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Volume KK, Number 10

May 12, 2016

Judged Extremely Uncooperative, Four Members Suspended for One Year

By Hayley Gorenberg

Four longtime Coop members have had their memberships suspended for a year for derailing the April 2015 General Meeting's discussion about carrying products made by Israel-based SodaStream.

The four members appeared before the hearing officer committee a year later, at a disciplinary hearing on April 10, 2016, to face charges of "extremely uncooperative behavior."

An investigation by the Coop's Disciplinary Committee had found that the four, part of the audience on April 28, 2015, during a presentation about SodaStream, "disrupted the presentation by getting out of their chairs, yelling and screaming, and getting up on the stage to prevent the presentation from continuing."

The committee's statement of the case further asserted, "Despite repeated requests to cease and reminders that everyone would have a chance to speak after the presentation, the disrupting members refused to stop and effectively prevented the General Meeting from continuing for approximately 45 minutes." The agenda item at the center of the melee read, "We propose that the Coop boycott SodaStream products, which are manufactured in the Occupied Palestinian Territories."

According to witnesses, by the time the protest came under control, there was no opportunity for productive discussion.

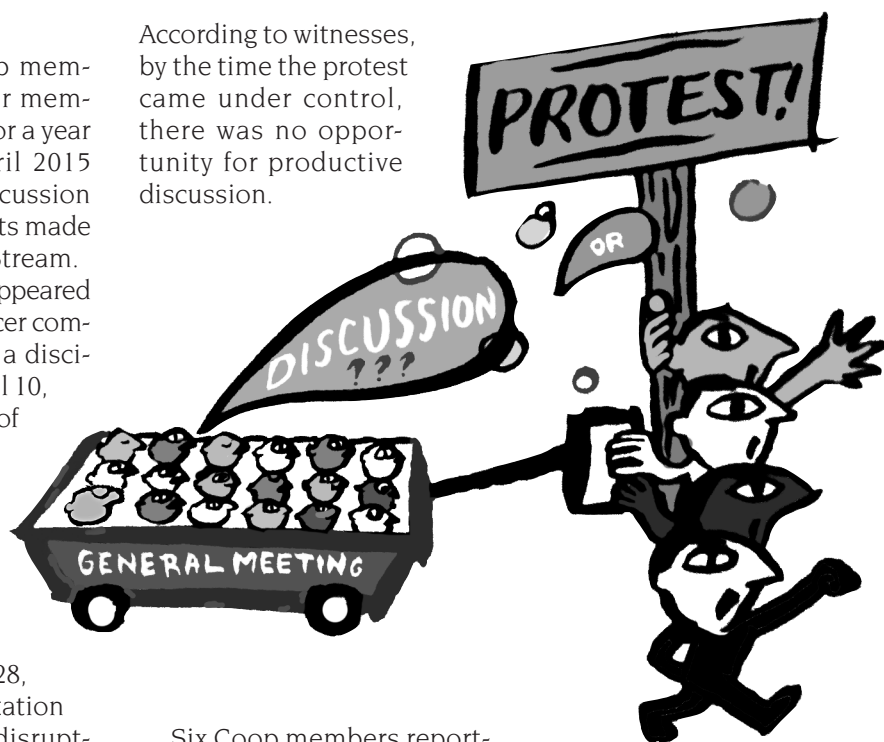


ILLUSTRATION BY NINA FRENKEL

Six Coop members reportedly submitted complaints after the meeting, and the Disciplinary Committee interviewed the complainants, numerous witnesses and the members accused of misconduct, listened to the audiotape of the meeting and reviewed and discussed the matter with the full Disciplinary Committee.

The Disciplinary Committee presented its case to 15 members of the Hearing Deciding Group (HDG), who were randomly selected to hear the case and determine whether the accused members committed the violations charged. The group members received work credit. During a break a couple hours into

the proceeding, the Hearing Officers Committee members realized that the HDG panel had not been screened to ascertain whether any of them had actually been present during the event in question—which could improperly inject the bias of their own personal observations into the mix. The two panel members who, it turned out, had attended the April 2015 GM were dismissed from the panel on the spot.

The DC investigators explained that the GM had included a discussion item expressing that because the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Food Coops: Juicy Fruit For Pop Culture



PHOTO BY GREEN HILL FOOD COOP

By Gayle Forman

In a recent episode of the Comedy Central television show *Broad City*, one of the show's main characters, Ilana (played by Ilana Glazer) runs into trouble at a food coop. After ogling the produce in a most Ilana-like way, at check-out she is told she cannot shop because she has not worked any of her shifts. Moreover, she must complete the shifts by end of the day or be kicked out. Ilana has a doctor's appointment so she asks her friend Abbi (Abbi Jacobson) to impersonate her and cover the shift. High jinx ensue.

The episode, entitled "Co-Op," was shot at the Greene Hill Food Co-op in Clinton Hill, but it's pretty clear that it's the Park Slope Food Coop—and Park Slope culture in general—being, affectionately, teased. There's the hot, hippie with the man-bun refilling the bulk bins, the coop schedule based upon "moon cycles," and perhaps what most screams PSFC, or people's ideas of PSFC, is the portrayal of the rigid rules, as personified by the hippie-smocked, dour, humorless Lori (hilariously played by actress Melissa Leo). Lori,

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Next General Meeting on May 31

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The May General Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 31, at 7:00 p.m. at a special location: **John Jay High School, 237 Seventh Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts.**

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

Coop Event Highlights

Fri, May 13 • Wordsprouts:
Friday Night with the Monday Writers 7:00 p.m.

Wed, May 18 • Learn About Cheese at the Coop
7:00 p.m.

Sat, May 21 • Meet Your Farmer:
Gotham Greens 2:00 p.m.

Thu, Jun 2 • Food Class:
Seasonal Sweet & Savory Tarts 7:30 p.m.

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

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As described, the charged members provoked chaos, urging others to join them

onstage, while some members encouraged them to return to their seats and members of the GM Chair Committee and the Coop's Board of Directors tried unsuccessfully to regain control of the meeting. Reports included epithets, shouts of "anti-Semite Jew haters!" "Liars!" and threats that if the slides were not taken down, those who objected would force them to be removed. Witnesses said the disruption continued for a minimum of a half-hour, affecting the presentation and the hundreds who had assembled to participate in the discussion, which had been anticipated to be

The investigatory materials noted that several of the charged parties generally acknowledged their conduct in what was clearly “not a brief emotional outburst,” but rather a “sustained” disruption. One investigator noted the facts were not much in question, concluding, “There was sort of a general agreement about what happened, what this disruption was. There weren’t a whole lot of dissenting voices about what actually happened.”

An investigation by the Coop's Disciplinary Committee had found that the four... "disrupted the presentation by getting out of their chairs, yelling and screaming, and getting up on the stage to prevent the presentation from continuing."

Several witnesses, including one from the Chair Committee, remarked that the disruption was unprecedented in Coop history, stat-

They objected that they were not necessarily primarily responsible for the chaos in the auditorium during the meeting, and objected that the images projected at

At the conclusion of testimony, the nine-member Hearing Deciding Group deliberated and unanimously concluded that the four mem-

with extremely uncooperative conduct had not engaged in “physical or verbal conduct which threatens or endangers the health and safety of another person in connection with Coop activities,” but that all four had engaged in “disrupting or obstructing Coop activities.”

The investigatory materials noted that several of the charged parties generally acknowledged their conduct in what was clearly “not a brief emotional outburst,” but rather a “sustained” disruption.

In view of the factual findings, the Hearing Officer Committee levied the penalty of a one-year suspension of membership for each charged member, presented with the caveat that but for the long and exemplary memberships of the four accused, they would have been ejected from the Coop for their behavior at the GM. ■

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1. "Anaconda" rapper Nicki
6. Verboten
11. Casino area
14. Dickens title opener
15. NCAA women's basketball powerhouse
16. "What ____ the odds?"
17. "Don't mince words!"
18. Put back to zero, say
19. Ski shop supply
20. Make Bozo top secret?
23. "How I Met Your Mother" narrator
24. Org. with an Office of Water
25. Defend the presence of a male escort?
33. Yoga class rental
34. Sunny?
35. Like volcanoes
36. Iowa State city
38. Mall cop weapon
40. Approaching
41. Money in la banque or la banca
43. Toys with tails
45. Corp. leader
46. Like someone unsubscribing from a popular music streaming service?
49. Org. conducting lots of X-rays
50. 2014 Oscar winner for Best Foreign Language Film
51. Inform someone with 100% accuracy?
58. Piece in the Middle East?
60. ____ the side of caution
61. City of Light, in a Cole Porter song
62. "Sheesh!"
63. Check the total
64. Boy band with the 2000 hit "Liquid Dreams"
65. Gorilla, e.g.
66. Some Spanish dates: Abbr.
67. Awaits judgment

1. Opposite of fem.
2. Right-leaning type: Abbr.
3. Evian competitor
4. Preferred groups
5. Travels around the world in style
6. What a gang protects
7. ____-deucy
8. Pear variety
9. What flamingos often stand on
10. Not digressing
11. One of 16 in a chess set
12. Lyricist Gershwin
13. ____-Mex
21. Fool
22. It may be covered or circled
25. Clog
26. "In ____" (1993 Nirvana album)
27. Unreliable
28. Oslo Accords partner of Yitzhak and Bill
29. Rocky ridge
30. Chilling, as Champagne
31. Hybrid big cat
32. Spanish skating figure
33. West and others
37. ____ voce
39. Many a song at a dance club
42. Venus and Serena, e.g.
44. Crush, e.g.
47. More impartial
48. Get out
51. Alaska ZIP code starter
52. "Animal House" house
53. "The boy you trained, gone he is" speaker
54. Puts a stop to
55. 1982 sci-fi film with a 2010 sequel
56. NC-17, maybe
57. Cravings
58. Quentin directed her in "Pulp Fiction"
59. Give a big shock to

Puzzle author: David Levinson Wilk. For answers, see page 14.

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

Food Coops

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the manager, or as it says on her office door, “grandmaster,” enforces the rules while nursing a baby strapped to her in a sling, though the character, like the actress, is well past child-bearing age (Leo is 55). “There’s something more important in Long Island than organic produce?” Lori intones after Ilana asks for a reprieve. “Either you finish your shift today or you’re banned from the coop. For the rest of your body’s life.”

Greene Hill = Park Slope?

If that leaves any doubt that it’s really the Park Slope Food Coop being parodied consider this: Location scouts originally requested to shoot in the PSFC. They were turned down, as most such shoots are. “It isn’t feasible during the day,” explains General Coordinator Ann Herpel. So location scouts turned to the Greene Hill Food Co-op, whose hours—Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 3-6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.—allowed for accommodating such a shoot. Coordinators there brought the proposed shoot to a GM where members approved it and the use of Greene Hill’s real name. Producers had offered Greene Hill the option of fictionalizing the setting, but Receiving Coordinator Lauryl Berger-Chun said that the membership decided to use the name to increase visibility for the fledgling coop. Also, she adds, “people were excited to host the shoot. A lot of members were fans.”

A Favorite Punch Line

Ilana isn’t the first fictional character to run into problem with the Coop’s work rules. Ingrid Jungermann filmed an episode of her web series *The Slope*—a precursor to *F to 7th*—on the bench outside the Coop. Wearing an orange walker’s vest, Jungermann has an awkward encounter with an ex-girlfriend. After some polite conversation (“a woman inside gave me a recipe for dragon-fruit compote,” Jungermann says) the ex asks to be snuck into the Coop. Jungermann says no. “You missed six shifts. There are rules here, and I’m not going to break them... This isn’t Union Market. You can’t just waltz in here with a cart.” Spoken like a true member.

Also spoken like a true member, back when the Sh*! People Say thing was all the rage, an episode of *Sh*! Park Slope Parents Say* was shot. Amid all the usual jokes about strollers, parking, kale

chips and gender wars on the Park Slope Parents group the admonition, “Are you a member of the Park Slope Food Coop? You should join the Coop,” was repeated, reflecting the behavior of the True Believers (i.e. members).

The episode, entitled “Co-Op,” was shot at the Greene Hill Food Co-op in Clinton Hill, but it’s pretty clear that it’s the Park Slope Food Coop—and Park Slope culture in general—being, affectionately, teased.

Cultures Collide

The novelist and journalist Amy Sohn gave a starring role to the Coop in her novels *Prospect Park West* and *Motherland*, though she called it the Prospect Park Food Coop. Sohn is a huge fan of the Coop (she’s been a member since 2004) but could not resist the drama and humor to be mined by setting her novels here. “I was satirizing

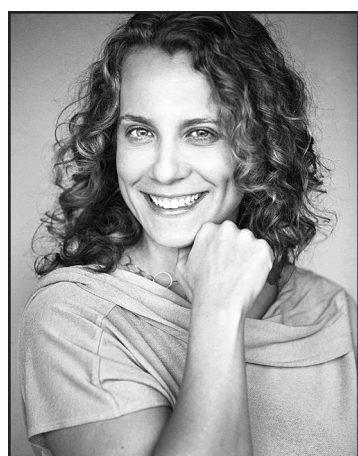


PHOTO BY PIOTR REDLINSKI

Park Slope author and Coop member Amy Sohn.

the culture of Park Slope circa 2008, 2009, and the epicenter was the Coop,” she says.

More than just a place and time, using the Coop as a setting gave Sohn the opportunity to throw a cross-section of Park Slopers—from a kleptomaniac movie star who joins to improve her public image, to a bored stay at home mom starting an affair with a real-estate obsessed social climber—into a blender and explore celebrity culture, gentrification, class envy and bi-curious mommies.

In fiction, as in life, the Coop provides the Venn diagram where disparate cultures intersect. “We still represent a slice of Brooklyn you don’t see or encounter,” says Herpel. “If you go to Williamsburg are you going to see those kind of people? The Orthodox, the Jamaicans, the upper middle class people, the lesbian couple with children? No. But here all of these things are all in one place.”



PHOTO BY KEVIN RYAN

Sohn agrees. “I feel it is one of the few places in Brooklyn where you have radically different people coming together in a small space and forced to interact.” This begs for humor and sometimes provides grist for more philosophical deliberations. Coop member Ben Lerner’s novel, *10:04*, about a novelist and Coop member named Ben, has long passages about, among other things, food politics, inspired by conversations the character Ben (and presumably the real-life Ben) overheard at the Coop.

In fiction, as in life, the Coop provides the Venn diagram where disparate cultures intersect.

A National Brand

Adding to the Coop’s allure is Brooklyn itself. In the last several years, Herpel points out, Brooklyn has become an international brand, and the Coop has come to represent a slice of the borough.

Which probably explains why these days the Coop gets multiple requests from foreign journalists, not to report on food coops, per se, but to cover the Coop as part of larger pieces about Brooklyn. Herpel finds it amusing that the culture at large—with its fixation on Brooklyn, food politics, the locavore movement—has caught up with what the Coop has been doing for decades (selling locally sourced food to a diverse array of people, and doing so in Brooklyn). As a result, Herpel says, “we now represent something culturally to people that I don’t know would be true of a food coop in Minneapolis.”

If that’s the case, it further explains *Broad City* turning its delightfully wacky eye to the coop and the Coop. The show often lovingly mocks New York City culture—the same episode also had Abbi waiting in a long, snarky bakery line to obtain the latest foodie craze, a “churron,” which is a fictional (let’s hope) hybrid of a churro and macaron. The episode seemed to be

taking aim not just at the Food Coop but foodie culture and Brooklyn culture in general. The Coop was, as always, the perfect avatar.

Funny Ha-ha Funny?

As for Greene Hill members, how did it feel being the butt of what seemed to be Park Slope’s joke?

“We just watched it, it was like oh,” says Ruth Sherman, a Greene Hill member who volunteered to help supervise the shoot and was there for the ogling-the-produce scenes. “It was embarrassing and funny at the same time.”

But the production itself, says Sherman was great. Producers left behind a beautiful mural and donated a bunch of food (and of course paid a location fee). And it did get Greene Hill’s name out there and increased recognition. Berger-Chun says that since the episode aired in February people have wandered in and double-taked, asking “Wait, isn’t this...?”

Adds Sherman: “Any publicity is good. Most of the time.” ■



Greene Hill Food Co-op at 18 Putnam Ave. served as the location for an episode of *Broad City*.

PHOTO BY KEVIN RYAN

PSFC Membership Breaks 17,000 Members and Talks of Expansion

By Taigi Smith

On April 26, 2016, the Park Slope Food Coop held its General Meeting. It was announced that the PSFC has grown to more than 17,000 members and plans to form a committee to study the opening of a second location were discussed. Members present were asked to vote on a year-long trial with the TerraCycle recycling program and that vote passed with overwhelming support.

Members of the Chair Committee introduced themselves at 7:13 p.m. and requested that all members turn off their cell phones and extend courtesy to the other members present. Members were also asked not to eat, drink or smoke in the school auditorium.

The meeting began with the open forum. Chris Terrell, from Food Processing, expressed interest in starting a wine coop and members present certainly seemed open to the idea. According to Chris, the PSFC would have to partner with a nearby wine shop or interested party willing to sell the vino on our behalf. "A wine coop would benefit all wine drinking members. We could find organic and sustainable wines," said Chris, who stressed that all selections would be picked by PSFC members. Any member

curious about next steps can e-mail christopher.terrell@gmail.com.

The General Coordinators then proceeded to present their monthly reports. Mike Eakin presented the financial report and stressed that all the numbers are preliminary until they are audited and presented at the Annual Meeting in June. Sales at the Coop exceed \$1 million dollars per week. For every dollar in sales, the PSFC keeps 17 cents to cover operating costs. Mike also reported that the Coop's expenses are up a bit, but said it's hard to draw any financial conclusions this early in the year. Overall, membership is up and sales per member are up. The most exciting news? Our membership broke 17,000 members this month. "The balance sheet is fairly strong. Accounts payable are up from over a year ago. On Feb. 1, we had a lowering of prices from a major supplier by about 2 percent. Inventory turnover is 67 times," added Mike. "For most (coops of our size,) it's 15-20 times per year. After Mike presented his monthly report, the floor was open for questions. One member asked about the pension fund. "The pension plan is underfunded right now," said Joe Holtz, who hopes things will turn around this year. "We're

working on that," said Holtz.

General Coordinator, Elinor Astrinsky, urged members to shop on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. "It's the best time to shop because everyone is having dinner." Membership is at an all-time high and "it's really difficult to shop on Friday afternoons and weekends."

General Coordinator, Joe Szladek, gave an insightful monthly produce report. He spoke briefly about all the wonderful seasonal vegetables currently available at the PSFC including ramps, fava beans, baby greens and a new green called kale rabe, which interestingly, is neither kale nor rabe. "Last year's crop of carrots from out West was a bust because of the drought. The local farmers stored a bunch of carrots for us, so we're going through that," said Joe. The California drought wreaked havoc on carrots and the state is still suffering. "We're especially having trouble getting baby carrots." On a positive note, Joe said the blackberries from Mexico have been selling wonderfully and reported that shelf labels are being redesigned. "We're going to be adding non-GMO and organic information to the labels." Jesse, the GM secretary, inquired about the best way to select garlic, adding that at times, his garlic selections haven't been up to par.

Greg Todd, a member of the non-GMO committee addressed the membership. The overall goal of the non-GMO committee? It wants to reduce the amount of "GMO'ness" at the PSFC. The committee is working with the General Coordinators to identify alternatives to GMO. "There will be an actual 'non GMO' identifier on the shelves provided by one of our major suppliers," said Todd. "This is good. This is very good, and I'm happy to be here making this announcement," he added.

Karen Kramer, from the Disciplinary Committee, gave an overview of what the DC does. "We're the people that make sure the PSFC is free from financial fraud and bad behavior," said Karen, who added that one of the major goals of the DC is to "try to get people to treat one another better and be more mindful



Chair Committee members.

PHOTOS BY LISA COHEN

of their behavior." Helen Koh, another member of the DC, gave a report about measures the DC had taken against the four members who caused a major disruption at the April 2015 meeting. (For more information on that decision and the DC hearing please see the article entitled "Judged Extremely Uncooperative, Four Members Suspended for a Year," in this issue.)

General Coordinator Elinor Astrinsky urged members to shop on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Membership is at an all-time high and "it's really difficult to shop on Friday afternoons and weekends."

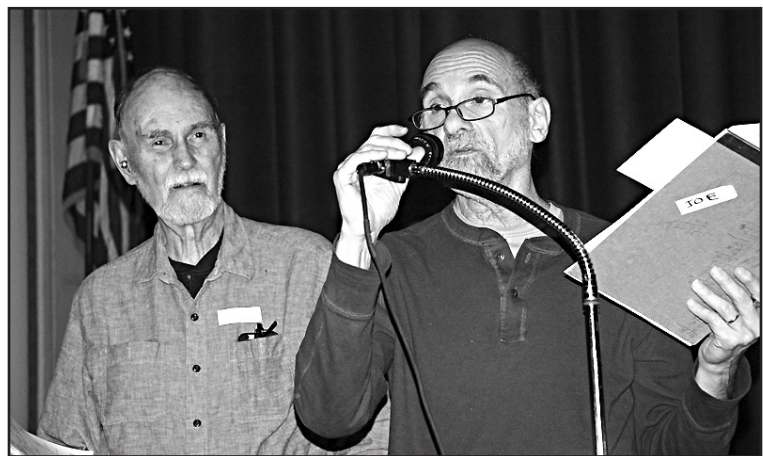
After the presentation by the Disciplinary Committee, the agenda items were discussed. Rose Calderon of the Environmental Com-

a legitimate business and it's been around for long time. The company is very transparent. They're very, very customer service oriented.

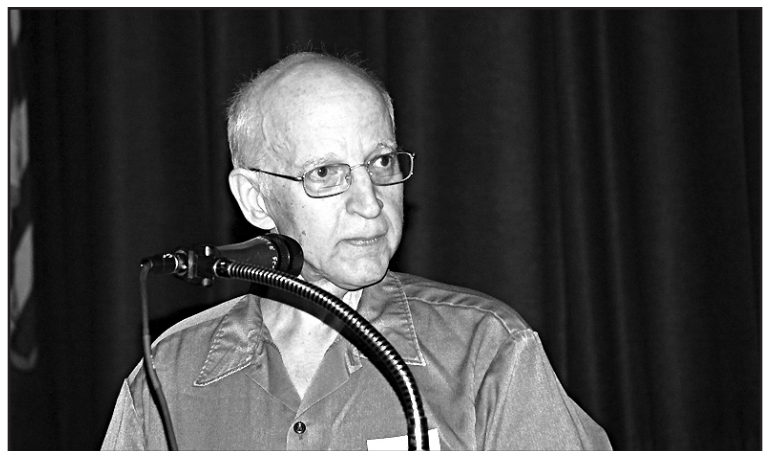
"We generate a lot of plastic waste from things we buy at the Coop. This is an opportunity for us to decrease our carbon footprint," Calderon added, pointing out that 12,000 tons of waste are produced by NYC residents per day and 12 percent of that is plastic waste. Calderon presented a long list of items that we purchase that are wrapped in plastic and made a good case for giving TerraCycle a try. "This fee-based collection is not the answer, but it's a start," said Calderon who encouraged members to reuse their plastic and be more mindful of purchasing products with less plastic and packaging. At 8:26 p.m., Calderon made a formal request to vote for the year-long trial of the fee-based plastic packaging bin recycling program. The one-year trial was overwhelmingly approved. The start date will be Summer 2016 and the budget, not to exceed \$5000, allows for 24 bins. After the vote was passed, there was a rousing round of applause.

Member Deb Kapell took a few moments to discuss the re-admittance of housemates of expelled members to the PSFC, and there was a long discussion about the difference between being "expelled" and "suspended" from the Coop. Membership Coordinator Annette Laskaris explained that the two terms are not interchangeable and encouraged Deb Kapell to straighten out her terminology before continuing the discussion. General Coordinator Joe Holtz agreed. "You keep leaping back and forth," he said. "Suspended. Expelled. Suspended. Expelled. Wonderful members get suspended every day. If you're going to keep going back and forth, this conversation is not going to work." To be clear, Deb wants members who've been expelled to have a clear idea of how they

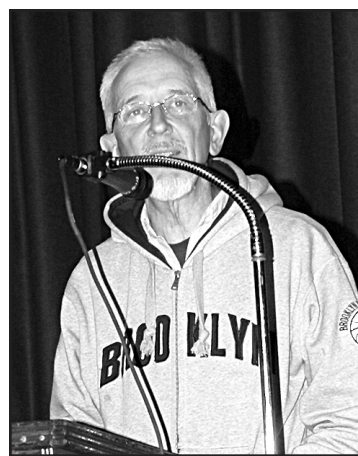
CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



General Coordinator Mike Eakin gives financial report and General Coordinator Joe Holtz answers question about pension plan.



Former Produce Coordinator Allen Zimmerman educated us on how to pick a good head of garlic.



GMO Committee member Greg Todd said they aim to replace GMOs with alternatives.

mittee discussed her group's work on the TerraCycle Project. The goal of the project is to collect plastic waste that is sold at the PSFC but not collected by New York's regular residential pick up. The committee proposed a vote for a year-long trial of a TerraCycle fee-based plastic packaging bin collection. The cost was not to exceed \$5,000 per year. In response to a member question about TerraCycle, Calderon answered, "It's

INTERNATIONAL TRADE EDUCATION SQUAD REPORT

Why You Should Care About the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the TPP

By Gerardo Renique and
Bart DeCoursy, International
Trade Education Squad

In large part due to Bernie Sanders' popularity in the current primary season, more attention has been paid to international trade deals, such as the TPP. This is fortuitous, since so much of our future will be shaped by this expansive piece of legislation. The mission of the ITES is to educate the members of the PSFC on the matters of international trade agreements.

Did you know:

- That only six of the 30 chapters deal with actual trade issues?
- That it was written in secret by a handful of trade representatives from the 12 nations and 600 corporate advisors?
- That investor-states, such as Pfizer and Monsanto, are seen as legal entities on par with nation-states, such as Singapore, New Zealand or the United States?
- That these investor-states can sue nation-states and settle lawsuits with taxpayer dollars? For example a U.S. mining company is suing Colombia for \$16.5 billion for creating a national park where they were going to dig.¹

Since inception of the

ITES, we have researched these questions extensively, and in this report we highlight the findings we have made over the last period, specifically with regard to a similar, though less extensive, multi-lateral trade agreement, the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA. We highlight NAFTA as a historical comparator, and PSFC members can use our analysis to make their own predictions of likely outcomes of the TPP going forward.

Like the current TPP, NAFTA was advertised in the 1990s as an agreement that would expand trade and create jobs. However, by establishing that U.S. corporations can relocate operations, NAFTA in the end severely undermined hard-won labor rights and bargaining power of American workers. In consequence, during the last two decades, American workers have experienced stagnant wages, all while there was an upward distribution of income, wealth and political power. In the words of Thea M. Lee, the deputy chief of staff at the AFL-CIO, NAFTA forced "workers into more direct competition with each other, while assuring them fewer rights and protections."

The relocation of American manufacturing plants to Mexico caused the loss of approximately 1 million jobs by 2004.²

South of our border, the opening of Mexican markets to heavily subsidized American corn led to the bankruptcy of hundreds of thousands of Mexican farmers, and the loss of over a million farming jobs. Those who did not find jobs in the newly opened factories moved across the border into the United States. Though NAFTA was expected to discourage Mexican immigration to the U.S., former foreign minister and NYU professor Jorge Castaneda estimates that Mexican-born people in the U.S. have doubled since 1994 to 12 million in 2013.

By threatening to relocate or hire undocumented immigrant workers, U.S. employers strengthened their ability to force all workers to accept lower wages and benefits. On the other hand, while per-capita income in Mexico has risen at an average rate far slower than that of other Latin American countries, Mexico's wealthiest have become even richer.³

In addition, to keep pace with competitive pressures,

Mexican agribusiness drastically increased their use of fertilizers and chemicals, costing \$36 billion per year in pollution. Rural farmers were also pushed further out, resulting in deforestation at a rate of over 630,000 hectares a year.⁴

These negative consequences of NAFTA are a big part of why the TPP is finding wide opposition from an unprecedented array of organizations at home and abroad. Groups united to reject the TPP include labor unions, consumer, health, food safety, environmental, faith and civil rights organizations.

We are following developments in all of these groups, going to meetings and conferences to find out about local and national opposition to TPP and about how it could affect Coop members. We collect and curate all of this as well as the latest information about TPP on our blog. To find out more and to learn

how you can take action, go to <http://coopites.wordpress.com> or follow and participate in the Facebook group "No TPP Tuesdays".⁵ ■

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⁴Sierra Club. NAFTA's Impact on Mexico. <http://vault.sierraclub.org/trade/downloads/nafta-and-mexico.pdf>

⁵<http://www.facebook.com/events/125114637849569/>



Membership

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

can re-join. This was a discussion item on the agenda, and no vote was taken.

"We're just really asking for is your input now. Should the Coop have a second branch? What is the Coop's future in that regard?"

—Ann Herpel,
General Coordinator

General Coordinator Ann Herpel and member Jonathan Farber discussed the second location study and sought permission to form an exploratory committee. They are hoping that members of the PSFC will add insight and ideas as they begin to explore the idea of expansion. "What we're asking for is your input now. Should the Coop have a second branch? What is the Coop's future in that regard?" said Ann, who added that with 17,000 members, "We are going to exceed our capacity."



Rachel Jackson (left) and Rosemary Calderon brought an agenda item about their group's work on the TerraCycle project.

"We looked at buildings, and we looked at neighborhoods," said Jonathan, who has actively been researching the expansion of our Coop. "The Coop is successful in a very competitive food market," he added. If given permission to start a study committee, the group would meet on a monthly basis. "This is a multi-year project, so we'd like to get started," said Ann who is seeking experts in the areas of commercial real estate, finance, and project

management to join the team of nine.

As one would imagine, several members had questions. "Would this be an offshoot of our Coop? How big would it be? Where would it be located?" asked a few members. Another person asked, "What's broken? Why should we expand?" to which Jonathan responded. "Nothing's broken. We do something really, really well. So why not expand on that?" Now that's food for thought. ■

The Agenda Committee is seeking one new member! Join the Committee and help set the monthly General Meeting agenda.

Requirements:

- ◆ Attend monthly Committee meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 8:00 p.m.
- ◆ Attend at least five General Meetings per year
- ◆ Have a cooperative spirit and willingness to work in a collaborative committee environment
- ◆ Be interested in the ongoing business of the Coop
- ◆ Have a good attendance record

If interested, contact Ann Herpel at 718-622-0560 or ann_herpel@psfc.coop. The Committee will interview applicants before submitting candidates to the GM for election. We are seeking an applicant pool that reflects the diversity of the Coop's membership.

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Reasons to Vote "No" on the Proposal to End Distribution of Plastic Roll Bags on May 31 GM Agenda

By Ann Herpel,
General Coordinator

At the May 31 GM, the Environmental Committee will propose that the Coop stop distributing plastic roll bags to shoppers. If passed, the clear bags—roll bags—now found in the produce, bulk, bread and meat/poultry aisles will not be available to members six months after the vote. The General Coordinators have closely followed the Environmental Committee's proposals to remove plastic roll bags from the Coop since 2013, and we continue to have grave concerns about the impact on our collectively owned business if the removal of roll bags is approved. We strongly urge members to attend the May 31 GM and contribute to the conversation.

As the financial and administrative stewards of the Coop, one of our roles is to help members understand how decisions made at the GM impact our bottom line and sustainability. The recent decision, passed at the April 2016 GM, to expand our TerraCycle plastic recycling collection to include the

fee-based collection of wide-variety of plastics is one such decision. The GCs strongly supported this proposal because TerraCycle is an opportunity for Coop members to upcycle or recycle plastic packaging and wrapping from products purchased at the Coop. *Plastic roll bags will be included in this fee-based collection.* We balanced the benefits of reducing waste produced by shopping at the Coop against the relatively low fee to pay for this service and came to the conclusion, with the Environmental Committee, that fee-based TerraCycle collection is a win for the Coop and the environment.

But we balance any decision with an understanding of the cost (not simply financial) to the Coop. The GCs continue to be concerned that removing roll bags would have considerable consequences for Coop operations and finances. We want to bring to members' attention the possible downsides of the elimination of roll bags, and to present some sound reasons to be opposed to the goal of removing roll bags from the Coop.

1. Supporting local farms:

The farmers who supply us with the bounty of our local region use minimal packaging. Some produce from Hepworth Farms, for example, arrives in reusable harvest crates (returned weekly to Hepworth). Our gorgeous mushroom selection is boxed in open, cardboard flats. Farmers send us local spring greens and lettuces in large 5-lb. plastic bags, an efficient way to deliver lots of greens with minimal packaging. Members need a roll bag or their own bag to purchase these products. We are concerned that if roll bags are no longer available and members do not bring an alternative bag (or refuse to spend money purchasing alternative bags), members will choose other produce packaged in heavier plastic clamshells, bags or cups. What are the impacts of this decision? First, the Coop sells less local food—consequently buying less from local farmers, directly impacting their financial health. Second, pre-packaged produce is wrapped in heavier plastic packaging. More plastic is used for the same weight of product. How is that a better environmental choice?

2. Reducing Food Waste:

Lightweight, durable and breathable plastic bags help to reduce food waste by keeping food fresher longer. Reducing food waste is a critical step in mitigating climate change because discarded fresh food contributes to the production of greenhouse gas in the waste stream and "wastes" the energy and the water invested in growing and transporting that food. 40% of the food in America is wasted; plastic roll bags are one way to reduce that waste and its associated environmental damage. Our environmental responsibility extends to reducing our overall waste.

3. **Buying from the bulk and produces aisles saves money while using minimal packaging.** Each week, Coop members buy 150,000+ pounds of produce PLUS over 12,000 pounds from the self-serve bulk bins. Buying in bulk and cooking at home are the best ways to

save money. Plastic roll bags play a key role in selling this enormous quantity of fresh—much of it locally produced—food. The amount of plastic used to convey these products is insignificant in proportion to the pounds of fresh foods sold. Eliminating roll bags would make shopping more difficult for our bulk and produce buying members, whose plastic packaging environmental impact is already very low and could discourage members from purchasing these minimally packaged goods.

4. Avoiding negative impacts on our common shopping experience.

When food is put into bags that are not transparent—and many roll bag alternatives are not—checkout workers work more slowly, opening and closing bags to verify the contents. Slowing down the checkout process contributes to longer lines. Additionally, the consequences of removing the bags from the produce or bulk aisles—two of our most crowded aisles where members most frequently use the roll bags to convey their goods home—are yet to be fully discovered. How will the elimination of roll bags exacerbate an already cramped shopping experience? The Environmental Committee has not suggested how to address this dilemma. Shoppers will need a readily available, low-cost or free, substitute to purchase items from the aisles. As member-owners, we must be concerned about making decisions that will create more unpleasant shopping experiences or lead members to consider leaving the Coop.

5. Protecting the Coop's bottom line:

In an August 2012 member-designed and -conducted survey, 36 percent of members reported that they would either delay their purchase or purchase the item elsewhere if plastic roll bags were not available in the Coop. Member-owners should be concerned if the Coop adopts policies that have a direct, negative impact on the Coop's finances. The viability of the Coop depends on member-owners spending their hard-earned dollars at the Coop. When

members shop regularly at the Coop, our sales volume increases, helping us to secure better prices from our suppliers and low prices for members.

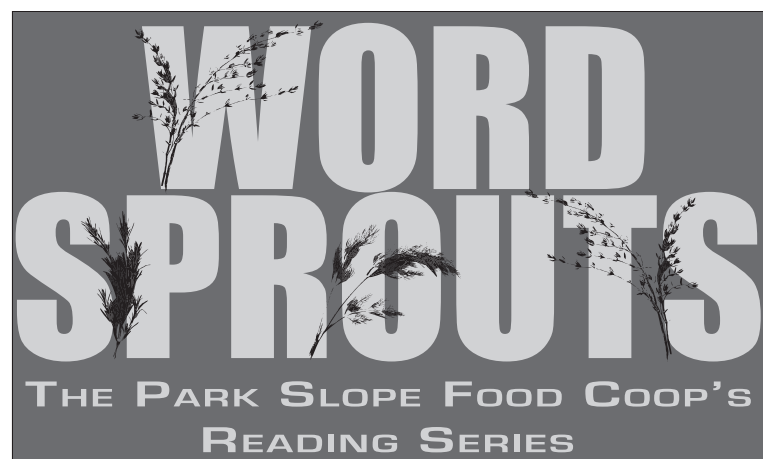
In 2007 when the Coop eliminated the plastic t-shirt style shopping bag, free boxes were available to shoppers to convey their groceries home. There are no free, readily available alternatives to the plastic roll bag. Bag alternatives are an added expense to individual member-owners. The Environmental Committee, in the past, has recommended that members bring bags with them each time they shop. They have even encouraged members to continue, if they wish, to use plastic bags—simply not the ones provided by the Coop. While some members will attempt to bring bags, many will inevitably fail to bring an adequate number of reusable bags each time they shop. The cost of the plastic roll bags we now use to minimally package, transport and protect our food will transfer from the Coop to individual members, many times over.

The GCs continue to believe Coop efforts should be focused on the reuse and reduction of roll bags, not elimination. We have repeatedly asked the Environmental Committee for a robust educational campaign to engage members in voluntary plastic roll bag reduction before any decision to stop providing roll bags to members should be considered. Education does change behavior.

We urge members to embrace the following:

- Take only the bags you need
- Buy products in the bulk aisle to avoid the excessive materials of packaged goods
- Avoid putting produce items like bananas or avocados in a plastic bag
- Bring bags (roll bags or alternatives) each time you shop

Education and voluntary cooperative action aimed at plastic reduction in the Coop should be given a chance to work. Members can become even more environmentally conscious shoppers without relying on a GM-mandated rule that would force all member-owners into a change that poses serious financial and operational risks to the Coop. ■



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

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

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

OBITUARY

Joan Arnold: Long-time Coop Member and Squad Leader

By James Paul

Joan Arnold—dancer, teacher, writer, healer—died at her home in Park Slope, Brooklyn, on Tuesday, March 29, 2016, after a two-year struggle with lung cancer. Joan was one of the country's prominent Alexander Technique teachers and had begun in recent years to develop a broader approach to her study of human movement. She was one of the first to bring Alexander's Western analysis to the ancient practice of yoga, which she also taught. Her students, both in Alexander Technique and in yoga, benefited from her broad reading and remarkable ability to articulate subtle, yet potent, instruction that brought balance and ease to all kinds of movement, from everyday activities to the highest forms of art.

Born in Brooklyn in 1948, Joan grew up in Nutley, New Jersey, and graduated from Hunter College in 1979 with a major in dance. Joan's physical restlessness and passionate curiosity about movement motivated her to explore a wide range of movement styles at New York studios—Zena Rommett, Alvin Ailey and Clark Center for the Performing Arts. She studied ballet, composition, improvisation, and modern and African dance with some of the city's most outstanding teachers, including Charles Moore, Chuck Davis, Milton Meyers, Maris Wolff and

Robert Ellis Dunn.

Joan performed with choreographers Midi Garth, Johanna Boyce and Margaret Hoeffel and, for three years, with Richard Bull's Improvisational Dance Ensemble. She also acted in and choreographed for showcases and several off-Broadway plays. Most recently she danced in Christopher Williams's *Hen's Teeth* (2010).

From 1980-83, she was Director of Special Programs at NYC's Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies, creating and administering workshops in Laban Movement Analysis, composition and improvisation.

For 10 years at schools and camps, Joan taught children two to 18 years old creative movement, modern and jazz dance, composition and improvisation. She ran a summer dance program for five years at Camp Hillcroft in upstate New York, teaching dance and directing students in creating and performing original work. She taught creative movement at West Side Montessori School and, as director of Children's Dance Theatre in Chelsea in the early '80s, she supervised faculty and taught jazz, modern dance and dance composition.



Joan's physical restlessness and passionate curiosity about movement motivated her to explore a wide range of movement styles at New York studios.

After her 1988 graduation from the American Center for the Alexander Technique, Joan served on its assistant faculty. Over the subsequent years, she presented and taught at many institutions, including the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Hunter College, Brooklyn College, the Atlantic Theater Company, New Age Health Spa and Equinox Fitness Clubs. She demonstrated the Alexander Technique on "CBS This Morning" and cable TV. For three years, she worked with colleague Hope Gillerman on the American Soci-

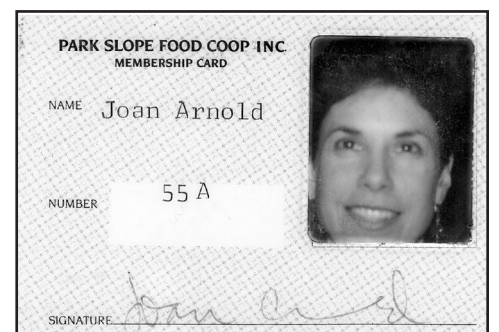
ety for Teachers of the Alexander Technique (AmSAT) Marketing and Public Relations Committee, writing text and creating content for the national society's website. Her articles on the Technique appear on a wide range of alternative health sites.

Joan began to teach herself yoga in 1969 as the basis for her home practice. In 1996, after years of focusing on dance and exercise, she rediscovered the practice and began to study with Molly Fox,

Alan Finger, Michael Leconczak, Jodie Rufty and Jackie Prete. Over the next few years, she went on yoga retreats, wrote about yoga for national magazines, and continued to study with Jonathan Gordon and Jimmy Ber-

neart. She completed an Anusara-inspired teacher training with Molly Fox and Jackie Prete in 2002. Joan taught weekly classes and presented workshops highlighting the pairing of yoga and Alexander Technique in NYC studios—at Jaya Yoga, Shakti Yoga, Yoga Center of Brooklyn, Yoga People and other studios. For the past three years, she taught yoga and the Alexander Technique for teachers at the Kripalu Center for Health & Yoga in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. ■

The subject of Joan's life was freedom and grace in human movement, which she herself possessed in abundance.



FOLLOW!
the Food Coop on

twitter & Instagram
&
Pinterest @foodcoop

BIKE VALET SHIFTS NOW AVAILABLE

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

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

**Contact the
Membership
Office to sign up.**



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

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

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

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

How can you donate?

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

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

LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

The *Linewaiters' Gazette* is published biweekly by the Park Slope Food Coop, Inc., 782 Union Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215, 718-622-0560. Opinions expressed here may be solely the views of the writer. The *Gazette* will not knowingly publish articles that are racist, sexist or otherwise discriminatory.

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

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

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

Letters: Maximum 500 words.

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

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

LETTERS, ARTICLES AND REPORTS SUBMISSION POLICIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FAIRNESS, ANONYMITY AND RESPECT POLICIES

In order to provide fair, comprehensive, factual coverage:

Fairness

1. The *Gazette* will not publish hearsay—that is, allegations not based on the author's first-hand observation.
2. Nor will we publish accusations that are unnecessary, not specific or are not substantiated by factual assertions. The *Gazette* will not publish gratuitous personalization. That is, no unnecessary naming of Coop members in polemical letters and articles. Writers must address ideas not persons.
3. Submissions that make substantive accusations against specific individuals, necessary to make the point of the submission and within the Fairness, Anonymity and Respect policies will be given to those persons to enable them to write a response, and both submissions and response will be published simultaneously. This means that the original submission may not appear until the issue after the one for which it was submitted.

Anonymity

Unattributed letters will not be published unless the *Gazette* knows the identity of the writer, and therefore must be signed when submitted (giving phone number). Such letters will be published only where a reason is given to the editor as to why public identification of the writer would impose an unfair burden of embarrassment or difficulty. Such letters must relate to Coop issues and avoid any non-constructive, non-cooperative language.

Respect

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

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

Friday, May 20, 8:00 p.m.

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



PROSPECT CONCERTS



Jenny Hill and Groove Garden. Led by saxophonist/composer Jenny Hill, Groove Garden presents a rich sampling of jazz, South American grooves and the funky side of Brooklyn. They will be performing music that they recorded in Brazil last summer. Musicians include: vocalist Debbie Deane, Stefan Bauer on vibes, Todd Isler on drums and hand percussion, Jim Whitney on bass, plus special guests. Bill Milkowski of *Jazz Times* calls her “an accomplished composer-arranger and first-rate soloist, with some bold playing on tenor, soprano and flute. Highly recommended.”

Guitarist **Tomas Rodriguez** has been praised as “playing guitar with a passionate originality, with an individual touch, drawing from the musical heart of the Latin world.” The folk and classical traditions of Spain and South America are richly evident in Rodriguez’ playing, but he transmutes them into a sound clearly, fervently his own. His original compositions and his collaborations with leading musicians in New York City’s world-music scene create an engaging groove, touching harmonies and a mesmerizing exploration of the guitar’s rich background in the music of the Americas, Europe and Africa. Joining Tomas will be Stefan Bauer on vibes, Todd Isler on drums and Barry Kornhauser on cello.



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: Saeri Yoo Park
Photoshop: Adam Segal-Isaacson
Preproduction: Tuesday Smillie
Art Director (production): Phan Nguyen
Desktop Publishing: Maxwell Taylor
Heloisa Zero
Yi Zhang
Editor (production): Nancy Rosenberg
Advertising: Mary Robb
Puzzle Master: David Levinson-Wilk
Final Proofreader: Lisa Schorr
Index: Len Neufeldh

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.

Hamish Anderson Laura Anderson Jacob Appel Melanie Baerlocher Sarah Balta Jesse Baltes Eulem Basaldi John Benditt Sarah Bifulco Becky Blatt Glen Brixey Jennifer Canty Sydney Carlock Francesca Cerchione Sandra Clarke	Nathalie Compagnon Faith Corbett William Cothren Lorin Danieli Craig Davis Julean DeJesus Rui Dell'Avanzi Olivier Dessyn John Diebold Chelsea DuBois Lindsay DuBois Alex Eleftherakis Nicholas Emrich Sharon Espinoza Christopher Esposito	Mia Estadella Kate Falb Vincent Fedor Rafael Ferreira Catherine Findlay Shirras Veronica Fischmann Lauren Flack William Fulton Adam Ganser Gabriel Gironda Jenna Graziano Sophia Green Eric Haberlen Emily Haidet Erica Holder	Carolyn Holmes Andrea Huspeni Milos Jacimovic Michael Jacober Arlene James Rene John-Sandy II Kannon Kay Justin Knowlden Sayam Kochar Hannah Kornfeld Jordon Kosoffsky Lalitha Krishnamurty Yannick Lanner-Cusin Jasmine Rain Lebovitz	Rens Lieman Kathryn Longobardi Nicola Lopez Tanner Lostan Vera Lukacs Stephen Maples Gaetano Marasa Zachary Markovits Nikolay Mastryukov Eneris Matos Amye McGarther Shannon McKinley Julia McLaughlin Holly McMahon Vincent Moore	Erin Morris George Nguyen Aleksandra Nudel Jessie Oswald Masaya Ozaki Francesco Paciocco Brenna Palughi Anna Park Priya Patel Tesh Patel Julia Phillips Nelle Plotkin Alexander Rakoczy Ana Maria Roa Nicolas Rodina Alexis Roy	Elizabeth Rudall Raisie Saad Mia Sage Karina Sahlin Daniella Samper David Saunders Hans Schenck Kyla Schenk Carl Sednaoui Emma Shafer Emilia Shapiro Daniel Shaw Kaysh Shinn Sushmita Sircar Jamie Smith Lieke Snickers Ron Srebro	Kevin Sweeting Benjamin Thys Anna Toyama Micaella Tuccillo Elizabeth Unterman Rebecca van de Sande Nicole Vanchieri Destiny Washington Catherine West Edward West David Witzling Akiko Yabuki Joy Yedid
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COOP CALENDAR

New Member Orientations

Attending an Orientation is the first step toward Coop membership. Pre-registration is required for all of the three weekly New Member Orientations. To pre-register, visit foodcoop.com or contact the Membership Office. Visit in person or call 718-622-0560 during office hours.

Have questions about Orientation? Please visit www.foodcoop.com and look at the "Join the Coop" page for answers to frequently asked questions.

The Coop on the Internet

www.foodcoop.com

The Coop on Cable TV

Inside the Park Slope Food Coop

The fourth FRIDAY of the month at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Channels: 56 (Time-Warner), 69 (CableVision), 84 (RCN), 44 (Verizon), and live streaming on the Web: www.bricartsmedia.org/community-media/bcat-tv-network.

General Meeting Info

TUE, MAY 31
GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, JUNE 7
The Agenda Committee will not meet in June.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

May 26 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, May 16
June 9 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, May 30

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

May 26 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, May 18
June 9 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, June 1

ALL ABOUT THE GENERAL MEETING

Our Governing Structure

From our inception in 1973 to the present, the open monthly General Meetings have been at the center of the Coop's decision-making process. Since the Coop incorporated in 1977, we have been legally required to have a Board of Directors. The Coop continued the tradition of General Meetings by requiring the Board to have open meetings and to receive the advice of the members at General Meetings. The Board of Directors, which is required to act legally and responsibly, has approved almost every General Meeting decision at the end of every General Meeting. Board members are elected at the Annual Meeting in June. Copies of the Coop's bylaws are available on foodcoop.com and at every General Meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 31, 7:00 p.m.

Location

John Jay High School, 237 Seventh Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts.

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

may 13
fri 7 pm

Wordsprouts: Friday Night With the Monday Writers



For well over a decade, the Monday Writers have been meeting in Park Slope to share and discuss their work, which comprises every genre imaginable, from poetry, fiction, memoir, essays, screenplays and plays, and on occasion, sketch comedy. Tonight, five illustrious members take the stage to read from their latest work. They are: essayist and poet **Barbara Agosin**, who will read about dealing with the ravages of Alzheimer's disease; novelist **Vincent Collazo**, one of the first readers at this series, who returns to share his novel-in-progress; acclaimed novelist and poet **Paola Corso**, co-founder of the Wordsprouts series; writer and historian **Martha K. Hoffman**, who runs Cuidono press; and actor and writer **Matt Mitler**, director of Dzieci Theatre. With such an eclectic gathering of talent, there's something here for every lover of literature and storytelling, and we hope to see you there.

Bookings: John Donohue, wordsproutspfc@gmail.com.

may 14
sat 11 am

Reclaim Your Health

This session will focus on diabetes/weight loss. Learn how to: better manage your diabetes; control your blood sugar and lose weight; find foods that taste great and are healthy; be happy and healthy and still be you; and learn simple tips on how to build a healthy meal. **Dr. Christina Tarantola** is a licensed pharmacist, certified health coach, Reiki I master and published author of her new book, *Revealing Your Inner Radiance: Healing Through the Heart*. She incorporates nutrition/lifestyle modification, energy healing and stress reduction techniques into her personalized approach. Her services include health/life coaching, reiki healing and relaxing essential oil therapy treatment.

may 15
sun 12 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.

may 18
wed 7 pm

Learn About Cheese At the Coop

Cheese education at the Coop continues with another tasting session led by Coop member and American Cheese Society Certified Cheese Professional **Elena Santogade**. Join us as we taste through a different regional selection this month; learn about the history, geography and cheesemaking practices from around the world. Santogade will lead the tasting and offer guidelines for pairings and for designing cheese tastings of your own.

may 20
fri 8 pm

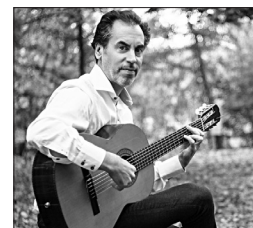
Jenny Hill and Groove Garden; Tomas Rodriguez



Led by saxophonist/composer **Jenny Hill**, **Groove Garden** presents a rich sampling of jazz, South American grooves and the funky side of Brooklyn. They will



be performing music that they recorded in Brazil last summer. Musicians include: vocalist Debbie Deane, Stefan Bauer on vibes, Todd Isler on drums and hand percussion, Jim Whitney on bass, plus special guests. Bill Milkowski of Jazz Times calls her "an accomplished composer-arranger and first-rate soloist, with some bold playing on tenor, soprano and flute. Highly recommended." Guitarist **Tomas Rodriguez** has been praised as "playing guitar with a passionate originality, with an individual touch, drawing from the musical heart of the Latin world." The folk and classical traditions of Spain and South America are richly evident in Rodriguez' playing, but he transmutes them into a sound clearly, fervently his own. His original compositions and his collaborations with leading musicians in New York City's world-music scene create an engaging groove, touching harmonies and a mesmerizing exploration of the guitar's rich background in the music of the Americas, Europe and Africa. Joining Tomas will be Stefan Bauer on vibes, Todd Isler on drums and Barry Kornhauser on cello.



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.

may 21
sat 11 am

Women & Finance: Creating Financial Independence

Women worry about financial security. Stop feeling intimidated by the jargon or overwhelmed by the subject matter. Get the information and guidance you need to build your financial foundation. Discussion will include building assets, protecting against risk and unexpected events. Our presenter makes it easy by sharing information to help you understand your current financial standing and your future financial needs. During this educational workshop for women, expect: to understand your current financial situation and future financial needs; to be empowered to make informed financial decisions to protect your financial future. All attendees receive a complimentary workbook that will reinforce what you've learned and keep you focused to reach your goals. Long-time Coop member **Mary Blanchett** is a Financial Services Professional with New York Life Insurance and NYLIFE Securities LLC. Mary helps her clients with Insurance, investments and retirement planning.

may 21
sat 2 pm

Meet Your Farmer: Gotham Greens

Gotham Greens is a global pioneer in the field of urban agriculture and a leading regional producer of hyper-local, premium-quality vegetables and herbs. Pesticide-free produce is grown using ecologically sustainable methods in technologically sophisticated, 100% clean-energy powered, climate-controlled urban greenhouses. Gotham provides its diverse retail, restaurant, and institutional customers with a local, reliable, year-round supply of produce grown under the highest standards of food safety and environmental sustainability. The company has built and operates more than 170,000 sq. ft. of greenhouse across four facilities in New York and Chicago. Gotham was a recipient of the 2015 Martha Stewart "American Made" award and was founded in 2009 in

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

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

may 13—jun 24 2016

Brooklyn. This two-hour event series brings smart, incredibly hard-working farmers to you. They will answer your questions and share with us the passion for their farms, growing practices and future plans.

may 22
sun 12 pm

ETs, Aliens and the Politics of Misdirection

What if there were huge technological advances being hidden from all of us such as: food replication; free energy devices; environmental purification technologies; healing technologies using frequency and light. All this would collapse the existing economic system run by the wealthy for the wealthy, and make it obsolete. Which means...no more being enslaved by money. Does this mean we have a shot at utopia in our lifetimes? What else is being kept from us about these other worlds and to what purpose? How has our understanding of history been altered by these activities? Coop member **Michael Winks** is a researcher/writer whose curiosity was piqued by the issue of huge amounts of U.S. budget funds going missing to secret government projects. He decided to investigate why. Coop member **Rebecca Hart** is a nutritional consultant and energy healer with first-hand experience regarding alien encounters and psychic communications during work that she did with Professor Joseph John Palisi, Ph.D, the one-time (now deceased) official historian of Brooklyn.

may 31
tue 7 pm

PSFC MAY 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: John Jay High School, 237 Seventh Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts.

I. Member Arrival and Meeting Warm-Up

II. Open Forum

III. Coordinator and Committee Reports

IV. Meeting Agenda

Item 1: End Distribution of Plastic Roll Bags (60 minutes)

Proposal: The Coop will end the distribution of plastic roll bags on the Coop floor within six months of a vote by the membership.

—submitted by Sensho Wagg

Item 2: Confirming New HAC Members (15 minutes)

Election: Vote to confirm new members of the Hearing Administration Committee.

—submitted by the Hearing Administration Committee

Item 3: Annual Revolving Loan Committee Election (15 minutes)

Election: Two current committee members will stand for re-election.

—submitted by the Revolving Loan 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.

jun 2
thu 7:30 pm

Food Class: Seasonal Sweet & Savory Tarts



Learn how to make three beautiful vegan tarts featuring seasonal produce that will wow your dinner guests. Chef **Shauna Keeler**, registered dietitian and holistic chef, will demonstrate how to make vegan puff pastry

and gluten-free alternatives to your traditional, all-time favorites. Keeler is a registered dietitian with an MS degree in Nutrition Science from Syracuse University and a graduate of The Natural Gourmet Institute for Health and Culinary Arts. She has experience working as a private chef, teaching both culinary and nutrition education classes, developing workshops, and creating tailored recipes—often with a vegan, gluten-free spin. Her specialty is plant-based cuisine, and she spent time perfecting vegetarian cooking at a Buddhist monastery in the Catskills. She loves teaching others the skills necessary to create a diet they love, feel inspired by, and that supports wellness inside and out. *Menu includes: asparagus tart; vibrant spiral vegetable tart; strawberry rhubarb tartlets.*

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 May 19.

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.

jun 3
fri 7 pm

Film Night: Fernando Nation



"*The Natural* is supposed to be a blue-eyed boy who teethed on a 36-ounce Louisville Slugger. He should run like the wind and throw boysenberries through brick. He should come from California."—Steve Wulf, *Sports Illustrated*, 1981. So how was it that a pudgy 19-year-old Mexican left-handed pitcher from a

remote village in the Sonoran desert, unable to speak a word of English, could sell out stadiums across America and become a rock star overnight? In *Fernando Nation*, Mexican-born and Los Angeles-raised director Cruz Angeles traces the history of a community that was torn apart when Dodger Stadium was built in Chavez Ravine and then revitalized by one of the most captivating pitching phenoms baseball has ever seen. Nicknamed "El Toro" by his fans, Fernando Valenzuela ignited a fire that spread from LA to New York—and beyond. He vaulted himself onto the prime-time stage and proved with his signature look to the heavens and killer screwball that the American dream was not reserved for those born on U.S. soil.

Cinematographer **Naiti Gámez** is a NYC-based filmmaker from Miami/Cuba. Her film credits have screened at Festival de Cannes, Sundance Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival, Clermont-Ferrand, SXSW, Festival du Cinema de Paris, Woodstock Film Festival, Hampton's International FilmFestival, and Festival de Cine Internacional de Barcelona among others. Her TV credits include HBO, Showtime, PBS, ESPN, MTV/MTV2, DiscoveryChannel, Animal Planet, and Nova.

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

still to come

jun 10

Wordsprouts

jun 14

Plow-to-Plate Film: Vegucated

jun 11

Balance & Harmony

jun 17

ITES Public Forum

jun 11–12

Food Drive to Benefit CHIPS Soup Kitchen

jun 17

Prospect Concert Series

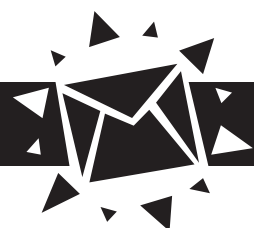
jun 12

Discover More Freedom of Movement

jun 24

Anger Management 101

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



CONCERNS ABOUT CHANGE IN COOP MEETING PROCEDURE

DEAR MEMBERS:

Earlier today (Sunday, May 1), I made my way to the Coop's meeting room for an excellent event outlining the plight of Israel's Bedouin population as they struggle to survive in the Negev (Naqab) desert. The presentation outlined the unequal treatment received by these Arab citizens of Israel—a community that has traditionally sent large numbers of its youth to serve with the Israel Defense Forces—as compared with the advantages available to Israel's Jewish citizens. The Negev/Naqab is the area to which the SodaStream factory recently relocated from its former site in the Occupied Territories, and the presenters, Coop members Rebecca Manski and Naomi Brussel, helped us think about how the overall situation of the Bedouin affects their availability and vulnerability as employees in the SodaStream factory. Rebecca spoke movingly of her own early life in a Zionist family, her residence in Israel, her initial opposition to the tactics of the movement for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions, and her ultimate embrace of those tactics out of a perception that nothing less will create the pressure necessary to reverse blatant injustice. She also spoke of the long-simmering tensions between many Bedouins and Palestinians, given the two groups' different relationships to the state of Israel—differences that she believes are currently diminishing given the Bedouins' ongoing difficulties.

During the discussion, it became clear that views on the issues varied widely among the approximately two dozen people present. One person had come to express her strong opposition to what she called "the BIDS." Another identified himself as a former General Coordinator and someone who does not support boycotts as a way of furthering even legitimate Palestinian grievances. A third spoke as a woman of color who feels that organizing for BDS at the Coop is a way to bring the concerns of her daily life into a largely white space that can otherwise feel alienating. I

learned a great deal from both the initial presentation and this exchange; I suspect most others in attendance did, as well. Despite the difficulty of the subject matter, the tone was positive throughout.

In my mind, this event should serve as an encouraging sign for the Coop that we are indeed capable of dealing with tough issues in a constructive way. However, we were told that the General Coordinators have announced, via an email message from Ann Herpel, that no further meetings on topics related to SodaStream, Israel, or boycotts will be permitted in the meeting room. I am wondering on what authority the GCs have made this decision. To me, it has the ring of yet another nail being hammered into the coffin of our Coop democracy. Whence the tremendous urgency to prevent constructive dialogue on this topic? I urge the General Coordinators to reconsider.

*In cooperation,
Jan Clausen*

MORE CENSORSHIP AT THE COOP

TO THE MEMBERS,

From April 26-28, 2016 the following e-mail exchange took place:

Dear Naomi,
Because of recent disputes about the content and purpose of events in the meeting room, the General Coordinators, in our capacity of chief administrators of the Coop, have decided to stop scheduling any events related to SodaStream, BDS, Israel or boycotts related to these subjects in the meeting room. The event scheduled for Sunday, May 1, will be the final event regarding these subjects.

Please share this information with any members who need to know.

Ann Herpel on behalf of the General Coordinators

Hi Ann,
We would like to meet with you and any other GC who could do so, to discuss this decision and the basis for it. Please let me know when you would be available.

Naomi Brussel for PSFC Members for BDS

We will have to get back to you. As it is the end of today [Friday, April 29, 2016] and

some GC's do not work on Friday (and I don't work on Monday) please don't expect a response until next week.

Ann Herpel

About 15 people, mostly Coop members attended the May 1, 2016 presentation. The event "Displacement of Palestinian Bedouins in Israel: What is SodaStream's Role?" included a slide show by Rebecca Manski about the history of the nomadic Bedouin people in the Negev/Naqab Desert over the past centuries and their treatment by the Israeli Government since the establishment of the Israeli State. She described the Israeli military's continuing destruction of "unrecognized" Bedouin villages and the coercion of their inhabitants to abandon their homes and culture. Rebecca, who has worked in Israel to support Bedouin rights, noted the disappointment of Bedouin men who have served in the Israeli military only to return to villages lacking basic services (water, electricity) because they do not have government recognition.

I described the history of the SodaStream corporation, which makes water carbonation products and its role as a capitalist enterprise, formerly in the Occupied Palestine West Bank and now in an industrial zone near the "recognized" Israeli Bedouin town of Rahat. I outlined the intersection of Settler Colonialism, Capitalism and Displacement of populations around the world. I said that SodaStream is not unique as a company that seeks a compliant workforce and government subsidies in order to increase profits. I emphasized the historic use of military power to protect the interests of empires and their settler colonists and to enforce displacement of vulnerable indigenous populations. I mentioned the United States, South Africa and Australia as examples of this process. I asked participants what they think about whether we should support people whose way of life is being destroyed.

The discussion was thoughtful and productive although there were differences of opinion. This is the kind of program we need to resolve issues on which we disagree. But apparently, the General Coordinators believe they have the authority stop

all such events from taking place in our meeting room.

*Naomi Brussel
PSFC Members for BDS
psfcbds.wordpress.com*

A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE AT THE COOP

MEMBERS:

At the February GM, General Coordinator Ann Herpel, gave the coordinators report. It included the efforts to secure an alternative location for large meetings at which the vote on the proposal to boycott SodaStream might be held. Four venues were identified: Brooklyn Tech, BAM, The King Theater and Brooklyn College. After hearing that there would be a vote to boycott SodaStream at that meeting, none of the four would host the PSFC on that issue. (*Gazette*, March 17, 2016, p.2.)

The assumption I draw is that issues relating to Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (the BDS movement) have been put on an unofficial blacklist, for one reason or another to be denied a particular privilege, service, access or recognition. (The definition for blacklist in Wikipedia.)

Fast forward to April 26, GC Ann Herpel sent an e-mail to Naomi Brussel on behalf of the General Coordinators: after May 1, the GCs in their capacity of chief administrators of the Coop, will stop scheduling any events related to SodaStream, BDS, Israel or boycotts related to these subjects in the meeting room (the reference is to educational workshops on diverse topics). Naomi was asked to please share this information with any members who need to know.

The email was talked about during Q/A at the May 1 workshop: "Displacement of Bedouin Palestinians in Israel" presented by two Coop members: Naomi Brussel and Rebecca Manski. The GC letter can be read in the "Reference" cited below.

Are we witnessing a variation of 'Trump politics' by the GCs: In March, YES, we are looking for a venue for the boycott on the SodaStream vote; In April, NO to any educational workshops on the boycott of SodaStream+. With this abrupt upending of progressive traditions and procedures at the Coop, the GCs have now determined that

their unilateral suppression of speech, public communication considered objectionable or inconvenient is okay. (The definition for censorship in Wikipedia).

As a Coop member, I say NO TO CENSORSHIP.

Reference:

<http://mondoweiss.net/2016/04/censorship-in-brooklyn-food-coop-bars-any-events-related-to-bds-or-israel-from-meeting-room>

*Mary Buchwald
PSFC members for bds
http://psfcbds.wordpress.com*

DISTRESSED OVER CHANGE IN MEETING ROOM SCHEDULING

DEAR COOP COLLEAGUES,

I'm deeply distressed to learn from Ann Herpel (Coop staff member) that "because of recent disputes about the content and purpose of events in the meeting room the General Coordinators...have decided to stop scheduling any event related to SodaStream, BDS, Israel, or boycotts related to these subjects."

I just attended what may be the last of such events at the Coop this afternoon.

The workshop I attended was about the Bedouin people in Israel, and I learned so much! There were a lot of questions and opinions. The discussion and Q&A period were handled respectfully and cooperatively despite the emotional content that any discussion of Israeli governmental policy usually evokes. Participants were diverse, questions raised were thought provoking, and it was evident that Coop members who attended were devoted to open discussion, democracy and free speech at the Coop.

I was especially happy to see Allen Zimmerman, a long-time member (now running for the PSFC Board) and someone who used to be in a leadership role for many years, at the workshop today. His participation, despite his opposition to BDS, was an exemplar of what the Coop can be at its finest.

I hope we can meet with those in leadership now who have (apparently unilaterally) made the decision to censor free speech at the Coop soon.

It seems that discussion of Israel has exposed troubling

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

issues of free speech and democratic process at our Coop.

I encourage all members to join me in resisting such attempts in the future!

*In Cooperation,
Carol Wald*

RIDICULOUS MEAT REFUND PROCEDURE

TO THE EDITORS:

I had the unfortunate experience recently of buying spoiled lamb chops at the Coop. Purchased on a Wednesday, two days later (Friday) I find they are clearly not edible. Next day, (Saturday), I made a special trip to return them. The member who was working the refund desk quickly, agitatedly began warning me that a meat refund was a complicated business; he would not be able to issue me a refund credit slip on the spot, he would have to consult with a higher up staff member in the office. Okay. Strange, I thought, but this is the Coop: after 37 years of membership, I am quite aware of the bizarre and cumbersome nature of so many of our administrative processes.

The refund worker took the meat and my PAID IN FULL receipts; I followed him into the office, watched as he discussed the matter with a staffer who in turn engaged a second staff person in the discussion; both returned saying a meat refund requires the approval of the meat buyer, who would be in only on Monday. "What?" I say. "That makes no sense." "I've made a note for the meat buyer to call you" the staffer adds, but you should probably follow up with a call Monday." I leave the spoiled meat with the staffer.

Monday late afternoon—no call. I call the office, ask for the meat buyer, am put me on hold; after 3 minutes waiting in silent limbo, I hang up and call right back. The same member worker answers, explains the long HOLD: "I paged her, there is no answer." "What is her name?" I ask. "I can't tell you that," he says. "What? You can't tell me? I am a member, I have a right to ask what the buyer's name is." "She is not in" he says. "But I was told to call her today. I want to speak to whomever she reports to." "Hold on" he says. Again, I wait; he comes back saying no one is willing to talk to me. "This is unac-

ceptable" I say. Before I have time to finish my point, he has dropped my call! I call back. Again, he answers. I tell him his handling of my call is not acceptable; I insist on speaking with a staff person. "We are very busy here today", he says. "Well, what about my time? I am being asked to spend entirely too much time to get a refund." Finally, he gets a staff member to talk with me. While better at finessing my frustration, she (Ellen) is locked in to the process. Next morning, I call again—twice: both times Heather Rubi, (the meat buyer) is too busy—unloading trucks. I call a second time, still not available. I ask for Joe Holtz—he, too, is unavailable.

I am owed \$12+ and I will clearly work hard to get it. WRONG, WRONG, WRONG.

Dolores Brandon
Note from General Coordinator Ann Herpel: We are sorry for the confusion and misapplication of the return policy. Meat is returnable if it is spoiled before the expiration date and the member presents a Paid-In-Full receipt along with the packaging. The full return policy is available in every issue of the Gazette and on foodcoop.com. Dolores Brandon has received her refund since her letter was received.

TEAS FROM CHINA

TO THE GAZETTE:

I have noticed that several of our green teas originate from China. Given the existence of high levels of pollution in that country, and a reputation for lax regulation of agricultural products (most notoriously with the adulteration of milk and infant formula with melamine in 2008), I have some concerns about the safety of these teas. This is particularly so in the case of macha tea, for which the entire leaf is dissolved as a powder, rather than steeped like other teas. Our macha tea from China is considerably less expensive than macha teas from Japanese sources (either the culinary or the higher rated ceremonial grade), and I have to wonder if there is a good reason for this. Has any research ever been done with regard to the purity of these teas? Do we know what region of China grows them, and if those regions are sufficiently distant from potentially polluted areas? Can our tea supplier verify that these teas contain no or only trace amounts of con-

taminants? I think that given our focus on the wholesomeness of the products we offer, it would be a good idea to have some information about this issue. For the time being at least, I will buy macha tea from other sources.

Michael Esterowitz

RON ZISA, PSFC BULK BUYER, RESPONDS:

Since the early days of the Coop we have been using Simpson and Vail Tea Importers as a main source for our bulk teas. Since becoming the bulk tea buyer nearly 14 years ago I have gotten to know Jim Harron and his family run business and the high quality of standards that he adheres to when sourcing and buying teas. Jim has assured me many times that all the company's teas are passed through German inspection before being shipped to Simpson and Vail in Connecticut. Simpson and Vail prefers going through Germany because the quality standards are higher than those in the U.S.

It was Jim Harron who told me that shortly after Fukushima Nuclear disaster that the Japanese government sent representatives to German and U.S. inspection stations trying to get them to lower their standards on Japanese teas. (Both countries refused.) The outcome of this is that most, not all, Japanese products are being grown in other countries, including China, and then being processed in Japan. I also learned from Jim at the time that a favorite Japanese green tea we used to sell, Mt Fuji, would no longer be available because it failed inspection. Luckily after sometime, Simpson and Vail was able to purchase some that passed a clean bill, and we are selling it again.

The Matcha tea in question is actually organic and yes it does come from China. Unfortunately I was not aware that Simpson and Vail had switched back to the organic version, and it was not labeled as such. Thanks to your letter I investigated and found it was organic and have changed the labeling.

I can not tell you where to buy your tea, but I can tell you all this and more about our tea purchasing protocol. If I can help you in any other way please feel free to call me at the Coop.

*Ron Zisa
Bulk Buyer*

JUSTICE FOR FARMWORKERS: MARCH ACROSS NEW YORK STATE, BROOKLYN EVENT FRIDAY MAY 20

MEMBERS:

Succulent tomatoes, crisp apples, delicious kale. Ever wonder who picks this terrific New York State produce? The Farmworkers in New York State are calling upon us now to support them in their efforts to secure labor rights and dignity. Last year a PSFC General Meeting voted to support the Farmworker Bill of Rights that was up for legislative consideration.

Farmworkers and their allies are marching across New York State to bring awareness to their lack rights to organize, fair wages and decent working conditions. Excluded from previous labor legislation, the people who bring us our fresh produce and keep our families healthy need our support. The statewide march will start in Long Island on May 15 and travel through Queens and on to Brooklyn on Friday, May 20 and continue upstate through June 1. The march and legislative efforts are organized by Rural and Migrant Ministries, <http://ruralmigrantministry.org>, a faith-based coalition that has been supporting farmworkers for over two decades.

Brooklynites have the opportunity to celebrate the farmworkers and show them our appreciation when they come through our borough. Here's what you can do to show your support:

Join the Farmworkers on Friday, May 20, 6 p.m. at Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West, (First/Second Sts.) for dinner and discussion of farmworker rights. We'll hear from farmworkers themselves and from Maggie Gray, author of *Labor and the Locavore: The Making of a Comprehensive Food Ethic*. Maggie's research is on farmworkers in the Hudson Valley—a major source of our produce at the PSFC. And Maggie is a great speaker! This event is co-sponsored by Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture.

Host one of the marchers on Friday night, May 20 in your home. They'll have air mattresses and sleeping bags so floors are okay but,

of course, beds are the best, if possible. It's just one night, so please be generous.

Join us as we march over the Brooklyn Bridge on May 21, Saturday morning, 8:45 a.m.

Donate to Rural and Migrant Ministries, the advocacy group that is organizing this march and support for farmworker rights legislation in New York State. <http://ruralmigrantministry.org>.

Please RSVP to nancyromer@gmail.com and let me know if you are coming on Friday night and if you can host a marcher on Friday night as well. On to labor rights for Farmworkers!

Nancy Romer

FOLLOW ITES TO UNDERSTAND FREE TRADE, FAST TRACK, FAIR TRADE AND WHAT WE CAN DO

TO THE EDITOR:

Dawit Habtemariam is wrong in stating in his letter to the editor that the Trans-Pacific Partnership "has already become law and the U.S. cannot renege on this deal..." (TPP AND CLIMATE CHANGE *Linewaiters' Gazette* April 14, 2016).

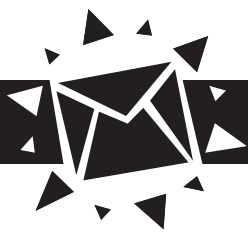
Many people have trouble understanding the arcane process and the far-reaching impacts of international trade agreements. Because the mass media does not adequately inform us, ITES was created to study and share what we learn.

Congress must approve the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). There will be one vote in each chamber on the entire 30 chapters after Obama formally sends the agreement over to "the hill." Supporters do not now have the votes to pass it. Obama is expected to send the agreement to Congress during the "lame duck session" after the election and before the new session of Congress convenes.

Any U.S. law can be changed by revoking it or by passing another law contradicting that one. Should the U.S. withdraw from the TPP, signatory nations could attempt to raise their barriers to imports from the U.S. (tariffs), as they can do now without the agreement. The U.S. could counter by raising

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

its own trade barriers to their products coming into the U.S. As the U.S. is one of the world's major importers, this is unlikely. At any rate, the TPP needs to go through Congress before it becomes law.

Were the TPP to pass in Congress, legislation in all 12 signatory countries would have to be changed to conform to the stipulations in the TPP Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The TPP as law would dominate, supersede and take precedence over local, state and national legislation in all 12 signatory countries. Several other 'Free Trade Agreements; (FTAs) are now in effect and several are being negotiated in secret now that would be similarly powerful.

Here is one example of how the TPP would block efforts to mitigate global warming: Were the TPP to pass Congress and become law, 11 TPP signatory countries would be guaranteed access to gas fracked within the U.S. without any environmental review or consultation with any government or community. A corporation registered in any TPP country involved in extracting, transporting or exporting fossil fuel could sue in a private tribunal any branch of a government that legislates to protect its territory and/or population. NYS's ban on fracking would have to be reversed. According to the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) written into TPP and other FTAs, the trade court has the authority to award penalties of taxpayer money if/when the judges decide that a community has done anything that might interfere with what investors consider their right to make money.

Read the Reports from ITES

in the *Gazette*, and check Coop-ITES.wordpress.com for background information, updates and activities.

Susan Metz

COORDINATING FOOD PROCESSING SHIFTS

TO THE EDITORS:

This is in response to Nicholas Kosloff's letter in the April 28 issue of the *Gazette* entitled "Waste of Time on Processing Shift." I will do my best to address your concerns.

To recap briefly you started your letter giving an example of high-priced size bags of Pistachios and that re-pricing them is a waste of valuable time and the solution is to properly inform Squad Leaders of the need to create reasonably priced items. You stated you are tired of hearing "it is so complicated" to resolve such silly problems. That it is fatiguing to you to listen to the history of inertia on the issue. Lastly, you look forward to a proactive response.

I am one of the receiving coordinators responsible for Food Processing (FP). Part of our job description is to coordinate, not manage (or we would be called managers) the members who have chosen to work on the FP squad. We also have many other responsibilities. To name a few for myself, I also have to coordinate the bulk section of the Coop, this includes (for both FP and Bulk) ordering, receiving, processing the deliveries, investigating and sourcing products, training members, writing up aisles, correcting mistakes made by working members as well as answering shopping mem-

bers' questions. I am mentioning all this to explain that it would be impossible to be in FP all the time we are on schedule to work at the Coop.

For Food Processors there are responsibilities also. For example, FP shift workers should read the manual that is hanging in food processing and try, to the best of their ability, to comply with the instructions, which include correcting mistakes that previous shifts may have made, alerting Coordinators to any problems that you may have when you are working and accommodating shopping members requests.

I am sorry that you did not find the resolve that you were seeking, but we can only do so much. We do the best we can to follow up on member labor to ensure that it is completed so as to serve the membership as a whole. We don't get it right 100 percent of the time, mainly because we are a member labor Coop. When the average members works two and a half hours every four weeks they are not going to get it right 100 percent of the time. Considering members process nearly 12,000 pounds of food every week in food processing our track record may not be 100 percent, but it is close and we are proud of the members who work hard and take pride in what they achieve on their shifts. It is not an easy squad.

As far as a history of inertia, Yuri, Britt, myself and others spend many hours working with food processors, instructing, answering questions, helping workers adjust to the constant nuances of change and processing food ourselves each day.

Your concerns to improve FP are always welcome, and

I look forward to you offering solutions that you think would help to improve FP.

Ron Zisa
Coordinator of Bulk and Food Processing

GENERAL COORDINATORS ENDORSE THREE BOARD CANDIDATES

DEAR MEMBERS,

Stable governance that reliably serves the member/owners is one of the hallmarks of most successful cooperatives. Our governance system combines the General Meeting and the Board of Directors. This combination has served our Coop well over many years.

However, the past couple of years have been difficult from a governance perspective. During times like this it is best to go with the candidates who have the most years of experience and the most in depth knowledge of our entire governance system.

Therefore we endorse the three candidates who best fit

these criteria. All three have great respect for the Coop and understand that we need a highly functioning governance system. All three have vast experience in making the system work well for the Coop.

Please vote for these three candidates: Carl Arnold, Imani O'ryn, Allen Zimmerman

An envelope with an Annual Meeting proxy ballot will be or has been delivered to your home. Please return it with your votes.

The General Coordinators

AN IDEA

TO THE EDITORS:

I'd like to urge that the *Gazette* start a regular feature of products added and products dropped, with brief explanations for the drops (wasn't selling, replaced by __, lost distributor, etc.).

... and as long as I'm on this theme, how about a white-board posted in the Coop with the same information?

Thanks,
Brent Kramer

THE GAZETTE INDEXES

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

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

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

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

Crossword Answers

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

YEEEEEOOOOWWW!!!

NO OPEN-TOED SHOES

WHILE DOING YOUR WORK SHIFT

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

Thanks for your cooperation,
The Park Slope Food Coop

CLASSIFIEDS

BED & BREAKFAST

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.

MERCHANDISE-NONCOMMERCIAL

SMALL DOG CARRIER \$15 - Brand new. For dogs up to 9 inches tall & up to 20 lbs. 718-669-3714. Send text. Storage compartment & feeding tray.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

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

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.tguccionelaw.com.

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

THE ARTFUL DODGER painting co. has been serving the New York metro area for over 30 years. My company's motto is "everything

with paint." From "standard" painting to specialized wall treatments. Insured, EPA certified, REASON-ABLE! For a free estimate call Daniel at 646-734-0899 or e-mail eyegrease@earthlink.net.

HAIRCUTS HAIRCUTS HAIRCUTS. Color, high lights, low lights, hot oil treatments in the convenience of your home or my home. Adults \$35-40. Kids \$20-25. Call Leonora 718-857-2215.

VACATION RENTALS

ESCAPE to sun drenched hse w/ priv 1/2 acre swim pond 3 hours away. Romantic getaway or great family share. Sleeps 9. Day camp close by. 20 min to Berkshires restaurants, Tanglewood! Go to vrbo.com/263517 to learn more & see pix. 1700 a wk. Big Discount for month. Avail June & July. Contact Deirdre deirdref@mindspring.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

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www.tech11215.com

Call Dan: 718-930-2286 • info@tech11215.com



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Submission deadlines are the same as for classified ads.

Please refer to the Coop Calendar in the center of this issue.

FRI, MAY 13

7 p.m. Swingadelic Plays Jump-Blues at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture located at 53 Prospect Park West (between First and Second Sts. 7 p.m. 1-hr dance lesson followed with Dancing and live music 8-11 p.m. Kids U-13 free, admission is \$20 and \$17 for Coop members, students, seniors.

pick our produce at a community welcome dinner: Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 PPW. If you can host one of the marchers on your floor or living room over that night, please let us know. RSVP requested: nancyromer@gmail.com. We'll be marching across the Brooklyn Bridge at 8:45 a.m. Saturday. Join us!

SUN, MAY 15

10 a.m. What Your Hair and Skin Reveals about Your Health and Nourishment, Souen, 210 Sixth Ave and Prince St. John Kozinski, natural health counselor and teacher, will explain how to create naturally vibrant and healthy skin and hair with food, lifestyle habits, supplements and herbs. Free.

SAT, MAY 21

8 p.m. A toast to those who are gone: Matt Jones/Phil Ochs Tribute with Magpie. At the Peoples' Voice Cafe. Community Church of NY Unitarian Universalist, 40 E. 35th St. N.Y. Info Call: 212-787-3903 or peoplesvoicecafe.org. \$18 general/\$10 for subscribers.

SUN, MAY 22

4 p.m. BPL Chamber Players presents: Paul Brantley, composer The Horszowski Trio; Jesse Mills, violin; Rieko Aizawa, piano; Raman Ramakrishnan, cello with Alex Sopp, flute, at the Dr. S. Stevan Dweck Center for Contemporary Culture Central Library. 10 Grand Army Plaza BKLYN. Admission free.

FRI, MAY 20

6 p.m. Welcome Farmworkers as they march across New York State for their labor rights. Marchers will stop in Park Slope for a dinner and discussion of fair pay, decent working conditions and dignity for farmworkers. Support the people who

Coop Job Opening: Receiving Coordinator Evenings/Weekends

Description:

All Receiving Coordinators ensure the smooth functioning of the Coop.

- Facilitate and supervise continual stocking of the store
- Train working members how to stock and complete projects
- Communicate with Squad Leaders and squads about priorities
- Sustain knowledge about products and inventory
- Answer members' questions
- Respond to physical plant and refrigeration issues

Evening/Weekend Receiving Coordinators are generalists who work with members to maintain and restock all aisles including produce. They also oversee late deliveries, inspect for dates/quality, and support the Receiving and Food Processing squads.

The ideal candidate will:

- enjoy working with people and crowds
- be an excellent team player with strong communication skills
- have ability to teach, explain procedures, give feedback
- be able to evaluate Coop needs, prioritize tasks and delegate work
- be comfortable with computers (Macs preferred)
- experience working in a grocery store is a plus

Hours: 38 hours. 5 days per week including both Saturdays and Sundays.

Wages: \$26.61/hour

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

Requirements:

Candidates must be current members of the Park Slope Food Coop for at least six months immediately prior to application.

Applicants must be prepared to work during holidays, the Coop's busiest times.

Applicants must be able to:

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

How to Apply:

We strongly encourage candidates to work one Saturday or Sunday afternoon Receiving shift. Please introduce yourself as an applicant to one of the Receiving Coordinators.

Attach resume and cover letter as a single document at the link below:

<http://bit.do/coopweekendreceiving>

Applicants will receive acknowledgment of application via email. Do not call the Membership Office to check on the status of application. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until position is filled. If you applied to a previous Coop job offering, please re-submit your materials.

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

Amy Hepworth Kicks Off "Meet Your Farmer" Seminars



One of Amy's concerns is feeding the future. While population increases, there are less and less farmers.



The first "Meet Your Farmer" seminar on April 16 attracted more than 35 members and friends. The next event is scheduled Saturday, May 21, at 2:00 p.m. Gotham Greens will be our featured farmer.

★ EXCITING WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITIES ★

RECEIVING PRODUCE Monday–Friday, 5 to 7:30 a.m.

The Coop is looking for members to work in the produce area. Responsibilities include lifting boxes, unloading deliveries, stacking boxes in the basement. You should be willing to get or have wet hands while you are working. Boxes usually weigh between 2–20 lbs., a few may weigh up to 50 lbs.

PARM SQUAD Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Various times

This shift requires extensive training with a member of the paid staff, and therefore requires a six-month commitment. You must have good attendance to join this squad and must be a member for at least six months. As a member of the PARM Squad, you'll prepare designated cheeses for sale. You should be fit enough to cooperate with other members to lift 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.

OFFICE SET-UP Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 6 to 8:30 a.m.

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

ENTRANCE DESK Wednesday 5:45 to 8 a.m.

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

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

STORE EQUIPMENT CLEANING Monday, 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 Tuesday, 12 to 2 p.m.

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

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.



The Coop relationship with Hepworth is one example of our effort to support local farmers.



Amy jokes with Receiving Coordinator Ken Macdonald and his son.