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Volume LL, Number 6

March 30, 2017

Member Expelled in Disciplinary Committee Arbitration

By Alison Rose Levy

In this report, all names and certain details will be omitted because Disciplinary Committee (DC) arbitrations, hearings and other disciplinary processes are always held in strictest confidence.

Overview

The arbitration took place in early March 2017. A Coop Advocate and co-Advocate, both representing the Coop, told a three-person Hearing Officer panel of their plan to show evidence of one member's failure to fulfill work requirements. After hearing from an Investigator and calling upon two witnesses, both Coop staff members, the accused member was given a right of response, following which the Hearing Officers withdrew to deliberate and deliver its decision.

The Advocate began by explaining that the member, a woman, would be shown as "misrepresenting work performed including but not limited to signing in and not working for all or part of a shift, falsifying work or attendance records, and failing to fulfill the Coop's work requirement, including failure to make a good faith effort to complete make up shifts."

Through video footage, time stamps and interviews with shift workers, the DC Investigator along with staff documented four separate occasions of the accused member's infractions in 2016.

The Coop Advocate explained that, "theft of services is a serious infraction. When we join the Coop, we make a pledge to carry our weight. Fulfilling our work obligations is what makes the Coop work... there are a number of cases similar to this... When people fall behind, if there are amazing hardships in their lives, there is plenty of recourse."

The Arbitration

The DC Investigator first presented the basic case against the member, which was to be confirmed by witnesses.

After the Investigator presented, the first witness, a membership coordinator, was called.

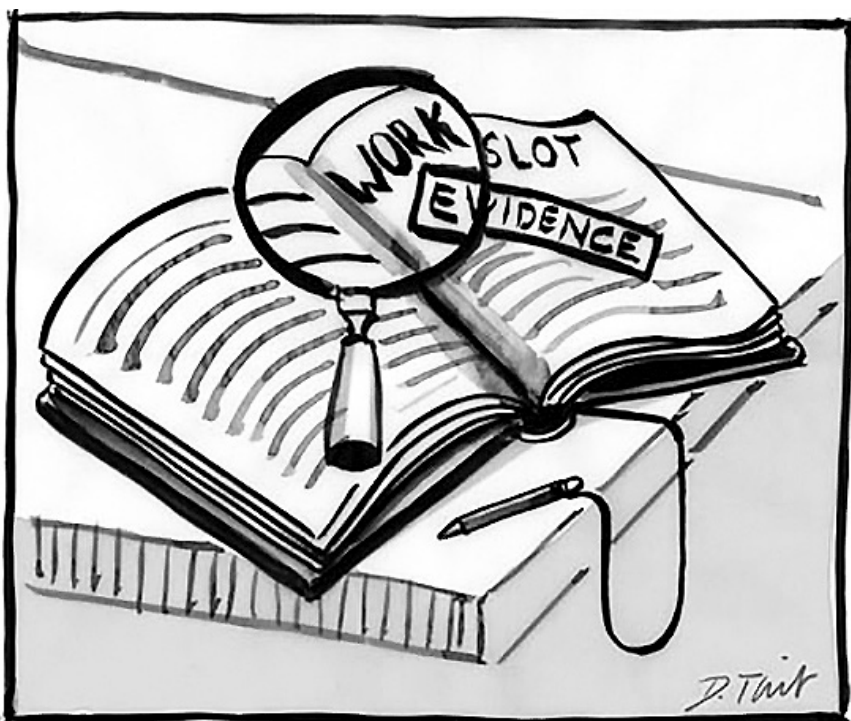


ILLUSTRATION BY DEBORAH TINT

Reviewing Coop logs and closed circuit data, the witness found evidence of the member falsely signing in (on at least four occasions) as having performed a makeup shift prior to her regular shift, and then signing in and performing her regular work slot. The video showed that "when she signs in for the later shift, she flips back in the book and signs in for the earlier shift," the witness said.

The witness also noted that, "she also shopped during part of the time she was supposed to be working." The member had told the Investigator that the whole squad, which does not have a squad leader, shops during a portion of their late night shift.

"Members do this because they are behind on their work requirement and they feel there is no other way," the witness said. He also mentioned that "there are a number of leniencies for members in difficult situations." He cited parental leave (upon a child's birth), bereavement leave (for death in the family), and liberal work slot makeups. "Feeling we don't have anything to offer them, many feel compelled to cheat in this manner."

Prior to agreeing to the arbitration, the defendant had asked the DC Investigator if there was anyone else she could speak with. The Investigator told her that "the only thing we could offer was a hearing or an arbitration." Tricia Leith, General Coordinator, says that, "Many admit instantly on initial DC contact and immediately resign from the Coop." Nev-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Coop Policies Regarding Theft: A Conversation With Tricia Leith

By Ed Levy

Late last year, two Coop members were arrested for theft. One was a 79-year-old man from Brooklyn, a long-time member, and the other a 49-year-old man from Manhattan. Both were charged with petty larceny. The 49-year-old was also charged with possession of stolen property. According to General Coordinator Tricia Leith, there are two to five arrests for stealing per year at the store. The *Gazette* spoke with Tricia to find out more about the Coop's policies around theft, and the thinking behind those policies. Her responses have been edited for clarity and length.

Gazette: How does the Coop learn about thefts? Is there a surveillance system? Are there people watching on the floor?

Tricia: We only know about theft when a member reports seeing something odd.

This question gives me a chance to correct a misimpression people have. The *Gothamist* article about the recent thefts asked why we 'allowed' \$18,000 to be stolen and did not do something about it sooner. But the figure of \$18,000 was actually extrap-

olated from how many times these two individual members came into the Coop to shop, based on the dollar amount they stole on the days they were arrested. We did that so members will realize the amount can add up over weeks of stealing.

Gazette: It's hard not to wonder if difficult personal circumstances drove an elderly member to steal. Is there something the Coop could have done in a case like that, short of having the man arrested?

Tricia: I don't see why we would consider dropping charges based on age or assumed need, because we don't really know if that's the case. Deciding who should be arrested and who should not, based on age, sex, race, or means is not something we want to get involved in. We choose to let the legal system handle what happens next to thieves.

If we didn't arrest, the Coop would become known as a target where the only thing to lose would be one's membership (and that's not a big deterrent for thieves).

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Next General Meeting on April 25

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

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

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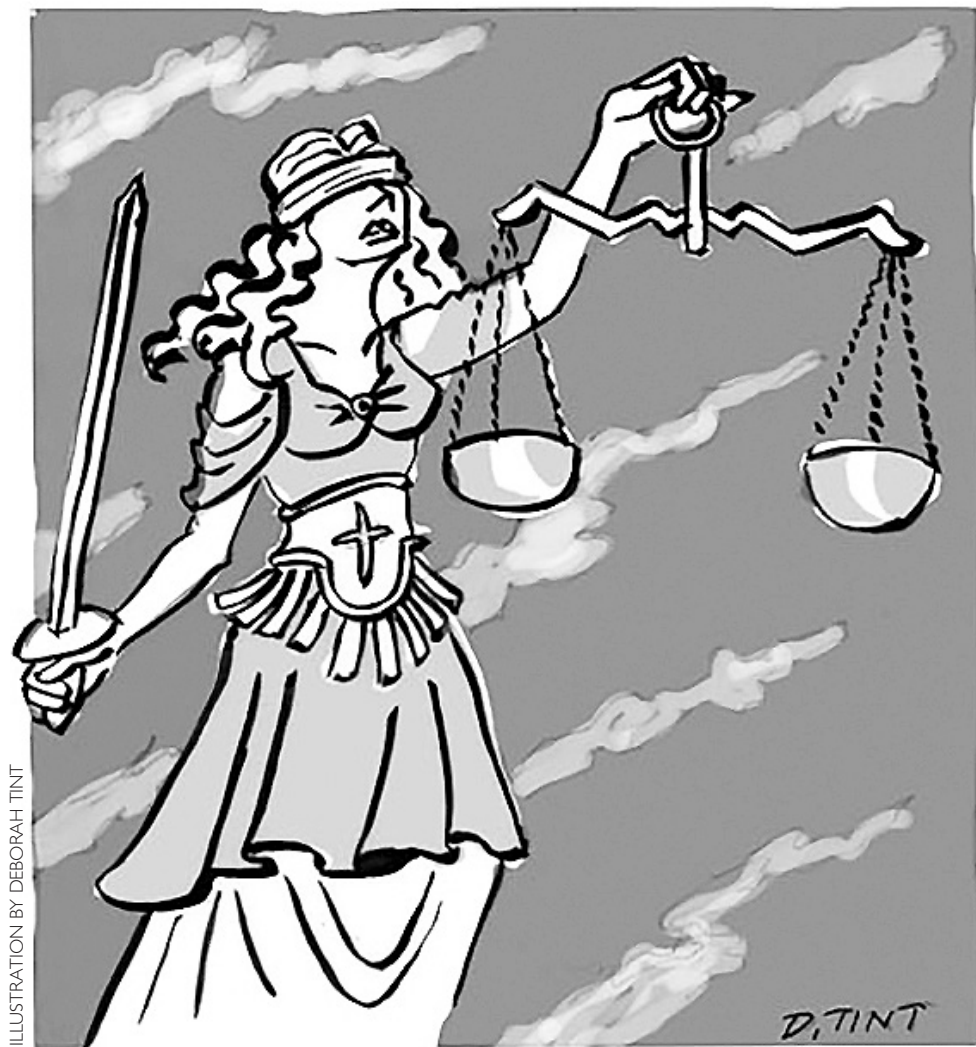


ILLUSTRATION BY DEBORAH TINT

Expelled

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ertheless, this member was hoping for leniency due to her family's special needs. While considering arbitration, she spoke privately to a Coop staffer in the Membership office, asking for help.

The Investigator stated that this staff person "came forward to say that the mem-

ber had called her in distress and had admitted to her that she did in fact do what she was accused of." This same staffer was scheduled as the second witness.

"She was upset and emotional and felt ashamed, remorseful, and humiliated about what she had done," the staffer said, also reporting that she herself had never learned what the actual

charges were, because she and the member had never discussed them.

The staffer initially told the member that since she admitted and regretted the wrong-doing, it might be possible in an arbitration, that the Hearing Officers would take that into account and offer some form of leniency.

The staffer had had no prior dealings with Disciplinary Committee actions and "had no idea of how this works."

A few hours later, in speak-

ing to a co-worker, the staffer was told that "I had ill-advised the member by saying there was any chance that she could retain her membership." She "quickly called the member back and corrected that."

The DC's hearing/arbitration is "strictly a process for the member to refute the information presented," says Leith.

When the defendant's turn came to speak, she expressed regret for her actions, explaining that, "in the past, I have worked the five straight hours it took to do those two shifts. But when I signed up for those recent makeups, we were having a hard time with my special needs son. We have to take him doctors, specialists and tutors. My husband was working very late and so I had to wait for him to come home from work" before heading out to her shifts. (As the designated "caregiver," thanks to a letter from their pediatrician, the member's husband was exempted from doing shifts in accordance with the Coop's disability policy of requiring shifts from just one parent.)

Afraid that she would keep falling behind, the member admitted that she had signed in for unperformed makeup shifts.

Belonging to the Coop "means a lot," the member explained. "My son has special food and supplement needs, and we just can't get these outside of the Coop.

The Coop represents our family and what we give to our children. I was so proud of showing my children where their food came from, and telling them that eventually they could work here."

She added that, "families have hardships and I thought that was the only way to get around it. I regret it."

"I do understand that under pressures, people may behave badly, but they are still responsible for their actions. Our job is to protect the Coop," said the Advocate in his concluding remarks. "There is a pattern where you are not meeting your obligations. If the Coop could do more, it would. I really don't like doing this. We are recommending that your household's membership be cancelled permanently."

In her concluding remarks, the member (who has belonged to the Coop

for over a decade) said, "I came here hoping that there was some way to redeem myself. I don't know if there's a way." She asked for leniency in the Hearing Officers' decision. "Please suspend me for six months or a year, allow me to make up the time in some way and come back at some point."

The Hearing Officers panel adjourned and returned with a decision to permanently expel the member and her household.

"There is evidence to support the findings of the DC and we are not making any further recommendation. It's not a decision we reached lightly," one of the Hearing Officers said. Another Officer said that the outcome would likely have been the same for a hearing, which would have been adjudicated by the same hearing members. The session adjourned. ■

PLASTIC PACKAGING COLLECTIONS

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

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

Expanded Plastic Collection for Coop members

Please be prepared to show your Coop membership card.

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

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

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

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

We continue to accept the following from all community members:

Pre-sort and separate according to the categories below.

Toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes (any brand/size)

Baby food pouches and caps (any brand)

Energy bar wrappers (any brand)

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

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

Cereal and cracker box liners (any brand)

Food residue and paper labels OK.
No shopping bags.

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

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

For more information about Terracycle, visit terracycle.com

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



HELP ADVANCE

a cooperative city by joining the Cooperative Economics Alliance of NYC FTOP squad!

We're seeking Coop members who reflect the diversity of the Coop and have the following skills: Wordpress and CiviCRM development, event production, film production, community organizing, nonprofit fundraising, and blogging.

Work with a committed team of PSFC members and support the growth of coops and social justice in the five boroughs. E-mail a short cover letter stating your interest, skills, and experience with FTOP, and a resume to

organize@gocoopnyc.com by March 31.



Coop Policies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I realize there's sympathy for the 79-year-old, simply based on age, but he had been a member for decades, and we clearly could see when we started looking at his shops that years ago his grocery purchases went from normal amounts down to spending no more than \$2.50 per shop—while carrying out a bag of food. I'm surprised no checkout worker reported him sooner, since it was pretty egregious!

These members lose their membership, since the theft is obvious and confirmed by the arresting police. But we are not aware of jail time resulting from an arrest at the Coop. These are misdemeanor charges only, which usually carry anything from simply having it on the record, to perhaps community service, to the legal system deciding not to pursue it.

Gazette: Why not give a lesser sentence than expulsion, say a three- or five-year suspension, along with some restitution of what was stolen? Wouldn't that be more consistent with the values of our community?

Tricia: I'm not sure that there's agreement Coop-wide about what values the membership holds regarding product theft. Providing excellent food at affordable prices for everyone is—I believe—in conflict with a goal of allowing thieves to remain members, even if suspended for a few years. We've thrown out thieves only to have them return under different names and steal again. There are a variety of reasons for theft, too, and not all are due to "need." Sometimes it's a psychological issue. And what about those who steal in order to support substance abuse? We also have non-member thieves. And we have had professional thieves too (my favorite being the one who clipped packages of meat inside his running suit). The professional and nonmember thieves are not interested in our community and did not join to be a part of it. And the others, if they don't deal with their issues, will likely come back and continue their stealing. The Coop doesn't have the markup to absorb theft loss. Product theft is a real threat to the health of the Coop.

I do want to say that we never divulge personal information on members to any media. We were surprised that other journalists did name



ILLUSTRATION BY LYNN BERNSTEIN

our members in the latest thefts. It's publicly available information, but we asked the *Gothamist* journalist not to name them—and that particular journalist is a Coop member who understood and complied.

Gazette: Why do you call the police in some cases and in others the case goes to the Disciplinary Committee?

Tricia: Sometimes we're able to call the police and have people arrested at the time of a follow-up incident, and other times the evidence is obvious, but the opportunity to have the police deal with it in that moment doesn't work. In that case, we phone the member and explain the evidence. And it may then go to the Disciplinary Committee.

Gazette: I notice when I shop that the exit worker usually does not count the number of bags or boxes I have but simply marks off the receipt. Is this a weak link?

Tricia: We see the exit worker as a security position, but many members do not. I will say we have had some reports of theft come from exit workers, which is great. Another important aspect of this job is to prevent people from walking in the exit (some of whom are non-members trying to get in). We also have had some success with this.

Gazette: How much staff power and time would you say is involved in investigating and disciplining these cases?

Tricia: It's hard to say. You'd have to separate out the time spent on actual theft versus time spent cheating on workshifts—time theft—as well as time spent on interpersonal issues between members. The Disciplinary Committee spends more than a typical workslot on all of this. There's also a membership coordina-

tor who spends 10–20 hours weekly documenting all of it, and a General Coordinator who spends some time on it. Frankly, there's enough work to spend even more paid staff time on this area.

Gazette: What should members do if they see what appears to be a theft in progress?

Tricia: The member

should note the date, time and location in the store, give a description of the person suspected, and include their own name and member number, if possible. We don't encourage any confrontation with suspected members, because we would never want someone erroneously accused of anything. We prefer to check into the incident via the stored digital archive in order to be sure of what is happening. Some reports, of course, have turned out not to be true—but we encourage the reporting just in case, since theft is expensive for the Coop.

Gazette: Is the identity of the person reporting a theft essential? Would an anonymous tips system work?

Tricia: The name of the reporter is for follow-up questions if there are any. It's not really necessary, just helpful. If someone sees something in an aisle, for instance, it's helpful to spot the person doing the reporting on the tape, since that makes it easier to locate the person they're reporting. But if someone does give their

name, it doesn't go further—it's confidential.

Policies of Other Coops

The *Gazette* checked with several other coops on their theft policies and heard back from two of them in time for this article's deadline. One was the new Paris France, coop, La Louve, which is modeled very closely on the Park Slope Food Coop. La Louve has set up a Mediation Committee to resolve disputes. It also intends to set up a Disciplinary Committee, and wants the two bodies to work together, though how they will do so has not been fully mapped out. Thus far there have not been any cases yet involving theft.

The Ashland Food Cooperative in Oregon uses a different model, with several levels of membership, beginning with "owner." Ashland does involve the police in shoplifting cases, suspends shoplifters who are also owners for a period of time, up to and including forever, and terminates their ownership. There is an appeals process, which involves the coop's Board of Directors. ■

WELDER NEEDED

to repair uboats,
flat carts and
shopping carts for
FTOP credit.

Please contact
Jonathan Cruickshank
by calling the Coop at
718-622-0560,
Friday-Tuesday evenings.



EARN WORK CREDIT AT THE PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP:

Earn work credit at the
Park Slope Food Coop!
The Greene Hill Food
Co-op needs help with
the following:



- Patching software on the IT servers to the most recent versions.
- Optimize and speed up the web server for greenehillfood.coop.
- Make recommendations (and implement?) a memory/hardware upgrade on the main web server.
- Set up regular rotating backups for the main website and other web properties.
- Help with ongoing web page updates and maintenance (webmaster can weigh in on how much help may be needed, and whether it's needed).
- Debug (and hopefully simplify) our CRM setup. We use *civi* running on *drupal*.
- Help to keep the various email aliases up to date. Train committee chairs on using google groups if needed.
- Internet connectivity in store.
- Revel POS software updates.
- Technical support on transition to Mailchimp for the Co-op's newsletter.
- Support the marketing team in their transition of the Coop's website to a SquareSpace platform.
- Help establish a membership directory.

➤ If interested contact: Misha Avrekh at mavrekh@gmail.com

CHiPS to Host 2nd Gala on April 20, Honoring the Coop's Joe Holtz and Featuring Local Food Purveyors

By Frank Haberle

On the evening of April 20, our community soup kitchen and shelter, Community Help in Park Slope (CHiPS), will host its 2nd Annual Spring Gala at The Green Building (452 Union St.). The event will honor our own Joe Holtz, General Manager & Co-Founder of the Coop. It will feature food and beverages from an amazing assortment of local food purveyors and provide an exciting night out for community members seeking to support, and build awareness for, the work of CHiPS.

An Event to Support CHiPS

The event is of critical importance for CHiPS, a non-profit organization that has partnered with the Coop for decades. Coop members work shifts and volunteer hundreds of hours at CHiPS, and the Coop donates thousands of pounds of fresh produce weekly. CHiPS counts on ticket sales and corporate sponsorships from this event for more than 15% of its annual budget—making it possible to cover expenses.

"CHiPS is unique," said Kedin Kilgore, Treasurer and

Board Director of CHiPS. Kedin is also the founder of Gowanus Grid and Electric, and a longtime Coop member. "Volunteering with CHiPS is great. I have never helped support an organization where it was so easy to recruit people to help. When we call businesses to ask if they can support CHiPS, they say 'SURE!' When we ask local businesses for donations of food, they quickly say 'yes.' It is the same with the Gala. Almost all the money raised goes to support the kitchen and shelter. Food, production, the event space (The Green Building on Union), labor, and planning are all 100% donated. Money raised goes where it does the most good."

CHiPS soup kitchen serves more than 250 meals daily to homeless and hungry Brooklynites. CHiPS also runs the Frances Residency Program, which provides transitional homes for nine prenatal and postpartum homeless women and their infants. The women can stay up to 12 months while they are working toward self-reliance and the acquisition of permanent housing.



Kedin Kilgore, Treasurer and Board Director at CHiPS.



Denise Scaravella, Executive Director of CHiPS.



Joe Coencas spends every Thursday making bolognese for CHiPS.



CHiPS' Annual Gala will be held on Union St. just west of the Gowanus Canal at The Green Building.

Honoring Joe Holtz and the Coop's Contribution to CHiPS

"It's not just by chance that the Coop has been supporting CHiPS since shortly after it was founded," said Denise Scaravella, executive director of CHiPS. "From the beginning, the Coop was reaching out to us, asking what they could do and how they could help us feed people in need. Joe's leadership turned good intentions into concrete, sustainable action. We are so grateful to him and to the Coop."

"Nearly 80% of our food comes from the Coop," Denise adds. "The Coop is our largest donor of food and volunteers, and has been for decades. Coop members need to know they have fed literally thousands of people, and they need to know that their steady contributions are making a difference for people every single day. We couldn't do what we do, for as long as we have been doing it, without the help of the Coop. Honoring that commitment and ongoing support is overdue and very exciting for us."

An Exciting Evening for Neighborhood Foodies

The CHiPS Gala should be a really exciting attraction for neighborhood food enthusiasts, with food and beverages donated by some of the Gowanus neighborhood's "hottest" food purveyors. "In

the past few years, Gowanus has built a reputation city-wide as a new destination for people who love great food and drinks," said Peter Endriss, co-owner and head baker of Runner & Stone. "Our gala will be catered by well-known purveyors like Bedell Cellars, Insa, Lavender Lake, Strong Rope Brewery, NY Distilling Company, and Purslane as well as Runner & Stone. Gowanus businesses are really committed to this community. CHiPS is so well known and respected that local restaurants and bars just had to be asked and they replied with, 'of course!' The gala is a great opportunity for Gowanus restaurants and bars to donate their time and specialty—incredible food, unique drinks and fantastic hospitality."

A Strong Connection: CHiPS Leadership and Coop Membership

Several Coop members

serve in vital leadership roles as Board members at CHiPS. Kedin, who has served on the same Saturday morning work squad for 18 years ("I love it, and my squad is fantastic!"), said "CHiPS and the Coop are a perfect fit for one another, and the opportunity for members to work at CHiPS for work credit is a blessing for not only CHiPS but also many of our members." Kedin has volunteered at CHiPS for two years. "The work is amazing," he adds, "and the people are fantastic. Picking up food donations from local businesses and delivering them for lunch is the best part of my week."

"I've been on the board for about three years now," Peter said. "I was first brought in to help with the CHiPS Night Out—a summer event when local restaurants and bars donate a portion of their sales from that day's receipts to CHiPS."



Pre-set before lunch at CHiPS. Every client also gets a hot meal.



A CHiPS volunteer loads slightly damaged asparagus from the Coop in the steamer.

After working to get other local restaurants to participate, we saw the value of having a local business owner on the board and I was able to rally the local hospitality community around CHiPS."

Kate Navarro-McKay, Coop member and CHiPS Board member, remembered learning about CHiPS on her Coop shift 12 years ago. "I was taught during my receiving squad orientation to put bruised-but-still-good produce aside for the soup kitchen. I was really pleased to see how seriously squad leaders took the responsibility, and it made me feel like my work shift was more than just fulfilling a requirement. I'm so grateful to the Coop for helping me be part of something important, even if I didn't realize it at the time." Kate joined the Board of CHiPS earlier this year, after volunteering there with her young son. "I worry kids growing

up in this area will think that because so many in our neighborhood are affluent, everyone in our city is so fortunate," she said. "CHiPS is a lifeline for people going through tough times. And it's an opportunity for people to see how their contributions of time, money and food have an immediate effect on people's lives. Hopefully, that encourages everyone to give more."

"The Coop has provided more than just food and soup kitchen volunteers," Denise added. "After a fire next door that damaged our building, the Coop gave an immediate donation and raised money from its members to help us rebuild. When CHiPS' founder retired, we needed marketing, branding, website and other help. The Coop found members with these skills and gave workslot credit for the work they did on our behalf. Whenever we have a problem we need solved,

we can always count on the Coop to mobilize."

How Coop Members Can Get Involved

CHiPS is nearly 100% volunteer-run. Volunteers cook, clean, pick up food donations, and organize community outreach. If you are interested in volunteering, CHiPS orientation schedule is available online at <http://chipsonline.org/volunteer>. Families are welcome.

Tickets for the April 20 gala are available at <http://chipsgala.org>. If you would like to learn more about corporate sponsorship, please contact Kedin at kedinkilgore@gmail.com. If you'd like to help with the gala, please contact Kate at kate.navarromckay@gmail.com.

If you can't make the gala, you can always help by donating to CHiPS at <http://chipsonline.org/donate>. \$10 provides six meals. \$100 can feed an adult for three weeks. ■



Coop member Anne McBrearty prepares a fruit salad from Coop donations.



Peter Endriss is co-owner of bakery Runner & Stone.



Kate Navarro McKay, Gala Coordinator.

Members Sought for Unusual Work Slot

The Personnel Committee is looking for a member to join them to support General Coordinator decisions related to Coop personnel and to promote the professional growth of our General Coordinators. If you know how to work effectively with others and believe you could make a contribution to the Committee, we would love to hear from you.

We would like the Personnel Committee to reflect the diversity of the Coop and are especially interested in people who have skills in finance or business management, strategic and succession planning, workforce productivity, human resources, and organizational development. Applicants should have a minimum of one year of Coop membership and a good work history.

This is a Coop work slot. We meet regularly with the General Coordinators on the third Tuesday of each month, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We work on additional projects as needed and may attend General or other meetings where the issues affect our work.

If you are interested, please do the following two things:

- e-mail your resume and a letter explaining why you would like to be part of the Committee to pc.psfc@gmail.com,
- and go to <http://bit.ly/2mFY2p1> to fill out a short questionnaire.

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

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle. You are presented with a 9x9 grid of squares, and that grid is divided into 3x3 zones.

You solve the puzzle by filling the empty squares with single-digit numbers so that every zone, column and row uses each of the numbers from 1 to 9.

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

Puzzle author: Abdul Powell. For answers, see page 6.

MEMBER SUBMISSION

Want to Learn More About Birds? Now Is the Time!

By Janet Schumacher

Spring migration is about to begin. Thousands of birds will pass through NYC—some to stay and nest and others just to refuel on their way to breeding grounds. Birders are up early, eager to see these visitors when they are most hungry and active. You too can join the fun.

You know that bright red bird is a cardinal, but you're not sure about the brownish bird it is hanging out with. Beginner or middling, there are plenty of free or low-cost opportunities to learn to identify these birds and their most common songs.

For starters, Tom Stephenson is giving an introduction to bird watching and the birds of Prospect Park on Tuesday evening, April 25 at 7 p.m. in the Coop's meeting room. Tom

is an expert birder with acute hearing, a musician, and the author of the *Warbler Guide*. He will present an overview on what birds you can expect to see and hear in the coming weeks, including scarlet tanagers, orioles, hawks, and an array of colorful warblers.

Follow that up with free morning walks offered by the Brooklyn Bird Club (BBC) every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings in Prospect Park this spring. Walks begin around 7 a.m. and generally last until noon. Please bring binoculars. The BBC also offers nature talks at the Central Library. Membership is \$20/year, and members enjoy first access to other birding trips. The schedules are posted on the Brooklyn Bird Club website: <http://brooklynbirdclub.org>.

If you'd prefer to sleep later, Michelle Dreger leads a free introductory walk from the Audubon Center in Prospect Park on Saturdays at noon from the boathouse. Binoculars are provided or bring your own. And the first Sunday of month there is also a birding walk at 8 am from the Audubon Center.

Joe Giunta teaches an excellent introductory birding course offered by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden beginning April 22 in Prospect Park. To register, call the BBG.

Monk parakeets maintain huge nests in the gothic arches at the entrance to beautiful Greenwood Cemetery. Rob Jett leads weekly low-cost walks there. To register: citybirder.blogspot.com. Peter Dorosh, former president of the Brooklyn Bird Club, maintains a blog for unusual Brooklyn sightings: <http://prospectingsightings.blogspot.com>.

In Manhattan, Gabriel Willow leads free short walks before and after work in Bryant Park: <http://www.bryantpark.org/plan-your-visit/birds.html>. The Linnaean Society, based at the Museum of Natural History, has a free Central Park walk every Tuesday morning in April and May at 7:30, meeting at 72nd and CPW. <http://linnaean-newyork.org/>. The Society also hosts a monthly evening lecture series.

NYC Audubon offers trips, lectures, and activities, including hands-on service projects such as Safe Flight. Volunteers are trained to rescue birds injured during peak migration. The Urban Park Rangers has an extensive program in city parks. And there are free birding walks in both the



Cooper's Hawk.



Ovenbird.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the NY Botanical Garden.

Birding can be a yearlong and lifelong activity. Children with their keen eyesight are welcome on most walks if accompanied by an adult. Birding is a great excuse to explore the world and NYC. Recently a bald eagle was spotted flying over Prospect Park. A trip to the Rockaways may yield the endangered Piping Plover and even jam-packed Coney Island has hosted rare seabirds. Hope to see you out there. ■



Yellow warbler.

Solution to this issue's sudoku puzzle

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

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

MEMBER SUBMISSION

Gazette Article on Intrexon and the Pension: A Response

By Joe Holtz, Pension Trustee and General Manager, and Dan Wiener, Pension Investment Manager

The latest *Linewaiter's* articles on the pension may have left you with several misconceptions.

First, the *Linewaiter's Gazette* article from March 16 [Intrexon: A Closer Look at Former Investment of Coop Pension Fund] states that "So far most of the debate has focused on the wisdom of that strategy [that is, the pension fund's strategy], which concentrated on shares of small companies and led to losses."

This is simply incorrect.

Over the life of the pension trust's small stock strategy, the fund outperformed the benchmark Vanguard Balanced Index fund.

The pension fund started with a payment of \$2500 from the Coop in December 1993. At the end of January 2017 the plan's assets stood at more than \$7.5 million. Over these 23-plus years the Coop added \$5.5 million to the plan and paid out expenses and benefits of over \$2.7 million. Investment gains totaled over \$4.7 million. The annualized internal rate of return for the life of the plan was 9.39% compared to a 7.90% return for Vanguard's Balanced Index fund, which maintains a typical pension fund stock/bond allocation.

To point to any individual year and claim that the strategy is fundamentally unsound is disingenuous. The greatest investor of all-time, Warren Buffett, saw his Berkshire Hathaway lose 32% in 2008, lose 20% in 1999, and lose 23% in 1990. Also, throughout Buffett's his-

tory, he has underperformed his benchmark one year in three. Why not pick one of those bad years and ignore his overall results too?

Losses are a consequence of investing in stocks and bonds, but over long periods of time, with proper management one hopes to generate gains. That is what was done under the pension fund's original structure and it is what is being done today.

As far as the prior investment in Intrexon, the *Linewaiter* article notes that the stock is no longer held in the pension fund account. To argue about it now is simply a waste of *Linewaiter* readers' time.

However, since the debate has been entered, let's consider the questions surrounding the company.

The PSFC often celebrates those who work to protect the environment and sustainable agriculture. So it was disheartening when the argument against using Intrexon's genetically modified mosquitoes to combat the Zika virus ignored so many facts. The article does admit that the mosquitoes are self-limiting, since they and their offspring die without passing on their modified genes. That fact would seem to be sufficient to quell any concerns about introducing a rogue species into nature, since the modified genes disappear quickly.

But this was not enough—other objections were raised. "What if the mosquito species (*Aedes aegypti*, the one that carries Zika) disappears?" We're tempted to say "We should be so lucky," but we won't. The fact

is, that won't happen, since the modified mosquitoes are introduced only in populated areas, meaning *Aedes aegypti* lives on in other parts of the globe.

Aedes aegypti were spread from Africa by human travel centuries ago. There are about 3,500 varieties of mosquitoes, so the disappearance of this one would hardly result in an environmental catastrophe. The animal species in areas invaded by the mosquito that may have included *Aedes aegypti* in their diet recently seem to have gotten along just fine without them for the preceding million years or so.

But let's not ignore the human dimension. Zika has horrible consequences for humans. Looking in isolation at whether to use GMO mosquitoes to address the threat is myopic. You have to look at it in comparison to other methods of Zika control that will be and have been used.

In Florida, neurotoxic insecticide was sprayed widely out of airplanes, which seems like a much more worrisome thing than mosquitoes with a short life span.

People whose babies lives are facing an immediate threat are not going to wait for climate change to be reversed. They demand action now, and the question is, what is the least harmful measure to employ. Weighing all facts, the answer seems obvious, but was ignored by the *Linewaiter's* article.

In addition, why should we assume that the Coop's policy of trying to avoid GMO's in food is also a good idea when applied to curing and preventing disease?

We would like to make a sug-

gestion. Rather than pursuing articles on issues that we have already moved beyond, why not serve the Coop members with more relevant articles such as what members think of the possibility of expanding into a second location or how being a member of National Cooperative Grocers for over a year now

is affecting the Coop? How is the Coop operating since two general coordinators retired two years ago, having been replaced with just one? Or even, how will the rebound of the pension assets affect the Coop's finances in the coming years?

It's time to move on. The pension fund is under strong management as it always has been and will continue to be. ■

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.

The **BKLYN**
JUICE
COMPANY
"We love organic"

Organic Cold
Pressed Juices

Organic Superfood
Smoothies

Organic Wraps &
Salads

PS Coop members enjoy
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beverages (show your card)
75A 5th Ave Brooklyn

WORK&WELLNESS

UNDER ONE ROOF

THE
COMPOUND
COWORK

www.thecompoundcowork.com

MINKA

Center for wellness and
Holistic Living

www.MINKAbrooklyn.com

CLASSIFIEDS

HOUSING
AVAILABLE

SUMMER BUNGALOW for sale, 1 hour from NYC by car or train. 2BR 2BA, renov. kitchen, large deck, lake: swim, boat, fish, tennis, volleyball, basketball, social activities. Intergenerational comm. Child friendly. \$99,000 + maintenance. Contact: jacquesh62@gmail.com.

SERVICES
AVAILABLE

DO YOU NEED HELP obtaining accommodations and services for students with learning, emotional or physical issues? Experienced civil rights attorney & school administrator with expertise in K-12 and higher education. Miriam A. Nunberg, Esq.,

Ed.M. StudentEquitySolutions.com, mnunberg@gmail.com or 718-490-4153.

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

MADISON AVENUE HAIRCUTTER is right around the corner from the Food Coop, so if you would like a really good haircut for a decent price, please call Maggie at 718-783-2154 | charge \$60.00 Wed-through Sundays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

RESTORATION Did you break a special vase or chip enamel jewelry? I restore pottery and small objects

(antique or just treasured) made of enamel, ivory, horn, tortoise, some plastics and wood, etc. Estimates cheerfully given. References available. Near the Coop. Roberta: 718-623-6777 or rrgordon42@gmail.com.

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

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.

SERVICES-HEALTH

REIKI TREATMENT and Sound Healing. This enjoyable combination sound and energy healing treatment helps to alleviate stress, tension, anxiety, depression, fatigue and physical pain. Private individual or group Gong Sound Baths also available. Call Rita at 917-440-8336 or email ritalondon@aol.com ritalondonnyc.com.

FREE evaluation + 50% off first Acupuncture & CranioSacral Therapy sessions for COOP members! Pain, internal disorders, scars, anxiety, etc. Adult & pediatric. By appt. in Manhattan, Bklyn, house visits are possible. Dr. Enensaaus Rastrygina, DAC, LAC. Cal 917-627-3554 or email drenensaa@gmail.com www.enensaaus.com.

THE ARTFUL DODGER PAINTING CO. has served the NY metro area for over 30 yrs. "Everything with paint." From rooms to cabinets and furniture. Expert wall prep and plastering. Specialized treatment available. Clean and efficient. Insured, EPA certified. REASONABLE! Free estimate: 646-734-0899, eyegrease@earthlink.net.

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

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

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, April 21, 8:00 p.m.

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



PROSPECT CONCERTS



Groove Garden CD release party. Led by saxophonist/composer Jenny Hill, Groove Garden presents a rich sampling of jazz, South American grooves and the funky side of Brooklyn. Groove Garden is a musical salute to California and the Americas. Jenny Hill, tenor sax, flute, alto flute; Lily White, alto sax; Hugo Moreno, trumpet, flugelhorn; Keys, TBA; Alexis Cuadrado, bass; Todd Isler, drums and percussion; Urbano Sanchez, congas.

Mamie Minch plays songs that sound like they've been stored inside her 1930's National steel guitar for decades. She has found her voice in reviving—and writing—antique blues songs and ballads that bridge between herstorical record and contemporary life. Her low-down tough tenor singing voice is supported by a guitar style drawn from Memphis Minnie and Bukka White. She is also one half of Brooklyn Lutherie, the city's only woman-owned and -run instrument repair shop.



Ilusha Tsinadze is a singer, guitarist, composer, and arranger born in Tbilisi, Georgia in 1983. His family emigrated to the U.S. when he was eight, as the Soviet Union was collapsing and Georgia was slipping into a Civil War. His distinctly personal interpretations of Georgian folk music have won him wide acclaim in Georgia and have led to opportunities to perform solo and with his Brooklyn-based band around the world. Ilusha's music pushes the boundaries of what it means for a folk song to be relevant outside of its original context, and what happens when ancient musical traditions from a little nation on the Black Sea find refuge in New York City.

www.facebook.com/ProspectConcerts

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

RETURN POLICY



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

REQUIRED FOR ANY RETURN

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

CAN I EXCHANGE MY ITEM?

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

CAN I RETURN MY ITEM?

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

NEVER
RETURNABLE

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

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

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

RETURNABLE

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

This Issue Prepared By:

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- Final Proofreader: Nancy Rosenberg
- Index: Len Neufeld
- Advertisement: Eric Bishop

WELCOME!

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

Daniel Ades	David Bujeda	Jill Haefele	Khripunkova	Colin Lindsey	Di Pinheiro	Carolyn Sargent	Justin Taylor
Heather Ades	Becerril	Nigel Hammond	Luciana King	Shobha Manaktala	Keren Plowden	Paul Schuttenbelt	Jesus Torriente
Mary Arda	Alayna Butryn	Patrick Haney	Signy	Elyce Matthews	Najja Plowden	Sarah Schweig	Stephen Tremaine
Megan Arend	Marc Campbell	Barbara Hill	Kolbeinsdottir	Jeff Mertz	Pia Rahman	Stephanie Shaw	Elena Varas Saiz
Angel Ayon	Tae Campbell	Erica Hill	Rikki Korkowicz	Alex Minott	Sara Rayman	Heimir Snorrason	Judith Waletzky
Aristonica Ayon	Caroline Den Dulk	Linden Hill	Karen Kuhn	Ryan Mita	Patrick Reiher	John Hyunsuck	Jesse Wegman
Henrietta	Mark DiSalvo	Emie Hughes	Athena Kurry	Emily Osborne	Monica Reyes	Son	Kyra Wegman
Bagazonya	Chris Edmonds	Edyta Jezewska	Andrew Laucius	Christina Park	Javier Robiou	James Sullivan	Sarah White-Ayon
Adrian Bartos	Matthew Estep	Clinton Johnston	Maggie Laucius	Michael Parmelee	Monales	Raymond Tang	Lucy Wild
Graciela Beato	Ryan Farrar	Garrick Jones	Anne-Marie	Michael Patten	Lindsay Roffman	Stephanie Tang	Eben Woodward
Nicolas Biais	Bianca Franqui	Maureen Jones	Lavigne	Matthew	Heidi Rosbe	Alesia Tanios	David Yang
Alice Bonhomme-Biais	Jacob Gallice	Daniel Kennedy	Jim Lear	Patterson	Stephen Rose	Hasan Tariq	Yehua Yang
	Karen Gardner	Yuliya	Genna Levitan	Sharon Pena	Luke Sanders	Kathryn Tarker	Alexander Zagoro

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, APRIL 4

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 7:30 p.m.
Submissions will be considered for the April 25 General Meeting.

TUE, APRIL 25

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

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

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

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

ALL ABOUT THE GENERAL MEETING

Our Governing Structure

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

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 25, 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.

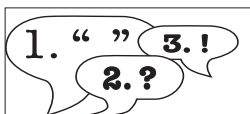
We welcome all who respect these values.

park slope
FOOD COOP

calendar of events

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.**

apr 14
fri 7 pm

Wordsprouts: A Celebration of National Poetry Month



Featuring **Tina Chang**, the Poet Laureate of Brooklyn, **r. erica doyle**, whose collection proxy was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award, and **Taylor Mali**, a four-time National Poetry Slam champion. All three poets will present new verse, then talk about their work. It will be an inspiring and exciting night, sure to delight all lovers of language, art, and life. Tina Chang is the Poet Laureate of Brooklyn. The first woman named to this position, she was raised in New York City. She is the author of the poetry collections *Half-Lit Houses* and *Of Gods & Strangers* (Four Way Books) and co-editor of the anthology *Language for a New Century: Contemporary Poetry from the Middle East, Asia and Beyond* (W.W. Norton, 2008) along with Nathalie Handal and Ravi Shankar. Her poems have appeared in *American Poet*, *McSweeney's*, *Ploughshares*, *The New York Times* among others. r. erica doyle was born in Interfaith Hospital in a Brooklyn snowstorm. She is the author of proxy (*belladonna**). Taylor Mali is one of the most well-known poets to have emerged from the poetry slam movement and one of the original poets to appear on the HBO series "Def Poetry Jam." A four-time National Poetry Slam champion, he is the author of three collections of poetry and a book of essays, *What Teachers Make: In Praise of the Greatest Job in the World*. In April of 2012, Mali donated 12 inches of his hair to the American Cancer Society after convincing 1,000 people to become teachers.

Event takes place at Sir D's Lounge, 837 Union St., across the street from the Park Slope Food Coop.

Bookings: John Donohue, wordsproutspsf@gmail.com.

apr 21
fri 8 pm

Groove Garden; Mamie Minch; Ilusha Tsinadze



Groove Garden CD release party. Led by saxophonist/composer Jenny Hill, Groove Garden presents a rich sampling of jazz, South American grooves and the funky side of Brooklyn. Groove Garden is a musical salute to California and the Americas. Jenny Hill, tenor sax, flute, alto flute; Lily White, alto sax; Hugo Moreno, trumpet, flugelhorn; Keys, TBA; Alexis Cuadrado, bass; Todd Isler, drums and percussion; Urbano Sanchez, congas.

Mamie Minch plays songs that sound like they've been stored inside her 1930's National steel guitar for decades. She has found her voice in reviving—and writing—antique blues songs and ballads that bridge between herstorical record and contemporary life. Her low-down tough tenor singing voice is supported by a guitar style drawn from Memphis Minnie and Bukka White. She is also one half of Brooklyn Lutherie, the city's only woman-owned and -run instrument repair shop. **Ilusha Tsinadze** is a singer, guitarist, composer, and arranger born in Tbilisi, Georgia in 1983. His family emigrated to the U.S. when he was eight, as



the Soviet Union was collapsing and Georgia was slipping into a Civil War. His distinctly personal interpretations of Georgian folk music have won him wide acclaim in Georgia and have led to opportunities to perform solo and with his Brooklyn-based band around the world. Ilusha's music pushes the boundaries of what it means for a folk song to be relevant outside of its original context, and what happens when ancient musical traditions from a little nation on the Black Sea find refuge in New York City.

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.

apr 25
tue 7 pm

Bird Watching & the Birds of Prospect Park

Our Food Coop is just a short distance from Prospect Park, one of the best bird-watching spots in the U.S. During Spring migration it's possible to see as many as 100 species in one day. Come learn about and see pictures of the many colorful warblers, orioles, grosbeaks, raptors, ducks, and other species that visit and even depend on the park for their survival. Also, learn about why bird watching is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the country and how much fun this life-time learning pursuit can be. **Tom Stephenson**, a long-time Coop member, has been birding since he was a kid. His articles and photographs are in museums and many publications including *Birding*, *Birdwatcher's Digest*, *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, *Birds of Madagascar* and *Guide to the Birds of SE Brazil*. He is the author of *The Warbler Guide* book and app and of the upcoming BirdGenie app that's a "shazam" for bird songs.

apr 25
tue 7 pm

PSFC APR 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.

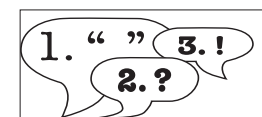
apr 29-30
sat-sun 9 am-7 pm

Food Drive to Benefit CHIPS Soup Kitchen

CHIPS Soup Kitchen, located at Fourth Avenue and Sackett Street, is the recipient of much of our edible but unsaleable perishable food. They also need donations of nonperishable foods. This food will go to CHIPS to help them feed people in the neighborhood who are in need of a nutritious meal. Consider contributing nonperishable foods and commercially packaged foods; canned fish; canned fruits and vegetables; pasta sauce; pasta; pre-packaged rice; pre-packaged beans; canned beans; canned soups; Parmalat milk; dry milk; peanut butter; cooking oil; or boxed raisins. Give donations to the collection table outside the Coop.

may 2
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 May General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 30, 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.

FUN COMMITTEE REPORT

10th Annual Coop Kids' Variety Show

By Martha Siegel and Michael Szeto

The FUN Committee produced its 10th Annual Kids' Variety Show at the Old First Church on Saturday, March 18. We had a wonderful, enthusiastic crowd. Some of the 31 performers have been participating in the show for five or six years. Some were in it for the first

time. Auditions are held in January. Everyone who auditions gets into the show. We have a 20-act limit.

This year, to reflect the current "climate," producer Martha Siegel felt it imperative to add some group songs for everyone to sing together (à la Pete Seeger). She chose a song celebrating immigration-Buffy Saint-Marie's song "Welcome,

Welcome, Emigrante." She also chose a song that she grew up with, made popular by Paul Robeson and later (yes!) by Frank Sinatra, among others, called "The House I Live In," music by Earl Robinson, lyrics by Abel Meeropol, who with his wife adopted the two sons of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. People really enjoyed singing those songs. The show is a great opportunity for Coop families to come together to enjoy community, which is the function of the FUN Committee.

If you missed it this year, be sure to come next year. You don't have to have a child in it to enjoy it. ■



Laetitia Li, age 4, singing "Let it Go" in Cantonese, French, and English.



Tilly and Rufus Fein, ages 9 and 6 respectively, singing "Rainbow Connection."



Cellos ready for the ensemble.



The crowd at the 10th Annual Kids' Variety Show on Saturday, March 18.



The performers take a bow at the end of the night.



The rock band, The Unknown, play Twisted Sisters' "We're Not Going to Take It."

PLEASE SUPPORT
THE AFFORDABLE
CARE ACT

DEAR MEMBERSHIP,

The fight to keep the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid is still on. For those who are still unfamiliar with the individual terms: The ACA is the official term for Obamacare. The ACA provides a great deal of funding to expand Medicaid. Because Medicaid is in great part being administratively managed at the consumer level by private insurance companies, people often confuse it with the ACA. They are separate programs, yet both are under threat from Trump's American Health Care Act aka Trumpcare.

If you want to support and keep the ACA and expanded Medicaid, please call our Democratic New York Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten E. Gillibrand, and urge them to do everything possible to stop Trumpcare:

Sen. Schumer—(202) 224-6542
Sen. Gillibrand—(202) 224-4451

When you call, say something like: "I'm a constituent and a voter in New York, and I'm calling to urge the senator to do everything possible to resist and defeat Donald Trump's American Health Care Act, which would take away health care from 24 million Americans."

The ACA has many valid critics, but it has provided medical coverage for tens upon tens of millions of Americans who didn't have any before, allowing them for the first time to seek help without needing to save money first as they grew sicker and sicker.

Let's work to fix what needs fixing, not throw out the entire package and return to the bad old days of coverage for only those who could afford it.

Jesse Rosenfeld

KEYWORD

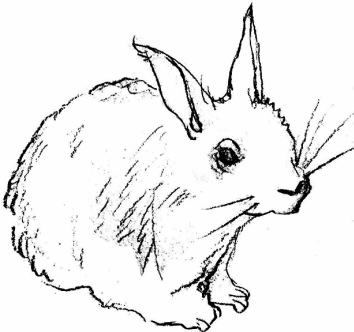
DEAR EDITOR,

Missing keyword in the title? "How are Coop Members Standing Up for Immigrant Rights and Justice?" [Gazette, March 2, 2017]

I write this as a naturalized citizen and legal immigrant. I was curious why anyone needs to stand up for immigrant rights? Perhaps a keyword "undocumented" in the title or the story might add clarity. I find this article unwise.

As a green card holder I had all the rights as a US Citizen except the right to vote. I have lived in the US for forty years. I did not find any need for anyone to uphold my rights.

Amol Kaikini



MEMBER
SURROGATES

DEAR NEW COOP
MEMBERS:

Welcome to the Coop. It's nice to have you. However, when being interviewed for *The New Yorker*, might you please kindly refrain from advocating the breaking of Coop rules? I was a little taken aback when I read this

passage on page 75 of the March 20, 2017 edition of *The New Yorker* in an article about Humberto Leon and Carol Lim.

Lim said, "I was thinking of having Karma"—her nanny—"join." In theory, Karma could work at the Coop a few hours a week, and buy discounted groceries for Lim. "They say it's a no-no, but I say it's a yes-yes," Leon said.

In an ironic twist, in the same issue, there is another article that makes reference to the *New Yorker's* fact-checking staff. They didn't check that one.

The Coop is open to all. I would encourage both Ms. Lim and Karma to join the Coop. They could both have the benefits of membership. Mr. Leon, now that you are a member, I encourage you to be an active part of the Coop, and also to respect the rules of the Coop. If "they say it's a no-no," then...well...it's a no-no. You are welcome to advocate for the changing of the policy that members cannot shop for non-members, but for the time being that is the rule.

Elias Kirtz

TARE THE BAGS

DEAR FELLOW COOP
MEMBERS:

I recently discovered a hidden cost involved in not using the plastic roll bags provided by the Coop. For some time now I have been buying mesh and Ziploc bags to use for bulk items, and green bags for my produce. This past weekend my checkout worker asked if I would mind if he tested out a theory. Apparently, he and his husband were engaged in an on-going argument about

whether these alternate bags added any significant weight, and therefore, cost, to their purchases. There was no one waiting in line behind me, and I was curious, so we rang up several items in the various bags and then again without them.

We didn't have the presence of mind to weigh the same items in the different bags, so this is not scientifically accurate, but for one produce purchase the green bag added 6 cents, and for another the mesh bag added 11 cents (I didn't have any Ziploc bags with me that day). We then tried one of the roller bags. It added 1 cent.

It doesn't seem like a lot of money, but it certainly adds up over time. And for things with a high cost per pound I will certainly think twice before using one of these bags over a roller bag.

My question to the Coop is this: Is it possible to add tare weights to our checkout computers to offset these hidden costs?

Thanks,
Edith Silver

BDS AND
DEMOCRACY AT
THE COOP: 2017

MEMBERS:

Two critical issues exist in 2017 at the Coop regarding BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions): (1) reinstating BDS programming in the meeting room; (2) a vote by the full membership to decide whether or not to boycott SodaStream products at the Coop.

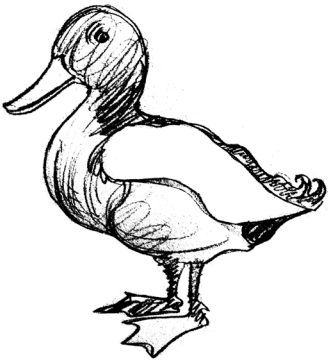
In the Age of Trump, let us reflect on the General Coordinator's Executive Order in 2016 to ban further

programming on Palestinian (Moslem, Arab, Christian) issues in Palestine and Israel, citing security reasons. Yes, members, this is the chilling reality at the Coop. The General Coordinators must rescind the ban against Palestinian educational programs. Security issues never arose in BDS programming over the years. External security issues can be handled without denying a member's constitutional right to address Palestinian issues.

Likewise, in the Age of Trump, there should be greater recognition by the General Coordinators of their leadership role to hold a full-membership vote on the agenda item to boycott SodaStream sales at the Coop. No venue was located for the vote (which would never be for the full membership anyway).

By restoring BDS programs in the meeting room and including a SodaStream ballot in the annual Spring mailing for electing Board of Directors, the General Coordinators would distance themselves from the present reality that democracy on BDS issues are denied at the Coop in 2017.

Mary Buchwald
PSFC members for bds
<https://psfcbds.wordpress.com>



ILLUSTRATIONS BY ETHAN PETTIT

THANK YOU!

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

Hooraa Abdolreza
Caprice Abowitt
Brittin Alfred
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Rebecca Bazell
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Liz Budnitz
Johanna Burke
Dora C.
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Charmaine
Marc Cincone
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Joanne DeRosa
Alison Dorfman
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Alexis Gargagliano
Ben Gerlofs
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Frank Haberle

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Heather Hope
Karen Hsieh
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Erika Inwald
Rachel Kalman
Jacob Lasser
Marie Legene
Rebecca Lescure
Sydra Mallery
Annabeth Marks
Sarah Matari
Mera
Erin Miksic
Lydia Mokdessi
Eugenie Montaigne

Kelly Neal
Sarah Ngu
Lucy Nguyen
Danica Novgorodoff
Joshua Nussbaum
Alexandra Pinel
Matthew Reilly
Isabel Rodriguez
Vincent Salle
Tim Seggerman
David Sherrin
Alan Shurafa
Lucy Siderman
Esty Stein
Michael Stinavage
Danniel Swatosh
Amy Thesing

Jennifer Trowbridge
Ilusha Tsinadze
Elaine Unkeless
Jay Unkeless
Zach W.
Toru Watanabe
David Weinraub
Madeline Weisburg
Abby Weiss
Haylee Welsh
Scott Wolfson
Courtney Yadoo
Kolby Yarnell
Lillian Zhang