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Volume KK, Number 5

March 3, 2016

The Coop's Top Sellers

By Ed Levy

Have you ever wondered what the top-selling items are in the Coop? Right now, before it's time to inch your cart forward, which do you think they are? ...Times up, the line is moving again! Did you include dried mango slices and seaweed snacks? Neither did I—but data doesn't lie. Along with kombucha and toilet paper, they're among the 20 items on a list of highest sales per unit, compiled from the first six weeks of 2016.

Two products you probably guessed correctly are milk and eggs. Actually, various brands of these items occupy five of the top 20 spots. Eddie Rosenthal, buyer for milk, eggs and juice, told the *Gazette* that he figures out how much to buy of these big sellers based on the season, weather, membership size, stats from previous weeks and last year's sales. But it's never a simple calculation, he says. For example, a sudden spike in any given product may be due to a recipe that ran in *Edible* magazine last month. A jump may also be caused by "a cross-product" spike in sales. This happens when, say, half-gallon of one brand of whole milk sells out, and shoppers switch temporarily to quarts, nonorganic, or

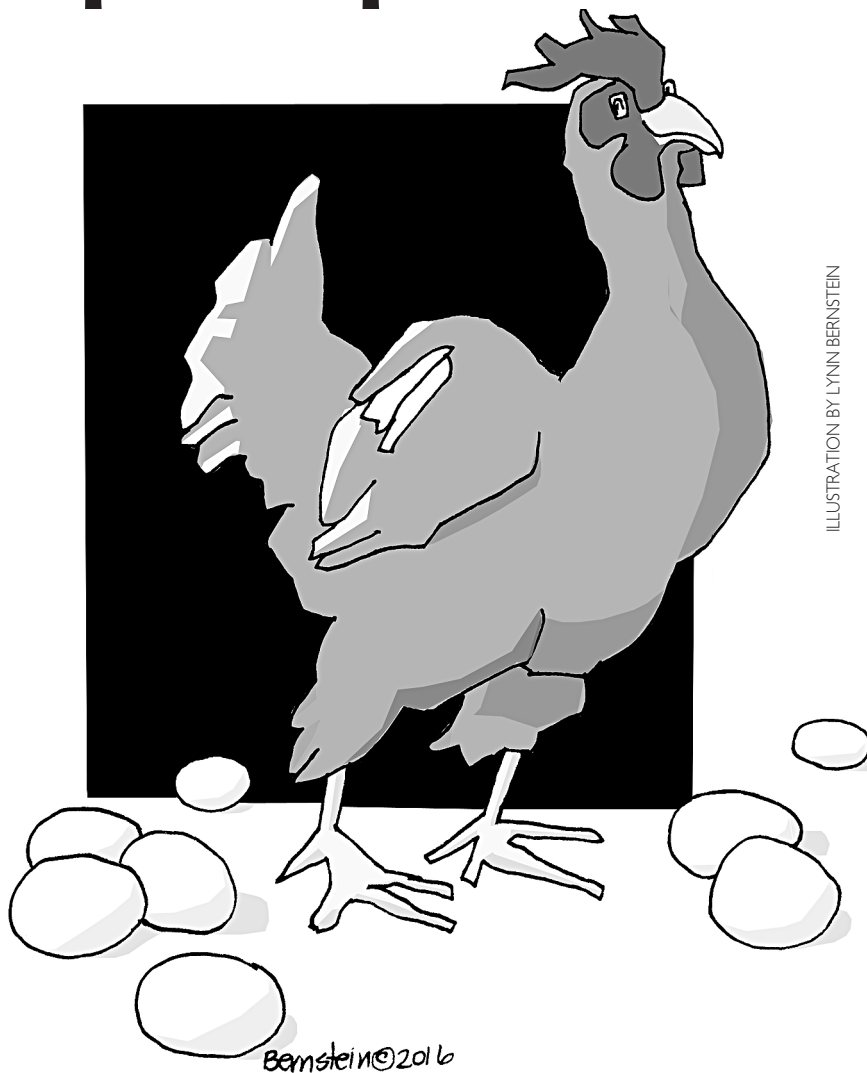


ILLUSTRATION BY LYNN BERNSTEIN

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two percent, driving those numbers up dramatically—not because people want those products, but because they couldn't find the variety they did want.

Chicken Sales Are Huge!

For almost half of the items on the top 20 list we owe our thanks, or maybe our apologies, to the chicken. Eggs rank third, sixth, ninth, and fifteenth. That's a lot of eggs—4,991 cartons, or 59,892 eggs per week (based

on sales for the week of January 10). Whole chickens and chicken parts are second, tenth, eleventh and twelfth on the top 20, with Murray's boneless breasts, a thousand pounds a week, occupying the position of second best-selling (non-produce) item in the store. Altogether, we eat about 2,000 chickens weekly.

The responsibility for keeping a steady supply of this huge amount of chicken we

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The Power of Art and Healing: A Creative Center for People Facing Life-Changing Illness

By Frank Haberle

"Medicine cures the body, but art heals the spirit." Founded on this belief in 1994 by cancer survivor Robin Glazer, The Creative Center at University Settlement has grown from humble origins, as a grassroots operation sending artists to provide free artwork for women with cancer. Today, The Creative Center (TCC) brings a wide range of arts programs to people living with cancer and other chronic illnesses. TCC now offers hospital artist-in-residence programs in more than 20 healthcare sites around the New York metropolitan area, free-of-charge art workshops every day of the week, an online gallery representing professional artists living with illness, and a training program bringing TCC's proven approach to arts in healthcare around the country. Led by professional artists, workshops in writing, visual and performing arts are free and available to people with cancer and other chron-

ic illnesses regardless of age, gender or financial status.

Immersion in the Creative Process

Over the past few years, PSFC members have become deeply involved in TCC. Marna Chester, a native New Yorker and Coop member since 2004, is TCC's Assistant Director, coordinating a multitude of TCC offerings ranging from ongoing arts workshops such as photography, painting, memoir writing, dance and sculpture; a program placing artists-in-residence in hospitals where they work with patients at their bedsides and in waiting areas; the Creative Aging Training Institute for artists, administrators and healthcare workers; and an on-line gallery. "All of our programs are intended to absorb people into the present moment and to immerse them in the creative process," Marna says. "While art is inherently therapeutic, we want people to focus on fun

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Next General Meeting on March 29

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The March General Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 29, at 7:00 p.m. at **St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.**

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

Thu, Mar 3 • Food Class: Exploring Chickpeas & Spices In Indian Cuisine 7:30 p.m.

Fri, Mar 4 • Film Night: Mavis! 7:00 p.m.

Sat, Mar 5 • Coop Kids' Variety Show at Old First Church 5:00 p.m.

Tue, Mar 8 • Safe Food Committee Film Night: Food Chains 7:00 p.m.

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

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Top Sellers

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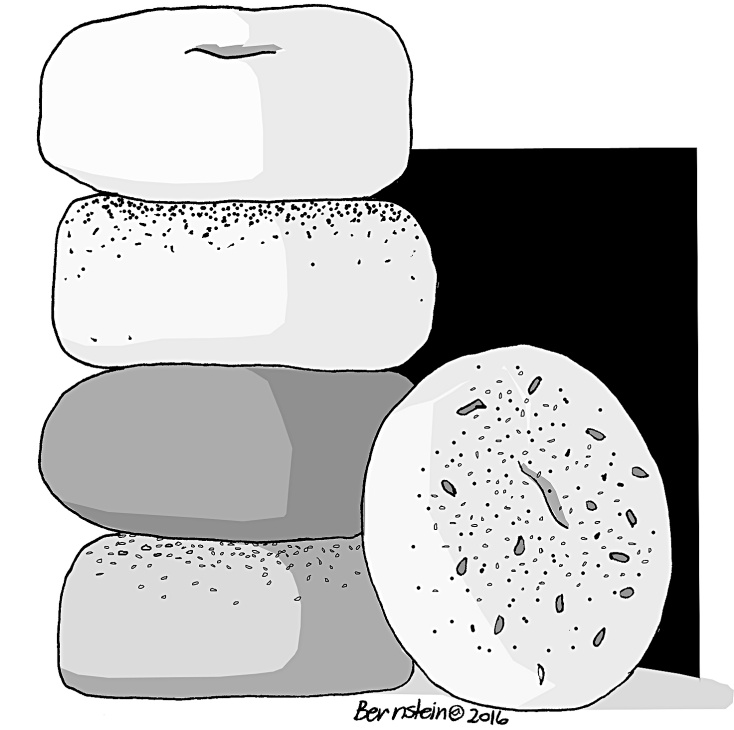
eat belongs to meat buyer Heather Rubi. A main supplier is Murray's, but as she explained it, it's not the mom-and-pop operation it sounds like. Murray's is in South Fallsburg, New York, but if you have ever been to South Fallsburg, you know that there are a lot of bungalow colonies, ashrams, golf courses and abandoned hotels. You just don't see all that many chicken coops! That's because Murray's sends chicks to be raised in "foster farms," some a few hundred miles away in Amish Pennsylvania. Murray's also sends them feed to raise them. And when they're mature, they pick up them and bring them back to be slaughtered. Although Murray's is the most popular, Heather supplements with other suppliers, including Bell & Evans, Snowdance and D'Artagnan.

Maybe More Than You Wanted to Know

Members are also consuming a lot of ground beef, in fact, a thousand pounds of it per week. Here's an astounding fact: The Coop literally buys two cows per week, currently paying approximately \$3,000 per cow (it varies based on hang-weight—see below). Most of the beef product on the shelves at any given time—steaks, soup bones, ground beef and the other cuts—comes from these two cows. Heather explained how a single cow breaks down: The so-called hang weight of each cow, after it has been skinned and eviscerated, and the head is removed, is about 750 pounds. Out of that 750 pounds, the Coop receives, cryo-vac'd, on a pallet:

- 100 lbs. bones
- 18 lbs. of brisket
- 20 lbs. of ribeye
- 20 lbs. of chuck
- 3 lbs. each of flank & flat iron
- 230 lbs. of ground beef
- 1 hanger steak
- 40 lbs. kabab
- 20 lbs. minute steak (thin sliced for quick sandwiches)
- 18 lbs. of NY strip
- 14 lbs. organ meat
- 1 oxtail
- 12 lbs. short ribs
- 15 lbs. sirloin steak
- 4 skirt steaks
- 7 lbs. tenderloin
- 1 tongue

Heather also fills in where needed from other suppli-



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ers. Right now, in the winter months, demand for stewing and braising meats is high, so she will purchase beef from as far away as New England.

Produce

Weary of reading about all this carnage, you ask, "But what about produce?" Produce is tracked separately



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ILLUSTRATIONS BY LYNN BERNSTEIN

from other items, according to General Coordinator Joe Szladek and Receiving Coordinator and Produce Buyer Ana Gallo, so our produce list of top sellers is also different. It's about what you would expect, though, with apples, oranges, bananas, broccoli and spinach in the top five. Currently, we sell about 302 cases per week of all apples, minimally treated

and organic. At 40 lbs. per case, that's 12,000 pounds of apples a week. The store is selling about 290 cases of bananas a week, or 11,600 pounds, and 180 cases of broccoli; at 14 bunches per case, that's 2,520 bunches of broccoli per week—which means there are a lot of protesting kids out there. Other big sellers right now are clementines (960 cases the week we spoke to Ana) and one-pound organic spinach bags (660 bags per week).

And the Blue Ribbon Goes to.....

And the overall top seller? The #1 spot goes to that *sine qua non* of the urban breakfast, the iconic, inexpensive yet satisfying, versatile circle of boiled dough surrounding an empty space—yes, the bagel. It is a much-beloved baked good that, according to Wikipedia, was not created in the shape of a stirrup (as many people apparently think, although I haven't met any of them) to commemorate the victory of Poland's King John III Sobieski over the Ottoman Turks in the Battle of Vienna in the 17th century. The Coop sells 3,000 bagels per week, or one every 1.99 minutes. ■

The Coop's Top 20					
Rank	Description	Size	Shelf Price in \$ (as of 2/22/16)	Per Week	Weekly Sales in \$
1	Bagels (all)	Ea	\$0.66	3,516	\$2,320.56
2	Murray's Boneless Breast non-gmo	lb.	\$6.64	1,073	\$7,124.72
3	Grindstone Eggs Pasture-raised	Dozen	\$4.26	1,022	\$4,353.72
4	Croissant plain	Ea	\$1.41	928	\$1,308.48
5	Natural By Nature Milk whole organic	64 oz	\$4.84	925	\$4,477.00
6	Alderfer Eggs Omega large	Dozen	\$2.89	908	\$2,624.12
7	Canada rolled oats organic	lb.	\$1.07	893	\$955.51
8	Croissant chocolate	Ea	\$1.71	868	\$1,484.28
9	Nature's Yoke Eggs brown organic	Dozen	\$3.99	819	\$3,267.81
10	Murray's Boneless Thighs non-gmo	lb.	\$4.26	707	\$3,011.82
11	Murray's Chicken Thighs non-gmo	lb.	\$2.90	659	\$1,911.10
12	Murray's Whole Chicken non-gmo	lb.	\$2.71	619	\$1,677.49
13	GTS Kombucha Raw Gingerade organic	16 oz	\$2.56	618	\$1,582.08
14	Mango Mexico slices organic	lb.	\$9.10	605	\$5,505.50
15	Alderfer Eggs white Large organic	Dozen	\$3.82	577	\$2,204.14
16	Scone, various	Ea	\$1.72	565	\$971.80
17	Field Day Toilet Paper 1-ply single	1 roll	\$0.64	530	\$339.20
18	GTS Kombucha Synergy Trilogy organic	16 oz	\$2.56	511	\$1,308.16
19	Gimme Seaweed Snack sea salt organic	.35 oz	\$1.51	495	\$747.45
20	Oliver's Pastured Br Egg 6pak organic	6pak	\$2.84	494	\$1,402.96

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

A Drop in Wholesale Pricing for the PSFC

By Joe Szladek,
General Coordinator
On October 1, 2015, the Park Slope Food Coop officially joined the National Cooperative Grocers (NCG) and on February 1 of this year, we began receiving better wholesale pricing from our largest distributor, United Natural Foods (UNFI), as a result.

By becoming a member of NCG and joining other coops around the country that are practicing cooperation among cooperatives, we increased our purchasing

power with UNFI and have seen our wholesale prices on products we receive from them drop by 2%. Therefore, our members will see many prices on our shelves fall by 2% as well. NCG, a "Coop of Coops," is an organization of 143 food coops operating 195 stores in 38 states whose stores have combined annual sales of over \$1.7 billion and comprise over 1.3 million consumer-owners.

UNFI is our largest supplier of grocery products—that includes a majority of our

dry goods, yogurt and frozen items—in addition to some bulk items. A box of cereal that used to cost our members \$4.04 will now be \$3.96. A yogurt that you may have seen for \$1.91 will now cost \$1.87. While these price changes may not seem so significant to some, for others we do know that every penny counts. We also know that other grocery stores and online food retailers are making similar efforts to lower the retail cost of food in an increasingly competitive space. The Coop's Coordi-

nators have been working to secure lower wholesale pricing—without compromising quality—since our inception. This latest price change is just one small step towards lower pricing in a long series of steps stretching back over 40 years. We're hopeful that as NCG continues to grow, so will our collective purchasing power, and so will our ability to get even lower wholesale prices for our members in the future.

Our joining NCG was the result of a discussion and vote at the August 2015 General Meeting. ■

A Conversation with Carl Arnold: A Long-Range View of Coop Controversies

By Alison Rose Levy

Carl Arnold has been on the Chair Committee for so long, he can't remember exactly what year he first joined that committee, slightly over two decades ago. But he does know how long he's been a Coop member—since December 1984. And from that long-range perspective, he reflects on the evolution of Coop governance, in response to controversies, in conversation with *Linewaiters' Gazette* reporter Alison Rose Levy.

ARL: What were the early years like?

CA: There wasn't regular attendance at General Meetings. Participation and the decision-making process evolved together over time.

Around 1990, there was a crisis among the coordinators, and more people began coming to the meeting over a period of many months to address that. Ultimately, a very well-liked coordinator quit, and in response, an ad hoc committee was formed to improve Coop governance. They met for over a year.

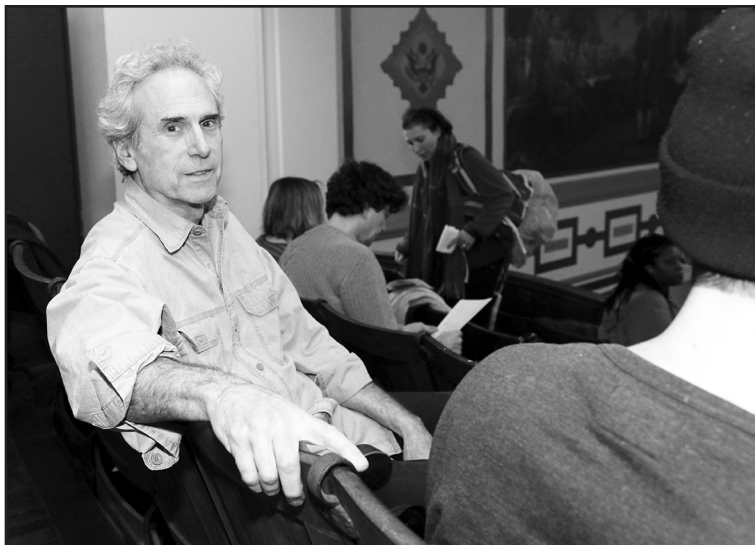
ARL: What were GM's like back then?

CA: They were chaotic—and vituperative and vicious. There was no sense of decorum or etiquette and very little got done. Over a period of two to three years, it was about working things out.

A meeting would begin with someone saying, "Alright, who wants the chair?" And it would take ten to 15 minutes and finally someone finally would volunteer. Next, someone would say, "Alright, what should we have on the agenda?" The agenda would take an hour to work out. Argumentative is putting it politely. If someone came to a general meeting often they would not come again. For those who came, it was self-flagellation. Or wanting to see things improve.

ARL: From amorphous, poorly planned, disputatious, how did the Coop governance process evolve?

CA: We came up with several proposals. The ad hoc committee came up with several proposals to establish the Chair and the Agenda committees. The proposals to form these committees were put to the GM, and were passed and established and slowly things began to change. And things started to



PHOTOS BY ROD MORRISON

In the early years there wasn't regular attendance at General Meetings. Participation and the decision-making process evolved together over time.

improve. It took approximately five years to change the atmosphere so that the GM would be civil with an agenda that we would get through.

I was not on the Chair Committee at first. A number of people on the first Chair Committee created a template for how to run a meeting. And when some of the early members dropped off the Committee, I joined. There were just two members of the Chair Committee, and a few more joined and it built up to what it is now.

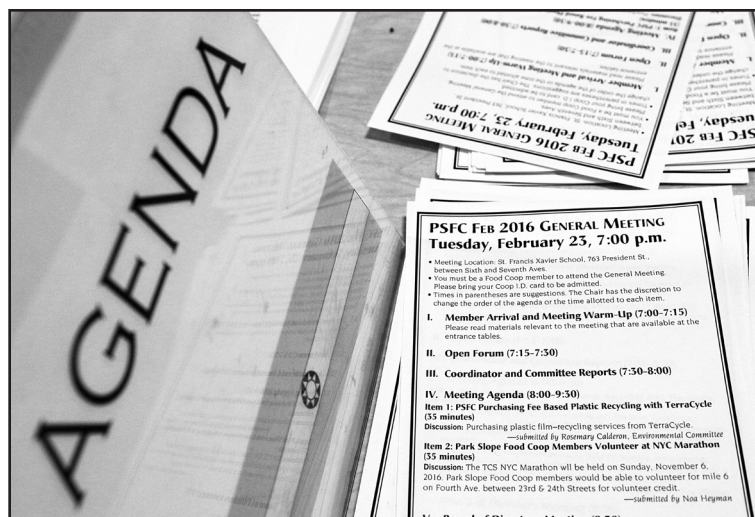
ARL: What did all of that put into place?

CA: One well-established outcome of this extended process is that the General Meeting is and always has been a member's meeting where the members jointly decide on key matters. Once when one of the Board of Directors voted against the advice of the membership it prompted a special meeting of membership.

Recently, at a General Meeting, Joe Holtz said that technically the Board makes the decision so the advice of the membership is only advice. That shifts the emphasis away from the membership to the Board. It's unprecedented and concerns me.

ARL: The shift you describe comes recently as a response to the current protracted controversy between the BDS and anti-BDS members. How would you contrast the past with the current contention?

CA: The contention then was due to a lack of structure, process, and civility and now we have it—until quite recently. The civility was in a completely unprecedented



The Coop was founded on certain principles of democracy in the cooperative movement.

ed way broken last April by the anti-BDS people who hijacked the meeting for three-quarters of an hour. That stopped the process. And I am concerned that the process itself could be undermined by these recent developments. Because of the deeply emotional issues, I think that democracy is being disrespected.

ARL: How so?

CA: The primacy of the advice of the membership has been trumpeted by the coordinators and by every candidate to the board for years—since 1995 when three directors voted against the advice of the membership (on purchasing one of the three buildings.) Since then, respecting the advice of the membership has been the core of Coop democracy—how Coop decision making works. And I think it's vital to take a close look at how this has come about.

ARL: How, in your view, did that happen?

CA: We would have had a better outcome had we actually had a referendum on the

BDS issue back at the 2012 at the big meeting at Brooklyn Tech. But we did not. The anti-BDS people regarded the vote not to have the referendum as deciding the BDS issue. It didn't, it decided whether or not the referendum was to be held. What it did was put a monkey wrench into the wheels of democracy. If the referendum had taken place, we would not have had the last four years of contention because it would have been decided one way or another.

The vote at the Brooklyn Tech meeting was 60-40. So was the recent vote to require a super-majority of

in order to address this controversy, rather than use the democratic process by putting the BDS issue to a vote by the membership.

ARL: Aren't there legitimate fears of division, even of legal reprisals by powerful organized groups who seek to characterize criticism as hate speech and who might sue the Coop?

CA: If such groups were to come after the Coop, why not say, "We are getting in touch with the ACLU and the Brennan Center and get some legal guns on our side?" Why should we be intimidated for exercising the democratic process and free speech rights?

ARL: The Coop is a fragile container for this international conflict and perhaps it's not the appropriate place for deciding this. I can understand the hope to stand on principle in a democratic local organization. But is it an unreasonable burden to hold to that ideal?

CA: If we don't stand for what we believe in, it will be taken from us. The Coop was founded on certain principles of democracy in the food industry and in our organization. If we don't retain that, that is a greater threat to democracy.

If the 2012 referendum had been respected and had taken place, we would be in much better shape now. Democracy internally and externally is the cure I think. And that is a greater threat to the viability of the Coop than anything that BDS might threaten.

I am concerned that the Board and others seeking to change policy because of one issue rather than changing policy because of a principle. That is bad policy and a huge mistake. ■

Thank You, Members

By Elinor Astrinsky, General Coordinator

A hearty THANK YOU to Food Coop members John Kearney, Deike Benjoya, Jeremy Pollet and all the many others who took action to lessen the impact of a freak accident at the Coop's doorstep on Sunday, February 21. The willingness to help each other was impressive and much appreciated.

Thank you!

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

The Power of the Board of Directors and How Democracy in the Coop Functions

By Joe Holtz, General Coordinator

I am writing this because within the last year there have been several misconceptions expressed in the *Gazette* and at our General Meetings about the underpinnings of our system of democracy. We incorporated in 1977 for the purpose of limiting the potential liability of each individual member. We did not incorporate in order to change away from our "town meeting" form of governance that began in 1973. Our attorney, then Thursday night squad leader Len Goodwin, came up with the idea of both obeying the NYS law that requires corporations to put tremendous power in the hands of Board of Directors and at the same time insuring an ongoing role for our monthly General Meetings. I have interspersed my comments in bold ink with relevant parts of the Bylaws. The entire Bylaws can be found at foodcoop.com. Also I recommend reading the document "The GM and the Board of Directors" written by Coop attorneys also available on foodcoop.com in the General Meeting section of Member Information.

ARTICLE VI of the Bylaws: MEETINGS

1. The annual meeting of the membership of the corporation shall be held on such day in the month of June as the directors shall fix.

2. The Board of Directors shall meet at least ten times each year on such dates as it shall appoint and at such other times as it, by resolution, shall fix. The membership shall be given notice of each such meeting prior to such meeting. The directors shall inform those members who shall be present of the nature of the business to come before the directors and receive the advice of the members on such matters.

Comment A) The Membership must be given notice of the meeting but not necessarily of the agenda. This leaves open the possibility that something could arise at the meeting that needs to be addressed even if it was not on the published agenda.

Comment B) Our directors have chosen to accomplish the requirement of receiving advice from the members by electing the Agenda Committee to schedule agenda items for

the General Meeting portion of the Board meetings and by allowing the Chair Committee to chair the General Meetings. The portion of the Board of Directors meeting that is devoted to receiving the advice of the members shall be known as the General Meeting and is not in any way intended to be one of the "meetings of the membership" that is referred to elsewhere in these Bylaws.

Comment C) This makes it clear that General Meetings should not be confused with the "meetings of the membership" that are referred to in section 3 below. Every year except one we have had a "meeting of the membership" and that is the Annual Meeting. 1997 was the only year that an additional "meeting of the membership" was held.

Comment D) Please note the element of informality described in the bylaws in regard to the General Meeting indicated by the phrase "shall be known as". The members who gather to give advice to the directors may choose to vote in order to express their support or opposition for any of the issues that have come before the meeting.

Comment E) This further denotes the informality of the General Meeting in that the voting that takes place by the members during the General Meeting portion of the Board meeting is not

required. The Board can vote on something after hearing advice from members at the General Meeting even if no vote is taken by the members present at the General Meeting. In practice the Board has never chosen to decide a matter without advice from the members as expressed by a vote but the Board is allowed to do so.

Comment F) From time to time the Board has approved the advice of members in regard to rules for how the General Meeting advice portion of the Board meeting will be administered. These rules can be found on our website. The Board has never ceded its authority to decide matters.

Comment G) Some members think that the Board is a "rubber stamp". However in 1996 the Board did decide to go against the General Meeting advice. The advice vote was 55 in favor of a proposal to 26 against. The Board did not agree and proposal failed by a vote of 3 against the proposal to 2 in favor. In general it is fair to say that the Board has used its business judgment in a manner that has shown great respect for the advice from the members.

3. A quorum for all meetings of the directors shall be one-third of the directors. A quorum for all meetings of the membership, including the annual meeting, shall be 100 members of such body. Each member is entitled to one vote.

4. Except as otherwise provided, all matters shall be decided by a majority vote of those present and voting.

Comment H) The advice part of the Board Meeting known as the General Meeting has its own rules that are not affected by these Bylaws. The Bylaws refer to majority votes both by the Board or votes at the Annual Meeting or other "meetings of the membership". The Board would not be required to have 75% of the directors vote to approve a boycott. Only a majority would be needed. However the Board has voted that they will consider membership votes on Boycotts only to be favorable advice if that advice has the support of 75% of the members. All votes shall be cast in person and no proxy voting shall be permitted, except at and only at annual meetings provided, however, that the Board may, by majority vote, direct that a mail ballot be taken on any matter.

Comment I) A mail ballot has commonly been referred to in the Coop as a referendum. The Board after receiving the advice of the members in the General Meeting part of their meeting can authorize a mail ballot. After the ballot is tallied the Board then votes at a future General Meeting on whether or not to accept the advice of the members as expressed by the ballot. Mail ballots or referendums have been very rare in recent years.

5. Except as otherwise provided, all parliamentary matters shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE IX section 1. Of the Bylaws: COOP OPERATION

1. Except as otherwise provided herein, the administration and operation of the Coop shall be vested in the directors. The directors may, by resolution, adopt rules and regulations covering operation of the Coop, including, without limitation, work requirements for members, accounting and bookkeeping procedures, and disciplinary actions against members, rules and regulations concerning the admission of members, and concerning any other matters they deem appropriate.

Comment J) In keeping with NYS Law, the Board has substantial authority. ■

Spend Your 2¾ Hours Doing Something More Meaningful JOIN THE DEC

Are you looking for a more meaningful way to gain Coop work credit? Are you interested in issues of diversity within the Coop? Do you have experience in conflict resolution and using mediation to resolve disputes? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, we should talk to you about joining the Diversity and Equality Committee (DEC).

The DEC seeks to create a more welcoming place for all members. We address diversity, bias, and discrimination at the Coop through a number of activities including training, awareness-raising initiatives, bias-complaint investigations, and special events that aim to build community among Coop members. We are currently looking for new members.

You are encouraged to contact us if you are a member who has:

- Been in good standing for at least one year
- An interest/experience in diversity issues
- Good interpersonal skills
- The ability to follow through on tasks independently

We have monthly meetings as a group, but also have additional subcommittee/project work that requires more time than a typical work shift. You can bank any additional time worked as FTOP credit for the future. Members with mediation skills can join us as FTOP members and participate as needed.

We welcome members of all ethnicities, nationalities, races, religion and sexual orientation.

Interested? Please contact Jasmina Nikolov (jasmina1@gmail.com) or Maitefa Angaza (majh4real@gmail.com).

BIKE VALET SHIFTS NOW AVAILABLE

You must have at least six months of membership with excellent attendance to be eligible.

**Saturdays and Sundays
April 2 through November 20
12:30 - 3:15 p.m.
3:00 - 5:45 p.m.
5:30 - 8:15 p.m.**

Contact the Membership Office to sign up.



Power of Art

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and joy, rather than illness and the anxiety that is often associated with a diagnosis."

Of the program's participants, Marna says, "some of our participants have been through treatment and have since been coming to us for 20 years, while others are currently in treatment and new to us. We find that often a cancer diagnosis becomes the catalyst for people to pursue an interest they've always had but never before gave themselves permission to explore. People come to us, sometimes with very little experience in art-making, and they really flourish in their creativity. Sometimes people come to us identified with their cancer and, over time, they begin to identify instead, as an artist. This transformation is a privilege to watch."

Walking a Tight Rope Without a Net

Tammy Burgess, a longtime Brooklyn resident and a Coop member for the past seven years, discovered TCC after a 2013 diagnosis that led to surgery, chemotherapy and what she describes as "running an uphill obstacle course with no time to look at what had passed or what was coming." During post-surgical chemo she attended an Ovarian Cancer Survivors course where she picked up a brochure for TCC. At the time, she still had "gallons of chemo to get through" while maintaining her busy job as Assistant Director of Brooklyn Workforce Innovations (a job training nonprofit). "Cancer treatment is like walking a tightrope without a net. Work, family, friends and Netflix got me through."

After treatment, Tammy still found herself struggling to get well, both physically and emotionally. "I definitely had a sense of relief, but I wasn't as strong as I would have hoped or that my friends were experiencing. So I started trying new things. Signing up for a TCC class was easy. I took an art class first, landscape painting in different media. I hadn't been in an art class since high school. I have been crafty off and on, macramé, crocheting, cooking. What I liked most was that it was about the 'doing;' we would get some instruction, supplies and direction, but mostly it was about just getting started and seeing what happens. I just loved getting lost in something other than



ILLUSTRATIONS BY DEBORAH TINT

cancer, it was such a relief. The environment established by all my instructors is always one of support, respect and encouragement."

Tammy took painting, ceramics and dance classes before she landed in her current writing class. "I remember my first writing class. I was freaked out by the direction: 'write now, by hand, and then read aloud.' Nuts! My hand writing is a mess, illegible even by me, and I never liked reading out loud. But there I was, everyone bent over their paper, so I put my pen to paper and started writing. And I was hooked!"

"I continue with writing class for the listening as much as the writing. My classmates are mind blowing. Just to witness what people can come up with in such a short time, is inspiring. Each class is an eclectic mix of people. Cancer is not the focus. I think that's why it worked for me; I needed to be something other

than the cancer, yet the shared experience is quietly there.

"There is such creativity in all of us. I have always appreciated art, museums, books, concerts, public radio, even TV. I can even see creativity in most occupations. But spending time doing art for art's sake, made me realize how much we give up when we limit ourselves to the role of art consumer."

A Community of Caring

Marna sees many parallels between the TCC and PSFC communities. "TCC consists of artists, educators, administrators and community partners who are passionate about serving our participants and feel fortunate to have an opportunity to enrich people's lives. We work together to add value to people's lives and are part of a larger system that is working to do the same. The Coop is the same—behind the scenes there are vendors and buyers with a specific ideal in

mind: to deliver high-quality, healthy food at reasonable costs to our community. In both cases we are all brought together—we are trying to improve quality of life and make it accessible to all people regardless of race, age or class."

Tammy is also grateful for the support she received from the Coop community, including the concern she felt during her leave of absence. "When my leave was ending, I received a supportive and thoughtful letter from the Coop. And on my squad (second floor monitor) I have been lucky to have such great partners to work with. They are all as caring as they are interesting, and all have creative lives as teachers, knitters, musicians and cooks."

For Tammy, the TCC group continues to play an integral role. "There are few avenues in our society where we can share our fears about dying and death," she says. "My

loved ones cannot imagine my death. I can't help but see it. While support groups and counseling are helpful, tapping into my creative side, and seeing that same process and outputs in others, was one of key things that helped me put my own thoughts and fears into place. And it's always there. I am very grateful to have found TCC." ■

If you would like to learn more about The Creative Center at University Settlement and how to become involved, please visit www.thecreativecenter.org/tcc/

From the Outside In

By Tammy Burgess

Brush to canvas
Hands shaping clay
Fingers guiding pen
Body in movement

Pushing out against
the shell
Directing fire
Breaking free
Quieting the mind
Feeding the heart

What is unknown is
discovered
What is discovered
becomes unknown

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle. You are presented with a 9x9 grid of squares, and that grid is divided into 3x3 zones.

You solve the puzzle by filling the empty squares with single-digit numbers so that every zone, column and row uses each of the numbers from 1 to 9.

				9				
						7	5	
			6	2	8		1	3
								7
			2			8	4	1
		8		7	4	6		
		3				4		8
4	5		8					
	2	1			6	5		

Puzzle author: Abdul Powell. For answers, see page 6.

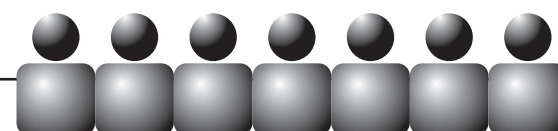
ORIENTATION LEADER NEEDED

The Orientation Committee is looking for Coop members who have a group-teaching and/or training background to lead Orientation sessions. Potential candidates should be articulate, well-organized, and able to present a large amount of information in a personable and accessible way to a diverse group in a short period of time.

You will lead sessions every six weeks, and on the week midway between sessions, must be available as backup for emergency coverage. Regular slots are on Sunday afternoons, Monday evenings, or Wednesday mornings. You must have at least two years of Coop membership and an excellent attendance history to be considered for the Orientation Committee.

There is an initial group interview for this committee, and after which, if you are chosen, there are three trainings for workslot credit. An annual meeting of the Orientation Committee is part of the work requirement. We seek Orientation leaders who reflect the diversity of the Coop.

To apply, please send an e-mail with your name, member number, and contact information with a subject line of Orientation Leader to ginger_jung@psfc.coop.



SAFE FOOD COMMITTEE REPORT

Plow-to-Plate Movie Series Presents: Food Chains

By Adam Rabiner,
Safe Food Committee

Immokalee, Florida, plays a very important role in the half century-long and continuing fight of farm laborers for justice. In 1960 Immokalee was featured by famed television journalist, Edward R. Murrow in a groundbreaking CBS report, Harvest of Shame. In a post-war economy that was largely prosperous, the news cameras focused on the hidden experiences and exploitation of poor migrant farm laborers. Murrow gravely intoned, “These are forgotten people, the unprotected, the undereducated, the under-clothed, the underfed.” Fifty-four years later, director Sanjay Rawal returned to this town to discover that, sadly, the earlier exposé did not change things significantly for this itinerant population. Perhaps his film, *Food Chains*, will.

While the day-to-day living conditions of migrant labor-

ers in Immokalee have not changed all that much since the sixties, one important facet of this story has. In the early days of the movement for better pay and working conditions, the workers focused on the farm owners, their direct employers. However, in today's economy, the farmers themselves are hard-pressed to earn a profit. Due to industry consolidations, the power has shifted to fast-food restaurants and supermarket chains. Indeed, it is these connections between farm laborers on the one end and supermarkets, fast-food purveyors, and consumers, on the other, along with a more sinister allusion, that the title *Food Chains* refers to.

The primary demand of the Consortium of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is to pay farm workers two cents for every pound of tomatoes picked, instead of the current penny. The typical laborer picks about

4,000 pounds in a day, earning about \$40. While a raise of \$40 per day would go a long way to improving the lives of workers, the effect on profits and consumers is not significant.

After some initial resistance, Taco Bell, McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Burger King conceded to this demand (as well as others such as Wal-Mart—surprise, surprise). Publix, the regional supermarket, however, has not. The cost to Publix would be negligible, about \$1 million out of its \$2 billion in annual profits. And if they passed this cost along to consumers, a family of four would need to pay an average of about 44 cents more per year. Yet despite these calculations, Publix refuses to even meet with the CIW, which is staging a public, non-violent protest and hunger strike.

Many food documentaries explain how farm subsidies

have artificially lowered the price of many commodities such as corn, soy, sugar, and meat. These films reveal how retail supermarket prices do not adequately capture the true price of these foods which do not include external costs associated with medical bills, environment degradation, etc. *Food Chains* shows how labor exploitation, like farm subsidies, also deflates consumer prices. Publix claims it pays a “fair market price” for its tomatoes. What it fails to say is that the market is an unfree monopsony in which a single buyer, Publix, sets the price for its suppliers.

And that unfair price of a penny a pound, while keeping salads cheap and helping to ensure that Publix is perceived by its shoppers as a “friendly family supermarket” also guarantees that largely Mexican farm laborers, despite long days in the fields, never even make it to the poverty level. It explains why they live 15 to 16 people in small trailers, like animals in cramped houses. It explains why they wake up at 5:00 a.m. to catch buses to the fields where sometimes they wait around for hours, unpaid, until their first bucket is filled. It explains why they put up with heat, pesticides, and for many women, sexual harassment. Finally it explains why they can no longer abide these conditions and their Fair Food campaign insists on better pay, working conditions, and an end to sexual exploitation.

Food Chains captures all five days of the CIW protest. Despite initial optimism that

Publix would come to the table, and even a failed attempt by Sanjay Rawal to get a company spokesperson to engage in dialogue with a CIW leader, Publix never agrees to talk. On the final day of the strike, the hungry and tired workers, men and women, young and old, as well as some of their supporters in the community, march to the Publix headquarters and place hand-made colorful paper notes in the company fence saying, “I go hungry today so my children won't have to tomorrow,” “I am human too,” and “Love thy neighbor.”

They gather to hear words of support from allies such as Ethel Kennedy and her son, Robert Kennedy Jr., taking on the mantle of Robert Kennedy who had championed their cause in his ill-fated 1969 presidential campaign. It is a moving scene conveying the sense that this is a final frontier in a larger fight for civil rights. Another chain that ties the Immokalee farm workers to black Americans and others who are oppressed. And another chain that will someday be broken.

NOTE TO OUR VIEWERS: The April Plow-to-Plate film, *King Georges*, <http://www.king-georgesfilm.com/>, is opening in cinemas on February 26. ■

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.

Food Chains will be presented on Tuesday, March 8, 7 p.m. at the Park Slope Food Coop, 782 Union St., 2nd floor. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Coop Job Opening:
Receiving Coordinator with
Produce Emphasis

Description:
All Receiving Coordinators ensure the smooth functioning of the Coop.

- facilitate the continual stocking of product throughout the store
- teach working members how to stock and complete tasks
- communicate with Squad Leaders and squads about priorities and upcoming projects
- sustain knowledge about products and inventory
- answer members' questions
- respond to physical plant and refrigeration issues

Receiving Coordinators with Produce Emphasis maintain and restock the produce aisle as well as other aisles. They oversee produce deliveries, inspect for quality and ensure proper rotation in coolers. These Coordinators supervise produce processing, ensure that items scan, and coordinate with compost and soup kitchen squads.

The ideal candidate will:

- possess a strong spatial sense
- be a reliable, early-riser who wants a high-energy job
- be an excellent team player with strong communication skills
- have the ability to teach, explain procedures, give feedback
- be able to evaluate Coop needs, prioritize tasks and delegate work
- be computer literate (Macs preferred)
- experience working in a grocery store is a plus

Hours: 38 hours. 5 days per week including both Saturdays and Sundays. Some shifts start at 5 am.

Wages: \$26.61/hour

Benefits: A generous package including but not limited to: 3 weeks vacation, 11 Health/Personal days, health insurance, and a pension plan.

Requirements:
Candidates must be current members of the Park Slope Food Coop for at least six months immediately prior to application.
Applicants must be prepared to work during holidays, the Coop's busiest times.
Applicants must be able to:

- repeatedly lift up to 50 pounds for extended periods of time
- reach, crouch, bend, stand, climb stairs and work for hours in walk-in coolers and freezers
- work with and around common allergens including nuts and dust
- work in noisy, hectic surroundings

How to Apply:
We strongly encourage candidates to work at least one Monday-Friday early morning Receiving shift in the produce basement. Please introduce yourself as applicant.
Attach resume and paste cover letter at the link below
<http://bit.do/coopjobreceiving>
Applicants will receive acknowledgment of application via email. Do not call the Membership Office to check on the status of application. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until position is 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.

Solution to this issue's sudoku puzzle

1	3	6	5	9	7	2	8	4
9	8	2	4	1	3	7	5	6
7	4	5	6	2	8	9	1	3
5	6	4	9	8	1	3	2	7
3	7	9	2	6	5	8	4	1
2	1	8	3	7	4	6	9	5
6	9	3	1	5	2	4	7	8
4	5	7	8	3	9	1	6	2
8	2	1	7	4	6	5	3	9

WEBSITE REPRINT

Women in Food: Farmer of the Year Amy Hepworth Advocates for a “Third Way”

By Anne Craig for seedstock.com

Amy Hepworth was recently named farmer of the year by the Cornell Alliance for Science. We'd love to let the members know and for them to hear about what she's been thinking about and working on lately—besides growing a tremendous amount of the Coop's local produce.

Amy Hepworth's life's passion is feeding people. Back in 1982, Cornell University degree in pomology fresh in hand, she took the reins of Hepworth Farms, a nearly 200-year-old apple farm in New York's Hudson Valley, and changed everything. Crop diversification was only part of a larger transition to sustainability.

Some said it was economic suicide, others heroism. There were some lean years, but steadfast believers—among them the buyers of Brooklyn's Park Slope Food Coop—hung in there and so did the seventh-generation farmer. And just this month, the Cornell Alliance for Science has named Hepworth its Farmer of the Year.

Today, Hepworth Farms produces over 400 varieties of certified organic vegetables on 400 acres of NOFA-certified land. Yet Hepworth, whose studies in ag science were just getting started with her B.A. in pomology, has some serious concerns about anointing the “organic” label as the be-all, end-all of healthy eating and about hard-line opposition to genetic modification of crops.

We spoke to Hepworth about her vision of a third way.

Seedstock: So what are your major concerns right now?

Amy Hepworth: I'm about to dive into intensive research on microbiology this winter. And I'm very concerned with the anti-GMO movement—the way information is being disseminated, the way the conversation is framed. I went on vacation with friends recently and they refused to even discuss the issue.

SS: What were they afraid of hearing?

AH: Nature is remarkable; understanding nature's intrinsic wisdom is most important. But people don't even know what natural is at this point. The whole concept of feeding ourselves on the scale that must happen today is very unnatural.

The information that is out there is mostly not sci-



Amy Hepworth (left) with twin sister Gail Hepworth (center), head of production, and partner and personnel manager Gerry Greco (right).

ence-based, it's opinion. And most of it is not coming from the one percent of people who are actually involved in agriculture. There's a big disconnect, and people without knowledge are carrying the conversation. We can't blindly commit to one way of thinking. We need to be open-minded about how to be sustainable, be responsible stewards of the soil, and feed people in 2050.

SS: So you feel like there is too much negativity?

AH: The organic movement should accept the fact that not all non-organic technique is bad. First of all, it's always better to eat the fruits and vegetables than not to eat them. People don't realize that “conventional” and “industrial” agriculture aren't the same thing. Bottom line, all farmers want good, healthy soil and integrated pest management. A blend of organic and non-organic tactics can get you there.

Saying GMOs and pesticides are “unregulated” is ridiculous; they're tightly regulated. Safer ones and new biological options get approved much faster, so there is an economic advantage for the companies in making them as safe as possible. And these regulations are decided in terms of parts per billion, not even parts per million.

SS: This is an interesting point of view for someone who does a lot of organic farming.

AH: I've been focused on de-chemicalization since the 1970s; it doesn't happen overnight. How did we get here? Because consumers wanted the perfect shiny apple, the longer shelf life, things that don't exist in nature. The real goal has to be to feed everyone and do it in the least negative way possible.

Biotechnology is still very challenging and expensive, but very promising. What's most important is applied

research; meanwhile, the land grant universities have been radically defunded.

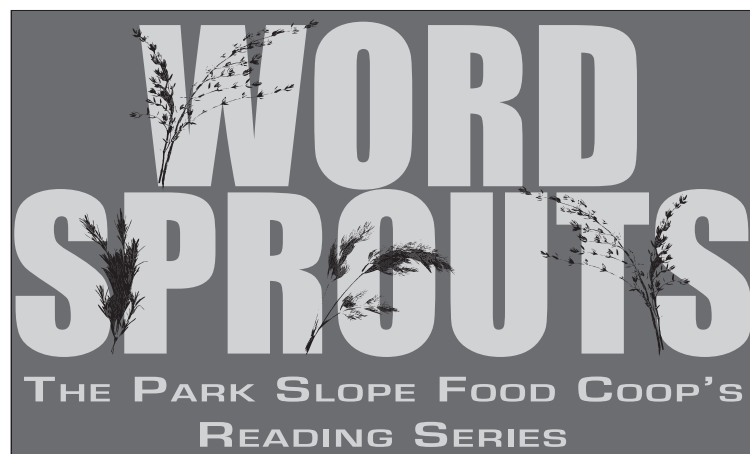
We need an agricultural system that is environmentally sound, economically viable, and socially just. If you stay within those three things, you can build a strong, secure system where everybody gets to eat fresh fruits and veggies. If you find one little flaw and

focus on it and yell at each other about it, we'll never get there—and in 2050, we'll have 9.5 billion people to feed.

We can talk about the industrial revolution and its wars and chemicals, but it was also about trying to feed people, and just because things went wrong doesn't mean we should ignore what went right. It's a complicated world we're living in; course corrections are needed. Nature has them too. If I could just influence food systems activists to focus on a third way, and on making the conversation a more positive one, that would be great.

When you take a bacteria-resistant gene from a tomato and put it in a delicious Brandywine, your body does not experience that as anything but a tomato. We have been manipulating genetics since the beginning of cultivation; we now have a fantastic tool that can do in months what used to take years.

The organic movement is wonderful. It got us off the worst chemicals, and we've never gone back. Right now we have the most abundant and safest food supply in human history. We need to continue to employ applied science to improve and heal and protect both the environment and the humans. And extremism, holding a rigid position, is not what will get us there. ■



**Are you a writer?
Do you want FTOP credit?**

Wordsprouts, the Food Coop's reading series, is looking for you, for its monthly events in the second-floor meeting room.

**Please contact the organizers at
wordsproutspfc@gmail.com.**

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

The *Linewaiters' Gazette* is published biweekly by the Park Slope Food Coop, Inc., 782 Union Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215, 718-622-0560. 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.

For topics that generate a large number of submissions (letters or Member Articles) serially and continuously over an extended period of time, the *Gazette* will not necessarily publish all submissions, but the editors will use their editorial discretion to select a small number of submissions (whether letters or Member Articles) from each side as representative of that viewpoint of the issue. The selected submissions will also adhere to the current guidelines of civil discourse and should serve to advance the discussion in new ways.

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.

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.

Friday, March 18, 8:00 p.m.

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



PROSPECT CONCERTS

Flying Home presents a tribute to Benny Goodman and Gene Krupa with an expanded ensemble for a special night of swing dancing! Performing swing hits of the '30s, '40s, and '50s, Flying Home carries on the hot style and "light on their feet" approach to swing music made famous by the Goodman and Krupa Ensembles. Covering popular classics and lost gems of the early days of jazz, Flying Home explores the repertoire that



made these two swing greats a musical force for more than 40 years. If you love swing, and love to dance, you won't want to miss it!



There will also be free dance lessons with professional dance instructor **Arturo Perez**, who will be partnered by **Carolynn Murphy**.

www.facebook.com/ProspectConcerts

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

RETURN POLICY



The Coop strives to keep prices low for our membership. Minimizing the amount of returned merchandise is one way we do this. If you need to make a return, please go to the 2nd Floor Service Desk.

REQUIRED FOR ANY RETURN

1. The Paid-In-Full receipt **MUST** be presented.
2. Returns must be handled within 30 days of purchase.

CAN I EXCHANGE MY ITEM?

No, we do not "exchange" items. You must return the merchandise and re-purchase what you need.

CAN I RETURN MY ITEM?

Produce* Bulk* (incl. Coop-bagged bulk)
Cheese* Seasonal Holiday Items
Books Special Orders
Calendars Refrigerated Supplements
Juicers & Oils
Sushi *A buyer is available during the week-days to discuss your concerns.

**NEVER
RETURNABLE**

Refrigerated Goods (not listed above)
Frozen Goods
Meat & Fish
Bread

**RETURNABLE
ONLY IF SPOILED
BEFORE
EXPIRATION DATE**
Packaging/label
must be present-
ed for refund.

Items not listed above that are unopened
and unused in re-sellable condition

RETURNABLE

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

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Final Proofreader: Regina Mahone

Index: Len Neufeld

Advertisement: Eric Bishop

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.

Claudio Adami	Kara Bynoe	Prieto	Stacia Griffith	Matthew Johns	Gladstone	Makini Osson	Jahnvi Shah	Reynout van Dijk
Samantha Adler	Sarah Calvert	Andrew Davidov	Lauren Guberman	Rosemary Jones	Lydia Marks	Robert Paradiso	Sagar Shah	Emilio Vavarella
Daniel Akiba	Will Carson	Ingrid de Bloeme	Aranzazu Guillan	Shinhey Kim	Panama	David Peer	Thomas Sibley	Elizabeth Ward
Eric Anderson	Lauren Casey	Amy Delfyett	Montero	Charles Knapp	Marquand	Tom Pietrasik	Txai Sibley	Benjamin Weber
Anna Antyukhin	Jessica Chun	Lawron Delisser	Vanel Gustave	Chris Koehs	Bridget Martin	Matt Plass	Rita Soni	Elisabeth Weiman
Konstantine Antyukhin	Andrea Clark	Meena Dieterich	Rebecca	Anne Kohl	Felipe Martinez	Cecil Plaut	Una Stade	Jeffrey Weinberg
Joel Avery	Christopher Clinton	Evana Douglas	Harshbarger	Natalya	Vara De Ray	Kiran Puri	Evan Strauss	Lauren Weinberg
Ayesha Badhwar	Emma Collens	Monika Eghbalian	Peter Haupt	Kovalenko	Reena Mathen	Brenda Rainey	Judith Sturges	Hallie Weiner
Juliette Barge	Ian Cooley	Grace Escamilla	Naomi Heisler	Lauren Kraus	Madeleine May	Philippe Regard	Erica Sung	Robin Wigglesworth
Pamela Bartolo	Nicole Cooley	Jill Feldman	Roderick Hill	Jeanette Kreuze	Allen McCullough	Samantha Riley	Christopher Taylor	Daniel Wong
Maggie Benedict	Elizabeth	Alex Fogel	Brittany Holmes	Andrea Krukowski	Lynne Miller	Lucy Rohr	Nathan Tempey	Uliya Yashtaal
Patricia Bernstein	Cosentino	Monica Fravia	Simon Horwith	Andrew Lala	Elana Moore	Neil Ryan	Rym Terbeche	Anna Zellweger
Nir Bitton	Matthew	Tom Fredrickson	Emma Hunter	Angel Lara	Sherwin Morgan	Julianna Samper	Susan Townsend	Randolyn Zinn
Ariel Boone	Cosentino	Neegen Ghaisar	Jonathan Hyde	Sarah Leblanc	Kate Nicholson	Gisela Sanders-Alcantara	Mike Trombetta	McCullough
Lauren Bradley	John Costello	Kayla Glick	Atsushi Ito	Jessica Lewis	Katie Norris	Alcantara	Christine Trott	
Cicely Bynoe	Ricardo Cruz	Courtney Greenwald	Amanda Jack	Corey Liston	Grainne O'Neill	Eric Schwartz	Tuomo Uusitalo	
			Shenaaz Jetha	Nicole Loeffler-	Gunvor Orstavik	Aditi Sen		

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, MARCH 29
GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, APRIL 5
AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m.
Submissions will be considered for the April 26 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:
March 17 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, March 7
March 31 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, March 21

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:
March 17 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, March 9
March 31 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, March 23

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, March 29, 7:00 p.m.

Location

St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President Street, between Sixth and Seventh Aves.

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 on foodcoop.com and at General Meetings. Instructions and helpful information on how to submit an item appear on the submission form. The Agenda Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month to plan the agenda for the GM held on the last Tuesday of the month. If you have a question, please call Ann Herpel at the Coop.

Meeting Format

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

Attend a GM and Receive Work Credit

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

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

- Advance Sign-up required:**
To be eligible for workslot credit, you must add your name to the sign-up sheet in the elevator lobby or sign-up at foodcoop.com. The sign-ups sheet is available all month long, except for the day of the meeting when you have until 5 p.m. to sign up. On the day of the meeting, the sign-up sheet is kept in the Membership Office.
Some restrictions to this program do apply. Please see below for details.
- Two GM attendance credits per year:**
Each member may take advantage of the GM-for-workslot-credit program two times per calendar year.
- 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

mar 3

thu 7:30 pm

**Food Class: Exploring Chickpeas & Spices In Indian Cuisine**

Chef **Mukti Banerjee** will demonstrate vegan/gluten-free cooking and talk about the health benefits of the variety of spices that she uses in her cooking. The class is cultivated around exploring Indian cuisine, which is based on the foundation of Ayurveda—the ancient science that balances the mind, body and spirit. Banerjee will provide a foundation to balancing tastes, and using the basic spices of fennel, cumin, ginger, saffron and other essential ingredients. She will teach you how to make better use of spices by discovering the many health benefits provided by the spices in addition to their flavor, tastes, and how to keep their aromas intact. Banerjee grew up in Bengali, North and East Indian food and cultural traditions. She decided to start Mukti's Kitchen when a few good friends insisted that she did something to let others know about her unique style of Indian cooking. When she cooks Indian and Bengali food, and teaches the art of cooking to her students, she feels that she is carrying forward the art and the spirituality that her mother, aunts and grandmothers have left with her. Banerjee feels blessed to have picked up and mastered their prized craft.

Menu includes: chickpeas with onion, ginger, garlic & spice infusion (chana masala); cabbage and chickpea dumplings in coconut cream sauce (cabbage kofta); fluffy basmati rice w/onions, carrots, peas, cashews & raisins (vegetable pulao); onion fritters with chickpea flour; mint/coriander chutney.

ASL interpreter may be available upon advance request. If you would like to request an ASL interpreter, please contact Ginger Jung in the Membership Office by February 18.

Materials fee: \$4. Food classes are coordinated by Coop member Olivia Roszkowski. To inquire about leading a Food Class, contact Olivia Roszkowski at parkslopefoodclass@gmail.com.

mar 4

fri 7 pm

**Film Night: Mavis!**

Mavis! is the first feature documentary on gospel/soul music legend and civil rights icon Mavis Staples and her family group, The Staples Singers. From the freedom songs of the '60s and hits like "I'll Take You There" in the '70s, to funky collaborations with Prince and her recent albums with Wilco's Jeff Tweedy, Mavis has

stayed true to her roots, kept her family close, and inspired millions along the way. Featuring powerful live performances, rare archival footage, and conversations with friends and contemporaries including Bob Dylan, Prince, Bonnie Raitt, Levon Helm, Jeff Tweedy, Chuck D, and more, *Mavis!* reveals the struggles, successes, and intimate stories of her journey. At 75, she's making the most vital music of her career, winning Grammy Awards, and reaching a new generation of fans. Her message of love and equality is needed now more than ever. **Amy Foote** is a freelance documentary editor, co-producer and consultant based in Brooklyn, NY. Her editing credits include; *Mavis!* (HBO), *1964* (PBS American Experience) the Emmy-nominated film, and James Beard Award-winning film, *A Matter of Taste: Serving Up Paul Liebrandt* (HBO, BBC); *For Once In My Life* (PBS Independent Lens, SXSW Audience Award 2010, IDA Best Music Documentary); *The Least of These: Family Detention In America* (SXSW/ Snag Films); and the Emmy-nominated film *Finishing Heaven* (HBO).

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

mar 5

sat 5 pm

**Coop Kids' Variety Show**

Event takes place at Old First Church, Carroll St. & Seventh Ave. Types of acts include: piano, singing, guitar, cello, violin, hip-hop, dance, magic, and card tricks. Performers in alphabetical order: Jett Clark, Adelaide DeSole, Finley Dreyer, Tilly and Rufus Fein, James Gelman, Penelope HInchey, Eli Jort, Anita-Mae Kahan, Ammar Khalifa, Antonia King, Asmara and Gianluca Lance, Masai Lee-Matale, Vaishali Lerner, Maia Levin, Naomi Levy, Ajaya Aisha McClure, Ronan Meils, Sadie Norr, Virginia Panarella, Ana and

Elan Rabiner, Julian Raheb, Henri Richardson, Eric and Margareta Stern, Mia Weiss. Refreshments for sale. Nonmembers welcome.

Event takes place at Old First Church, Carroll St. & Seventh Ave. Admission: \$12 adults; \$7 seniors; \$7 kids 12-18; free kids under 12.

mar 6

sun 12 pm

Having Trouble Getting Pregnant?

Nine sneaky causes of infertility and how to fix them. Learn how to: resolve "mystery infertility"; eliminate toxins that impair fertility; make IVF and IUI work the first time; cook meals that help you get pregnant; identify foods and supplements that boost your fertility; clear blocked tubes; normalize your cycle; shrink fibroids and cysts; help prevent miscarriage; and boost men's sperm count and quality. Coop member **Rebecca Curtis**, M.A., M.F.A., HHC, AADP, is a certified holistic nutritionist and the founder of Green Gem Holistic Health.

mar 8

tue 7 pm

Safe Food Committee Film Night: Food Chains

In this exposé, an intrepid group of Florida farmworkers battle to defeat the \$4-trillion global-supermarket industry through their ingenious Fair Food program, which improves working conditions for farm laborers.

There is more interest in food these days than ever, yet there is very little interest in the hands that pick it. Farmworkers, the foundation of our fresh food industry, are routinely abused and robbed of wages. In extreme cases they can be beaten, sexually harassed or even enslaved. *Food Chains* reveals the human cost in our food supply and the complicity of large buyers of produce like fast food and supermarkets. **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.**

mar 11

fri 7 pm

Wordsprouts: A Night of New Novels

Thomas Rayfiel is the author of seven novels, most recently *In Pinelight*, which the Minneapolis Star-Tribune called "a tour-de-force" and Bookforum named "one of this year's hidden gems." His new book, *Genius*, is published by TriQuarterly/

Northwestern University Press. Jonathan Lethem has declared that "Rayfiel's prose is no less beautiful for the way it nearly ruptures with the pressure of adolescent sex and revelation—it has the harsh, urgent beauty of a great pop tune emerging in a four-track demo." **Lynn Steger Strong** was born and raised in Florida and holds an MFA from Columbia. She teaches writing at Columbia and Pratt and lives in Brooklyn with her family. She'll be reading from her first novel, **Hold Still**, which the literary website *The Millions* anointed as one of the most anticipated new books of the year. They called it, "An emotionally suspenseful debut about the relationship between a mother and her troubled young daughter, who commits an unfixable indiscretion that implicates them both."

Bookings: John Donohue, wordsproutspfc@gmail.com.

mar 18

fri 8 pm

Flying Home

Flying Home presents a tribute to Benny Goodman and Gene Krupa with an expanded ensemble for a special night of swing dancing! Performing swing hits of the '30s, '40s, and '50s, Flying Home car-

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.

mar 3–apr 9 2016

ries on the hot style and “light on their feet” approach to swing music made famous by the Goodman and Krupa Ensembles. Covering popular classics and lost gems of the early days of jazz, Flying Home explores the repertoire that made these two swing greats a musical force for more than 40 years. If you love swing, and love to dance, you won’t want to miss it! There will also be free dance lessons with professional dance instructor **Arturo Perez**, who will be partnered by **Carolynn Murphy**.



Concert takes place at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West (at 2nd St.), \$10, doors open at 7:45. Prospect Concerts is a monthly musical fundraising partnership of the Coop and the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture.

mar 19
sat 2 pm

Gluten Intolerance: Fact or Fiction?

Seems everyone you talk to these days either is or knows someone who is gluten-sensitive. Gluten-free products are all the rage. Once “the staff of life,” why is wheat suddenly being blamed for everything from bloating to bladder incontinence? From joint pain to asthma? Join **Diane Paxton** as she sheds light on the transformation of this ancient grain from dietary staple to modern-day pariah! Participants will be eligible for free gluten-sensitivity screening. 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.

mar 25
fri 7 pm

Voice Over: What’s It All About?

You hear them on cable, network TV and radio. They’re doing ads, announcing the nightly lineup, promoting some big upcoming show, they set the scene in movie introductions and thrill you with trailers, they fill in important details or fully narrate documentaries. When you call a large business and connect to a telephone menu, they tell you how to find the person you want to reach or obtain the service you seek...hopefully. They are the women and men who do voice-over work and if you’ve ever wondered about how it gets done, this is the event for you. You’ll get a chance to see how ProTools, a program for digital recording, works and how the recording process flows. This can be just for fun or maybe you’re thinking about this as a possible career, either way—you and your voice are welcome. There will be different kinds of copy for you to read or you can bring a short (less than 2-minute) piece or poem and listen to the results. Coop member **Rodger Parsons** is a VO Pro with 45 years of writing and voice-over experience.

mar 29
tue 7 pm

Today’s Birds & Bees

This Sex Ed workshop will help parents become their child’s primary sex educator. Parents will learn communication and engagement skills and—most of all—build their confidence in communicating with their child about sexuality. This session utilizes a holistic approach of sexuality and will focus on helping parents understand their own feelings so they can better serve their children’s needs. Coop member **Tara Abrol** is a Licensed Social

Worker and has worked with young people for 10 years. She is the founder of BIG Talks Workshops which provides Sexuality Education services to schools and nonprofits.

mar 29
tue 7 pm

PSFC MAR 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: St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.

I. Member Arrival and Meeting Warm-Up

II. Open Forum

III. Coordinator and Committee Reports

IV. Meeting Agenda

Item 1: Candidates for Board of Directors Presentation (45 minutes)

Discussion: “Presentation by candidates for the Board of Directors followed by questions for the candidates.” —*mandated by the General Meeting*

Item 2: Annual Disciplinary Committee Election (45 minutes)

Election: Two current committee members will stand for re-election, and the committee will present up to three additional candidates for the committee to fill openings. —*submitted by the Disciplinary Committee*

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.

apr 1
fri 7 pm

Film Night



Film to be announced.

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

apr 3
sun 12 pm

Everyday Posture

Posture both contributes to our health and expresses something fundamental about us to the world. But for many of us, after years of huddling around a computer, carrying kids, and managing pain, we often find that our body doesn’t feel or look as we hoped it would at this point. And worse, most conventional wisdom about posture urges leaves us stiff, stressed, and ultimately slumping with exhaustion. In this workshop, taught by a certified Alexander Technique teacher, you’ll learn simple strategies for improving your posture and raising your overall well-being. The Alexander Technique is particularly useful for individuals dealing with RSI, back or joint pain, and performing artists. This gentle mind-body method helps you both find your true stature and feel at ease in your body. Repeat attendees welcome! 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. After a serious injury and years of chronic pain, Dan studied and trained as an Alexander Technique teacher and mindfulness meditation instructor.

still to come

apr 5

Agenda Committee Meeting

apr 8

Wordsprouts

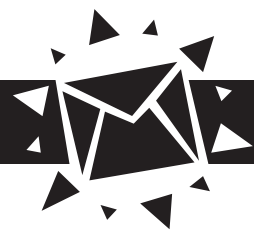
apr 7

Food Class

apr 9

Ethics-based Tax Resistance

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



FAILURES OF JUDGMENT

TO THE EDITORS,

The blame for the enduring promotion of BDS, of marginal relevance to the Coop and patently offensive to many members, falls widely across the governance spectrum. But no committee has more consistently undermined the inclusive culture of the Coop than the *Gazette*. For seven years and for no compelling reason, the editors have enabled a disruptive subset of members to relentlessly broadcast a political message that has fueled extreme divisiveness and created an alienating environment for members based on our ethnic/religious/national identities and values (a fact ignored by the Diversity Committee, charged with assuring a “welcoming” spirit).

Having unleashed this war of words, the editors might at least have been consistent in applying their guidelines, but any such hope has been dashed. Two recent examples illustrate my point (none of the letters discussed was written by me):

A letter (published on 12/10/15) made a case for a legal right to boycott Israel. Another, submitted for the following edition, refuted the claims and detailed the legal case against such boycotts. The editor rejected this letter based on an arbitrary desire to include “variety” in the letters section, publishing instead a darkly humorous letter consisting solely of twelve repetitions of one sentence (12/24/15). I believe that reasonable people would agree that prioritizing such a letter over one that directly and civilly refuted a previous letter and addressed important legal issues concerning boycotts of Israel, does not reflect well on the editor’s judgment.

Another letter, submitted for the 2/18/16 edition, which addressed the 75% boycott majority requirement and included the writer’s opinions about the Coop’s purpose and why boycotts are undesirable, was sent back for revision. The editor struck out more than 50% of the content on the grounds that it was “conjecture” and lacked “concrete” and “hard evidence”, as though the *Gazette* had a solid history of dedication to stringent fact-based standards. Not surprisingly, the

revision was also rejected (without comment), and in my educated opinion—based on an advanced degree in linguistics and years teaching college-level expository writing—neither version, both respectful opinion pieces, was objectionable. The editor’s remarks reflect an ever-changing, unpredictable set of guidelines and standards, arbitrarily applied, and in no way appropriate to a mere Food Coop newsletter.

But worst of all, after seven years of publishing repetitive BDS advocacy in practically every *Gazette*, the editor claimed, with no hint of irony or self-awareness, that the letter’s content wasn’t “germane” to the Coop, precisely the argument repeatedly made by many members and consistently rejected by the editors.

BDS has had far more than 15 minutes of fame at the Coop, more than the topic ever deserved. The constitutional right to free speech can be exercised by taking it to the streets. Editors should now summarily reject everything related to Israel and Palestine unless a proposal is scheduled for an upcoming meeting and finally acknowledge, with humility, that they lack the credentials to vet material on this highly complex, extremely sensitive subject.

Sylvia Lowenthal

WHAT DO TERRORISTS EAT?

TO THE EDITOR:

Let me ask a question: What do terrorists eat?

Halal? Kosher? Organic? Vegetarian?

Do they shop at the Park Slope Food Coop? A government-designated “terrorist” might be working right next to you!

One Coop member (Daniel McGowan) spent 7 years in jail for so-called “eco-terrorist” acts—attempting to save the planet. A former member of the Coop (Paul Bermanzohn) was shot by the Klan—who were assisted by the FBI—40 years ago and was seriously wounded, for demonstrating with people maligned as “terrorists”. Five were killed. Currently, people who visit Planned Parenthood—many Coop members do!—are more and more portrayed as frequenting a “terrorist” organization, and of being complicit in that organization’s “crimes”.

The word “terrorist”—like the phrase “hate speech” used to designate the words of those opposing the state of Israel’s policies—is so imprecise as to be undefinable. Who is a terrorist? Says who? What actually is “hate speech”?

Ronald Reagan once praised the terrorist death squads in Nicaragua known as “contras”, calling them “the moral equivalent of our founding fathers.” Say what? Oliver North secretly sold TOW missiles to Iran, he testified, and channeled that cash to fund the contras.

Reagan’s equation is instructive. Most of the founding fathers were indeed terrorists. Just ask the American Indians. Or the slaves the founding fathers owned.

More and more events are portrayed as “terrorist attacks”. The last two years have recorded 350 “mass killings” in the U.S. Officially, mass killings are incidents in which 4 or more people are murdered. 300 of the perpetrators were Christian. Two were committed by people who said they were Moslems. Guess how many of the 350 mass killings are considered to be “terrorist-related”. (If you need a hint, you really should ratchet-up your critical thinking. Red Alert!)

“Terrorist” has become a word devoid of historical consistency. Why is Saddam Hussein but not Hillary Clinton seen as a terrorist, despite Clinton’s authorizing the bombing of Libya? Why isn’t Barack Obama’s targeting-by-drone considered “terrorism”, blowing up hospitals, schools, wedding parties?

The labeling of someone as “terrorist” or of being connected to a “terrorist” group is an opportunistic political ploy. Coop members who oppose Israel’s policies towards Palestinians are labeled “hate speakers” by Israel’s defenders in the *Gazette*; they risk being marginalized, losing their jobs and becoming targets of violent attack, so many stay quiet here.

Those maligning others as “using hate speech” are following the billionaire Sheldon Adelson’s pro-Zionist playbook. Some are funded by front groups he’s set up for the purpose of casting aspersions on those (like me) who demand justice for Palestine, and for all people everywhere.

I hate the term “hate speech”. Like “terrorism,”

it means whatever abusers of the language want it to mean. I like to think of Coop members as thwarters of mindless acquiescence to received doctrine. We are proud “Terra-ists”, part of the “Terra-ist International” out to save this planet. Look around the Coop. This is what terra-ists eat.

Mitchel Cohen

AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE GAZETTE

EDITORS:

Linewaiters’ Gazette indexer Len Neufeld has an interesting proposal for “resolving the publication of letters and member-submitted articles...on contentious issues.” (“Freer Speech, For a Price,” 2/4/2016 letter).

He suggested “another publication to carry this material.” Like the *Gazette*, it would be member-administered, perhaps monthly rather than bi-weekly, with guidelines for fairness, respect, etc., “but without the *Gazette*’s current limitations...on strong language.”

He suggested an elected committee to vote on which publication submissions should appear in. Finally, he suggested “a nominal purchase charge (say \$1),” to defray costs and to gauge member interest and viability.

I would modify Len’s proposal first by eliminating the nominal charge, which would more likely dampen, rather than indicate, interest and viability. Costs would be insignificant—far less than for the *Gazette*—and regardless, official Coop publications should be paid for collectively, as the *Gazette* is. Even \$1 is not nominal for some.

A committee determining “suitability” (however we define that elusive concept) would likely make as bad a job of their work as the *Gazette*’s editors have made of theirs. Even the *Gazette*’s ban on personal attacks has been abused by editors in some cases and unenforced in others. Personal attacks have a clear signature: attacks on the person rather than the message. Anything else is an abridgment of free speech, and begs the question: What are we being protected from?

To be of any value and appeal, the new publication should not just facilitate “strong language” but rather

the entire gamut of member self-expression. The Coop has a literate and cosmopolitan membership, with a large cohort of professionals, including writers. But few of them contribute. Why should they, when the *Gazette*’s editors scrutinize, circumscribe, and police member-writing for the claimed purpose of ensuring “civil discourse.” They’ve published thoroughly uncivil guidelines announcing their intent to harass writers with a gauntlet of hurdles? Their stated goal of “balancing” free speech with “civil discourse” is a rationale for eliminating criticism, controversy, challenging thought, or other elements that make publications interesting. They invariably become employed for self-serving purposes. In short, the new publication should be something the members can truly call their own, not sanitized, and not mediated by censors claiming professional journalism as their justification.

Unmentioned till now is the Coop’s elephant in the room, i.e., the possibility—nay, the probability—that the BDS battle will transfer itself to the new publication. For now it must suffice to say there’s no way to know for sure what will resolve it, or when. And we should avoid basing every decision with BDS in mind. The vote against holding a referendum on joining the boycott is often mistaken for a vote against joining the boycott itself. But that’s never been put to a vote, and as long as BDS advocates don’t have their day in court, the issue will almost certainly continue tormenting the Coop’s publications and General Meetings. Resolution may even be beyond the capabilities of the Coop’s current governing structure to deal with. But that’s a discussion for another time.

David Barouh

CLARIFICATIONS FROM A BOARD MEMBER

DEAR MEMBERS,

My proposal to raise the minimum from 51% to 75% at the January 26th General Meeting has raised some interesting opinions in its aftermath. I would like to respond to a few letters.

A particular one I’d like to

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

cut short before it grows: that the Chair's first ruling decided my agenda item was a change to the By-laws. This is incorrect. She first stated her belief that my item was a change to the Rules of the Meeting. She then later changed her mind and said it was to the By-laws (which I did not protest). Regardless, her final and legal ruling was that the item was indeed a change to the Rules of the Meeting. It was a difficult decision under the circumstances and, just like the vote itself to pass the proposal, it could have gone either way.

To Ms. Buchwald. I did not propose to change the Constitution, our By-laws, or Roberts Rules as you claim. I proposed to change the Rules of the Meeting. Each are different things.

To Mr. Bauer. You said: "We came home with the sense of having witnessed an orchestrated coup." What you saw was the Chair Committee faithfully following the rules as it always does, but the sense of chaos could have stemmed from members making several attempts to overwhelm the agenda item with parliamentary maneuvering. Some examples being: multiple Point of Order calls demanding answers to questions that were not on-point; multiple motions to table the agenda item when such a motion is only allowed once and had already been defeated in a vote; and oppositionists yelling at the Chair Committee from their seats. You also said: "While people were filling out their ballots... the chairperson suddenly found herself surrounded by a group of people apparently lecturing her." It happens that sometimes the Board confers with the Chair, and the Chair confers among itself, over thorny procedural issues. I've seen this several times during my time as Secretary.

Mr. DeCoursey: Your complaint that BDS stole time away from important issues like the TPP is entirely valid, and not uncommon. The General Coordinators and the *Gazette* staff have borne similar burdens for years now.

Ms. Clausen: Thank you for your encouragement, I am quite happy with my decision to bring Al Ard Palestinian Olive Oil to our shelves. In past *Gazette* letters I have described my efforts as only one tiny step

toward restoring Palestinian laborers' financial independence, political freedom, and their honor. I described them also as demonstrating how PSFC can easily be against boycotts of Israel yet be for helping Palestinians under occupation. So, your words of support and the opportunity to restate my intentions are greatly appreciated, especially in light of positive sales numbers.

Jesse Rosenfeld

"TRUTH IN LABELING" TO INFORM COOP SHOPPERS

MEMBERS:

"Truth in labeling" for an end cap display of Palestinian and Israeli products sold at the Coop requires free copies at the display of the report by Human Rights Watch: *Occupation, Inc.: How Settlement Businesses Contribute to Israel's Violations of Palestinian Rights*, published January, 2016. The study describes both environmental justice and worker exploitation issues at play in settlement products from the West Bank. <https://www.hrw.org/node/285045/>.

The end cap display without "truth in labeling" is not 'a symbol of hope' but a symbol of disinformation for Coop shoppers. The Report provides examples of Israel's illegal settlement enterprise since 1967, showing how Israel's occupation exploited Palestinian natural resources (including land, water, mineral resources) to benefit Jewish-only settlements. The occupation has deprived Palestinians of their economic, social, political and human rights guaranteed under International law.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_law_and_Israeli_settlements

For background to Item 1 on end cap display read the *Gazette* article, February 18, 2016 by Thom Blaylock, "Chaos, Procedure, Middle East Take Center Stage at January's General Meeting"

Mary Buchwald

PSFC members for bds
www.psfcbds.wordpress.com

THE 75% SUPERMAJORITY PROTECTS THE COOP

TO THE EDITOR:

A 294–192 members' vote at the January GM approved the motion to institute a 75% supermajority requirement for participation in a boycott. The new rule is beneficial and honors the spirit of the Coop. According to the Certificate of Incorporation, the Coop was formed:

"...To provide services connected with the acquisition for its members of articles of common use, including food products, family or other household and personal supplies."

This motion is an affirmation of the Coop's commitment to stay true to its primary purpose. Participation in a boycott deprives members of the associated discounts on the targeted products. The necessity of broad support is obvious. The whole point of "collective action" is that it be truly collective.

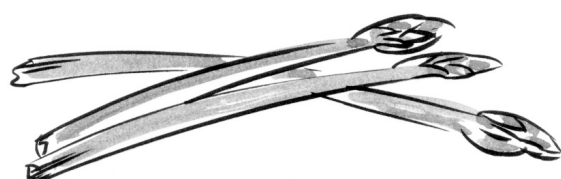
Could a boycott without broad support trigger a large wave of resignations? Would the associated loss of sales and labor endanger the Coop? How many resignations can we absorb? These are the questions we need to ask as co-owners.

Leading BDS voice As'ad AbuKhalil wrote in 2012, "Finkelstein rightly asks whether the real aim of BDS is to bring down the state of Israel. Here, I agree with him that it is. That should be stated as an unambiguous goal. There should not be any equivocation on the subject. Justice and freedom for the Palestinians are incompatible with the existence of the state of Israel."¹

I, and many, many people I know would resign from the Coop if it were to ever endorse BDS. We cannot be part of an entity that supports denial to the Jewish people—and only the Jewish people—the right to national self-determination in a portion of their historic homeland.

Barbara Mazor

¹ <http://angryarab.blogspot.ca/2015/06/regarding-citation-by-netanyahu-of-my.html>



SODASTREAM, AGAIN

DEAR GAZETTE:

I am a former Liaison Officer for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Washington, a 7-year volunteer for Human Rights First, and 32-year member of the National Lawyers Guild ("NLG").

Many people have questioned why the Coop should boycott Soda Stream. The answer is that it's consistent with our Mission Statement: "We seek to avoid products that depend on the exploitation of others."

Some have posed the question: "why is this boycott different from all other boycotts?" asserting that all others passed by an 80-90% majority. But those boycotts were enacted because we were already educated about the horrors of Pinochet's Chile, South African apartheid, or Coca Cola's murderous labor policies in Columbia.

Unless you've read reports by the world's leading human rights organizations, and not a self-serving audit, you won't understand the reasons for boycotting SodaStream. Of course, the Coop carries other products that are no doubt tainted. But that didn't preclude our previous boycotts, and shouldn't preclude this one.

Perhaps the most damning report is "Occupation, Inc.," issued by Human Rights Watch, an organization not known for its radicalism, on January 19, 2016.^{1,2} It states that since June 1967, Israeli and international businesses have helped "build, finance, service, and market settlement communities ... drawn by low rents, favorable tax rates, government subsidies, and access to cheap Palestinian labor."³

It states as a matter of law, that Israeli settlements in the West Bank, where SodaStream operated from 1998 through 2015, violate international law, a position previously endorsed by Amnesty International, the NLG, and the United Nations.^{4,5,6}

In 2015, SodaStream closed its West Bank factory and relocated to the Negev Desert. However, this move neither negates nor remedies its 17 years of [unsanctioned] violations. SodaStream still receives Israeli government subsidies, and is now involved in the forcible displacement of Palestinian Bedouins in

the Negev from their lands, herds, and food sources, who have no choice but to work for SodaStream.

SodaStream is currently embroiled in a labor dispute over the requirement of 12-hour work shifts. In a televised interview, one SodaStream worker reported conditions reminiscent of Jim Crow, and oppressive 60-hour workweeks.⁷

Due to these ongoing concerns, the National BDS Committee, Jewish Voice for Peace, and Coalition to End the Occupation, have called for a continuation of the SodaStream boycott.

Can our Coop continue to carry a product that stands for the exploitation of workers and the displacement of indigenous peoples and still maintain the principles expressed in our Mission Statement? We should be true to our Mission Statement and boycott SodaStream.

In cooperation,
Carol Lipton

¹ <https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/01/19/occupation-inc/how-settlement-businesses-contribute-israels-violations-palestinian>

² The Human Rights Watch report was referenced in a January 26, 2016 OpEd in the New York Times, "When Made In Israel Is A Human Rights Abuse", http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/26/opinion/when-made-in-israel-is-a-human-rights-abuse.html?_r=0

³ HRC report, p. 1.

⁴ The Fourth Geneva Convention, The Rome Statute and The Hague Regulations, due to the confiscation of land, water, and natural resources for the benefit of settlements

⁵ See, "Israel's Impunity Under International Law", 2003, by NLG member and IADL Permanent Representative to the United Nations Gloria Bletter <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1040265032000059670?journalCode=cper20>

⁶ A 2009 B'Tselem report highlighted Israel's failure to enforce environmental laws in the West Bank industrial areas. http://www.btselem.org/publications/summaries/200906_foul_play

⁷ <https://electronicintifada.net/content/sodastream-treats-us-slaves-says-palestinian-factory-worker/12441>



ILLUSTRATION BY ETHAN PETTIT

CLASSIFIEDS

BED & BREAKFAST

THE HOUSE ON 3ST. just below Sixth. Ave is offering deep discounts beginning Jan 6-March 31. The apartment occupies the parlor floor. Guests enjoy plenty of room, total privacy and a modern living space. Call Jane White, 718-788-7171 to negotiate a nightly rate. The longer the stay the lower the rate. houseon3st.com.

LARGE SUNNY ROOM with queen bed, private or semi-private bath in spacious Prospect Heights townhouse full of old-style charm and modern amenities. Smoke-free, no pets. Close to Q, B, and 2, 3 stations. Short walk to BAM, Park, Gardens. Call Margaret 718-622-2897. leave short message.

EMPLOYMENT

HOST INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS at your home and earn up to \$2,000 a month! Brooklyn School of Languages is a family owned school in Brooklyn Heights which has been teaching English to foreign students since 2012. Contact carla@brooklynschooloflanguages.com or at 917-270-7465.



MERCHANDISE-NONCOMMERCIAL

I BUY RECORDS!!! Cash for your old vinyl records. Any collection any size! Call Daniel (coop member, record collector, & music lover) 973-699-6383.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

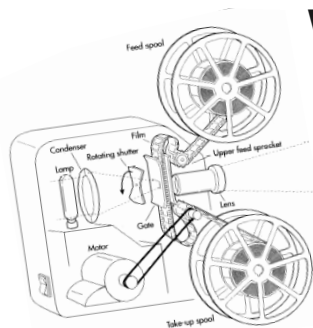
EXPRESS MOVES. One flat price for the entire move! No deceptive hourly estimates! Careful, experienced mover. Everything quilt padded. No extra charge for wardrobes and packing tape. Specialist in walkups. Thousands of satisfied customers. Great Coop references. 718-670-7071.

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

MADISON AVENUE HAIRCUTTER is right around the corner from the food co-op, so if you would like a really good haircut at a decent price, please call Maggie at 718-783-2154. I charge \$60 and I work from Wednesdays through Sundays 9am-5pm.

PAINTING, PLASTERING + WALL-PAPERING. We do the finest prep + finish work. Over 25 years experience + fully insured. Free estimates. Call Fred Becker @ 347-661-6634.

ARE YOU A BROOKLYN-BASED FILMMAKER?



Would you like to screen your work at the Coop?

Then submit your film for possible inclusion in the Coop's Friday Film Night Screening Series.

If you're a Coop member you'll receive one FTOP credit for screening and offering a Q+A with your film. If you're not a member, it's still a chance to spread the word about your work and build your fan base by screening for a local audience.

We accept documentary and fiction, both features and shorts (we program shorts as a group).

Please e-mail Gabriel Rhodes for details at gabrielrhodes@me.com.

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.

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 Fl., New York, NY 10018

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community calendar listings are free. Please submit your event listing in 50 words or less to GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop.

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

SAT, MAR 12

8 p.m. Carolyn Hester with Amy and Karla Blume. At the Peoples' Voice Cafe. Community Church of NY Unitarian Universalist, 40 E. 35th St. N.Y. Info Call: 212-787-3903 or peoplesvoicecafe.org. \$18 general/\$10 for subscribers.

SAT, MAR 19

8 p.m. Queer Tango Club Milonga Equinox at the Alchemical Studios. Join the friendly community of queer tango dancers for an evening of social dance and warm embrace. For info: queertango-club.nyc. Open to beginners with no experience.

TUE, MAR 15

7 p.m. Cookbook Launch Party: *The Farmette Cookbook: Recipes & Adventures from My Life on an Irish Farm* by Imen McDonnell at the Powerhouse Arena, 37 Main St, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201 For info call 718-666-3049. rsvp@powerhousearena.com.

SUN, MAR 20

4 p.m. BPL Chamber Players presents: Imani Winds; Valerie Coleman, flute; Toyin Spellman-Diaz, oboe; Mariam Adam, clarinet; Jeffrey Scott, horn; Monica Ellis, bassoon with Gilbert Kalish, piano at the Dr. S. Stevan Dweck Center for Contemporary Culture Cen-

tral Library. 10 Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn. Admission Free.

SUN, APR 17

5:30 p.m. The Prom you always wanted, a Cocktail and Dance Party to benefit the Center for Anti-Violence Education. Bowery Hotel at 335 Bowery NY. For more info go to CAENY.ORG/Prom.



ILLUSTRATION BY ETHAN PETTIT

★ 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.

PARM SQUAD Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday Various Times

This shift requires extensive training with a member of the paid staff, and therefore requires a six-month commitment. You must have good attendance to join this squad and must be a member for at least six months. As a member of the PARM Squad, you'll prepare designated cheeses for sale. You should be fit enough to cooperate with other members to lift 90 lbs. (a wheel of parmesan). Involves also cutting hard cheese, moving in and out of the cooler. All members of the squad must follow the hygiene and safety guidelines as stipulated in the Food Processing manual. Please provide your e-mail address to be added to the shift-swapping contact list. Interested members must speak to Britt before joining this squad: britt_henriksson@psfc.coop.

OFFICE SET-UP Monday, Thursday, Friday, 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 in the Membership Office for more information.

ENTRANCE DESK Tuesday, Thursday, 5:45 to 8 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.

STORE EQUIPMENT CLEANING Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 6 to 8 a.m.

This job involves 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 workers' tools and supplies. Must arrive on time at 6 a.m. Please report to Cynthia Pennycooke on your first work shift.

GENERAL MEETING SET-UP Tuesday, 6:30 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.



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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**GREENE HILL FOOD CO-OP IS OPENING ITS DOORS TO PSFC MEMBERS.
JUST SHOW YOUR PSFC MEMBERSHIP CARD AT THE DOOR.**

**park slope
FOOD COOP**

**& GREENE
HILL
FOOD CO-OP**

Greene Hill Food Co-op is open for shoppers:

Mon & Wed 3pm - 9pm

Sat & Sun 10am - 6pm

**18 Putnam Ave., Brooklyn (bet. Grand Ave. & Downing St.)
greenehillfood.coop**

Hearing Administration Committee is seeking new members

The HAC performs administrative functions necessary to arrange and facilitate disciplinary hearings, coordinating with the Coop's Disciplinary Committee and the Hearing Officers Committee.

Applicants should be detail-oriented,
comfortable working by e-mail and telephone;
they should be Coop members for at least one year and
have excellent attendance records.

Members of the HAC work on an as-needed basis, only when hearings are required, and earn FTOP credit. Therefore these members must maintain regular Coop shifts or be FTOP members in good standing.

The nature of this work requires that all members maintain strict confidentiality with respect to all matters on which they work.

We are seeking an applicant pool that reflects the diversity of the Coop membership at large.

Those interested should e-mail the HAC at psfchac@gmail.com.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE EDUCATION SQUAD REPORT

By Susan Metz, *International Trade Education Squad*

The International Trade Education Squad (ITES) was authorized as a workslot squad of seven members at the September 2014 GM. Our mission is to inform ourselves and you about the impacts of international trade agreements on our daily lives, on families, households, our community, the country, folks in other countries, other creatures, and future generations as well as the environment and the planet. We write for the *Gazette*, present at GMs, organize discussions held in our meeting room, and table outside the Coop. At our blog, CoopITES.wordpress.com, we post articles and links to even more information and activities. We collaborate with labor, environmental, human rights, peace, and social justice movements. We have been following the development of several “Free Trade Agreements.”

The overarching goal of “Free Trade” (in my own language) is the following: Wealthy individuals, already with more money than they need (“investors”) use corporate mechanisms to resist laws and regulations passed through government legislative channels that are meant to restrain their individual, private profit-making compulsions, aka greed.

In joining the Coop each of us has taken a giant step outside of corporate profitmaking structure. We enjoy an egalitarian economy and a culture of community. We all benefit because we all contribute.

Individuals do not profit. Our mission statement articulates our shared values. We don’t exploit people or our common resources.

ITES members have been studying the largest ever “Free Trade” agreement, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), negotiated by trade ministers from 12 Pacific-rim nations. During seven years 600 corporate advisors to the U.S. delegation had access to the closed-door sessions while the public, Congress and the press were locked out. The agreement was finalized and signed during October in Atlanta. In November the text was finally released and sent to Congress and the press. The deal was even worse than we feared. Look at the reports in the *Gazette* archives and on CoopITES.wordpress.com for analyses of various aspects.

Now, each country must put the agreement through their ratification process. Ratification in the U.S. Congress has stalled out. It will come before both houses with special ‘Fast Track’ procedures passed by a narrow margin in June. Fast Track requires all 30 chapters go through as one package on one vote—Yes or No on the entire TPP.

We do not expect the administration or leadership in Congress to present the TPP until the votes are aligned, which could be as soon as May or within the next two years or never. If it does not pass before the end of President Obama’s term, a new president could easily reverse course on the agreement. With the possible

exception of Marco Rubio, all of the remaining front-runners in both the Democratic and Republican primaries have expressed their opposition to the deal.

The presidential candidates are, however, not likely to create enough outside buzz to affect the current Congressional debate. Even on the Democratic side, though both remaining candidates oppose TPP, both are also eager to align themselves with the president, and are therefore disinclined to raise the issue too frequently.

“There are enough concerns about this agreement, some that I also have, where I don’t see enough support for it right now,” Paul Ryan (R-Wis), Speaker of the House told *The Journal Times* on Tuesday, Feb 2. “With the Trans-Pacific Partnership and its European equivalent, the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, both moving in a downward spiral, the time is right for those against these corporate-rigged trade deals to stop them completely,” wrote Margaret Flowers and Kevin Zees on www.mintpressnews.com. Recently, the Citizens Trade Campaign, a coalition of 1,500 interest groups, submitted a letter to Congress, asking the deal be blocked.

ITES strongly recommends individual action now. Agents of the administration will twist arms and corporate lobbyists offer financial rewards. We have to remind all and every elected official that should the TPP be ratified by the U.S. Congress

it will become law, overriding what legislators passed using established practice. Previous legislation would be changed to conform to language of the TPPs 30 chapters covering, among other non-trade issues: pharmaceutical patents (that would increase drug prices), intellectual property rights (that would impact internet access), environmental regulation (that would mandate approval of fracked gas to be exported to TPP member nations).

Communicate with Congress members. Urge individuals to write. Participate in No TPP Tuesdays. Ask Clinton and Schumer to be more visible and vocal in their opposition. Discuss the issue and send a letter from each community group, political party, book discussion, faith congregation, labor union local, student organization, identity support group and squad.

The NY City Council voted to make us one of 47 municipalities now TPP Free Zones. Initiatives in the NYS legis-

lature are finding support. Demonstrations on February 4 included New York among 28 U.S. cities. Mass actions are planned for March. Check CoopITES.wordpress.com for updates.

We have openings on ITES. We need someone to maintain the blog. Leave a note in the ITES mailbox on the top of the stairs across from the membership office and one of us will contact you for an orientation. Our next public forum will start at 6:30 on Friday evening, April 15. Non-members are welcomed. We are making history. ■



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the Food Coop on

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THANK YOU!

Thank you to the following members for referring friends who joined the Coop in the last four weeks.

Jeanette Abbink	Catherine	Erin Douglass	Anne Hall	Alfred Kahn	Loren	Occhiogrosso	Paula Segal	Jessica Viola
Ujvil Aggarwal	Lana Cencic	Jonathan Doyle	Rebecca	Sophie Kamin	Ana M.	Eric Olliff	John Shapiro	Hannah W.
Samia Aithellal	Esther Chao	Elise	Harshbarger	Asha Kaufman	Marion	Yoshi Owens	Lauren Shookhoff	Bo Walker
Alix	Sally Charnow	Anton Eremenko	David Hartstone	Kim Charles Kay	Alexander Meek	Aoife Pacheco	Ramona Sivells	Becca Watson
Alicia Allgood	Sarah Chase	Maya Feller	Caitlin Healy	Paul Keefe	Emily Melander	Julia Page	Jaclyn Skurie	Yuri Weber
Lorea Amatria	Elaine Su Hui	Vinz Feller	Romi Hefetz	Nadia Ketoure	Marc Mendelsohn	Ambar Panjabi	Jacob Slichter	Philip Weinrobe
Senar	Chew	Frank Firmat	Gillian Herring	Paul Kiernan	Nancy	Adriana Perez	Monia Solighetto	Vitus Wieser
Jane Anderson	Lynn Cole-Walker	Sam Foner	Peter Herring	Jessica Koehs	Mendelsohn	Sarah Phillips	Cynthia Spence	Jen Wilson
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Maaike Arts	Connor	Andrea Geyer	Shira Inbar	Lisa Kozlowski	Taylor	Dawn Redekop	Stef Stevens	Ariela Yomtovian
Alexa Barre	Amanda Cooper	Katie Gillett	Shahzad Ismaily	Virginie Ladisch	Michele Moses	Cecelia Rembert	Julia Stratmann	Callen
Katie Bishop	Eli Crews	Caitlin Gillies	Sheryl Jaffe	Erica Laird	Erin Moutinho	Rene	Jackie Straus	Zimmerman
Grigory Bloch	Arturo Cubria	Patricia Glynn	Patricia James	Jessica Lehmann	Erick Munari	Adam Robertson	Tara Sweeney	Or Zubalsky
Jenny Blumenfield	Clemente Cuevas	Lacie Goldberg	Sarah Jensen	Adrienne Lenker	Christina	Michael Sachs	Ang T.	
Riva Blumenfeld	John D'Aponte	Nazmin Bhatia	Olga K.	David Levin	Newhard	Jacquelyn	Ehud Tal	
Christopher	Robert D'Aquila	Gordon	Jennifer Kachler	Philip Li	Norma	Scaduto	Dana Thompson	
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Kevin Cashman	Caroline Darin	Sarah Hahn	Daniela Kafshi	Liljengren	Joseph	Dana Schwister	Melisa Venegas	

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