GAZETTE

Volume KK, Number 14

July 7, 2016

When The Shift Hits The Fan!

By Taigi Smith

Established 1973

R UNION GCIU LABEL

Deciding to join the Park Slope Food Coop is more than just a decision to eat healthy food—it's a decision that comes with the responsibility of working every four weeks. It's a time commitment that each and every member should take seriously—whether you stock shelves or vegetables, clean the bathrooms, work in the office, or write articles, as I do, you are making a choice to sacrifice your time for the reward of healthy, low-cost food. But among our membership, it seems, there are a select few who don't show up to work their shifts. "Historically, 22-25% of any squad," is absent says General Coordinator Ann Herpel.

"The Coop rarely has shifts at which every regularly assigned member is present and working, especially in receiving." The real problem, says Herpel, is with the Coop's make-up system. "The attendance rules allow members to do a make-up somewhere in the Coop if the member arrives at the beginning of the shift. Since make-ups are not scheduled and members can show up when they want and not necessarily when the Coop needs them to work members often choose to do their make-ups at the most convenient time for them," says Herpel.

The message to members is clear. Members need to work their assigned shifts and not when they feel like working.



Selecting one's own shift may fulfill the work obligation, but it isn't necessarily the labor the Coop needs. "For example, a member might miss a shift on a Tuesday morning at 5:30 a.m. (a time when the Coop receives very few workers doing make-ups) and then goes to do the make-up at Tuesday night at 6 p.m., when the Coop doesn't necessarily need an extra body to work. So the Coop misses out on that member's labor where the Coop expects it—Tuesday morning—and the Coop must accommodate the member when perhaps the level of work does not demand another member," says Herpel.

When member workers are absent, "produce won't be stocked, cheese won't be cut and packaged, check out lines will be longer. Think of every place that a member works and

then imagine if that member was absent. Who will do that work?" asks Ann. Whether it is a life-event, illness or a conflicting engagement, there are times when it is simply impossible to work for your shift. "Historically, days that have importance to some group of our members—but not holidays—will have a higher rate of absenteeism. For example, the first or last day of public school. We plan for holidays— Memorial Day, Labor Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, school breaks but we can't plan for every event that might happen in members' lives that might cause them to ditch their Coop shift. Having a more lenient attendance policy doesn't address the shopping volume—members will still shop and trucks will still arrive with the goods

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Paris Cooperative Says Merci! for PSFC Help



La Louve's entry.

By Hayley Gorenberg

Skype session by skype session, leaders of the Park Slope Food Coop are coaching a new coop in Paris modeled on PSFC, helping it move toward its anticipated opening later this year. But when that finally happens, General Coordinator Joe Holtz anticipates a distinct difference: "Their cheese is definitely better. There's no doubt about it."

Core elements of La Louve ("the she-wolf") coop will distinctly resemble PSFC. Members of the coop,

at the address that translates to "116 Fishmongers" Street," in the city of the Eiffel Tower, will work threehour shifts each month as they strive to create "not a small shop... a dazzling supermarket."

PSFC staff have pitched in with know-how to help the French coop get from philosophy to the threshold of supermarket success so that, as Holtz put it, they "make a store where people say, 'Yeah, it's not just the idea of it. I could get food there!"

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Next General Meeting on July 26

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The July General Meeting will be on Tuesday, July 26, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.

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

Coop **Event Highlights**

Tue, Jul 12 • Plow-to-Plate Movie Series: The End of the Line 7:00 p.m.

Wed, Jul 13 • Learn About Cheese at the Coop 7:00 p.m.

Fri, Aug 5 • Film Night 7:00 p.m.

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

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Shift Hits

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we want to collectively purchase, even if you want to watch the NBA finals, attend a Bernie Sanders rally or stay late at work," says Herpel. When I suggested to Herpel via email that it might be time to give member workers more flexibility she had this to say. "No comment."

Recently, say Squad Leaders, the uptick of absences during scheduled shifts has begun to take its toll on the overall well-being of the PSFC. "It takes a lot of member labor to get all that food off trucks, down the conveyor belt or lift, organized in the basement, sent back up from the basement, stocked on shelves, checked out and walked home. When members are absent, this tremendous amount of work has to be done (for example trucks have to be unloaded) regardlessso absences do matter to the Coop," says Herpel.

"Historically, 22-25% of any squad," is absent says General Coordinator Ann Herpel.

David Bianciardi, who has been a member for more than 12 years, is a Squad Leader during one the Coop's busiest times. He works on Sundays at 6 p.m., a time when lines get long, tensions run high, and families are stocking their pantries for the week. "Sunday 6 p.m. to closing tends to be one of the harried times at the Coop in terms of pressure on the front of the house—our team handles entry, line management, checkout, cashiers, exit, sidewalk management and walkers along with various 'customer service' duties," says David

There was a recent Sunday, remembers David, when several members just didn't show up. "It was a bit of mayhem," remembers David, who says that as a squad, he understood how demanding the 6 p.m. Sunday shift would be when he took on the task. "The craziness of this work-slot is something I think our squad self-selects for. We come in, bang it out, and seem to thrive in the fast pace," he says. And while the intensity of the shift may help the hours spent working whiz by, the absences of two, three, four—even one shift worker—can cause extra stress during what is already a stressful time PSFC. "We are usually walking into an already packed store, trying



to seamlessly take over from the previous shift without any shift change inefficiencies, and the action is typically relentless until we shut the place down. So when we have a build-up of unanticipated no-shows, things can get out of whack pretty quickly, and everything about the Coop is so tightly coupled that a breakdown in one area has significant knock-on effects that snowball into other parts of the operation and impact members' shopping and working experience."

This is a sentiment echoed by Squad Co-leader, Kallen Tsikalas. She was there on an infamous Sunday, when almost 10 people were absent for work without subs. "We literally recruited shoppers, walking in the door (FTOP'ers) and folks from the receiving squad to work. We also had five paid staff members. Honestly, if they hadn't stepped in to assist with check-out, we probably would have had lines out of the door," remembers Kallen. At one point, says Kallen, there was no one working the lines. "Our reduced number of walkers just left the carts at the door and I brought them in, so they could keep wait times down," says Kallen who still remembers the chaos of the Sunday evening vividly. "Not a moment to breathe! The members who did show up really did double or triple duty."

Still, says Kallen, the PSFC

should make concessions for the ups and downs of everyday life. It could be argued that no matter how hard one tries, there are just some times when it's impossible or downright unfeasible for a member to show up for a shift. "We have a pretty high-functioning squad. Folks generally show up. Many did email, text or call—though mostly the day of-and there were a few genuine emergencies. I do not think there should be a penalty for the occasional no-show—especially in the summer when people may be rushing back from weekend travel to make their Sunday evening shift. However, repeated no-show probably should be penalized in some way." Kallen's request to her fellow members is a simple one. Just try to find a substitute. "You can do this on-line. No calls are even needed."

Back to Squad Leader David Bianciardi. He says he thinks the process in which members notify Squad Leaders about their need to be absent is in dire need of an overhaul. "The Coop's process for squad communication is unacceptably broken. There should be some kind of unified way for Coordinators, Squad Leaders, and squad members to communicate absence plans, lateness, coverage, etcetera," laments David, who says there needs to be a consistent way for members to communicate

and coordinate. He suggests the Coop leadership set-up a voicemail box, message board, or email address per squad. "Right now, it's a patchwork which Squad Leaders should I call? Better to SMS? Email?"

Worker shortages have a direct impact on the bottom-line says Coordinator Herpel. "Those absences will add up to staff working more hours to keep the Coop running and that translates to higher payroll costs that affects the Coop as a whole."

"At the end of the day," says David, "I don't want to be the shopper trying to get through the store with a front of the house team that's in crisis and I don't want to create that experience for my fellow members." As for that short-staffed Sunday, he says "Our job is to get people off the line and out of the store as quickly as possible without making them feel rushed and we ultimately succeeded. No one slept in the Coop that night, as far as I'm aware." ■

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle. You are presented with a 9x9 grid of squares, and that grid is divided into 3x3 zones. You solve the puzzle by filling the empty squares with single-digit numbers so that every zone, column and row uses each of the numbers from 1 to 9.

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

Puzzle author: Abdul Powell. For answers, see page 11.

Special Ordering Temporarily Suspended

We will not be taking special orders until Mon 07/11/2016

Vitamins/Supplements special orders are suspended indefinitely and will not resume on Tue 07/11/2016

No special orders on fresh baked goods

Orders for bulk or produce by the case must be placed directly with a bulk or produce buyer



Paris Coop

CONTINUED FROM PAGE I

Getting the Right Food on the Shelves

The founders have clearly anticipated the stresses of stocking shelves, and even before opening have explained that "[t]he choice of products to buy for La Louve is a complex process that involves consideration of several often irreconcilable elements, such as quality, taste, environmental impact, cost, space on the shelf, the inventory of our stock, the members requests and demand," all according to the coop's website.

The Paris coop's website also adds to the mix "core principles: taste, environmental sustainability, respect of fair trade and working conditions of our producers, the practice of low prices, and duty to satisfy the culinary needs" of diverse members, and one can see why the endeavor has been years in the making. Optimistic about their opening, the fledgling cooperators nevertheless note that while "ideally, each [product] would meet all these requirements...we note that in this respect the world often conspires against us."

The advertised challenges reflect input from PSFC. Holtz has explained that



Recruiting new members.



La Louve will sell a wide variety of wines.

ing, but if their people don't get it and overcharge, the coop has bad prices." And of course there are differences, where the French coop will have to go it alone, or at least without specific reflections from Park Slope. For example, Holtz noted, "We don't have to worry about

whom, there's how and how much to buy. Beyond helping suss out suppliers, PSFC has consulted on how to build an ordering system. The Coop has virtually perfected its ordering system, drawing from the experience of running an operation that has about 17 times the national average sales per square foot of grocery store space. Holtz is clearly proud of PSFC's sophistication in ordering, such that members benefit from "hitting that sweet spot, which is having enough for people, and not having too much." The result: a steady supply of very fresh food. "We are actually very, very, very good at that," Holtz said.

"We're the go-to coop in the world for coops that require member labor."—Joe Holtz, General Coordinator

even suppliers of excellent products may not understand a coop merits wholesale pricing, in which case "some people have things to sell that might be intriguhow to sell bulk wine!" But La Louve will calculate how to serve its French member oenophiles.

In addition to the questions of what to buy from

SYEEE EOOOD WW 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**

Team-Building

Staffing intricacies have consumed a fair portion of the PSFC consultations with the French coop, as Holtz and General Coordinator Ann Herpel have helped guide where member labor and leadership will fill roles, and where staff leadership is required for particular roles, in the experience of PSFC.

'We're the go-to coop in the world for coops that require member labor," said Holtz, who noted that the concept seemed to be "resonating with Europeans much more than it's resonating with North Americans." The strength, from Holtz's point of view, is that cooperative endeavors are "immensely secure and sustainable if set up right" and "if people have more of a connection and feel like they own it."

Holtz clearly takes pride in PSFC's role to support groups interested in the member-labor model, though he recognizes it may not suit all communities. He does have a bone to pick with other U.S. cooperative leaders who appear to him to shun memberlabor structures and steer nascent groups away from considering it. "They say member labor is not good, not proper," he said, suggesting a better question would be, "What's better for your community?"

Naysayers, he said, think member labor is "not a best practice, not professional. They wouldn't use this word, but...they think it's 'hippy-dippy.'

Far from "hippy-dippy," La Louve's support includes ample financing, from banks and foundations, as well as a crowd-funding effort that exceeded its goal by about one-third. "The environment in Paris, the support that they're getting financing is very impressive," said Holtz, who felt cued by the discussion to urge PSFC members with a "shameless plug" to participate in the revolving loan fund PSFC offers to other coops. (Check out https:// www.foodcoop.com/fund.)

Coop-to-Coop **Philosophy**

Fluent in the dialect of cooperatives, Holtz noted that PSFC honors internationally known principles and that the sixth of seven core concepts, "cooperation among cooperatives," dictates that of course PSFC must respond to requests from budding coop leaders. In particular, the guidance that "cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures" has led to multitudes of U.S. and overseas PSFC connections. Holtz skyped with Puerto Rico once and was "imported" to Milan last summer for a cooperatives convention. Herpel helped out in Ireland; retired General Coordinator Allen Zimmerman traveled to Montreal; representatives from a Denmark cooperative visited PSFC; add to that connections have sprung up with Belgium, Germany, Holland, Israel and Poland. ■

STATEMENT ON THE **COOPERATIVE IDENTITY**

DEFINITION

A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise

VALUES

Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

The cooperative principles are guidelines by which cooperatives put their values into practice. The International Cooperative Alliance adopted the revised Statement on the Cooperative Identity in 1995.

They are as follows:

- 1. Voluntary and Open Membership
- 2. Democratic Member Control
- 3. Member Economic Participation
- 4. Autonomy and Independence
- 5. Education, Training and Information
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- 7. Concern for Community

REFERENCE: ICA.COOP

The Coop Tote



Diego Apaza, Cruz Control and Macky Mack of Luv Custom Prints.

By Gayle Forman

At first glance, the tote bags that the Park Slope Food Coop began selling in April look like, well, tote tags. Nice bags, to be sure sturdy cotton, the PSFC logo screened on—but look inside the bags (metaphorically speaking, anyhow) and you will see not just a bag, but an emblem of cooperation among coops.

Seeds of Change

The PSFC wasn't necessarily looking for a new bag. It had been handing out a brown, logo'd standard-issue tote to new members for years now. (The bag was also for sale.) In 2015, member Anh-Thu Nguyen attended a round-table discussion convened by the PSFC aimed at fostering relationships among cooperative businesses. Nguyen is the director of We Seed Beauty Foundation, an organization dedicated to empowering women entrepreneurs through cooperative businesses, so the Coop's goals were right in her wheelhouse. When General Coordinator Joe Holtz made the pitch for more cooperative businesses to work together, an idea was born.

"The brown bags from China were super-cheap, but terrible," Nguyen says. "I asked Joe: 'Would you be interested in purchasing bags by a coop made in the U.S.? Joe was like, 'Yes, totally. Let's hear more."

Nguyen had already been working with Opportunity Threads, a worker-owned textile cooperative founded by Molly Hempstreet in Morganton, NC, an area that had once been a thriving center

of the textile industry until offshoring sent those jobs away and all but destroyed the industry there. Between 1992 and 2012, the number of workers employed in making clothing or other fabric products in North Carolina fell by about 88 percent.

Since the 1980s, Morganton had also become home to a community of Guatemalan immigrants many of them with a background in textiles. Realizing that all those empty factories could provide these experienced wage workers "a different way of organizing their workplace," Hempstreet founded Opportunity Threads

in a worker center. Since then, it has grown into a thriving worker-owned business: 23 worker-owners, a 10,000 square-foot facility, clients all over the U.S. And, most crucial for the PSFC's purposes, the ability to design and produce the volume of bags the Coop would require. Done and done. All that was needed was a company to take the bags and finish them.

Coop+Coop=Tote Bag

Enter Luv Custom Printing, a fledgling fabric-screening cooperative that was created by workers in The Rockaways in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. "A lot of us were volunteering with Occupy Sandy," says Luv Custom Printing worker-owner Diego Ataza, referring to the community-based relief organization. "We were trying to figure out the next steps in the recovery, after water, food, shelter, how do people heal? We thought jobs would be something to focus on. We started WORCS, Worker Owned Rockaway Cooperatives."

After accessing grant money, WORCS members fished about for a business idea. They jettisoned a potential cooperative car servicenone of the members actually wanted to drive. Someone floated the idea of a screening coop. Even though no one knew anything about screening, the idea appealed to the group, many of whom were

artists of some sort. They got in touch with Occupy Wall Street Screenprinters, a coop that was started in Zuccotti Park during the Occupy Wall Street protests and hired a screener to train them. In the fall of 2015, Luv Custom Prints was born.

Soon after, Nguyen, who, had been working with the NYC Worker Cooperative Coalition, a coalition of developers, community based organization and service providers with a shared goal of growing the cooperative ecosystem here in the city, heard about Luv Custom Prints. And as it would happen, she was looking for a coop to finish the bags Opportunity Threads was making. She connected the dots, introduced the parties. The Coop put in an order for 10,000 bags.

Up To Speed

While Opportunity Threads was used to fulfilling orders of this size, for newbies Luv Custom Prints, that order of 10,000 bags was equal parts shot in the arm and kick in the pants. Had the client been a typical business wanting the bags as quickly and cheaply as possible—it would not have worked.

But the Park Slope Food Coop was not a typical business. It had skin in the game, wanting the bags, but more than that wanting coop-produced bags. After all, part of the PSFC's mission is to support other coops. "Traditionally, that has meant giving business to other coops that provide our food," says General Coordinator Ann Herpel, who worked closely on the bags. But here was an opportunity to expand the coop-



Park Slope Food Coop tote bag screen.

The Agenda Committee is seeking new members! 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
- ◆ 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.

The Park Slope Food Coop's READING SERIES

Are you a writer? Do you want FTOP credit?

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

Please contact the organizers at wordsproutspsfc@gmail.com.

erative commitment into merchandise, looping in two new worker-owned cooperatives.

The Coop offered Luv Custom Prints what Nguyen calls a "gentle" delivery schedule for the screening of the totes, allowing the new coop time to get up to speed. The first batch of bags were distributed to new members in November but the bags didn't appear on the floor until April, allowing Luv Custom Prints time to manufacture enough inventory to replenish the stocks.

The Coop also paid twice as much for the new bags as it had been paying for the old brown ones. "We really felt that it was worth making a financial commitment for the opportunity to have a better bag, a more attractive bag, one made by two coops with materials that we want," says Herpel, adding that the Coop absorbed this cost as the bags are given out free at orientation. They are also on sale for \$3.39 on the shopping floor.

"We Just Want It To Work"

The process had some bumps as PSFC worked with both Opportunity Threads and Luv Custom Prints to fine-tune the bags. Ataza recalls some early fulfillment snafus: a heater that burned the screens, some wonky variation in early prototypes. "They're a young organization. Of course they're going to have bumps, says Herpel. "Diego came over and we went through it. They learned from that process. We made a commitment for 10,000 bags. We just want it to work.'

Ataza and the Luv Custom Prints team learned quickly, thanks to the Coop's cooperation. "They were really invested in this relationship," Ataza says. "It's been amazing."

Hempstreet describes the tote bags as a "perfect storm, in a good sense. We had a facility. We had the ability to take on 10,000 bags. And then Anh-Thu knew all the different components." For Herpel, the new bags represent more than just a cooperatively made tote bag. The bags symbolize "resurrection. Of communities, of the textile industry coming back in a new form. Of post-Sandy lives," Herpel says. "Out of terrible situation, they built something." And for Ataza and the Luv Custom Team, the bag order was a game-changer: "It gave us more inspiration and more energy to our coop. Something that's long term and keeps us mastering our craft." ■

INTL TRADE EDUCATION SQUAD

Breaking News: Individual and Collective Action Now Is Essential to Defeat the TPP

By Susan Metz,

International Trade Education Squad

We have this season to block the largest ever Free Trade Agreement (FTA)—the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a plan for a New World Order of corporate rule. President Obama is preparing to send the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) to Congress during the lame duck session of Congress after the November election. If the administration and corporatists had the votes now to pass the TPP, the deal would already have been done.

Should Congress pass the TPP, any government legislation aimed at controlling fossil fuel extraction, transport and/or export to stop and reverse global warming would be considered in restraint of trade. The agreement would be integrated into the US legal system to protect corporate investors' profits. Included in each FTA is a judicial process called Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS). A decision on each case is made in a private tribunal by corporate lawyers functioning as judges. Penalties awarded in the ISDS courts are to compensate investors for loss of the money they hoped to gain in a deal. These penalties are to be paid out of public, taxpayer contributed funds.

BREAKING NEWS

TransCanada Files NAFTA Action Against US for \$15 Billion for Rejecting Keystone XL

By Patriot Daily News Clearinghouse Saturday June 25, 2016

http://www.dailykos.com/stories/2016/6/25/1542431/-Transcanada-Files-NAFTA-Action-Against-US-for-15-Billion-for-Rejecting-Keystone-XL-Pipeline

"Yesterday, TransCanada filed its NAFTA 'arbitration' request arguing the U.S. violated its 'expectations' and now should pay over \$15 billion for rejecting a permit for the Keystone XL pipeline. It is NAFTA's private tribunal system (investor-state dispute settlement or ISDS) that will 'arbitrate,' a system not accountable to our legal system, and one authorized under the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). If the host country 'violates' rights granted to the corporation under a trade agreement, then the investor may bring the matter before an "arbitration tribunal."

Most NYC Congress members voting against Trade Promotion (TPA aka Fast Track) and have publically opposed TPP. Both Senators Schumer and Gillibrand have too. We thank them. We ask that they be consistent and also more vocal and visible. Now administration and corporate lobbyists are swarming with offers and threats. The following three need more pressure to oppose: Gregory Meeks (CD 5 Q & Nassau & Suffolk), Joseph Crowley (CD 14 Q&Bx) and Charlie Rangel (CD 13 Man & Bx).

Elected officials throughout the country have become aware that "Free Trade" undermines their authority to make laws and that this is a direct assault on sovereignty and democracy.

The Council declared NY City a "TPP Free Zone." A "Dear Colleague" letter was initiated in the NYS Senate by Brooklyn's Jesse Hamilton and a similar letter is being circulated in the State Assembly calling on Congress members to vote No on TPP. We thank them and urge other NYS legislators to sign on.

https://chriscollins.house.gov/media-center/ press-releases/new-york-congressional-representatives-send-bipartisan-letter-to

A letter was sent to President Obama signed by 19 of the 27 members of the NYS delegation to the House on March

New York State is home to the best workers and some of the most innovative companies in the world. As bipartisan Congressional Representatives of the people and businesses of New York, we write to express our firm opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) as negotiated.

BREAKING NEWS

http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/ wireStory/democrats-begin-working-draft-party-platform-40107459

Democrats Reject Platform Proposal Opposing Trade Deal

By Ken Thomas, Associated Press ST. LOUIS — Jun 25, 2016

On trade, Obama has promoted the TPP despite opposition from rank-andfile Democrats. Members of the panel said it would be wrong to undercut the outgoing President in the platform.

The document will be debated and revised before the party's July convention including sections dealing with the economy, climate change, education, health care, national security and other issues.

BREAKING NEWS

March for Clean Energy Revolution scheduled for Sunday July 24th in Philadelphia.

A mass mobilization demanding that government officials defend the planet against climate change is opportune on the day before the opening of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. The mobilization was initiated and is administered by the national advocacy organization Food & Water Watch (F&WW) which has gathered a long list of popular and progressive groups and individuals supporting. ITES recommended that the PS Food Coop endorse the March. ITES members will participate behind the banner "TPP = Climate Catastrophe". Join us.

Anyone wishing to travel by bus, must RSVP here to reserve a seat:

http://www.cleanenergymarch.org/

and indicate which bus \$25/per person with scholarships available

8:15 AM Bus Station Jay St. & Willoughby St. OR

9:00 AM from the Brooklyn Public Library (on the Flatbush side)

BREAKING NEWS

http://www.countercurrents.org/2016/06/25/ u-n-s-legal-expert-calls-proposed-trade-deals-il-

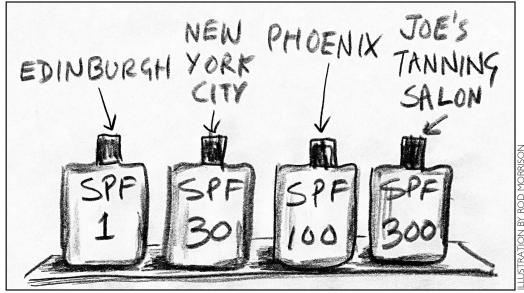
U.N.'s Legal Expert Calls Proposed Trade Deals Illegal

in Globalisation — by Eric Zuesse — June

"Alfred de Zayas, the U.N.'s Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order, is assigned the task to apply the standards of international law to proposed treaties, to determine whether they're in accord with international law. On Friday, June 24, he issued his finding on three large proposed treaties regarding international trade among Atlantic countries: TTIP, TISA, and CETA. Earlier, on February 2, he had issued a similar finding on the proposed TPP treaty between Pacific countries, and his conclusion there was the same: that the proposed treaty violates international laws, and is inconsistent with democracy.

His finding regarding the proposed Atlantic treaties condemned them by saying: "Trade deals prepared and negotiated in secret, excluding key stakeholders such as labour unions, consumer associations, health professionals and environmental experts and now parliaments, have zero democratic legitimacy." This describes all of U.S. President Barack Obama's proposed treaties on trade: TPP, TTIP, and TISA, and it also includes CETA, which is the proposed treaty between the EU and Canada. He further damningly noted that, "Disfranchising the public from participating in this important debate is undemocratic and manifests a profound disregard for the peoples' voice.

The time is now. One variable is us. The struggle continues. ■



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. Editor. tors will reject articles that are essentially just advertisements for member businesses, those of family and friends of members, solely expressions of opinion or that do not follow the guidelines and policies.

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

LETTERS, ARTICLES AND REPORTS SUBMISSION POLICIES
Letters must be the opinion of the letter-writer and can contain no more than 25% non-original writing.

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

Letters, articles and reports must adhere to the Fairness, Anonymity and Respect policies. They cannot be hateful, needlessly inflammatory, discriminatory libelous, personal attacks or make unsubstantiated claims or accusations or be contrary to the values of the Coop as expressed in our mission statement. All submissions must be legible, intelligible, civil, well and concisely written with accurate, attributed, easily verifiable statements of facts separated from opinions. Letter and article writers are limited to one letter or article per issue.

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

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

FAIRNESS, ANONYMITY AND RESPECT POLICIES

In order to provide fair, comprehensive, factual coverage:

Fairness

1. The Gazette will not publish hearsay—that is, allegations not based on the author's first-hand observation.

2. Nor will we publish accusations that are unnecessary, not specific or are not substantiated by factual assertions. The *Gazette* will not publish gratuitous personalization. That is, no unnecessary naming of Coop members in polemical letters and articles. Writers must address ideas not persons.

3. Submissions that make substantive accusations against specific individuals, necessary to make the point of the submission and within the Fairness, Anonymity and Respect policies will be given to those persons to enable them to write a response, and both submissions and response will be published simultaneously. This means that the original submission may not appear until the issue after the one for which it was submitted.

Anonymity

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

Respect

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

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

SUMMERTIME DON'T FORGET YOUR COOP SHIFT!

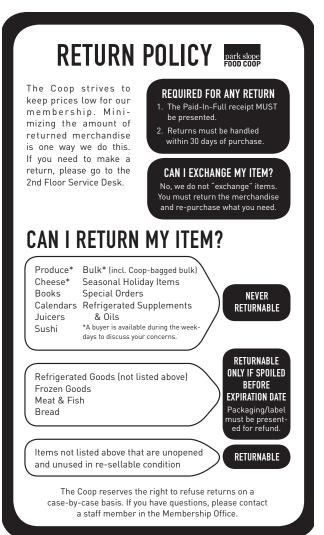


If you plan on being away during one of your workslots, please make arrangements to have your shift covered.

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

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

YOUR CO-WORKERS WILL LOVE YOU FOR IT!



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: Kristen Lilley

Photoshop: Adam Segal-Isaacson

Preproduction: Tuesday Smillie Art Director (production): Dilhan Kushan

> Desktop Publishing: Beverly Brooks Maxwell Taylor

> > Yi Zhang

Editor (production): Nancy Rosenberg

Advertising: Mary Robb Puzzle Master: Abdul Powell Final Proofreader: Lisa Schorr Index: Len Neufeld

WELCOME!

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

Sara Adelsberg Bennuaube Amen Nina Arazoza Miki Aso Ashley Augustini Raquel Ayala Rodrigo Balarezo Patricia Becus Radu Becus Rachel Berks George Billson Bronwen Blaney Isaac Blasenstein Sebastian Bouknight David Campbell Erica Casucci Frank Casucci

Abigail Cheney Michael Clancy Anna D'Agrosa Karen De Francis Gil Desroches Jr. Amanda Desroches Julia DeVito Coleman Don Laura Edelson Michael Edelson Lia Eisenstadt Jenny Hampe Endresen Brian Eoff Jordan Faigen Kim Fischer Jean-Francois Fraysse

Kaelyn Garcia Kenneth Garson Eilidh Geddes Nigel Gillis Mark Grgurich Tsehay Grooms Savely Gulyako Andy Hale Marisa Harary Eliza Harrison Matthew Hart Ali Hassan Tyler Hoffberger Cecil Howell Iill Hurst John Hurst Deborah Jackson

Vida Jackson Yousef Khalil Sheraz Khan Vanessa King Ksenia Kiseleva Robert Knips Kacie Lyn Kocher Ryan LaCasse Petra Laohakul Shira Lazarus Sinae Lee Tania Leipold Matthew Leish Linda Lin Brienna Litvin Yoav Litvin Tristan Lombard

Adina Luft Paul Margarites Sarra Zoe Reich Margarites Eli Mark John McCarroll David Mikula Michelle Moyer Tien Nguyen Arcmanoro Niles Rebecca Oginni Antek Olejniczak Madeleine Rose Parsigian Marissa Petito Hannah Phillips Matthew Plaks

Brittany Popko Christina Prostano Emma Redmond Pham Rubii Valerie Schenkman Scott Seelig Tiffany Senin Dianna Sholomon Julia Sillen Alex Silva Claire Skotnes Randall Snare Harris Sockel Corina Solis Christopher Sommerfeld Aaron Spencer

Zachary Spiezer Johanna Steinberg A. L. Steiner Joshua Suskewicz Rachel Suskewicz Becky Taurog Holly Thompson Paul Thompson London Tsai Margot Varret Nathan Wagner Charles Waldron Andrea Watkins Ledia Xhoga

COPCALENDAR

New Member Orientations

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

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

The Coop on the Internet

www.foodcoop.com

The Coop on Cable TV

Inside the Park Slope Food Coop

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

General Meeting Info

TUE, JULY 26

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE. AUGUST 2

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m. Submissions will be considered for the August 30 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

12:00 p.m., Mon, July 11 July 21 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, July 25 August 4 issue:

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

July 21 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, July 13 7:00 p.m., Wed, July 27 August 4 issue:

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 signup 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-forworkslot-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.

ALL ABOUT THE GENERAL MEETING

Our Governing Structure

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

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 26, 7:00 p.m.

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

Location

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

How to Place an Item on the Agenda

If you have something you'd like discussed at a General Meeting, please complete a submission form for the Agenda Committee. Forms are available in the rack near the Coop Community Corner bulletin board 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 merature

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.

calendar of events

jul 10 sun 12 pm

Speech for the Actor: Finding Your Best Voice

This workshop is designed for you to find your most free and expressive voice. Beginning with muscle release, imagery, and breathing, we will explore the mechanism of the voice from breath to sound. Delving into deep breathing, touching on the anatomy of the respiratory system, we'll learn how to expand our anatomic understanding of the voice into a free and resonant instrument. We'll then explore pure vowel sounds, masque resonance, and consonants; we'll talk about jaw tension and learn exercises designed to work the musculature of the jaw, mouth, and tongue. The workshop will end with a reading of a short poem or sonnet either of the attendee's choosing, or one provided. Coop member Liv Keister has an MFA in Acting from Ohio University and a BA in Theatre Arts from Southern Oregon University. She has worked as an actor at many regional theaters and is also a Pilates trainer.

jul 24 sun 12 pm

Everyday Posture

Posture both contributes to our health and expresses something fundamental about us to the world. But for many of us, after years of huddling around a computer, carrying kids, and managing pain, we often find that our body doesn't feel or look as we hoped it would at this point. And worse, most conventional wisdom about posture urges leaves us stiff, stressed, and ultimately slumping with exhaustion. In this workshop, taught by a certified Alexander Technique teacher, you'll learn simple strategies for improving your posture and raising your overall well-being. The Alexander Technique is particularly useful for individuals dealing with RSI, back or joint pain, and performing artists. This gentle mind-body method helps you both find your true stature and feel at ease in your body. Repeat attendees welcome! Coop member **Dan Cayer** is a teacher and writer committed to helping others change habitual patterns, find freedom from pain, and create a sane relationship with their own body.

jul 12 tue 7 pm

Safe Food Committee Film Night: The End of the Line



The End of the Line, a non-commercial project made possible through the support of The Louisville Film Society, contributors and volunteers, follows a coalition of activists—farmers, religious orders, environmentalists and constitutional conservatives—as they protect their

land, liberty and even their lives from a controversial hazardous liquids pipeline in Kentucky. The film documents the grassroots resistance to The Bluegrass Pipeline in 2013 and 2014 following the story all the way through to the pipeline's unprecedented defeat. This documentary from award-winning filmmaker Sellus Wilder encourages viewers to consider the effects of their actions on the global energy paradigm.

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

jul 13 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.

jul 15 fri 7:30 pm

Meet Your Mind

A class in basic meditation. The fundamental nature of our mind is stable, strong and clear—yet these qualities become obscured by the stress and speed of our lives. Meditation opens and calms the mind. This is a basic meditation class for beginners, and for anyone who would like a renewed understanding of the technique. **Allan Novick** has practiced meditation since 1975. He is a meditation instructor at the New York Shambhala Center and Nalandabodhi New York and has taught meditation at corporate venues. He lives in Park Slope, has been a Coop member for many years, and is a retired school psychologist.

jul 26 tue 7 pm

Long-Term Care

You'd do anything to protect the ones you love. So why avoid discussing long-term care with aging parents, spouses and ourselves? Do we know that almost three of four adults over age 65 will require long-term care for some period of time? Do we understand the potential emotional and financial high cost of care? Adding long-term care coverage to your financial plan can provide you and your loved ones with increased peace of mind, flexibility and protection by providing a dedicated source of funding for long-term care costs. Join long-time Coop member **Mary Blanchett** to discuss the options, because it's never too soon to learn ways to protect what matters to you. Blanchett is a Financial Services Professional with New York Life Insurance and NYLIFE Securities LLC. She helps her clients with insurance, investments and retirement planning and has worked in long-term care for 27 years.

jul 26 tue 7 pm

PSFC JUL General Meeting



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

between 7 and 7:15 p.m.

Meeting location: St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.

- I. Member Arrival and Meeting Warm-Up
- II. Open Forum
- III. Coordinator and Committee Reports
- IV. Meeting Agenda

Item 1: Motion to Elect *Gazette* Coordinating Editors (45 minutes)

Proposal:

- 1. To elect, by paper ballot, the most Senior *Gazette* Coordinating Editor (GCE) annually, with the first election to be held no later then three months from the passing of this motion, and to rename the work slot now known as "*Gazette* Coordinator Editor" to "Senior Editor."
- 2. With a three-month transition period, whereby the one remaining Senior Editor, orients and explains the work slot to the newly elected Editor.
- 3. Candidates need not be Professional Journalists.
- 4. There are just two Senior Editors, each year the Senior Editor that has been in office the longest will be up for re-election. In effect Senior Editors will occupy the work slot for a minimum term of two years.

—submitted by Mike Miranda

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.

Item 2: Formation of a Committee to Study the Possibility of a Second Location for the Coop (45 minutes)

Proposal: To create a committee of members and General Coordinators to evaluate the possibility and feasibility of a second location for the Coop. The committee will be composed of nine members plus up to four General Coordinators. Members will be elected by the General Meeting, work a minimum of 2.75 hours per four weeks and have a regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The committee will present its recommendations for a future GM to —submitted by Jonathan Farber and the General Coordinators consider.

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.

Agenda Committee Meeting



The Committee reviews pending agenda items and creates the agenda for future General Meetings. Drop by and talk with committee members face-to-face between 8:00 and 8:15 p.m. Before submitting an item, read "How to Develop an Agenda Item for the

General Meeting" and fill out the General Meeting Agenda Item Submission Form, both available from the Membership Office or at foodcoop.com. The August General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 30, 7 p.m., at

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

Eating Vegan Workshop

Are you curious about a vegan diet? Wonder what the difference is between seitan and tempeh? If you have been thinking about going vegan, or just about working more fruits and vegetables into your meals, come to the Animal Welfare Committee's workshop. Piper Hoffman and Megan Sullivan are members of the Animal Welfare Committee.

Film Night



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

Female Health

PMS? Painful periods? Skipping periods? Fibroids? Infertility? Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS)? Menopausal symptoms? Looking for a natural solution? Nutrition Response Testing is a non-invasive way of analyzing the body to determine the root cause of symptoms. We'll discuss some of the major causes of hormonal imbalance and how a custom-designed nutrition program can help return you to optimum health. Diane Paxton, MS, LAc, is the owner and principal of Inner Fire Integrative Health

Services, with offices in Manhattan and Park Slope. She is also a longtime Coop member.

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.

PSFC AUG General Meeting



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

Meeting location: St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.

Food Class



Food Class to be announced.

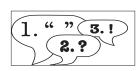
Food classes are coordinated by Coop member Olivia Roszkowski. To inquire about leading a Food Class, contact Olivia Roszkowski at parkslopefoodclass@gmail.com.

Film Night



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

Agenda Committee Meeting



The Committee reviews pending agenda items and creates the agenda for future General Meetings. Drop by and talk with committee members face-to-face between 8:00 and 8:15 p.m. Before submitting an item, read "How to Develop an Agenda Item for the

General Meeting" and fill out the General Meeting Agenda Item Submission Form, both available from the Membership Office or at foodcoop.com. The September General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 7 p.m., at St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.

still to come

sep 9 Wordsprouts

sep 16 Prospect Concert Series

sep 13 Plow-to-Plate Film

It's Your Funeral

RESPONSE TO SYLVIA LOWENTHAL

DEAR MEMBERS,

I would like to respond to Sylvia Lowenthal's letter in the June 9th issue of the Linewaiters' Gazette.

Regarding the BDS / Sodastream issue itself I have no particular strong opinions or axe to grind. I am writing as a relatively new member (3 years in the Coop) who was attending the April 2015 General Meeting as my second ever GM with my wife who was attending for the first time.

I have to say that we were shocked and disgusted at the behavior of the anti-BDS agitators at that meeting. They were loud, disruptive, and disrespectful of people on the other side and indeed the membership as a whole. I disagree with Ms. Lowenthal's contention in her letter that the protest was "non-violent." We, who were not part of the debate and simply members attending a GM for workslot credit, felt intimidated by them. They physically stood on the stage and at one point grabbed the projector. They shouted and jeered so that we could not hear people speak. To physically deprive people with whom you disagree of freedom of speech is a step down a very slippery slope.

Personally speaking I was disgusted not only at these protestors but at the Coop governance as a whole. The Chair Committee totally lost control of the meeting and it descended into a farce. I have not been to a GM since and I almost left the Coop over it. I for one am glad to see that the Chair Committee and General Coordinators have eventually brought some form of sanction through the Disciplinary Committee against those people who so callously disrespected the Coop's values and ways of doing business. I will most likely now attend future meetings.

If the General Meetings cannot take place in an atmosphere of mutual respect and respect for democracy then the Coop will not be able to function. Hopefully the denial of shopping privileges for a year will give the members involved time to reflect on their behavior so that when they do re-join the Coop they will better make their case in a peaceful and respectful way. Furthermore an example had to be made to discourage

similar behavior from others in future.

I do not necessarily believe that we should have passed this particular Sodastream boycott but I believe that the BDS people have a right to make their case and put forward their arguments and that the coop membership should listen to them respectfully.

Regards, David O'Donovan.

ALTERNATIVE STORY OF MEETING ROOM

DEAR MEMBERSHIP,

Now that the dust has settled somewhat over the GC's cancelling of any further meetings in our Common Room regarding the subject of the Middle East, it's time to give my version of the events leading up to their decision.

Not long ago, I held a series of meetings called Alternatives to Boycotting. They were conducted as the name stated: it was not a way to organize against BDS though "alternative" does imply that boycotts are discouraged.

The first couple of sessions we had anti-boycott, pro-boycott, and undecided participants. We had pro-boycott-but-against-boycottingat-the-Coop members, and people who came to disrupt an "anti-BDS" gathering but were flummoxed and incoherent when they found a different message. It was always civil conversation, yet it took some time for the group to absorb new thinking: that the two viewpoints offered here at the Coop regarding the Middle East—for or against boycotting of Israel—were inadequate channels to approach such a complex situation. Just look at the results of what boycotting Israel has done so far since the 1948 boycott by the Arab League: corrupt governments in the West Bank and Gaza, no rights won for average Palestinians, and voluminous backroom business deals between Israel and the Arab/Muslim world. If your aim is to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians, boycotting has been worse than useless.

So I asked of the gathering, aren't there alternatives to boycotting and the divisive rhetoric it brings to our door? Could one simply stand as "pro-Coop" without taking sides about the Middle East?

People seemed relieved to escape the old binding conversation and start new ones.

As the facilitator I suggested we find organizations that promote dialogue, or we bring in products manufactured by the politically underrepresented (not just Palestinians) of this world. Some people followed through, like Rodger Parsons, with their own agenda items. Some people are still doing research on their own ideas. That these meetings are being portrayed as anti-BDS organizing efforts is out of my control. But if you insist on believing such rumors, each meeting was recorded in full so there is ample proof of my stopping cold any criticism of BDS. I made no calls to combat BDS, nor suggest people join the many organizations resisting the demonstrably destructive effects of BDS on communities and institutions. Those who continue to insist I held anti-BDS organizational meetings were obviously not in attendance or don't have any use for facts.

In my next letter, I will address how boundaries were overstepped by BDS and the ramifications for all of us at the Coop. Please continue to buy Al' Ard Palestinian Olive Oil, and thank you for supporting the 75% Supermajority vote. The conversation has changed at the Coop. Finally!



PLASTIC PACKAGING COLLECTIONS

2nd Wednesday of every month 3:45-6 p.m. 4th Saturday of every month 1:45-4 p.m.

Expanded Plastic Collection for Coop members

Please be prepared to show your Coop membership card.

Plastic bags/wrap/packaging from most products sold at the Coop—food and non-food.

Thin plastic film wrap—from notecards, tea boxes, pre-packaged cheese, household items, pet food, juice packs, etc.

Plastic roll bags distributed by the Coop—please use roll bags only as necessary, reduce usage whenever possible, and re-use any bags you do take before recycling.

NO food residue, rinse as needed. Only soft plastic from Coop purchases.

We continue to accept the following from all community members:

Pre-sort and separate according to the categories below.

Toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes (any brand/size)

Baby food pouches and caps (any brand)

Energy bar wrappers (any brand)

Water filters (Brita and other brands) and other Brita branded filter products

Plastic re-sealable food storage bags, small Coop bulk bags, cling wrap

Cereal and cracker box liners (any brand)

Food residue and paper labels OK. No shopping bags.

Donations in any amount are welcomed to help offset the cost to the Coop of this collection.

Interested in joining the squads that run the Wednesday/Saturday collection, or in starting a third collection time as your workslot?

Contact Cynthia Pennycooke in the Membership Office.

For more information about Terracycle, visit terracycle.com Questions about items we accept should be e-mailed to **ecokvetch@yahoo.com**

environmental committee

FOOD COOP

C2

Saturday and Sunday through November 20 1:00 - 7:45 pm Leave your bike, stroller, scooter, or cart while you work or shop. No locks, no worries, no theft! Operates rain or shine. Look for us by the yellow wall under the green tent.

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.

THU, JUL 14

Celebrate the induction of Dr. Jessica Gordon Nembhard into the Coop Hall of Fame and gains of the cooperative movements and the solidarity economy. Music, Food and Drink provided. At John Jay College. Sliding scale: \$10 -100. Tickets: Eventbrite.com or at the door.

SUN, JUL 17

Overcoming Exhaustion. John Kozinski, natural health counselor and teacher, will explain what adrenal fatigue is, the common

symptoms, and how to recover with common sense diet, exercise and lifestyle practices. Souen, 210 Sixth Ave., Manhattan. Free!

THU, JUL 28

Pulitzer Prize-winning critics Emily Nussbaum (New Yorker) and Wesley Morris (New York Times), A.O. Scott (PSFC member and New York Times) and Alissa Wilkinson (Christianity Today) discuss film, TV and pop culture. At St. Francis College: Purchase tickets (\$25-250) at http://www. math4science.org.



DEC OPEN HOUSE for Prospective Members

To Submit Classified or Display Ads:

sified ads are prepaid at \$15 per insertion, display ads at \$30.

(Classified ads in the "Merchandise-Non-commercial" cate-

gory 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"

elevator in the entrance lobby.

Submission forms are available in a wallpocket near the

Ads may be placed on behalf of Coop members only. Clas-

The **Diversity and Equality Committee** will hold an Open House for prospective new members on **Thursday**, **July 14**. Those interested in joining should contact us **as soon as** possible at ContacttheDEC@gmail.com.

If you've already done so, we'll be in touch, but if for some reason you don't hear from us, please contact us again. We'll tell you more, find out a bit about you, and provide the details for attending the Open House.

The work of the DEC is varied, interesting and collaborative. We'd like our membership to reflect the range of ethnicities, nationalities, gender identities, sexual orientation, abilities and ages represented at the Coop. All are encouraged to apply and the committee currently lacks what we consider adequate representation of our Asian, Latino, and Black and White male members. If you have education, mediation, workshop facilitation, writing, event organizing, research or data collection skills, we can use your input.

> We look forward to hearing from all interested Coop members.

Workslot Opportunities

The FUN Committee is looking for new members. We meet the first Monday evening of every month, to plan and implement community unity opportunities. Prior events include the Annual Kids' Variety Show, Holiday Card-Making, Social Dance Events, and Game Nights. We need young-blooded people with "strong backs" and the ability to do physical stuff to set and restore our event spaces. Also needed is someone who can Tweet, Instagram and Facebook. It would be great to have someone who comes with a boatload of fresh ideas on how to community-build!







CLASSIFIEDS

PEOPLE MEETING

I hate the internet. You do too? SWF, 51, looking for real live love an old-fashioned way. Be a man, single, with or without kids (none here, yet), 40-60, any race/ethnicity, gentle, strong, into books, conversation, good tv, dinner parties. Be not unpleased that I'm tall (5' 9"). oldschoollonelyhearts@gmail.com.

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SAFE FOOD COMMITTEE REPORT

Plow-to-Plate Movie Series Presents: *The End of the Line*

By Adam Rabiner, Safe Food Committee

In the 1976 film Network's most famous scene, television news anchorman, Howard Beale, loses it, inciting his audience to get up out of their chairs, open their windows, stick their heads out, and yell "I'M AS MAD AS HELL, AND I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE THIS ANYMORE!" The line resonated, becoming one of the top film quotes of all time, a phrase that came to perfectly reflect the broader frustrations and anxieties of its time.

And of our time; Americans are still worried about depression, banks going bust, crime, air that is unfit to breath, and food that is unfit to eat. Add to that list global warming and rising sea levels. Today's response—our collective, frustrated wail—can be seen in the untamed and unconventional politics of both the Democratic and Republican primaries. Beale's exhortation is also echoed in Kentuckians extraordinary response to the proposed Blue Grass Pipeline (BGP) intended to carry natural gas liquid (NGL) from the northeast to the Gulf Coast. This resistance, depicted in The End of the Line, eventually spelled the end of the line for the multibillion-dollar project.

There was a lot that the people of Kentucky didn't like about the BGP once they learned about it, but a particularly grievous early blunder by its builder, the Williams Company, was not being straight with them. Williams came to community hearings with the usual patriotic talking points about energy independence and local jobs. However these meetings made clear that NGL is not natural gas, but is a byproduct of fracking used to make plastic and other exportable chemicals. Moreover, the company was forced to concede that there would be very little local job creation due to the need for a highly skilled and trained workforce. Company executives were genuinely surprised and unaccustomed to this level of skepticism.

Ticked off landowners were just the beginning of Williams Company's problems. Their big blunder was attempting to obtain an easement from The Sisters of Loretto, a Catholic organization whose mission is to fight injustice, oppression, and the deprivation of dignity. At an open house sponsored by the company, arranged in a manner to prevent an open forum, 21 frustrated sisters gathered in a circle and sang the spiritual "Amazing Grace." Once God was on the side of the opponents of the pipeline, Williams Company didn't stand a prayer. This sister act of defiance made a local blog, The Hillbilly Report, and then got picked up by The Nation, the AP, Mother Jones, and other national news media, marking a turning point in the "bluegrass uprising."

While it's unarguable that the "singing nuns" attracted the national spotlight and added a distinctly spiritual and religious context to the struggle, the hallmark of the uprising was collective but leaderless action by ordinary but diverse people with different skillsets united by a common love of the land and concern for public health and safety. Unlike the Williams Company, the citizens did not have money for an army of lawyers, though it was able to enlist the crucial support of Tom Fitzgerald of the Kentucky Resources Council, a non-profit advocacy organization. The bluegrass uprising, a scrappy, shoe-string coalition of landowners, environmentalists, religious and civic organizations, ordinary town folk and local politicians, was truly grass roots.



The voices and narrators of The End of The Line are ordinary, unlike many documentaries that revere the expert, the teacher, the writer, the Ph.D. wielding guru. Instead of Michael Pollan there is "We the People." The heads of Williams Company don't come across as larger than life evil corporate villains, Monsanto lite. Instead they appear disingenuous, a bit hapless, narrowly focused on shareholder value, normal.

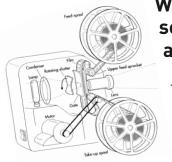
By April 2014 Williams Company had purchased 75% of the easements they needed to build their pipeline, and legislation spearheaded by the resistance to prevent eminent domain had failed. Things weren't looking good. Nevertheless, rather unexpectedly, later that year the company halted the project due to a lack of investors. The opposition to the Blue Grass Pipeline, despite daunting odds, had succeeded. It's great to know that Americans, if pushed too far, can still get mad as hell and not take it anymore. ■

The NYC branch of Food and Water Watch is a co-sponsor of this event.

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

The End of the Line will be presented on Tuesday, July 12, 7 p.m. at the Park Slope Food Coop, 782 Union St., 2nd floor. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

ARE YOU A BROOKLYN-BASED FILMMAKER?



Would you like to screen your work at the Coop?

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

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

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

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



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