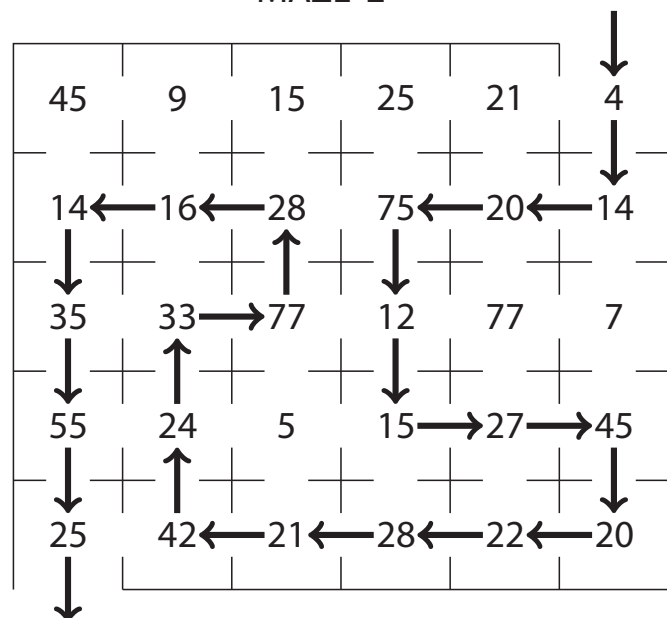
Democratic organizations like coops, as they grow larger, struggle to maintain member involvement in coop affairs. Our work requirement certainly fosters it; the *Gazette's* crucial independence from management and its putative free press tradition do also. It's the primary medium of communications in the Coop, and its editorial policies influence how members can express themselves in it. Thus, they affect us all, both readers and member-writers. It follows that we should decide these policies democratically, at GMs. But the *Gazette's* editors have tacitly excluded the membership from its part in determining them. The Coop's newsletter is not meant to be the domain of an unelected committee who act as if they are the paper's *exclusive owners*. It belongs to us all. ■

Primemaze Solution

MAZE 1



MAZE 2





PHOTOS BY ROD MORRISON

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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CLASSIFIEDS

BED & BREAKFAST

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.

Food Coop, so if you would like a really good haircut at a decent price, please call Maggie at 718-783-2154. I charge \$60.

HAIRCUTS HAIRCUTS HAIRCUTS. Color, highlights, low lights, hot oil treatments in the convenience of your home or mine. Kids cuts \$20.00-\$25.00. Adults \$35.00-\$40.00. Call Leonora 718-857-2215.

CLASSES/GROUPS

ARTIST GROUP for writers, visual artists, choreographers, actors, performance makers, composers, directors, interdisciplinary artists, etc. All mediums welcome. Meet every other week. Loosely based on the Artist's Way. Peer facilitated. Encouragement and continuity for art work. Email: artistsgrouparkslope@gmail.com

ATTORNEY—Personal Injury Emphasis—37 years experience in all aspects of injury law. Individual attention provided for entire case. Free phone or office consultations. Prompt, courteous communications. 25-year Food Coop member; Park Slope resident; downtown Brooklyn office. Tom Guccione, 718-596-4184, also at www.tguccionelaw.com.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

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

MADISON AVENUE HAIRCUTTER is right around the corner from the

VACATION RENTALS

SPRING-SUMMER-FALL Studio, 1- and 2-BR houses in historic Westchester cooperative near the Hudson, 1 hour from NYC. Dating from 1929, this 3-season community has pool, tennis, organic garden, social hall with internet and social activities. \$25-\$98K. www.reynoldshills.org melgarfinkel@yahoo.com or 917-880-5419.



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**

☆

☆

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

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 to 8 a.m.

This job entails meticulous deep cleaning of the store's checkout equipment and furniture. Workers are required to read and follow detailed instructions for cleaning the scales, printers, and monitors as well as cleaning the furniture and organizing checkout worker's tools and supplies. Vacuuming, sweeping and dusting involved.

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.

BATHROOM CLEANING

Tuesday, Wednesday, 12 to 2:00 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 clean-

ing products. This job is perfect for members who like to clean and are conscientious about doing a thorough job.

LAUNDRY AND TOY CLEANING

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

This workslot has two responsibilities. You will load laundry into dryer, fold it and redistribute it around the Coop. While the laundry is washing/drying, you will clean toys in the childcare room. You will be working with a partner on these tasks. Please contact Annette or Jana in the Membership Office for further information.

OFFICE DATA ENTRY

Monday, 4 to 6:45 p.m.

Must have been a member for at least one year with excellent attendance. Are you a stickler for details and accurate on the computer? Do you like working independently? If this sounds like you, then Office Data Entry will be your perfect shift. Please speak to Ginger Jung in the membership office (or put a note in her mailbox) prior to the first shift for more information and schedule training. Must make a 6 month commitment to the workslot.

CHECK STORE SUPPLIES


Monday, 9 to 11:45 a.m.


This workslot is responsible for restocking supplies on the Shopping floor, at checkout lanes, entrance desks and the cashier stations, and in the basement. This is a task and detailed-oriented job, ideal for someone who likes working independently and is pro-active. Please speak to Alex in the Membership Office or contact him at alex_marquez@psfc.coop if you are interested.

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.





ecokvetch

the environmental committee blog

Tip of the MONTH!

Use Water Efficiently

Save water and contribute less to climate change. Don't let the water run while shaving, brushing teeth or washing dishes. Repair toilet leaks that can waste hundreds of gallons a day. Run your dishwasher only when full.

Learn more at:
ecokvetch.blogspot.com

THANK YOU!				
Thank you to the following members for referring friends who joined the Coop in the last four weeks.				
Hal Ackerman	Nathalie Defrenne	Anna Kukla	Makiko Miyamoto	Nurit Shaul
Will Adler	Noah Devereaux	Jesse Kuklakis	Daniel Morgenroth	Lauren Shookhoff
Manuela Adsuar-Pizzi	Andrea DeMarco	Bex Kwan	Kate Newburger	Corianna Sichel
Sam Anderson	Rebecca Donner	Sarah Lang-Wiehart	Phan Nguyen	Ellynne Skove
Akshay Arora	Becky Dyson	Jennifer Lawrence	Tracy O'Kelly	Helen Smith
Dawn Bailey	Amy Egashira	Shelley Levine	Sally Owen	Emily Spivack
Brandon Barnett	Julia F.	Eric Levinson	Anne Pasek	Anna Stockwell
Laurence (Avigael) Barnett	Lindsay Funston	Daniel Levitan	Lillian Paulina	Suzanna Talbot
Charlotte Baughman	Sara Garner	Erik Lewis	Michael Perrine	Daniel Tober
Max Bean	Eve Gartner	Alexandra Lezberg	Elizabeth Powers	Marianne Tober
William Beckler	Jennifer Gellin	Flora Lichtman	Ian Pumo	Samantha V.
Heather Behrend	Peter Goetz	Rotem Linial	Johanna Rectra Cogan	Allison Van Dyck
Kate Belski	Keri Goldberg	Abigail Lloyd	Laurie Rhodes	Victoria
Jordan Benkov	Evan Graner	Alison M.	Esperanza Rodriguez-S	Christine Visich
Kwanza Butler	Catherine Harris	Colleen Macklin	Matthias Roeckl	Jaime Weiss
Tony C.	Rene Hart	Sarah Manning	Arin M. Rusch	Sasha Weiss
Sadelle Chain	Pat Hogan	Kristen Martin	Ben Sacks	Claire Wiley
Chelsea	Janice Huang	Tracie Matthews	Jeanette Sawyer	Dov Yarkoni
Elliot Cohen-Shapiro	Ginger Jung	Lima McCabe	Cohen	Amanda Yogendran
Nick Collins	Kathryn K.	Flora McGill	Liza Scavone	Miwa Yokoyama
Calvin Cooper	Serene Khader	Elena Megalos	Aaron Sechler	Rye Young
Anthony D.	S. Klein	Jayne Mendelsohn	Allison Seelig	Lisa Zullig
Robert D'Aquila	Kris Kohler	Alyson Metzger	Livia Shapiro	
	Diana Kuan	Kirk Mitchell	Jeff Sharpe	

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