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April 13, 2017

The Membership Has Spoken: PSFC Will Contribute \$10,000 toward the March for Climate, Jobs and Justice



Full house at the General Meeting.

By Taigi Smith

There wasn't an empty seat in the house at the Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting on March 28, 2017. A few hundred members had come to vote on whether the PSFC should formally endorse the march for Climate, Jobs and Justice taking place in Washington, DC, on April 29, 2017. At issue was whether the PSFC should contribute \$10,000 to the cause. Several members of the Coop expressed their opinions about the climate march and while most were in full support of it, several members had reservations about the donation amount.

"There's a climate march coming up and we hope as many of you as possible will get on those buses," said Mimi Bluestone, an organizer on the Climate March committee who urged the membership to vote to endorse the

event. "To me it seems really basic, if you want good food, you need a livable climate."

Added Bluestone, "If I weren't here right now, I would be at Trump Tower, demonstrating against the President's proposal to roll back all of President Obama's climate change initiatives. Sea ice is at record low levels as temperatures are at record high levels. You've heard it here tonight. We have crops totally wiped out because of this bizarre weather."

Earlier in the meeting General Coordinator Joe Szladek warned members of a possible shortage of peaches this summer. Due to unseasonably warm weather, followed by sudden surge of cold, Georgia and South Carolina farmers have lost about 90% of their crop. "The trees were tricked into flowering and then a frost came and that made them not

produce fruit," added General Coordinator Joe Holtz about the decimated Georgia crop.

In an attempt to urge members to vote in support of the Climate March, Nancy Romer, another member of the Climate March committee, addressed the membership. "How many of you were at the 2014 People's Climate March?" she asked. About 20 people raised their hands. In the Northeast, the area that we live in, as climate change progresses, we'll need to get more of our food locally. Experts expect a big negative impact on fruits, vegetables and dairy. "Climate and the agriculture are integrally entwined. The planet will continue, but whether humans will continue on the planet is the question. This is not a charity. This is a social and political movement. We want to be able to eat and

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Climate Change in the Produce Aisle

By Gayle Forman

On March 9 of this year, high temperatures in New York City were in the 60s. After a spate of similarly mild days, cherry trees were starting to bloom. New Yorkers were tentatively bringing out their spring shoes. Five days later, a late winter nor'easter dropped temperatures into the 20s and dumped several inches of snow on the city, and much more inland and upstate, where, a lot of the Coop's produce is grown.

The federal government might still be debating the "science" behind global climate change, but this past winter's wonky ups and downs—which follow a similar pattern to the 2015-2016 winter, with mild temperatures, followed by late season snows and freezes—show how climate patterns are changing in real time. In fact, according to a study published in the journal *Global Change Biology*, the emergence of spring flora and fauna in the Northeast has advanced by nearly three days per decade.

And while global climate change is often discussed in the abstract—what might happen in the future—the past two winters show how sharp fluctuations in temperature are impacting us in real time, as evidenced by the



ILLUSTRATION BY BRIANNA HARDEN

produce aisles at the Coop.

A Summer without Peaches?

While it's too soon to tell what will happen with this year's crop, Coop Produce Buyer Ana Gallo said last year can serve as a predictive model. We had a similarly mild winter, with a particularly warm February. "This tricks the trees into believing it is spring already. Things start flowering. Peaches and apples come out of the flower," Gallo explained. "The minute the temperature drops, it kills the flower. Last year we lost all the local peaches. We had some we were able to get from New Jersey, but we were not able to support the local farms as we like to. It also killed a lot of the local apples."

This year, we've seen the exact same pattern. "Peaches and sweet cherries are in

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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.**

The agenda is in this *Gazette*, on www.foodcoop.com and available as a flier in the entryway of the Coop. For more information about the GM and about Coop governance, please see the center of this issue.

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GM

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we want our children and our grandchildren to be able to eat. We are hoping the Coop members will get on those food hub buses," said Nancy while urging members to purchase bus tickets for buses that will leave from Grand Army Plaza. "NY needs to have a massive presence."

Several members questioned exactly how the \$10,000 contribution would be spent. According to committee members, the money would be used mostly for hiring a staff of 10 people and printing signs. "I think it's going to be a very exciting event and we're going to sponsor a big sign making event," said Nancy. "The most important thing is endorsing. It's important that we be part of this. We want to be gorgeous, bright and big."

Coop member Lenny said he really liked nice weather, but expressed fear that the PSFC might become a political organization as opposed to a business organization. In Lenny's opinion, marching for climate change would have very little impact on the weather itself. Instead of contributing \$10,000 to the march, Lenny suggested members turn to God for help. "Visit your houses of worship and pray for good weather," said Lenny. However, not everyone agreed with Lenny. "I heard someone say, let's support food, not politics. That's not what the Coop is about. We



Brian and Lindsey want to create a PSFC app.

were born in politics," urged a member who took to the podium to persuade members to vote for the \$10,000 dollar financial contribution.

Secretary Jesse Rosenfeld expressed several ideas about ways to curb climate change. Jesse urged members to stop having children, resort to veganism and cancel their Cancun vacations, arguing, to a perplexed membership, that the future of climate change wouldn't be changed by marching, but by taking action into their own hands.

After roughly 30 minutes of discussion, the membership voted to endorse the climate march and provide \$10,000 toward the cause. While the vote was not unanimous, there was certainly a strong show of support for the April 29 march.

During the open forum, members Brian and Lindsey expressed their desire to create a PSFC app. "We're here, we're ready, we're desperate," to make an app, said Brian.

The app, he said, would simplify the tedious burden of shift swapping and make the process easier for all Coop members.

"There's a climate march coming up and we hope as many of you as possible will get on those buses."
- Mimi Bluestone

General Coordinator Tricia Leith, broke down the current financials. She made it clear that these were preliminary figures and that the auditors would present the official findings in June. According to Tricia, net sales at the PSFC were over \$54 million dollars this year. "If we had the mark-up of a typical grocery store, it would have taken us to over \$73 million dollars," said Tricia. She added that shoppers see savings right away. "We get lower prices right from the start and pass those on to you," said Tricia. "Sales per week were over 1 million per week. It's a new high. That's the average. Sales per member, per week, those figures also went up." As it turns out, the PSFC is also flush with cash. "We have over 3 million in cash. That's up over \$1 million over the prior year. But we owe our suppliers over \$2 million dollars," said Tricia.

Joe Szladek, General Coordinator, presented the food report to the membership. Strawberry prices are coming down, and they should be down below \$5.00 soon. We also have sea greens. We're going to start getting daikon in from California. Members should note that flooding in Peru has disrupted a bit of our banana supply, and there's a shortage of mangoes. Bosc pears and organic cauliflower are also in short supply.

Joe Szledak next talked about another Coop matter. "If you can't make your shift, we'd encourage you to swap," he said. "When folks don't find swaps, we're down people and the staff are always scrambling to find people to run the store. We know swapping is not the easiest for people," added Joe. He also encouraged members to shop early for the upcoming religious holidays. "You can shop more peacefully if you shop on a Wednesday or Thursday."

Megan Sullivan, a member of the Animal Welfare Committee also addressed the membership. "Our mission is to provide transparent information in regard to the animal products we sell." This includes eggs, butter and some meats. Megan mentioned that the committee also hosts a plant-based eating workshop once a year.

Adam, a member of the Safe Food Committee, reminded members of the Coop's "Plow-to-Plate" movie series that takes place once a month at the PSFC. The series has been on hiatus for several months, but the committee will begin showing films again in May. Adam encouraged members to read his film reviews on the PSFC Plow to Plate page and in the *Linewaiters' Gazette*.

In addition to the climate march vote, members voted to elect members to the Dis-

ciplinary Committee. Karen Kramer, a longtime member of the committee, spoke candidly about her time as a Coop disciplinarian. "A community can only work if people are in agreement as to what's going on," said Karen during her pre-election speech. "There are at least 12 pages of rules and regulations that we follow," on the disciplinary committee. "It's just very depressing that the only outside contact I have with the Coop is hearing people lie. Someone threatened me with an Op-Ed piece in *The New York Times*," said Karen. "It's just very depressing not having people be truthful with you. As complaining as I might sound, I really love this job. I joined this organization, and I made a commitment. It's one of the best committees I've been on."

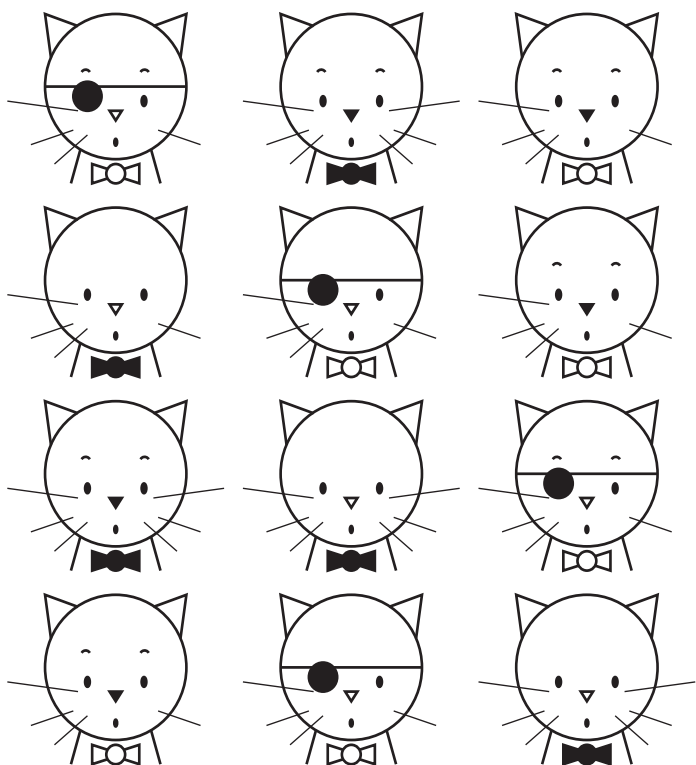
After roughly 30 minutes of discussion, the membership voted to endorse the climate march and provide \$10,000 toward the cause.

A member named Barbara stepped up to the podium to talk about how harmful the Disciplinary Committee had been to people she knows and described what she felt was an unfair system, rigged to unfairly punish the accused. Two people called for one member, who shall remain nameless, not to be re-elected. That member, who is running for re-election, wasn't present to answer to the allegations raised during the GM.

Helen Koh, Karen Kramer and Yuko Uchikawa were running for re-election, while attorney Michael Szeto was running for the first time. Ballots were distributed, and after a count, the membership voted to elect everyone who had run. ■

Cats

Which cat is unique?



Puzzle author: Lars W. Roe. For answers, see page 11.



DUE TO THE **EMERGENCY** NATURE OF U.S. THREATS TO THE WORLD'S EFFORTS TO REDUCE CLIMATE CHANGE, RATHER THAN DO EDUCATIONAL TABLING FOR EARTH DAY, THIS YEAR THE COOP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE IS JOINING THE "STOP CLIMATE CHANGE" RALLY IN NEW YORK AND ASKING ALL INTERESTED COOP MEMBERS TO STAND WITH US BEHIND THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE BANNER. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO **BE PART OF OUR PRESENCE AT THE EARTH DAY CLIMATE CHANGE RALLY**, PLEASE **MEET US IN FRONT OF THE COOP AT 11:15 A.M. ON SATURDAY, APRIL 22**, SO WE CAN TRAVEL TOGETHER TO FOLEY SQUARE.

Climate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

trouble, again," noted Gail Hepworth of Hepworth Farms, which last year, like many Northeast farms, lost much of its stone fruit.

Still, the Coop managed to have a healthy supply of peaches last summer, said Gallo, because the crop in Georgia was unusually good. But this year, Georgia also saw a late winter cold snap, with temperatures dropping into the low 20s, potentially jeopardizing the state's peach and blueberry crop. That same freeze also hit South Carolina—another big peach grower—wiping out as much as 90 percent of its peach crops.

The past two winters show how sharp fluctuations in temperature are impacting us in the real time, as evidenced by the produce aisles at the Coop.

Higher Prices, Lower Inventories

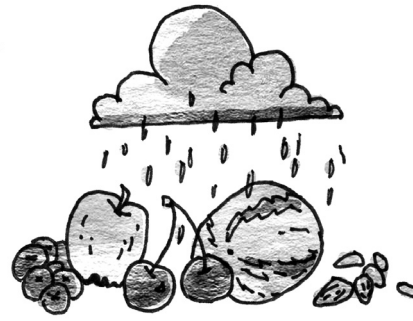
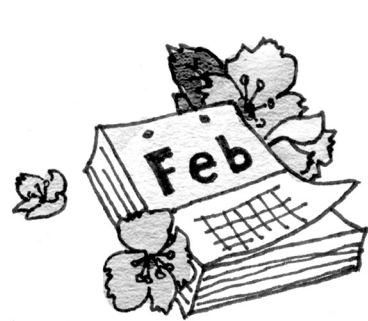
What that means for Coop shoppers is, among other things, shortages and higher prices for certain staples. What it means for Coop buyers is a constant scramble to try to find suppliers who can offset the losses or to find alternatives when shortages drive up produce prices.

This year's heavy rains in California have already provided their share of headaches. They have made celery "impossible to get," said Gallo, and cauliflower is so pricey it's basically a luxury item. (As of this writing, organic cauliflower was \$3.86 a pound.) Record rainfall is also killing the state's salad and almond crops and affecting the citrus, not because it kills the trees, but because it makes it impossible to harvest the fruit. "By the time they're able to, the crop is often gone," says Gallo.

Climate Chaos

"It's not climate change, it's climate chaos," said Casey Spacht, executive director of Lancaster Farm Fresh Coop, which, like Hepworth Farms, provides the Coop with a large amount of its produce.

Spacht noted that in addition to headline-grabbing climate events, more subtle changes are also impacting the food chain, particularly the mildness of the past few winters. Cold is actually good for crops. A steady layer of snow can insulate them from fluctua-



tions and help other crops, like garlic and onions to germinate. "Cold helps those plants biologically come to life," Spacht explained. "If it isn't cold enough throughout the season, there will be more disease pressure or fungal pressure or a smaller yield or the crop will go to seed too quickly."

Early Pests, Late Lettuces

Additionally, the warmer winters have meant that pests that attack crops survive and come out earlier. This has untold impacts on the ecosystem, affecting not just the fruits and vegetables we eat but the way they are grown. Spacht explained how organic farmers, knowing that the demand for July 4th watermelon will be high, plant the melons early, starting them off in a greenhouse and moving them outside in late winter, using a weed barrier to provide insulation from the cold weather. But now pests, normally still dormant this time of year, are alive and well, and attacking the weed barrier protecting the watermelons, which in turn threatens the melons.

But if Mother Nature has

shown one thing, it's the importance of balance. So while mild winter and early spring freezes are impacting the summer crop, the milder falls have extended the fall growing season in many places. "Last year we were able to get local greens for much longer," says Gallo, which somewhat offset the loss of salads from California's heavy rains.

"Peaches and sweet cherries are in trouble, again," noted Gail Hepworth of Hepworth Farms.

"If we had normal growing season for zone six last year," says Spacht, "our lettuce and bok choy would've been frozen by November. But we were able to harvest longer. The season was extended because of how mild it was." On the flipside (and when it comes to growing there is always a flipside) extreme heat in September stressed the cold hearty plants.

The New Normal

For now, most growers seem to think that extreme weather and changing pat-

terns is the new normal and so the best anyone can do is adapt. "Growing seasons are changing and that's changing what is available and when it's available," Gallo said.

For growers like Spacht, the key to farming in such uncertain times lies in diversity. "If you're a mega farm that has a lot of acres in one crop, climate chaos will come in and create havoc," he said. "But if you're a diverse small farm, not all crops will be destroyed."

There's always been a certain degree of gambling

in farming. Growers bet on weather patterns, they try to balance the temptation of planting in an early spring—which could increase the growing season and yield—with the dangers of an unexpectedly late frost. Diversifying the crop, says Spacht, is the best way to hedge the bets. When it comes to the impact of climate change, he says, it's not technology that will save us. "We have the tools at our fingertips. We have this soil that can create biodiversity." ■

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRIANNA HARDEN

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.



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



Feds Put the Squeeze on What We Call Milk

By Hayley Gorenberg

Call that boxed liquid “almond hydrate,” “almond filtrate” or “almond tears.” Rename its cousin “soy emulsion” or simply “soy juice.” Could new names short-circuit the bubbling debate over what constitutes “milk”? Not likely. Meanwhile, the Coop’s milk concerns focus less on naming and more on member demand and content.

The DAIRY PRIDE Act (S. 130, capitalized because it stands for “Defending Against Imitations and Replacements of Yogurt, Milk, and Cheese To Promote Regular Intake of Dairy Everyday Act”), introduced by Senator Tammy Baldwin, hailing from the lacto-centric Great Lakes state of Wisconsin, seeks to “require enforcement against misbranded milk alternatives.” Baldwin, previously known for pride related to her leadership role in the Congressional LGBT caucus, has been joined by Vermont Representative Peter Welch, who introduced the corresponding House version (H.R. 778) in January.



Shelf-stable beverage buyer, Ross Gibson.

Producers who would like to continue referencing their outputs as “plant-based milks,” including soy farmers, who market both feed for cattle producing dairy and soy milk, oppose this act. Thus, the American Soybean Association and the Soyfoods Association of North America wrote a joint letter opposing the DAIRY PRIDE Act, citing the latter’s 2006 study posing the question, “What is the consumer perception and understanding of the name ‘soymilk’?” The organization reported more than 800 adult shoppers were “not confused about the content of soymilk nor do they think cow’s milk is an ingredient in soymilk. When asked the unaided question ‘What do you think are the main ingredients of soymilk,’ the top responses were soy (53%) and soybeans

(23%). Extremely few respondents (3%) cited ‘milk’ as an ingredient in soymilk; and no consumers cited ‘cow’s milk’ as an ingredient in soymilk.”

The plant-based producers critiques the legislation as “unnecessary as no confusion in the market exists. Consumers of soymilk clearly understand that the product is derived from soybeans rather than bovine milk, and a large percentage consume it for just that reason due to dietary choices or restrictions.” They hark to petitions two decades old “asking FDA to issue a regulation recognizing that the name ‘soymilk’ is an appropriate ‘common or usual name’ that had become established through common usage” dating back to 1947, and object to what they term “unnecessary restriction on the branding and marketing.”

Emily Byrd of the Good Food Institute, which “promotes alternatives to animal agriculture,” recently wrote, “About once a week, I pick up a half gallon of soy milk from the market. I do this of my own free will, fully cognizant of what I’m buying... Since the 1930s, ‘milk’ has been legally defined as ‘the lacteal secretions of a bovine mammal.’ It is therefore technically illegal to use the term ‘milk’ on something other than cow’s milk, even with a clear modifier, and now lawmakers are asking the Food and Drug Administration to crack down on products that could steal cows’ thunder. Their stated intention is to protect consumers from deception... While this latest push to enforce labeling laws has been directed at popular plant-based alternatives such as almond, soy and rice milk, it could also have an effect on other animal products including sheep and goat milk, since they’re not ‘secretions’ from a ‘bovine mammal’ either. No word yet on what these products are supposed to call themselves. ‘Goat juice’ doesn’t exactly caress the ears.”

Byrd critiqued the legislation as protectionist rather than consumer-focused, pointing out that “The latest data from the USDA show that Americans are drinking nearly 40% less dairy milk than they were a few decades ago. (In 1970, the average American was drinking about 12 ounces of milk per day. Now it’s closer to 7 ounces.)”

Dairy producers also focus on the drop in dairy consumption—but they fault nutritional confusion borne by the label

“milk” as part of the problem: “Milk consumption has been dropping for several years and that is definitely a part of it,” said Minnesota dairy farmer Steve Schlanglen in Baldwin’s support materials. “People believe they’re getting something really close or similar (to milk) and they aren’t, it’s not near the same nutrition. The label should be clear what it means.”

Meanwhile Nicole Negowetti, from The Good Food Institute, blogged, “From last year’s \$20 million cheese bailout by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the famous government-overseen ‘Got Milk’ campaign, the feds have been consistently happy to put taxpayer dollars into the pockets of Big Dairy.” Negowetti’s organization asserted in its recent petition, “This is part of a trend of well-funded ag interests attacking their plant-based competition, just like when the American Egg Board tried to keep Hampton Creek’s egg-free Just Mayo off the shelves.”

Meanwhile, the Coop’s milk concerns focus less on naming and more on member demand and content.

But the dairy farmers’ voices raised in support of DAIRY PRIDE featured smaller producers voicing desperate need and a call for fairness, quoting Jerry Croes, member of the Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery in Deer Park, Wisconsin: “Finally after all these years, it’s about time someone stands up for the American Dairy farmer. We are held to higher quality and animal care standard every year to keep milk safe. It’s not fair that the name milk should be used by non-dairy drinks to further erode what little profit we have.”

Similarly, Sen. Baldwin’s rollout quoted Jim Smidel of Brothers Smidel Farms, LLP in Kewaunee, Wisconsin: “I know the economic struggles we dairy farmers face on a daily basis, as I am also an Ag Lender, helping through the low milk prices of 2015 and 2016. We don’t need competition from plant-based drinks being labeled as milk and sending a false message to consumers, and also falsely advertising them as being better than cow’s milk. When compared on nutrients and price, cow’s milk still comes out on top. I am opposed to all false labeling of food products that aren’t true dairy products.”

“While imitation may be



Milk alternatives on the shelves.

the sincerest form of flattery, dairy imitators do not naturally provide the same level of nutrition as milk does,” said Michael Dykes, president and CEO of the International Dairy Foods Association.

Back at the Coop, Ross Gibson, the shelf-stable beverage buyer, which includes dairy and nondairy beverages in Aisle 3, is less concerned about naming products than what’s contained within them.

Gibson detailed the Coop’s stock, which includes dairy, soy, rice, oat, almond, hemp, coconut, cashew and macadamia. The range includes non-GMO and organic options. He noted, “It seems more and more people are seeking to avoid dairy products in their diet, so providing non-dairy options at a low price is very important to me, especially when it comes to parents who are raising their children dairy free.”

Many members have raised health concerns about the presence of carrageenan in shelf-stable milks, so the Coop no longer introduces new products containing the seaweed derivative, and Gibson wrote that many brands have dropped that ingredient.

The incorporation of the “milk” term is deeply rooted in branding for nut beverages such as “Milkadamia,” a popular macadamia drink. But almond milk remains the runaway seller at the Coop.

When asked the unaided question ‘What do you think are the main ingredients of soymilk?’ the top responses were soy (53%) and soybeans (23%).

Gibson’s bottom line is nutritional awareness: “I think there are plenty more important things to get upset about in this world than whether almond milk is really a milk or not, but I am happy calling these non-mammary produced liquids milks as they

are a suitable replacement for dairy in most circumstances (albeit with a different nutritional profile). I think it’s important for people to research the nutritional benefits of these non-dairy alternatives when choosing them as they vary wildly.”

When the Coop runs low on shelf-stable packaged nut-based beverages or a member pages out to locate them, Membership Coordinator Jana Cunningham will commonly respond to urge grinding or blending nuts with water to produce homemade drinks—fresh, with no preservatives or added ingredients, as a “gateway to a more natural lifestyle.” Cunningham even has recommendations for the material strained from the mix, urging members to use the pulp to make anything from croutons to facial scrubs. “It expands your creativity!” she enthused.

Cunningham disparages flash pasteurization of drinks over her concerns about diminishing nutritional content. She favors organic raw European almonds, which are not pasteurized and capable of sprouting, for creating her almond milk. And she points out that homemade beverages cut down on packaging.

Cunningham, a longtime vegan and yoga instructor, is a slow-food enthusiast who thinks it’s a short hop from Coop membership to producing one’s own nut milks. “If you’re in the Coop you have to be a foodie,” she said. “Food has to have some meaning to you and importance in your life.”

In the end, she joined Gibson in prioritizing something other than what we label our drinks. “It’s semantics,” she maintained. “Come on. Really? For vegetarians and vegans and people trying to eat natural foods, I don’t know that my nut pate or bean pate that I shape like a burger needs to be called a burger. I don’t get caught up in that. A rose by any other name!” ■

PHOTOS BY KEVIN RYAN

MEMBER SUBMISSION

PSFC Goes to the March for Climate, Jobs and Justice April 29 in Washington, D.C.

By Nancy Romer

PSF members are environmentalists: we choose healthy, (mostly) sustainably cultivated and minimally processed food. We have a smaller carbon footprint—at least in terms of food—than the vast majority of Americans. But personal choices alone will not be enough to slow climate change. That will take system-wide changes, changes in government policies, changes in all the nations of the world (especially developed nations), and individual changes on a mass scale. It will require an end to dependence on fossil fuels, advancing renewable energy, and creating a food system that is primarily local and organic.

But government policy is moving in the wrong direc-

tion. Trump has declared war on the Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Agriculture; he's slashing the Obama administration's modest climate policies. To push back, we need to gather all of our forces.

On March 28, the Coop's General Meeting voted to endorse and donate to the April 29 March for Climate, Jobs and Justice in Washington, D.C. We are fielding three buses for Coop members and friends to leave Grand Army Plaza at 6 a.m., go to DC for a march and rally, surround the White House, and return that night. We will join over 100 buses from NYC and more from elsewhere headed to DC. Tens of thousands of people will make their way to join the next big political protest

against the new administration, building a strong and vibrant movement to protect our planet.

Since agriculture depends on a reliable climate, the future of our climate will determine whether we will have the food and water we need as a species to survive on planet Earth. The EPA predicts that agriculture in our region will be negatively affected by heavier rains and much warmer temperatures; both can be very damaging to crops. There is a lot at stake.

PSFC members will march with the Food and Farm Justice hub of the march, a group of food justice activists from NYC and beyond to make the link between food, agriculture and climate.

While we know the impact of climate on food, most peo-

ple don't know that the food sector accounts for between 25% and 33% of greenhouse gases (GHGs), (See Anna Lappe, *Diet for a Hot Planet* and Bill McKibben, *Eaarth*). A lot of those GHG emissions come from long-distance transportation, but fossil fuels also figure massively in agricultural production and processing, especially in monocrop and factory farmed animal production.

Yet plants provide the only known method of sequestering carbon from the atmosphere—pulling it out of the air and into the soil. Rich soil provides a particularly effective method of carbon sequestration. In *The Soil Will Save Us*, Kristin Ohlson demonstrates how we can sink carbon and eliminate other GHGs from the atmosphere by transforming food production using organic or agro-ecological farming methods, soil management, and expanding permeable surfaces. Many members of the PSFC and the Food and Farm Justice hub want to be part of an agricultural revolution that can save the planet.

We also want justice: fair distribution of healthy food, protection of vulnerable communities against the ravages of climate change, and equal distribution of power and opportunity in a new economy based on human and

planetary need, not just corporate profits. March organizers included "jobs and justice" into the mix of climate issues. They advance a "just transition" that would re-build infrastructure, retrofit buildings and build sustainable energy systems by engaging vulnerable communities in training and employment in these new and good jobs. By establishing jobs and security, especially for communities that have suffered the greatest harms in the past—those marginalized by race, poverty and proximity to disaster-prone geographies—they hope to solve the twin problems of climate change and inequality together. This is the main point that Naomi Klein makes in her ground-breaking book, *This Changes Everything*.

If you want to join us on April 29 and buy your tickets on the PSFC buses, email us at psfcclimatemarch@gmail.com, and we'll send you the link. If, by the time you try to get a bus ticket through the PSFC, the tickets are sold out, you can still go to www.newyork.peoplesclimate.org and buy a ticket on a bus that leaves from Grand Army Plaza as well. You can meet up with the rest of the Coop crowd once we arrive in DC on the morning of April 29. See you in DC! ■

MEMBER SUBMISSION

Trump's Hollow Campaign Promises on International Trade Coming to Light

By Gerardo Renique and Bart DeCoursy

In his first week in office, in a highly publicized ceremony, President Trump stamped his signature on a document pulling the US out of the ambitious 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). But long before Trump took office, the mobilization of a broad coalition of labor unions, environmentalists, faith communities and consumer organizations brought so much pressure that the formation of a majority of congressional support in the 10 months since Obama signed the agreement had become politically untenable. That same day, Trump announced plans to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Clinton-era agreement that governs trade with Mexico and Canada. During the campaign, Trump repeatedly boasted he would engineer tougher trade policies with China and renegotiate NAFTA in order to recover the thousands of American jobs offshored over the last three decades. This promise created well founded expectations among working families embattled with high unem-

ployment rates and low paid, dead-end, non-union jobs.

However, there is much to be skeptical of the new President's promises. The fact that the top posts in his administration are filled with public proponents of the TPP raises serious doubts that Trump will fulfill his electoral promise to restore the thousands of jobs lost to the unfair free trade agreements of the past. Most of Trump's cabinet members, like Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson (Secretary of State), coal-baron Wilbur Ross (Secretary of Commerce), Gen. James Mattis (Secretary of Defense), Gov. Rick Perry (Secretary of Energy), climate-change skeptic Ryan Zinke (Secretary of the Interior), and Elaine Chao (Secretary of Transportation), have publicly supported the TPP and every past trade deal. Other top positions in the administration, such as Vice-president Mike Pence, former Goldman Sachs President Gary Cohn (Director of National Economic Council), Gov. Terry Branstad (Ambassador to China), and Mike Pompeo (Director of the CIA)

among others, have also publicly advocated for the TPP. In the words of Lori Wallach, director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, it is not unlikely that "most of Trump's cabinet members will be inclined to grab the shovel from Trump's hands before he can bury the TPP's smoldering corpse by formally withdrawing the U.S. as a signatory."

So far Trump's silence on his plans to bring back American jobs and reverse the deficit in jobs and services marks a dramatic U-turn from his "get tough on China" electoral campaign mantra. David Dollar, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution China Center, noticed that Trump "did not have much to say about China" during his most important political intervention after taking office, his February 28 address to the joint session of Congress. While faulting China for the decline in American jobs and the deficit in goods and services trade between the two countries, his speech "did not offer concrete policies for how to deal with these perceived problems."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

STATEMENT ON THE COOPERATIVE IDENTITY

DEFINITION

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

VALUES

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

PRINCIPLES

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

They are as follows:

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

REFERENCE: ICA.COOP

LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

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

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

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

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

Letters: Maximum 500 words.

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

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

LETTERS, ARTICLES AND REPORTS SUBMISSION POLICIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FAIRNESS, ANONYMITY AND RESPECT POLICIES

In order to provide fair, comprehensive, factual coverage:

Fairness

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

Anonymity

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

Respect

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

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

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

Friday, 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 her storied 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.

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WELCOME!

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

Puay Lin Ang
Ariane Apostolopulos-Ikeda
Amar Athavale
Christine Auwarter
Tamika Bailey
Benjamin Barg
Marie Bernard
Aline Bessa
Justin Birmingham
Richelle Blanks
Ines Blockx
Kesewaa Boateng
Ann Bradley
Jordan Byrd
Juliet Cameron

Beetle Cesario
Brune Chaboureau
John Cheadle
Rachel Cohen
Alena Crocker
Elisabeth Cunnick
Delia Cunningham
Abigail Dauermann
Kaia deBruin
Eben Esterhuizen
Lisa Esterhuizen
Ben Feistmann
Marian Ferretti
Ann Fisher
Anitha Gandhi
Karol Gellert

Marzena Gellert
Sharan Gill
Diane Goodwyn
Hannah Greenberg
Erich Hahn
Panama Harris
Nya Hayer
Jia He
Tayloire Howard
Takashi Ikeda
Batya Johnson
Bryan Johnson
Elspeth Kelly
Ruchir Khaitan
Ashley Kidd
Irina Kikinadze

James Kim
Fred Kogan
Terry Kogan
Yunna M. Leschchinskiy
Kenneth Lin
Una Mac Coille
Kyla MacDonald
Nina Maresca
Katharine Maxwell
Jocelyn Medina
Ali Melquan
Diane Moreno
Martha Mosco
Rachel Ngu
Allie Nudelman
Anika Peters

Cyrus Rockwood
Ivelisse Rodriguez Pagan
Benjamin Rosenblum
Greta Rosenblum
Efren Sanchez
Rebecca Sawyer
Ross Schaner
Morgan Schmehl
Jay Sharpiro
Chris Shultz
Jenna Smith
Mckensey Smith
Alexandra Solmssen
Douglas Stattel
Keri Staz
Lora Stoianova

Oliver Sung
Molly Taft
Derek Tarsy
Fadime Topuz
Nicolas Turek
Avigail Vantu
Chad Wanat
Derek Weinstein
Theresa Weinstein
Joel Wertheimer
Susan Wong-Cohen
Marlies Yearby

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 25

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, MAY 2

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 7:30 p.m.

Submissions will be considered for the May 30 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

April 27 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, April 17
May 11 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, May 1

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

April 27 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, April 19
May 11 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, May 3

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.

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

Location

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

How to Place an Item on the Agenda

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

Meeting Format

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

Open Forum (7:15 p.m.) Open Forum is a time for members to bring brief items to the General Meeting. If an item is more than brief, it can be submitted to the Agenda Committee as an item for a future GM.

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

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

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

Attend a GM and Receive Work Credit

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

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

• Advance Sign-up required:

To be eligible for workslot credit, you must add your name to the sign-up sheet in the elevator lobby 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 14
fri 7 pmWordsprouts: 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 pmGroove 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 pmBird 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



Items will be taken up in the order given. Times in parentheses are suggestions. More information on each item may be available on the entrance table at the meeting. We ask members to please read the materials available

between 7 and 7:15 p.m.

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

I. Member Arrival and Meeting Warm-Up

II. Open Forum

III. Coordinator and Committee Reports

IV. Meeting Agenda

Item 1: Reauthorization of the International Trade Education Squad (40 minutes)

Proposal: The Park Slope Food Coop authorize a permanent International Trade Education Squad (ITES) to keep members informed about on-going international trade issues and how trade agreements can impact our ability to maintain our values and realize the goals of the Park Slope Food Coop as put forward in our Mission Statement: "We strive to lead by example, educating ourselves and others about health and nutrition, cooperation and the environment...We seek to avoid products that depend upon the exploitation of others...We strive to reduce the impact of our lifestyles on the world we share with other species and future generations..." Since the mass media doesn't adequately inform us, many are confused about how international trade and agreements impact our lives, our community and our Coop. Members of the ITES take responsibility to study and bring to Coop members information that can lead to individual and/or collective action.

Tasks of the Squad: Every three months, members of the ITES will produce (at least) one educational cycle—at least four per year. Each cycle a squad meeting will be held when members will define an issue that relates international trade to Coop concerns. Then members will research and post relevant articles on the Coop website (on the blog—CoopITES.wordpress.com); organizing an open, public popular education forum at the Coop; write Reports for the *Gazette* and present reports at General Meetings.

Work Slot Credit: The squad has seven members and one member emeritus, eight in total. Thirteen shifts of three hours each or 39 hours per year per member is expected as the work obligation. Squad co-leaders keep attendance records and maintain communication with a liaison in the membership office. Allies can earn FTOP or make-up credit for a particular project. Young people and people of varied backgrounds are sought so the squad reflects the diversity of Coop members. To do a good job, skills and background in research and writing are important. Commitment and desire to collaborate are important.

Decision Making Process: Five members constitutes a quorum. Decisions are made by consensus.

—submitted by Chris Marshal

Item 2: Continuing with TerraCycle collections, free and fee-based (30 minutes)

Discussion: TerraCycle collections have been very successful over the last two

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.

apr 14–may 21 2017

years. We will ask the membership for a continuation of the collections at the same budget of \$5000. —submitted by Rosemary Calderon

Item 3: Shift Make-up Policy (20 minutes)

Discussion: Clarifying the language of Section III, part C, second paragraph of Heading 1 (The Double Make-up Policy) of the Membership Manual.

—submitted by Daniel Schorr

V. Board of Directors Meeting

VI. Wrap-Up. Includes member sign-in for workslot credit.

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

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

may 5
fri 7 pm

Film Night

Film to be announced.

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



may 9
tue 7 pm

Safe Food Committee Film Night: Soul Food Junkies



Filmmaker Byron Hurt grew up eating lots of soul food: grits and scrambled eggs with cheese, buttered biscuits with gravy, bacon. Soul food is a source of pride for many black people and can be good for you. But it can lead to obesity and other health issues. In *Soul Food*

Junkies, Hurt sets out on a historical and culinary journey to learn more about this tradition's relevance to black cultural identity. Through candid interviews with cooks, historians, scholars, doctors and family members, the film puts this culinary tradition under the microscope to examine both its positive and negative consequences.

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

may 12
fri 7 pm

Wordsprouts: A Podcasting Primer



Larissa Anderson is an editor and senior audio producer at *The New York Times*. She came to the *Times* after working at Gimlet Media on the show "Undone." Prior to that, Larissa was in public radio for almost 11 years—executive producer of "The Dinner Party

Download," co-created "Wits," developed and launched "Marketplace Tech Report," worked on a bunch of other things. She also supported development of new on-demand programs. Julia Barton is the editor of Malcolm Gladwell's podcast "Revisionist History" from Panoply media and the Slate series "Placemakers." She's also been a broadcast editor for PRI's "The World" and American Public Media's "Weekend America." Her work has appeared on WNYC's Radiolab and Studio 360, as well as "99% Invisible," "Life of the Law," and other programs. Curtis Fox is a veteran podcast producer with deep roots in public radio. He has produced everything from radio drama and comedy to personal essays and documentaries. He originated four podcasts for *The New Yorker*, including "The New Yorker Fiction Podcast," and he hosts and produces "Poetry Off the Shelf" and "The Poetry Magazine" podcast. His current clients include the Poetry Foundation and *Esquire* magazine. Anne Pope is an audio engineer, sound editor, radio/podcast producer, and educator who has been making media in New York City for more than 20 years. Her work encompasses music engineering for artists ranging from Philip Glass to Queen Latifah; editing sound and music for numerous narrative films and documentaries (*The Big Lebowski*, *Born Into Brothels*); and mixing news features at New York Public Radio's WNYC.

Bookings: John Donohue, wordsproutspsf@gmail.com.

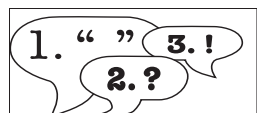
apr 29-30
sat-sun 9 am–7 pm

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.

may 4
thu 7:30 pm

Food Class: Feeding the Self-Attacking Body



Research shows there is a clear connection between diet and autoimmune disease, and many have used these principles to heal their bodies from these debilitating conditions and their accompanying symptoms. Learn about the Autoimmune Protocol—what it is, why it works, and which foods you should eat and avoid while on the elimination diet. We will make a sampling of simple, delicious recipes using nutrient-dense whole foods that will heal and nourish you without the stress, or the blandness, of an allergen-free diet. Chef Annie Kunjappy is a dietary consultant, teacher and private chef. She trained at the Natural Gourmet Institute for Health and Culinary Arts and taught in the Chef's Training Program for three years. Her approach to food and healing is informed by Ayurveda, Traditional Chinese Medicine, Macrobiotics and western nutritional science. Menu includes: roasted cauliflower & pine nut pilaf with star anise-infused bacon/toasted dulse; shirataki noodles in savory bone broth with shiitake mushrooms, bitter greens & ginger-shallot jam; aromatic coconut, yam & taro root pudding.

ASL interpreter may be available upon advance request. If you would like to request an ASL interpreter, please contact Jason Weiner in the Membership Office by April 20.

still to come

may 19

Prospect Concert Series

may 21

Don't Make Pain the Enemy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



DIVESTING FROM CITIBANK

TO THE EDITOR:

The main camp at Standing Rock is closed and Energy Transfers has the go-ahead to resume construction on the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). But the Defund DAPL movement is still going strong—as evidenced by movements like #Divestment-Day, a cooperative action by Defund DAPL and Grassroots Action NYC.

Now more than ever, the Park Slope Food Coop needs to divest immediately from the major pipeline investor Citibank. We know that irrespective of the final outcome with DAPL, there will be other environmentally destructive, socially reckless, and politically fraught projects backed by these same corporate banks.

The Coop's primary bank account (a \$1.6 million account) is with Citibank, a corporate bank whose values run contrary to those of the PSFC. As our mission statement asserts:

We strive to be a responsible and ethical employer and neighbor... We are a part of and support the cooperative movement... 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 try to lead by example.

Citibank is a subsidiary of Citigroup, a major DAPL investor. It is not an institution that aligns with the Coop's stated values.

We do have bank accounts with other institutions including a CD at National Cooperative Bank, an account at Astoria Bank for health insurance benefits, and an account at People's Alliance Federal Credit Union, which allows Coop members to open personal accounts there, too. But Citibank has our main account. We use this account to make cash deposits, to "buy cash" at the start of the day, and to pay vendors.

The reasons for banking with Citibank are proximity and speed of accounting. Proximity is crucial for reasons having to do with safety and time. We need fast accounting because the Coop is a complex organism with many moving parts, and we need a bank that can keep up with us.

So, if Citibank meets all our criteria, why bother to move the money? Simple: Because Citibank is a major corporate bank and a key backer of the DAPL, and because we can find a better bank that meets our needs.

Astoria Bank fits our banking criteria and is a marked improvement over Citibank. Astoria is even closer to the Coop than Citibank and also has a 24/7 vault drop. In terms of the speed of accounting, Astoria can process all our deposits on the day of the deposit—up to 3 p.m.—and evening deposits by 10 a.m. the next day. Astoria is a local bank that invests in small home loans and local businesses. (Notably, they were not involved in the 2007–08 housing market crisis.)

I propose that we close our \$1.6 million dollar account at Citibank and move our money to Astoria Bank. This proposal will come up as an agenda for discussion and voting at upcoming General Meetings (TBD).

Please support the move to divest from Citibank and defund the DAPL.

Rachael Wilson, PSFC member since 2013

DEMOCRACY IS MESSY

DEAR EDITORS,

Last week we saw a letter stating "...democracy on BDS issues are denied at the Coop in 2017." This referred to the General Meeting voting record and BDS portraying themselves as banned from our Common Room. I counter that democracy is messy, not denied.

For example, our recent vote on the Pension Fund Oversight Committee stands as one of dozens of General Meetings where PSFC has ridden roughshod over a proper democratic process. Pension recipients weren't fully consulted before the vote, accusations about lack of transparency filled the air and the Chair Committee frustratingly changed their mind several times during the process. Like elections everywhere, outrage was voiced from all corners and chaos reigned throughout the procedure. Any legal challenges to our rulings? None. Letters to the editor about flawed results? Not a peep.

So why does BDS hoot and holler? Because a trait common to all free and open votes is that the angriest voices come from those who lost them. PSFC rejects BDS candidates for the Board of Directors, rejects divisive BDS-related agenda items and supports a boycott supermajority of 75% because BDS is not viewed as important to our business. Just the opposite, they are apparently seen as harmful. BDS pointing to a so-called democratic crisis is just a slogan, and while they have the right to say it, it doesn't equal the right to be taken seriously.

Last week's letter also refers to our General Coordinators' so-called banning of BDS programming. I say BDS are neither victims nor heroes and they need to tell the whole story or no story at all. It is on record that BDS advertised a political organizing meeting in our Common Room, which is against the rules. When confronted with this by the General Coordinators, BDS agreed to bare-minimum changes to fit Coop advertisement guidelines, but didn't change the announcement's wording on Facebook a single jot. When this deception was uncovered, PSFC banned ALL meetings about Israel/Palestine, including my own on Alternatives to Boycotting for which I've seen no BDS tears spilled for the death of democracy. In other words, BDS has it exactly backwards. The GC's didn't ruin it for BDS, BDS ruined it for everyone.

BDS definitely has a democratic right to pursue a strategy of pretending like this all appeared in a vacuum and to keep asking why, why, why a hundred times over when they've been given the same answer a hundred times in return. But we have just as much a right to remember their evasiveness and their deceptions, which now include an eye-rolling tactic of comparing the General Coordinators to Donald Trump.

Jesse Rosenfeld,
Secretary to the Meeting

IN RESPONSE BDS AND DEMOCRACY AT THE COOP

DEAR MEMBERS:

Mary Buchwald claims the General Coordinators are "denying a member's con-

stitutional right" by refusing the use of the Coop space for holding BDS workshops (LWG 3/30/17). This is false. Both the U.S. and NYS Constitutions only state no law can be made to limit speech. There is absolutely no language compelling any private entity to provide a platform for whom-ever requests it. I am surprised editors Lewis and Meyers did not recognize this distinction and allowed the publication of a very serious charge against the coordinators.

Ms. Buchwald also claims the "Age of Trump" compels us to BDS programming and votes be held in the Coop. She makes no attempt to explain this term or its connection to her claim. However, if the "Age of Trump" means we should be ever more vigilant against "fake news," then Ms. Buchwald should start with rigorous fact checking of her own sources. And, if the "Age of Trump" means working harder to oppose bigotry and discrimination, Ms. Buchwald should examine her own views. Past BDS workshops have featured self-proclaimed anti-Zionists.

Zionism has three fundamental propositions:

- the Jews are a people;
- the Jewish people have one historic homeland, the land of Israel;
- like all other peoples, the Jews have collective rights to establish—and now perfect—a country in that homeland.

Anti-Zionism is expressed in any combination of the following:

- Denial of the Jews' collective identity and history;
- Denial of the right to self-determination to the Jews and only to the Jews
- Denial of Israel's right to exist based on demonstrably false statements or a dishonest redefinition of Zionism.

Simply, all the above are discriminatory against Jews and Israelis. This is recognized by the US State Department, US Congress, New York State and the New York City Council, as well as numerous other state and local governments.

Furthermore, we should note that the Coop has continued to grow in both sales and membership in the absence of a SodaStream vote and BDS workshops. In other words, not promoting and endorsing BDS has had no

negative effect on the Coop. Conversely, the activities of Ms. Buchwald and others to promote BDS have cost the Coop tens of thousands of dollars, thousands of coordinator and member work hours, member resignations, negative publicity and the camaraderie so necessary for the Coop's operation.

Anti-Zionism is discrimination. Its promotion harms the Coop. It does not belong here.

Barbara Mazor

WATER APARTHEID AND SODASTREAM: WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

MEMBERS:

Israel is the connection. Yes, SodaStream (the seltzer maker) is now manufactured in the Negev in present-day Israel. In a recent speech by the South African Minister of Water and Sanitation, she called Israel the "world's leading practitioner of water apartheid."

<https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/adri-nieuwhof/israel-worlds-leading-practitioner-water-apartheid>.

Israel allots to the Palestinians living in the West Bank 73 liters of water per person per day compared to 240-300 liters for Israelis. The World Health Organization recommends 100 liters per person. The Minister highlighted that Israel is a leading water technology innovator. At the Milan Expo two years ago, Israel demonstrated its agricultural developments of drip-irrigation, water recycling and desalinization technologies that can improve crop yields in Africa and elsewhere.

There is a clear contradiction in Israel's water policy. The water allotted to Palestinians compromises their health and limits development in the Palestinian State. As Coop members, we can apply economic pressure against Israel's water apartheid by ending SodaStream purchases.

Mary Buchwald
PSFC members for BDS
<https://psfcbs.wordpress.com>



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

SAT, APR 22

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

SAT, APR 29

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

SUN, APR 30

4 p.m. BPL Chamber Players: Counter)Induction at the Dr. S. Stevan Dweck Center for Contemporary Culture Central Library, Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn. Admission free.

CLASSIFIEDS

BED & BREAKFAST

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

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

BED & BREAKFAST, THE HOUSE ON 3RD ST, serving Park Slope for over 20 yrs. Large floor-thru, located between 5th and 6th Ave. Parlor floor, sleeps 3-4, private bath, deck, AC, wifi, kitchenette, 12' ceilings! houseon3st.com, or call Jane, 718-788-7171. "Grandparents are our specialty."

EMPLOYMENT

Gardening in Prospect Heights one 2-hour session (morning or evening) each week \$35. Two references please. Susan 718-636-9089.

Tutor for social media & Apple programs a month for two hours (twice). Two references please. Student or retired person welcomed Susan 718-636-9089. \$35 per session.

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

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.

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.

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 I charge \$60.00 Wed-through Sundays 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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.

FREE INFORMATION SESSIONS Apr 1, 8, 15 @ 4 p.m. in Park Slope - Meditation - Energy - Healing - how to manage your energy. Experience a free meditation and energy healing! For location or inquiries, email Christopher: christophercf@me.com Class dates: April 30, May 6, 13, 20 @ 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., \$495.

CV MOVING. Professional and Experienced Mover. No job too big or too small. Providing a stress free move based on Respect, Trust and Communication. YOUR MOVE IS OUR PURPOSE! NYS DOT# T-39866. As required in all advertisements from licensed movers. Contact 917-822-9590 or CVmoving.com so we can assist!

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 ritalon@aol.com ritalononny.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.

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 a 15% discount on all Bklyn Juice label beverages (show your card)
75A 5th Ave Brooklyn

WORK&WELLNESS

THE COMPOUND COWORK

www.thecompoundcowork.com

UNDER ONE ROOF



Center for wellness and Holistic Living

www.MINKAbrooklyn.com



For children 6 months to 10 years old:

French Classes
bit.ly/Frenchschedule

French Summer Camp
bit.ly/Frenchcamp

Leaders in French progressive education since 2005.
www.thelanguageandlaughterstudio.com

Cats Answer

Solution: Second row on left

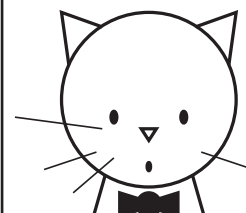


ILLUSTRATION BY ROD MORRISON



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

Candidate for Board of Directors of the Park Slope Food Coop, Inc.

One three-year term on the Board is open.

To vote you may use a proxy or attend the Food Coop Annual Meeting on June 27, 2017.

Every member will receive a proxy package in the mail in late May.

You will have the opportunity to meet the candidate at the June 27 Annual Meeting. Candidate statement follows:

Bill Penner



Dear fellow Coop Members, I am writing to ask for your support for reelection to the Coop's Board of Directors.

I have been a member of the Board of Directors for 10 years, I am also a squad leader on the Receiving Committee. Outside of the Coop, I am an architect with my own practice in Brooklyn and before receiving my degree in architecture, I

apprenticed as a chef and cooked professionally for six years. The Coop is an important part of my life, it is a place where I connect with my passion for food and see the significance of food and food production in our society as a cultural, environmental, and economic force of incredible importance.

Because the Coop is a corporation, it is required to have a board of directors. Our Board of Directors meet every month in public at the General Meeting. Unlike most corporations, the Coop is unusual in that it relies on a town hall style of governance for most of its policy decisions. At our General Meeting, any Member can propose an item to be debated on and

considered by fellow Members. The Members present at the General Meeting vote on proposals and the results of these votes become the advice that the Board of Directors receives in order to make its own decision. At the end of the General Meeting, the Board of Directors vote on taking the advice of the Membership. This process is how the Coop combines its corporate structure with its town hall style of democracy.

There often seems to be a misunderstanding as to the primary role of the Board of Directors within the Coop's decision-making process. I believe an important distinction is that the Board's role is one of oversight rather than one of advocacy. Each member of the Board of Directors has a responsibility to act for the benefit of the entire Coop, not to any one constituency or group.

Proposals covering many different topics are presented, debated and voted on by all Members present at the General Meeting. When the Board of Directors vote, I base my decision to the best of my ability on three criteria: 1) Will a proposal ratified by the General Meeting jeopardize the financial health of the Coop? 2) Will the proposal expose the Coop to unnecessary legal risk? 3) Does the proposal violate the spirit of the Coop's own By-laws? The Board of Directors rarely overturn a decision made by Members at a General Meeting. I believe that this is testament to the strength of our democratic process and to the commitment both the Members and our Staff place on

contributing to that process.

After 10 years of service on the Board, I remain focused on the contribution I am able to make in this position and I am enthusiastic about requesting your continued support. Specifically, I feel I have been making effective contributions serving you in the following ways: I have gained a strong understanding of the Coop's business model along with knowledge of the Coop's unique institutional and cultural history. I have maintained productive communication with our Staff members with the goal of balancing Member interests along with the needs of our paid employees. I have attended over 100 General Meetings, experience which has given me a thorough understanding of how our General Meeting operates. And most important, I am committed to our Cooperative principles and the strong and diverse community that we have all created together. I always use my best effort to do my part to help strengthen and nurture this community.

As I have in the past, I have ended this letter with a dedication to the late President of the Board of Directors Israel Fishman. Israel used to say that the Coop saved his life—the different viewpoints and different people all working together for a common purpose gave him the perspective and patience to see beyond himself towards what was really important. I still think of this more than ever each time I attend a General Meeting and when I shop. ■

Trump's Hollow Campaign Promise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

In his address, Trump also failed to mention what steps his administration would take to fulfill his promise to start the renegotiation of NAFTA within his first 100 days in office. Likewise, absent from his speech was any reference to whether he would terminate the negotiations for the US-China Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) started by the Bush administration and almost completed by Obama. The BIT, an agreement that was aptly described by *The American Prospect* as a "job-kill-

ing trade deal," not only includes the investor protections found in NAFTA and incorporated in the TPP, but would also make it easier to offshore more American jobs to China. During the campaign, Trump was a vociferous opponent to these issues of trade, claiming them to be the biggest obstacles to the restoration of American jobs and the predominance of the US in the global economy. Now as President, Trump is silent.

Perhaps even more ominous is that the US-China BIT

would also provide a broader legal framework for Chinese investors to purchase American firms, lands and other assets, while also giving them access to the investor-state dispute settlements (ISDS) process to attack U.S. policies and regulations in extra-judicial tribunals. A Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch investigation suggests that Trump's reversal on his trade promises is due to the "weighty presence" of Goldman Sachs in the senior ranks of his administration.

Goldman Sachs, among other firms, have been firmly behind the Wall Street lobbying effort to seal the US-China BIT. Gary Cohn, former Goldman Sachs CEO and currently Trump's

National Economic Council chair recently consulted with Obama's US Trade Representative Mike Froman on the best way to move forward with the BIT. ■

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.



TIP OF THE MONTH: In Your Pocket

Whether you're committed to knowing the sources of your meat, eggs, and dairy, or finding alternatives to animal-based products, or avoiding health and beauty supplies tested on animals—shopping and dining out can be tough. These apps can help:

- **Animal Welfare Approved** Among third-party certifiers, AWA has the most stringent standards. App includes a product finder and a detailed decoder for labels and producer claims.
- **The Humane Eating Project** locates and provides information about restaurants serving thoughtfully-sourced meat.
- **HappyCow** helps you find vegan- and vegetarian-friendly restaurants anywhere in the world.
- **Seafood Watch** provides information about thousands of varieties of seafood, with detailed notes and ratings on conservation and sustainability.
- **The "Cruelty-Free" app** from Leaping Bunny lets you know which products are—and which aren't—tested on animals.

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



www.LeapingBunny.org

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



crueltyfree

Park Slope Food Coop Animal Welfare Committee

@psfcanimals