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February 2, 2017

From Vegetarian to Butcher: The Piggery's Story of Humanely Raised Local Meat

By John B. Thomas

How does one go from being a vegetarian for 17 years to a professional butcher, pig-farm owner and self-professed advocate of "Revolution Pig?" That's the story of Heather Sandford, the co-founder and owner of The Piggery (along with her husband Brad Marshall).

For the unaware, Heather's 70-acre farm and its wholesale business—The Piggery—is one of the Coop's main suppliers of pork products—bacon, deli meats, pork chops, bone broth. These are just a selection of the many humanely raised pork products that their small farm has devoted itself to producing.

Heather's journey from vegetarian to butcher perhaps mirrors the process that many Coop members have gone through in coming to appreciate the health, social justice and environmental implications of our food choices. After deciding to be a vegetarian at the age of 13 because of "family members I admired," said Heather, the interest in sustainable agriculture and curiosity about the impacts of industrial farming stayed with her through college in upstate New York at Cornell. Eventually, "I had to eat meat for health reasons, and so naturally I wanted to know where it came from." This interest in local meat snowballed, and relatively soon after Heather and her husband purchased the plot of land outside Ithaca, New York, that is now The Piggery's home base.

In operation as a farm since 2004, Heather and Brad started farming meat in 2007. What made them unique at the time was their focus on the health and well-being of their heritage breed

pigs and their interest in the craft of butchery. Heather's pigs are pasture-raised for 8-10 months—three of which Heather describes as "open barn"—more than twice the growth time for

their farmhouse to the locus of an emerging regional food movement around responsibly farmed meat. Employing 22 people and partnering with four other farms, The Piggery and its partner farms

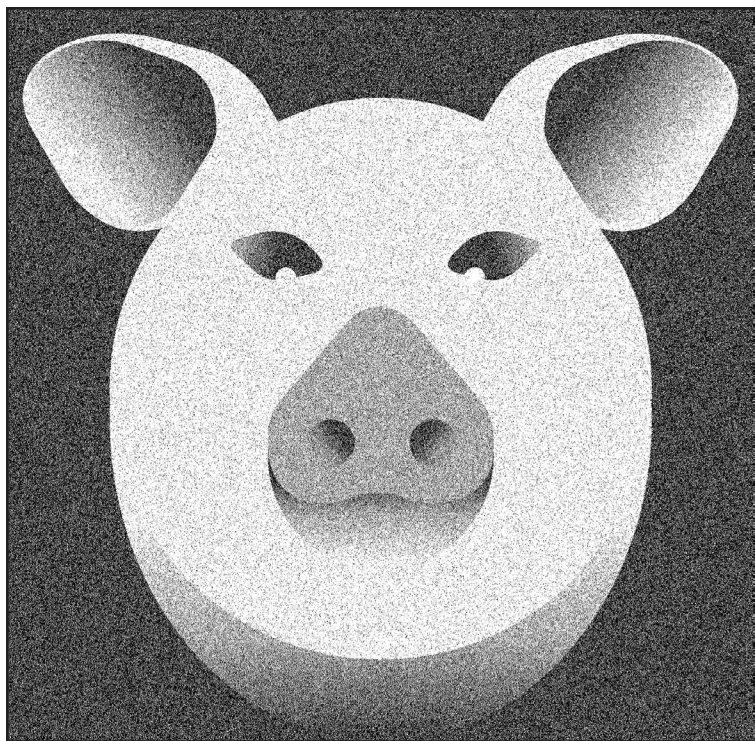


ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL BUCKLEY

commodity pigs. They're fed a non-GMO diet, and live a much healthier life than their feedlot brethren.

And despite her conscientious upbringing, "I refer to myself now as a butcher." The Piggery's focus on the craft of butchery stemmed from their interest in being different. "We wanted to do more than just pork chops," said Heather. As such, both she, Brad and now many of their employees have really invested the time to learn about different ways of cutting meat. And they offer classes to the general public to learn from their experience.

While still a small farm with roughly 200 hogs, today The Piggery has gone from two aspiring butchers cutting meat in the basement of

send humanely raised meats all over the New York region.

The ethos of caring for animals extends to their people too: The Piggery is Food Justice-certified by the Agricultural Justice Project. This certification examines everything from hiring practices to wages to community relations, pricing and many other categories relating to worker rights. Practically, this certification means The Piggery's employees are paid wages in relationship to their revenues, which are on average more than 27% higher than wages paid by other farms in the region. And Heather and her team are in the process of adding a retirement plan and health initiative.

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Disciplinary Committee Case Leads to Expulsion for Theft of Services

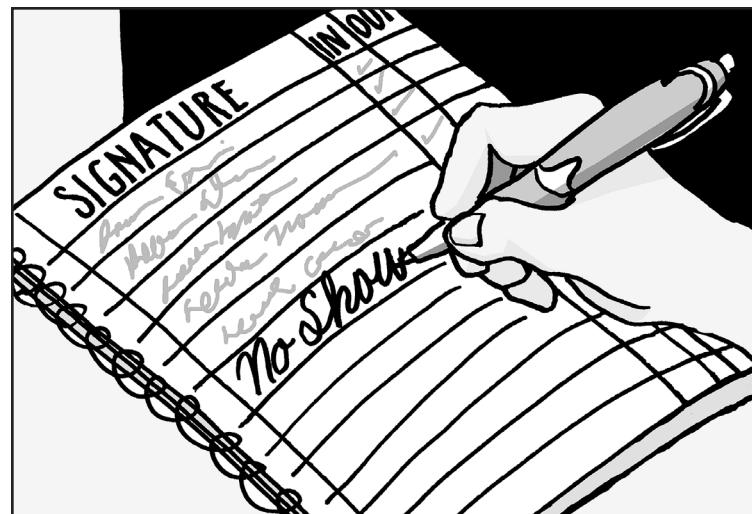


ILLUSTRATION BY LYNN BERNSTEIN

By Frank Haberle

In the first week of January, multiple New York City news channels carried the story of the Park Slope Food Coop members allegedly caught leaving the Coop with unpaid-for groceries from the Coop's shelves, amounting to thousands of dollars if extrapolated over the year. In the same week, an arbitration presented by the PSFC Disciplinary Committee on a completely separate case highlighted how the Coop must approach theft—whether of products, or of work hours. In both of these cases, the final out-

come was expulsion and permanent loss of PSFC membership for the offenders and their households—demonstrating that stealing time from the PSFC member-led work force must be treated with the same seriousness as stealing food, or stealing money.

The January 4 hearing was an arbitration in which a member (herein described as Member A, to protect the confidentiality of the party) was brought before the PSFC's Hearing Officer Committee on charges of thefts of services. An arbitration

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Next General Meeting on February 28

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The February General Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 28, 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.

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The Piggery

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Additionally, since 2014 The Piggery has been certified as a USDA slaughterhouse, a highly rigorous process allowing The Piggery to slaughter its own meat on its premises, rather than transporting their pigs to another farm perhaps many miles away. In addition to improving The Piggery's business, this certification means that Heather's farm can support so many other farmers in their region with their facilities, creating a spill-over effect well beyond their farm's borders.

Despite The Piggery's current success, it hasn't always been roses. Heather shared stories both humorous and sobering about the challenges and rewards of striking out on one's own as a small farmer in a country and world that supports large industrial farming.

One anecdote involved bringing a roaster pig to the butcher, for someone who wanted to roast a whole pig for Thanksgiving. "We got there and one of the pigs hopped out and ran for the woods. In those moments your heart sinks: you know you have a lot of things to do and something goes very wrong." The problem of having a pig running wild in the woods was exacerbated by the fact that he was an uncastrated male, and "You just can't have an uncastrated male pig running around the woods," she says.

Pigs are pasture-raised for 8-10 months—more than twice the growth time for commodity pigs.

So instead of taking the pigs to the slaughterhouse and meeting their time-sensitive delivery deadline ("Fresh meat is a perishable product with a small time-frame"), Heather and the Amish butcher's 10-year-old son spent the day tracking this pig through the woods, looking for wallows, rooting patterns, hoof marks, and the little noises. While apparently tracking a pig is not hard, the hard part, unsurprisingly, is "convincing them to go back," said Heather.

Less humorous but no less challenging for Heather was the process of becoming a USDA-certified slaughterhouse. "This was a really big mountain we had to climb and get over," said Heather. "If we wanted to meet our mission and make humane-

ly raised, non-GMO meats accessible and affordable, we needed to get USDA certification." This process is onerous, and involves not just how the meat is slaughtered and food safety protocols, but how the facility is designed. In Heather's words, "A plant like ours is regulated the same way as Applegate or Oscar Meyer," two huge industrial meat producers.

The Piggery's employees are paid wages in relationship to their revenues, which are on average more than 27% higher than wages paid by other farms in the region.

"We called in a lot of favors," said Heather, referring to the support they got from customers, the eco-

nomie development loans they applied for, and even selling part of their business to a family member as a private investor. Yet Heather and her team made it through, and the result has been not just many more humanely raised pigs going to market, but also The Piggery's new ability to "support everyone in our community."

Heather considers the Park Slope Food Coop an important part of that community, and has this message to share. "You have helped our business grow. We've been able to raise more animals with care and conviction because of you. One of the hardest things about moving from a farmer's market to wholesale is not getting to see our customers every day. So I just want to say thank you." ■

Board of Directors Election

The General Meeting & The Board of Directors

From our inception in 1973 to the present, the monthly General Meeting has been the decision-making body of the Coop. Since the Coop incorporated in 1977, we have been legally required to have a Board of Directors.

The Bylaws of the Park Slope Food Coop state: "The portion of the Board of Directors meeting that is devoted to receiving the advice of the members shall be known as the General Meeting.... The members who gather to give advice to the directors may choose to vote in order to express their support or opposition for any of the issues that have come before the meeting."

Duties of the Directors

The Board of Directors is comprised of five elected Coop members and the senior General Coordinator present. Members serve three-year terms. Members of the Board are expected to attend GMs monthly. They receive Coop work credit for their attendance.

The Board of Directors conducts votes at the end of every GM whether to accept the advice of the members that night. Members of the Board are required to act legally and responsibly.

Opening

There is one opening on the Board for a term of three years.

Candidate Deadline

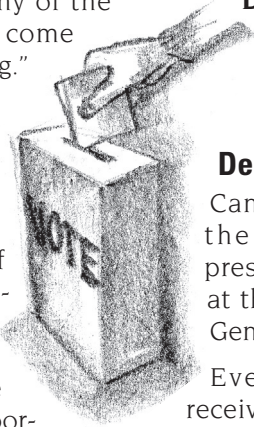
If you wish to place your name into nomination, you must declare your candidacy by submitting a statement of up to 750 words to: gazettesubmissions@psfc.coop. Please include a small photo for publication in the *Linewaiters' Gazette* and the member proxy mailing.

Deadline for candidacy submission is Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

Deciding and Voting

Candidates will have the opportunity to present their platform at the March 28, 2017, General Meeting.

Every member will receive a proxy package in the mail in late May. Members may vote by returning their ballot by mail or by bringing it to the Coop. Members may also vote at the Annual Meeting on June 27, 2017.



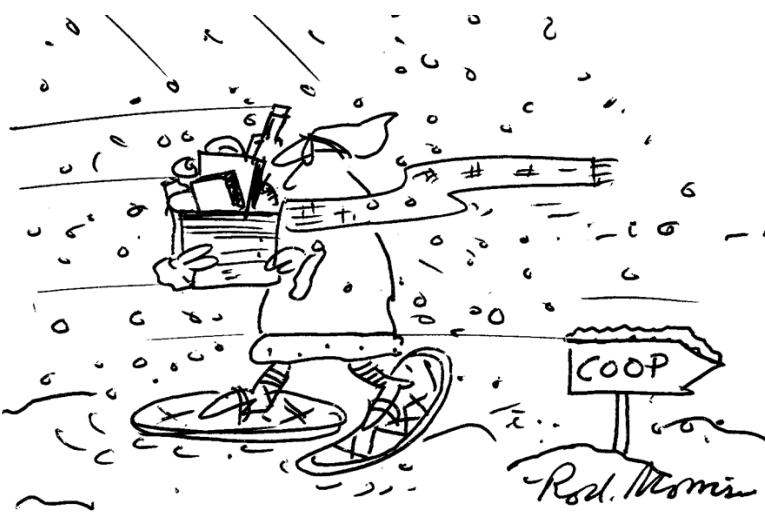
Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
17				18				19				
				20				21				
	22	23	24				25					
26							27					
28				29	30	31						
32				33					34	35	36	37
				38					39			
40	41	42	43					44				
45							46	47	48			
49							50					
51							52			53	54	55
57							58			59		
60							61				62	

Across
1. Web _____
5. "You have gotta be kidding me!"
9. Good-for-nothing
14. Part of a plot
15. QB Tony
16. Adams who photographed Yosemite
17. NBA owner who, in 2013, offered to let fans design his team's next uniform at blogmaverick.com
19. It's not 100% this or that
20. Jockey strap
21. Like some voices after shouting
22. They're outlined in the Bill of Rights
26. With 22-down, "The Alienist" author
27. Broke off a relationship
28. Same-sex household?
29. Daiquiri fruit
32. Infomercial catchphrase (and a promise of satisfaction guaranteed for the solver of 17-, 22-, 45- and 52-Across)
38. More imminent
39. Rotating car part
40. Online merchant
44. Cuban name in 2000 news
45. "Hmm, I doubt that ..."
49. Commotion
50. Give up
51. Baseball pioneer Doubleday
52. 2010s Patricia Heaton sitcom
57. Jacques _____, French psychoanalyst who studied hysteria
58. "Mommy, dat hurts!"
59. Length x width, for a rectangle
60. Playwright Clifford
61. "Ali" director Michael
62. Call from behind the deli counter

Down
1. "The Office" woman
2. Obama's signature health law, for short
3. Sound before a dog bites
4. "Yikes!"
5. Barbaric
6. 1999 Exxon merger partner
7. Saudi neighbor
8. Oui's opposite
9. Symbolic end of summer
10. Like Jimmy Kimmel and Jimmy Fallon
11. Log-in info
12. Martial arts instructor
13. Firstborn
18. Where one can retire young?
21. Marilu of "Taxi"
22. See 26-Across
23. "Now _____ me down to sleep ..."
24. Presidential rejection
25. "Moneyball" subject Billy
26. Co. money manager
29. About 1 in 25 full-term births
30. 2003 NBA Rookie of the Year Stoudemire
31. "... _____ a lender be"
33. Forgets
34. Indonesian tourist destination
35. Angle in botany
36. Pottery base
37. 2016 Baseball Hall of Fame inductee _____ Griffey, Jr.
40. Surround with light
41. "Better luck next time"
42. In a New York minute
43. Like some noisy cats
44. "... _____ saw Elba"
46. Unstressed vowel
47. Welcome at the front door
48. Jingle producers
52. "Spotlight" director McCarthy
53. Rather in the news
54. Beats by _____ (audio brand)
55. Villainous Luthor
56. Gobble up

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



Disciplinary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is a more efficient form of disciplinary proceeding that does not involve as many members as a full “Hearing.” Theft of Services is defined by the Coop as a charge including, but not limited to, the practice of misrepresenting work performed (such as signing in for shifts and not working them, or only working part of them); falsifying worker attendance records, and failing to fulfill PSFC work requirements (such as failure to make a good faith effort to complete make-up shifts).

Arbitrations: How They Are Conducted

The PSFC Disciplinary Committee is set into action when complaints are brought against members for a range of uncooperative actions, ranging from angry outbursts on the checkout lines, to ongoing disruptive and abusive behavior, and to theft of products and services. When a complaint is filed, Disciplinary Committee members often spend hours investigating cases, going through records, reviewing video and interviewing witnesses. Following these investigations, Disciplinary Committee members call and send formal letters to offending members, informing them of the case against them and recommending that they accept the findings and the result—which may include temporary suspension or, in severe cases, expulsion. The member may then select a Hearing before a larger body that includes a Hearing & Deciding group of randomly selected Coop members who determine if the evidence presented by the Disciplinary Committee is conclusive, with the final outcome determined by neutral members of the Hearing Officer Committee, or by selecting an arbitration in which the Hearing Officer Committee decides the evidence question and then proceeds with the final outcome.

The January 4 arbitration began with members of the PSFC Hearing Officer Committee explaining how the arbitrations are conducted, what the roles are of different parties in the room, and then a review of the charges. The Disciplinary Committee presents the accusation, evidence, and witnesses where appropriate. The accused

member is then invited to do the same, and the Hearing Officers can question any of the parties. At the end of this stage of the proceedings, the Disciplinary Committee makes its remarks, and the accused member makes any final statements. The Hearing Officer Committee members then leave the room and return with the final result.

“In this case, we had a number of sources to help us quickly outline a pattern of abuse.”

Signing In Without Showing Up

Member A was charged with signing in for four PSFC work shifts between November 2015 and August 2016 as make-up shifts, for which the member was not present. On November 25, 2015, Member A signed in for a 1 p.m. squad as a make-up and was not present. On June 8, 2016, Member A arrived 20 minutes late for her squad shift at 6 p.m., and also signed in for a make-up at 10:30 a.m. that morning. On August 3 Member A repeated this practice, arriving late for the 6 p.m. squad and signing in for a 3:30 p.m. make-up. On August 24, 2016, it happened once more—Member A arrived 20 minutes late for a 6 p.m. shift and also signed in for a 3:30 p.m. make-up. Member A’s normal squad is an office shift as a 2nd Floor Service Desk monitor.

After reviewing the four events as presented in the letter, the Disciplinary Committee invited into the room a PSFC staff member, a Membership Coordinator, who is responsible for investigating such cases. “I spend 20 to 30 hours each week investigating information for cases like this,” the Coordinator said. “When cases like this are brought to me we can go straight to the books, review sign-in records, and review cameras, which can help us track when people come in and out, but also help determine if it’s all an honest mistake. Additionally, with office squads, the staff keep our own separate attendance list to keep track of who is present, who came in late and who may need to stay late in order to complete a task. Because we only have six chairs in the office, we need to rotate members doing shifts very carefully.

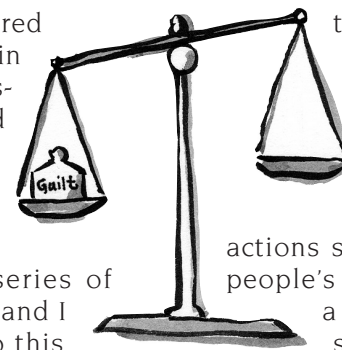
“In this case,” the Coordinator continued, “we had a

number of sources to help us quickly outline a pattern of abuse. We have dates and we have camera records, we have sign in books and we have our own attendance books.” With Member A’s case, the Coordinator noted that there was a pattern of being signed in for shifts, but never any corroborating evidence of their being in the Coop during those make-up times dating back to 2012.

Member A stated that they had no clear memory of when they worked shifts, or whether they may have signed in for shifts they may have not worked, but asked instead that the Committee consider their character. “I’ve never had to defend my actions before,” Member A said, “and it’s a horrible feeling.” Member A listed a series of personal trage-

dies that occurred during the year in which the offenses occurred, and which, they felt, affected their judgment. “I started making a series of bad decisions, and I put myself into this position.” Member A went on to say, “the thought of being banned from here is horrible. The thought that my future-born may never get to be a part of this community is horrible. And so, I am here to plead my case.”

Member A brought in a character witness (Member B) who met Member A at the Coop nine years before. “Member A has always been known to be responsible, not only in the Coop, but in their life in the community,” Member B said. “I understand that



they went through some personal things and this affected the management of all sorts of things. People’s actions speak loudly, but people’s participation in a community also speaks loudly.”

A Guilty Result

After leaving to discuss the case, the three-member panel of the Hearing Officer Committee returned to announce their determination. “We are very sensitive and appreciative of your taking the time to come in and state your case. Notwithstanding this, we have voted to expel you from the Coop. We take no pleasure in this decision; however, what we have here was a clear pattern of deliberate deception that went on over an extended period of time.” ■

Coop Job Opening: Receiving Coordinator Evenings/Weekends

Description:

All Receiving Coordinators ensure the smooth functioning of the Coop.

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

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

The ideal candidate will:

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

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

Wages: \$26.61/hour

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

Requirements:

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

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

Applicants must be able to:

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

How to Apply:

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

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

<http://bit.do/ReceivingCoordinator>

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

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

Favas, Snap Peas, Peas in the Pod: What Former Coop Members Miss

By JD Davids

Life has been hectic lately, and I haven't been able to get from my home in Kensington to the Coop as much as I'd like. I miss the food on a daily basis when I look in my fridge, especially the thick, organic coconut milk from Native Forest and that bacon from The Piggery.

The Coop is just a subway ride or car service lift away, so it's relatively easy to satisfy my longing. But for those who are no longer Coop members, it can be hard to find substitutes.

I reached out to friends and through social media to ask what people miss about the Coop when they are no longer members. Time and again, they mentioned the prices, the quality of food, and the community—even if it's been years since they shopped here.

Margaret McCarthy was a Coop member from 1988 to 1994, when she moved to Ithaca. Now in New Haven, she's in search of a CSA.

She vividly recalls her member assignments, which ranged from typing the newsletter on an old Mac computer, to slicing cheese, to restocking food in the freezer after donning heavy Carhartts.

"I miss the sense of camaraderie with other Coop members. I am from Brooklyn, and I ran into people I knew from many eras of my life at the

Coop. I found out about lots of progressive/activist events and organizations from other Coop members. I also got tips on nutritious eating," she explained.

She also misses being a part of a cooperative largely run by member work.

"I did join the Greenstar Food Coop in Ithaca, but most of the work there is done by paid employees. I tried doing a few work shifts, but they were not really set up to be done by member workers. For instance, I had to clean the bulk grain area and the dairy cases during shopping hours, which interfered with shoppers," McCarthy explained.

"I am really impressed with how well the Park Slope Food

Coop. I found out about lots of progressive/activist events and organizations from other Coop members. I also got tips on nutritious eating," she explained.

Gaby Cryan, who lives in Crown Heights, is a former member caught in that dilemma.

Cryan was member of the Park Slope Food Coop a few different times, having first joined briefly in 2001 at the age of 18 before leaving town, then rejoining from 2003-2004, and again in 2009.

"I left the Coop because I owed too many shifts and was overwhelmed by the number of makeups I would have had to complete in order to get back into good standing," Cryan wrote in response to my query.

"At this point I think I owe 13 shifts to the Park Slope Food

Coop. I had a couple of weeks off this summer and seriously considered spending a full week just doing make up shifts so I could rejoin. But I ended up having surgery instead."

Cryan has a message for current members: "The Park Slope

Food Coop is an

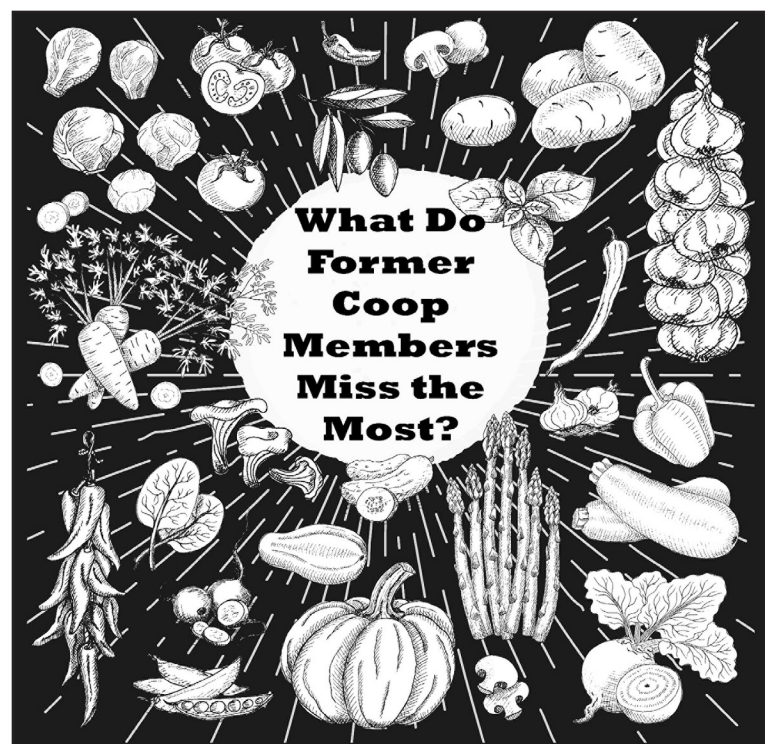
amazing institution—if you are a member I advise you to stay in good standing!"

"I live in Crown Heights and there is no shortage of grocery store options but every place in the neighborhood is much more expensive than the Coop and for the most part the quality is significantly lower," Cryan explained. "I've had shares of various CSAs over the years and that probably comes the closest but it is not the same thing at all."

My coworker Rebecca Bauer is very much back in the fold as a dedicated Coop member, but had two periods of leaving the Coop for up to a year, despite living a block away.

"It got so annoying to shop there," she explained in an impromptu interview at our office. "If you're a working person Monday to Friday, you have to shop at night or the weekends... Shopping at the worst times, there's certain things that have to be worth it—and the vegetables are probably the only thing."

"Favas, snap peas, peas in the pod—English peas they call them—all those are hard to find and they're super expensive, and when you get



ILLUSTRATIONS BY MICHAEL J. COHEN



PHOTO BY INGSU LIO

Coop set up shifts so that members could reasonably do the work even though they weren't that familiar with every facet of the operation."

On the other hand, McCarthy added that "the policy of making someone do two shifts to make up for any one shift they missed was draconian. Some of my

them at other places besides the Coop they are limp and stale," she added.

In particular, she said she missed the handful of weeks every spring where the Coop produce is "unbelievable," saying "when you go in the produce aisle in those four to six weeks in the springtime, it's abundant. It's like being in a greenhouse."

Despite having moved to Mexico a decade ago, Kristin Bricker also remembers her favorite Coop fare, as well as the social opportunities:

"The Coop had the most delicious olive selection I've ever seen. I miss the variety of food in general," she wrote. "It sounds stupid, but I also miss meeting celebrities and their families on my work shifts. That time I worked a cash register next to Chad Coleman for two make-up shifts in a row was pretty rad."

"Comparable olives elude me to this day, and Chad Coleman does not work at my current grocery store," she lamented. "My nearest grocery store sells trash. I complained about all the unhealthy food they sell, and multiple local friends told me, 'Oh, if you want to eat healthy, a good trick is to avoid the aisles altogether and just stick to the edges of the store where healthy stuff like produce, meat, juice, dairy & bread are.' Mmmmkay, that is just stupid. I prefer the Coop, where healthy food seems to dominate the store."

After Bert Vaccari and his husband moved to the Bronx in late 2013, Vaccari managed

to maintain his membership for a few months—but the length of the trip plus his shift wasn't sustainable.

"We've since joined a CSA and that's been a nice journey in its own way," Vaccari noted. "But we have to visit more places to cobble together all that we had access to at the Coop. Between Whole Foods, the CSA, farmer markets and the Bronx's own Garden Gourmet store, I've found most of my favorite products albeit at higher prices."

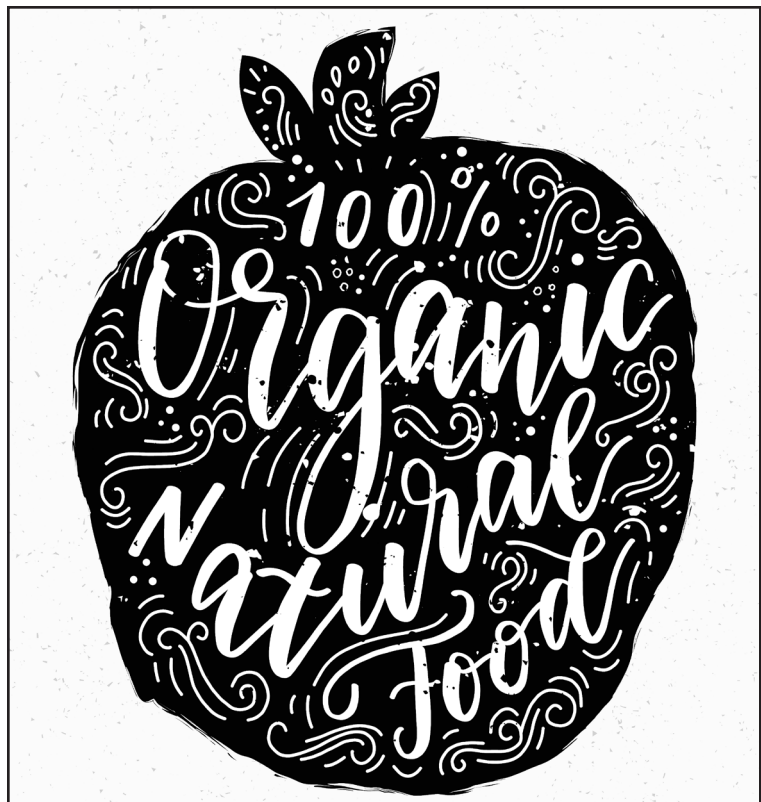
Vaccari, who worked the last register shift on Thursday evenings, added that he misses hanging out with lots of great people at the Coop, including "my shift mates and many other member regulars who shopped on Thursday nights."

Nancy C. Sampson was a member for 14 years before departing in October for North Carolina, so her memories of food are quite fresh—and centralized primarily around one particular aisle and near-

by coolers: She misses the selection in the cheese case, Dancing Star Carob & Spirulina bites, yogurts, and the crystallized ginger from the bulk area.

Although she's living in a different area of the state while she looks for a job, she hopes to live in Durham so she can join their food coop.

"Their cheese variety isn't as good, but on the upside members will begin earning dividends as of March! You do not have to be a member to shop, but I think I would like to be." ■



Pension Insurance FAQs

By Ed Levy

The Coop pension fund has been a hot topic for a number of months. This article looks at the federal agency that insures private employer pension funds, known as the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC). If a pension fund fails, pension holders receive all or most of their pension benefits from this agency.

The Coop's pension fund is not failing. This article is meant only to provide general information about a topic of current interest to members. It is based on various sources, including conversations the *Gazette* had directly with PBGC staff, and with General Coordinator Joe Holtz.

Q: What is the PBGC and who runs it?

A: The PBGC was created by a 1974 law, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). Its director is Tom Reader, a former counsel to the Senate Finance Committee who helped craft the Affordable Care Act. Reader was appointed to the job by President Obama in 2015 and reports to a board of directors consisting of the secretaries of labor, commerce and treasury, with the secretary of labor as chairman.

Q: What does the PBGC do?

A: If a private pension plan is terminated without having enough money to pay all the benefits it owes, the PBGC's insurance program will pay all or most of those benefits including disability. In most cases, plan holders receive the full benefit they earned before the plan terminated.

In 2015, the PBGC paid out \$5.6 billion to employees of 60 failed single-employer pension plans. The PBGC currently has a total of \$164 billion in obligations and \$88 billion in assets. The risk of insolvency in the PBGC has been decreasing in recent years, with latest projections now at the year 2025, according to the PBGC's own assessment.

Q: How does termination of a pension plan work?

A: There are two types of terminations. An employer can voluntarily ask to close its single-employer pension plan in either of two ways, a standard or distress termination. In a standard termination, the plan must have enough money to pay all accrued benefits, whether vested or not, before the plan can end. Workers receive their promised benefits in

the form of a lump-sum payment or an insurance company annuity. In a distress termination, the plan does not have enough money to pay all benefits. To qualify, the employer must prove severe financial distress—for instance, the likelihood that continuing the plan would force the company to shut down. In a distress termination the PBGC will cover a large part of total earned benefits, and make strong efforts to recover funds from the employer. The PBGC may sometimes seek to terminate a single-employer plan without the employer's consent to protect the interests of workers, the plan or PBGC's insurance fund. The PBGC must act to terminate any plan that cannot pay current benefits.

Q: What benefits does PBGC guarantee?

A: The PBGC pays all or most pension and disability benefits, and all or most annuity benefits to survivors of plan participants, depending on the pension-holder's age, the plan's assets and the amount the PBGC recovers during the termination process.

The PBGC does not guarantee health and welfare benefits, severance and vacation pay, life insurance, lump-sum death benefits, certain other death benefits and other non-pension benefits. PBGC benefits are not increased using cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs).

The maximum pension benefit guaranteed by PBGC is set by law and adjusted yearly. For single-employer plans that end in 2016, workers retiring at age 65 can receive up to a maximum of \$5,011.36 per month or \$60,136 per year.

The maximum guaranteed benefit is lower for those who take early retirement, or when there is a benefit for a survivor, and higher for those retiring past 65. The PBGC does not fully guarantee benefit increases that were adopted within the five years of a plan's termination or benefits earned after a plan sponsor's bankruptcy.

Q: How is the PBGC financed?

A: The PBGC is financed in four ways: (1) from premiums paid by the companies whose plans it protects, (2) from the PBGC's own investments, (3) from the assets of the pension plans that it takes over as trustee, and (4) from money recovered from the companies formerly responsible

for the plans. The PBGC is not funded through taxation. A plan remains insured even if an employer fails to pay the required premiums.

Q: Is enrollment in the PBGC mandatory?

A: Yes, it is mandatory. The company and plan participants receive deferred taxation on the money accruing in the pension fund. They must also follow certain rules of the plan—for example, that vesting must take place within a given number of years.

Q: Does the PBGC monitor the stewardship of the plans it insures?

A: Ordinarily, no. The PBGC monitors some plans that are in danger, to ensure that they maintain certain standards. Suppose a plan misses a required contribution to its fund. In that case, they are supposed to tell the PBGC, which then follows up by looking into that plan. But in general, the status of a pension plan, and whether or not it meets legal requirements, is under the jurisdiction of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which grants the tax deferment. A plan that is not in compli-

the actuaries a statement of the value of the trust fund. The finished work of the actuaries provide the minimum amount the Coop's plan administrator and trustee needs to pay the pension plan in the coming year and when it is due. The Coop is legally bound to pay the minimum amount. The amount triggered by the actuarial report was approximately \$115,000 for the last fiscal year.

Plans are subject to two types of premiums. There is a flat rate, which in 2016 was \$64 per person. But if the plan is underfunded, there is an additional \$30 premium, called the variable rate premium, for every thousand dollars of underfunding. Underfunding occurs when the ratio of assets to liabilities falls below 80 percent. Underfunding can also cause the Coop to lose some of the flexibility in how it pays into its fund. For example, it could be required to make regular quarterly payments or a lump-sum payment. The Coop ended the last plan year at 80 percent funding.

Q: How is the funding ratio calculated?

the plan be a tax deductible business expense. The Coop's pension plan administrator has in the past put in only the minimum.

Q: If I have a pension plan, how can I find out if it is underfunded?

A: The plan administrator must provide an annual written notice about the funded status of the plan. Anyone who is a qualified member of a pension plan has a legal right to obtain information about the plan's funding by requesting information in writing from their plan's administrator.

Q: Is there any relationship between the premium and the types of investments the fund is holding?

A: No.

Q: If a plan sponsor files for bankruptcy, does that pension plan end?

A: Plan termination is a different process from a filing for bankruptcy. It's not the role of the PBGC to force companies into bankruptcy. If a plan should fail, that begins a "conversation" with the PBGC that can lead to a number of different scenarios. Also, if a plan sponsor (usually an employer) files for bankruptcy, the pension plan is not necessarily terminated. In fact, many plan sponsors enter and emerge from bankruptcy without terminating their plans.

If there is a bankruptcy, the PBGC has tried to ensure that minimum contributions to insured defined benefit pension plans are considered "administrative expenses" in the bankruptcy process. This gives such contributions priority over claims by unsecured creditors. However, the PBGC has usually lost on this argument, sometimes resulting in a benefit to general unsecured creditors.

Q: How large are most pension plans that are insured by the PBGC?

A: The PBGC insures thousands of pension plans. Most of them have fewer than a hundred people. However, most people covered are in large plans. One or 2 percent of the plans covered by the PBGC cover 50 percent of the people.

Q: What is a lump-sum payout?

A: A lump sum is essentially the amount of money a person would need to invest today to equal the stream of monthly pension checks he would receive beginning at age 65, and lasting his lifetime.

The PBGC pays lump sums only when a plan is terminated and a total pension benefit has a value of \$5,000 or less. All other benefits are paid as a monthly annuity. ■

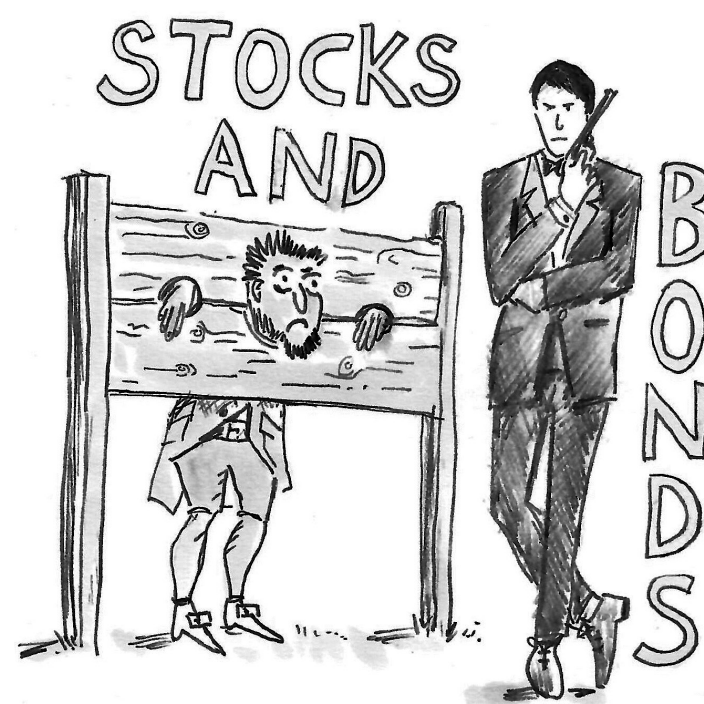


ILLUSTRATION BY ROD MORRISON

ance with the regulations can lose its tax deferment and receive a huge tax bill.

Q: How is the amount the Coop pays to the PBGC calculated?

A: At the beginning of every year, the Coop's pension plan administrators and trustee sends to the actuaries hired by our pension plan any payroll data and other information for the recently ended calendar year. Since employee benefits in defined benefit plans are based on years of service, earnings and age, the actuaries combine this new information with all the prior years of information. The Coop's administrators and trustee also sends

A: Calculation of this figure involves projections of how much the plan will earn, and these projections in turn depend on what interest rate is used. The funding percent is calculated using what is known as a high-interest-rate assumption. If funding of the plan falls below 80 percent, the PBGC may ask the plan to submit an extra report, or may require a lump-sum contribution.

Q: Can the Coop pay more than is required into the pension plan?

A: There is a maximum amount the Coop's plan administrator can pay the pension plan and still have

The Video Squad: Small Crew, Big Dreams

By Pat Smith

The Video Squad may be the Coop's best-kept secret. The entertaining, informative videos on the squad's website, foodcoopvideos.weebly.com, deserve to be seen by the Coop community and the world at large, but to find them you have to wander to the bottom of the Coop website homepage, under "Coop Initiatives." This reporter only learned about the existence of the Video Squad while doing a story on the Archive Squad. Even the Coop librarians have gotten more attention—granted, the librarians are pretty cool. To learn more, I interviewed Video Squad members

Jessie Weiner and Lizzie Donahue. The most important thing about the squad—and they were insistent about this—is that it demands an extreme passion for the Coop.

It Takes a Lot of Heart

Why does the Video Squad demand an extra level of commitment? "The tricky thing is that you've got to work for free a little bit," said Lizzie, suggesting that if they only worked the required two hours, 45 minutes per month, they would never finish a project. "If we billed for all the hours we've done, we'd never have to do another shift again."

"You really have to be pas-

sionate about the work," said Jessie. "You can't be somebody who's like, ugh, this is my shift, I just have to go and put in my time," she said. "It's not for people like that. You have to love the Coop. Jason Weiner [Membership Coordinator and liaison to the squad, no relation] always says you have to be committed to the work."

Jason expanded on that in an email: "Most video squad workers are freelancers. When they get paying jobs, projects often are left incomplete. Jessie and Lizzie have found a formula for building videos that are not only relevant, but are completed in a timely fashion and are short enough that they hold your attention."

Bread and Edits

How did these ardent video artists get started in the Coop? "I was a crazy bread lady," said Lizzie, referring to the Receiving Squad stockers of bagels and rolls, a shift that also seems to inspire a special fire. "Then Jessie drank the Kool-Aid and she became a crazy bread lady, too. Have you done an article on the crazy bread people?"

"We have to do a video on them," said Jessie. "We both work as film editors, primarily. We started working on the Video Squad at the same time."

"In the spring of 2013, doing cooking shows," said Lizzie. "The Coop Cooks," said Jessie. "It was a semi-regular cooking show that was on a Brooklyn public access channel. But it was hard to get a consistent host, crew and schedule set up."

"I've always been an editor," said Jessie. "It's the only thing I've ever done. I started out in the independent film world, then I got into reality TV. And then documentaries. For a long time, I was doing a lot of Food Network stuff. So, when *The Coop Cooks* came along, for me it was second nature. It was easy, but we took it very seriously. It wasn't that we were trying to get an easy shift. We really cared and wanted to do something good for the Coop. We're both Coop junkies; we love the Coop in a really serious way."

Compiling Coop History

"I'm interested in creating an archive of interviews with various people," Lizzie said. "I saw an article about the Archive Committee [*Linewaiters' Gazette*, Sept. 18, 2014]. And I thought, ah-ha! They might be somebody I could collaborate with.

I got in touch with June Reich on the committee. I said, how about we interview people? The first person we interviewed, of course, was Joe Holtz. It was about two hours, you know, he can talk. I wondered what would make interesting B-roll footage to make it a dynamic video? And what really struck me was when he got on to the evolution of the buildings, where it started. So, I did another shoot where Joe took me throughout the whole building. Then we did Allen Zimmerman."

"We ended up making two videos out of that," Jessie said. "One about his personal path to the Coop. And one about the farmers. Then there's the most recent video that's been uploaded to the website, Meet the Farmer. Amy Hepworth [of Coop produce supplier Hepworth Farms] came and did a lecture. Lizzie was in charge of the shoot and I edited it. Now we're working on one with Ana Gallo, who's one of the produce Receiving Coordinators. We're very excited about that. That one is in progress."

Watch How You Do It

Along with history interviews of the Coop founders, the squad is also engaged in instructional pieces. "I'm really interested in training videos," Jessie said. "I have this dream where I go through each job at the Coop, so that, ultimately, you could look at each of these videos and get a pretty good idea. A lot of new coops are starting up, so not only could it be a resource for our own Coop but for others, too."

"By coincidence, one of the General Coordinators, Elinor Astrinsky, was asking us about doing some training videos," Jessie said. "She told me a very upsetting story about the Parmesan Squad, which takes quite a bit of training to join. The coordi-

nators would train people, but then people didn't want to do it. And two and a half hours of coordinator time went to nothing. It broke my heart. I decided that was top priority; I wanted to do the Parmesan Squad video first, which was a mistake," Jessie said, laughing. "It was a lot more complicated than a lot of the other videos. It just took forever; it was a little disheartening. But it's complete. It's online. I don't know if anybody's watched it." This reporter can say it's terrific, especially if you have a thing for big wheels of parmesan.

Future Presence

What are the Video Squad's long-term goals? "I love the idea of having an archive online that people could see and be inspired to form their own coops," Lizzie said. "I want to do a video about people sitting on the firemen's statue," Jessie said. The statue, for the record, is a memorial that the firemen feel is deeply disrespectful to sit on. "We're desperately in need of producers, editors, and shooters," Jessie said. "If we could get four producers, or maybe six, then someone could, once a week, keep track of what was going on for that week," Lizzie said. "We've got video ideas that are authentic, that are real member experiences, and things that don't get talked about." ■

Interested in the Video Squad? Send an email to squad leader David Simpson at psfvideo@gmail.com. Include your qualifications and the equipment you possess. Video squad work is for FTOP credit on an as-needed basis. It's project-oriented and there is rarely enough work for it to be someone's sole work at the Food Coop. See the videos currently online by going to foodcoopvideos.weebly.com. And check out Jessie Weiner's new film, *Bollywood Dancers*, about people who perform Bollywood-style dance in New York, at bollywooddancers.com.



Tip of the MONTH!

Politics got you worried about climate change?

Whatever you're doing about the big picture, here's something you can do at home:

Seal and insulate your home—you can do this whether you rent or own your home. Reduce air leaks and stop drafts by using caulk, weather stripping, and insulation.

If you have an attic, add insulation. Reducing energy use reduces greenhouse gases.

Learn more at:
ecokvetch.blogspot.com

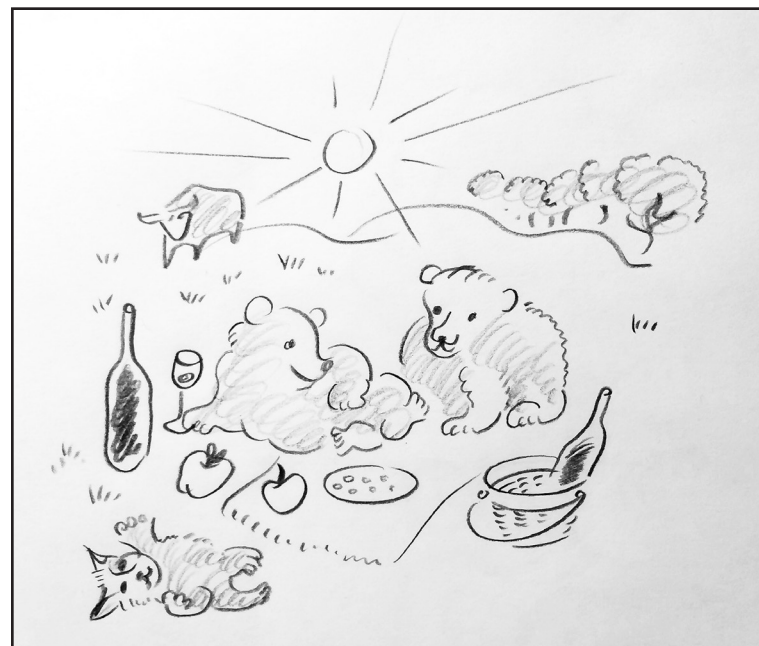


ILLUSTRATION BY ETHAN PETTIT

SAFE FOOD COMMITTEE REPORT

Plow-to-Plate Movie Series, Explained

By Adam Rabiner,
Safe Food Committee

If you read the *Linewaiters' Gazette* religiously, or even occasionally, you've probably read a review for one of the films featured in the Safe Food Committee's Plow-to-Plate series. Maybe you've noticed our posters or heard an announcement over the loudspeaker on the first Tuesday of any given a month and ventured upstairs to a screening on the second floor. Perhaps you were pleasantly surprised to discover a dozen or so other guests who were greeted not just with a movie but also with healthy and delicious beverages and snacks, such as cheese, crackers, fruit, and crudit , generously supplied and donated by the Coop. After the closing credits there was no mad dash for the door. The audience lingered, asked the filmmaker questions, who, depending on where he or she lived, responded in person or by Skype. If so, welcome to the growing community that is Plow-to-Plate.

Plow-to-Plate is the latest incarnation of the Coop's Safe Food Committee, which has a long and varied history. Before it was renamed and refocused, it was the Anti-GMO Committee, though even then its mission was broader than GMOs, including such diverse activities as working to rid the Coop of bottled water (we once took over the shopping floor enlisting anyone we could find to take a blind taste test of bottled vs. tap water) and helping to organize the two Brooklyn Food Conferences in 2009 and 2012. In fact, both of those conferences featured film screenings, out of which arose our current mission.

Our very first screening in September 2009 was *H2 Worker*, a 1990 film about the slave-like working conditions

of Jamaican guest workers in the sugar cane fields near Lake Okeechobee in Florida. Since then, we've shown (and reviewed!) roughly 70 films about food. Some, like the first, revisit the theme of immigrant farm labor and food justice.

True to our roots, we have also taken on GMOs in several of our films, which elicited the only letter to the *Gazette* editor about our series that we are aware of, albeit a critical one. Many other films explored obesity and public health. A number looked at the business challenges of running a restaurant, a cooperative, or even a craft beer company. Others took a deep dive into a particular food such as corn, asparagus, or chocolate. Water and earth, primal elements necessary for life, were the stars of some movies. We told the story of seeds. We called attention to the plight of the honey bee and the endangered and majestic blue fin tuna.

It's a movie clich  to say a film will make you laugh and cry, and I've rarely experienced both in a single viewing, but parts of *Vegucated*, a film about three unlikely meat-eating New Yorkers that are recruited to road-test a vegan lifestyle for six weeks, are hilarious. And when I learned that the spiritual protagonist of *Nothing Like Chocolate*, humanitarian Mott Green, was killed in a freak electrical accident about a year after shooting, I was deeply saddened.

These movies have introduced us to other wonderful quirky protagonists such as Juliette de Ba iracli Levy, a peripatetic woman who travelled the world living among gypsies and became a font of wisdom about the healing powers of plants. And famed restaurateur Georges Perrier presided over perhaps the most warmly received film

we've shown, *King Georges*, as he dealt with the closing of his legendary Philadelphia-based French restaurant Le Bec-Fin, and passed on his soup ladle to his prot g , sous chef Nicholas Elmi.

The popularity of a film like *King Georges*, and audience feedback, have pushed Plow-to-Plate in a slightly different direction for 2017. We continue to aim to educate. Our next film in April when renovations are completed on the second floor will be *Soul Food Junkies*, an examination of soul food's cultural role in the African-American community and the health perils of a diet based too heavily upon it.

But we have also selected highly entertaining films that go lighter on the pedagogy. In June we will feature Morgan Spurlock's blockbuster hit *Supersize Me*, a film that brought much-needed popular attention to the dangers of fast food. We've also scheduled a lyrical independent Portuguese film about a fisherman and his village, a Mexican movie about how a riverside community in Chiapas is affected by the seasonal flows of a river, a Dutch film about an ancient kitchen garden and an enduring close friendship, and a reprise of *Fresh*, a formerly screened Plow-to-Plate feature which, like *Supersize Me*, is highly regarded and seminal in the category of food documentaries.

You can watch trailers for all of these upcoming selections, as well as find past reviews, on the Plow-to-Plate blog, www.plowtoplatefilms.com, which is also linked to the Park Slope Food Coop's home page at www.foodcoop.com. We hope that you wander upstairs for one of these upcoming films and become part of our growing community. ■



PLASTIC PACKAGING COLLECTIONS

2nd Wednesday of every month 3:45-6 p.m.

4th Saturday of every month 1:45-4 p.m.

Expanded Plastic Collection for Coop members

Please be prepared to show your Coop membership card.

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

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

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

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

We continue to accept the following from all community members:

Pre-sort and separate according to the categories below.

Toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes (any brand/size)

Baby food pouches and caps (any brand)

Energy bar wrappers (any brand)

Water filters (Brita and other brands) and other

Brita branded filter products

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

Cereal and cracker box liners (any brand)

Food residue and paper labels OK.
No shopping bags.

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

Interested in joining the squads that run the Wednesday/Saturday collection, or in starting a third collection time as your workslot?
Contact Cynthia Pennycooke in the Membership Office.

For more information about Terracycle, visit terracycle.com

Questions about items we accept should be e-mailed to ecokvetch@yahoo.com



STATEMENT ON THE COOPERATIVE IDENTITY

DEFINITION

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

VALUES

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

PRINCIPLES

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

They are as follows:

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

REFERENCE: ICA.COOP

LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

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

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

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

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

Letters: Maximum 500 words.

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

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

LETTERS, ARTICLES AND REPORTS SUBMISSION POLICIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FAIRNESS, ANONYMITY AND RESPECT POLICIES

In order to provide fair, comprehensive, factual coverage:

Fairness

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

Anonymity

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

Respect

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

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

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

Friday, February 17, 8:00 p.m.

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



PROSPECT CONCERTS



Brooklyn Raga Massive Co-op All-Stars!

Brooklyn Raga Massive is dedicated to expanding the Indian music audience by breaking conventional formalities, while genuinely presenting and representing a deep appreciation of Raga music, with top-notch Indian Classical and Raga-inspired musicians in all their diversity. **Michael Gam**, fretless bass; **Ben Tyree**, acoustic guitar; and **Sameer Gupta**, multiple tablas, have a unique chemistry—with original material as well as energetic and lyrical spontaneous improv.

David Roche is a singer/songwriter and long-time Coop member who is absolutely thrilled to be getting two FTOP credits for merely singing a few of his tunes. Joining him on bass is the incomparable **David Kumin** who has been banging out Coop shifts for longer than anyone can remember.



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.

Neta Alexander	Kelle Carbone	Johnson	Megan Geick	Dena Kopolovich	Militsa Plavsic	Nicholas Steele	Jess Webber
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Karina Benloucif	Isabella Clark	Elah Feder	Jack Halberstam	Julie Mashack	Pantera Saint-	Thomas Tuschl	Luna Yasui
Maggie Beuther	Alanna Coby	Aaron Fitterman	Jamaal Harris	Shale Maulana	Montaigne	Leoni Tyger	Boryana
Clifford Borress	Kyle Cook	Ann Fraioli	Sarah Howard	Diana Mellon	Matthew Schrader	Tayler Van	Yordanova
Ella Boureau	Jennifer Cordova	Liane Fredel	Chris Immel	Leora Morinis	Claudius Senst	Denakker	Lyubka
Emerson Brown	Gregory Cromwell	Jennifer Fried	Iman Joseph	Michael Murphy	Gesa Senst-Von	Sean Vigneau-	Yordanova
Sarah Brown	Madeline Daigle	Sylvia Fye	Alexandra Karlson	Anika Paris	Engelbrechten	Britt	Alison Zachritz
Aryeh Canter	Liam Dean-	Nate Garcia	Peter Kim	Daniel Paul	Geysa Silva	Sean Walter	Caroline Zvakos

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, FEBRUARY 7

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 7:30 p.m.
Submissions will be considered for the February 28 General Meeting.

TUE, FEBRUARY 28

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

February 16 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, February 6
March 2 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, February 20

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

February 16 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, February 8
March 2 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, February 22

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, February 28, 7:00 p.m.

Location

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

How to Place an Item on the Agenda

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

Meeting Format

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

• Explore meeting literature

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

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

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

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

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

Attend a GM and Receive Work Credit

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

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

• Advance Sign-up required:

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

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

• Two GM attendance credits per year:

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

• Squads eligible for credit:

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

• Attend the entire GM:

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

• Signing in at the Meeting:

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

• Being Absent from the GM:

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

Park Slope Food Coop Mission Statement

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

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

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

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

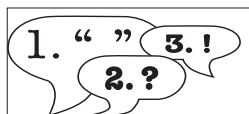
We welcome all who respect these values.

park slope
FOOD COOP

calendar of events

feb 7
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 February General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 7 p.m., at St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.**

feb 11
sat 2-5 pm

Valentine's Day Card-Making Party



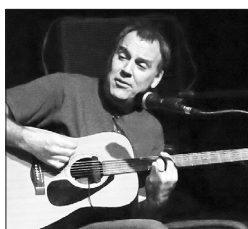
Bring family and friends of all ages to a Valentine's Day Card-Making party in the Coop's Meeting Room. Children under 10 years old should be accompanied by an adult. We'll supply glue, markers, and paper and some fun art-making tips. You supply the creativity and love! Bring any other special art materials you would like to use. We are looking for art supply donations like buttons, fabric, recycled paper, magazines, newspaper and cardboard. Hot cocoa and chocolatey treats will be available to purchase.

feb 17
fri 8 pm

Brooklyn Raga Massive; David Roche



Brooklyn Raga Massive Co-op All-Stars! Brooklyn Raga Massive is dedicated to expanding the Indian music audience by breaking conventional formalities, while genuinely presenting and representing a deep appreciation of Raga music, with top-notch Indian Classical and Raga-inspired musicians in all their diversity. **Michael Gam**, fretless bass; **Ben Tyree**, acoustic guitar; and **Sameer Gupta**, multiple tablas, have a unique chemistry—with original material as well as energetic and lyrical spontaneous improv. **David Roche** is a singer/songwriter and long-time Coop member who is absolutely thrilled to be getting two FTOP credits for merely singing a few of his tunes. Joining him on bass is the incomparable **David Kumin** who has been banging out Coop shifts for longer than anyone can remember. **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.**



feb 28
tue 7 pm

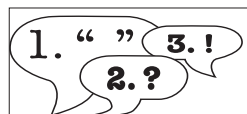
PSFC FEB General Meeting



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.**

mar 7
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 March General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 7 p.m., at St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.**

mar 17
fri 8 pm

Flying Home



Flying Home returns for their annual PSFC Swing Dance, performing the music of the Benny Goodman Sextet and other classics from the Swing Era! Get ready to dance the night away with **John Mettam** (drums), **Mike McGinnis** (clarinet), **Brian Drye** (trombone), **Sean Moran** (guitar), **Tom Beckham** (vibraphone), **Jim Whitney** (bass), **Toby Williams** (vocals), plus special guests. **Concert takes place at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West (at 2nd St.), \$10, doors open at 7:45. Prospect Concerts is a monthly musical fundraising partnership of the Coop and the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture.**

mar 18
sat 5 pm

Coop Kids' Variety Show



Event takes place at Old First Church, Carroll St. & Seventh Ave. Types of acts include: piano, singing, guitar, cello, violin, hip-hop, dance, magic, and card tricks. Performers to be announced. Refreshments for sale. Nonmembers welcome. **Event takes place at Old First Church, Carroll St. & Seventh Ave. Admission: \$12 adults; \$7 seniors; \$7 kids 12-18; free kids under 12.**

mar 28
tue 7 pm

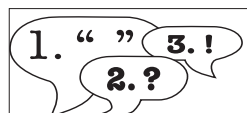
PSFC MAR General Meeting



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.**

apr 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 April General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 7 p.m., at St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.**

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.

Where Have the Bees Gone?

By Alison Rose Levy

Although Coop members welcome healthy food as a benefit of both the Coop and by extension, modern civilization, Michael Pollan's famous advice, "Know where your food comes from!" reminds us not to take our access to healthy food for granted. Through supporting growers and farms, weighing in on our rights to label food ingredients that have negative health impacts, comprehending how international trade agreements can diminish food quality, supporting farm workers, and more, the Coop has extended both our food opportunities and our understanding of all that's required to bring those organic eggs, or that spinach salad to our plates.



But there are certain unsung heroes in the production of our food that deserve more recognition: honeybees, beehives, and beekeepers. Without these hard-working pollinators, and their human cultivators, none of the fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, grains, or even livestock animals would survive and grow year after year for us to consume.

And that is why a threat to honeybees themselves concerns scientists but remains an ongoing scientific mystery. This new threat is called Colony Collapse Disorder (or CCD), first recognized by commercial large scale commercial beekeepers in 2006.

According to Sainath Suryanarayanan, an assistant scientist of biology and science at University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the co-author (with Daniel Kleinman) of *Vanishing Bees: Science, Politics, and Honeybee Health* (Rutgers University Press, 2017) whom I interviewed, when CCD strikes, seemingly healthy beehives, which would normally be teeming with activity, suddenly become "ghost towns, silent, eerie places with no adult

bees. Despite the presence of the Queen and young bees, seemingly normal hives were abandoned." No one knows where the bees have gone and surprisingly, "there are no piles of dead bee bodies."

The hives are not starving, because the worker bees leave behind "rich stores of nectar and pollen. Left behind nectar, which would usually be robbed by neighboring bees, is left untouched. We don't know why," Dr. Sai says.

Veteran beekeepers have never seen these symptoms of CCD before.

How essential bees are to other species and our own food supply?

"Honeybees are absolutely crucial to our current system of agriculture," says Dr. Sai. "They are responsible for over a third of what we eat. The fruits, vegetables, nuts, and fibers we consume rely on honeybees."

Farmers depend on bees to pollinate crops. Annually, they rent over two million beehives, spending more than \$17 billion for honeybee and pollination services. Although old-time farmers made do with local pollinating insects while beekeepers derived their income from honey, in recent years, the depletion of other insects, drove farmers to turn to beekeepers and their hives. And the costs for pollination services keep rising. In 2005-2006 when the new bee die-offs started, desperate to find bees, almond growers upped what they were willing to pay beekeepers to bring their hives over to pollinate. Due to the disappearance of other pollinators, tending honeybees has become a big business. According to Dr. Sai, so far there has been no reductions in quantity of food crops, but food costs are rising. Some rising fees are passed along to the consumer. Sadly, the increasing cost of healthy produce affects lower income people first.

According to Dr. Sai, "CCD is a complex phenomenon. The scientific consensus right now is that multiple factors interact and possibly synergize over time in complicated ways. Possible suspects include certain pesticides, such as newer classes of certain insecticides, parasites, and various microbial pathogens, viruses, and fungi. Together these factors lead to die offs. Which are more prominent and how they interact are unresolved issues."

Part of the problem is that like other scientists, entomologists, are not geared to study multi-factorial complexity. Their experiments tend to focus on individual factors that produce isolated effects, often with the goal of developing pesticides that rapidly kill insects. When both grants and science follow this model, it's not so easy to shift to a multi-factorial approach.

Accordingly, both the general public, industry, and governmental representatives are also entrained in seeing very complex issues from simplistic perspectives.



Some pesticides this form of science developed had "pernicious, chronic, and sub-lethal effects, which is what we are seeing with honeybees. Those issues did not get systematically investigated because entomologists were trained to be like hard scientists. They were not trained in ecology."

Instead scientists used a pest control-oriented approach and "overlooked the interactive and complex reality in which bees are dying." In his new book, *Vanishing Bees*, Dr. Sai brings in his own cross-disciplinary background. He is a biologist, entomologist, as well as a sociologist of science and social scientist of biology.

He points out that the ecological system within which honeybees thrived was changed radically by the advent of the modern mass agricultural system.

In the past, wild pollinators, wasps, insects, and solitary bee species were able to supply the pollination necessary to grow food. But by the mid-20th century, the growth of U.S. farm sizes and the increased use pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers changed all that.

The modern use of herbicides to kill all so-called weeds destroyed the habitat where solitary bees nested, thereby decreasing local pollinators.

"Pesticide practices also hammered beneficial insects," says Dr. Sai. Once the local bees and insects vanished, growers in the new mass agricultural system could not

readily pollinate their crops. That is why farmers turned to beekeepers to rent beehives.

"They became dependent on honeybees for pollination. As commercial pollination came in, it completely changed the landscape of bees and how bees were treated by beekeepers."

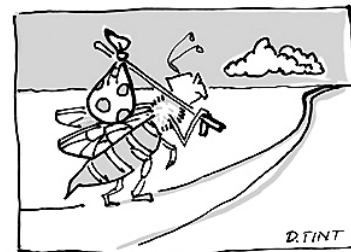
The bees' new lifestyle is not enviable.

According to Dr. Sai, bees are trucked "across major interstate highways across the US. They are fed high fructose corn syrup, they take in gasoline fumes. And all of this has probably affected honeybee health and the dangers hives face today."

Along with their commercial beekeepers, "honeybees have become are our migrant workhorses and laborers and they have been under-appreciated. In a way the news of CCD has a silver lining—demanding a greater awareness of the importance of these humble insects."

Albert Einstein reportedly said, "If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe then man would only have four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man."

I asked Dr. Sai whether he agreed.



"I take this quote as metaphorical, as signaling something that could happen," Dr. Sai told me. CCD is "the tip of the iceberg of a much greater decline of pollinating insects across the world. Taken in that broad sense, yes, we are in trouble. The success of our civilization is also the bane of our civilization. The treadmills of production and consumption on which we run—are taking us to possible disaster. We are living in the new era of the anthropocene where humans as a species affect the earth at a geoplanetary scale. Taking all of that into account, this should be taken seriously."

Mass mono-agriculture favors output over diversity.

"At different levels of scale and organization, diversity endows the flexibility to respond to various environments. When that diversity is reduced, the capacity of organisms to respond to shifts in the environment, is taken away and that spells extinction." ■

Hearing Officer Committee SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

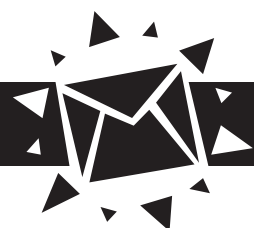
The Hearing Office Committee is seeking two new members. The committee conducts and presides over disciplinary hearings, ensures that hearings proceed in an efficient and unbiased manner and, after a randomly selected Deciding Group has decided whether an accused member violated a Coop rule, determines 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, 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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POVERTY
ABOLITIONIST

MEMBERS,

Here in this lyrical word play is what I learned that was shocking to me about poverty. My inclination is for all, especially young people, to at least know about this information, regardless of my emotional interjections.

Half of all Americans, good Samaritans are in or nearing poverty. Half a glass half filled, is still, half a glass empty. Poverty impacts national security, international insecurity. We need new solutions, a shift in time, a life-long lifetime, new paradigm, with prime time reassurances.

The poverty oddity that's morally wrong is when character detractors say you don't belong. They abhor the poor, call them losers and cruisers, you connivers, abusers, you boozers and looters. Why, oh why are the poor so poorly seen?

Sweet greed at the seat of conceit, the appalling galling windfall losers, the coveted casters of human disaster. Dare to be fair, I dare you.

Half of all Americans, good Samaritans, are in or nearing poverty. Half a glass half filled, is still, half a glass empty. Poverty impacts national security, international insecurity.

Unite the struggle, unite the might, vote out those who follow, they are swallows for Wall Street honey, these servant merchants for campaign money. Citizen's United bought and sold by billionaire bilkers, milking mother's milk for puppet muppet politicians.

Corporate portraits with record profits, withheld lending, no affordable spending, no square meals and no square deals, no real jobs nor minimum wages, dark ages. Thanksgiving living? No thanks, outrageous.

Half of all Americans, good Samaritans, are in or nearing poverty. Half a glass half filled, is still, half a glass empty. Poverty impacts national security, international insecurity.

Founding fathers, astounding slave owners, favored donors, glaring comparing, declaring amen that some fated men are created equal. Today's illegal deceitful prequel to forty years of wage stagnation, unemployment disappointment.

Beloved love, and all of the above, has integrity, dignity, sacrifice, a purpose for service, dedicated to eradicate poverty, improve national security. Anti-injustice is not anti-American.

Let's be poverty abolitionists, transitional-missionaries, our bodies embody, our minds design, our heart and soul, our nourished vision, to come together forever right now, organize and emphasize, mobilize the enterprise: Lift Every Voice And Sing.

Lennie Heisler

SIGN PETITION SO
FRACKING WASTE
WATER IS NOT
USED IN ORGANIC
AGRICULTURE

MEMBERS,

Farmers may water their crops with fracking waste and still sell it as 'organic' under current regulations." This is the caption under the picture in the Common Dreams article 3/22/16. There is a link to the petition publicized by the Sierra Club and the Cornucopia Institute asking the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to ban toxic irrigation of organic food.

<http://www.common-dreams.org/news/2016/03/22/stop-irrigating-organic-food-fracking-wastewater-new-petition-says>

The background to the petition by the Cornucopia Institute stated that recent reports indicate that wastewater, a byproduct of the hydraulic fracturing technique in gas and oil productions, contain toxic chemicals and oil and is being used in organic food agriculture.

<https://www.cornucopia.org/frack-wastewater-petition/>

In California, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) joined with 10 other environment organizations to do outreach on the EWG petition (not focused on organic farming) calling for ending the use of oil and gas wastewater in growing food. The wastewater contains hundreds of chemicals, some linked to cancer, reproductive damage and endocrine disruption. 350,000 petitions were delivered to the Central Valley Water Board and Governor Jerry Brown in support of "prohibiting the sale of

oil and gas wastewater for crop irrigation until it has been adequately studied for health risks and environmental impacts."

<http://www.ewg.org/enviroblog/2016/06/concern-over-california-crops-irrigated-oil-and-gas-wastewater>

<http://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2016/08/09/californians-deliver-350000-signatures-calling-state-gov-brown-stop-irrigation>

This press release was dated August 2, 2016.

Mary Buchwald



PLASTIC PACKAGE

DEAR MEMBERS,

I feel that buying some of the vegetables—like spinach, beets, etc., in hard plastic containers goes against our collective desire to cut down on the use of plastic. I feel sure there are other growers of these foods from whom we can buy. Let's make our practice what we preach.

In addition, it seems to me we are not using our shelf spaces wisely—adding more questionable products to limited space. Perhaps a committee of folks who know how to utilize space might take a look at ours and make recommendations.

Lenore Fineberg

PLEASE HELP KEEP
THE AFFORDABLE
CARE ACT

DEAR MEMBERSHIP,

On day one, President Trump took action to weaken the Affordable Care Act, AKA Obamacare. Obamacare also contributes to Medicaid, though people often confuse the two as one system.

I was underemployed and underpaid, if not outright unemployed for a long stretch of time. I did not have the money to see the doctors I needed, but fortunately I was qualified for full treatment under the ACA/

Medicaid. In most cases I saw doctors for free where there was not a minor co-pay. This would not have been possible before Obamacare. As soon as I discovered I did not have to work three jobs to save up for medical services, I immediately enrolled in classes that would give me the foundation for the jobs I wanted, not just the ones I needed to get by. I passed my classes to become an addictions counselor (a CASAC-T) and since then have received numerous offers from clinics in Brooklyn and Manhattan.

I have repeatedly heard from ACA opponents one particular fear: that enrollees would rather maintain long-term unemployment or underemployment in order to qualify for free medical care, costing everyone with a good income higher monthly premiums. That does not describe me, I can attest to at least that. I have used this great system to lift myself up into better circumstances. Obamacare has negatively impacted a great many people, it must be said. But let's improve upon what has helped a great many more.

If you believe for any reason that the ACA and Medicaid should be spared, call Senator Mitch McConnell at 502 582-6304 and 202 224-

2541, among other numbers listed at <http://www.mcconnell.senate.gov/public/> and share your story.

Also call Paul Ryan at 202 225-3031 and 608 752-4050, among others numbers at (<https://paulryan.house.gov/contact/officeinformation.htm>), and share your story.

Additionally, contact the congresspeople below to tell them how much you appreciate their efforts to stop the train wreck and share your story.

Senator Bob Corker - (202) 224-3344

Senator Lisa Murkowski - (202) 224-6665

Senator Rob Portman - (202) 224-3353

Senator Susan Collins - (202) 224-2523

Senator Bill Cassidy - (202) 224-5824

Finally, please donate time to the National Health Law Program at www.healthlaw.org.

This information may change over time. I will be involved as much as I can in attempting to stay abreast of the necessary information that will keep us moving beyond the bad old days where one would have to choose between selling everything they own or going to the doctor to get surgery.

In solidarity,
Jesse T. Rosenfeld

Park Slope Food Coop Members
are invited to shop
At The Windsor Terrace Food Coop

Windsor Terrace Food Coop is located at
825 Caton Ave
(corner of E8th Street & Caton
just south of Coney Island Ave.)

Thursday 7- 9 am 3-9 pm
Friday 9-11 am 4-7 pm
Saturday & Sunday 10 am - 4 pm



MEMBER SUBMISSION

More Democracy Please! Trump, Israeli Occupation, and Yes, the Coop

By Hima B., Naomi Brussel, and Jan Clausen writing on behalf of PSFC Members for BDS

Recently the *Gazette* has covered Coop members' widespread anger at the threat posed by a Trump regime to both individual safety and democratic freedoms. In this article, we take a closer look at the implications for our Coop community.

With his nomination of David Friedman as Ambassador to Israel, Trump appears ready to intensify U.S. support of Israel's occupation of Palestine and its persecution of the Palestinian people. Mr. Friedman is an ardent champion of Israel's West Bank settlements, built in flagrant disregard for international law; meanwhile, Trump's support for moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem risks pouring gasoline on a smoldering fire (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/19/world/middleeast/donald-trump-jerusalem-embassy-israel-palestinians.html?_r=0). At this time about half a million Israeli Jews are living in the illegal settlements. Nearly two million Palestinians are living under extremely inhumane conditions in the Gaza strip, restricted by both the Israeli and Egyptian governments from normal travel and commerce. Access to sufficient food, housing, health care and education is similarly restricted. Palestinians with Israeli citizenship

dwelling inside the 1948 borders face discriminatory laws and have lower education, health, housing and employment opportunities than other Israelis (<http://mondoweiss.net/2015/06/database-discriminatory-israel/>). This year marks the 50th anniversary of the occupation.

In recent days, the departing Obama administration took several dramatic steps signaling its alarm at endless occupation and the intransigence of the Netanyahu government. First, the U.S. delegate abstained during a key Security Council vote, allowing the passage of UN Resolution 2334, which condemns ongoing settlement construction and demands a halt to the practice. Next, Secretary of State John Kerry delivered a tough speech warning that "the status quo is leading toward one state and perpetual occupation."

While we agree with Kerry's comment, we recognize the irony that the Obama administration contributed to this destructive status quo by being unwilling to speak out until so late in the game and by increasing U.S. taxpayer aid to the Israeli military to \$3.8 billion each year for the next 10 years (<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/14/world/middleeast/israel-benjamin-netanyahu-military-aid.html>). This is why we believe that citizens, moved by conscience, must take action.

Since 2005, Palestinian civil society organizations have spearheaded a non-violent boycott, divestment and sanctions movement to protest Israel's creation of an apartheid state. As that movement has grown internationally, it includes many college campus groups such as Students for Justice in Palestine; religious organizations such as the United Methodist Church; pension funds such as TIAA-CREF; academic groups such as the American Studies Association; elements of the European Union governance structure; unions such as the United Electrical Workers; and artists such as Junot Diaz, Lauryn Hill and Stevie Wonder. Black Lives Matter, Jewish Voice for Peace and INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence are among the many grassroots organizational supporters.

At this crucial juncture, the Coop has the opportunity and indeed the obligation to move on a pending vote that touches on both the issue of Occupation/BDS and on the key question of where our Coop democracy is headed. A vote on a proposal to boycott SodaStream products has now been delayed for almost two years. SodaStream launched a profitable company through exploitative production in the Occupied West Bank and recently shifted operations to a site inside Israel, where it continues to rely on oppressive

government policies.

Through our Coop mission statement we pledge to adopt ethical policies toward each other, our staff, and our community. We pride ourselves on democratic process and member control, yet this crucial vote has been blocked because (so it is claimed) we can't find a venue for the voting. Suggestions about ways to hold an electronic or mail-in ballot vote (the latter of which could be accomplished at no extra expense at the time of the Annual Meeting in June) have been met with a litany of Catch-22-like excuses about the impossibility of holding a vote about the vote.

At a time when the new

president is likely to support even more repressive Israeli actions against Palestine, it is unacceptable that our members are being denied the chance to decide whether to participate in a boycott on an issue of great importance that parallels other social justice boycotts the Coop has engaged in. At a time of grave, well-founded fears about the erosion of this country's democratic institutions, it is unacceptable to let our Coop's democratic traditions erode. The General Coordinators, in concert with all leadership bodies of the Coop, should be working vigorously to resolve the voting deadlock and allow the membership to decide on this issue. ■



ILLUSTRATION BY EIHAN PETIT

THANK YOU!

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

Akowe Arie
Kristin Axtman
Veyom Bahl
Mariam Bazeed
Austin Bernhardt
Sarah Brafman
Roger Broome
Lune Brown
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Sylvia Chen
Rebecca Crimmins
Stephan Crump
Jean-Michele Daisey
Leila Darabi
Dana Davis
Jake Davis
Debora
Abigail Deutsch
Zoe Diamant

Samuel Dinger
Deshawn Dumas
Bill Ferrall
Jane Ferrall
Ariel Friedman
Cari Friedman-O'Connor
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Mary Kate Sickel
Bernadette Silva
Teresa Soto

Tina Struble
Tyler Sussman
Tee Templeton
Hannah Vanderlan
Cristina Trinidad
Inkeri Von Hase
Haylee Welsh
Daniel Wiedemann
Lia Wiedemann
Joshua Wiles
Patrick Wilson
Ora Wise
Judy Yang
Piotr Zych



TIP OF THE MONTH: Follow Your Heart!

Buying valentine sweets?

• Look for chocolate without palm oil listed as an ingredient. The industry destroys Southeast Asian tropical rainforests, threatening species such as the Sumatran tiger and rhino, orangutan, pygmy elephant, and the Malayan sun bear. All face extinction due to habitat loss.

Looking forward to "Super Bowl food?"

• If chicken wings or chili make your heart go pitter-pat, check out our guides to Coop chicken and beef. You'll find details of the animal-welfare-related practices of each Coop vendor to help you make the most well-informed choice. Explore meat substitutes for buffalo wings and other favorite finger foods in the freezer aisle!

The Animal Welfare Committee provides members with clear, unbiased information about animal welfare as it relates to Coop products.

Find all our guides and resources on our blog at <http://psfcanimals.blogspot.com/p/awc-guides.html>
[email] psfcanimals@gmail.com



f Park Slope Food Coop Animal Welfare Committee

@psfcanimals



EXPERIENCED REPORTERS Please Apply



Workslot Description

We have four distinct *Linewaiters' Gazette* teams—each producing an issue every eight weeks. You will develop and produce an article about the Coop in cooperation with your team's editor every eight weeks.

For More Information

If you would like to speak to an editor or another reporter to learn more about the job, please contact Annette Laskaris in the Membership Office or e-mail her at annetteATpsfcDOTcoop.

To Apply

Please send a letter of application and two writing samples at least 800 words long (one sample must be a reported interview, *not* a Q&A) to annetteATpsfcDOTcoop. Your letter should state your qualifications, your Coop history, relevant experience and why you would like to report for the Coop. Your application will be acknowledged and forwarded to the coordinating editors, Joan Minieri and Erik Lewis.

Seeking Diversity on the *Gazette* Staff

The *Gazette* is looking for qualified reporters. We are interested in using this opportunity to diversify our staff. We believe that we can enrich the quality of the *Gazette* and serve the membership better with a reporting and editing staff that more closely resembles the mix of Coop members.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community calendar listings are free. Please submit your event listing in 50 words or less to GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop.
Submission deadlines are the same as for classified ads.
Please refer to the Coop Calendar in the center of this issue.

SAT, FEB 4

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 12th Annual Seeds Celebration & Swap at the Old Stone House & Washington Park (Fifth Ave. & Third St.). Free.

8 p.m. Lindsey Wilson & the Reckoning; Ren Anton & Dilson Hernandez at the Peoples' Voice Cafe. Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 E. 35th St., NY. Wheelchair accessible, Sug. donation \$20/12 for subscribers. For info call 212-787-3903 or see peoplesvoicecafe.org.

TUE, FEB 7

7 p.m. Cookbook launch: *A Meatloaf in Every Oven*, by Frank Bruni and Jennifer Steinhauer at The Powerhouse, 28 Adams St., Brooklyn, NY, 11201. For info call 718-666-3049. RSVP appreciated rsvp@powerhousearena.com.

SAT, FEB 11

8 p.m. Rod MacDonald at the Peoples' Voice Cafe. Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 E. 35th St., NY. Wheelchair accessible, Sug. donation \$20/12 for subscribers. For info call 212-787-3903 or see peoplesvoicecafe.org.

SAT, FEB 18

8 p.m. Steve Suffet 70th birthday celebration at the Peoples' Voice Cafe. Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 E. 35th St., NY. Wheelchair accessible, Sug. donation \$20/12 for subscribers. For info call 212-787-3903 or see peoplesvoicecafe.org.

SAT, FEB 25

8 p.m. New Voices Night: Linnea Paton, Jonny Grave and Pamela Jean Alagoos at the Peoples' Voice Cafe. Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 E. 35th St., NY. Wheelchair accessible, Sug. donation \$20/12 for subscribers. For info call 212-787-3903 or see peoplesvoicecafe.org.

SAT, FEB 25

9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. BOOK SALE: Tens of thousands of new and used books, DVDs, CDs and records. Most items \$1 or \$2. Park Slope United Methodist Church. Sixth Ave. at Eighth St. For info about Thursday and Friday preview sales and how to donate books, visit parkslopeumc.org.

SUN, FEB 26

12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tens of thousands of new and used books, DVDs, CDs and records. Most items \$1 or \$2. Sunday Special: Buy five items at regular price, everything thereafter is \$1. Park Slope United Methodist Church, Sixth Ave. at Eighth St. More info at parkslopeumc.org.

SAT, MAR 4

8 p.m. NYC Labor Chorus at the Peoples' Voice Cafe. Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 E. 35th St., NY. Wheelchair accessible, Sug. donation \$20/12 for subscribers. For info call 212-787-3903 or see peoplesvoicecafe.org.

SAT, MAR 11

8 p.m. Camela Widad and Alix Dobkin at the Peoples' Voice Cafe. Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 E. 35th St., NY. Wheelchair accessible, Sug. donation \$20/12 for subscribers. For info call 212-787-3903 or see peoplesvoicecafe.org.

THE GAZETTE INDEXES

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

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

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

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

Crossword Answers

P	A	G	E		C	M	O	N		L	O	U	S	E
A	C	R	E		R	O	M	O		A	N	S	E	L
M	A	R	K	C	U	B	A	N		B	L	E	N	D
					R	E	I	N		H	O	A	R	S
					C	I	V	I	L	L	I	B	E	R
C	A	L	E	B						E	N	D	E	D
F	R	A	T		B	A	N	A	N	A				
O	R	Y	O	U	R	M	O	N	E	Y	B	A	C	K
					N	E	A	R	E	R		A	X	L
E	T	A	I	L	E	R					E	L	I	A
N	O	T	N	E	C	E	S	S	A	R	I	L	Y	
H	O	O	H	A	H			C	E	D	E			
A	B	N	E	R				T	H	E	M	I	D	D
L	A	C	A	N				O	W	I	E		A	R
O	D	E	T	S				M	A	N	N		N	E

★ 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.

BATHROOM CLEANING Wednesday, 12 to 2 p.m.

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

TERRACYCLE COLLECTION Second Wednesday of the month, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Fourth Saturday of the month, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The TerraCycle Collection is expanding, and we need your help! If these shift times do not work for you to become a squad member, we still want to hear from you, as we are very interested in adding new collection times. Dedicated FTOP workers are also welcome—if you can be on a shift more times than not, we would definitely welcome you on shifts as much as you can schedule with us. Shifts are very stable, 12 shifts per year, no moving around the calendar based on work week A, B, C, or D. Shifts are set for a particular day/time of the month and do not change. Enjoy working your shift with like-minded environmentally conscious Coop members, members you work with and members who drop off their recyclables. This shift is a very feel-good shift, knowing you are making a difference and helping members to make a difference in improving our environment. The shift tends to go quickly as the collection is well-received by members, and we tend to be busy throughout the shift. For most of the year, the collections are held outside and shift workers enjoy fresh air. You will get your hands dirty—not unlike work on other shifts. We have gloves available and you can go in periodically to wash your hands in the bathroom. There will be a few shifts where weather may be of concern. We have a policy to address hot, rainy, or frigid weather with consideration to workers' comfort. More details are available if interested. The work of the shift does require a fair amount of standing and some light lifting. At the end of each shift we carry or cart the boxes to the UPS store on Flatbush and Seventh Aves. If interested, contact Cynthia Pennycooke in the Membership Office: 718-622-0560. Inquiries can be sent to rosenyny@gmail.com. For more information about TerraCycle, visit terracycle.com.

To Submit Classified or Display Ads:

Ads may be placed on behalf of Coop members only. Classified ads are prepaid at \$15 per insertion, display ads at \$30. (Classified ads in the "Merchandise–Non-commercial" category are free.) All ads must be written on a submission form. Classified ads may be up to 315 characters and spaces. Display ads must be camera-ready and business card size (2" x 3.5" horizontal).

Submission forms are available in a wallpocket near the elevator in the entrance lobby.

TECH HELP

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

www.tech11215.com

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CLASSIFIEDS

BED & BREAKFAST

LARGE, SUNNY ROOM, private bath, queen bed in spacious townhouse with old-style charm and modern amenities. WiFi, smoke-free, no pets. Close to Q, B and 2, 3 trains. Call Margaret 718-622-2897. Leave message.

BROWNSTONE BROOKLYN BED AND BREAKFAST serving the Coop community for 20 years. Victorian home on tree-lined Prospect Heights block has cable and free WiFi. Full breakfast provided in attractive smoke-free environment. Reasonable rates. Call David at 718-857-6066 or email david_whitbeck@yahoo.com.

wardrobes and packing tape. Specialist in walkups. Thousands of satisfied customers. Great Coop references. 718-670-7071.

PUT THOSE AFFAIRS IN ORDER! Do you need advice about Wills? Powers of Attorney? Health Care Proxies? Beneficiary Designations? Probate issues? ESTATE/PROBATE LAWYER w/over 30 yrs experience. Reasonable rates. CAROL ADAMS 347-232-0799 or CAdamslawyer@gmail.com.

VACATION RENTALS

WHITE MTNS, NH RETREAT. Gorgeous home on 28 secluded acres. 10 miles from Cannon Mountain ski area. Explore New England dining/antiques, or stay cozy to watch snow fall. Enjoy wood-burning stove, steam room. Sleeps up to 8. Email for more info, photos. \$1000/week. RetreatNH@gmail.com.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

EXPRESS MOVES. One flat price for the entire move! No deceptive hourly estimates! Careful, experienced mover. Everything quilt-padded. No extra charge for

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

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

THE FUND FOR NEW FOOD COOPS

a Project of the Park Slope Food Coop

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

How can you donate?

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

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



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Solidarity Economy

