

Established  
1973



# LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE



100%  
SOY BASED  
Ink System  
Contains no petroleum oil

Volume KK, Number 6

March 17, 2016

## January Aftershocks Shake February General Meeting



PHOTO BY KEVIN RYAN

**Ann Herpel explaining that no large venue will host a Coop meeting on any issue related to BDS or Israel.**

By Gayle Forman

Though it had been a month since the January 26 General Meeting, the reverberations of that contentious evening continued to echo through the February 23 GM. From the Open Forum to the Coordinators' Reports to the delaying of the voting on minutes, the January meeting, with its BDS-related agenda item, at times seemed to overshadow the agenda.

Some background: At the January 26 General Meeting, members voted on an agenda item that changed the rules on voting to authorize a boycott. Instead of a majority, the new rule called for a "supermajority" of 75 per-

cent vote at a General Meeting before the board would consider a boycott. The item passed, but according to Thom Blaylock's report in the *Linewaiters' Gazette*,

"there were huge disagreements about procedural issues throughout the meeting." (For a fuller understanding, see Blaylock's full report in the February 18 *Gazette*.)

*The January meeting, with its BDS-related agenda item, at times seemed to overshadow the agenda.*

A month later, those "huge disagreements" remained. During Open Forum, Jan Clausen called the January 26 vote an "extremely confused process... How are we going to rectify the situation? We need to re-vote on a future GM on the supermajority for boycotts measure," she said. Mary Buchwald followed, reading a lengthy letter from the *Gazette* and suggesting the meeting had violated Robert's Rules of Order (which sometimes help govern the GMs) and asking how that would be rectified.

New member Dan Wolkowitz raised concern about the BDS-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Please take the New

park slope  
FOOD COOP

Product Survey

Go to:

[foodcoop.com/survey](http://foodcoop.com/survey)

Take your Coop survey Today!

## Science, Sweets and Sustainability Drive Coop Chef



ILLUSTRATION BY NINA FRENKEL

**KATE ZUCKERMAN,  
CHEF, WRITER, INNOVATOR**

By Hayley Gorenberg

Home alone after school as a kid, eagerly waiting for the company of her voracious older brothers and her parents, Coop chef and Catering Squad member Kate Zuckerman got her start in the kitchen, baking to keep herself busy and sweeten her family's life.

"I had two older brothers who were just hollow legs. They would eat everything and be very appreciative," she said. Zuckerman headed to college and kept cooking, even as she majored in anthropology at Princeton. "I never went to culinary school. I just kept getting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

### 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](http://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

**Fri, Apr 1 • Film Night: *Tracks in the Sky* 7:00 p.m.**

**Thu, Apr 7 • Food Class: *Flavors of the Middle East* 7:30 p.m.**

**Fri, Apr 8 • Wordsprouts: *Spring Cleaning Your Psyche* 7:00 p.m.**

**Sat-Sun, Apr 9-10 • Food Drive to Benefit CHIPS Soup Kitchen 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.**

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

Young Roots Run Deep .....	4
Obituary .....	5
Puzzle .....	5
International Trade Education Squad Report .....	6
Letters to the Editor .....	7
Coop Calendar, Governance Information, Mission Statement .....	9
Calendar of Events .....	10
Community Calendar, Classifieds .....	14
Candidates for Board of Directors .....	15
Exciting Workslot Opportunities .....	16



## Aftershocks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

related literature being handed out by some members about the issue: "When you do this and it's clandestine and don't say it's from your personal point of view, it looks like it's Coop speech."



Joe Szladek discusses the National Co+op Grocers.

Retired General Coordinator Allen Zimmerman tried to impose some historical perspective to the approved change in voting procedure: "I was a General Coordinator for 28 years, a member for 40 years. In that time, I've been to about 400 General Meetings," he said. "I'm a co-author of the rules of order. What happened at the last meeting," he said, "was a 'revision' of the rules of order, something that is allowed for in the Coop's bylaws."

### Coordinator Reports

General Coordinator Joe Szladek announced that the Coop had joined a National Co+op Grocer, a national cooperative of coops that would increase our purchasing power with United Natural Foods, our biggest distributor. "We get 2 percent cheaper on prices," Szladek said. "It's nothing crazy but another step. Hopefully there will be more steps down the road."

The produce report included a sneak peak of a *Gazette* article about the Coop's top-selling products. (Spoiler alert: top sellers were chicken and eggs. Go read Ed Levy's article in the March 3 issue.)

GC Ann Herpel's coordinator report once again reflected the debate over the BDS movement. Herpel described the General Coordinators' efforts to secure an alternative location for large meetings at which the boycott might be voted on. Herpel recounted the March 2012 GM, held at Brooklyn Tech, when the only agenda item was a vote

about holding a referendum to join the BDS movement, which included boycotting products from Israel. That meeting drew record crowds, national media attention, huge lines and a police presence. Given that future meetings on the subject would likely draw similar crowds (and other attention) Herpel explained the

com), which they said is full of "objective information about the welfare of animal products sold in the Coop." Harkening back to the earlier news about the Coop's massive sales of chicken and chicken-related products, they highlighted the blog's guides for meat and animal related products and vendor interviews on animal welfare practices.

### A Call to Increase Plastic Recycling

The evening's first agenda item was a discussion on a proposal brought by Environmental Committee member Rosemary Calderon that the Coop join a fee-based plastic recycling program with TerraCycle, a company that takes material and packaging not normally accepted by municipal recycling and repurposes, or "upcycles," the materials into things like park benches, handbags and jewelry. The Coop already has a no-fee plastics recycling partnership with TerraCycle that Calderon estimates has diverted "26,000 pieces of plastic that would've gone into landfill."

The fee-based recycling would expand the type and amounts of plastic Coop members could recycle by allowing them to bring in plastics not accepted by NYC Sanitation.

For a fixed, per-bin fee, TerraCycle would provide bins, shipping and the upcycling. Calderon emphasized this was a pay-as-you-go system, with no up-front commitments or contracts. The Coop could add, take away or discontinue the bins at any time.

Calderon proposed the Coop start a trial program, with ten of the largest sized TerraCycle bins (15x15x42; \$166 each). To demonstrate how much plastic might fit into such a bin, she had compacted dozens of pieces of plastics into a much smaller box.

The membership was generally supportive, though there were questions and concerns: Was TerraCycle an up-and-up company? Calderon believed

challenge of finding a venue in Brooklyn both large enough, and willing, to accommodate us. Of the four venues identified—Brooklyn Tech, BAM, The King Theater and Brooklyn College—none wanted to host the PSFC if the boycott was being discussed or voted on.

Herpel's report drew lively comments and suggestions. Some members suggested a virtual meeting; others a mail-in ballot to decide on the boycott issue. But in something of a Catch 22, any such change would need to be raised at a General Meeting, which would likely draw the kinds of crowds that were necessitating the search for an alternative space in the first place.

### Committee Reports

Piper Hoffman and Kama Einhorn of the Animal Welfare Committee made a pitch for members to read their blog ([psfcanimals.blogspot.com](http://psfcanimals.blogspot.com)).



Rosemary Calderon holds a TerraCycle recycling container.



PHOTOS BY KEVIN RYAN

Noa Heyman proposes a Coop water booth at the NYC marathon.

them to be but was willing to do more research. Where would the bins live given the Coop's space constraints? She suggested they'd only be brought out on collection days. Would we accept only Coop-generated plastic? Calderon said that should be the priority given the Coop is footing the bill. She said members should "use their own consciences" and suggested that those wishing to bring in more household plastic could subsidize this with a donation.

### Will Volunteer...for Credit

"What's the greatest day in New York City?" asked member Noa Heyman as she introduced her proposal. "Marathon day. The first Sunday of every November. 50,000 runners. 10,000 volunteers. 2.5 million spectators. The majority of race runs through Brooklyn."

Heyman proposed the Coop adopt one of the fluid stations along the marathon route, staffing it entirely with Coop members and in exchange providing one work slot credit for each four-hour volunteer shift. She said that the race, which runs down Fourth Avenue, is in the Coop's backyard and taking over one of the stations was both good PR and good community building.

While some members were enthused with Heyman's proposal, many more were skeptical. Member Tom Stephenson, identifying himself as "Grinch," asked about the benefit of volunteering at the marathon over other opportunities, like cleaning up Prospect Park.

Eunju Lee, who identified herself as "Grinchette," took issue with the New York Road Runners' club's that organizes the race) treatment of runners after Hurricane Sandy forced the cancellation of the 2012 marathon. She also questioned how volunteering at the marathon "is related to our mission," to the degree that it would earn work-slot labor.

Jesse Rosenfeld, who agreed that working a fluid station "sounds like a wonderful thing, something I'd love to volunteer for, even if I don't get credit," asked Heyman: "Would you be able to propose this only if you're certain all our core shifts are filled?"

This led Ann Herpel to question the timing. Early November is the start of the holiday season when the Coop increases the number of shifts to handle the demand. It was an inopportune time to divert labor.

David Moss suggested that Heyman take an informal straw poll, via a show of hands, to see if there was support for bringing the issue as a proposal in the coming months. The subsequent poll did not reflect much support for the proposal.

Which isn't to say the idea of volunteering did not garner support. Maribeth Batcha on the Chair Committee suggested "asking people to volunteer for the sake of volunteering. We could do it without work slot. We could still get a sign," she suggested.

### A Question of Minutes

After the agenda items, Board Secretary Jesse Rosenfeld presented the minutes from the previous meeting. What was normally a pro forma vote became another subject of heated discussion, with some members raising the issue of the confusing and chaotic nature of the previous meeting and suggesting edits to the minutes. "Minutes need to reflect the back and forth and lack of clarity in the process," Clausen said.

Though it was explained that the minutes were not meant to be a blow-by-blow of the meeting—that's what the *Gazette* write-ups are for—Rosenfeld was open to accepting written objections or concerns, saying he would review them. The board agreed to delay voting on the January minutes. ■



# Coop Chef

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

jobs in restaurants, and one job led to the next." She eventually found her way to the renowned restaurant Chanterelle. As the pastry chef, she produced a new menu of plated desserts each month, along with a daily array of chocolates, fancy ice creams, sorbets and petit fours.

Zuckerman's stint at Chanterelle won acclaim. As the Starchefs website observed, "Zuckerman's desserts have earned praise and been featured in *Food+Wine*, *Art Culinaire*, *Food Arts*, *New York Observer*, and *Time Out New York*. The *New York Times* described a tasting of her caramel desserts as a 'life-changing experience.'"

Chanterelle closed for renovation and rebranding in 2010, when Zuckerman's youngest child was two years old. By then Zuckerman was a bit burnt out by the heat of the commercial kitchen and overwhelmed by the full-on pace of home life with three kids and a husband working in publishing and professional conducting.

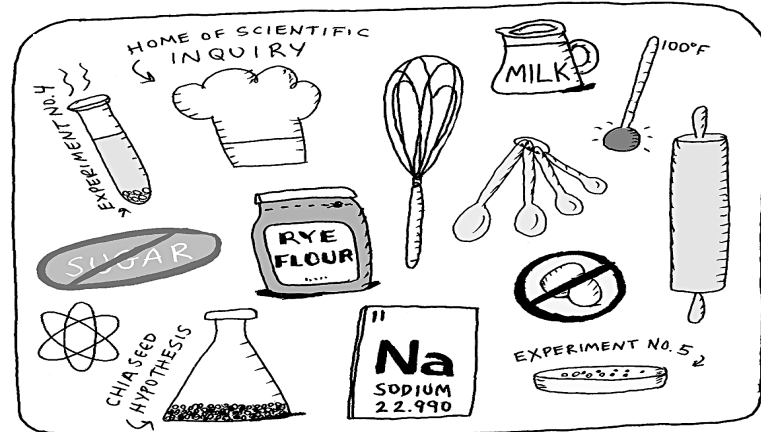
"I just realized I couldn't work for someone else anymore. My next step was to be an entrepreneur or do something different. I had to figure that out." She decided to take some time off with her children, Chaim, Ruthie and Sylvie, to "regroup a little" and pick up some of the work of home life from her husband, Simon. She credits him with having helped her focus on her career, and she felt it was time to give him a turn for that type of support.

Zuckerman decided not to return to the restaurant, and began concocting a mélange of opportunities and business ideas, from cafes, cooking schools, event spaces and cooking stores, to kids' food educational programs. Most recently, she started a small green food event business called Brooklyn Sweetcycle ([www.sweetcyclebrooklyn.com/#new-page](http://www.sweetcyclebrooklyn.com/#new-page)), which offers the use of a stationary bicycle for parties and other events, equipped with blender and ice cream-maker attachments so that participants can cycle their way to smoothies and frozen desserts. She's been consulting with a local café to develop its sustainable and locally procured menu. And she wrote a cookbook, *The Sweet Life: Desserts From Chanterelle*.

Zuckerman had begun

delving into the science of sweets toward the end of her time at Chanterelle. "I thought about pans, egg yolks and egg whites," she said. The book features scientific sidebars, excursions into the chemistry of cooking. For example, "I love to make perfect custards," Zuckerman said. She realized from experience that the key was not in the milk, cream, egg yolks

from all over the world," she said. "I was into seasonal food, but I never really questioned. I was happy to use wheat all the time." While she acknowledges that "we're in this gluten-free phase" now, she has a different impetus to explore beyond wheat. She took soil classes at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, contemplating crop diversity. "It's not so much for the



## FOOD + CHEMISTRY

and sugar, but in the baking. While after 20 years of baking experience she knew that to be true, it wasn't till she wrote the book that she researched protein and egg yolks, how ingredients hold water, and how they denature. "If you want to have a creamy, most delicious custard, you want to heat those proteins slowly, but never get so hot that they denature and collapse," she explained.

Her cooking sidebars included a safety check. She had a friend who teaches chemistry at Columbia University, and she wanted to make sure that when she advised readers on imparting almond flavoring through toasted apricot kernels, she wasn't running the risk of endangering her readers, since the raw kernels contain small amounts of cyanide. She confirmed the heat would render the ingredients safe, but still cautioned her readers not to stand over their pots and inhale.

She now had time and mental space for culinary exploration. "When you're working all the time, working so hard, and you don't want to be there 14 hours, and you'd love to get out in 10 hours, you don't think. You take the grains and the fish for granted."

But now she started thinking more about food sustainability and the health of the soil in which food grows, as well as people's connection to raw ingredients. "I used to be into being a chef and making beautiful things on the plate and getting things

health of us. It's also about preserving farmland and the health of the soil. If we can start eating other crops, if we grew rye and ate barley and buckwheat, it would be so much better for the soil," she said. She's interested in creating demand for that diversity, even when she returns to her chocolate cookie roots. "To encourage farmers to grow that stuff, they need some financial incentive," she reasoned. So these days, "When I make a dark chocolate cookie, I'll throw rye flour in it. I'll try to find more flavor in grains and sugars I never thought about. In Chanterelle, I never questioned flour or sugar." She began to explore more diversity in sweeteners. "We used to buy bulk honey. Then I tried local honey, and it tasted so different. It had so much nuance, levels of sweetness, acidity, nose—flavor. In commercial bulk honey, all these characteristics are lost in the extensive pasteurization of honey which extends shelf life and prevents crystallization."

Put off by the sheer volume of eggs and the wasted egg whites entailed in making her old favorite, ice cream, she began to experiment with other ways to create creaminess. "When I first started cheffing, I was all about only egg yolks because they are 'natural,'" she said. Now she considered "all the gums on the market, and I laid them out and tried them all." Anything that would form a gel when heated or agitated was fair game: tapioca starch, chia seeds, guar gum and

xanthan. Scientifically, she realized she needed a starch or polysaccharide that "holds water so when it freezes it doesn't form an ice crystal. That's what makes ice cream creamy." Soon she had developed a creamy, eggless ice cream.

"Cooking professionally over the last 24 years has drawn my attention to food chemistry, agricultural science," Zuckerman returned to her alma mater a few weeks ago for a food conference, Princeton Studies Food, joining with engineers, population scientists, food entrepreneurs and post-doctoral students to discuss how to feed the world. She was most struck by databases to study land and how it's been farmed, and gauge productivity levels. "We have the models and the information that will drive the change," she concluded.

She's concerned busy New Yorkers are too overscheduled to connect with their food. "I have friends with really demanding jobs, with families. It's not easy to come home and make a healthy meal in 30 minutes. We need a solution for

do all these other things. It's great, so I'm really torn. This is the biggest question I have, being someone who has the skills and the time right now, and having so many friends who don't have the skills but do care."

*"Cooking professionally over the last 24 years has drawn my attention to food chemistry, agricultural science."*

Admitting she doesn't have the answer, she ventures to suggest biting off a bit less. "Maybe narrow what we make. If you're making similar things over and over, you get better and better at it. When I'm teaching someone to cook, I say, 'Make the same things over and over again.' Stick with simple ingredients to prepare it; doing something outside your sphere, it becomes something bigger than it has to be."

But she also recommends that Coop members explore. "Buy something you've never used before that's local. You should commit to it for a number of meals. Don't just



them." And she doesn't think buying intensively prepped ingredients for "healthy" meals is the answer. "You put these busy people in this position where they are so out of touch with food. Dependence on ready-made food feeds their discomfort with using fresh ingredients. They don't buy it and touch it and use it. They don't feel the needs of the environment. Buying packaged foods separates us from the skills and the raw ingredients. We're producing fewer and fewer people who know how to approach a raw ingredient. Preparing those raw ingredients is what teaches you to appreciate them."

At the same time, she supports the significant work she sees her friends doing. "We go out into the world and

try it once. Buy something in the shelf that you haven't bought and buy it four weeks in a row."

Other cooking hints include being bolder with heat. "People are afraid of browning things, whether it's a pie crust or piece of fish. They shouldn't be afraid. It brings out the flavor." And preheat pans. "If you preheat a pan, it's pretty much nonstick. Let it sit there on low flame for a few minutes. When I make pancakes, the first thing I do is let it sit there on low heat for a while." And finally, "Never throw away your lemon peel or your orange peel." She suggests throwing it into meat dishes for "roundness of flavor," and recently enjoyed lime peel in a pot of pinto beans, creating "this tangy tamarind-y flavor." ■



# Young Roots Run Deep

ILLUSTRATION BY ROD MORRISON



By Taigi Smith

I can still remember walking up South Van Ness Avenue with unfiltered bottles of apple juice purchased from the famed Rainbow Food Coop in San Francisco. It was back in the '80s, when Rainbow was still located on 15th and Mission and local food activists were boycotting strawberries picked by underpaid migrant workers. This was the Mission. This was San Francisco. These were the '80s, and I'd learned about Cesar Chavez in school. We would walk home, my mother and I, lugging bags full of organic vegetables and pints



**Savannah Smith eating her Brussels sprouts.**

of almond oil in plastic recycled bottles. I suspect it was memories of my own childhood that lead me to the PSFC when my daughter, Savannah, was just three months old. For almost 13 years, I'd lived in the neighborhood, passing by our bustling Coop more times than I can count, but I believe it was memories of my own childhood that finally tipped my hand. As a mom, I wanted my own child to enjoy the nature's full bounty, with its wondrous colors, flavors, varieties and splendor.

And obviously I'm not alone. Spend two minutes at the PSFC on a Saturday, and you'll see children everywhere. They're munching on bagels, asking for Seaweed Snax, and sitting impatiently in shopping carts as their frantic parents navigate crowded aisles, racing against the threat of an inter-Coop toddler meltdown. Just yesterday, it seems, I was standing in a line, 30 people deep, cajoling my crabby two-year-old at naptime; begging

her to keep it together for just five more minutes. It was moments like those where I thought to myself, "What the hell am I doing here? It would've been so much easier to shop at the Farmer's Market." Now, two years later, my little one looks forward to long lines at the Coop, and she relishes our time spent there. She adores bringing exotic foodstuffs to show and tell at school, chooses her own ugly fruits and pummelos, and knows how to appreciate a hot, buttered acorn squash. I am prouder than a peacock when she scarfs down Brussels sprouts and Swiss chard in front of my friends. I sheepishly call her "my little foodie." She loves the food from our Coop, and I've started to wonder if she'll love it enough to work her shift one day. Will she embrace the organic lifestyle I've worked so hard to create or will it vanish like breast milk from an un-suckled teat? What lessons will she and other young members of the PSFC pick up from the many hours we parents spend shopping there? As we shop, whether we are impatient or congenial, let us not forget that little eyes are watching us.

Ava Ryan, who is now 25 years old, can't remember a time when her parents weren't members of the PSFC. "My earliest memories of the Coop are being in the play group as a young child and playing with other kids, but that didn't last long as I much preferred shopping with my parents," writes Ava via email. A lifelong lover of fresh fruits and vegetables, Ava is certain the time she spent at the PSFC as a child impacted who she is today. "I can't remember a time when I didn't like vegetables. I've been a vegetarian most of my life. I used to love spinach as a baby. I do remember what the Coop looked like before the renovations as well, and remember pushing our boxes down the metal conveyor belt to the check out." Ava says it was her early years at the Coop that lead her to her career in food justice. "I went to Cornell, and I studied sustainable agriculture and garden based education." Today, Ava works for a commu-

nity action agency in Northern California, where her official title is "Lake County Project Coordinator for the Gardens

my way of giving other kids a literal taste of what the Coop gave me, and I can safely say that at least a few of those kids found a new love for broccoli and kale."

Today, Ava's goal is simple, yet lofty. She wants to alle-



**Ava Ryan with Belize school children for whom she created a school garden curriculum.**

Project." As Ava grew to love the abundance of fresh produce available at the Coop, she realized early on that everyone didn't enjoy the same access to fresh produce. "There's a real divide between people's nutritional decisions and the people growing the food. Because I grew up shopping at the Coop, it never really hit me that it was unique or had better produce and a greater variety of it, until I was a little older, perhaps 10 or 12. I grew up seeing all that food. I got very involved in cooking and nutrition."

viated food insecurity in the under-privileged California community where she now works. Located just two hours north of San Francisco, Lake County is a world away from the glitz and wealth of San Francisco. The hardscrabble community is a place that's seen better days. Ava describes Lake County this way. "Lake County is an under-privileged community... ravaged by drug problems, obesity and diabetes. You name it, we got it as a problem."

It's a very low-income area where most of the clients



**Ava Ryan harvesting Brussels sprouts on the Blue Heron Farm, a big supplier to the PSFC.**

It was Ava's desire to bridge the great food divide that lead her to a career in agriculture. "Growing up in the city, I was always very interested in urban agriculture and community gardens as a way to provide access to fresh fruits and vegetables. I knew that I was never going to be a farmer myself (though I have worked on farms) and instead found my way onto a more education based career path. I studied Garden Based Learning in school and briefly worked as a garden educator at an outdoor school, preaching my love of nature and vegetables. It was

she works with rely on food pantries, and in 2015, Lake County lost 150,000 acres in the Northern California fires. As the project coordinator there, it's Ava's job to oversee a network of community and school gardens. "I'm helping to rebuild this community and help people get access to fresh fruits and vegetables. The gardens are made for people who are local residents. It's all community run. They have meetings; they make decisions. Each family has a plot, and you'd be amazed at how much produce they can grow. People are going off medica-

tions because they're eating better." The program charges \$20 per family to lease the plots because, over time, the organizers learned that folks work harder on the land if they make a financial investment. The community gardens yield, "a lot of tomatoes and corn... lots of lettuce, broccoli, kale and arugula," says Ava. There's also, "lots of cactus," adds Ava, because "people are bringing



**Ava Ryan working the Blue Heron Farm stand.**

lots of indigenous things from the places they are from."

*Ava Ryan, who is now 25 years old, can't remember a time when her parents weren't members of the PSFC.*

Ava's story sheds light on the fact that healthy habits are passed down through the generations. Like a good crop of collards, children's bodies and palates must be cultivated and nourished. And so the lessons our children learn while idling in the aisles of our crazy Coop may not be visible today, but if we're lucky, these children might just absorb a few lessons for the soul. By shopping at the PSFC, we are teaching our children to wait in line, to cooperate with others, to work for what they want, and of course, to honor their bodies with vitamins, nutrients, and yes, bagels.

With 10 school gardens and two community gardens under her belt, Ava Ryan says she still has a lot of work to do. "We have people who are farmers—who have plenty of land—who'd be willing to lease it out. We're going to start a tool collective," says Ava, who hopes to have eight more community gardens up and running within the next three years.

Ryan says, "Without the PSFC, I wouldn't be the person I am today. I wouldn't have studied agriculture. It wouldn't have been on my radar." ■



## O B I T U A R Y

## Remembering Lynne Altwerger

By Thomas Rayfiel

Lynne Altwerger, a longtime member and squad leader, died February 12 from complications related to kidney cancer. Born in 1939 and raised in the Bronx, Lynne taught science for many years at Fort Hamilton High in Brooklyn. Membership Coordinator Deb Parker was a neighbor of Lynne's in Sunset Park. She recalls how: "When we moved in, she welcomed us to the neighborhood. She was, in the words of another of her neighbors, 'the 24-hour patrol.' She watched many of the kids in her building over the years and kept an eye on our cars and activity. She made herself

available to hear our woes and always offered words of encouragement." Her friend Dan Joseph wrote, "She was an avid gardener, contributing extensively to the plantings and gardens of Sunset Park which was directly across the street from her apartment. She was also very creative and at different times throughout her life was active as a painter, sculptor, and jewelry maker."

*"She was one of the amazingly dedicated long-term squad leaders."*

—Joe Holtz,  
General Coordinator

Lynne's squad worked Friday evenings. Co-squad leader, Teresa Santamaria, praised her ability to come up with "creative solutions" to problems. "Seeing her was like a lesson, every time." Diane Canepa spoke of a family crisis requiring her to take a leave of absence. Lynne, hearing of her situation, immediately went up to the office and transferred two extra work shifts of her own, which she had banked, over to Diane so she could continue to shop.

Joe Holtz remembered Lynne as well: "She was one of the amazingly dedicated long-term squad leaders that have meant so much to the Coop reaching our level of longevity and success. In every interaction I had



Lynne Altwerger

with her over the years there was one thing that always came shining through: she truly cared a lot

about the Coop and wanted to make sure that the place worked. The Coop and I will miss her." ■

## M E M B E R S U B M I S S I O N

## "Don't Fuel the Refugee Crisis: Climate Crisis and Human Crisis," A March 31 Forum Sponsored by 350Brooklyn

By Mimi Bluestone

Mediterranean cooks were quick to taste peppers' possibilities after Columbus brought chilies from the western hemisphere home to Europe. Over time, Aleppo chilies (also called Halaby peppers) became a staple of Mediterranean cuisine and a key crop for Syrian farmers.

Now they're a rarity in markets around the world, their demise a strand in the tragedy of Syria. A historic drought from 2006 to 2009 ruined Syria's prized pepper crops, killed 85% of the country's livestock, and drove more than a million people from their rural homes to search for scarce jobs in the country's already crowded cities.

The extreme drought that stoked the Syrian conflict is a direct result of climate change, say scientists who have studied weather patterns in the region.<sup>1</sup> And as climate change threatens lives and livelihoods around the world, more and more people will be pushed into extreme poverty and forced to leave their homes.

350Brooklyn's "Don't Fuel the Refugee Crisis" forum on March 31 at Park Slope's All Saints' Church will explore causes and solutions for the human crises arising from the climate crisis. 350Brooklyn's panel features three speakers: Neil Bhatiya, a Century Foundation fellow and

author of "A Post-Paris Agenda for Climate Security at the UN," Nina Macalinpac, a leader of the Filipino youth and student group Anakbayan-NJ, and filmmaker Sophie Robinson, who will screen part of "Age of Consequences," a film in post-production that looks at global security and climate change through the eyes of U.S. military leaders. The film's promoters describe it as "'The Hurt Locker' meets 'An Inconvenient Truth.'"

350Brooklyn is an affiliate of the international climate group 350.org. 350Brooklyn works locally to solve the climate crisis through education, organization, and direct action. Our goal: to "Keep it in the ground," meaning: Keep climate-killing fossil fuels in the ground. 350Brooklyn advocates divestment of gas, oil and coal holdings from state and city employee pension

funds; sponsors speakers; runs a climate film series; organizes protests, rallies, and lobby days; and is starting a climate book group. As the Paris climate talks drew to an end last December, 350Brooklyn joined 350NYC and 350New Jersey to "Draw the Red Line" at the Statue of Liberty. This event drew 300 people—wearing red and holding red scarves—to New York harbor to warn against crossing the line into a climate danger zone.

The number 350 refers to the safe level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The goal is to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> level from 400 parts per million, the current level, to 350 ppm or lower. If the level of carbon dioxide continues to rise, we risk triggering irreversible effects that could send climate change spinning beyond our control, threatening human life.

350Brooklyn meets on alternate Tuesday evenings at St. Lydia's lovely storefront church and co-working space at 304 Bond Street (near Union). To learn more about 350Brooklyn's work, visit [350brooklyn.org](http://350brooklyn.org) or [facebook.com/350brooklyn](https://facebook.com/350brooklyn). ■

"Don't Fuel the Refugee Crisis: Climate Change and Human Crisis," Thursday, March 31, All Saints' Episcopal Church, 286-88 Seventh Ave. (at Seventh St.), Park Slope. Mimi Bluestone is a coordinator of 350Brooklyn.

### 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.

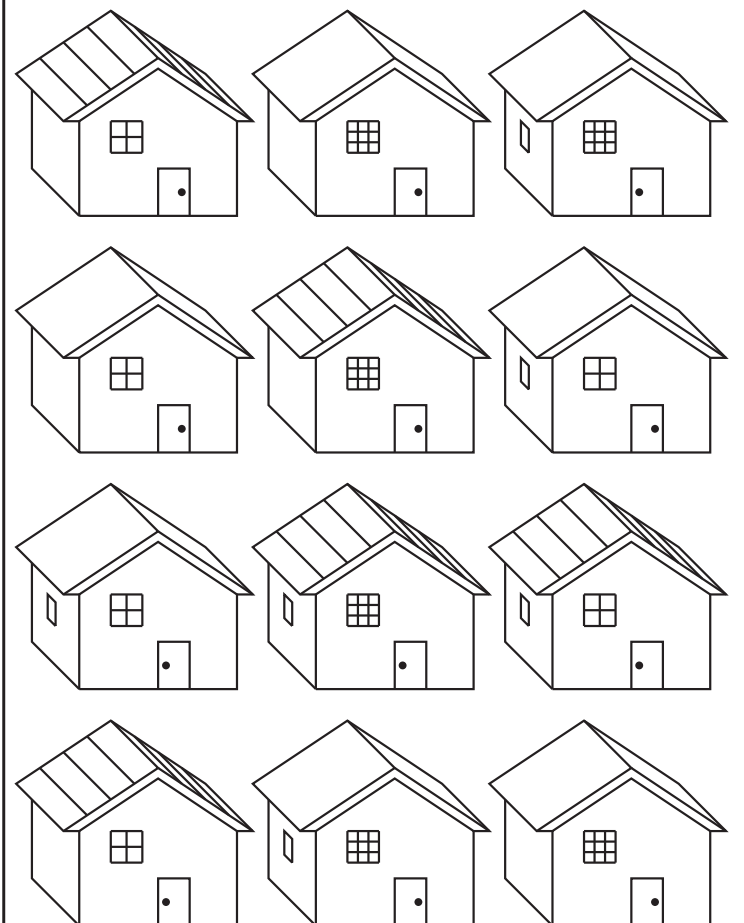
The nature of this work requires that all members maintain strict confidentiality with respect to all matters on which they work.

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](mailto:psfchac@gmail.com).

## Houses

Which two houses look the same?



Puzzle author: Lars Roe. For answers, see page 14.

<sup>1</sup> Fountain, Henry, "Researchers link Syrian conflict to a drought made worse by climate change," The New York Times, March 2, 2015. [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/03/science/earth/study-links-syria-conflict-to-drought-caused-by-climate-change.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/03/science/earth/study-links-syria-conflict-to-drought-caused-by-climate-change.html?_r=0)

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE EDUCATION SQUAD REPORT

## The Trans-Pacific Partnership Will Worsen the Effects of Climate Change

By Willy Naess and  
Chris Marshall for International  
Trade Education Squad

Two months after claiming victory in the Paris climate talks, Obama used his final State of the Union address in January to reaffirm his commitment to fighting climate change. This fight, he argued, will save our planet, protect our kids, and put tens of thousands of Americans to work. And then, in the same triumphant breath, he con-

flated his climate change initiatives with the passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a massive free trade deal that Congress will vote on in the coming months. Claiming that TPP will protect the environment, Obama urged Congress to vote in favor of the deal. "Approve this agreement," he said. "It's the right thing to do."

Those of you who have been following TPP in the news might have wondered

how Obama could possibly recast the trade deal as a way to save the planet. In fact, slowing climate change and passing TPP are conflicting goals because one can only succeed if the other fails. For global warming to be halted, governments must promote local food policies and move away from factory farming. But initiatives such as these are anathema to TPP. On the other hand, if TPP is passed, the increased trade it will

create will result in more greenhouse gas emissions. A quick look at food, whose production, by some estimates, already accounts for up to half of all greenhouse gas emissions, makes this clear. TPP will cause more chicken to be sent from Brazil to Asia, more beef to be sent from Australia to China, and more palm oil to be sent from Malaysia to the U.S. The production and transport of these goods will generate enormous amounts of methane and carbon dioxide.

For those who consider climate change and trade to be deciding issues in the 2016 election, the International Trade Education Squad (ITES) will continue to provide updates on candidates' positions on TPP. All Republican candidates have expressed opposition to TPP, as have Democrat Bernie Sanders. Hillary Clinton has flip-flopped and has yet to take a firm stand on the deal. She has a long record of promoting free trade agreements, and as Secretary of State she supported TPP, claiming that it "sets the gold standard in trade agreements." After the details of the agreement were negoti-

ated, however, she reversed her stance and stated that it did not meet "the high bar" she had set. With the race for the Democratic nomination still competitive, now is the time to demand that she be clear about her position. ITES encourages readers to communicate with her and Congress members like Chuck Schumer. Urge other individuals to write. Participate in No TPP Tuesdays. 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. Mass actions are planned for March. Check CoopITES.wordpress.com for updates.

Also, don't forget to vote in the New York primary on April 19. The deadline for New York residents to register for the primary is March 25. Change of address forms must be filed by March 30. Applications for absentee ballots must be postmarked by April 12 or filled out in person at a local Board of Elections by April 18. Ballots must be postmarked by April 18 and received by April 26.

Lastly, ITES has openings on its squad that need to be filled! Some months our work runs longer than 2.75 hours, but it is always interesting, educational and meaningful. If you are interested in joining the squad, leave a note in the ITES mailbox on the top of the stairs across from the membership office, and we will contact you for an orientation. Come to our next public forum on Friday April 15, at 7 p.m. in the Coop. Non-members are welcome. We are making history. ■

## 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.

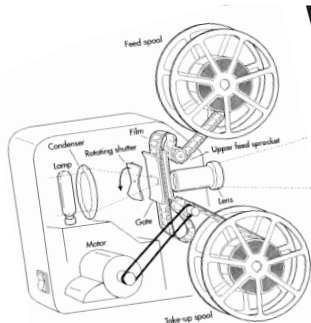
**Save up your eligible waste for upcoming collection dates.**

**QUESTIONS:** [ecokvetch@yahoo.com](mailto:ecokvetch@yahoo.com)

**LEARN MORE:** [www.terracycle.com](http://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.**

## 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](mailto:gabrielrhodes@me.com).**

## WORD SPROUTS

THE PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP'S  
READING SERIES

**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  
[wordsproutspsf@gmail.com](mailto:wordsproutspsf@gmail.com).**





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

## THE CHAIR COMMITTEE PRESIDES OVER DEMOCRACY AT THE MONTHLY GM

### MEMBERS:

The monthly GMs (General Meetings) are chaired by members whose workslot is the Chair Committee. The Chair Committee holds a key responsibility at the GM. That is, the Chair/Chair Committee strives to maintain fairness and to adhere to the democratic principle of majority rule on Items voted on, relying upon Robert's Rules of Order to run the meeting. We can assume that the members of the Chair Committee are well versed in Robert's Rules principles of fairness and respect for majority rule.

At each GM there are Agenda Items to be discussed and/or Items to be voted on. We can assume that the Chair/Chair Committee has evaluated these Items in advance of an upcoming GM. We can assume that they have evaluated beforehand if an Item to be voted on will alter the principle or sacrifice the principle of majority rule at the Coop. If it does, we can assume they checked out what Robert's Rules says about protecting majority rule. Robert's Rules says that a 2/3 (two-thirds) vote is required to protect the democratic principle of majority rule. Therefore, The Chair/Chair Committee should have firmly stated that Item 2 at the January, 2016, GM required a 2/3 vote to pass because the Item proposed to alter the principle of majority rule adhered to at the GM. The Chair/Chair Committee did not do that.

I am asking the Chair/Chair Committee why it was not clearly stated at the outset that Item 2 required a 2/3 vote to pass because, according to Robert's Rules, majority rule is safeguarded by calling for a 2/3 vote when a proposal or motion attempts to change or modify majority rule at the GM.? Thank you.

Mary Buchwald

### References:

<http://www.roberts-rules.com/parl18.htm>.  
Survival Tips on Robert's Rules of Order: 2/3 Vote vs. Majority Vote: The basic requirement for approval of an action is a majority vote. However, the following situations require a 2/3 STAND

UP vote for approval. Notice that all of these motions rob the individual of his rights. As a compromise between the rights of the individual and the rights of the assembly, a 2/3 vote is necessary...

Agenda Item 2, Proposal: Officially establish PSFC boycott policy. The guidelines are vague, suggesting a 51%-49% majority to pass a boycott. The official majority should be at least 75%.

## WHO'S IN CHARGE AROUND HERE?

### TO THE MEMBERS:

The March 3, 2016 edition of the *Gazette* contains two articles about Coop governance. The first an interview with Chairing Committee member Carl Arnold, reviews the development of the Coop governance structure. Mr. Arnold is quoted as saying that "The primacy of the advice of the membership...has been at the core of Coop democracy." "I am troubled to hear an implied shift from the membership meeting [to it] being characterized as a Board of Directors meeting."

In the second article, Senior General Coordinator Joe Holtz [an unelected, ex-officio, voting member of the six-member Board] interprets various parts of the Coop by-laws. He states that "The Board has never ceded its authority to decide matters." Mr. Holtz has emphasized for a very long time that the monthly General Meeting has no formal authority and that its decisions are irrelevant to the actual power dynamics under the Coop's legal structure. He notes that the Meeting of the Membership each June is the only meeting of members that has any legal authority over the Board. He quotes Article VI, Paragraph 3 of the by-laws which says "a quorum for all meetings of the Board of Directors shall be one-third of the directors." That means two directors, Mr. Holtz, who is unelected, and one other director, could make decisions in the absence of the four other Board members. In his view, apparently, those two and/or the Board as a whole can ignore the "advice" of members in the General Meeting and do whatever they want to.

There's a contradiction between Mr. Arnold's position and that of Mr. Holtz

about how the Coop should be governed. Mr. Arnold leans toward the concept that the membership has and should have the ultimate power in the Coop system and he is "troubled" by the loss of the informal power of the members at the General Meeting. But the structure now in place, a small elected Board of Directors (except for the Senior General Coordinator, who is not elected to the Board but has a vote) restricts the membership's power on a day-to-day and/or monthly basis. Mr. Holtz seems satisfied with that structure and its limitation of the authority of the General Meeting and of the 3% (or fewer) of the members who attend it. As he says, "In keeping with NYS Law, the Board has substantial authority".

Isn't it time to expand the formal power of all the 16,500 Coop members so that we can participate more fully in governing our Coop? The technology has existed for this possibility for a very long time. I wonder which members would like to change the Coop governance structure to something more democratic.

Naomi Brussel

## AN ELECTION SQUAD TO ENSURE COOP DEMOCRACY

### MEMBERS:

Welcome to election season. Election season intensifies discussions of issues impacting on members of the community as articulated by candidates. Electeds have responsibility and influence, authority and power. Still, few people vote. A problem.

An election reflects the will of the voters when the election is fair. To ensure a fair process, people must pay attention. Paying attention is time-consuming. We're busy. Arrogant and aberrant individuals passionately believe they know best. Elections can be manipulated. Abuse of authority can result. People lose confidence in the process and drop out. Downward spiral. Bad news.

Our last Coop election was at the October GM. In 50 minutes we were to elect 2 interim Board members to serve for six months until June. Of 16,400 Coop members apparently 271 handed in ballots. Jesse Rosenfeld was announced as the only win-

ner. He danced with joy. We didn't receive the full election results until the Minutes were presented by secretary Jesse Rosenfeld to the November GM. Jesse and I were among 8 candidates who came forward at the meeting. Past practice of candidates presenting themselves beforehand in the *Gazette* had been changed, at the behest of Joe Holtz.

Naomi Brussels dropped out before the vote. She none-the-less reportedly received the same 271 votes as each of the others. Our arcane voting system includes a No option on the ballot. Tim Platt was reported as receiving 372 votes—192 Yes and 110 No and 70 blank. Jesse said that was a mistake. Jesse reportedly received 126 Yes and 104 No votes with 41 left blank. The others of us were disqualified because all six got more No than Yes votes. The confused results raise serious concerns about the conduct of this election and about the possibility of future irregularities.

I have been attending GMs over my 36 years as an activist member, participating and paying attention to elections. Pieces in the last *Gazette* were not helpful. I found Joe's full-page of assertions about the Board responsibilities and authority garbled and confusing. I didn't share Carl Arnold's personal experience that early GMs were chaotic. We need our history. It's documented in the *Gazette*. Archives from before the digital age are in the Brooklyn Collection at the Grand Army Plaza Library.

We need an Election Squad to do a job of critical importance to our community—to plan, implement and monitor the election of Board members. Independent Board members will inevitably assume their legal responsibility and authority in an organization now much larger than any founder could have imagined. The Agenda Committee may place a discussion of an FTOP Election Squad before an upcoming GM or volunteers may come forward to monitor and report on the process.

The Coop is a collective with the privilege and responsibility of governing ourselves. Each member as an owner has the obligation to pay attention and participate. Ignore your rights and they go away.

Susan Metz

## CHARACTER ASSASSINATE FIRST, ASK QUESTIONS LATER

### TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you for the opportunity you have given me to respond to the letter from Susan Metz in this issue. In reference to the October Interim Board election Susan writes "Past practice of candidates presenting themselves beforehand in the *Gazette* had been changed at the behest of Joe Holtz" (emphasis added).

Some preliminary facts: 1) Interim Board elections do not have candidate statements published in the *Gazette*. See further explanation below. 2) I never requested changes to the procedures that are specified in the Bylaws.

The procedures for the two types of Board elections are well established. Years ago the General Meeting established the procedures for the annual election of directors: A) March 1 deadline for candidate statements/declarations of candidacy to be published in the *Linewriters' Gazette* once a month through June; B) The March General Meeting provides agenda time where candidates can take the opportunity to present themselves and field member questions; C) Annual Meeting Proxy ballots mailed in late May; D) June Annual Meeting where the election takes place combining the Proxy ballots with the live vote at the Annual Meeting.

However this annual procedure is not the procedure for an interim election when a vacancy occurs in between Annual Meetings. This past October, the election to which Susan Metz refers, was an interim election to fill two unexpected vacancies on the Board. The Bylaws, which are easily available on [foodcoop.com](http://foodcoop.com) state the following:

"In the case of a vacancy on the Board of Directors, there shall be an election held at a regular Board of Directors meeting to fill the vacancy. Such meeting shall be held no less than 30 days nor more than 60 days after the vacancy occurs. The Board may hold the vacancy open to be filled at the next Annual Meeting provided that the vacancy is created with less than six months remaining before the Annual Meeting and provided there

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

# 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](http://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](mailto: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, April 15, 8:00 p.m.

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



## PROSPECT CONCERTS



**Diana Yourke** is a Park Slope, Brooklyn, gal, born and raised and proud to still call it her home! Largely influenced by classic jazz vocalists like Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan, she loves to share her passion for singing classic jazz standards. She holds a degree in Vocal Performance from Ithaca College and is a Certified Movement Analyst through the Laban Institute for Movement Studies. She currently works as a teacher of dance and music in NYC public schools and provides private voice lessons.

Channeling a combination of Patti Smith and Lucinda Williams, **DK and the Joy Machine** is a Brooklyn-based, singer-songwriter and award-winning mountain dulcimer virtuoso who brings the humble dulcimer into the big city.

Her new album *Shy One* has been lauded by *Curve* magazine, *Alt-Country Forum*, and other blogs as, “rootsy Americana that directly touches the heart” with songs that are “quirky and smart with sultry vocals and intricate dulcimer playing.”



[www.facebook.com/ProspectConcerts](http://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.

### This Issue Prepared By:

- Coordinating Editors: Erik Lewis  
Joan Minieri  
Editor (development): Wally Konrad  
Tom Moore  
Reporters: Gayle Forman  
Hayley Gorenberg  
Taigi Smith  
Art Director (development): Mike Miranda  
Illustrator: Nina Frenkel  
Rod Morrison  
Photographers: Lisa Cohen  
Kevin Ryan  
Thumbnails: Kristin Lilley  
Photoshop: Adam Segal-Isaacson  
Preproduction: Claudia Reis  
Art Director (production): Matthew Landfield  
Desktop Publishing: Midori Nakamura  
Maxwell Taylor  
Heloise Zero  
Editor (production): Nancy Rosenberg  
Advertising: Mary Robb  
Puzzle Master: Lars Roe  
Final Proofreader: Lisa Schorr  
Index: Len Neufeld



WELCOME!

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

Rashida Abdus-Salaam	Lindon Chen	Hannah Ezzell	Franklin Herrera	Max Kubert	Jeff Mulvaney	Mike Ron	Adam Sultanov
Hagar Sara Adam	Melody Chou	Eszter Farkas	Andria Hickey	Christine Lackowski	Jasmine Nasser	Sarah Ruel-Bergeron	Nora Swenson
Paola Ambrosi de Magistris	Meredith Clair	Enza Ferrante	Ben Hoover	Shawna Laken	Rosalinda Natal	Hillel Salem	Anna Karina Thompson
Sebastien Ammann	Christina Clare	Bettina Figl	Nadia Huffer	Laura Lau	Jacob Nussbaum	Issachah Savage	Devin Thonrburg
Chaya Baron	DA Clark Fairfax	Maxwell Fine	Shakeal Huggins	Michael Levy	Chieko Palenberg	Shana Savage	Danielle Tran
Nikki Belglio	Pat Cooke	Gabriela Fischketta	Jordan Jacobs	Jocelyn Lichtin	Henry Palenberg	Leah Schapiro	Terttu Uibopuu
Monica Bernal	Vincent Corrado	Alejandro Flores	Xiaojin Jing	Steven Lichtin	Won Park	Malia Scharf	Maria Vera
Laura Boldo	Gianna Costa	Damien Follet	Jasmin Jodry	Cathy Lichtman	Jan Perrault	Alex Schneider	Christine Veyrat-Follet
Kera Bolonik	Amelia Cragle	Michael Fox	David Johnson	Sam Lilja	Pablo Pineda	Catherine Schuler	Desiree Viviano
Dana Bourne	Niall Cunningham	Yvonne Fung	Latisha Jones	Eeli Little	Amber Powell	Maraysa Schwartz	Anna Von Muehlen
Kristen Boyer	Maya Curran	Brandon Gardner	Tenzin Kalachakra	Ivelisse Lopez	David Radparvar	Maggie Sherman	Stephan Von Muehlen
Emily Brewer	Cosmo Di Giulio	Natalie Marie Gehrels	Dylan Kaplan	Gregory Marro	Makeba Rasin	Rosalyne Shieh	Jason Walker
George Brown	Augustine Diji	Wendy Gibilisco	Chris Kentis	Ngone Mbaye	Simon Rasin	Evan Shinnars	Nicolas Wical
Debbie Bruckman	Dora Dionyssiou	Catherine Gimbrone	Sabrina Kentis	Tatiana McCabe	Nausicaa Renner	Heidi Skjeseth	Noam Wiesenber
Marcelo Brukman	Andrea Doman	Cristina Goyanes	Molly Kerker	Kristin McCaffrey	Dina Richardson	Max Smelyansky	Andrew Wynschen
Desiree Caro	Sam Draisin	Matthew Green	Cameron Ketcham	Nina McGowan	Quinn Robertson	James Sofronis	Chihiro Yoshida
Michael Carruth	Owen Dudley	Helen Guo	April Kidwell	Bruno Merino	Sam Robotham	Jina Son	
Sarah Carruth	Najuma Dunn	Murray Hall	John Knecht	Hibiki Mizuno	Aron Roche	Jacob Stanley	
Isabella Cevan	Amanda Everich	Stuart Harmon	Becca Kroll	Emilia Mujica	Carmen Rodriguez	Christopher Starkey	

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](http://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](http://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](http://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 31 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, March 21  
Apr 14 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, April 4

**CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:**  
March 31 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, March 23  
Apr 14 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, April 6

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 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 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**.

**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: Tracks in the Sky



*Tracks in the Sky (Huellas en el Cielo)* is a biographical documentary about Jorge Loring, a relatively unknown Spanish pioneer and his achievements in aviation at the beginning of the 20th century. Framing Lorin's story is the journey of his family during and after the Spanish Civil War. *Huellas en el Cielo* is **Susan**

**Youdelman Azcona's** first collaboration as documentary co-director, having lived and worked in Spain as a teacher for almost 50 years. The film is in Spanish with English subtitles.

**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.

*For more information on these and other events, visit the Coop's website: [foodcoop.com](http://foodcoop.com)*

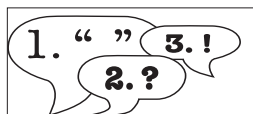
All events take place at the Park Slope Food Coop unless otherwise noted. Nonmembers are welcome to attend workshops.  
Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop.



# mar 18–apr 26 2016

**apr 5**  
tue 8 pm

## Agenda Committee Meeting



The Committee reviews pending agenda items and creates the agenda for future General Meetings. Drop by and talk with committee members face-to-face between 8:00 and 8:15 p.m. Before submitting an item, read “How to Develop an Agenda Item for the General Meeting” and fill out the General Meeting Agenda Item Submission Form, both available from the Membership Office or at [foodcoop.com](http://foodcoop.com). **The March General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 7 p.m., at St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.**

**apr 7**  
thu 7:30 pm

## Food Class: Flavors of the Middle East



Chef **Samantha** is a big fan of cooking once and eating twice. In April's class Samantha will be showing you how to make some of her favorite Middle Eastern dishes, and how to reuse and repurpose different ingredients to save yourself another trip to the store! Everything is plant-based, vegetarian and gluten-free. Samantha is a plant-based and health-supportive chef and health coach. She has worked in kitchens at meditation centers since she was a kid and has always loved food (though not the healthiest kind!). Samantha also holds a Master's degree in Social Work from Columbia University, but decided to switch careers after her own health crisis. Food turned out to be the missing piece in her story, and now she spends her days supporting people in living as healthily and happily as they can. She is a teaching assistant at the Natural Gourmet Institute and has been teaching cooking classes at Farmers' Markets and other local venues for more than three years. Samantha loves showing people that healthy food can be delicious without being complicated. *Menu includes: zaalouk (roasted eggplant spread); chickpeas three ways: herbed falafel with tahini sauce, Moroccan street snacks, spiced baked chickpeas; quinoa “mujadara” with a spiced yogurt sauce; tahini cookies.*

**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 March 24.**

**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](mailto:parkslopefoodclass@gmail.com).**

**apr 8**  
fri 7 pm

## Wordsprouts: Spring Cleaning Your Psyche



Celebrate this invigorating season with an evening focused on organizing not just your home but your headspace too, through meditation and mindfulness practices. Gather practical tips for how you can better

arrange your thoughts and your living space so as to improve your happiness and general sense of well-being. Whether you're simply curious about relaxation techniques, or a longtime meditation practitioner, you'll leave energized, inspired, and excited for life. **Sarah Schenk** is a teacher, filmmaker, and author of *JOY(reversed)*, a multimedia meditation book for beginners, written under the pseudonym Sarah Shine. Sarah has taught undergraduate and graduate classes in film production and storytelling at numerous institutions, including Bryn Mawr College, Hunter College, and Cornell University. She works as the Chief Digital Officer for the nonprofit Supportive Housing Network of NY; co-founded Planet Earth, a media company dedicated to sustainable, healthy eating; and is currently co-directing and co-producing a film on public health titled *Missing Microbes*. **Renate Reimann**, PhD, is the author of *Beyond Procrastination: How to Stop Postponing Your Life* and the creator of the *Beyond Procrastination™* program which is at the center of her coaching, writing and public speaking. Her varied background in college teaching, cross-cultural training and market research equips her to connect with a wide variety of people.

**Bookings: John Donohue, [wordsproutspsf@gmail.com](mailto:wordsproutspsf@gmail.com).**

**apr 9**  
sat 2 pm

## Ethics-based Tax Resistance: Tips, Tales and How-to's

The military consumes nearly 50% of each U.S. income tax dollar. For people opposed to war or who see themselves as conscientious objectors to war, this poses a dilemma—especially as April 15 approaches. With so many pressing concerns, including climate change, poverty and hunger, thousands across the country choose to protest with their money. This workshop will include an overview of the federal budget and stories and information about how and why so many choose to take a stand and redirect their tax dollars from war to people—despite the power of the IRS and potential consequences. Coop member **Alec Baxt** is a native Brooklynite and has been a Coop member since the late '90s. His interest in tax resistance has developed in concert with his ongoing practice and study of Buddhism.

**apr 9-10**  
sat-sun 9 am–7 pm

## Food Drive to Benefit CHIPS Soup Kitchen

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

## still to come

**apr 12**

**Safe Food Committee Film Night**

**apr 20**

**Cheese Class**

**apr 15**

**ITES Public Forum**

**apr 23**

**Left Brain, Right Brain, Whole Brain?**

**apr 15**

**Prospect Concert Series**

**apr 26**

**PSFC APRIL General Meeting**

**apr 16**

**Meet Your Farmer**

**apr 26**

**Fundamentals of Ayurveda & Eating**



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

is only one vacancy. A Director elected to fill a vacancy shall serve only until the next Annual Meeting, at which meeting the membership shall elect a director to serve for the balance of the term."

Despite Susan's slur on my character, as one of the Coop's chief administrative officers, I was doing my job when I alerted the Agenda Committee to the need for an interim board election at the October General Meeting. I did nothing to prevent nor encourage candidates to present themselves in writing in the *Gazette*. Most likely no candidate in an interim election has ever gotten a statement into the *Gazette* since there is such a short time frame to accomplish it. Previous issues of the *Gazette* that cover interim elections are available to all members on our website.

Susan is one of several members who have written lately in the *Gazette* that would benefit from reading our Bylaws. I wish that the editors would also familiarize themselves with the Bylaws and the most repetitive of Coop procedures so that they could help prevent time consuming falsehoods such as Susan's letter from getting in the *Gazette*.

I have always believed that what the Bylaws say actually matters.

*In cooperation,  
Joe Holtz, General Coordinator  
& General Manager*

## RECYCLING PLASTIC WRAPPING

### MEMBERS:

The Coop's Environmental Committee is proposing for the Coop to pay to recycle plastic wrapping. Anyone that wants to recycle this can do so now. The Seventh Avenue Key Food has a bin to recycle it past the checkouts. One can enter through the exit and put their plastic film there. No cost to the Coop.

Many other stores also have these recycle bins. There is no reason for the Coop to pay.

*Don Wiss*

## WHY THE COOP SHOULD NEVER AGAIN CONSIDER BOYCOTTING ISRAELI PRODUCTS

### MEMBERS:

The Coop's Boycott Policy,

available at the Coop but absent on our website or in any governing documents, requires that eligible boycotts be part of an "effective" local or national campaign, the word "effective" commonly defined as "producing the intended result". And while there is, indeed, BDS activity at several local colleges and others around the country, (and within a few Protestant denominations), no evidence has been produced to date that the 10-year Palestinian call to boycott and divest from Israeli companies has been at all effective toward achieving its goal of forcing Israel to comply with the Palestinian demand not merely to withdraw from the West Bank, but to entirely dismantle what is disparagingly referred to as the "Zionist entity".

Proof of the movement's failure is the fact that despite anti-Israel activity at numerous American universities, not a single college has divested from Israeli companies<sup>1</sup>. And a growing number of states—Florida, Illinois, South Carolina<sup>2</sup>, Iowa<sup>3</sup>, New York<sup>4</sup> among others—have passed or are in the process of considering legislation banning government contracts with companies boycotting our ally, Israel.

Nor can the BDS campaign be considered "effective" within American food coops. Only one has embraced it—the Olympia Coop in Washington State—with the consequence of ongoing litigation. And the Ithaca Greenstar Coop, upon advice from legal counsel, rejected considering a boycott of Israeli products. Other than those two cooperative grocery stores and our very own, there is no apparent boycott activity at any other American food coop.

Despite seven years of letters, articles, workshops, and meetings indicting Israel for debatable human rights violations, no compelling evidence has ever been produced for an "effective" impact of the BDS campaign upon the Israeli economy. And while the relocation of the West Bank SodaStream factory within the Green Line may or may not be attributed to boycott activity, no credible case has ever been made that Palestinian workers were exploited there. The only effect of the relocation is the loss of about 500 desirable Palestinian jobs

in an environment where jobs are scarce.

Another impossible-to-prove boycott requirement is that carrying the item "would upset a significant number of members", the word "significant" undefined.

What BDS and related anti-Israel activity have decidedly accomplished is the widespread vilification of the only Jewish State, accompanied by Holocaust denial, comparisons to Nazi Germany, and increasing harassment of Jewish students and faculty on college campuses (examples at <sup>5,6,7</sup>), as well as resurgent anti-Semitic violence in countries throughout the world, too numerous to exhaustively cite here (examples at <sup>8,9</sup>).

With the requirement of a 75% majority, with no convincing case for the effectiveness of BDS, and the impossibility of determining how many members would be "upset" if the product were stocked, the Coop should not squander additional time and considerable financial resources for a fourth meeting about boycotting Israel.

*Sylvia Lowenthal*

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.algemeiner.com/2016/03/06/report-shows-growing-internal-divisions-among-anti-israel-activists-on-campus-and-other-good-news/>.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.timesofisrael.com/florida-legislature-passes-anti-bds-measure/>.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2016/02/23/iowa-house-votes-keep-state-funds-companies-boycotting-israel/80818558/>.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/206887>.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.algemeiner.com/2016/03/06/oberlin-board-condemns-faculty-members-antisemitic-abhorrent-social-media-posts/>.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.algemeiner.com/2016/03/06/report-on-allegations-of-antisemitism-in-oxford-labour-club-reveals-members-mocked-mourners-of-jewish-paris-attack-victims-called-auschwitz-cash-cow/>.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.timesofisrael.com/cuny-holds-anti-semitism-probe-after-zionist-pig-incident/>.

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/hollande-calls-crisis-meeting-10000-extra-forces-sent-to-protect-people-of-france/2015/01/12/63610982-9a34-11e4-a7ee-526210d665b4\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/hollande-calls-crisis-meeting-10000-extra-forces-sent-to-protect-people-of-france/2015/01/12/63610982-9a34-11e4-a7ee-526210d665b4_story.html).

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.timesofisrael.com/soccer-fans-accost-jewish-italian-sportscaster-in-london/>.

## NO MORE MONEY FOR BDS

### DEAR MEMBERS:

This is YOUR Coop. You have a say in how YOUR money, YOUR resources, YOUR work slots are used. YOUR reputa-

tion is tied to YOUR membership in this Coop.

The right to free speech means the government cannot arrest someone for what they say. It does not obligate anyone to bear the costs for disseminating someone else's cause. Free speech does not mean free publicity.

If you do not want your Coop to be used for promoting a movement associated with hundreds of incidents of harassment, vandalism and assault against a minority group on college campuses across America<sup>1</sup>, then, please sign the petition.

If you do not want your Coop to provide a platform for people who post in public Internet forums that they would rather Orthodox Jews, Mormons and fundamentalist Christians were not part of the Coop<sup>2</sup> and that Joe Holtz "has steered the Coop away from its moral center,"<sup>3</sup> then, please sign the petition.

If you think HUNDREDS of *Gazette* pages, THREE General Meetings, a 60-40 defeat, over \$12,000 in additional costs for meeting space and staff overtime, and more than 1,000 workslots have been enough Coop resources spent on BDS, then please sign the petition.

Please, go to this webpage and add your name saying you agree the Coop should not provide any more money or resources for the promotion of BDS. It will not be shared anywhere outside the Coop. With enough support we can go to GM and end this once and for all.

<http://stopbdsparkslope.blogspot.com/p/loading.html>

*Thank you,  
Barbara Mazor*

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.amchainitiative.org/ongoing-antisemitism-tracker-2015/>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://indpendent.org/2015/05/06/round-2-bds-begins-park-slope-food-coop>.

<sup>3</sup> <http://mondoweiss.net/2016/01/park-slope-food-coop-holds-vote-aimed-at-staunching-boycott-of-sodastream/>.

## DEMOCRACY, THE COOP AND THE BDS

### MEMBERS:

In the previous *Gazette* issue, the article "A conversation with Carl Arnold; a long-range view of Coop Controversies" exposes Mr. Arnold's thoughts on the role of the Board and his interpretation of democracy.

First, Mr. Arnold was in favor of the 2012 proposal to vote on the question of having a Coop wide vote on supporting the BDS position. "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."

Actually, the large turn out and vote at the 2012 meeting affirmatively dismissed the BDS proposal altogether. It was a clear rejection of the BDS and of using the Coop as a means to disseminate pro-BDS materials to each and every Coop member. Mr. Arnold's must think that every decision must be made by referendum, otherwise it is not democratic.

Second: Under New York State Law, the Board of any organization has both fiduciary and legal the responsibility to oversee the best interests of the organization. If the GM were to pass an issue that could harm the Coop, it is the board's responsibility to override such a vote and protect the Coop from what is simply a bad decision. The Board's choice, at the recommendation of the GM, to raise the threshold for a boycott is both valid and sensible. There is no excuse that could justify ignoring the legal obligations of the Board.

Third: Continuing to allow the BDS to use the *Gazette* and Coop general meetings is problematic. The BDS provide misrepresentations or even false information. For example, according to Fayez Abu Sehiban, former mayor of Rahat, local Bedouin had no dispute with the state over the land where the SodaStream plant was built. Moreover, Rahat urged the government to facilitate SodaStream's relocation to there.<sup>1</sup>

Yet, BDS told the Coop the factory would be built on confiscated land (LWG 12/11/14), would displace Bedouin and would violate labor rights (LWG 5/14/15). Allowing the BDS campaign to continue within the aegis of the Coop implies supporting BDS. As written in *The Nation*, March 29, 2012 "Just having the [BDS] debate is a symbolic victory for the pro-boycott camp."<sup>2</sup>

The article closes with the following quote from Mr. Arnold: "I am concerned that





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

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."

The BDS controversy has revealed how a small group can tie up an organization, cause alienation of the membership, and turn general meetings into hostile occasions. The guiding principle of the Board cannot and should not permit a small faction to supersede the interests of the Coop. This is exactly the reason to change policy, not a mistake.

Rodger Parsons

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.haaretz.com/opinion/premium-1.703863>.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.thenation.com/article/bds-and-park-slope-food-coop-why-vote-against-was-win-boycott/>.

## "VICIOUS" AND "RACIST": DEFINE YOUR TERMS

### MEMBERS,

At the last General Meeting, a member stated, among other things, that the BDS movement is a "vicious, racist movement." Like the call to boycott the South African apartheid regime, the movement is a nonviolent attempt by civil society and the international community to end governmental policies that maintain the occupation and colonization of an entire people outside of its internationally recognized borders; within those borders, there are laws and policies which maintain separate and distinctly UNEqual housing, highways, medical care and job opportunities. Just as the call to boycott South Africa was not "racist" despite its targeting the White government, the call to boycott Israel and products made in the Occupied Territories is not "racist" simply because the government is Jewish. I am a Jew, and proud of it,

and it is Jewish values that prompt my endorsement of this movement, and of all movements that work for human rights. As for who and what is "vicious," I guess the facts speak for themselves. I hope that the Chair of our General Meetings will censure members who speak with such venom.

Carol Wald

## THE COOP EQUIVALENT OF GREENWASHING

### DEAR MEMBERS:

In his letter of March 3, Jesse Rosenfeld thanks me for what he terms "words of support" for his "decision to bring Al Ard [sic] Palestinian Olive Oil to our shelves." Since the rest of his letter is serious in tone, readers are likely to miss his sarcasm and take the comment at face value. I'd like to set the record straight.

In my letter of February 18, I imagined a satirical issue of the *Gazette* that would send up what I regard as the hypocrisy of Jesse's olive oil project. (My imaginary headline read: "Leaked Emails Expose Palestinian Olive Oil Initiative as Cynical Ploy to Derail BDS.") Why do I speak of hypocrisy? Jesse has recently spearheaded several major efforts aimed at making sure we don't join the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement. For example, he sponsored the Alternatives to Boycotts meetings and promulgated a measure requiring a supermajority vote to initiate a boycott. In light of his tireless activism to deflect criticism of Israel's policies, a sensible observer might have doubts about his claim that he seeks to "empower [Palestinian] people without boycotts." Would he still be gung-ho for empowerment if boycotts weren't on the table?

However, it isn't necessary to speculate about Jesse's motives. His own words show that the purpose of his effort

is to not to promote justice but to uphold an unjust status quo. He speaks of taking "one tiny step toward restoring Palestinian laborers' financial independence, political freedom, and their honor." How will this be accomplished? By demonstrating "how PSFC can easily be against boycotts of Israel yet be for helping Palestinians under occupation" [emphasis added]. In the days of South African apartheid, would the Coop have been into "helping people in the Bantustans" by purchasing their products?

In our ongoing Coop discussion of whether to join the BDS movement, we sometimes lose sight of the movement's origins in a call for this form of solidarity by large numbers of Palestinian organizations and individuals. These Palestinians have their own ideas about how to recover independence, freedom, and honor. They want national liberation, which entails ending Israel's egregious violations of international law—not making those violations slightly less onerous for a fortunate few. Ironically, the destruction of Palestinians' precious olive trees has been one of the occupation's cruel tactics, both a symbolic assault and a practical means of separating people from land and livelihood. Rather than take a stand against the big crime, Jesse asks us to make the feel-good gesture of supporting the rare business that has actually managed to survive in this bleak environment.

By all means purchase Al'Ard Palestinian olive oil. I hear it's organic and Fair Trade certified. The hapless producers certainly aren't to blame for the cynical way their product is being used, which recalls the "greenwashing" initiatives of giant fossil fuel companies. Just don't kid yourself you're "empowering" anyone.

In cooperation,  
Jan Clausen

### Jesse Rosenfeld replies:

Dear Ms. Clausen.  
Thank you again for your words of encouragement. : )

Jesse Rosenfeld

## DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE & UNITY

### TO THE EDITOR:

"This is a divisive issue," say those against discussion of BDS (the movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction Israeli goods). Discussion of BDS at the Coop has been divisive, no doubt! We should ask deep questions about what kinds of divisions are emerging from the debate around BDS at the Coop.

I was raised to ask questions, of myself as well as of others. And it's my grandfather, the VP of the Zionist Organization of America-New England, that most instilled in me a value for critical thinking. "Questioning is the basis of Jewish education," he said repeatedly. Taking him as a role model, I found myself questioning the fundamentals of my upbringing. This process of examination eventually led me to entirely different conclusions than my beloved grandfather, who after all never lived in his dream homeland, whereas I lived 1/3 of my life in Israel. My direct experience led me to the conviction that the ongoing dispossession of the Palestinian people comes at the expense of a viable homeland for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

My questioning process didn't however lead me to support BDS. I was reticent about BDS because it singled out Israel among the world's countless oppressive nations—one of the most abusive of which is our very own. I also thought it was bad strategy, likely to repel people who felt compelled to defend Israel as I once had. Needless to say,

when I first arrived in Brooklyn direct from Jerusalem, I wasn't keen to jump into NYC's BDS movement.

When Israel started censoring BDS speech, I asked myself why the Israeli government felt so threatened, it chose to violate self-proclaimed democratic principles. Economic boycotts are a form of non-violent protest, after all. While I remained suspicious of the motives of BDSers, watching democracy falter in Israel ultimately undid my opposition to the BDS strategy. Lingerings misgivings faded when I met down-to-earth folks at PSFC Members for BDS (mostly Jewish) and saw: their motivation emerged from a will to see their coop community demonstrate consistency with its values (among them, commitment to the integrity of democratic governance.)

As the largest worker-coop nationwide, PSFC is a leader in the coop movement. In a body of this size and stature, supporting products we believe in/rejecting products created at the price of another people's freedom, is not a small matter. If PSFC stopped being PEPpy—Progressive Except for Palestine—fellow progressives might follow suit.

And when we succumb to temptations to out-manuever democratic process, we also set significant national precedents. *Linewaiters* already emulates Israeli censorship of debate over BDS. And last GM, the argument that certain matters of principle should not be raised lest they divide us, became a tactic to rush decisions outside the bounds of democratic process. This may set precedents and produce existential divisions more lasting than any heated debate. So it makes sense to engage this hot issue — as part of the struggle for democracy within one of the largest coops in America.

Rebecca Mansky





## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community calendar listings are free. Please submit your event listing in 50 words or less to [GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop](mailto: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 18

Join the Gowanus Canal Conservancy to learn how to steward a type of green infrastructure coming soon to your neighborhood: bioswales! Participants attend 8 instructional class hours in March and April, and 8 field training hours May - October. Space is limited; applicants chosen Friday, 03/18. Email [volunteer@gowanuscanalconservancy.org](mailto:volunteer@gowanuscanalconservancy.org).

## SAT, MAR 19

7 p.m. Abigail Welhouse launches her second poetry chapbook, *Too Many Humans of New York* (Bottlecap Press). Hosted by the CCNY MFA/MA Reading Series. Bunga's Den, 137 W 14th Street in Manhattan. Free and free pizza.

8 p.m. Colleen Kattau & Dos XX; Hudson River Rose. 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](http://peoplesvoicecafe.org). \$18 general/\$10 for subscribers.

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: [queertangoclub.nyc](http://queertangoclub.nyc). Open to beginners with no experience.

## 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 Central Library. 10 Grand Army Plaza BKLYN. Admission Free.

## TUE, MAR 29

7 p.m. The Fight for Energy Democracy. Kim Fraczek, Sane Energy Policy, and Sean Sweeney, Trade Unions for Energy Democracy talk about the growing resistance to Big Energy in New York, the Northeast, and around the globe. At The Commons, 388 Atlantic Av, Bklyn. Info at [www.brooklynpeace.org](http://www.brooklynpeace.org) or 718-624-5921.

## FRI, APR 1

7:30 p.m. Free Film Screening: Based on Naomi Klein's book, *This Changes Everything*, explores the connection between climate change and the economic system that creates it and asks "What if confronting climate change is the best chance we'll ever get to build a better world?" PSUMC Sixth Ave. and Eighth St.

## SUN, APR 10

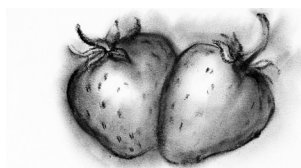
8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Saxophonist/composer David Bindman's Sextet will perform at The Stone. The group will feature Jen Baker, trombone, Wes Brown, double bass, royal hartigan, drums, Frank London, trumpet (VT and NYC), Matan Rubinstein, piano, and David Bindman, saxophones/composer. East Second St. and Ave. C. Info: [thestonenyc.com](http://thestonenyc.com).

## SUN, APR 17

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

## MON, APR 18

7 p.m. FREE LECTURE by Dr. Vogelsberger, German MD presenting a simple approach to spiritual healing of illness and will share documented healing reports verified by independent physicians of presumed incurable illnesses. At SUNY College of Optometry, 33W 42nd St., NYC. RSVP 212-714-5379 or [brunogroeningny@gmail.com](mailto:brunogroeningny@gmail.com).



## 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.

## TECH HELP

Mac, Windows, phones, tablets and more.....

[www.tech11215.com](http://www.tech11215.com)

Call Dan: 718-930-2286 • [info@tech11215.com](mailto:info@tech11215.com)

## David A. Cohen, M.A.

[www.mathtutor.nyc](http://www.mathtutor.nyc)

917.679.5193

## 23 years H.S. math teacher promoting

- Clarity
- Precision
- Problem-Solving
- Confidence
- Ease
- Understanding

## Preparing students for

- Regents
- SAT
- GRE
- Professional Exams

## Providing

- Remediation
- Enrichment
- Traditional Math
- Common Core

[www.mathtutor.nyc](http://www.mathtutor.nyc)

917.679.5193

## CLASSIFIEDS

## BED &amp; BREAKFAST

THE HOUSE on 3St. just below 6th. 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](http://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 an 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](mailto:carla@brooklynschooloflanguages.com) or at 917-270-7465.

## HOUSING 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.

## SERVICES AVAILABLE

ATTORNEY—Personal Injury

Emphasis—38 years experience in all aspects of injury law. Individual attention provided for entire case. Free phone or office consultations. Prompt, courteous communications. 25-year Food Coop member; Park Slope resident; downtown Brooklyn office. Tom Guccione, 718-596-4184, also at [www.tguccione.law.com](http://www.tguccione.law.com).

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

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.

## Affordable, Delicious, Healthy, Meals Prepared For Kids

- School Lunch

- Dinner

- Snacks

- Parties

Prepared

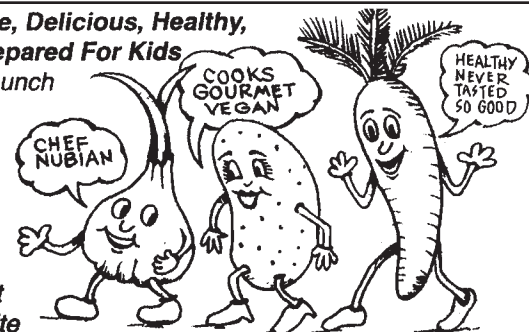
by Chef

Nubian

Check out

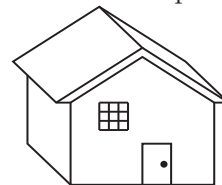
my Website

[gourmetvegan223](http://gourmetvegan223) [papillonnoir62@yahoo.com](mailto:papillonnoir62@yahoo.com)



## Houses Answer

Solution: Top middle and bottom right look the same.

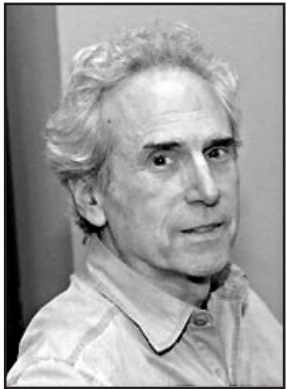




# Candidates for Board of Directors of the Park Slope Food Coop, Inc.

**Two three-year terms and one two-year term on the Board are open.  
To vote you may use a proxy or attend the Food Coop Annual Meeting on June 28, 2016.  
Every member will receive a proxy package in the mail in late May.**

**You will have the opportunity to meet the candidates at the March 29 GM and also at the June 28 Annual Meeting. Candidate statements follow:**



## Carl Arnold

There may be something afoot in the Coop, so I'm running for an open position on the Coop's Board of Directors.

For 45 years the Coop has prided itself on operating democratically. I've been attending General Meetings since about 1990. It was understood then—as now—that the Board of Directors is a requirement under New York State Cooperative Corporations Law. Thus it has been made clear at most meetings that the Coop Board, a technical/legal necessity, always listens to the advice of the membership.

That is, except in the case of some egregious legal lapse. But the GM—the membership—has never descended to that level.

There was one time, however, when three Directors did not accept the advice of the membership at a GM (October 1996) and all hell broke loose. The offending three were eventually voted out and the proposal they nixed eventually passed—after many months of energy spent and much unpleasant recrimination. But we got through it because of our tradition of democracy.

Since that time, during every single election for new and incumbent directors, virtually every candidate has articulated an automatic respect for the advice of the membership. The GCs supported, conspicuously and

correctly, only those who made such a pledge. Only those who made this pledge have been elected.

This is the foundation of Park Slope Food Coop democracy—the members attending a GM vote on an issue and the Board of Directors accepts the advice of the membership. The only exception I know of was mentioned above and has never been repeated—because we cherish our democracy.

It has served us well. There have been several highly contentious issues in the past: whether or not to stock alcohol or meat, or to buy another building. Some of these issues dragged on for months or years. But we always ended up voting. Once we, the membership, voted, the issue was laid to rest and we moved on.

So it should be with BDS and the next installment of the plastic bag issue. Necessary caveat: As a long-time member of the Chair Committee that runs the Annual Meeting and the monthly GMs, I have never taken a public stand on BDS and don't intend to. What I'm saying here relates to Coop democracy only.

So what may be afoot? There have been remarks recently, at the January GM—that the advice of the membership is “merely” that—advice, and in the Jan 7 *Linewaiters' Gazette*:

- the “[GM] is a board meeting to which members are invited . . . legally the advice is non-binding”
- “Legally, it's the board vote that hires”
- “The GCs report . . . to the board about legal, operational and sustainability matters”
- “Symbolically, the GM participants hold a lot of weight but legally they don't.”

Symbolically? While most of this is technically true, why this shift in emphasis? Why now?

The “symbolic” part is untrue. Evidencing this is part of the statement that each chair reads at the beginning of every GM:

Because we're a corporation, we are legally run by a board of directors, so this meeting, like all General Meetings, is also a board meeting. According to our bylaws, the board must receive the advice of members on all the issues that come before it. Our votes are that advice, and at the end of the meeting you'll see the directors vote. This is how we combine the corporate legal structure with our tradition of democracy.

This chair committee statement was written with the involvement of the GCs. The shifting-emphasis comments above strangely and uncharacteristically imply that the Board of Directors may want to alter the position it's held since the Coop's inception and take on a more activist role. If this is true, it would fly in the face of the Coop's foundational decision-making process.

I'm dead against any such possible move. While respecting the necessity of New York State's legal requirements, I will, if elected, work to absolutely maintain the primacy of the membership as the decision-making body of the Coop.

So here I am, saying the same thing as GCs and candidates before me, hoping that there is not some behind-the-scenes plan to alter what has allowed our Coop to grow from strength to strength. Please use your vote to continue to support our Coop democracy. ■



## Rachel Asher

I am writing to announce my interest in a position on the Board of Directors at the Park Slope Food Coop. Raised by a Food Coop founder and worker, I grew up appreciating the importance of having access to affordable, locally farmed products and working with a community

towards a common vision. I'm proud to continue that legacy as a Coop member on the TerraCycle Squad. As your board member, I will listen to and respect the interests of the membership while protecting the Coop's mission.

I also hope to be a voice for the next generation of Coop leadership as we look toward the future. As a 31-year-old grant writer at The Legal Aid Society, I am particularly sensitive to the needs of younger and low-income members who are experiencing the economic strains of finding affordable housing while facing stagnant wages and an unrelenting cost

of living. More than ever before, we need access to the Coop's high-quality food and sense of community. I hope, during my tenure, to be a voice for members who are not always heard—those of us who work multiple jobs, live with roommates out of necessity, or have new ideas to improve the Coop and make it more accessible and friendly to future members and leaders. Let's quickly find solutions to move past old debates, and start envisioning the Coop's future together.

Rachel lives in Park Slope with her girlfriend Erica, also on TerraCycle, and their rescue dog Charlie. ■



## Imani Q'ryn

I joined the Coop about 20 years ago when I started eating all organic foods and being healthier. I could not afford not to join. I have gotten back so much more than great food at great prices. I've gotten a community of people that care about so many different issues and ideals.

In January of 2001 I attended my first General Meeting and sixth month later I joined the Chair Committee. The Chair Committee is the team of people responsible for the smooth facilitating of the meeting. The General Meeting was fascinating to me. It is the governing body of the Coop. This is where policies are set and decisions are made as to what direction we will go as a Coop. All any of us have to do to weigh in on these matters is show up and our voice can be heard. I loved that. It seemed so easy and accessible. I wanted to encourage diversity in the meetings and thought that me being on the Committee might inspire others to feel welcome to participate.

In 2005 I ran for the Board and was elected. At the time I was very inspired by the Gandhi quote, “Be the Change you want to see in the World.” I wanted to see more diver-

sity and more peace and harmony and I felt that even though I was scared I should do it.

Our Board of Directors is not a typical Board. It was required by law that the Coop have a Board of Directors and it have the powers of a Board. As a Cooperative we liked our form of town hall type government, we liked that every member has a say, we liked and wanted to continue that we get to run our Coop the way we see fit. So the Coop's attorney at that time came up with that we could add that the Board would take the advice of the members on all subjects. Most of the Board Members that we've had since the Board was instituted have accepted this. There has only been one time, back in the '90s that Board members voted against what the members wanted. Eventually the ones that had personal opinions differing from the majority of the membership and voted them were voted out.

I take the mandate to trust the membership and take their advice as almost a sacred duty. I think it's key. It's not my opinion, or my position on an issue that is important but it is vital that I respect and trust the voice of the membership. What do you say? What do you think?

At the writing of this letter I have no idea how many people will be running for the three available positions or who they are so my comments are not referring to anyone in particular. At the last election there were many candidates and many questions to do with people opin-

ion on particular issues or candidates that had platforms of what they'd do as Board Members. I admired the time and preparation that many of these people took to do this but it is not what our Board does. If one has an agenda, or strong political opinions of which direction we should go as a Coop than this Board is not the place for them. It would be better for this person to join a Committee or stay in the membership and be able to bring discussions and proposals to the General Meeting.

The purpose of the Park Slope Food Coop Board is to be a safeguard for the voice of our membership. We are fulfilling the legal requirements and holding sacred our right as a Coop to govern ourselves the way we see fit and we must have Board Members who hold this dear and whose number one priority is to the members and our general meeting. Of course as Board Members we have a fiduciary responsibility to insure that the Coop is not breaking any laws and would not vote for something that is against the law. I trust the membership and do not believe that you would vote for something that is against the law either.

This last year of being on the board has been the most intense and challenging I've seen so far. I'm concerned that it is more important than ever to vote for Board Members that really understand and respect our form of governance. Please vote for me. Thank you. ■

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

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

**Two three-year terms and one two-year term on the Board are open.**  
**To vote you may use a proxy or attend the Food Coop Annual Meeting on June 28, 2016.**  
**Every member will receive a proxy package in the mail in late May.**

**You will have the opportunity to meet the candidates at the March 29 GM and also at the June 28 Annual Meeting. Candidate statements follow:**

## Jesse Rosenfeld



My name is Jesse Rosenfeld and I am running for the Board of Directors.

A member since 2004, I have worked as cashier, 2nd floor guest registration, cheese and olive bagger, FTOP stock boy, and babysitter. My paid profession is that of a tech trainer and graphic designer.

I love it here. I meet people here I wouldn't usually encounter and discuss

things I wouldn't have ever known about. I spend a lot of time here, just as a shopper alone. I like being part of an organization that is a standard-bearer for food and environmental justice. The Coop is my community because I see you all everyday on my way to and from work. I have demonstrably worked for our cooperative spirit where everyone gives their efforts towards the benefit of shared success.

My present workslot is Secretary for the PSFC, taking the minutes at every General Meeting. I have grown to appreciate the meetings as one special set of gears in our enterprise, and want them to run as efficiently as possible. Six months ago I also earned your trust to join the Board of Directors as an interim member, and so I am run-

ning again. I still run on a platform of focusing on operations, because I see the Coop as a business first. As such, the Board is obligated to remain alert to the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of the Coop rather than maintain advocacy for any particular issue(s).

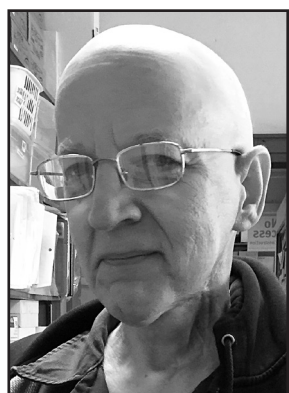
When the Board of Directors vote, I will always base my decision to the best of my ability on criteria that have been voiced by all present board members

Will a proposal ratified by the General Meeting put the financial and legal health of the Coop at risk?

Does the proposal violate the spirit and letter of the Coop's own by-laws or NYS articles of incorporation, and our own mission statement?

Thank you and I look forward to your vote. ■

## Allen Zimmerman



I have been a member of the Park Slope Food Coop for nearly 40 years. My retirement from the position of General Coordinator and Produce Buyer marked the end of 28 years of employment at the Coop and of 50 years of employment altogether. Although I am happy that I have retired I do intend to stay quite involved.

I became a member briefly in the early '70s for about half a year, then left and rejoined in 1975. I attended a meeting of Coop members who had come together to find ways to raise funds to pay the rent for the still struggling Coop. I joined the fund raising committee and remained on until I was hired by the Coop in 1988. I have attended about 400 General Meetings and chaired a majority of them for about a decade. I have served on the Board of Directors and served as various officers as needed. I have been

very involved in many areas of Coop development. I attended most of the Coordinating Meetings, which served to support and plan for the General Meetings in the late '70s. I was involved with the formation of the Organic Committee which helped the Coop when it started to carry organic produce. I helped create and then served on the Personnel Committee. I coauthored our General Meeting's version of Rules of Order, and worked with the team that recently revised it. I was very involved in our renovations and expansions and other projects too numerous to mention.

When I was hired in 1988 our staff grew from three to four. I was responsible for a great deal of buying, supervision of deliveries, some minor bookkeeping, participation in our management team. I most enjoyed apprenticing with Joe Holtz, our first produce buyer. When the staff needed Joe to take on the responsibility of General Manager, I became our produce buyer. I enjoyed supervising and training a growing produce staff and especially enjoyed working with countless members before the crack of dawn.

I have always loved the Park Slope Food Coop and believe in the General Meeting. I have always appreciated the face to face interaction. I remember many

instances where I came to a meeting to support or advocate for a position and had my mind changed by a single differing voice. I don't want to give up on our meeting style and the opportunity to persuade or be persuaded in real time. I am willing to learn about alternatives or innovations that allow more inclusion, without sacrificing active give and take.

For most of my adult life I have loved, served, supported, promoted and defended the Park Slope Food Coop. I will continue to do so. I have never been a rubber stamp for the General Coordinators, even when I was one. I recently opposed the coordinators' "emergency" proposal concerning boycotts. As a board member I have always voted to support the decisions of the members at every General Meeting. I support the Rochdale Principles of Cooperation. I support our Mission Statement and more importantly to me, the mission that we had long before we had a statement. I hope that I have earned your trust and that you will support my candidacy for the Board of Directors as have the General Coordinators who have endorsed me. Thank you for reading my statement. "Good food at an affordable price for working members through cooperation." ■



## EXCITING WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITIES



### BIKE VALET

**Saturdays, Sundays,  
12:30 to 3:15 p.m.,  
3:00 to 5:45 p.m.,  
5:30 to 8:15 p.m.**

Bike Valet provides secure bicycle parking during peak shopping times. Members leave their bikes and strollers at Bike Valet and receive a numbered ticket for retrieval. Bike Valet shifts are effective April 2 through November 20. You must have at least six months of membership with excellent attendance to be eligible.

### 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 a 90 pound 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](mailto:britt_henriksson@psfc.coop).



### OFFICE SET-UP

**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.

### STORE EQUIPMENT CLEANING

**Monday, 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.

### BATHROOM CLEANING

**Wednesday,  
12 to 2:00 p.m.**

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

### 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](mailto:adriana_becerra@psfc.coop).

