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GAZETTE

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Volume KK, Number 17

August 18, 2016

GM Okays Expansion Study, Nixes Election of Editors

By Ed Levy

The auditorium was full for the July GM, with water and cups standing by to keep attendees hydrated in the summer heat. Main items were a proposal to study possible expansion of the Coop and a proposal to elect the *Linewaiters' Gazette's* chief editors. The proposal to study expansion was approved overwhelmingly. The proposal to elect the

paper's editors was overwhelmingly defeated.

Second Location Study Committee

Why a second location? Proponents gave several reasons. Crowded conditions on Union Street was one, not surprisingly; there is no way to expand at the current site. Another reason is that efforts to support other coops in the city have been only moder-

ately successful. Lacking the PSFC's resources, accumulated knowledge, and finely honed systems, these coops remain small. Expansion of the store might be an alternative way to spread the cooperative movement. Said Board of Directors member Bill Penner, "We don't see our model very often, and I'm not positive it can scale, but I think it's an important question to investigate."

A tangible benefit would be lower prices for members, as the Coop's buying power increased.

The proposal was brought to the GM by the general coordinators and longtime squad leader Jonathan Farber, a businessman and Hudson Valley farmer. In meetings with the GCs and the organic growers and suppliers, Jonathan has been working on getting this idea before the members for five years. As a relatively big player, expansion of the Coop would mean "a whole other level of stewardship of the food system," Jonathan said. As an example, he said

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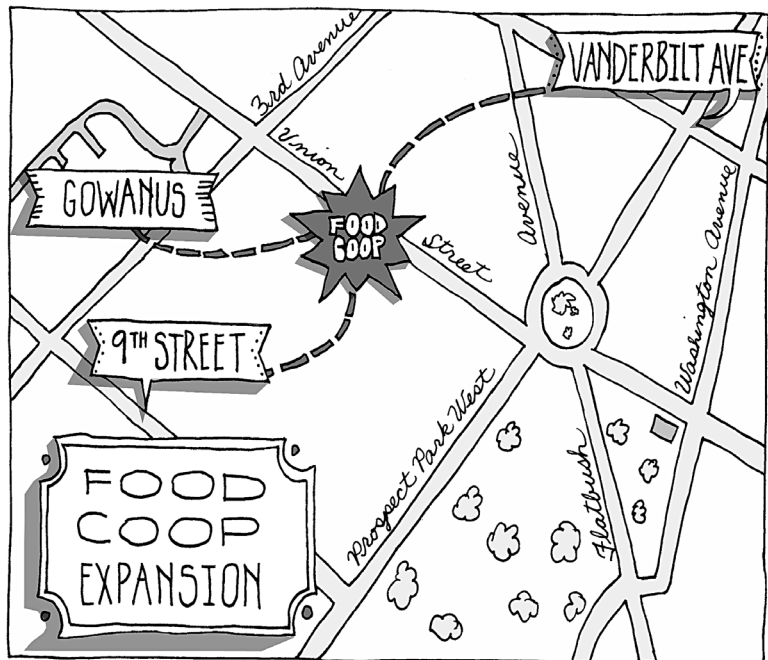


ILLUSTRATION BY LYNN BERNSTEIN

Coop Pension Assets

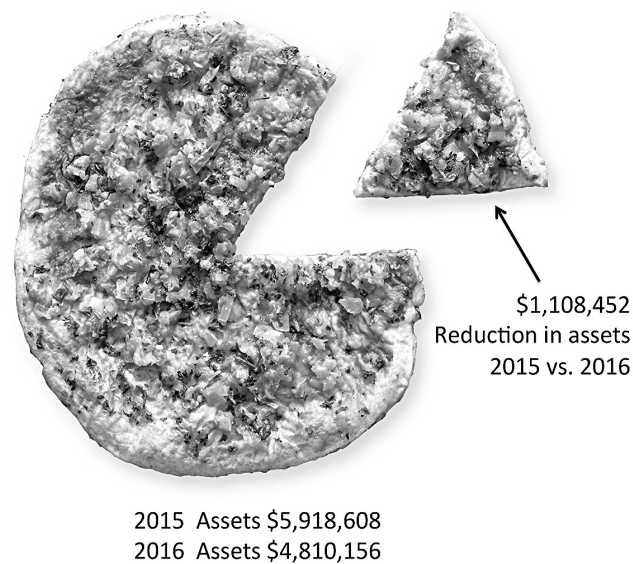


PHOTO BY ROD MORRISON; ILLUSTRATION BY EVA SCHICKER

Assets shrank in 2016 due to adverse market conditions and large distributions to retirees.

What We Need To Know About the Coop's Pension Plan

By Frank Haberle

Editor's note: the following article is based on an interview with Joe Holtz, a trustee of the Coop pension fund, and its data and claims have not been independently verified.

In the June 28 Annual Meeting, during the often-perfunctory reporting on the audit and financial status of the

Coop, many members were concerned to learn that the pension fund had experienced an almost 20% drop in its value in the Fiscal Year that ended January 31, 2016. In questions following the report, and in follow-up letters to the *Gazette*, concerned members asked very good questions: how can this have

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YEEEEOOOOWWW!!!

NO OPEN-TOED SHOES

PLEASE PROTECT YOUR FEET AND TOES 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**

Next General Meeting on August 30

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The August General Meeting will be on Tuesday, August 30, 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.

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Expansion

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mid-sized suppliers like Hawthorne Valley Farms could move more product without having to sell to corporate chains like Whole Foods that might require them to relax their rigorous standards.

Beef suppliers would especially welcome our expansion, he added, since they often have an especially difficult time connecting with markets. The Coop would become an even larger ready-made outlet for them, enabling them to supply a wider variety of cuts.

Other topics the committee might discuss, Jonathan noted, include the Coop getting more involved in food preparation and perhaps even selling food to other coops, since many now purchase their food at prices higher than the Coop's retail prices.

The committee will consist of four General Coordinators (who may rotate their participation), Jonathan, and eight other members. The GCs and Jonathan will interview interested candidates for the eight open spots, with a slate to be voted on by the General Meeting. Those interested should have experience in at least one of the following areas: commercial real estate, construction planning and management, finance, feasibility studies, business planning, and community organizing. Participants should also share a concern for the Coop's sustainabil-

ity and its foundational values. To find out more and to apply, go to <http://bit.ly/PSFC2ndLocation> (the URL is case-sensitive).

The committee will present its recommendations to the General Meeting within 18 months.

Election of Editors

The General Meeting turned down Mike Miranda's proposal to require the election of the *Gazette's* two Coordinating Editors, who oversee the work of the paper's reporters and editors. Mike, who said he was dissatisfied with "the level of accountability at the LWG," said his proposal would protect the Coop, which he believes is now in jeopardy because it prints political content in violation of the Coop's charter. The editors of the *Gazette*, Mike said, "have subjected members for seven years to divisive politics," and therefore threatened our legal status. Speaking in support of the proposal, another member added that the

political controversy raging in the *Gazette* "had plunged the Coop into a gray perilous legal area."

The claim that the *Gazette* must be reformed to comply with its charter prompted a squad leader to ask for clarification. "I've been hearing references to things we're not allowed to do," he said, "and it seems to be a much smaller list than we're used to hearing. . . . Before anyone says that we're not allowed to do something, can they back that up?" General Coordinator Joe Holtz said that the proposal's backers were misinterpreting our 1977 certificate of incorporation, which describes only the nature of our business, not how we have gone about it for 43 years. "It seems bizarre," Joe said, "to start talking now about how narrowly the *Gazette* should be run."

In fact, past criticisms of the *Gazette* have centered not on its adherence to the Coop's charter but on its letters policy, which has evolved in recent years to handle the increasingly acrimonious BDS dialogue. These previous critiques generally complained that the paper was inhibiting political discussion, not that it was permitting too much of it. A member rose to point out what could be a likely irony of this proposal, should it succeed: "By trying to take politics out of the *Gazette* you are actually politicizing it." Election of editors, he observed, would result in the paper's becoming "a political battlefield."

Board member Eunju Lee said she felt the proposal was not exactly what it seemed, calling it "a proxy" for a larger issue that has nothing to do with the Coop. And, expressing what he felt was the subtext of the proposal, Jesse Rosenfeld, Coop secretary, said, "Let's be honest. The letters-to-the-editor section is a shambles" and "multiple meetings to get the editors to change their behavior" have failed.

A former *Gazette* editor, Diane Aronson, said that

while the proposal claimed it would protect the Coop from legal jeopardy, what actually protects the paper and the Coop most are skilled editors, who can discern when a piece of writing might be libelous or plagiarized, or in violation of the Coop's fairness doctrine.

Current *Gazette* editors include a former public affairs producer at WNET, the news director at New York 1, an editor at the *Wall Street Journal*, a professor of journalism, and a writer for CBS News.

Financial Report

The Coop continues to be in robust health. The gross margin as of July 17 was 17.29 percent, which means that expenses account for only about 17 cents of every dollar sold. Net sales were \$25,394,920, up from \$23,965,322 a year ago. Sales per member average \$64.32 per week, up 1.82 percent. The Coop has \$1,260,694 in working capital, roughly the same as last year. The store's inventory turns over an impressive 67 times per week, guaranteeing very fresh food. The inventory turnover of the typical large coop is 15 to 20 times per week. Average membership for the period was 16,451, an increase of 2.97 percent over the previous year's average.

Coordinator's Report

Joe Szladek gave the coordinator's report. The hot summer has been hard on fruits and vegetables, and it has been difficult to obtain some items. We have been starting to get local melons like cantaloupe and honeydew (Joe called the California-grown sycamore honeydew "the best ever." Local cherries, blueberries, potatoes, and sweet onions will be available soon. The local potatoes can be identified by their flaky skin. Peas in the pod are back, as are mangos, but the mango has had quality issues.

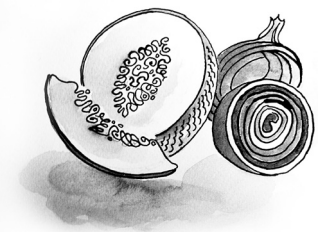
The new prepared food case at the beginning of the freezer aisle is getting beefed up with more sandwiches from Court Street Grocers. The Coop has been slow to carry sandwiches until now because it has been hard to find sandwich suppliers using our high-quality standards for meats. More prepared foods, including potato salad and mac and cheese, are in the offing.

International Trade Education Squad

The International Trade Squad reported that the Trans

Pacific Partnership Agreement is not dead, despite stated opposition from the Democratic and Republican candidates for President and may come up for a vote in the lame-duck session. Members were urged to thank any local and national politicians who have come out against the agreement.

Despite the ban on hydrofracking in New York State, passage of the TPP would empower companies in New York State to sue to have the ban removed, because it would interfere with possible profits from liquid natural gas exports, just as TransCanada is currently suing the U.S. Government for \$15 billion for rejecting the Keystone XL Pipeline. Major construction is under way in New York State and elsewhere as gas companies prepare for possible export of liquid natural gas.



Open Forum

A member rose to ask why the Coop is not currently boycotting Driscoll Farms, the largest distributor of berries in the world, over its alleged labor violations, including the use of child labor. Since 2013, workers in the U.S. and Mexico have staged walk-outs, set up picket lines, and launched lawsuits over the company's violations.

Joe Szladek said the Coop has been aware of the mistreatment of berry pickers, but Coordinators feel a decision to boycott is important enough to be brought to the GM for discussion and a vote. Any boycott of Driscoll would leave the store berry-free for periods of time. The buyers are meanwhile looking for other berry suppliers.

Asked for a show of hands, members expressed overwhelming interest in the Coop selling wine. Since by law the Coop cannot sell both wine and beer, wine could be sold only in a new location. Christopher Terrell hopes to get the item on a future GM agenda for full discussion, and said he is interested in exploring how wine sales could coordinate with plans for an additional store. You can reach Christopher at christopher.terrell@gmail.com. ■

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.

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

Puzzle author: Abdul Powell. For answers, see page 15.

Dark Act Signed Into Law With Certain Organic Food Industry Leaders Implicated in Its Passage

By Alison Rose Levy

On July 29 following the Democratic National Convention, President Obama signed the DARK (Deny Americans Their Right to Know) Act into law. The bill (S. 764) was rushed through the Senate shortly after Vermont's GMO labeling law went into effect on July 1. This victory for industrial food and agriculture took many members of the public by surprise. Consumer outcry had successfully stopped the bill twice before, most recently in March 2016.

"The White House justified the DARK Act's massive onslaught on local democracy on the grounds that the bill would create national standards for labeling of genetically engineered foods. It does nothing of the sort. According to Obama's own Food and Drug Administration, if enacted, the bill would exempt most current GMO foods from being labeled at all. The FDA further commented that it "may be difficult" for any GMO food to qualify for labeling under the bill," says attorney Andrew Kimbrell, executive director of the Center for Food Safety. To make matters worse, "the last provision in the bill, added at the 11th hour, allows all organic foods to be labeled 'non-GM' without any testing to see whether they contain any GMO contamination, as can happen with some organic products," says Kimbrell.

Brokered by Senators Debbie Stabenow (D. Mich.) and Pat Roberts (R. Kans.) along with USDA Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, the new law pre-empts Vermont's and all other state's current or future rights to enact mandatory GMO labeling laws.

"No compliance is built into the law," says Lisa Stokke, co-founder of Food Democracy Now. "What kind of law provides no penalty for failure to obey the law?"

While misleadingly branded as a "victory for labeling," the bill replaces the readable labels now present on many food products with QR codes, which are "electronic codes that consumers would have to scan with smartphones or at scanners installed by grocery stores," said a July 6 editorial in the *New York Times* which also noted that, "the only reason to do this would be to make the information less accessible to the public."

David Bronner, CEO of Dr. Bronner's, called the newly enacted law "a gift to the pesticide and food industries." According to Bronner, the DARK Act was passed "in large part by what I and other movement leaders see clearly as the Organic Trade Association's (OTA's) betrayal of the movement to mandate labeling of GMOs in America." Bronner says that the executive director of the OTA, Laura Batcha, and board chair Missy Hughes, General Counsel of Organic

Valley, with support from Organic Valley CEO George Siemon, "decided to act unilaterally and endorse the Stabenow-Roberts legislation, without review and approval of the OTA board."

The organic farmer-controlled Organic Seed Growers and Trade Association (OSGATA) withdrew its membership from the OTA "prompted by OTA's duplicity towards organic farmers and consumers when a small number of OTA board members endorsed a dangerous Senate bill that would immediately preempt existing strong state GMO Labeling laws that are widely supported by the Organic community and ninety percent of consumers."

The OTA endorsement, with support from Whole Foods, Organic Valley, Smuckers, and Stonyfield, helped pass the Dark Act, by "costing us at least six Democratic votes that we had with us when we defeated the bill back in March," says Stokke.

As examples, she cites Smuckers (which sells natural and organic nut butters and spreads) and is based in Ohio. Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown who had previously voted against the bill switched his vote. White Wave (the parent company for Horizon) is based in Colorado, whose Senator Michael Bennett switched his vote. United Foods International and Earthbound are based in California; Organic Valley



ILLUSTRATION BY DEBORAH TINT

in Wisconsin; and Stonyfield in New Hampshire: Senators Feinstein, Baldwin, and Shaheen switched their votes.

"When the OTA talks with Senators and takes a position supporting a bill, those Senators think that the OTA is speaking for the entire organic business sector and for all organic consumers. When in fact it was only a very small cadre at the top of the OTA who went rogue and decided this," says Kimbrell.

Says Bronner, "OTA and Organic Valley attempted to spin (that) their support was not crucial to passage, to which Jim Leahy, lead lobbyist for Citizens for GMO Labeling stated:

As a 30+ year lobbyist, I am comfortable with my understanding of how Congress works. OTA's support was clearly critical to the proponents of this bill. U.S. Senators are not in the habit of providing incentives to get organizations on board with a bill if that support is not necessary. The argument that OTA jumped on a bill that was passing anyway is either naive or disingenuous. The sponsors knew that if they could split our

side, they would provide cover for farm state Dems who wanted to vote yes, but were being held captive by strong consumer opposition. OTA provided the cover.

Bronner reports that back in February, Vilsack and Stabenow urged numerous food movement leaders to get on board with the new bill to replace the phrase "non-GMO" with an electronic QR code, which like other scan-able codes does not use the alphabet and therefore cannot be read by people. When they got nowhere, they focused their efforts on two leading movement nonprofit advocacy groups, Just Label It (JLI) and the Environmental Working Group (EWG), asking them "to split the movement and provide enough political cover to wavering Democrats to get [the] 60 votes [needed to pass the bill]."

At that time, Bronner says that "movement leaders counseled JLI and EWG that the broader movement did not support (this deal)...I stressed that it was time for the movement to come together and fight."

The Dark Act provisions

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

BIKE VALET PARKING

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.



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.)

Pension Plan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

happened? How will this impact our employees? How can we manage the fund more effectively moving forward?

As reported in the meeting and in the *Gazette* on July 21, the pension plan's losses in fair value—from \$5,918,608 at the end of FY2015, to \$4,810,156 at the end of FY2016—reflected a combination of factors, including short term losses in several investments (which should pay out over the long term, noted General Coordinator and pension fund Co-Trustee Joe Holtz), as well as the choice by several retiring staff to take their pension fund s in one lump sum, rather than in installments (\$1,075,623 in benefits were paid out in FY2016, compared to \$80,211 in FY2015). Because FY2016 saw positive sales figures for the Coop, with sales increasing by \$2.2 million over the prior year, and the Coop was able to put \$1,400,000 into the pension fund, meeting a good part of the deficit.

While the pension fund has had bumps in the past, according to Holtz, it continues to show growth, overall, since its inception in 1993—due in part to an expectation from the Coop to pay 1% of annual sales to the pension plan, and in part to an aggressive investment strategy that has often achieved better results than a traditional “mutual fund” strategy would have over the long term.

Notwithstanding this optimistic characterization, in a voluntary article appearing in this issue of the *Gazette*, Coop member Jonathan Hessney, a business management consultant, points out that since 2009 (as far back as documents are publicly available) the pension fund has underperformed the Dow in four out of seven years, each time by more than 10%.

The nearly 20% drop in value of the pension fund reported in the recent financial statement brought a strong and warranted expression of concern from the members at the June 28 meeting. “Am I concerned that, at the moment, the pension plan is underfunded? Yes,” Holtz says. “Do I believe it will turn around? Yes.”

At the end of the June 28 presentation, it was suggested that Coop members who are interested and/or

concerned about the pension fund should come to future general meetings when the Coop's finances are reviewed in more detail. With this in mind, it might be helpful to take into consideration a few points about the pension fund, why it was started, how it has performed over time and its future prospects.

Not a Sprint, but a Marathon

In 1993, the Coop membership voted to launch the existing pension plan after a lengthy debate over whether to have a 401k or establish a defined benefit pension plan, where the retirement benefit would be based on earnings and years of service regardless of how the investments might do. As stated in the audit, “the plan's target allocation is to be invested at least 30% in money market funds, bonds, bond utility funds and utility stock index funds or other diversified high dividend yielding stock funds. The remaining funds will be invested primarily in common stock equities.”

As Holtz explains, “the trustees have chosen concentrated investing over diversification because we feel that is the best way to maximize the returns, and this had been the case for many years.” The concentrated investment strategy—in which investors focus on making a larger investment in a few promising stock options, rather than trying to spread their investment to diversify—has, according to Holtz, been demonstrated as a more rewarding practice in studies including one by the University of Technology-Sydney, comparing concentrated investments versus mutual funds over a ten-year period (1999-2009). “Using U.S. equity mutual funds as our data base,” the study states, “we establish that the concentrated portfolios achieve the better performance.” A report by the investment company Lazard, *Less is More: A Case for Concentrated Portfolios*, also examined a range of empirical evidence and concluded that concentrated investing consistently outperforms diversified portfolios. Though, as Hessney points out, this Lazard report is put out to encourage investment in Lazard's own concentrated portfolio fund, which has itself underperformed the S&P 500 stock index over the last 10 years.



Artist Rod Morrison captures the highs and lows of the Coop's pension plan in a visual way. As the article states, the Coop has already been able to “meet a good part of the deficit in 2016,” by adding funds since the January 31, 2016 balance.

Regarding investment value ups and downs, Holtz points out, “concentrated investing is more likely to produce bigger fluctuations in the assets over the years.” For example, the following figures are from the Coop's year-end balance sheets:

January 29, 2012 pension underfunded by \$2,452,061

February 03, 2013 pension overfunded by \$222,761

February 02, 2014 pension overfunded by \$481,509

February 01, 2015 pension underfunded by \$2,084,780

January 31, 2016 pension underfunded by \$3,142,354

While in the last five years the pension assets have fluctuated between being underfunded and overfunded, the highest level of underfunding was for the most recent year: “which is why,” Holtz says, “so much attention was paid to the pension at the Annual Meeting in June.

“On the bright side,” he adds, “I can report that as of this writing the pension plan assets have increased by 1.1 million dollars. However, what really counts is the snapshot of the assets we can give on January 29, 2017”—the end of the current fiscal year.

First and Foremost: Providing for the Employees

The plan provides excellent benefits to retired employees, and the benefits are insured by the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC). But does the underfunded status of the plan affect the Coop's ability to provide reasonable wages and benefits? The simple answer, according to Joe Holtz, is no.

Holtz goes on to point out that, “Even though the plan is underfunded, the required contribution for the current year is \$615,976 if paid by the Coop to the plan by 11/1/2016. However we can pay instead in the following year by 10/14/2017 and pay \$652,494. We expect to pay 1% of sales each year. This year that would be about \$540,000. We expect this because the Coop member actuary that drafted the defined benefit plan (in 1993) estimated that the Coop would need to put in 1% of sales over the years to fund it.

“If we had decided to go the 401K route we would have put in 1% of sales each year. A historical analysis comparing the actual dollars the Coop has paid to the pension fund to 1% of sales over the same time period shows that the Coop has actually retained an extra \$335,290 by going the defined benefit plan route. This is our benchmark to determine the effect on the Coop. We follow the money. The money is not theoretical; the ‘underfunded’ or ‘overfunded’ status is. The underfunded status is looked at as something that needs to be made up over 30 years. The trustees believe that the investments we have made will rebound. The 30-year horizon is why the minimum contribution is \$615,976 ‘this year.’ It should also be noted that the plan has something called a pre-funding balance of \$507,611, which can be applied to the minimum contribution and therefore the contribution could be as low as \$108,000 this year.”

Following Financial Accounting Standards Board Policies

Finally, Holtz adds that the pension fund's future value is much higher than is reflected in the audit, which must draw up the numbers according to Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) rules. “According to the Pension Protection Act of 2006 and Section 436 of the Internal Revenue Code our Adjusted Funding Target Attainment Percentage (AFTAP) was 80% on January 31, which means that our year-end plan assets of \$4,810,156 would have reached 100% funding if they had been \$6,012,695. That is one measure of full funding. According to actuaries, the present value of future employee benefits is \$6,671,672; to the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC) it is \$6,873,081 and to the FASB it is \$7,952,510. Our outside CPA auditors request that the actuaries give them a report using FASB rules, which are the numbers that appear on our audited financial statement. It is obviously the most conservative view.”

According to the 2015 audited financial report, the pension fund had a shortfall. As a result, the Coop made a voluntary cash injection of \$1.4 million last year. Additionally, the pension fund has shown losses of more than \$1.3M for each of the past two fiscal years (2014 and 2015). The pension fund's strategy, governance and performance will be a topic in the upcoming August 30 General Meeting. Interested members are encouraged to attend. ■

MEMBER SUBMISSION

Pension Fund Agenda Item For the General Meeting

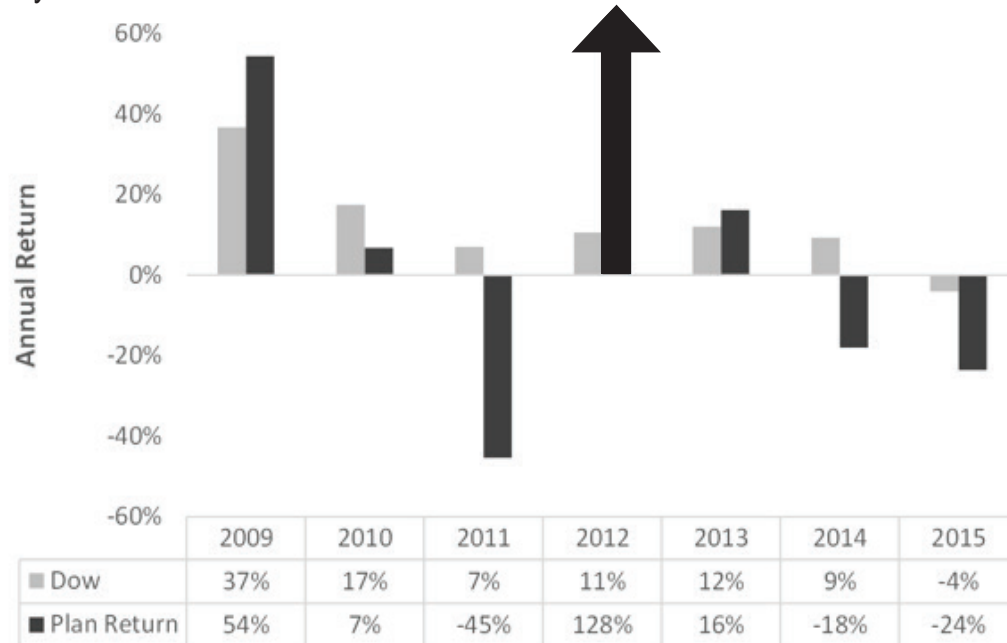
By Jonathan Hessney

The Coop's pension fund has recorded investment losses greater than \$1.3M for each of the past two years on initial assets of \$7.3M in 2014 and \$5.9M in 2015. It has done so with little oversight of how the trustees manage the fund's investments or disclosure of where the funds are invested. At the upcoming general meeting three motions will be discussed to improve the pension fund's governance structure and increase transparency of how the fund is being managed. These motions will potentially be up for a vote at a future meeting.

The Coop's financial statements shows the funds primarily invested in common stocks (\$3.2M invested, 66% of the assets) and cash (\$1.5M invested, 31% of the assets). When asked, the trustees shared that the common stocks portion of the portfolio is nine stocks (which the trustees decline to identify at this time), as the fund follows a strategy of concentrated positions and does not believe in broad diversification. This approach is atypical for a pension fund as the fund's assets are dependent on the performance of a small number of firms, and as can be seen in recent results this can result in significant losses.

Improved oversight by a finance committee made up of Coop members, as well as transparency around how the pension fund is being run is critical to the Coop. As the fund is currently

The pension plan has underperformed the Dow in four of the last seven years, each time by more than 10%.



being run, it is turning in erratic results that greatly impact the financial health of the pension fund, as well as the Coop as a whole, and there is no way for the membership to exercise significant oversight of the fund, short of submitting individual motions to be considered at the general meeting. For such a complex and important part of the Coop's financial health, we need to have a proper governance, transparency and oversight structure. If you would like to express your support for this effort and receive further information as it becomes available, you can sign up at <http://eepurl.com/ca5Sen>. I encourage you to come to this month's general meeting to contribute to the conversation on the pension fund. The topic will be structured as

follows, and include discussion of the proposed agenda items below.

1. An overview of the pension fund's performance since 2009 compared to benchmark performances

2. A comparison of the pension fund's reported asset allocation strategy to industry standards and norms

3. Proposals to improve the transparency and governance of the pension fund

Motions:
The membership is being asked to vote on three separate motions to stabilize the performance of the pension fund through increased transparency and improved governance:

1. Hereby direct the board to amend the Coop's bylaws to create a finance committee of members to oversee the management of

the pension fund. The committee will be composed of up to five members. The chair will be elected by the General Meeting and cannot be a trustee of the pension fund. Members will work a minimum of 2.75 hours per four weeks and will meet at least once per quarter. The committee will be charged with recommending investment policies to the board, recommending trustees to the board for election, approv-

ing the selection of advisors to the pension fund, reviewing reports from the pension plan trustees and advisors, and reviewing and reporting to the membership annually on pension plan performance

2. To increase transparency, the pension fund trustee(s) and the Coop treasurer will make available to any member of the Coop the following documents from the past five years: Quarterly account statements for the pension fund's accounts (including positions and trading history), documentation of the pension fund's investment and risk management strategies, any actuarial reports commissioned by the pension fund, the pension funds summary plan description. This requirement can be met by posting the required documents to the Coop's website.

3. The finance committee will annually present the pension fund's investment strategy, risk management strategy and target asset allocation to the General Meeting for approval. If there is no finance committee, this duty will be the responsibility of the pension plan trustee(s). ■

FUN COMMITTEE

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!



Please contact Martha Siegel at msiegel105@earthlink.net



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 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Plastic Packaging Collection Off to a Roaring Start and We Need HELP!

By Rosemary Calderon and
Rachel Jackson,
Environmental Committee

The Environmental Committee is happy to report that the expanded TerraCycle recycling collections are receiving great participation from Coop members. Since June, in addition to the six items we have been collecting for over year now, the TerraCycle collection expanded to accepting plastic packaging waste from items bought at the Coop. The response has been EXCELLENT!! Thank you to all the members who are participating and a BIG INVITATION is extended to those who may not know about us. See our announcement in the Gazette for details.

Response to the collections is SO POSITIVE, we find our-

selves in need of many more members to become shift workers. Ideally, each shift would function at its best with eight members per shift and, ideally, moving forward we would have one shift per week, versus the twice a month we are doing now. The more collection times we can offer, the higher the participation can be for Coop members and the more plastic packaging waste we can capture for recycling versus depositing into landfills. We need workers for both shifts, particularly for the Saturday shift. Both shifts are typically well attended, giving workers ample opportunity to interact with Coop members and the Park Slope Community.

We currently offer two collections, which fall on the second Wednesday of the month from

3:45 to 6 p.m., and the fourth Saturday of the month from 1:45 to 4:00 p.m. The shifts are from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. respectively. If these shift times do not work for you to become a squad member, we still want to hear from you as we are very interested in adding new collection times. Dedicated FTOP workers are also welcome—if you can be on a shift more times than not, we would definitely welcome you on shifts as much as you can schedule with us.

Here is information about being a TerraCycle collection shift worker:

1. Shifts are very stable, no moving around the calendar based on work week A, B, C, or D. Shifts are set for a particular day of the month and do not change.

2. There are only 12 shifts per year versus the traditional 13, each lasting about 15 minutes longer to make up the difference.

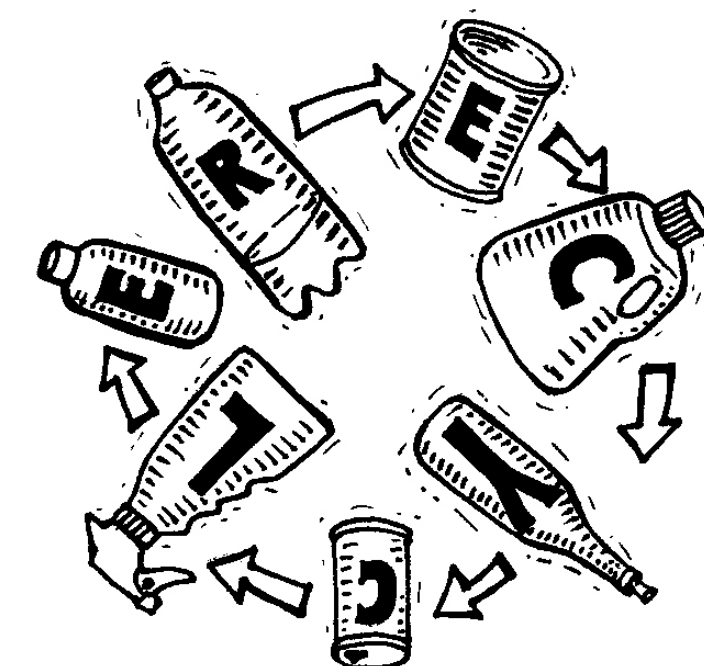
3. You will get to enjoy working your shift with like-minded environmentally conscience Coop members.

4. You will interact with participating members who are very enthusiastic about being able to bring in their items for recycling.

5. This shift is a very feel good shift knowing you are making a difference and helping members to make a difference in improving our environment.

6. The shift tends to go quickly as the collections are popular with Coop and community members and we tend to be busy throughout the shift.

7. For most of the year, the collections are held outside and shift workers enjoy



fresh air.

While there are many upsides to this shift, it is important to know of a few of the downsides so that you are well informed before expressing an interest to become a shift worker for these TerraCycle collections.

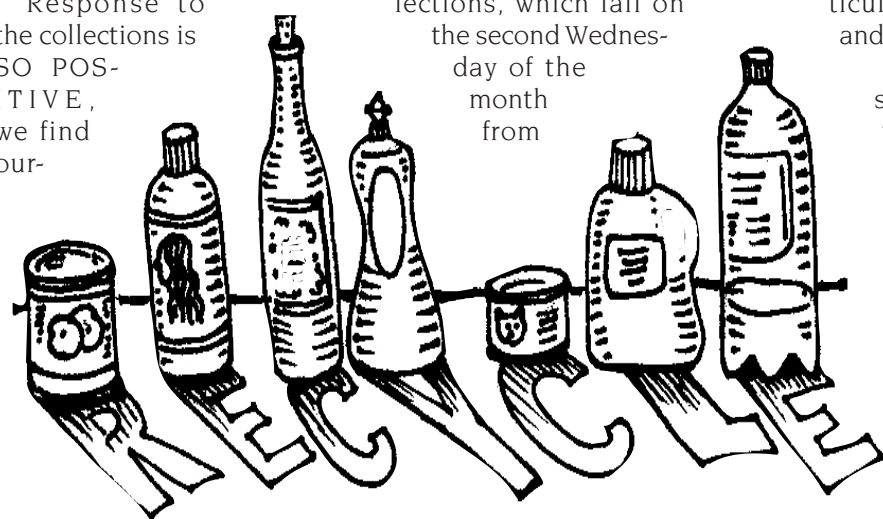
1. You will get your hands dirty—not unlike work on other shifts. We have gloves available and you can go in periodically to wash your hands in the bathroom.

2. There will be the few shifts where it will be very cold or very hot. If it is raining, we move the collection indoors. For very hot days, we have access to a pop-up shade tent and on cold days when the weather is above 32 degrees, you can bring hot drinks and we rotate workers for short breaks in the Coop to warm up. A good pair of long underwear, hats, gloves, socks, and a warm jacket make the shift very doable. If the weather dips below 32 degrees, we move the collection indoors. Your squad leader will determine if such conditions persist before or during the shift, and will coordinate with the membership office to relocate the shift accordingly.

3. The work of the shift does require a fair amount of standing and some light lifting. At the end of each shift we carry or cart the boxes to the UPS store on Flatbush and Seventh Aves.

We thank all our current shift workers and members who have brought in their eligible waste and have made our collections a part of their Coop routine. We continue to invite all members to participate. Our free collections continue to be open to all community members! If you know of someone in your community who has expressed interest, please encourage them to come to a collection.

This has been such a successful project and we need your HELP to make it even bigger and better. So please, contact Cynthia Pennycooke in the Coop office at 718-622-0560 if you would like to become a member of the TerraCycle collection squad on either the second Wednesday (3:30 to 6:30 p.m.) or fourth Saturday of the month (1:30 to 4:30 p.m.) or start a new squad time. You can also contact Rose Calderon at rosenyny@gmail.com if you have any questions. ■



WORD SPROUTS

THE PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP'S
READING SERIES

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

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

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

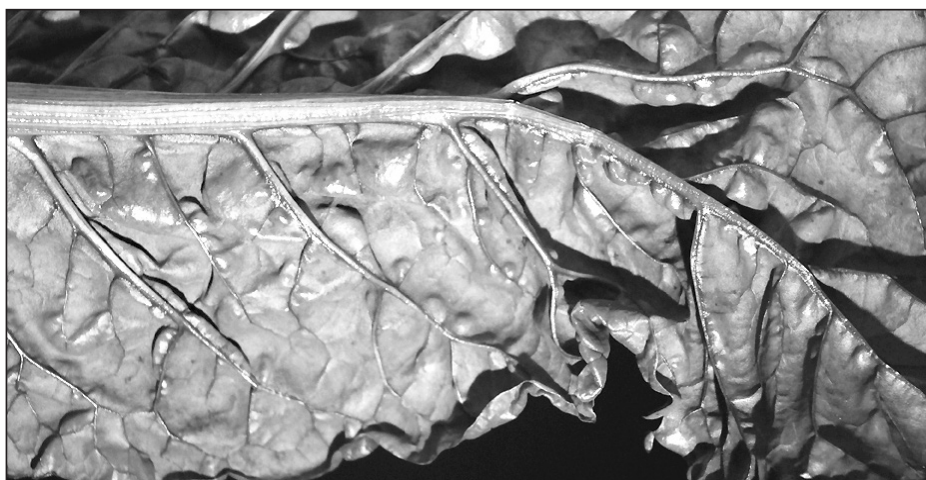


PHOTO BY KEVIN RYAN

Dark Act

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

that ultimately were signed into law were the very same ones that Gary Hirshberg, JLI and Stonyfield Chairman, had advocated back in February, both Bronner and other sources confirmed.

Just Label It! a prominent anti-GMO group was founded by by Stonyfield Farm Chairman, Gary Hirshberg, himself long viewed as a leading champion of mandatory labeling. Supported by Whole Foods, Horizon, and other prominent organic brands, JLI even today features memes, actions, and thought pieces calling for mandatory GMO labels. Hirshberg spoke at the Brooklyn Food Conference, begun under Coop auspices. Hence many labeling supporters may be shocked that he played a role in what many call a disastrous compromise.

Once the bill passed, as other food organizations prepare for opposing the potential for the ensuing degradation of organic standards, Just Label It! closed its doors and announced mission accomplished.

While the FDA which administers the labels, the USDA (the US Department of Agriculture) administers the National Organics Program, which defines and oversees the implementation of organic standards. The precedent set by the Dark Act could become the basis for a subsequent

alteration of the USDA's current organic standards.

"Depending on who is appointed by the next President to be our next USDA secretary, and our next head of the National Organic Program, based on the language in this new law, one interpretation is that organic foods could accept bio-engineered foods and still be in compliance with the standards," warns Stokke.

There will be a legal challenge by Food Democracy Now and other food organizations. ■

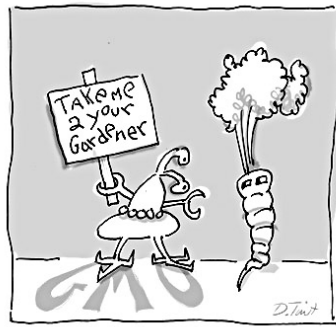


ILLUSTRATION BY DEBORAH TINT

PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO SHOP AT GREENE HILL FOOD CO-OP.

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



Greene Hill Food Co-op is open for shoppers:

Mon & Wed 3pm - 9pm

Sat & Sun 10am - 6pm

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

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!

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



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.

PRINCIPLES

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

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, September 16, 8:00 p.m.

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



PROSPECT CONCERTS



Alex Kramer is calling a barn dance at the Society for Ethical Culture on September 16! Come with friends and family and learn to dance the “do-si-do,” “rip and snort,” and more. Dance to the rhythms of award-winning bluegrass and old-time musicians **Lily Henley, Duncan Wickel, Maggie Carson and Bennett Sullivan**. Every dance will be taught and beginner-friendly.

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

PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP 782 Union St., Brooklyn, NY 11215 (btwn 6th & 7th Av.) • (718) 622-0560

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

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Yi Zhang

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Puzzle Master: Abdul Powell

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Index: Len Neufeld

Advertisement: Eric Bishop

WELCOME!

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

Leigh Adel-Arnold	Elizabeth Conrad	Deirdre Forrest	Sean Hundtofte	Kevin Leech	Jennifer Nelson	Andrew Schwartz	Bridget Suma
Anna Baker	Shawn Cullen	Richard Fudge	Elisabeth Imman	Pamela LePore	Kayla Nussbaum	Brian Seavitt	Ryan Sydnor
Karine Bauler	Ryan Cummings	Craig Galvin	Matt Iselin	Ruiqi Li	Sophia Parissis	Peter Senzamici	Ryan Tate
Stacey Bearden	Lillian Daniels	Sarah Galvin	Juliette Jiquel	Kyle Ligman	Eden Pearlstein	Sarah Shapiro	Pedro Sr. Tavaréz
Paul Bedard	Brandon Davis	Guy Gavriely	Pamela Johnson	Il-Tschung Lim	Elizabeth Perez	Alan Siegler	Nadine Teuber
Gabrielle Bettig	Ora deKornfeld	Esme Gonzalez	Andrew King	Elizabeth Lovero	Monica Pestana-Mulcahy	Joshua Simmons	Maggie Thoms
Zita Bettig	Cate Donovan	Maya Greenberg	Emily Kinsolving	Lihi Lutan Gavriely	Anne Pinckard	Meggie Simmons	Anthony Tramantano
Jack Brooks	Jemal Durdygulyyova	Odin Grina	Michael Kirsch	Tanya Lyon	Daniel Poeana	Alice Skuse	Chana Trugman
Jemma Brown	Aaron Ekroth	Bassel Habbab	Lisa Kitchens	Miriam McCallion	Claire Price	Daemian Smith	Silias Van Der
Zack Buell	Matthew Elliott	Eyal Hai	Meghan Knoll	Charlotte McDonald	John Ray	Jessica Snead	Swaagh
Erica Campbell	Sandra Enrique	Brianna Harden	Rebecca Kobert	Jessica McIntyre	Melanie Rieders	David Sosa	Sasha (Sarah) Van't Hul
Matt Canfield	Heather Fahey	James Henry	Molly Kover	Anne McNevin	Erica Rome	Nadav Spielgelman	Jasmine Vasandani
Alexis Canney	Byron Ferril	Gabriel Herrera	Nicole Krauss	Benjamin Meltzer	Lauren Routt	Natasha Stanglmayer	Daniel Villaveces
Anthony Casagrande	Melanie Fessel	Xenia Marie	Greta Kroessler	Katie Mendelson	Raquel Salazar-Foster	Katie Stefanski	Kathleen Wahl
Lauren Celentano	Elizabeth Figueroa	Hestermann	Jonathan Kuriloff	Morgane Moss	Yohimbe Sampson	John Stephen	Zachary Wendell
Christine Coady	Felisha Figueroa	Jessica Holzman	Allison Lamy	Brian Mulcahy	Steven San Miguel	Christine Suarez	Paul Williams
Fabrizio Cometto	Parker Fishel	Hailey Huddleston	Rigoberto Lara	Moneen Nasmith		Ava Sullivan	

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, AUGUST 30

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, SEPTEMBER 6

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m.

Submissions will be considered for the September 27 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

September 1 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, August 22
September 15 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, September 5

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

September 1 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, August 24
September 15 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, September 7

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, August 30, 7:00 p.m.

Location

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

How to Place an Item on the Agenda

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

Meeting Format

Warm Up (7:00 p.m.) • Submit Open Forum items

• Explore meeting literature

Open Forum (7:15 p.m.) Open Forum is a time for members to bring brief items to the General Meeting.

If an item is more than brief, it can be submitted to the Agenda Committee as an item for a future GM.

Reports (7:30 p.m.) • Financial Report • Coordinators' Report • Committee Reports

Agenda (8:00 p.m.) The agenda is posted on foodcoop.com and may also appear elsewhere in this issue.

Wrap Up (9:30-9:45) • Meeting evaluation • Board of Directors vote • Announcements, etc.

Attend a GM and Receive Work Credit

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

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

• Advance Sign-up required:

To be eligible for workslot credit, you must add your name to the sign-up sheet in the elevator lobby or sign-up at foodcoop.com. The sign-ups sheet is available all month long, except for the day of the meeting when you have until 5 p.m. to sign up. On the day of the meeting, the sign-up sheet is kept in the Membership Office.

Some restrictions to this program do apply. Please see below for details.

• Two GM attendance credits per year:

Each member may take advantage of the GM-for-workslot-credit program two times per calendar year.

• Squads eligible for credit:

Shopping, Receiving/Stocking, Food Processing, Office, Maintenance, Inventory, Construction, and FTOP committees. (Some Committees are omitted because covering absent members is too difficult.)

• Attend the entire GM:

In order to earn workslot credit you must be present for the entire meeting.

• Signing in at the Meeting:

After the meeting the Chair will provide the Workslot Credit Attendance Sheet.

• Being Absent from the GM:

It is possible to cancel without penalty. We do ask that you remove your name if you know cannot attend. Please do not call the Membership Office with GM cancellations.

Park Slope Food Coop Mission Statement

The Park Slope Food Coop is a member-owned and operated food store—an alternative to commercial profit-oriented business. As members, we contribute our labor: working together builds trust through cooperation and teamwork and enables us to keep prices as low as possible within the context of our values and principles. Only members may shop, and we share responsibilities and benefits equally. We strive to be a responsible and ethical employer and neighbor. We are a buying agent for our members and not a selling agent for any industry. We are a part of and support the cooperative movement.

We offer a diversity of products with an emphasis on organic, minimally processed and healthful foods. We seek to avoid products that depend on the exploitation of others. We support non-toxic, sustainable agriculture.

We respect the environment. We strive to reduce the impact of our lifestyles on the world we share with other species and future generations. We prefer to buy from local, earth-friendly producers. We recycle. We try to lead by example, educating ourselves and others about health and nutrition, cooperation and the environment.

We are committed to diversity and equality. We oppose discrimination in any form. We strive to make the Coop welcoming and accessible to all and to respect the opinions, needs and concerns of every member. We seek to maximize participation at every level, from policy making to running the store. We welcome all who respect these values.

park slope
FOOD COOP

calendar of events

aug 25
thu 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.

aug 30
tue 7 pm

PSFC AUG 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: Reauthorization of the International Trade Education Squad (ITES) (45 minutes)

Discussion: Extend the ITES as a permanent squad. —submitted by Susan Metz

Item 2: Pension Fund Governance Reform (45 minutes)

Discussion: The pension fund has recorded losses greater than \$1.3M for each of the past two years. This has had a significant impact on the Coop's net income and required \$1.4M to be contributed to the fund last year to cover the losses. The fund appears to be investing the majority of its funds in individual stocks, with none of the assets invested in bonds, exposing the fund to a higher degree of risk than is typical for a pension fund. This discussion will address the following items:

1. An overview of the pension fund's performance since 2009 compared to benchmark performances
2. A comparison of the pension fund's reported asset allocation strategy to industry standards and norms
3. Proposals to improve the transparency and governance of the pension fund

Motions: The membership is being asked to vote on three separate motions to stabilize the performance of the pension fund through increased transparency and improved governance. —submitted by Jonathan Hessney

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.

sep 1
thu 7:30 pm

Food Class: Taste of Jamaica



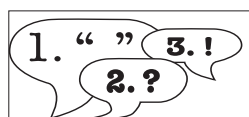
Chef **Lawron DeLisser** will be demonstrating some of her favorite island-inspired dishes. Using the flavors and ingredients of her father's homeland, the class will offer a twist on some classic Jamaican fare. All recipes are vegan and are sure to demonstrate to participants the beauty of the islands. *Menu includes: jerk tofu; Jamaican-style risotto with kidney beans; steamed cabbage; Jamaican cornmeal coconut pudding.*

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 August 18.

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

sep 6
tue 8 pm

Agenda Committee Meeting



The Committee reviews pending agenda items and creates the agenda for future General Meetings. Drop by and talk with committee members face-to-face between 8:00 and 8:15 p.m. Before submitting an item, read "How to Develop an Agenda Item for the General Meeting" and fill out the General Meeting Agenda Item Submission Form, both available from the Membership Office or at foodcoop.com.

The 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.

sep 9
fri 7 pm

Wordsprouts: Notorious R.B.G.



Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a feminist pioneer and sits on the highest court in the country, but she's also a pop culture icon. Her fiery dissents, pithy way with words, and general chutzpah became a source of viral memes online, and led to the creation of the popular Tumblr the Notorious R.B.G., which compares her to the rap virtuoso The Notorious B.I.G. From that blog came *The New York Times* bestselling book of the same name, a mixture of reportage, court documents, photos and illustrations that tell the story of this unusual and inspiring woman. One of the book's co-authors, **Irin Carmon**, will be joined in conversation by political talk radio host and comedy writer **Sam Seder**. They'll discuss Ruth Bader Ginsburg's career and popularity, the process of putting together the Notorious R.B.G., and what's at stake for the highest court in the U.S. with the coming presidential election. It's sure to be an evening as thoughtful, insightful, and funny as the Justice herself. Carmon has been a Coop member since 2009, is a national reporter for MSNBC and is the co-author of *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*. Seder is a New York-based writer, director and political talk radio show host. He hosts the live, daily podcast, *The Majority Report* and co-hosts the nationally syndicated, weekly, *Ring of Fire Radio* with Robert Kennedy Jr. and Mike Papantonio. His acting credits include a dozen network pilots, guest appearances on comedies and independent films. He co-authored, with Stephen Sherrill, *FUBAR: America's Right Wing Nightmare*.

Bookings: John Donohue, wordsproutspsf@gmail.com.

sep 11
sun 12 pm

Using Acupuncture & Sound For Trauma Relief

Both acupuncture and sound have proven over centuries to work directly with the nervous system in healing the effects of trauma. When shock is experienced, there is a ripple out effect through all aspects of ourselves. As the human body/mind is an intricate network of feedback loops completely interdependent with the whole of all the parts, there must be a careful and thorough unwinding of the patterns created by shock so they do not become stuck and ingrained. Acupuncture and sound create pathways in the the psyche to open up to new possibilities of living and being truly free. Join Coop members **Serra Chase Natan** and **Lev Natan** for an experiential talk on this timely topic. Serra is honored to serve the community with affordable, sliding-scale acupuncture since 2008 at the Brooklyn Acupuncture Project. Lev is a sound healer and life-purpose coach who helps people open up to their full potential, free from habituated responses to fear.

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.

aug 25–oct 4 2016

sep 13
tue 7 pm

Safe Food Committee Film Night: All In This Tea



Handheld cameras take us into the hidden world of tea by following world-renowned expert David Lee Hoffman to some of the most remote regions of China in search of the best teas in the world. Moving from a modern, urban setting to a pastoral China rarely glimpsed by westerners, scenes shot in cinema verite are interwoven with more formal presentations about tea fundamentals, helping make clear what is at stake, and thereby lending weight to Hoffman's endeavor. The viewers will feel as if they have been somewhere they've never been before, and ask themselves what is out there worth preserving.

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

sep 16
fri 7 pm

Practical Ways of Feeling Better in Your Body

Feldenkrais is a method of neuromuscular re-education developed by Russian-Israeli scientist Dr. Moshe Feldenkrais. Through simple and gentle movement exercises, this method helps improve balance, posture and coordination, prevent injuries, speed up injury recovery, reduce stress and anxiety, increase overall sense of health and well-being. This workshop is an opportunity to experience the benefits of the method firsthand through group exercises and personalized hands-on mini-sessions. No prior experience is necessary, people of all levels of fitness can benefit. **Igor Shteynberg**, Feldenkrais Practitioner, has worked with clients ranging from children with motor difficulties to professional dancers and musicians. He is excited to share benefits of the Feldenkrais Method with fellow Coop members.

sep 16
fri 8 pm

Barn Dance



Alex Kramer is calling a barn dance at the Society for Ethical Culture on September 16! Come with friends and family and learn to dance the "do-si-do," "rip and snort," and more.

Dance to the rhythms of award-winning bluegrass and old-time musicians **Lily Henley**, **Duncan Wickel**, **Maggie Carson** and **Bennett Sullivan**. Every dance will be taught and beginner-friendly.

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.



sep 17
sat 12 pm

Packing School Lunches: Quick & Healthy on a Budget!

Committed to getting your kids to eat healthier? Stressed about how to prepare their school lunches without relying on prepared or processed foods? Confused about the warnings for too much sugar? Gluten? Carbs? Have a kid with corn, dairy, soy sensitivities? Concerned about how to do this all while sticking to your budget? Then this is the workshop for you! We'll talk about the stresses of feeding your children healthy foods that nourish them all while having two working parents, finicky eaters, and food warnings at every turn. Find out how Inner Fire can actually help you determine if there are food sensitivities in your family and how to create whole-food meals quickly and on a budget. Attendees will receive a free health check and recipes for healthy school lunches! **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 long-time Coop member.

sep 18
sun 12 pm

Herbs for Winter Immunity

In this class we will learn how to strengthen our immunity in preparation for the cold and flu season. Several traditional recipes will be demonstrated with tastings, and the herbal actions of each ingredient will be discussed. What will you learn specifically: how to make an immune-boosting decoction of astragalus and shiitake and the benefits of Vitamin D, (which has been found in shiitake); how to make an herbal oxymel using elderberries; how to make fire cider (a traditional recipe popularized by renowned herbalist Rosemary Gladstar. The recipe uses garlic, onions, turmeric, horseradish, cayenne and raw apple cider vinegar. We will discuss the magical benefits of each of the ingredients); how to make an antimicrobial, medicinal honey. Additionally, we will talk about how to make an overnight antimicrobial onion syrup and we will talk about echinacea and boneset. **Dawn Petter** teaches classes about the art of plant-based healing. She has been a member of the Coop since 2013.

sep 23
fri 7 pm

Journey Into Bliss

Meditation and Gong Sound Bath. Practice a short meditation and simple stretches to prepare your body for a blissful gong sound journey. Lie down on your mat, get cozy and enjoy the healing vibrations of a gong "sound bath" as you experience profound cleansing, deep relaxation and renewal. Wear comfortable clothes (white or light-colored clothes, if possible) and bring a yoga mat and light blanket. Coop member **Rita London** is passionate about sharing the transformational benefits of energy healing with others. She is an intuitive life coach, certified KRI Kundalini Yoga and Meditation instructor, Reiki Master and plays the gong. Rita is a former dancer and creative arts educator. She teaches Meditation at the New York Open Center, Kundalini Yoga classes at Golden Bridge Yoga and Reflections Yoga in NYC and in her home studio in Brooklyn and coaches private clients.

still to come

sep 24 It's Your Funeral

oct 1 ITES Public Forum

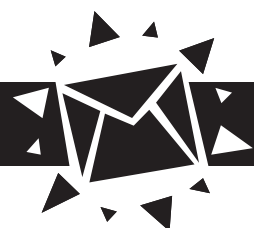
sep 24–25 Food Drive to Benefit CHIPS Soup Kitchen

oct 2 Cooperative Disaster Recovery

sep 27 PSFC SEPTEMBER General Meeting

oct 4 Agenda Committee Meeting

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE ONLINE ONLY?

EDITORS,

I am wondering why we do not phase out the print edition of the *Linewaiters' Gazette*, and move it "online only"? For example, *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer* (founded in 1863), went "online only" in

be e-mailed to people as a newsletter as well.

If the paper is moved online, it will also offer users an easily searchable index of every copy of the newspaper that was ever published online.

Not sure if this has been discussed before, just throwing it out there.

Stephen Arthur



2009, There are many other examples of major recently defunct and dying newspapers on <http://newspaper-deathwatch.com/>.

Not only does it make environmental sense. According to Ann Herpel, and the Financial Statement "24 weeks to 7/17/2016," presented at the 7/26/2016 General Meeting, 2,000 copies (it used to be 3,500 copies when the Coop was much smaller according to Ann) are printed each run, for approximately 16,500 members, at a cumulative cost of \$8,729 (a 52 week extrapolation is \$18,913 per year). I wonder, what percentage of the 2,000 newspapers actually get read? Another benefit is that the Coop would not need to store the print version in the store, freeing up extra space for other use.

I do not know what the startup costs would be for transferring the newspaper online, but I think in the long run, the financial benefits would outweigh the negative, and at worst, the Coop would be paying its own staff members that money to maintain the online newspaper instead. We could allow open commenting too, like the http://gothamist.com/2010/04/15/park_slope_food_coop_vs_barneys_co- and it may actually increase readership, and awareness of the Coop, as you would not physically need to go to the store to pick up a copy, and could

[Editor's Note: *The Linewaiters' Gazette* is available online now on the Coop website: www.foodcoop.com/archives as well as two indexes listing by topic and author all articles and letters for the past several years.]

CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM

DEAR LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE,

While I was shopping at the packed Coop around 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 6, there was a man playing guitar and jubilantly singing songs about Coop groceries—ice cream and cheddar cheese and whatnot—in the very



congested checkout area.

This added to the already abundantly chaotic nature of shopping at the Coop on a summer Saturday. I found the added sound and frenetic energy to be dreadful and did not enjoy having to maneuver around this strumming and bouncing entertainer to access the aisles. I very much hope a musician in the store is not a recurring event; there simply isn't enough room for it. Please spare us the entertainment in the aisles so we can get our groceries in peace.

Thank you,
Shannon Brown

THE NEW YORK TIMES, PLASTIC BAGS, PENSION FUNDS...

DEAR FRIENDS & FANS,

Fact: *The Linewaiters' Gazette* is NOT *The New York Times*.

I read Ron Zisa's letter about plastic food bags with great interest: while I agree with his point about re-using the ones we already take home, one of the things the Coop might want to consider is having smaller plastic bags available. The current bag, which measures 14" x 10", is fine for bagging large amounts of food, but for many of us, a smaller bag would be fine. Just as we enjoy a diversity of people, foods, opinions, diets and chi-chi consumer goods, maybe the Coop should also provide a diversity of bagging opportunities, thus allowing the "food to fit the bag," instead of a "one size fits all" bagging experience.

Second, I would also like to respond to Naomi Brussell's concern over the loss of \$1,108,456 from the Coop employee pension funds. Unless you are running a scam a la Bernie Madoff, it is expected that the value of any plan that invests in a variety of financial instruments will rise and fall over time. The important thing is that the costs of administering this fund are reasonable and that the administrators of said plan are working for the best interests of the employees, not for themselves. I wouldn't be surprised to hear that this is true of the Coop employee pensions.

Finally, Barbara Mazor is correct; the Coop was organized as an entity for the purpose of "acquiring, storing and distributing articles of common use." Any involvement in political activism should be prohibited. This includes a past Coordinator request that we sue the clothing store "Barneys" for using the word "coop" in its store name. If you have political axes to grind, there are plenty of outlets to do so; please don't waste the members' time and the *Gazette's* soy-bean-flavored ink to promote them. Pretty please?

Yours (a)politically,
Robert Berkman

MORE ON DEMYSTIFYING ECOLABELS

DEAR MEMBERS,

In "Demystifying Ecolabels," [May 26, 2016 *Linewaiters' Gazette*] the author provides tools for PFSC members to evaluate certification labels and claims while they are shopping. Fellow Coop members should be aware that the Fair Facts evaluations produced by the Domestic Fair Trade Association is an additional crucial resource that can be extremely useful in determining the meaning behind the label.

The Domestic Fair Trade Association (DFTA) is a national membership-based organization in the United States and Canada representing five sectors of the agricultural supply chain—farmers, farmworkers, retailers, intermediaries (processors, manufacturers, and distributors), and other NGOs. The DFTA has developed criteria based on the sixteen principles of Domestic Fair Trade, as defined by its members, in which to evaluate domestic fair trade standards, programs, and products. A diverse group of stakeholders from throughout the agricultural supply chain work together to review these certification labels and determine whether they meet the principles of domestic fair trade.

This inclusive process of evaluating domestic fair trade and social justice claims is what sets the DFTA evaluations apart from other similar efforts. The ISEAL—International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labeling Alliance—is able to provide basic general information from its committee of government officials, large businesses, and certifications about sustainability claims. DFTA evaluations of specific certification labels, on the other hand, include meaningful input from the farmers and the farmworkers who are directly affected by these claims. ISEAL's work to provide clarity to consumers should be commended, but we should also pay attention to the farmers, farmworkers, and retailers close to home who can directly help us demystify these ecolabels.

Erik A. Inwald

[Editor's Note: For further information about the Domestic Fair Trade Association visit www.thedfta.org]

MOHAWK HARVEST COOP

MEMBERS,

My wife and I recently shopped at the Mohawk Valley Coop, located in Gloversville, NY, while vacationing in the Adirondacks. When they learned that we are members of the Park Slope Food Coop, they gave us a 10% discount on the fresh vegetables and fruits. Just out of courtesy to fellow Coop members. They didn't ask for any proof, unless you count our PSFC shopping bag!

One of the reasons the Mohawk Valley Coop was started was to provide employment in an economically depressed town, once the glove-manufacturing center of the U.S. The Coop now supports six full-time jobs. They also buy over \$200,000 of local products. Both important numbers in that area.

If your travels take you to that area, stop by and shop or have lunch at their cafe.

Stewart Pravda

PLASTIC BAG EDUCATION

MEMBERSHIP,

It is interesting, strange and sad that Coop Coordinator Ron Zisa writes (in the July 21 edition of the *Gazette*) that he and none of the Coop staff he spoke with are aware that the Coop Environmental Committee has been educating Coop members about plastic bags for years.

Perhaps he and the staff members he asked don't read the *Gazette*, attend General Meetings or spend time on the Coop floor?

For the record, over the past four years the Environmental Committee has:

- Presented three 20-minute slide shows about the environmental devastation caused by the production, use and disposal of plastic roll bags at GM meetings, followed by discussion;
- Held two additional discussions at GM meetings about the environmental devastation caused by the bags;
- Published six *Gazette*

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

articles about the environmental devastation and health problems associated with plastic bags, and suggestions for shopping without them;

- Published a series of “tips” in the *Gazette* with suggestions for alternatives to the plastic roll bags;

- Published three blog posts about the environmental problems caused by the bags and suggestions for alternatives;

- Published numerous social media posts about the environmental problems caused by the plastic bags and alternatives to using them;

- Created and posted two videos about alternatives to shopping with the plastic roll bags;

- Conducted numerous end-cap tabling events on the Coop floor about the environmental problems caused by plastic roll bags and suggestions for alternatives;



- Sent between 10 and 12 emails to Coop members about the environmental problems caused by plastic roll bags and suggestions for alternatives; and

- Conducted annual Earth Day tabling events that included information about the environmental devastation wrought by the plastic roll bags.

In our ongoing efforts to educate Coop members, we are currently planning to approach the New Member Orientation team to ask for time at each orientation session to brief new members and provide them with a tip sheet on the TerraCycle Recycling efforts and other ways to decrease the use of the disposable plastic roll bags. If the Coop could afford to give each new member a few reusable bags to cut down on the use of plastic roll bags, as the committee has repeatedly recommended, that would be really great and, in fact,

might well pay for itself over time since we spend a small fortune each year on the disposable bags.

All of this education, and more, has been conducted by committee members who, let's remember, are supposed to devote just 2.75 hours each month to Coop work, although in reality we have all devoted much more time.

Given all this, Ron Zisa's comments are rather mystifying, particularly given his stated passion for the issue.

Regina Weiss

RON ZISA'S RESPONSE

DEAR MEMBERSHIP,

My name is Ron Zisa and for nearly 15 years I have been the Coordinator responsible for Bulk and Food Processing, both areas of the Coop that see a high use of plastic bags. I am passionate and committed to actively educating the membership to use less plastic.

My original letter was a response to a letter written in the *Gazette* by Regina Weiss. In that letter she claimed that the Environmental Committee has been actively educating the membership. Her response to that letter is above.

As a Coordinator I have always made it a habit to read each new issue of the *Gazette* as a way of being connected to the membership. I have not attended many General Meetings because I am usually working while they are happening and at our weekly staff meeting we get a GM report.



The information I am presenting was collected from General Coordinators, Coordinators, research and personal knowledge. At a GM there is an opportunity for all Committees to give reports to update the membership, out of roughly 48 meetings the Environmental Committee only reported to the membership four times. The two additional discussions mentioned, occurred because of the proposal to ban plastic bags.

In four years there were approximately 104 publications of the *Gazette*, 6 that had articles from the EC. Out of 1,424 days to blog, only three postings were done. As far as social media I am not sure what media Regina Weiss is referring to and after looking I could only find one video on the EC web page from 2012. The three end cap tabling events, two were done prior to the first proposed ban vote and the third was done prior to the most recent. Out of more than 15,000 members were the 10-12 letters sent in response to members reaching out to the EC?

Having info for new members at orientation is one of the best ideas the Committee has come up with in four years. For the record, the TerraCycling Committee founded by my good friend Rose Calderon, was an idea that she had spoken to me about years ago.

I hope that this has helped to demystify my comments from my original letter that has sparked members to approach me in a positive manner and started a number of conversations about plastic bag use at the Coop.

I hope that our letters begin a deeper conversation and awareness within the whole membership.

Ron Zisa

Bulk and Food Processing
Coordinator

COOP CHARTER, POLITICAL ADVOCACY AND THE HARM PRINCIPLE

DEAR MEMBERS,

Thanks to Barbara Mazor for the articulate letter clarifying the Coop's charter and the inconsistency of the political advocacy. I wish to make an additional point.

When members attend the general meeting (GM) they agree to attend the entire meeting in order to get work-slot credit for the time spent. I do not have issue with that policy. However, because of this constraint all attending members become a captive audience.

When the floor is open to members making political advocacy at the GM the attending members do not have the option to walk out. For this reason, it is incon-

sistent with the harm principle. If the Board wishes to encourage “committees” and other members indulge in political advocacy let them do so in the *Linewaiters' Gazette*. Members then have the option to not read or use the page to line the birdcage.

The Agenda Committee should not allow such topics at the GM for they are inconsistent with the Coop charter and the harm principle as it affects the attending members who may not share the political views.

Amol Kaikini

ENOUGH ALREADY!

DEAR MEMBERSHIP,

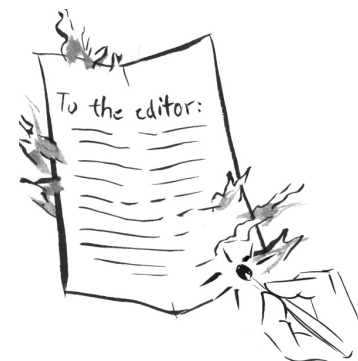
In early 2016, someone from PSFC threatened online to sue the Coop for democratically adopting a Boycott Supermajority. Their selective memory of those events is as follows: “What happened at the January 2016 meeting was a travesty of democratic procedure. The chairwoman prevented all but one motion to table the 75% supermajority proposal from being presented...so the Park Slope Food Coop BDS group is considering our options for redress. It may mean we need a lawsuit, since the coop structure does not offer a procedure to overturn the incorrect decisions of the chairperson.”* As Coop Secretary, I have audio-recorded evidence against this tissue-paper-thin accusation.

Then at our June General Meeting, someone from BDS spoke during open forum. From the audio recording: “We have filed a formal complaint with the Coop Personnel Committee that oversees the General Coordinators. We are demanding they overturn the General Coordinators decision to ban events about Sodastream, BDS, or boycotts related to those subjects from the Coop meeting room.” So with nowhere left to turn they threaten frivolous litigation, and pounce on the General Coordinators who have dedicated decades of their lives to make this place work.

Through the years, BDS has earned many a defeat here at the Coop. They lost the fight against a 75% minimum for divisive boycotts. Lost elections to the Board.

Failed to politicize the Agenda Committee when demanding a place at the front of the line. Failed to shoehorn insignificant references to themselves into the General Meeting Minutes. Refused to acknowledge the simple and multiple explanations as to why every public space in Brooklyn recoils at hosting a General Meeting where they take center stage. And by attempting to skitter past the rules for our Meeting Room have now made it off-limits for everyone concerned with Middle East issues.

BDS has cost PSFC tens of thousands of dollars just to host their agenda items. BDS is silent on progressive labor rights when staff and the *Gazette* work far beyond standard 2-and-3/4 hour shifts responding to yet another boycott-related maneuver. BDS has no official presence or purpose here. They have no positive impact on operations. BDS simply points fingers without helping PSFC or a single Palestinian.



BDS are neither victims nor heroes. In fact they have been extended every courtesy while they impose upon us their self-acknowledged and selfish goal of maintaining a high-profile. Now their latest gambits are to drag us into expensive litigation and vent their defeats upon the GC's. This was all barely tolerable, but now BDS has begun to attack the Coop itself.

Arguably, BDS is willfully acting to undermine our cooperative business. I call upon membership to repeat it every chance they get, as well as to lend any and all support for our General Coordinators.

Jesse Rosenfeld

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

INTERNATIONAL TRADE EDUCATION SQUAD REPORT

Passing TPP Would Facilitate Climate Chaos, Congress Members Are in District During the Summer Recess

By Susan Metz with Sarah Westlake, International Trade Education Squad (ITES)

So far, 2016 is the warmest year on record. The Coop endorsed the recent "March for a Clean Energy Revolution" held before the Democratic National Convention last month. ITES participated in planning the action, and members marched with the "No TPP" contingent. The demands of the march included—Ban Fracking Now, Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground, and Environmental Justice for All. There was such a strong No TPP voice because passing the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) would block attempts to control climate change.

Despite plenty of protest, the Democrats did not include No TPP on their presidential platform. They designated a series of criteria, which the TPP does not meet. That implies disapproval but does not guarantee opposition. ITES recommends that we continue to pressure Hillary Clinton and Chuck Schumer to be consistent and vocal

and visible with their criticism of this latest and largest Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Both are powerful figures identified with Brooklyn. We can assure them that the unity of their party will be strengthened by a show of support for the future administration backed up by clear public opinion. Donald Trump vigorously opposes FTAs. President Obama is ready to present the TPP legislation to the lame-duck session of Congress after the election and before the new session begins in January.

Congress members are home until after Labor Day. Should you see a representative from Brooklyn, thank her/him. In June, all of them voted against Trade Promotion Authority aka Fast Track. Fast Track legislation limits congressional debate and mandates one Yes or No vote on the entire 30 chapters of the TPP.

Three NYC metro area House members need convincing. Joseph Crowley (CD 14 covering parts of Queens and the Bronx) is the powerful leader of the Queens

Democratic Party. No effort to educate him about the dangers of global warming, fracking, extreme energy infrastructure construction, the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), and the TPP will be wasted. Gregory Meeks (CD5 Queens and covering sections of Nassau and Suffolk) has been consistently pro-free trade. Charles Rangel (CD 13 upper Manhattan) is retiring. He has gone every which way on the issue and is now liberated from his constituency.

"If the Obama forces and their corporate investor allies cannot count on 200 Yes votes (out of the 435 in the House) by October, they won't send the TPP to the lame-duck session of congress" said Lori Wallach of Public Citizen Global Trade Watch recently. "They need to hear continually that they can with dignity disagree with President Obama and let the incoming administration respond to the overwhelming public conviction that the TPP is destructive to our common aspirations for a decent quality of life within a pluralistic and democratic society. Framed accurately, as a corporate power grab, the TPP can be defeated."

If the TPP passes and if the fracked gas passing through infrastructure now being built is headed for one of the 12 signatory TPP countries, these and other projects would advance without any environmental review, by-passing even the currently dysfunctional federal Department of Energy 401 Certification process. Other nations (China too) could "dock on" to the TPP and receive the same privileges. Communities and governments at every level would lose control over the extraction, transport, export, and burning of natural gas. Information is on Stop the Pipelines.org. Particularly dangerous is the enforcement strategy built into FTAs. Examples of the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) included in previous FTAs provide a warning.

Using the ISDS in NAFTA, Trans-Canada recently initiated a suit against the U.S.

They want \$15 billion of taxpayer funds to make up for the loss of expected profits because President Obama

trade-deals-illegal. ITES will continue to keep you up-to-date.

We regret that, due to

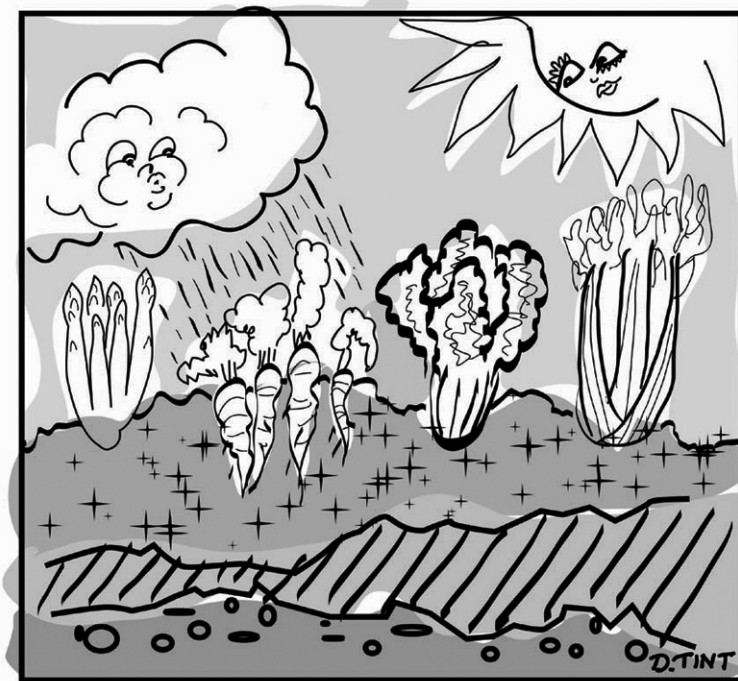


ILLUSTRATION BY DEBORAH TINT

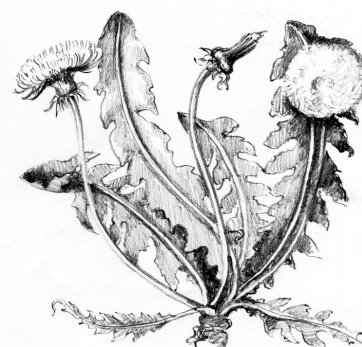
rejected the Keystone XL Pipeline. The ISDS in TPP would give 900 more multinational corporations the right to sue the U.S. government.

Maya K. Van Rossum Esq. litigates on behalf of communities opposing liquid natural gas (LNG) pipelines and testifies before governmental bodies representing the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. She told us that so far 608 ISDS cases have been initiated under previous FTAs. Corporate investors won 40% of the cases heard. As a result, nearly \$4 billion in damages from governments are supposed to be paid to corporations. About 300 local bans and moratoria on fracking could be challenged and might be overturned using the ISDS written into the TPP. Continued construction of extreme energy infrastructure invites investors to initiate ISDS cases if their hopes for riches are disappointed.

The world would face legal as well as ecological chaos should TPP pass. Recently, Alfred de Zayas—the United Nation's Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order—was quoted as saying "The proposed treaty violates international laws and is inconsistent with democracy." <http://www.countercurrents.org/2016/06/25/u-n-s-legal-expert-calls-proposed->

lack of space, explanations of jargon and concepts can't be repeated in every ITES Report. They're on the blog CoopITES.wordpress.com and ITES Facebook page.

Previous reports explain sections of the TPP and its process through our political system. Sources are researchers, journalists, public figures, and advocacy organizations not regularly heard on commercial mass media. The next Public Forum (open also to non-members) will be on Saturday, October 1 at 12:30 p.m. The International Trade Education Squad was created in September 2014 to tell members about the potential impacts of international trade not available elsewhere and also to recommend individual and collective action. A discussion item to reauthorize ITES is scheduled for the August 30 GM. You can sign up for a work-slot credit to participate. Bring questions, concerns, and suggestions. We look forward to your comments and your support. ■




COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF A SECOND LOCATION FOR THE COOP

Members interested in serving on the committee should have significant professional experience in at least one of these areas:

- commercial real estate • construction planning and management
- finance • feasibility studies • business planning
- community organizing • administration

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST ALSO SHARE A CONCERN FOR THE COOP'S SUSTAINABILITY AND FOUNDATIONAL VALUES.

The work of the committee could take up to 18 months. The committee will have a regularly scheduled monthly meeting. In addition, committee members should expect to put in more than the minimum work requirement for the duration of the study.

If you feel you have the qualifications to be considered for participation on the study committee, please state your interest and relevant experience at:

<http://bit.ly/PSFC2ndLocation>

Thank you for your interest.
The General Coordinators

Solution to this issue's sudoku puzzle

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



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.



Organic Cold Pressed Juices

Organic Superfood Smoothies

Organic Wraps & Salads

PS Coop members enjoy a 15% discount on all Bklyn Juice Label beverages (show your card)
75A 5th Ave Brooklyn

FOLLOW
the Food Coop on



Pinterest @foodcoop

CLASSIFIEDS

AVAILABLE

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

MADISON AVENUE HAIRCUTTER is right around the corner from the 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.



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

Anger Management Group starting in Fall of 2016. Get help and techniques in handling your anger. Run by certified Anger Management Specialist and LIC. Psychoanalyst Ray Reichenberg 917-627-6047 for more information.



BED & BREAKFAST

LARGE, SUNNY ROOM with queen bed, semi-private bath, in spacious Prospect Heights townhouse full of Victorian charm with modern amenities. Smoke-free, no pets. Close to Q, B, 2, 3 stations. Short walk to all Brooklyn cultural attractions. Margaret 718-622-2897.

BED & BREAKFAST, THE HOUSE ON 3RD ST, serving Park Slope for

over 20 yrs. Large floor-thru, located between 5th and 6th Ave. Parlor floor, sleeps 4-5, private bath, deck, AC, wifi, kitchenette, 12' ceilings! houseon3st.com, or call Jane, 718-788-7171. Grandparents are our specialty.

MERCHANDISE-NONCOMMERCIAL

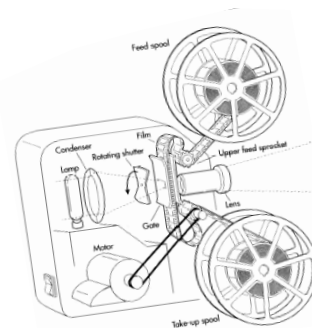
ClIomega 500GB eGo USB 3.0 Portable External Hard Drive + cable, \$30 each, 2 available. Backup/store large files/video. Lightweight metal enclosures: 5t.625 x 3.5 x 5/8. Hardened Drop Guard protects when dropped. Transfer speeds up to 5 Gbits/s. No external AC needed. Compatible with USB 2.0 slowen@verizon.net.

PETS

Debbie, aka "Precious," needs a home!! I love her but my place is too small and I can only take 2 of 3 rescue cats to new apt. Disabled pet mom. TEXT 718-669-3714. She's an adoring long-hair black cat.

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.



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 2-20lbs, a few may weigh up to 50 lbs.

OFFICE SET-UP
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
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.



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

This shift requires extensive training with a member of the paid staff, and therefore requires a six-month commitment. You must have good attendance to join this squad and must be a member for at least six months. As a member of the PARM Squad, you'll prepare designated cheeses for sale. You should be fit enough to cooperate with other members to lift 90 lbs. (a wheel of parmesan). Involves also cutting hard cheese, moving in and out of the cooler. All members of the squad must follow the hygiene

and safety guidelines as stipulated in the Food Processing manual. Please provide your e-mail address to be added to the shift-swapping contact list. Interested members must speak to Britt before joining this squad: britt_henriksson@psfc.coop.

ATTENDANCE RECORDERS
Tuesday, Friday,
6 to 8:30 p.m.

The Coop needs detail-oriented members to help maintain attendance records for Coop workers. You will need to work independently, be self-motivated and reliable. Good attendance is a requirement. Members will be trained for this position, and staff members are available for further assistance. Workslot requires a six-month commitment. Please contact Lewanika in the Membership Office at 718-622-0560 if you would like more information.

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

This job involves meticulous deep cleaning of the store's checkout equipment & furniture. Workers are required to read & follow detailed instructions for cleaning the scales, printers, & monitors as well as cleaning the furniture & organizing checkout worker's tools & supplies. Must arrive on time at 6 a.m. Please report to Cynthia Pennycooke on your first work shift.

ENTRANCE DESK
Tuesday, 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 infor-

mation 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.

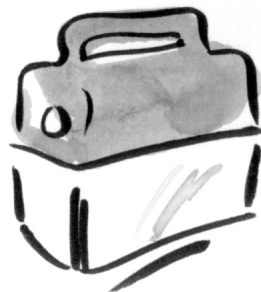


BATHROOM CLEANING
Monday, Wednesday,
12 to 2 p.m.

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.

LAUNDRY AND TOY CLEANING
Friday, Saturday,
8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

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



THANK YOU!

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

Joseph A.
Zak Accuardi
Miranda Alquist
Anna Anderson
Andreas
Gina Angelotti
Marc Atkinson
Stephanie
Bergeron
Meghan Bernhardt
Rory Bernstein
Claude Bherer
Micaela Blei
Victoria Bulgakova
Becca Bull
Whitney Bull
Anna Carapetyan
Anna Carl

Monica Cathcart
Charlotte Cerf
Marc Kipyung
Choi
David Cohen
Elizabeth Cote
Daria Cullen
Colleen D.
David Daniels
Sandra Davila
Ashley Davis
Coleen Devol
Robindra Deb
Karishma Desai
Robert Drapkin
Emily Drum
Eloise Eonnet
Pepper Fajans

Elizabeth Fine
Robert Florin
Stephanie Forsman
Sarah Foudy
Anikke Fox
Myk Freedman
Cait G.
Suzanne
Glickstein
Jamie Goldenberg
Shifra Goldenberg
Natalie Green
Dahyana Grullon
Christopher Grygo
Karen Guccione
Thomas Guccione
Robert Gullixson
Marshall Hagins

Anna Hanau
Dan Hirschi
Emma Hoette
Benjamin
Holzman
Soren Hope
Hansdale Hsu
Agnes Hui
Sofia Impellizzeri
Jo Irwin
Jason
Renee Iselin
Karen Jefferson
Kate Johnson
Latisha Jones
Julian Elisha Kahan
Hisae Kawamori
Balem Kim

Raffi Kiureghian
Kelli Knabe
Sayam Kochar
Douglas Kocher
Sydelle Kramer
Eugene Kurochkin
Tiffany Lacker
Inbal Lavotshkin
Faye Lederman
Steve Levin
Rachel Lipstein
Alejandro Lorenzo
Sara Lucas
Bettina Magi
Jennifer Mahnaz
Fayre Makeig
Prem Makeig
Jane Marke

Jessica de Marville
Tina McBroom
Anne McNevin
Eric Moore
Rose Nestler
Anthony Nguyen
Sherry Oblas
Maria Paz Ochoa
Baila Olidort
Liz Opoka
Michelle Peake
Jerome Petitgand
Anh-Hao Phan
Lana Povitz
Gus Powell
Jerry Pura
Frances
Rabinowitz

Carolina Ramirez
Marissa Rhodes
Katipai
Richardson-Wilson
Frank Riina
Faygy Rubashkin
Adrian Fernando
Ruvalcaba
Rachel Ryan
Daniella Samper
Daniele Santoro
Dalit Shalom
Lida Shao
Sarah Sills
Alex Silva
Vivian Siu
Mayuko Soga
Tahiti Starship

Jo Stewart
Emma Stieglitz
Margaret Stix
Raymond Storms
Hayley Swinburne
Aileen Taylor
Christina
Van Der Veen
Betsy Wade
Sabrina Waijers
Joshua Waletzky
Jessica Wang
Kit Warren