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Coop Member's New Art Book Spotlights the Power of Cooperation

By Rachel Blatt

It was a sizzling hot June morning in Brooklyn, and Coop member Yoav Litvin was making his way toward one of the most polluted industrial sites in the United States, Bushwick's Newtown Creek. A brain scientist by training, the purpose of Litvin's trip would have surprised those who knew him from his post at Rockefeller University. That morning, with a camera in hand, he was traveling alongside a man with the moniker "Square" and a woman who goes by "bunnyM," two revered street artists who were about to start work on a new outdoor mural. Litvin wasn't wearing his scientist's cap, he was there pursuing a newer passion: documenting New York City's street art and graffiti duos for his latest book *2Create: Art Collaborations in New York City*.

In our city of hundreds of languages, backgrounds, customs and traditions, Litvin believes one language serves to unite us: Art. "As it touches on our collective humanity, art provides a structured yet malleable framework to express ideas, challenge conceptions, and explore new frontiers," he writes in the prologue of *2Create*, which will be out October 28, and is previewing next week at the New York Comic Con.

Along with Square and

bunnyM, *2Create* documents collaborations by nine street artist duos working all over New York City, ranging from the swampy Newtown Creek to Union Square's busy N, R, Q platform. In some cases, Litvin brought the artists together. In other cases, the collaborations were already happening and Litvin just tagged along (no pun intended). Regardless, his close relationships to the creators and his attention to detail elevate his photographs, making *2Create* a platform that explores the social and political significance of the artists' processes and creations.

"I'm very distressed about what's going on around us, from the climate, to wars, to capitalism in general," Litvin told the *Linewaiters' Gazette*, but there's something about street art that gives him solace. "The artists I know capture a kind of pure, radical mentality or expression that resonates with me. It's what's needed right now."

The book is the fulfillment of Litvin's mission to bring the collaborative power of street art to those who may not ordinarily notice or appreciate it. "The different styles of work, personalities and collaborative styles are aimed at providing a comprehensive (though not exhaustive) case study of the individual and the collaborative process," he wrote.

Litvin is hopeful his duos will find some fans at the Coop. "Of course, a cooperative like the Park Slope Food Coop is much more advanced in terms of collaboration. But if you boil it all down, it's made up of a lot of relationships."

In our city of hundreds of languages, backgrounds, customs and traditions, Litvin believes one language serves to unite us: Art.

Litvin literally stumbled into street art four years ago. In 2012, recovering from a squash injury that left him unable to do anything comfortably but walk, he would roam around the city for hours, sometimes walking 20 miles in a day. The New York City of the 1980s he'd grown up in had been "completely bombed, there were tags everywhere and big productions on the subway cars. It was amazing." But Litvin had never written graffiti himself or known much about it. "Walking around after the accident, I just thought wow, I should take a camera with me because there is all this beautiful art out here!"

Litvin took many photographs and began to post

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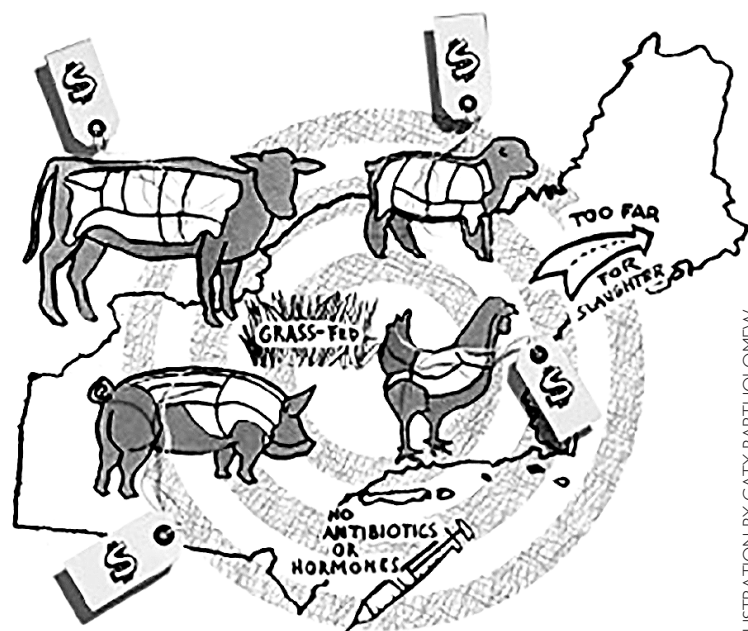


ILLUSTRATION BY CATY BARTHOLOMEW

The Meat We Eat Separate and Unequal

By Rene Brinkley

"Eat meat, eat meat, filet mignon
Eat meat, eat meat, eat it all day long
Eat a few T-bones till you get your fill
Eat a New York cut, hot off the grill..."

Americans love meat! Our passion for it has been captured in many songs, such as "Eat Steak" by Rev. Horton Heat, quoted above. It's not only steak we crave. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in 2012, the average American consumed 71.2 pounds of red meat and 54.1 pounds of poultry. But all of this meat is not created

equally. What consumers pay depends on the animal's path to slaughter. Was the cow raised on a small farm eating grass, or did it do time on a factory farm? Last year *Consumer Reports* found that the average price of grass-fed organic beef was \$7.83 per pound vs. "conventional" beef at \$4.95 per pound. So

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Next General Meeting on October 25

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The September General Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 25, at 7:00 p.m. at **St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.**

For more information about the GM and about Coop governance, please see the center of this issue.

Coop Event Highlights

Thu, Oct 6 • Food Class:
Basic Cooking Techniques: Tempeh 101 7:30 p.m.

Fri, Oct 7 • Film Night: Knight of Cups 7:00 p.m.

Tue, Oct 11 • Plow-to-Plate Film:
Symphony of the Soil 7:00 p.m.

Fri, Oct 14 • Wordsprouts: A Night of Poetry 7:00 p.m.

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

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Art Book

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them online using the hashtag “#streetart.” (On online social networks, a hashtag is a type of label that makes it easier for users to find messages with a specific theme.) Unwittingly, Litvin joined a thriving community of documenters engaged in an informal knowledge project around street art.

In particular, users on the photo-sharing social network Instagram played a crucial role in helping Litvin figure out who made the pieces he was photographing. “There are literally people who go through all these tags because they are just so passionate about it,” Litvin says. “There would always be someone out there who knew who the artist I photographed was, and they would tag the artist’s name.” Knowing who the

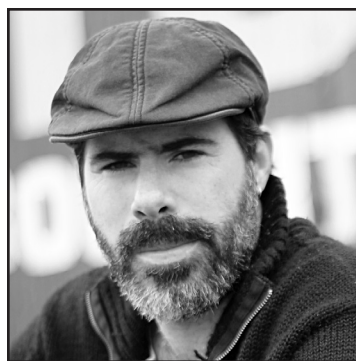
creator was, Litvin could go to their profile, follow them and peek around to see what other artists they were following.

While working at Rockefeller University, Litvin got another big break at Faculty Club, the on-campus bar. “I just happened to sit next to a man who I knew was an electrician, and I started talking to him about how excited I was about the pictures I was taking.” The electrician turned out to be Coco 184, one of the first graffiti artists who tagged in the late 1960s in Washington Heights. The two became friends and Coco 184 started taking Litvin to shows and introducing him to other artists in the community.

By 2014, Litvin had enough material to publish his first book, *Outdoor Gallery*, which profiled 46 of the most prevalent contemporary street artists in New York. Working with those



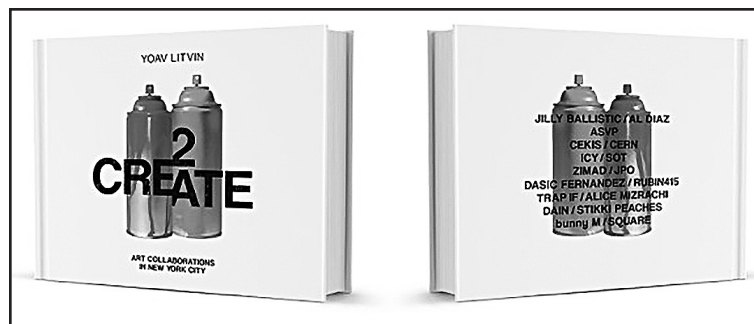
Wall artwork with artists.



Author/photographer
Yoav Litvin.

artists, he’d already become fascinated with another angle: so many of them seemed to also work in pairs. In his work as a neuroscientist, Litvin had been researching social behavior. “Human beings are designed to be social, but that’s at odds with capitalism, which is very much about celebrating the individual and about dividing us. It led me to be interested in cooperative models and the way they are playing out in art.”

From chapter to chapter, *2Create* readers can experience a continuum of collaborative styles. Chapter 1, for example, features Jilly Ballistic (she calls herself “New York City’s most well-known unknown subway artist”) and Al Diaz (an old buddy of Jean-Michel Basquiat) demonstrating what Litvin calls “complementary collaboration.” The two artists worked separately in their own studios, then met up in Union Square with their respective pieces to scope out the spot where their two works would come together as one. Diaz uses lettering from “Wet Paint” signs and MTA Service Change Alerts he finds in subway stations to convey radical, poetic messages. For this project, his message read “AN EMPIRE IN DECLINE.” Ballistic’s collage featured her signature black-and-white, cut-out military figures. The result-



Back and front book covers from *2Create*.



Illustration of street artist.

ing installation was a subdued and ominous challenge to subway passersby.

Litvin documents other models like “integrative collaboration,” where he says, “you really can’t tell who did what.” Back in Bushwick, where we left bunnyM and Square, a week has gone by and there’s still no current in the water, just a 15-foot layer of toxic sludge forming on the creek bed, which Litvin has likened to “black mayonnaise” in his book’s final chapter. Both artists have painted giant snakes, one gray and knobby, the other bright pink and purple with radioactive green eyes. “Each snake has its own corner, and then they meet.

Are they in a love embrace or are they going to kill each other? What happens when they both come together?” Litvin asks. “It’s a perfect mural to end the book with.” ■

2Create is available for pre-order now and will go on sale October 28. An official launch party will take place November 18 at the Bronx Museum, where Litvin and fellow photographer Tau Battice will be showing additional portraits of duos in Harlem and the South Bronx. The Peace Poets, a spoken word performance group based in the Bronx, will also perform. For more information, visit <https://m.facebook.com/2createart/>

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/package 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



BREAKING NEWS

A member was arrested at the Coop on Friday, September 16, after leaving the Coop with unpaid-for goods.

If you see what you believe is shoplifting, please don't intervene but note time, location, any other details, and leave the information with staff. ■

Getting Schools to Buy Local Produce, and Getting Kids to Eat It

By Leila Darabi

This year, schools in the North Country region of upstate New York will take part in a pilot “Farm to School” program that offers schools money to buy and serve local produce. Nearly half of schools across the country take part in similar programs, with states providing incentives for school cafeterias to buy local produce. But getting such an effort up and running is easier said than done.

The Farmer

For Dan Kent of Kent Family Growers, adding the local school district to his list of customers holds great appeal. Currently, he and his wife sell roughly 60 percent of their crops through their CSA program, and another 30 percent to the Coop, which is 400 miles from their farm. By contrast, schools are just down the road. And while Kent doesn’t want to reduce the quantity of vegetables shipped to the Coop and other New York City-based customers, he said, “There’s an elegance to the notion of having your produce going four miles away.”

When local Assemblywoman Addie J. Russell announced the pilot funding in his area, Kent reached out right away to the two schools nearest him. A third party then contacted him to submit a bid to one school for September and October, requesting a bid of crops but not specifying volume. By the time of print, Kent was still waiting to hear if his bid had been accepted.

Even if accepted, Kent worries that partnering with schools could pose new challenges to his growing business. For example, he ships

whole bunches of broccoli to his CSA program and the Coop. A school lunch program might need to acquire broccoli pre-cut into florets, which Kent Family Growers doesn’t have the capacity to provide.

The School Lunch Program Director

Bridget O’Brien Wood, food service director for Buffalo schools, agrees lack of knife skills and the ability to prep fresh produce pose a challenge to school cafeterias. Her school district, like many others, has moved toward a centralized model of preparing food in one large cafeteria and ferrying it to other schools to reheat. Many of the schools she covers don’t have fully equipped kitchens or skilled staff to operate them.

...for a student to try and like a new dish, he or she needs to be exposed to it several times, and try it up to nine times before it becomes familiar.

Last year, Buffalo schools piloted a successful Farm to School program with “Taste Test Thursdays,” and this year they are organizing a series of “Top Chef”-style cook offs, with local chefs visiting schools. New York State produce seasons, O’Brien Wood points out, can make menu planning tricky, with limited options during the months that kids go back to school. Promoting the new menu items also posed a staffing challenge. Teachers didn’t have time to discuss lunchtime options during classes, and lunch aides were busy preparing and serving the food.

“Many, many of our students had never had a Brussels sprout, and from what I understand, neither had their parents,” she said.

Through trial, error and taste tests, Buffalo discovered that students loved kale apple salad, and that topping Brussels sprouts with low-sodium, low-fat cheese meant kids would try them. “Kids will eat anything with cheese on it,” she said.

Informing kids about the new menu items, and getting them to try them then provide feedback, required volunteers to camp out at schools over multiple lunch periods for weeks. Promoting the new menu items also posed a staffing challenge. Teachers didn’t have time to discuss lunchtime options during classes, and lunch aides were busy preparing and serving the food.

The Academic

Professor David Just, Co-Director of the Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Programs, confirms that getting fresh local produce on the menu is only the first step. The next step is getting kids to try new foods. His research centers on marketing healthy choices to children.

“Anything we can do that gives kids more of a social or emotional connection to fruits and vegetables in particular makes them more likely to eat it, and something they’re more likely to look forward to, and they’ll try,” he said.

According to Just, for a student to try and like a new dish, he or she needs to be exposed to it several times, and try it up to nine times before it becomes familiar. Kids, he



From left to right, Ava and Jonah Barash and Phoebe and Mavis Kelley (PS 154).

PHOTOS BY CAROLINE MARDOK

explained, instinctively fear new things, and most won’t expand their palates without some coaxing. His research focuses on how to spoon feed kids better nutrition, without huge costs to parents and communities.

Simple, affordable cafeteria hacks have shown much promise, according to Just. He and his colleagues have found that kid friendly language on menus, “x-ray vision carrots” for example, encourage kids to try new things. Placement is also key. Cafeterias that put fruit out in baskets instead of behind the lunch counter have seen a doubling in students eating a piece of fruit with lunch.

Cooking shows, Just said, have skyrocketed in popularity, and also provide new ways to market to younger consumers. Programs like the one in Buffalo hold promise, though they require more resources than fruit baskets.

The Advocates

According to Anupama Joshi, Executive Director of the National Farm to School Network, the movement to connect school kids to local organic produce sprung up in the 1990s, catalyzed by parents, chef Alice Waters in Berkeley, and the New North Florida Farmers’ Cooperative, a group of African American farmers hoping to diversify their customers.

By the early 2000s, the USDA and states across the country had set up programs to train farmers and school employees. New York has long been on the forefront of this movement, with programs that include a student-run hydroponic farm in Harlem. But New York, especially New York City schools, serve incredibly high volumes of students. Not every school can afford to build and service an urban farm.

The state government has struggled with these budget challenges and worked to make selling produce to local schools a profitable option for local farmers. Richard A. Ball, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, said that when he took office, schools in his school district were procuring apples from Washington state, despite New York being the second-largest apple-producing state in the country. Similarly, local farmers were shipping apples to far-away school districts and other customers, missing out on the opportunity to sell their fruit closer to home. Ball said Governor Cuomo called him when he took office and asked, “How do we make sure New York is New York’s number one customer?”

Buying local and organic, as we all know, can be expensive. As New York State Farm to School Network lead James Liebow points out, after labor and overhead costs, school cafeteria heads have an average of just \$1.30 per student to purchase lunch ingredients, a budget that favors surplus deals and leaves little room for picking organic over cheaper options.

The Way Forward

Liebow and his colleagues focus their advocacy on increased funding to offset these costs. Last year, advocates got an increase from \$5 to \$10 million written into legislation as part of funding reauthorization for child nutrition. The new funding would help to expand Farm to School programs to reach underserved communities, including native populations. Congress never voted on the reauthorization, so advocates are now focused on ensuring that this issue gets a vote when lawmakers return to session. ■



From left to right, Jack Schoeppach (ISB), Ashtin Ramo (PS 133) and Veronika Zloveche (Children’s School).

Meat We Eat

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how did we arrive at two separate and unequal paths for the meat we eat?

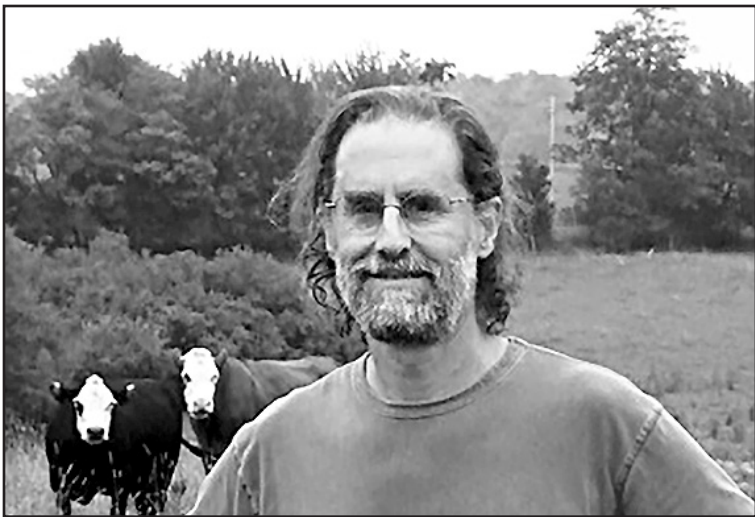
The Meat Jungle

"This is no fairy story and no joke; the meat will be shoveled into carts and the man who did the shoveling will not trouble to lift out a rat even when he saw one." — Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*

But all of this meat is not created equally. What consumers pay depends on the animal's path to slaughter.

Upton Sinclair's novel, *The Jungle*, shocked the nation with its vivid portrayals of Chicago's meatpacking plants. The muckraking journalist's book inspired passage of the first meat inspection act of 1906. This law mandated federal inspections of livestock that crossed state lines, and also established sanitary standards for slaughterhouses. Each state was left to set its own safety and inspection standards for meat sold within that state, until 1967 when the law was amended.

The Wholesome Meat Act of 1967 required states to develop meat inspection programs that met the same standards as the federal system. At the signing of the bill,



Ken Jaffe of Slope Farms sells Slope Farms beef to the Coop.

President Lyndon Johnson described the law as a "landmark in consumer protection." However almost 50 years later, some argue that this law had a devastating impact on small farmers. "The 1967 Wholesome Meat Act has been a disaster," remarks Pete Kennedy of the Farm to Consumer Legal Defense Fund. "It was a much more competitive industry back then," he continues, "now you have a cartel where four companies control over 80% of meat packing for beef in this country and four companies control over 60% for pork."

The Rise of Cheap Meat

The rise of the industrial meat complex, whereby several large companies control the majority of the meat supply in this country, has led to inexpensive, readily available meat. The industry accomplished this in part by transforming the farm into a

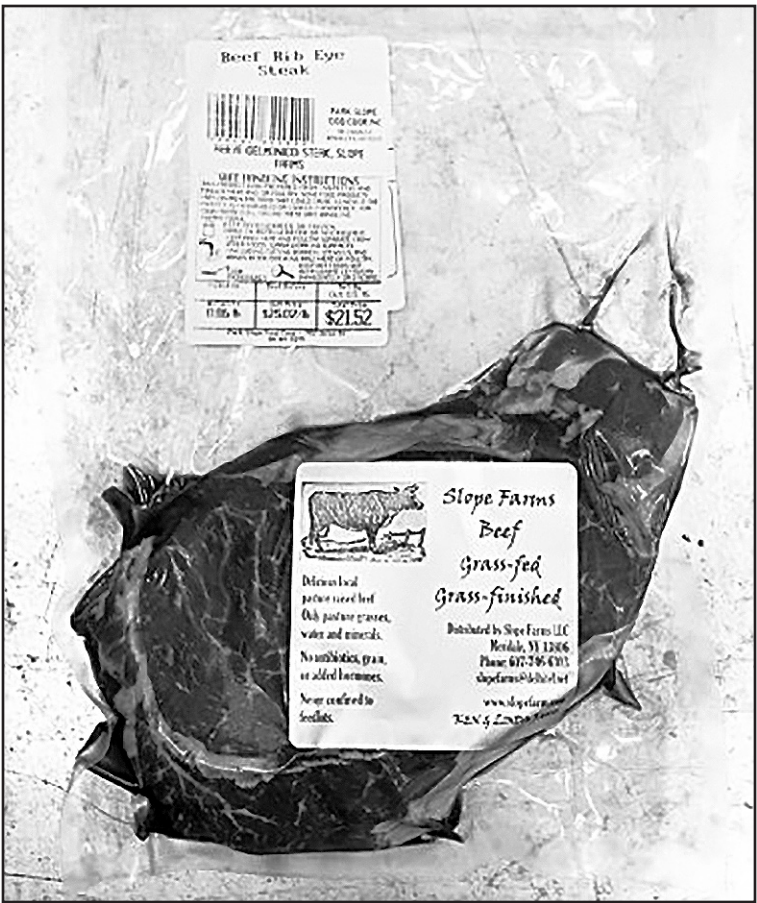
factory where thousands of animals are housed together, fed a diet of grain, and given antibiotics to combat sickness and hormones to make them grow faster and fatter. The process is incredibly efficient, and has helped to feed a nation of hungry meat eaters. But while the price is kept low, critics say the real cost is much higher. They point to problems such as poor labor practices, inhumane treatment of animals, environmental degradation and the use of antibiotics and hormones which ends up in the meat we eat.

Local Meat Ain't Cheap

As the commercial meat industry continues to produce low-cost meat for the masses, some small farmers have committed to raising their livestock in a humane and sustainable manner—which is not cheap. One reason is because these farmers have higher production costs.

Ken Jaffe, owner of Slope Farms in upstate New York, has been raising beef for 12 years. He said "A grass-fed animal takes longer to get ready for market. The animals are a bit older, so they have to be fed for a longer period of time, and it adds to cost." It can take a year longer to prepare a grass-fed animal for slaughter. Jaffe, who was one of the first farmers to supply meat to the Park Slope Food Coop, does not use chemical fertilizers, and he doesn't give his animals drugs for growth promotion. He said these decisions affect the price of local meat, "You are paying a somewhat higher price for the absence of two things—antibiotics and hormones in your food. You are paying more to not have cattle eat genetically modified grain grown in a way that has environmental problems."

Another reason cited for higher local meat prices: a current law. "The Wholesome Meat Act of 1967 raised the cost of compliance so much



Pasture-raised rib eye from Ken and Linda Jaffe's Slope Farms, on sale at the Coop.

for small plants that many shut down," explains Kennedy. At the time of the Wholesome Meat Act, there were approximately 10,000 slaughterhouses in this country, and today there are a little over 2,700. For the farmer this means higher transportation costs as many are forced to haul their animals several hours away to reach a slaughterhouse with a federal inspector. It also means higher processing costs because slaughterhouses can charge more due to less competition.

A final reason given for the price difference in meat was the role of government policy. Jaffe states, "Factory farmed meat is cheaper than local meat because the grains they use are subsidized by the federal government. They pay farmers to grow those things but no one is paying us to grow grass."

Local Meat Action

Despite the higher price for local meat, demand for it has continued to increase. This is due to many factors, including environmental benefits, health benefits, taste difference, a desire to support local farms, concerns about the safety of commercial meat and concerns about animal welfare. Small farmers are finding they are unable to meet the growing demand in large part due to the limited number of processing facilities with federal inspectors. In July of 2015, Rep Chellie Pingree (D-Maine) along

with Rep Thomas Massie (R-Kentucky) set out to solve this problem with the introduction of the Processing Revival and Intrastate Meat Exemption, known as the Prime Act. "This bill would give small farmers more options for slaughtering and processing their meat," noted Rep. Pingree, "We are trying to lift the federal restriction on meat processed in custom processing plants that prohibit farmers from selling that meat to a consumer or restaurant." Custom processing plants are regulated by the state and do not have federal inspectors on site. As a result, meat processed at these plants can't be sold to the public.

The Prime Act returns power back to the states by basically repealing the Wholesome Meat Act of 1967. States would have the option of setting their own standards and regulations for meat sold within their borders. Pete Kennedy of the Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund helped to draft the law, and believes this is the best way to help small farmers. He said, "Right now things are not working. There are fewer slaughterhouses than ever, and a number of them are vertically integrated, where there is no small producer access. The Prime act would help to rebuild the local meat infrastructure and give small producers a chance to access the potential markets they have out there." Rep. Pin-

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.

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

Puzzle author: Abdul Powell. For answers, see page 14.

☆☆☆☆☆ EXCITING WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITIES ☆☆☆☆☆

RECEIVING PRODUCE

Monday–Friday, 5 to 7:30 a.m.

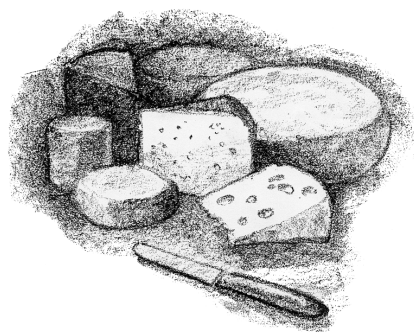
The Coop is looking for members to work in the produce area. Responsibilities include: lifting boxes, unloading deliveries, stacking boxes in the basement. You should be willing to get or have wet hands while you are working. Boxes usually weigh between 2 and 20 lbs, a few may weigh up to 50 lbs.

PARM SQUAD

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Various times

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

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



OFFICE SET-UP

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 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.

ATTENDANCE RECORDERS

Monday, 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.

OFFICE DATA ENTRY

Thursday, 4 to 6:45 p.m.

Must have been a member for at least one year with excellent attendance. Are you a stickler for details and accurate on the computer? Do you like working independently? If this sounds

like you, then Office Data Entry will be your perfect shift. Please speak to Ginger Jung in the membership office (or put a note in her mailbox) prior to the first shift for more information and schedule training. Must make a 6 month commitment to the workslot.

GENERAL MEETING SET-UP

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Adaptable, physically energetic, team workers with excellent attendance needed to help set up and break down the space where the General Meeting is held. Contact Adriana Becerra, Membership Coordinator, adriana_becerra@psfc.coop.



gree also believes the Prime Act has the potential to lower the price of local meat by reducing transportation time and potentially adding more price competition. The bill, which has bipartisan support, is currently working its way through Congress.

Separate and Unequal

The Prime Act, if passed, will increase access to local meat for consumers around the country. However, those new consumers may still suffer from sticker shock. That's because a price differential will always likely

exist. "Industrial farming is meant to create cheap products," stated Rep. Pingree. "Maybe it has lower-quality feed, lower-quality living conditions and frankly it may not be as good a quality of a product for you to eat." That may be why a growing number of consumers are making a different choice. They are choosing animals raised humanely. They are choosing animals that are grass-fed. They are choosing animals raised on local farms. They are choosing to pay more because they say it's worth it. ■

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](http://ica.coop)

Coop Job Opening: Membership Coordinator

All Membership Coordinators divide their time between shifts of approximately 6 hours in the Membership Office, Technical Support shifts of approximately 6.5 hours working on the shopping floor, and oversight/coordination of the Coop's administrative functions. All Membership Coordinators ensure the smooth functioning of the Coop by:

- Administering directly the Coop's member labor system and coordinating ongoing improvements to that system
- Supervising the work of the Membership Office and the Coop's "back office" administrative functions
- Training, delegating and giving feedback to member workers Coop-wide
- Providing technical and managerial support for operations on the shopping floor including troubleshooting computer equipment, on-the-job training to shopping squads, providing support to shopping members during the Coop's busiest times of the week
- Communicating with squad leaders and members to maintain healthy two-way exchange around Coop improvements, work practices, management of member labor, Coop policies and priorities for specific days/times/seasons
- Sustaining and sharing knowledge about Coop history, policies, guidelines

All candidates must be:

- Excellent administrator with strong organizational skills and the capacity to do accurate, detailed record keeping
- A team player with outstanding communication and listening skills who enjoys lots of interactions with people
- Able to oversee the work of others, give constructive feedback, delegate, train and explain procedures and policies
- Reliable, self-starters who can evaluate Coop needs and prioritize tasks
- Able to work in noisy, hectic surroundings in close quarters with others and to navigate our three-floor work environment, including going up and down stairs, some lifting, kneeling and ladder use
- Problem solver
- Prepared to work during holidays, the Coop's busiest times
- Very comfortable with computers (Macs and Microsoft Office a plus)
- Familiarity with Adobe Creative Suite software and experience in print design and layout desirable

Hours: Approx. 40 hours in 5 days/week: Tue/Wed or Wed/Thur off. Weekday schedule will be afternoon/evening hours (some shifts until 11:00 p.m.). Saturday and Sunday hours will vary, though shifts are between 6 and 8 hours in length.

Wages: \$26.61/hour

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

Pre-Requisites:

Candidates must be current Park Slope Food Coop members for at least 6 months immediately prior to application. Candidates must have worked at least two shifts in the Membership Office prior to being interviewed. If you have not met that requirement and wish to schedule shifts in the Office please submit your application, and then contact the Coop at hc-membershipcoordinator@psfc.coop to schedule shifts. Please put "Schedule Shifts" in the subject field.

How to Apply:

Attach resume and paste cover letter at the link below:

<http://bit.ly/PSFCjob-membership>

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

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

August 30, 2016 General Meeting

By Alison Rose Levy

The August 30, 2016 General Meeting came to order and began at approximately 7:15 p.m., chaired by Maribeth Batcha of the Chair Committee.

Open Forum

A member, Sylvia Lowenthal, asked why the Coop needs to pay a large number of staff people. If there were fewer staff members, the food would be cheaper, she said.

General Coordinator Joe Szladek responded. He said, "Many staff members start their work day at 4 a.m. Some don't leave until midnight. It's a seven-day-a-week operation done with a minimal amount of staff in an effort to be more efficient. The volume of food that passes through the Coop daily takes some effort."

General Coordinator Reports

GC Joe Szladek told the meeting that there is no financial statement in August. The Monday of Labor Day, (September 5) he predicted would be a heavy shopping day, with the weekend of September 10 and 11—likely to be the biggest weekend since May. Szladek said that the Coop is selling more and more

items. An effort is currently underway to make it possible for the Coop to add a sixth day of delivery, on Saturdays. The incorporation of Saturday deliveries would make it possible to have more food available all weekend long.

Having last winter joined the National Cooperative Grocers (NCG) in addition to lower priced basic foods, the Coop will also be obtaining lower prices on grass fed beef—from \$7 to \$8 per pound to \$5 a pound. See the Coordinator's Corner in this issue for more information.

Committee Reports

John Rearick from the Animal Welfare Committee informed the meeting that Committee is currently producing a food buying guide for pets, to add to its current egg, meat, milk and milk alternatives buying guides, which are available in the Coop near where products are sold as well as on the Coop blog. Questions can be sent to psfanimals@gmail.com.

Agenda

Each of the two scheduled agenda items was a discussion item, prior to an official vote to be conducted at a later meeting.

Discussion of the Reauthorization of International Trade Education Squad (ITES)

ITES Committee member Susan Metz said that the ITES was founded after several Coop members became concerned about how the TransPacific Partnership would affect the Coop's mission. The committee was approved by the GM for two-years in 2014 to bring information about the TPP to Coop members. The current discussion sought to explore the ITES' continuation as a work slot credit committee. At a later meeting, the committee will request approval to become a permanent squad.

To learn more about the issues related to the TPP itself, information is available at the ITES blog: Coop-ites.wordpress.com.

Each of the seven-member committee performs 39 hours of work per year, including writing for the *Gazette*, organizing popular education events, and publishing 23 reports.

Food safety, food security and food sovereignty are issues relevant to the Coop. Committee members announced a No TPP Call-in Day (to Congress people) on Wednesday September 14. Since President Obama has announced plans to request an authorization by Congress at the Lame Duck session immediately following the November election, the committee urged Coop members to call their Senators and House members and ask them to vote against the passage of the TPP.

ITES Committee member Gerardo Renique undertook research into the social and political effects of prior trade agreements, including NAFTA. When Peru and Mexico "opened their markets to cheap American food," according to his findings, the end result was to trigger "a mass migration of Latin Americans to the U.S. We need to start thinking about 'fair trade,' which what would be better than "free trade."

Committee member Bart DeCoursy was concerned about the weakening of labor standards and environment regulation under the TPP.

Committee member Molly Ornati said that "at a time when we must begin retrofitting local structures to address global warming,

this trade agreement would cement in place contributors to climate change and limit food labeling, while importing food that does not meet our standards. Under the TPP, food standards would be defined as a barrier to trade."

Discussion of Pension Fund

As reported in prior (July 21 and August 18) issues of the *Linewaiters' Gazette*, at the June 28 Annual Meeting the report on the audited financial statement financial status of the Coop revealed a 20% drop in the value of the Coop's Pension Fund in the Fiscal Year ending on January 31, 2016. In the August article, an interview with General Coordinator Joe Holtz, quoted Holtz as affirming that the Coop's audited financial statement follows financial accounting standards policies; according to Holtz, the fund's future value is much higher than the numbers reflected in the audit.

At the August GM, Jonathan Hessney, a business management consultant, initiated a discussion item about the pension fund, in preparation for a future vote at a later GM on his proposed motions to improve pension fund governance. In his assessment, Hessney, who clearly stated that he is not a pension investment financial advisor, looked at the pension fund's performance over the last seven to eight years, from 2008 through 2015. He presented his findings to attendees.

In addition to ascertaining that the fund's value was down by approximately \$1.4 million, a 24% decline in its value over an eight-year period, Hessney also compared its performance to that of what he called a "pro-forma Dow investment," to discover that the fund had

underperformed for five of the last eight years in what Hessney characterized as a "relatively benign market." 2012 was a good year for the fund, he said.

Hessney noted that there were what he characterized as wide variations in the fund's performance which he considered to be "dangerous in a pension fund."

Asset Allocation of Coop Pension Plan

Hessney also drew the members' attention to the fund's asset allocation. The Coop pension plan has 70% equity, 30% cash. There are no holdings in bonds. A traditional allocation would be approximately anywhere from 40-50% in bonds and 50-60% in equities, according to Hessney.

According to Hessney's evaluation, using either a pro-forma Dow investment or a traditional 60-40 asset allocation over the past eight years (from 2008-2015) would have yielded approximately \$4,100,000 more than the current investment.

Another atypical feature of the plan is that the equity investment is concentrated in individual stocks—not mutual funds. The stocks are not named, nor is it known how they were selected, or what the basis is for the investment strategy.

With an average loss of 10.6% per year over the time frame that Hessney studied, Hessney said that "we would have been better off if invested in cash."

In his opinion, "this is not a prudent path forward. We are growing and as that happens personnel benefits and liabilities ensue... Mistakes now are more serious," he said. Hessney also indicated that in his opinion, there was a timely need to assess the pension investment plan rather than wait and allow further losses to occur.

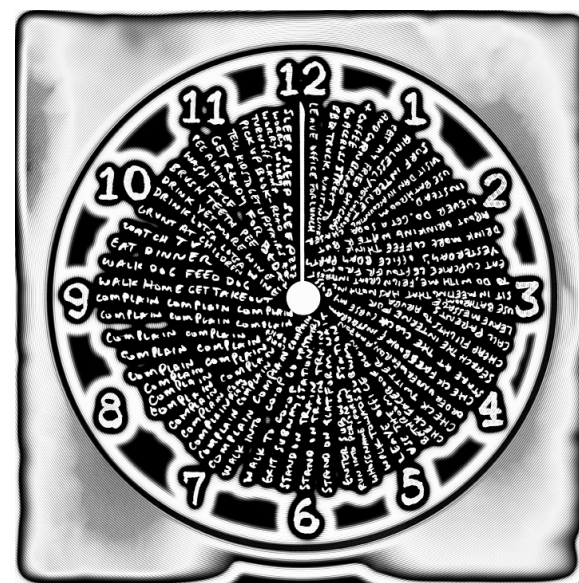


ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL BUCKLEY

Interested in Engaging Coop Work? Disciplinary Committee Seeks NEW Members

SKILLS NEEDED

Communication • Problem solving • Conflict resolution
Dealing with difficult situations and people
Investigation • Writing • Research

OUR WORK INCLUDES

- Applying Coop rules and regulations
- Discussing policy issues related to the Committee's work
- Investigating allegations of uncooperative behavior by members and engaging in problem solving
- Daily email contact with the committee members to discuss cases
- Participating in mediation, disciplinary hearings, and other conflict resolution methods

REQUIREMENTS

In order to be considered for this position, any candidate must:

- Be a member for **at least a year**
- Have a **good attendance record**
- Possess the ability to work on a team
- Have good writing skills
- Have computer proficiency (excel, word, email)—this is essential
- Attend evening meetings every six weeks

We work on average **six hours per month**, more than the required work shift hours. You will be credited and your hours will be banked for future use.

We recognize the importance of various points of view when considering cases brought to us. **We are seeking a candidate pool that reflects the diversity of the Coop's membership.**

CONTACT

Karen: 718.208.7897 or foodcoopdc@gmail.com

Join us to make the Coop the best place it can be for everyone.

What would happen in the event of a potential ongoing loss scenario? Hessney asked.

If the calculation were to be based on losses since 2008, according to Hessney's calculations, the fund has underperformed a more traditional investment strategy by \$4.1 million.

Gradual contributions to replenish the fund could occur now if there were to be a bad year. But if the overall trend of investments over many years is below market averages, eventually this cannot so readily be redressed.

Hessney's ultimate concern was that the Pension Fund Trustees run the fund and pick investments, without either disclosure or oversight. The investments are known only to GC Joe Holtz and a second Trustee, who was not named. Hessney conveyed that the Coop needs more transparency around Fund management. "There needs to be some disclosure of the strategy. There is also a need to obtain the agreement of the membership," Hessney believes. Not even the Board of Directors has been provided with complete information. "How are

we investing? If you look at financial reports presented at general meetings, you would not find the necessary information," Hessney says, some of which Hessney was able to reconstruct based on information provided by the Joe Holtz, along with his own research.

Hessney offered three motions:

1. To establish a finance committee
2. To obtain disclosure and have members vote on the investment strategy
3. To require transparency of fund operations.

Hessney's stated goal is to assure that Coop member can understand the status and strategy of the fund. These motions will be voted on at a subsequent general meeting. There will be a subsequent article in the *Linewaiters' Gazette* devoted to Hessney's evaluation. Joe Holtz was absent from the meeting due to a long planned vacation will also respond in a future article. Members with questions can write Jonathan Hessney at: psfcpensiongovernance@gmail.com.

Following the presentation, there was discussion.

GC Jess Robinson noted that this is a complex issue, which requires knowledge of the investments and their strategy—which the pension fund trustees could provide in future, though Joe Holtz was not able to be here tonight.

Carl Arnold was the first of many members to characterize the plan as "shocking." "To learn that we are invested in nine stocks instead of the usual hundred—this is not a normal strategy." He wondered who the other pension trustees are and why their names are not disclosed. "While the GM does not have expertise to make

recommendations, a certain level of transparency is appropriate."

GC Tricia Leith brought up issues with the numbers Hessney was using: Were the numbers aligned with our reporting fiscal year?

Carl Arnold was the first of many members to characterize the plan as "shocking." "To learn that we are invested in nine baskets instead of the usual hundred—this is not a normal strategy."

Leith thought the early numbers in Hessney's charts might be inaccurate as our fiscal year differs from the calendar year.

A Coop member who is a financial professional said that "the very shocking under performance of the pension fund is something we should be concerned about. The volatility is outside the range of a typical strategy." He indicated that this attempt to outperform the market could be misguided.

Following the discussion the agenda portion of the

meeting ended. Although there were no actionable votes for the Board of Directors, nor were minutes submitted, Board member Bill Penner asked the six board members present at the meeting to identify themselves.

Announcements

GC Ann Herpel offered that in introducing themselves, people frequently say how long they have been Coop members. In her view, "it's not necessary to say how long you have been a member. We all get one vote."

One Coop member criticized the Agenda Committee for scheduling the Pension Fund report at a GM when it was known prior that Joe Holtz would be absent.

Susan Metz criticized the Agenda Committee because she had understood that the discussion and the vote on the continuance of the ITES were to have both occurred at the current meeting.

Board member Allen Zimmerman said that, "The agenda committee knew that a crucial member could not be here and still scheduled the pension fund discussion."

The meeting concluded at 9:20 p.m. ■



SAFE FOOD COMMITTEE REPORT

Plow-to-Plate Movie Series Presents: *Symphony of the Soil*

By Adam Rabiner,
Safe Food Committee

Movie makers think hard about what they call their creations. A film's title is like a short advertisement, ideally pithy, attention grabbing, relevant and informative. *Symphony of the Soil* succeeds at this level. You know what it's about: soil. But why a symphony?

Here's where filmmaker, Deborah Koons, gets to play with alliteration and metaphor. Like a symphony, healthy, living soil—which is 50% solid and 50% empty spaces, including air and water vapor (as opposed to mere lifeless dirt, a much maligned substance whose principal adjectival meaning is the antonym for clean) is composed of many elements that together make up something complex. It is a sum greater than its parts. Instruments make music. Soil, a crazy mixture of non-living minerals and rocks together with living bacteria, protozoa, insects, fungi, (and their chemical by products) is the foundation of life itself.

Adam's name in the Old

Testament derives from the Hebrew adamah which means "earth." Similarly Eve's name comes from Chava/Havah meaning "living." *Symphony of the Soil* makes these biblical allusions at its tail end, a coda following one hundred minutes of biology, geography, geology, chemistry and ecology lessons. It's nice to see an example of science and religion being on the same page.

Symphony of the Soil shows and tells how soil is born, in different places, times, and in varied ways: on the Arctic frozen Norwegian glacial tundra, wherever oceans and seas meet land, and in lava fields created by volcanic eruptions of ashy tephra. It traces how soil matures over millions of years, from infancy as non-organic clay or mud carried down icy cold rivers before settling, through to old age as biologically rich and productive prairie soil (mollisol), or at the bottom of an ancient mossy peat bog. Soil has parents and comes from somewhere. Loess is a loamy deposit formed by the wind; eluvium is created from an

overflowing river; glaciers melt and drop their materials; some soil forms in place.

As an orchestra is composed of various string, wind and percussion instruments. Soil is diverse, too, and highly dependent on climate. The family includes entisol (baby soil); inceptisol (young soil); ultisol (old soil); the aforementioned mollisol, with its good infiltration and water storage capabilities, and makes up 22.5% of the soil in the United States compared to 7% globally; alfisol (forest soil—another good soil and 12% worldwide but 18 – 19% of the U.S.—again above average); oxisol (tropical soil); andisol (volcanic soil); histosol (wetland soil); vertisol (clay soil); spodosol (cemented soil); gelisol (permafrost soil); and aridisol (desert soil).

There's another way in which the word "symphony" is a good metaphor for this film, and it has to do with the way the documentary slowly unfolds: its gradual thematic transitions, the stories it tells, and the big argument it ultimately makes. *Symphony of the Soil's* internal, almost math-

ematical logic, is like a geometric proof paralleling the path of an extended musical composition, classical or modern—which however groundbreaking or novel, must also follow rules and norms.

Symphony of the Soil embarks with hard science, and gradually finds itself solidly in the realm of political science, economics, and agricultural policies. However complex the initial science—involving enzymes, carbon capture and release, oxidation and photosynthetic chemical reactions, nitrogen fixing, nutrient transfer via symbiotic relationships between plants and fungi, carbohydrates emitted by plant roots, the chemical (nitrogen, phosphorous, sulphur, magnesium, calcium, iron, zinc, copper) byproducts of protozoan ingestion of bacteria, and exudates that become available to plants—the conclusion of this film is very straightforward and commonsensical.

In order to restore balance and health to our agricultural systems, we must first care for the soil. We must reverse course from the green revolution legacy of unsustainable

industrial agriculture and return to systems that care for the land, for example through crop rotations, organic farming, composting, drip irrigation, no-till farming, cover crops (i.e., planting 50% for people and 50% for nature, using, for instance, nutrient-fixing weeds, clovers, and mustards), and other practices.

Symphony of the Soil debunks the myth that traditional agriculture is less productive than industrial. In fact, if done correctly and wisely, it appears to be more so. Let us hope, for the sake of the planet, that enough people take this advice to heart, and call for change, and that the film does not simply preach to the choir. ■

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.

Symphony of the Soil will be presented on Tuesday, October 11, 7 p.m. at the Park Slope Food Coop, 782 Union St., 2nd floor. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

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.

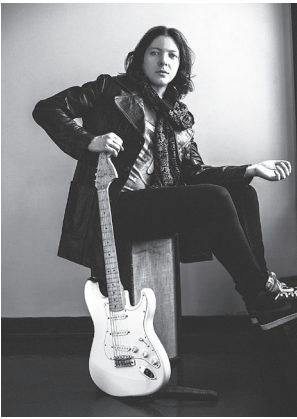
Printed by: Tri-Star Offset, Maspeth, NY.

Friday, October 21, 8:00 p.m.

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



PROSPECT CONCERTS



BT3 - Guitarist Ben Tyree is a performer and composer of virtuosic ability, infectious groove, and eclectic tastes. All of those elements are placed on stunning display on his latest release, *Burn It! LIVE*, a blistering live set from the Brooklyn Academy of Music's prestigious BAMcafé Live series. That versatility has led to work with artists as diverse as Vernon Reid, Kyp Malone (TV On The Radio), Valerie June, Elliott Sharp, and Burnt Sugar: The Arkestra Chamber. Ben Tyree: Guitar, Michael Gam: Bass, Sameer Gupta: Tabla/Drumset.



Natural Feelings draws from the sounds and rhythms of nature, the psychedelic '70s and the alternate reality of our dream worlds. The group is inspired by Brazilian composer and multi-instrumentalist Hermeto Pascoal and percussionist Airtó Moreira's collaboration and reinterprets their music in a strangely fun, danceable manner. Featuring Karlie Bruce, vocals; Sean Moran, guitar; Rene Hart, bass; Brian Adler, percussion, and perhaps a special guest or two...

www.facebook.com/ProspectConcerts

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

RETURN POLICY



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

REQUIRED FOR ANY RETURN

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

CAN I EXCHANGE MY ITEM?

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

CAN I RETURN MY ITEM?

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

**NEVER
RETURNABLE**

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

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

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

RETURNABLE

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

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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.

Mikel Abeberry Yesica Abrajan Jace Alexander Love Nanuka Alstrup Kaitlin Ashley Jose Ayala Benjamin Baker Justin Barnes Jennifer Beeson Ben Berliner Helga Berliner Christina Blackston Jordy Bostick Clemence Bouras Lucia Brockway Colin Brooks Ally Bruschi Elizabeth Bryant	James Cardo Alison Carruthers Marco Castillo Kobi Caterer Michael Caterer Jes Cerutti Ryan Cerutti David Charme Peter Chowla Emily Clark Robert Costello Frances Davila Estelle Davis Meredith Davis Amanda Dell Fred Diego Leyva Ryan Diemer Thanh Truc Doan Anna Dziechowski	Marina Echegaray Amanda Engler Quindell Evans Max Feinglass Megan Fernandes Alissa Fleet Ashlie Flood Benjamin Florit-Bour Fatima Fofana Aaron Fowler Simona Fried Brad Fuller Sara Fuller Lee Gaffigan Jamison Galloway Lacie Garnes Ethan Goldberg Ashley Gonzales	Tara Goulet Nina Granados Ratutam Grayson McKoy Christiana Greene Zachary Greenspan Amir Guberstein Amanda Guerra Noemie Guibert Edo Gur Andrew Haase Jake Halloran Helen Havlak Augustus Heagerty Amelia Herbert Lauren Herget Ozsay Hilal Mary P. Hirsch Aleeza Hobeck	Joseph Hobeck Esther Holder Terry Holder Brianna Hubka Annie Hulkower Tennessee Jones Rami Karim Juliana Katinas Kaitlin Kaufman Irene Kestanuk Corey King Nicholas Koroneos Matthew LeBreux Hyunjeen Lee Junbum Lee Marisa Lerer Michal Lewin-Epstein Adam Lindsley	Paula Macali Deborah Maciel Alexandra Mackenzie Julia Maranto Michael Margolin Amelia Marritz Andrea Melandr Adrian Miller Laura Misumi Danielle Moeser Patricia Muller Ilja Nassonov Inessa Nassonova Alicia Nieves Isabel Nocedal Blair Nosan Axel Nystrom Erin O'Daniel	Kristin Oakley Olivia Pearman Rachel Pestik Laura Pfeffer Michelle Pfeifer Alex-Quan Pham Adam Pollock Genoel Ramirez Margretta Reed Jason Reich Chris Renfrow Rita Ricci Kimberly Robins Jose Manuel Rodriguez Maria Rogers Goldie Rosenthal Maggie Rosenthal Marcela Salas	Nitin Sawhney Frederik Schjoldan Nicole Sciarillo Eve Searls Seth Searls Charles Self Tamar Sella George Shulman Jesse Singer Denise Small Audrey Smith John Smith Eunmi Song Michael Stinavage Ashley Suarez Carlos Tascon Dedieu Michele Tavarez John Taylor	Emily Torrey Joseph Tuchapsky Bradley Valentin Caleb Van Gelder Katalin van Harreveld Cass Vanini Guillermo Vargas Maya Von Ziegesar Hannah Weitzer Guro Wiik Abby Woodard Lenni Yesner Larissa Zimmeroff Natalie Zuckerman
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COOP CALENDAR

New Member Orientations

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

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

The Coop on the Internet

www.foodcoop.com

The Coop on Cable TV

Inside the Park Slope Food Coop

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

General Meeting Info

TUE, OCTOBER 4

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 7:30 p.m.

Submissions will be considered for the October 25 General Meeting.

TUE, OCTOBER 25

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

October 13 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, October 3
October 27 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, October 17

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

October 13 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, October 5
October 27 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, October 19

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, October 25, 7:00 p.m.

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

Location

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

How to Place an Item on the Agenda

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

Meeting Format

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

park slope
FOOD COOP

calendar of events

oct 1
sat 12:30 pm

Public Forum on the Trans-Pacific Partnership

Breaking news on the Trans-Pacific Partnership. One up-or-down vote on 30 policy proposals in the 5,000-page Trans-Pacific Partnership is possible during the lame-duck session of Congress during November and December. Discuss your concerns, comments and suggestions with researchers, journalists, advocates and activists at this public forum. Non-members are invited. Presented by the seven-member ITES squad. **Susan Metz** (36-year member) and **Willy Naess** (eight-year member) co-leaders.

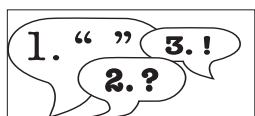
oct 2
sun 12 pm

Community Rebuilding Through Deep Listening

Can a handful of people scattered across the globe really go against the odds and rebuild a community? In the village of Rainaskot, an earthquake-damaged village on top of a mountain in Nepal, our approach of deep listening and the collaboration with the villagers has allowed our village-wide rebuilding project to move ahead where others have stalled. Through this case study, learn about how our practice of open dialogue and flexibility has sustained the energy and momentum to keep our project moving forward, while bringing to light unexpected challenges and opportunities. **Natasha Wozniak** is a resident of Park Slope and member of the Coop since 2006. She lived in Nepal in the '90s as a Fulbright scholar and after the earthquake of 2015, she co-founded the organization Sangsangai.org to rebuild villages in a sustainable manner.

oct 4
tue 7:30 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 7:30 and 7:45 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, October 25, 7 p.m., at St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.

oct 6
thu 7:30 pm

Food Class: Basic Cooking Techniques: Tempeh 101



Olivia Roszkowski, Coordinator
Tempeh is a health-supportive, fermented soybean, originating from Indonesia. Learn different techniques on how to incorporate this whole food, rich in Vitamin B and protein into your kitchen repertoire. From bacon, to scaloppine, to a decadent meat substitute for tacos, you will be amazed at how versatile tempeh can be, and how easily you can integrate it into a plant-based diet. Chef **Sue Baldassano** is a freelance chef and chef instructor at the Natural Gourmet Institute with more than 30 years of culinary experience. Her previous roles included Director of Student Affairs at NGI as well as the owner and founder of "To Grandmother's House We Go" cooking tours, where she led culinary groups to worldwide destinations including Turkey, Mexico and Italy. Chef Sue specializes in plant-based, health-supportive cooking and has been a member of the Park Slope Food Coop for more than 20 years, and started PSFC's own Food Class shift more than 19 years ago. *Menu includes: crispy marinated tempeh bacon; tempeh scaloppine with caramelized mushrooms and fresh herbs; smoky quinoa and tempeh tacos; tempeh "meatloaf" with stuffed roasted autumnal squash.*

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 September 22.

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.

oct 7
fri 7 pm

Film Night: Knight of Cups



Terrence Malick has created some of the most visually and emotionally stunning American films ever made, including *Badlands*, *Days of Heaven* and *The Thin Red Line*. His most recent film, *Knight of Cups* (2015), stars Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett and Natalie Portman. The film follows depressed Los Angeles

screenwriter Rick (Christian Bale) on an odyssey through the playgrounds of Los Angeles and Las Vegas as he undertakes a search for love and self via a series of adventures with a number of colorful figures, identified with eight different tarot cards. We are very fortunate to have both of the film's editors, **Geoffrey Richman** and **Keith Fraase**, as Coop members. They will join us for a q&a after the screening.

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

oct 9
sun 12 pm

Anger Management 101

Are you or someone you know prone to anger? Express your anger with an intensity that you later regret? Have anger issues because of a low frustration tolerance? Have a wish to be understood that gets derailed because of your inability to manage your anger? Anger when expressed in an assertive rather than aggressive manner can clear the air of misunderstanding, improve your sense of self and can aid in the restoration and repair of ruptures in relationships at home and at work. This hour will be devoted to: understanding the nature and neuroscience of anger; identify and anticipate the triggers that set off anger; learn strategies to manage those triggers; transform destructive anger into meaningful dialogue in relationships. Coop member **Raymond Reichenberg** is a Certified Anger Management Association Specialist and New York State-Licensed Psychoanalyst. He has been in practice in Park Slope for the past 25 years.

oct 11
tue 7 pm

Safe Food Committee Film Night: Symphony of the Soil



Drawing from ancient knowledge and cutting-edge science, *Symphony of the Soil* is an artistic exploration of the miraculous substance soil. By understanding the relationships and mutuality between soil, water, atmosphere, plants, and animals, we come to appreciate the

complex and dynamic nature of this precious resource. The film examines our human relationship with soil, its use and misuse in agriculture, deforestation and development, and the latest research on soil's role in ameliorating the most challenging environmental issues. *Symphony* is an intriguing presentation that highlights possibilities of healthy soil creating healthy plants creating healthy humans living on a healthy planet.

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.

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.

oct 1–nov 6 2016

oct 14
fri 7 pm

Wordsprouts: A Night of Poetry



We welcome three accomplished poets for a night of readings and discussion. All three will be presenting new verse, then talking about their work. It will be an inspiring and exciting night sure to delight all lovers of language, art, and life. **Priscilla Becker's** first book of poems, *Internal West*, was the winner of The Paris Review book prize. Her second collection, *Stories That Listen*, was released from Four Way Books. Her poems have appeared in the following literary journals, among others: *Fence*, *Open City*, *Boston Review*, *The Paris Review*; her fiction in *The Literary Review*, winner of The Charles Angoff prize. Her collection of essays: *Morbid Dyslexia [and other word disorders]* was selected as the finalist in the GrayWolf Press Nonfiction contest; her music reviews have been published in *The Nation* and *Filter* magazine; her essays in *Cabinet* magazine and *Open City*. Her non-fiction has been anthologized by Soft Skull Press, Anchor Books, and Sarabande. She has completed her third book, *Pure Brown*, and a chapbook, *Death Certificate*, which will be published by Ugly Duckling Presse. Writer and performer **Toni Blackman** is the first Hip Hop artist invited to work as a Cultural Ambassador with the U.S. Department of State. She is currently a teaching artist at Carnegie Hall and recently performed for Lincoln Center. Toni speaks, teaches workshops, coaches in performance and public speaking and releases her new book *Wisdom of the Cypher* along with her hip hop meditation album this fall. **Abigail Welhouse** is the author of *Bad Baby* (dancing girl press), *Too Many Humans of New York* (Bottlecap Press), and *Memento Mori* (a poem/comic collaboration with Evan Johnston). Her writing has been published in *The Toast*, *The Billfold*, *Ghost Ocean Magazine*, *Yes Poetry*, and elsewhere.

Bookings: John Donohue, wordsproutspfc@gmail.com.

oct 16
sun 12 pm

Everyday Posture

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

oct 21
fri 8 pm

BT3; Natural Feelings

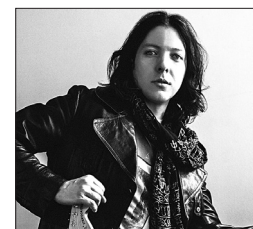


BT3—Guitarist Ben Tyree is a performer and composer of virtuosic ability, infectious groove, and eclectic tastes. All of those elements are placed on stunning display on his latest release, *Burn It! LIVE*, a blistering live set from the Brooklyn Academy of Music's prestigious BAMcafé Live series. That versatility has led to work with artists as diverse as Vernon Reid, Kyp

Malone (TV On The Radio), Valerie June, Elliott Sharp, and Burnt Sugar: The Arkestra Chamber. Ben Tyree: Guitar, Michael Gam: Bass, Sameer Gupta: Tabla/Drumset. **Natural Feelings** draws from the sounds and rhythms of nature, the psychedelic '70s and the alternate reality of our dream worlds. The group is inspired by Brazilian composer and multi-instrumentalist Hermeto Pascoal and percussionist Airto Moreira's collaboration and reinterprets their music in a strangely fun, danceable manner. Featuring Karlie Bruce, vocals; Sean Moran, guitar; Rene Hart, bass; Brian Adler, percussion, and perhaps a special guest or two...

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.



oct 22
sat 2 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.

oct 25
tue 7 pm

PSFC OCT General Meeting



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

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

oct 28
fri 7 pm

Move Better, Feel Better

Includes personalized hands-on mini sessions. The Feldenkrais Method is an approach rooted in respecting the integrity of the person and supporting innate human ability to learn. Through gentle movement, Feldenkrais lessons help facilitate profound shifts in how a person moves and feels. It can help improve balance, posture and coordination, prevent injuries, speed up injury recovery, reduce stress and anxiety, increase overall sense of health and well-being. Uniqueness of the method is that it is designed to produce lasting improvements which become an integral part of the way a person feels in daily life without having to force changes. **Igor Shteynberg**, Feldenkrais Practitioner, has worked with clients ranging from children with motor difficulties to professional dancers and musicians. His clients appreciate his ability to relate to their concerns, as well as his patience and care in gently helping them bring about the changes they are looking for.

still to come

oct 30 Nutrition Response Testing

nov 1 Agenda Committee Meeting

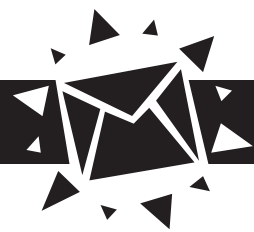
nov 2 Cheese Class

nov 3 Food Class: Sustainable Korean

nov 5 Service Matters

nov 6 Travel to Unravel for Less

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



LET'S VISUALLY MEMORIALIZE COOP ARTIST NINA FRENKEL

TO THE EDITOR:

In the 9/1/2016 issue, the obituary, "Nina Frenkel, 43, Accomplished Illustrator, Devoted Coop Member and Artist for the *Gazette*" really moved me.

I wanted to throw out the idea of displaying her work around the Coop for a bit, maybe a piece permanently on display. Some other ideas, with consultation to whomever has the rights to her work now:

- 1) putting a piece on a shirt and/or bag to sell at the Coop
- 2) having an art sale of her work (maybe even prints?) and part or all of the proceeds to go to breast cancer research

Victoria Booth

"HUNGRY FOR CHANGE" IS STARVED OF INSIGHT

MEMBERS,

"Hungry for Change: How Food Issues Play into the Presidential Election" (9/1/2016 *Gazette*) examined the lack of food discussions in the presidential campaign. It described nonprofits such as Food Tank, which submitted food policy questions last February, but "has yet to receive a response from either candidate" [emphasis added]. And Plate of the Union's website features a petition to "reform the nation's food system." Again, only the Democratic and Republican candidates Clinton and Trump are addressed.

That Food Tank's questions have gone unanswered is not surprising. These two candidates aren't likely to challenge the dominance of corporate food and agribusiness giants.

The article highlighted a typically warped government policy: less than 1% of agricultural subsidies go to fruits and vegetables. It left unexamined that policy's implications: subsidies support corn and soy derivatives, key ingredients in the most unhealthy food choices, making them less expensive—but more costly for health and environment, and predictably more profitable for the food giants.

The article's interview subjects urged public demand to force the candidates to con-

sider food issues. But there are demands—continuous and prominent initiatives such as the annual worldwide "March Against Monsanto" and numerous others. The fly in the ointment is that such demands are—indeed must be—ignored by Democrats and Republicans.

Why? Politicians become wealthy from their public "service" well beyond what's possible from their salaries alone. They accomplish this by serving corporate interests—in exchange for campaign contributions, exorbitant speaking fees, and cushy jobs for outgoing officials. It's simply unrealistic to expect them to forgo that wealth to serve public interests. Choosing corporate party candidates because of "tradition" or because "alternatives have no chance" is a classic self-fulfilling prophecy that seals their fate, and only strengthens the corporate lock on power. Funneling our votes into the two-party vortex is simply a self-defeating strategy, for which we get in return the Walmart-style degradation of life and culture.

While Food Tank and Plate of the Union—and the *Gazette* reporter—have swallowed the Two-Party and corporate media Kool-Aid about the viability of alternatives, two alternative candidates—Jill Stein (Green) and Gary Johnson (Libertarian)—have gained traction despite corporate media's best efforts to ignore or discredit them. Both Stein and Johnson would almost certainly have supplied detailed answers to Food Tank's questions—had they been asked. And while their food policies differ, both would challenge agribusiness-friendly policies, which are certain to continue under the corporate-friendly candidates.

The Libertarians would eliminate all subsidies, allowing market forces to set prices. They believe good food choices would then be competitive with or more cost effective than poor ones, and that private property owners have a vested interest in environmental protection.

The Greens would actively pursue radical transformation of the food system to small-scale regenerative organic farming, shifting subsidies away from the country's environmental- and health-degrading industrial agriculture.

Their Green New Deal would end destructive energy extraction by 2030 and redirect resources to renewables.

The libertarians, unfortunately, don't find anything wrong with corporate money in politics. Only the Greens never accept corporate, Super PAC, and lobbyist contributions.

David Barouh

THERE SHOULDN'T BE WORKSLOT CREDIT FOR POLITICAL ACTIVISM

DEAR MEMBERS:

The Coop should not provide workslot credit for political activism. The International Trade Education Squad (ITES), initially authorized for two years, seeks permanent authorization to continue to promote opposition to the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). A second group of members seeks to establish a committee for collection of information regarding "food workers' struggles." There are principled and pragmatic reasons that both these initiatives should not be eligible to receive workslot credit.

To be clear, the opposition expressed here is to the granting of workslot credits, and not to the causes these committees support.

The Coop's charter states the corporation is formed for the purpose of "acquiring, storing and distributing to its members articles of common use." Our labor contributions make possible the reduced costs enjoyed by ALL members. There has to be some form of equality and mutual benefit to the community for work slot credit to be granted. The granting of workslot credits for political action committees will remove member hours from the resource pool used for Coop operations. As these causes have only indirect relation to the stated purpose and the charter does not authorize political actions, there is no basis for creating these committees.

A further issue is that the Coop has no mechanism in place for the oversight and accountability of these committees. The proposed memberships are permanent, and the approval of candidates by the General Meeting is without any advance knowledge of who they are or their qual-

ifications. There is no way to independently track their labor "contribution." Most important, we have no means for determining the completeness or accuracy of their information, nor the reliability and credibility of their sources.

Finally, we should take a lesson from the failure of the Consumers' Cooperative of Berkeley, a Coop that existed for 49 years during the middle of the 20th Century. Its ultimate failure was due in no small part to the polarization created by the efforts to engage the Coop in extraneous partisan political activities.

At 17,000 members, \$50M in annual sales, and 43 years of existence, our Coop is a grand experiment in what is possible when diverse people come together to work for a common goal. This achievement is a result of mutual respect and dedication to our purpose, the provision of goods. Let's stay true to that purpose.

Barbara Mazor

PENSION PLANS

MEMBERS,

I have been following the debate regarding the pension plan and its investment performance with a little concern and a lot of bemusement.

My concern is primarily around the unnecessary risk created by the managers of the plan for maintaining a concentrated investment portfolio without disclosing an investment plan or strategy. If the pension trustees would articulate its process and how each investment fits into that process, it could better assess the reasons for its underperformance, i.e. whether it's from a flawed process or a flawed execution, and adjust as necessary.

My bemusement is from learning that the co-trustee of the plan, George Haywood, is a high-profile beltway-insider, with close ties to President Obama. I am curious why and how we have a relationship with him? It certainly isn't because there's a dearth of financial acumen in New York City and it smells like the kind of relationship where the due diligence begins and ends with "you should invest with so and so, s/he's very good."

Giving money without proper oversight to someone held in high regard by others but who cannot articulate reasons for success or failure is

a terrible way to do business. We wouldn't buy cheese, produce, vegetables or proteins that way. Nobody should invest that way.

Sincerely,
Avi Fisher

PSFC PENSION INVESTMENT

MEMBERS,

After last month's meeting, I would like a response from the trustees about their investment strategy of the pension fund. I do not understand why the fund is invested in just nine undisclosed stocks when the first principle of investing is diversification. Joe quoted a study from an obscure university about good results from a concentrated portfolio over a 10-year period to validate his strategy. Of course, it is possible to find good results over a short period, but it is unlikely over the long term. We are not a Berkshire Hathaway where they invest in a small basket but have full-time analysts monitoring the markets and news services for any information that could affect their holdings. In addition, they take large positions and, thus, can pressure the board with changes to improve the stock value, something the PSFC cannot do.

Investment strategy is not our expertise, so I really do not understand why the PSFC does not hire a funds manager. Fees for this size portfolio would be about 1% of the asset value if invested in individual stocks and much less if in mutual funds or ETFs. The trustee would initially choose a manager who then would issue quarterly reports showing the fund performance, versus benchmarks. The trustee would review the results and can consult with other fund managers, if they are concerned. The fund managers are the experts, not the PSFC trustees.

Finally, if the trustees continue their concentration strategy, the minimum needed is for the trustees to show transparency of their strategy, i.e., divulge the nine stocks and issue quarterly reports of performance and the underfunding of the pension. There also needs to be some oversight to make sure they are meeting their fiduciary responsibility.

Bob Gilbert

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

AN APPEAL FOR COOPERATION

MEMBERS,

Based on what we learned about the pension plan at the August GM and in recent *Gazette* postings (8/18 article and letter, 9/1 and 9/15 letters), we have reason to urge following actions:

Jonathan Hessney's proposal to form a pension plan oversight committee should be scheduled for a vote no later than the October General Meeting.

Prior to the meeting, the pension fund trustees should disclose the following: (1) Who are the trustees, what are their qualifications, and how were they chosen? (2) Who do the trustees consult for investment advice, and how do they determine where to invest the funds? (3) On what basis are contributions made to the fund: percentage of salaries or percentage of total sales? (4) How will the trustees refund the \$1.2M taken from the Coop's profits to make up the 2015 pension fund deficit? (5) What are the nine stocks that compose the bulk of the fund's investments?

Based on the knowledge and wisdom of experts whose advice we've considered, an aggressive investment strategy focused on a small number of individual stocks is far too risky for a relatively small pension plan managed by non-professional investors. The data presented by Mr. Hessney in his GM presentation should convince us that mutual funds are the way to go, whether indexed or balanced or some combination.

In this connection, the limitations of the study¹ cited as a foundation for the Trustees' choice of concentrated investments, versus mutual funds must be noted, as they are acknowledged candidly by the study's authors themselves (p. 23): "One caveat [is] that a good diversifier will always beat a bad concentrator and that success for the investors will always come back to identifying the managers skilled at stock selection. A second caveat relates to our finding that concentrated portfolios have a large tilt towards positive momentum stocks and smaller tilts towards young, growth stocks. An important consequence of this is that the concentrated portfolios are geared to performing well when market sentiment is

positive, but equally that they will underperform. Paradoxically, this highlights the need for diversification, and so the need for the investor to carefully construct their portfolio of concentrated funds." These are significant caveats that should sober our interpretation of the study. It is not clear that this type of expertise is likely to reside more with the trustees than with seasoned mutual funds managers.

Like many at the August GM, our paid staff should be concerned about whether the pension fund will consistently earn sufficiently to assure healthy payouts in the future without the need to borrow from the Coop's profits. A pension oversight committee consisting of responsible, qualified members is a common-sense best defense against the problems that have been identified and documented.

¹Yeung et al. "Diversification versus Concentration ... and the Winner is?" The Paul Woolley Centre for the Study of Capital Market Dysfunctionality, UTS, Working Paper Series 18 [2012]: <https://www.uts.edu.au/sites/default/files/wp18.pdf>

Constantine Kaniklidis and
Sylvia Lowenthal

JOE HOLTZ
RESPONSE ON
COOP PENSION
PLAN

DEAR EDITOR,

Had I been able to attend the August 30 GM, I would have been happy to provide information about the pension plan at the meeting. Here is some information in regard to three letters in this issue of the *Gazette*. As this is only in response to three letters, I will limit my responses here and write a more complete article in the future.

Letter from Avi Fisher:

George Haywood has been a Coop member since 1992. In regard to "giving money," no one has been given money, regardless of their workslot and that includes the workslot of pension trustee.

Letter from Bob Gilbert:

The investment strategy of the pension plan is stated in the audited financial statement, which is available in the Coop lobby and is reprinted here from footnote:

"The plan's target allocation is to be invested at least

30% in money market funds, bonds, bond mutual 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. The strategy of the plan is to invest the majority of the assets in equities that the plan's trustees believe will be resistant to the general direction of the market."

"The plan's trustees manage the risk by very closely monitoring its investments. The plan's strategy also provides for the sufficient liquid assets to allow the plan to pay monthly retirement benefits and to make distributions on short notice. In addition, it intends to provide sufficient long-term growth of the plan assets in order to attain the goal of being fully funded. A long-term rate of return on assets of 5.25% per year is expected. The plan's trustees make this assumption based entirely on the internal rate of return on assets over the life of the plan."

George Haywood my co-trustee for the pension plan is an investment professional.

Letter from Constantine Kaniklidis & Sylvia Lowenthal:

1) Prior to the August General Meeting I disclosed who the trustees were to Jonathan Hessney when I sent him the summary plan description. The trustees are listed there. I'm surprised that this information was not provided at the meeting. The trustees were elected at two different General Meetings in the 1990s.

2) The investments of the pension plan are initially researched and suggested by George and then if I agree we proceed to invest.

3) The contributions to the pension plan from the Coop occur after our actuarial firm tells us what the required investment is and when it is due. We usually pay the minimum amount allowed. In rare instances we have paid in more than the required minimum. But we never have paid more than the maximum allowed by the IRS because we want to make sure that every dollar the Coop pays in is eligible for a tax deduction on the Coop's income tax filing.

4) There is no money to refund. After 23 years of the pension plans existence the Coop has paid the pension plan \$335,000 less than the Coop expected to pay to the plan. This was in the August

18 *Gazette*, and should have been repeated at the August 30 meeting. In addition, the August 18 *Gazette* stated that we are up \$1 million this fiscal year in the pension plan. This should have been repeated at the meeting as well. As of the writing of this letter our pension plan so far this fiscal year is up over 2 1/2 million dollars.

5) As of this writing the nine stocks are now only seven stocks. It's been two years since the trustees last reported in writing a list of which stocks the pension plan owns. It's overdue for us to do that again. However at this time I can see that we need to do a report that is not just a list but also a written explanation of why we own each stock, and how long we have been invested in it. We are working on this report and will have it ready for a General Meeting soon.

Joe Holtz
Pension Plan Trustee &
General Manager

IN RESPONSE
TO THE 9/1/2016
PENSION AND
FINANCIAL
DISCUSSION
LETTER BY AVI
FISHER

TO THE EDITOR:

I welcome and strongly agree with Avi Fisher's point regarding providing useful financial charts. I would like to add that, from what I understand about the data thus provided, we don't seem to be comparing apples to apples. If the Coop's pension plan numbers include withdrawals and contributions, this renders the comparison with the Dow meaningless. Furthermore, separating the fund's investment performance from its debits and credits would only be a first step in appraising the fund. Could the Coop please provide full trading data going back to the fund's conception?

Alexei Miagkov

PROPOSAL FOR
PENSION PLAN

HELLO:

Regarding the Coop's pension initiative discussed at the August 30 General Meeting: We need to hold a member vote at an upcoming meeting. I am fully in favor of creating an advisory council for the

PSFC's pension, to raise transparency and enhance communication with the membership on both investment decisions and required outlays.

As I understand the proposal, the council won't have an adversarial role or usurp responsibility of the individuals who now manage the pension—nor would it replace the board's fiduciary duty to act solely in the best interest of pension beneficiaries.

I think this council should act as a limited partner to ensure (i) the pension enjoys a cushion for achieving its objectives, and (ii) the membership fully understands the current investment policy. I am completely willing to hear the merits of the current investment strategy for the plan's assets—long-term holdings in select equities—as long as the plan's solvency is fully ensured.

In providing investment capital to the Coop, we effectively underwrite the promise of a secure retirement for full-time Coop employees—so the members are entitled to understand all assumptions to secure this commitment. Defined benefit pensions are increasingly rare in America; the Coop's retirement commitment to its employees is extremely worthy. We should ensure this commitment is preserved.

Sincerely,
Ben Millard

UNEQUAL
SUPPORT FOR
BANNING PLASTIC
ROLL BAGS

MEMBERS,

In the July 21 *Gazette*, Ron Zisa claimed the Environmental Committee (EC) had not been educating members about plastic bags. When faced with the facts, he revised his position, in the August 18 *Gazette*, to complain that the amount of education the committee has done is paltry.

Ron complained that in four years the EC made presentations about environmental problems with plastic roll bags six times—four times as stand-alone discussions and an additional two times preceding related votes. Well, as Ron must know, it takes many months to schedule a discussion item or a vote for the GM. In fact, in one instance it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

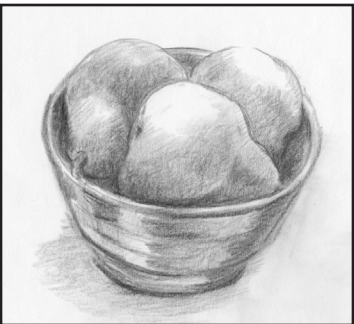
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

took 11 months to get on the agenda. This is no one's fault; it makes sense since there are a great many items that need to be discussed at the GM. Given this, however, it actually shows a great deal of commitment and perseverance on the EC's part that this issue has been discussed six times in four years.

Similarly, Ron complained that only six *Gazette* articles have been published about the disposable plastic bags. This, too, is disingenuous. The EC is allotted one space per *Gazette*, which it has used to cover a wide variety of concerns, from the environmental dangers of ocean fish farming to the fight against fracking. If we covered only one issue, that would be ineffective and annoying to members.

I'm not sure what Ron's point is in saying that he spoke with an EC member about the Terra Cycle project years ago; however, Terra Cycle illustrates an important point: It took less than a year from the initial discussion of Terra Cycle by the EC to launch Terra Cycle at the Coop, because the GCs supported it. Conversely, it took four years to get more than one kind of reusable food storage bag sold at the Coop, despite hours of research and demonstrations for the GCs on the part of EC committee members.

Why? Because the GCs steadfastly oppose proposals to rid the Coop of disposable plastic bags and these discussions were linked. While other committees have been allowed to post giant signs advertising their work over the cashiers' desk, the EC has been relegated to a tiny bulletin board next to the Coop's rear elevator. In the month leading up to the first vote on removing plastic bags from the Coop, the pro-vote notices the EC placed throughout the coop were repeatedly torn down, while anti-vote notices were taped to every check-out counter and cashier post,



and the large blackboard at the front of the Coop used to carry the GC's anti-vote message. The bottom line is, when Coop staff oppose something, it rarely happens. This is also why the EC has not made progress in having

more items sold in bulk at the Coop or having the Coop computer systems adjusted to accommodate different tare weights to reduce the use of disposable plastic.

Sincerely,
Regina Weiss

Hearing Officer Committee SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Hearing Officer Committee is seeking two new members. The committee conducts and presides over disciplinary hearings, ensures that hearings proceed in an efficient and unbiased manner and, after a randomly selected Deciding Group has decided whether an accused member violated a Coop rule, determines what disciplinary action should be taken against the member. Applicants should be Coop members in good standing for at least two years and have good attendance records. Judicial, arbitration, mediation or legal backgrounds a plus, but not required. Experience running meetings is desirable.

Members of the committee meet and earn workslot credit on an as-needed basis only, that is, when hearings are required. Therefore these members must maintain regular Coop workslots in good standing or be FTOP members in good standing.

The nature of the committee's work requires that all members maintain strict confidentiality with respect to all matters on which they work. The committee seeks an applicant pool that reflects the diversity of the Coop membership at large.

Those interested, please telephone
Marian Hertz of the Hearing Officer Committee
at 212-440-2743.

Solution to this issue's sudoku puzzle

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

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rating (G-VG) Best Buy. \$240 new; asking \$175. Margaret 718-622-2897 (In.)

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MERCHANDISE-NONCOMMERCIAL

FOR SALE: Sears Kenmore HEPA vacuum cleaner model #116-21514 purchased 03/20/16, little-used. All usual tools plus lighted, motorized carpet / floor brush and small motorized stair brush. High CR

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

Classified advertising in the *Linewaiters' Gazette* is available only to Coop members. Publication does not imply endorsement by the Coop.

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

INTERNATIONAL TRADE EDUCATION SQUAD REPORT

Obama Pushes for Trans-Pacific Partnership Approval During the Lame Duck Congress, FTA with Europe Union Pending

By Gerardo Renique and
Chris Marshall, International
Trade Education Squad

Set against strong citizen opposition and a reluctant Congress, on Sep. 7, 2016, President Obama announced his decision to push Congress to pass the Trans-Pacific Partnership ("TPP") this year. The Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement is the fruit of seven years' of secretive trade talks between the US and 11 other Pacific Rim countries, excluding China—and considered to be the largest regional trade accord in history.

The pact aims to deepen economic ties between these nations, slashing tariffs and fostering trade to boost growth. Although it is called a "trade" agreement, the TPP is not mainly about trade. Of TPP's 30 chapters, only six deal with traditional trade issues. The deal not only continues most of the troubling features of trade agreements since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), but also breaks worrisome new ground.

That same day in a public letter, more than 200 prominent economists and law professors—including Nobel laureate in economics, Josep Stiglitz—urged Congress to reject TPP and any other deal that includes Investor-State Dispute Settlements (ISDS). The letter states that ISDS "undermines the important roles of our domestic and democratic institutions, threatens domestic sovereignty, and weakens the rule of law."

ISDS allows foreign corporations to initiate dispute settlement proceedings in a private tribunal against a government for actions investors charge will impinge upon expected profit. Using the same arbitration provisions established by NAFTA, TransCanada is seeking \$15 billion in damages after the White House decided not to approve its Keystone XL Pipeline. Public Citizen estimates the TPP would empower an additional 9,200 foreign firms to attack our laws. Similar rules in other trade deals have already made possible nearly 700 lawsuits—including efforts to challenge a moratorium on fracking in Quebec.

Relocation of American manufacturing plants to Mexico promoted by NAFTA caused the loss of approximately 1 million U.S. jobs between its passage in 1994 and 2004. In 2008, candidate Obama acknowledged this and pledged to renegotiate NAFTA.

President Obama is still shooting to pass the agreement during the post-election, lame-duck Congressional session when representatives that have retired or have been voted out of office hold to their seats for a brief moment lasting no more than a month when political accountability to their constituents is nil. Claiming that a deal of the importance and magnitude of the TPP "should be debated by and approved by the new administration and Congress,"

retiring Michigan representative Candice Miller and five of her colleagues urged the President, "not to send TPP implementing legislation to Congress in 2016." Congress is the wild card in the contest for the approval of 30 policy proposals parading as a commercial trade pact. Lori Wallach of Public Citizen Global Trade Watch, the most experienced and knowledgeable of FTA watchers calls these agreements "a corporate power grab." She says it presents an unprecedented threat "to good jobs, higher wages, strong climate policies, a livable environment, affordable medicines, safe food and human rights."

Given the peculiarities of the "fast track" procedures approved by Congress last June, President Obama submits the TPP to Congress for only one vote with no amendments and with limited debate. Congress can approve TPP as presented or reject it. Donald Trump is militantly opposed. Hillary Clinton too. All Brooklyn representatives voted No on Fast Track in June and promised No on TPP. Senators Schumer and Gilihrand too. All need to hear that we expect them to stay firm, vocal and visible in their opposition. Reach Congress directly by calling (888) 701-6507 with the simple message No TPP: Fair Trade not Free Trade.

A twin to the TPP, the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), is now being negotiated between the U.S. and the European Union. Based on informa-

tion from occasional leaks, TTIP is being heavily criticized in Europe for ceding power to corporate interests, for weak environmental protections, poor health and food safety standards, and for facilitating job losses to low-wage countries.

In 2015 the European Parliament adopted a resolution supporting the negotiations, but only on the condition that the ISDS mechanism be deleted. More than 3.5 million Europeans have signed the "Stop TTIP" petition. In July, Nick Dearden of Global Justice Now said: "The TTIP negotiations were already on pretty shaky ground before the EU referendum, and now the shockwaves of Brexit are threatening to derail the deal entirely."

French President Hollande is now reported as saying, "at this stage, France says, 'No'." French Trade Minister Matthias Fekl and German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel have turned hostile on the TTIP negotiations, which Mr. Gabriel described as "failed."

France has gone so far as to say that it would propose halting the talks on TTIP at the EU trade ministers' meeting in Bratislava on Sept. 22. This is, however, unlikely to succeed, since the deal still has support from the Italian, Polish, British, Nordic countries' and Baltic states' governments, and because Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel also still backs it.

The U.S. administration, multi-national corporations and EU countries that support

the TTIP are devising a last-ditch plan to salvage core sections of the agreement. Last week, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Michael Punke visited the Director General for Trade at the European Commission Jean-Luc Demarty, as well as numerous trade officials in individual EU countries, in an effort to save it from the growing political opposition, and to secure a preliminary accord before the Obama administration's term ends this year.

The plan is to pursue "Step 1." That would include provisions of mutually agreed upon standards for cars, pharmaceuticals and medical devices. Supporters insist that "Step 1" would only be an initial phase, and would not be the final TTIP. However, opponents remain concerned, and cannot agree to this piecemeal approach. An EU Commission source agreed that a TTIP Step 1 would be politically unpalatable, and Paris insists that there is no question of a pared-down deal.

For more information and a chance to discuss your doubts, concerns, questions, and suggestions, come to the ITES Public Forum on Saturday, October 1 at 12:30 p.m., in the Coop's second-floor meeting room. In a future General Meeting, members may be able to vote whether to re-authorize the ITES to continue the educational work begun two years ago. Please sign up for workslot credit and come that meeting when it occurs. Thanks in advance for all the support. ■

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

How Our National Cooperative Grocers Deal Is Passing Savings Onto Members

By Joe Szladek,
General Coordinator

A year ago our Coop joined the National Cooperative Grocers (NCG). NCG's 150 member and associate coops operate over 210 stores in 38 states, with combined annual sales of over \$2 billion. NCG helps to unify natural food coops, in order to optimize operational and marketing resources, strengthen purchasing power, and ultimately offer more value to natural food coop member-owners everywhere. Together NCG forms a virtual chain of food coops

that join together nationally to compete with larger nationwide chains. The most important benefit to the PSFC has been increased purchasing power with our largest supplier, United Natural Foods (UNFI), allowing us better wholesale pricing than we could achieve on our own.

Over the past year NCG has substantially grown their EDLP (every day low price) program called "Coop basics" in an effort to provide coops around the country with consistently low prices on grocery and household staples. NCG negotiates with manufacturers of products

and secures low prices for its members for a minimum of six months—though the prices are intended to be low indefinitely. We then have the ability to buy these lower-priced products through our distributors—the majority through UNFI, our largest distributor.

Up until recently, we didn't consider joining "Coop Basics" because we were already getting a great discount on the same products. Two things changed recently that caused us to rethink the program. In August, due to a change in the way UNFI prices these items, we lost the 20%

discount that we were getting on Field Day products. That's a big deal—or rather, a big loss of a deal. In addition, NCG has been growing this program quite fast to include other brands and fresh items like frozen vegetables, coffee, Cliff and Luna bars, ground beef, fresh chicken, and a lot more. For example, grass-fed/grass-finished ground beef, will be nearly \$2.00 less per pound than our current ground beef. That offers our members significant savings.

There is a catch to joining "Coop Basics"—we are required by NCG to put up

signs in front of each item that is a part of this program for 90 days. After that period, we'll still have to post smaller, less intrusive signs that fit in the edges of our shelves. If we were to add new items from this program, those new items would also have to have signs up for 90 days. Please keep in mind, and please inform other members in the aisles that the deals we are getting through this program are significantly better than what we are able to get on our own. This NCG program is similar to what we have been doing on our own for years. It's only starting with 50-60 items, and we look forward to the program expanding to more items in the future. ■

MEMBER SUBMISSION

Invitation to Apply or Nominate Candidates for the 2016 Ortner Park Slope Preservation Awards

By David Alquist

Applications and nominations are now being accepted for the Park Slope Civic Council's 2016 Evelyn and Everett Ortner Park Slope Preservation Awards.

The awards, which were inaugurated in 2014, recognize construction projects that are compatible with the historic architecture of Park Slope and interventions by individuals or groups to protect the neighborhood's historic character. The objective of the awards is to encourage projects and

endeavors that make a positive contribution to Park Slope's unique identity. The awards honor Evelyn Ortner (1924–2006) and Everett Ortner (1919–2012), long-time residents of, and advocates for, the community who, beginning in the 1960s, played a pivotal role in transforming Park Slope into the vibrant community that it is today.

The Evelyn and Everett Ortner Park Slope Preservation Awards, which are sponsored by Tarzian Hardware, honor projects and endeavors in six

categories:

- exterior restoration
- exterior rehabilitation
- adaptive reuse
- new construction
- storefront design
- neighborhood intervention

Detailed information about the awards program, including eligibility requirements and an application form, can be found on the PSCC's website: <http://parkslopeciviccouncil.org/announcement-of-ortner-awards-process/>

Applications and supporting material should be

submitted no later than December 1, 2016.

Recipients of the awards will be selected by an independent jury of experts in architecture, historic preservation and community engagement. Jurors for the 2015 Awards are: Ingrid Abramovitch, architectural writer; Simeon Bankoff, Executive Director, Historic District Council; Bob Braun, architect; Clem Labine, founder: Old House Journal, Traditional Building & Period Homes; Laurie Lieberman,

architect; Andy Taylor, architect/Instructor, Institute for Classical Architecture. The awards will be presented at the January 7, 2017 meeting of the Park Slope Civic Council.

Questions about the 2016 Evelyn and Everett Ortner Park Slope Preservation Awards Program and suggestions of projects and interventions that might qualify for an award can be submitted to John Casson, the program's chair at ortnerpreservationawards@gmail.com. ■

MEMBER SUBMISSION

National Grid: Cancel the Contract! Stop the Pipeline!

By Mimi Bluestone

National Grid: If you heat or cook with gas in Brooklyn, Queens or Staten Island, it's your supplier.

It's also a key partner in a fracking gas project now building a pipeline 105 feet from the Indian Point nuclear power facility north of New York City.

That's why eight of us—including two who are Park Slope Food Coop members—blocked the entrance to National Grid's downtown Brooklyn building on August 29, 2016, demanding that the company cancel its contract to buy the gas slated to run through this pipeline.

Pipelines, of course, can leak and rupture. Spectra, the company building the pipeline, has a lousy safety record. A gas-fueled fire at a nuclear facility would be catastrophic. 20 million New Yorkers live within 50 miles of the plant. Our lives, our homes, and our drinking water are all at risk.

UK-based National Grid is the main buyer for the gas that will run through the pipeline, known as the Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) pipeline. ("Nothing Algonquin about it," protesters have noted). Without a market for this gas, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) would have no justification for granting a license to build the pipeline. No buyer, no pipeline.

"Cancel the contract!" "Stop the pipeline!" we chanted, along with dozens of supporters, including many other Coop members. After an hour, the New York Police Department arrested the eight blocking the

entryway. Four hours later, they released us, with a November court date. In all, 66 people have been arrested along the pipeline route.

It's not that we New Yorkers need this gas. It isn't even intended for us. It's part of an illegally segmented pipeline project running from Pennsylvania's fracking fields through New York's Westchester County. Then it crosses Connecticut and Rhode Island on the way to Massachusetts, where Spectra is building a liquefied natural gas terminal so the company can ship the gas overseas, where prices are much higher than in the United States. We New Yorkers and New Englanders are just collateral damage.

The AIM Pipeline is just one strand in a gigantic web of new infrastructure designed to ferry dirty, hard-to-access fuels to market. About 1,400 miles from where we sat down in Brooklyn, thousands of Native Americans and their allies have gathered at the edge of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation to block the Dakota Access Pipeline. The Dakota pipeline would vacuum up Bakken shale oil—some of the dirtiest fuel anywhere—and carry it to refineries hundreds of miles away. Like the pipeline here, the Dakota pipeline would endanger drinking water for millions of people. It would also violate places sacred to the Sioux.

Enbridge Inc., which owns a major share of the Dakota Access Pipeline project, has just bought Spectra, the company building the AIM pipeline that will supply National Grid.

Most of us engaged in these protests want to protect our land and water—and our climate. Blocking new fossil fuel infrastructure is crucial to protecting the future of human life on earth. Maintaining an atmosphere that can support us depends on keeping 80% of today's proven fossil fuel reserves in the ground. A livable future requires reversing as quickly as possible our dependence on coal, oil, and gas and moving at top speed to introduce renewable energy and energy conservation methods.

Building new fossil fuel infrastructure and failing to switch to renewables is like giving cartons of cigarettes to someone with curable lung cancer, while withholding lifesaving medicine. It's madness.

Non-violent direct action is a way to change the conversation, to make tangible what has become so ingrained as to be invisible. No, we don't think that National Grid is about to pull out of this deal to buy fracked gas. But National Grid is not our only audience. People of good will are, too. Everyone needs to understand that the hour is late, and the danger is here.

New York's governor and senators are our audience, too. Governor Cuomo and Senators Gillibrand and Schumer have all said that they oppose the AIM pipeline. But we want them to use their influence with FERC to stop Spectra from completing the pipeline.

For me, getting arrested was a calculated step in the campaign to stop this insanity, in the same way that being a

Coop member is a way to build a just and sustainable food system. I hope other Coop members will join us in the fight against this pipeline and the whole fossil fuel juggernaut. Keep it in the Ground! ■

Mimi Bluestone is a co-coordinator of 350Brooklyn, which organized this action together with Sane Energy Project and 350NYC.



Tip of the MONTH!

Eat Well to Reduce Climate Change

Eating organic, locally grown and in-season foods reduces our carbon footprint, as does avoiding processed foods.

Eating fewer animal products helps too, since meat and dairy production involves a lot of greenhouse gas emission.

Learn more at:
ecokvetch.blogspot.com