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Volume HA, Number 3

April 1, 2017

## Embracing the Coop, One Member at a Time

### Amma, the Hugging Saint, Makes a Rare Appearance at the Food Coop

By Sandy Beach

**M**ata Amritanandamayi Devi, more commonly known as Amma, the “Hugging Saint,” will make an unprecedented stop at the Park Slope Food Coop on Friday, March 31. No one really knows exactly how this miraculous visit came to be but, according to sources close to Amma, she has long expressed a desire to visit our divine institution.

“The Coop seems to be receiving a lot of negative press lately,” the raven-haired saint explained sympathetically. “I think the membership and the staff could really benefit from my love and attention right now.”

#### Suspended? No Hug for You

The one very important caveat to her visit to the Coop is that Amma will be doling out hugs to “active” Coop members ONLY. If your Coop status is “suspended,” or even “alert,” sorry—no hug for you. This goes for other members of your household, too. As always, if you’re “suspended” or “alert” it affects everyone currently listed at your address even if their individual status is “active.” This also applies to former couples who are residing at the same address but claiming that one of them lives in the basement.

The much beloved Hindu



**Amma prays she can help the members of the Park Slope Food Coop. The consensus is still out.**

spiritual leader considered shaking hands with members on “alert” in lieu of a hug but thought better of it when several “active” members complained.

“Why should I be okay

with some illegitimate member essentially stealing time away from my hug?” complained new member and early-morning Produce worker Barbara Tyger.

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## Netflix and Chill

### TV Series About the Food Coop to Premiere on Netflix

By Johnny B. Goode

**Y**ou’ve said it to your friends a million times: “The Coop would make a great TV show!”

Well, don’t change that dial, because it’s finally happening.

According to *Variety*, Netflix has greenlit the production of a series based on the inner workings of the Park Slope Food Coop. The show, tentatively titled *Joe’s Bar & Grill*, was written by former Coop member Jane X. Rivera. Rivera, an alum of *Orange Is the New Black* and *Nurse Jackie*, co-wrote the script with her husband, John Dieckwed.

“A lot of people have a love-hate relationship with the Coop,” Rivera says. “I wanted to explore that dynamic.”

“Originally,” Rivera continued, “we created a very different treatment. The first script was a historical fictionalization that opened in the early ‘70s

with Coop founder and General Manager Joe Holtz sucking on a big bong in the back of a Volkswagen bus parked on Seventh Avenue. The script followed Joe through the first wave of gentrification in Park Slope in the ‘80s and into the present where he quits his job at the Coop and makes billions trading risky, politically incorrect stocks.”

Michael Green, an executive producer at Netflix, wasn’t crazy about Rivera’s original treatment. “No one is interested in the mind of a man who thought so far outside of the box to create one of the greatest—and most successful—social experiments of our time,” Green stated. “People want drama! They want lies! They want false accusations!”

To that end, instead, the series will revolve around one very physically fit couple whose membership at the

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PHOTO CREDIT BY KAREN MANCUSO

**Netflix series about the Food Coop will debut in your living room in the Fall of 2026.**

## Coop Event Highlights

**Fri, Apr 7 • Film Night: “Roots” with guest speaker  
Jeff Sessions 7:00 p.m.**

**Thu, Apr 20 • Food Class with Chef Garen Manguso:  
Learn to Cook Authentic Italian Dishes  
Like Fried Galamad, Manigot & Gabagool  
7:30 p.m.**

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

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Embracing

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Whereas John Elefant, a long-time Laundry worker who is currently “suspended” for owing six shifts, made the argument that it is precisely members with his sordid status—the Coop pariahs, so to speak—who could benefit most from a hug. “I just know that it would be exactly the jolt I need to finish all my makeups or, at the very least, to get on the one-for-one plan,” lamented Elefant.

Undocumented Immigrants Welcome

Due to space constraints in the second floor meeting room, a limited number of members will be able to attend the event. Coop members of Southeast Asian descent get first priority, along with undocumented immigrants. Immigrants will have to prove their undocumented status, of course. Acceptable forms of proof include an expired visa, a sham marriage license and denaturalization papers. Immigrants from Libya, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Yemen and Somalia will

receive two hugs. However, any Coop member from a country that has a Trump hotel will get a slap in the face.

Joe Holtz? Not So Much

There’s also been some grumbling about whether or not General Manager and Coop co-founder Joe Holtz is worthy of a hug given the recent Pension Plan scandal. Some members think Holtz should get a second chance, but others want to make sure he has been behaving first. To that end, one member, who chose to remain anonymous, preemptively created a Joe Holtz Oversight Committee (without the consent of the General Meeting). Members of the committee—who are self-appointed and self-supervised—have been shadowing Joe while he runs routine errands around the neighborhood. “You know, we follow him into Chase while he does his personal banking, stuff like that,” reported a member of the committee. “Last week I spied on him from aisle 6 while he was grocery shopping and I saw him make a risky purchase. So I approached him and I asked, ‘Joe, are you aware that those pork chops

you just bought are one day away from expiration?’ He said that he did but that he likes to take chances. I think that says it all.”

When asked about this, Holtz, perched on his monogrammed bar stool at the Gate, admitted his transgression but stood his ground, even as he wobbled off his barstool. “He has a point,” Holtz said, “but in my defense that was a blue-chip pork chop. The book value might have depreciated but it tasted great going down!”

Digital Memory of Your Hug

Members of the Coop’s Video Squad will be on hand to record your hug with Amma. The best-looking hugs will be used in the Coop’s promotional materials and on its website. For an extra fee, you can also have your photo taken while sitting on Amma’s lap. In addition, you will have the opportunity to purchase a souvenir T-shirt that says: “I SAW AMMA AND ALL I GOT WAS THIS LOUSY HUG.” One hundred percent of the profits from the sales of T-shirts will go into the Coop’s Pension Fund. ■

Joe Holtz’s Top Five Stock Picks On the Advice of His Magic 8 Ball and Ted Nugent

1. Dogender (DGNE)

Often mistaken for Do-gender, a pro LGBTQ sneaker manufacturer, Dogender is the major supplier of euthanasia drugs to animal shelters all around the country.

2. Ablutionex (ANNX)

An up-and-coming manufacturer of genetically modified essential oils aimed at behavior modification and mind control.

3. Amerfirst (DRMP)

The world’s largest brick manufacturer based in Moscow.

4. Maidron (MXIE)

U.S. recruitment company of foreign domestic workers who remain on this side of the wall.

5. Misogyno (MSX)

Grassroots mega-tech pharmaceutical company whose only mission is to develop drugs that keep old white guys alive so they can continue to make healthcare decisions for women.

EGANT SPIRIT MEDICINE EVENT

Please join us in the Second Floor Meeting Room for an ayahuasca ceremony led by Joe “Crazy Heel” Holtz.

While Holtz has no formal shamanistic training, he is well versed in all things hallucinogenic including blotter, window pane, microdot, peyote, San Pedro cactus, psilocybin and Brewmeister Snake Venom to name a few. Joe is also known to have the gift of talking people down.

Long considered a portal to the spiritual world, ayahuasca (grown exclusively for our members on an organic, cooperative farm in Peru) will take you on a journey within and without.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

10AM-10PM

SECOND FLOOR MEETING ROOM  
PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP

PLEASE WEAR LOOSE-FITTING CLOTHING. ONCE YOU ENTER THE ROOM YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE. TICKETS ARE \$150 AT THE DOOR, AND YOU MUST BE 16 OR OLDER TO ATTEND. POINTING AND LAUGHING AT OTHER PARTICIPANTS WILL RESULT IN SUSPENSION.



B.Y.O.B.  
(BRING YOUR OWN BUCKET)



★ EXCITING WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITIES ★

Plastic Bag Repair  
Evenings & weekends

Wanted: seamstresses, knitters, crocheters, weavers and hand pokers to repair holes in plastic bags. The Environmental Committee is looking to create a sub committee of dexterous members willing to sew up holes in previously used plastic bags. You must be pedantic about recycling and reusing but not too fussy about sweatshop and child labor laws. Please send your résumé to the Coop’s windowless factory in lower Manhattan. For every 13 hours you work in a row you get one FTOP credit.

GMO Test Group  
24/7

Become part of an elite squad of members willing to eat copious amounts of genetically modified corn and soy at every meal so that we can track the effects of GMOs on human beings. Live in a dormitory-style private facility and receive three meals a day, plus snacks and beverages, served by the Coop’s paid staff. Members with a genetic predisposition to cancer need not apply. Vegetarian and kosher meal plans available upon request.

Friendly Fruit Squad  
Sunday afternoons

We are seeking outgoing members willing to dress up in fruit costumes and walk

around the Coop during its busiest times being nice to people. We are looking for members with a diverse range of body shapes, including pear, apple and rhubarb (not technically a fruit but you get the idea). Annoying actors especially welcome on this squad.

Conversion Therapy

45-minute sessions once a week

Looking for members with a background in either psychology, hypnosis and/or fashion to identify and convert heterosexual Coop members to the gay lifestyle. Pluses include ownership of a full collection of works by Alison Bechdel or Michael Cunningham. Members of this squad must be prepared to work a variety of shifts including weekends and evenings.

Clam Juice Squad

Everyday except Sundays

Do you cook with it? Do you make your Bloody Marys for friends and not tell them there’s a dash of clam juice added to the mix? Members of this squad must be willing to sip clam juice at the end caps between aisles 1 and 2 and look very happy doing it. While the purpose of this squad is to boost sagging sales of clam juice, the list is not confined to this one product. Future projects may include Noni Juice, canned mussels and natto.



# General Meeting Votes in Favor of GPS Tracking Devices for Walkers

By Christian Rock

While everyone at the February General Meeting was fighting over the Coop's Pension Plan, a little-known proposal to sew GPS tracking devices into the neon vests of Outside workers slipped quietly onto the agenda and passed unanimously but with little fanfare.

This odd piece of legislation left the *Gazette* wondering if a bit of Big Brother hasn't crept into our Food Coop.

"This isn't about tracking people for nefarious purposes," argued Bonita Apple-

baum, the member who crafted the proposal. "It's about improving services for our members. We will have a video monitor set up in the entrance vestibule and a system that works very much like the MTA's Bus Time, where you can track a Walker and see how far she or he is from the Coop. You'll know how long you have to wait, and if the wait is too long, you can call a car service. Or just abandon your cart full of perishable groceries in aisle 6 and go home without telling anyone."

Other members are not so

sure. Dave Trugoy, who hadn't heard about the proposal until this *Gazette* reporter told him about it, asked about the legitimacy of the vote. "I didn't see this item on the GM Agenda in advance of the meeting," he said. And he's right about that, confirmed Ann Herpel, a General Coordinator and staff liaison to the Agenda Committee.

There is a clause in the fine print of Robert's Rules called "Lay on the Floor" in which a meeting participant can state a motion and then lay on the floor (sitting is technically permissible) until such time as the Chair either acknowledges her or someone accidentally steps on her. If the Chair refuses to acknowledge the person on the floor within five minutes, the item being put forth as a motion has to be brought to a vote. "In the melee over the pension fund no one noticed this member laying on the floor," Herpel explained. "We thought she was just another casualty from the pension fight. It was hard to see anything with all the fists flying and chairs being thrown across the room."

"I think there is something deeper at work here," said 30-year member Daisy Chain, a self-anointed "anti-management" Coop activist. "I think one of the General Coordinators put Applebaum up to this," Chain sneered. "The management is against us and what better way to control us than to track our every movement."

Tricia Leith, a long-time General Coordinator and former NYC detective, says this is ridiculous. "I had never even heard of Applebaum until this motion passed," she said sweetly. "I don't tend to mingle with the membership."

She went on to say, "That said, I think it's a great idea. Every day when I walk back to the Coop after having an hour and a half lunch at Blue Ribbon, I see Walkers taking their sweet time returning to the Coop. They're just standing around, drinking coffee, texting, as if there weren't a line of people back at the Coop waiting to be walked home or to their car. This is considered uncooperative behavior and theft of time. I don't want to have to call the Disciplinary Committee, but I will."

Another benefit of tracking Walkers, according to Applebaum, is that everyone will have to stay inside the designated walking area. If a member moves outside of that zone, the tracking device will emit a 140-decibel alarm. This will cut down on Walkers who disappear for hours at a time. One Walker, Nancy Sinatra, welcomes this change. "When an old lady with a cane asks me to walk her to Canarse it's hard to say no. Sometimes I'm gone for over seven hours, which on one hand is great



PHOTO CREDIT BY DAWN D'ARCY

**A member returns after walking to Ditmas Park.**

because I get my shift done plus two make-ups, but it sucks for the members back at the Coop waiting for a Walker," Sinatra admitted.

Members shouldn't expect the tracking devices to be implemented over night. "It will take us three years at least to research, purchase and implement the system," Herpel explained. "Remember, we're on Coop time."

But Alex Marquez, from the Coop's IT department, says he's already on the case. "I'm in talks with Best Buy to get a great deal if we buy in bulk," he said. "I think tracking devices could be the wave of the future for the Coop. Imagine if you could track the delivery of your favorite cookies and you knew exactly when they arrived at the Coop. Think of how many phone calls we could cut back on in the Membership Office."

Marquez is also designing an App, which will allow you to track Walkers from the comfort of your own home. The Coop expects to roll out the App in Spring of 2026. ■



PHOTO CREDIT BY KAREN MANCUSO

**A Walker drinks a room-temperature beer on the bench after returning from a 30-minute break at Starbucks.**



**Walkers who roam outside the designated zone will set off a 140-decibel alarm.**

## Netflix

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Coop nearly cost them their marriage. "Being forced to work at the Coop puts a lot of stress on relationships," says Dieckwed. "There were days when Jane had to work her shift at the Coop and it was impossible for me to go for a run because we had to coordinate childcare for our daughter, Lettuce." Dieckwed went on to admit that when Rivera was a Coop member in the late '90s he quit the Coop by pretending to live upstate in the couple's country home.

The show will have several subplots, including a Food Processing worker who has to be forcibly removed from his squad for referring to a piece of Epoisses de Bourgogne as haloumi; a General Coordinator meeting that requires all participants to attend in the buff; and an across-the-street neighbor who repeatedly launches factory-farmed eggs at Outside Workers for pushing noisy shopping carts up and down Union Street at "ungodly hours."

Casting for the show has proven tricky because many actors do not want to be typecast as socialists, vegans, Baby

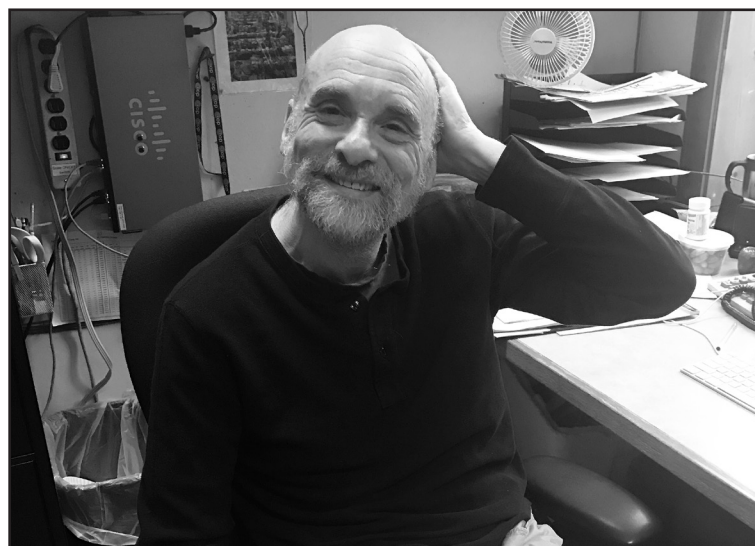


PHOTO CREDIT BY DAWN D'ARCY

**"How's my hair?" asks Joe Holtz, as he mugs for the camera from his office in a white tower.**

Boomers, lesbians, raw foodists, Park Slope parents, Hillary supporters, yuppies, Gen X'ers, jerks, urban farmers, red diaper babies, Bernie Bros., gentrifiers, feminists, Millennials or craft beer enthusiasts, respectively. But we can confirm that Maggie Gyllenhaal and Peter Sarsgaard will play themselves. ■

Joe's Bar & Grill will premiere on Netflix in May of 2026 with 10 half-hour episodes. It will not be available for live streaming but only through Netflix's mail-rental program. And due to the extraordinarily low budget, Joe's Bar & Grill will only be available on VHS.



Saturday, April 1, 8:00 p.m.

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



PROSPECT CONCERTS



The Coop is shocked to welcome **Kellyanne Conway**—affectionately known as “Blueberry”—to the Coop’s monthly concert series.

The New Jersey native will speak on issues close to where her heart used to be, such as feminism (“It’s difficult for me to call myself a feminist in the classic sense”), the President of the United States (“I believe that Donald Trump is not someone who is fully understood for how compassionate and what a good boss he is to women”) and why she thinks Hillary Clinton lost the election (“cankles”).

Conway, who will be dressed in nothing but an Ivanka Trump Off-the Shoulder Abstract Floral Crepe de Chine Top® and a pair of High-Waisted Brief Spanx, promises not to bring her husband (though he, too, is a very good boss to women).

A portion of the ticket sales of this event will be donated to ~~Meals on Wheels,~~  
~~Planned Parenthood~~ and NEA.

www.facebook.com/ProspectConcerts

52 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: Steve Bannon, 1-800-DICKHEAD

PERSONALS

SEEKER SEEKING NO-FLY GUY

Iranian Palmist with an incredible track record of accuracy seeks male citizen with private pilot’s license and small plane for a forever, or at least until January 2021, relationship. I know you’re out there. Box 32

**NEED COOP STAFFER FOR TRUE LOVE ASAP**

Seriously delinquent, often inebriated Coop member seeks Coop staffer (with option for household exemption available) for love at first sight, whirlwind romance culminating in immedi-

ate cohabitation. Love of single malt scotch and the money to pay for it a BIG plus. Box 22

COOP MUTT SEEKS SOULMATE

We were recently tied to the bench outside the Coop. You sniffed me, I sniffed you—you stink. Unfortunately, someone paged out that we were “cold” and “tied up for too long a time” and my person dragged me off. Please mark the bench next time if you feel the same. I’ll know your smell anywhere. P.S. I can type. Box 17

CHEESE FOR CHEESE

Sharp-smelling cheese cutter seeks olfactorily challenged Coop member for polyamorous relationship. No jealous types need apply. Box 47

FEMINIST SEEKING MISOGYNIST

Normally peaceful feminist seeks a serial misogynist interested in taking a beating. I won’t kill you, I just want to get some stuff out of my system. No cry babies. Box 43

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. Your last seven paid-in-full receipts **MUST** be presented.  
2. Returns must be handled within 30 seconds of purchase.

**CAN I EXCHANGE MY ITEM?**  
Any item can be exchanged for a small child of greater or lesser value.

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

NEVER EVER RETURNABLE

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

JUST NO

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.

PSFC APRIL 2017  
GENERAL MEETING  
Tuesday, April 25, 7:00 p.m.

- Meeting Agenda (8:00-10:30)**
- Item 1: Should We Abolish the General Meeting** (190 minutes)  
**Vote:** To dissolve the General Meeting, which has been the Coop’s decision-making body for 44 years, and allow three or four members to make all the decisions.  
—submitted by three or four members
- Item 2: Should the Coop Start Selling Sustainable Sex Toys and Gear** (45 minutes)  
**Discussion:** To create a committee to source recycled silicone dildos, organic fruit leather condoms, kelp-based lube and Italian-licorice butt plugs.  
—submitted by the Bondage & Disciplinary Committee
- Item 3: Should All Pages Over the PA System Be Made Using a Scottish Accent** (3 minutes)  
**Vote:** It just sounds better, doesn’t it?  
—submitted by Dawn D’Arcy’s dead dad

- Meeting Location: Chuck E. Cheese, Atlantic Terminal Center, 139 Flatbush Avenue.
- You must be a Food Coop member to attend the General Meeting. Please bring your Coop I.D. card to be admitted. Entrance fee \$25, with a two-drink minimum.
- Times in parentheses are suggestions. The Chair has the discretion to change the order of the agenda or to make the meeting go on for an unbearable number of hours.

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.

Kim Deal	Gloria Steinem	Tracy Chapman	Angela Merkel	Ravi Coltrane	Amy Schumer	Maggie Nelson	Papa Smurf
Pema Chodron	Cristela Alonzo	Roxane Gay	Wanda Sykes	Robert Thurman	Hope Sandoval	Joseph Goldstein	Thich Nhat Hanh
Patti Smith	Lily Tomlin	Kate McKinnon	Bell Hooks	Richard Gere	Gabrielle Hamilton	Dave Chappelle	Ta-Nehisi Coates
Skip Gates	Barack Obama	Queen Latifah	Jonathan Foust	Benedict Cumberbatch	Aretha Franklin	Rhonda Smith	Nick Cave
Kristen Wiig	Michele Obama	Queen Elizabeth	LeBron James	Tig Notaro	Sharon Salzberg	John D’Arcy	Marina Abramovic
Bruce Springsteen	Sinead O’Connor	Oprah Winfrey	His Holiness the	Tal Wilkenfeld	Tina Weymouth	Marie P.M. Murphy	Dolly Parton
Q-Tip	Sandra Day O’Connor	Stella McCartney	Dalai Lama		Esperanza Spaulding	Gail Ann Dorsey	Shonda Rimes