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1973

# LINEWAITERS'

## GAZETTE

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Volume LL, Number 18

September 14, 2017

## Report: August 29 General Meeting

By Peter von Ziegesar

Nothing less than the fundamental questions of democracy were debated at the PSFC General Meeting on Tuesday night, August 29, at the St. Francis Xavier School. Members queried whether power should be concentrated into the hands of a small coterie of unelected officials [General Coordinators]? Is democracy so fragile and mysterious that its founding documents should be regarded as sacred and unchangeable? Should an irreligious majority be allowed to dictate unpleasant and even unbearable doctrines to a dissenting minority? Is there such a thing as too much democracy, so that the machinery of state can become bloated and immovable? And finally, by our tinkering tonight, shall we be the ones to pull the chock that allows our beloved ship to go crashing down the rails into the dark waters of oblivion?

Depending on how far from the podium they were sitting, members in the audience munched crackers, honed screenplays, listened to music, scribbled love notes, graded homework papers, checked in with babysitters, texted friends, and caught up on social media. This was democracy in action. Democracy as it is practiced in this country depends on a vast pool of indifference to act as a fly-wheel to keep the more active

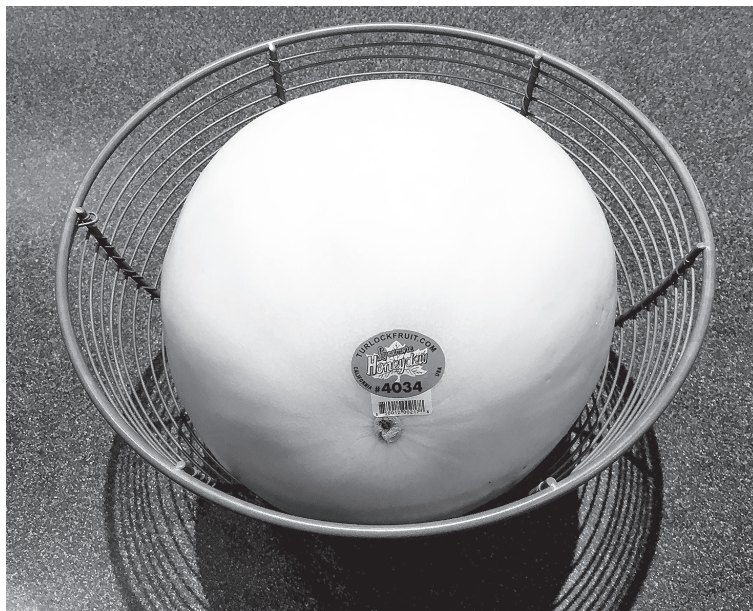


PHOTO BY ROD MORRISON

**Joe Szladek, General Coordinator, commented that "Sycamore Honeydews are amazing!"**

and fanatical members from spinning into rash actions, dogmatism, grandiosity and despair. One could see that happening in this room as the impassioned rhetoric produced in the front of the room feathered out and dissipated into the cottony ears of the back rows, who were, in any case, mostly attending to fulfill shift requirements.

### Open Forum

The meeting began auspiciously enough as Isiris Isaac, a member of the Coop Diversity Committee, rose to announce that she is running for Civil Court Judge in the Democratic Primary on September 12. Next, Sharon Eagle raised an objection to how anonymous complaints are lodged at the

Coop. "Anyone who doesn't like a person can raise a complaint against them," she asserted. "How can you defend yourself?" Finally, Jesse Rosenfeld, the Coop's Secretary, raised the issue of how to stay engaged after Charlottesville. He suggested that we should continue to fight for universal health care. For susceptible Americans, not having to worry about how to pay for medical bills might "alleviate the urge to become a Nazi."

### Coordinator and Committee Reports

General Coordinator Joe Szladek reported that the policy of staying open an extra half hour on Sunday night had been a success. He

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## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT

### What Does Climate Change Have to Do with PSFC and How We Shop?

By Sensho Wagg,  
Environmental Committee

On August 9, I interviewed Andrianna Natsoulas, the executive director of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY), of which the Coop is a longtime member. We discussed climate change; what effect does it have on our day-to-day life? What does climate change mean on our dinner table? We wanted to look at how climate change affects our shopping at the Coop and if there is a direct relationship between the two.

According to Ms. Natsoulas, "Climate change is already happening. Last year there was a drought. This year it's just been raining like crazy. These kinds of extreme weathers—lots of rain, lots of sun—affect farmers and how they can produce and what they can produce. And it takes a toll on them. They need to be flexible to be able to respond to the changing environment."

One notable recent effect of extreme weather is the

price of avocados—which is particularly high at the moment because of a hurricane in Mexico, that caused great damage to the crop. Limes availability has been limited as well because of this extreme weather. Weather conditions like this have been and are caused by climate change. So, our dinner table is directly affected.

Whose responsibility is it to mitigate climate change, regardless of whether or not the United States is part of the Paris Agreement? According to Ms. Natsoulas, all of us can take responsibility in real ways to help decrease the effects of climate change by supporting alternative modes of food production. And we should take up this responsibility right now, she says, because we are already behind, in her words, "the climate change eight ball."

NOFA-NY is composed of 2000 organic farmers, growers, gardeners, retailers, and consumers in the state of New York. They always welcome more people to

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### Next General Meeting on September 26

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The September General Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 26, 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](http://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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Updated version of Shift Swap will  
launch on Monday, September 18.

Go to [foodcoop.com](http://foodcoop.com) to try it out!



## GM Report

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urged early-rising members to consider signing up for 5 a.m. receiving shifts as well as underpopulated shifts on Sunday afternoons and evenings. He also asked those who needed to do make-up shifts not to choose Labor Day. Asked what was new on the shelves, he replied, "The sycamore honeydew is amazing!" Gregg Todd of the GMO Committee announced that printed labels, rather than green dots, would indicate non-GMO products. Susan Metz of the International Trade Education Squad said the committee was monitoring the new NAFTA negotiations as closely as possible. She asked members to fill out postcards to pressure members of Congress to push for such issues as transparency, workers' rights, food safety, and climate change.

### Second Coop Location Survey

Perhaps the least controversial issue brought before the General Meeting, which some insisted on calling a "body," was the proposal to create a member survey about PSFC opening up a second location. According to Joe Szladek and Dan Miller, the purpose of the survey was to assess the membership's priorities. What would the new Coop look like? Where would it be located? Would it have special services, such as a café? How would it be financed? After a brief discussion, the question was put to a vote and the membership voted overwhelmingly to go ahead with the survey.



ILLUSTRATION BY DEBORAH TINT

### Wine Coop

Much passion was raised by Christopher Terrell's seemingly benign request to form a committee to assess whether to create a wine cooperative within the Coop. After first outlining his own experiences in wine, Christopher eloquently sketched out the possible advantages of creating a wine cooperative that would emphasize organic wine and sustainable agriculture, educate the community, and bring value and quality to wine-buying Coop members. "We can get the price down to seven to 15 dollars a bottle for really good wines that are hand-crafted and family made," he promised. "If you are paying \$25 a bottle now, you are paying too much!"

Despite the allure of Christopher's vision, questions came fast and furious. Would the wine coop be open to Coop members, or would it be a coop in itself? Would it be in a second location,

but part of the current cooperative? Joe Holtz pointed out that the Brooklyn Costco—a membership-only buying club similar to the PSFC—has a separate liquor store next door that's open to the public, most likely to comply with New York State liquor laws. Therefore, if the PSFC started a wine coop, would it have to sell to non-members as well? If so, then the Coop might have to change its Certificate of Incorporation. Joe predicted a long and complicated road ahead.

Another member pointed out that even getting beer into the Coop, though fully legal under NY law, had been highly controversial, with many members objecting for religious or ethical reasons. A simple preponderance of voters had overridden that resistance, but feelings had run high. Jonathon Farber thought the idea of opening up a wine cooperative a "diversion" from what the Coop does well, providing good food at low prices. Tara Montgomery felt the Coop should look first into the impact on community businesses and on local addiction before considering selling wine.

Despite the anxiety raised in many by the idea, Jesse Rosenfeld, perhaps summed up the majority mood: "Starting a new wine cooperative? Sounds like fun!"

### Bylaws

A discussion about changing the bylaws turned out to be even more contentious than about selling wine. General Coordinators, Ann Herpel and Lisa Moore, stood up before the assembled members to make the seemingly reasonable argument that the original language of the bylaws concerning employees had become antiquated and needed to be updated.

The new language would formally recognize General Coordinators as Chief Administrative Officers, who are empowered to make day-to-day decisions. Lisa and Ann pointed out that they already have this role, the change would be in name only.

During the following discussion, such seemingly clear-cut changes were found to be murky and possibly sinister in intent. Edwin Dominguez expressed his "misgivings," saying that the new bylaws would "seem to move participation of the greater to participation of the lesser," concentrating power in the hands of the few. He pointed out that the new language only gave power to the GCs, and in his opinion put Coordinators in a subservient position.

Susan Metz felt that the General Coordinators should have considered more before proposing the changes "How much time did they devote to these amendments without thinking them through?" she asked. "We have a big, serious decision to make about democracy," she went on. "Because we are going into an unstable time in our country. These radical changes could result in an unstable Coop. I think it's a ter-

rible mistake." Another member asked to be educated about the "tenure" and the "oversight" of the General Coordinators. Was it true as seemed to be implied, that the GCs served for life and didn't have to report to the directors?

At last, Rachel Porter, a member of 25 years, got up to calm the waters. "I urge you not to be suspicious of your General Coordinators," she scolded. "We forget that the Coop is a functioning business and actually an extraordinary model of efficiency." To her the changes seemed "pretty sensible" and only reflected what was already happening from day to day. "I don't see the General Coordinators controlling the board. They recommend, but they don't control. And in actual practice, she said, the General Coordinators and the Coordinators work well together."

Returning to the front, Ann and Lisa reaffirmed that, like all staff members, General Coordinators were overseen by the board and the Personnel Committee and did not have a lifetime tenure. Ann promised to revisit the wording of the bylaws. "If this meeting wants us to, we will be more transparent," she noted, "but we need to have efficiency too. We need to strike a balance." In any case, she promised that any changes would go through a referendum and a vote of the directors.

### Board of Directors Meeting

The directors voted unanimously to ratify the vote concerning the second location survey. Following this the body adjourned at 9:30 p.m. and the members filed out. ■

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE EDUCATION SQUAD

# Protect Workers' Rights and the Environment, Not Investors' Profits. No ISDS, Insists the Global Trade Justice Movement

By Susan Metz

International trade is established. Globalization is a fact.

International rules, codified in legal agreements, formalizes the way goods and services are traded among countries. The agreements include ways of enforcing the rules. Also defined and written into the agreements are ways of punishing a country whose government does not obey the rules. Seemingly distant, abstract, and incomprehensible, this new set of international laws does affect even details of the quality of life of people all around the

world, and other species and also the conditions of the planet we all share with future generations.

The Coop's International Trade Education Squad (ITES) was established at the General Meeting in September 2014 and voted a permanent work group at this April's GM. The mission of the squad is to keep members informed about international trade—about policy proposals as they are negotiated and the congressional process of passing the policy proposals into U.S. law. As having information means

doing something, ITES will suggest individual and collective action, especially on issues in which the Coop has already become involved—like climate change and global warming; food safety, sovereignty, security, and GMO labeling; buy local; and access to information about products. Members of ITES study the impacts of the policies that are proposed in international Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and then share learning and analysis through reports in the *Gazette* and at General Meetings. ITES posts reports on the

blog CoopITES.wordpress.com and on the Facebook page. Also posted there are important and interesting articles that have been used as sources. In addition, ITES organizes public forums so that you have a chance to discuss with squad mates and specialists your questions and concerns. You can make suggestions for individual and collective action. Non-members Coop neighbors are invited.

Your thoughts will shape the Community Dialog on NAFTA that the ITES will host on Thursday, Septem-

ber 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture on Prospect Park West at Second St. Lauren Waugh of International Senior Lawyers Project, Alex Gleeson of the NYC Central Labor Council and CUNY, as well as Adam Weisman of Global Justice Metro NYC will participate. The discussion will focus on the current re-negotiations of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The global trade justice movement is calling for NAFTA to be replaced.

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Environmental

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join!! <https://www.nofany.org/join-support/become-a-member>. Maybe you’ve seen some of the produce signage at the Coop that lists if produce is grown locally, (by Coop definition this means grown within 500 miles). There are six other NOFA associations in the north-eastern U.S.

Ms. Natsoulas noted about organic and local growing: “It actually has been found that organic farming can deal

with climate change much better than conventional farming. So, continue supporting the organic farmers and also continue working for organic New York products, because that will really support our economy in New York state and be able to provide a living wage to our organic farmers...so that when they have to make changes to their production methods to be able to deal with extreme (weather), they are able to have the financial piggy bank that they need.”

Changes in climate are much easier to withstand if the soil our crops are grown in is being managed, rejuvenated, and kept healthy through organic farming techniques, as opposed to soil which is being pushed through depleting production year after year. The U.S.’s huge big farm industry uses mono-culture growing, which is dependent on the enormous and dangerous use of petroleum byproducts. The use of these chemicals is the only way that potatoes, for instance, can be grown year after year on the same land (mono-culture). The result of this type of agriculture has been overuse—shown to cause extreme degradation of the soil. Eventually this land will no longer support growing food. (Not to mention the high cost of health issues, which are related to non-organic growing methods.)

Ms. Natsoulas recommends eating local produce during the growing seasons, and to put some food by for the winter months.

She shared, “Being more connected to what is being grown in your backyard and to those people who are producing it can help us start making that connection to who’s growing the food our family is eating, what their farms look like, and what we can do to support them. It’s a way of changing our mind frame.”

During this growing time, when all sorts of wonderful, organic produce is coming from our farms in NY state, Ms. Natsoulas recommends changing our diet a little bit by using seasonal produce. It’s so difficult when we’re trying to juggle our busy lives, but by the end of August and in September, there will be a ton of tomatoes. With them we can make, for instance, ratatouille or many other entrees using fresh organic produce available right now, and freeze portions so we can be eating these wonderful, abundant crops throughout the winter. This would be so much better than relying 100% during the winter on produce which is grown in other places and transported thousands of miles (using fossil fuel for the transportation, which adds to CO2 levels—a major cause of climate change). The incessant movement of organic produce across the country and from other countries during the winter has a massive effect on the environment.

In the coming months,



Mary Courtney Pure honoring our farmers.

we’d like to help keep the focus on produce, organic growing, and how we can become more aware of the relationship between the environment and organic produce. Please look for more from the Environment Committee and also check out the Ecokvetch blog <http://ecokvetch.blogspot.com/> or see it right on the Coop’s website.

NOFA-NY’s next field day close to NYC is in Poughkeepsie on September 13.

Here is a link to their Field Days: <https://www.nofany.org/events-news/events/2017-on-farm-field-days> Also NOFA-NY’s 2018 Winter Conference is on January 19-21 in Saratoga Springs, NY. The theme this year is Healthy People! Healthy Planet. They will have workshops that cover flower gardening to organic dairy to policy. They also will have a trade show and a health fair. <https://www.nofany.org/events-news/events/2018-winter-conference>. ■



ILLUSTRATION BY ETHAN PETTIT

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

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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49			50						51					
52									53			54	55	56
57						58	59	60			61			
62						63					64			
65						66					67			

Across

- 1. Superhero accessory
- 5. Launder with a cosmetics empire
- 10. “Take \_\_\_\_ from me!”
- 14. First-aid gel
- 15. Florist’s supply
- 16. Jamie of “M\*A\*S\*H”
- 17. “Yes, go on...”
- 19. Platte Valley native
- 20. Poli-\_\_\_\_ (college major)
- 21. Gaza grp.
- 22. One of the ABC islands
- 23. Donna on “The Donna Reed Show” or Laura on “The Dick Van Dyke Show,” e.g.
- 28. Iran’s capital
- 30. Native Rwandan
- 31. Brand at the Daytona 500
- 32. Margarine
- 33. They’re often marked “Damas” and “Caballeros” at a Mexican restaurant
- 34. Was left out at the office (or was unsuccessful solving 17-, 23-, 49- or 58-Across)
- 41. Complete makeovers
- 42. Have \_\_\_\_ to grind
- 43. Words before tree or creek
- 46. “... now \_\_\_\_ the future”
- 47. Not abandon, as principles
- 49. “Sexting in Suburbia” or “Too Young to Be a Dad,” e.g.
- 52. Neighbors of Croats
- 53. “The Simpsons” shopkeeper
- 54. European peak
- 57. Oakland daily, for short
- 58. Initial power source
- 62. “\_\_\_\_ homo”
- 63. Travelers’ documents
- 64. Elizabeth of “Lone Star,” 1996
- 65. What library patrons do
- 66. Arms flank it
- 67. Public transport option

Down

- 1. 1983 Tony-winning musical
- 2. Baldwin who spoofed Trump on “SNL”
- 3. Fine-tuned
- 4. Shocking swimmer
- 5. “Brideshead Revisited” novelist Waugh
- 6. It’s ENE of Fiji
- 7. General on Chinese menus
- 8. Auction ending?
- 9. Suffix with Brooklyn or Japan
- 10. Previous to, in poetry
- 11. Channing and Art
- 12. 2004 movie set in 2035
- 13. Bit of audiophile equipment
- 18. Org. associated with filmratings.com
- 22. Tickle
- 24. 1982 sci-fi film with a 2010 sequel
- 25. Pointer’s statement
- 26. Easter activities
- 27. “Looking at it a different way,” in texts
- 28. “The Chronicles of Vladimir \_\_\_\_” (YA book series about a vampire)
- 29. Inventor Whitney
- 33. Darken
- 35. Parades, with “out”
- 36. Spice Girl Halliwell
- 37. Burkina Faso neighbor
- 38. Undertaking
- 39. Tangle of hair
- 40. Palindromic houseware brand
- 43. Coat named for an Irish province
- 44. U.S. president who was the subject of a campaign biography written by his college friend Nathaniel Hawthorne
- 45. One of six areas on a Risk board
- 47. “Fingers crossed!”
- 48. Fertility clinic cell
- 50. \_\_\_\_ and flowed
- 51. Half of a 1960s pop group
- 55. Dunham of “Girls”
- 56. Brit’s baby buggy
- 58. Cpl.’s inferior
- 59. Hit 2011 animated film
- 60. Mediterranean land: Abbr.
- 61. Go (for)

Puzzle author: David Levinson-Wilk. For answers, see page 8.



# 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](http://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](mailto:GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop) or on disk.

**Letters:** Maximum 500 words.

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

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

### LETTERS, ARTICLES AND REPORTS SUBMISSION POLICIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### FAIRNESS, ANONYMITY AND RESPECT POLICIES

In order to provide fair, comprehensive, factual coverage:

#### Fairness

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

#### Anonymity

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

#### Respect

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

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

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

Friday, October 20, 8:00 p.m.

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



## PROSPECT CONCERTS



**Spirit Family Reunion** began singing together on the street corners and in the subways of New York City in 2009. Since that time they have travelled the highways of America delivering raw, high-energy, honest music. They have shared the stage with musical heroes such as Pete Seeger and Levon Helm and have given notable performances at festivals including Stage Coach, Austin City Limits, Hardly Strictly Bluegrass and the legendary Newport Folk Festival. Coop members in the band are: **Maggie Carson, Nick Panken, Or Zubalsky.**

**Haleh Liza** (vocals) and **Matt Kilmer** (percussion) share propulsive, earthy, and soulful tunes. Haleh has been deeply influenced by the mysticism of her Persian heritage via the poet Rumi, as well as by the animism expressed in South American medicine songs she learned in the Amazon. Two very different worlds, but both carrying a reverence for the earth and an unshakable love expressed through English, Persian, and Spanish-sung melodies and driving beats.



[www.facebook.com/ProspectConcerts](http://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.

Cadence Arbucci	Hannah Rose	Raphaelle Grelier	Yana Kuchirko	Peter McNeely	Nathaniel Smith
Caroline Boyle	Emmert	Elizabeth Haag	Sue Kuralt	Hannah Meade	Erica Sparkler
Rufina Brown	Matt Fairchild	Alice Williams	Michael Lamberta	Fatima Mirza	Skye Steele
Ethan Calabrese	Katie Fee	Hacker	Fei Li	Emily Mottahedeh	Peter Steinberg
Bruno C arvalho	Eric Franklin	Megan Hafner	Berni Llanos	Zhi Hang Mui	Beth Stryker
Annie Chan-Fairchild	Adia Gaines	Seleena Hassan	Jessica Loudis	Kelty Niles	Nathan Swanson
Lauren Connell	Tommy Gallagher	Abra Havens	Karolina	David Padron	Aliza Theis
Naomi Cookson	Anthony Garb	Emma Hoffman	Lukasiewicz	Holly Pickett	Gregory Thomas
Nicole Darrough	Laia Garcia	Susan Hwang	Antonia Madian	Carter Read	Lilly Wendel
Jude Deomampo	Ryan Gately	Trevor Jean	Luke Marantz	Hannah Read	Elvia Wilk
Alexandra DiFiglia	Isabella Giancarlo	Bin Jung	Katherine Marchand	Nolan Reece	Ela Wischanski
Dan Elharrar	Matt Gray	Matias Kalwill	Seth Markowitz	Hannah Schuberth	Samantha Wu
	Eric Grelier	Julia Konrad	Cassy May	Emily Severns	Alaa Yousef

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.bricartsmedia.org/community-media/bcat-tv-network).

General Meeting Info

TUE, SEPTEMBER 26

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, OCTOBER 3

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 7:30 p.m.

Submissions will be considered for the October 31 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

Sep 28 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Sep 18  
Oct 12 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Oct 2

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

Sep 28 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Sep 20  
Oct 12 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Oct 4

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](http://foodcoop.com) and at every General Meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 26, 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](http://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](http://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

sep 15  
fri 7 pm

## Film Night: The Cove



In Taiji, Japan, local fishermen hide a gruesome secret: the capture and slaughter of dolphins. Activist Ric O'Barry, who trained dolphins for the "Flipper" TV series, joins forces with filmmaker Louis Psihoyos and the Ocean Preservation Society to expose the brutal practice, risking life and limb in the process. Geoffrey Richman is the editor of *Murderball*, *Sicko*, and *The Cove*—the 2006, 2008, and 2010 Academy Award nominees for Best Feature Documentary, and *Time Freak*—the 2012 Academy Award nominee for Best Live-Action Short Film. *The Cove* went on to win the Academy Award, after becoming the first documentary to win all four guild awards (Producing, Directing, Writing, and Editing). At the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, Geoff was awarded the first-ever Special Jury Prize for Editing for his work on *Murderball*. Other documentary credits include *God Grew Tired of Us*, *21 Up America*, *The Order of Myths*, and *Racing Extinction*, Louie Psihoyos's follow-up to *The Cove*. Narrative credits include *Peter and Vandy*, Tony Kaye's *Detachment*, Mike Birbiglia's *Sleepwalk With Me*, and Terrence Malick's *Knight of Cups*. **To book a Film Night, contact Gabriel Rhodes, [gabrielrhodes@me.com](mailto:gabrielrhodes@me.com).**

sep 15  
fri 8 pm

## Barn Dance



**Alex Kramer** is calling a barn dance at the Society for Ethical Culture on September 15! Come with friends and family and learn to dance the

"do-si-do," "rip and snort," and more. Dance to the rhythms of award-winning bluegrass and old-time musicians **Eli Hetko** on guitar, banjo and mandolin; **Laurie Woods** on guitar; **Lily Henley** and **Duncan Winkel**, on fiddles; **Jonah Bruno** on banjo; **Jim Whitney** on double bass; and **Zoe Christiansen** on accordion/piano. Every dance will be taught and beginner-friendly.

**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.**

sep 17  
sun 12 pm

## Recipe for Happiness

Do you feel like you are not enjoying your days as much as you could be? Would you like to hear some proven ideas of how to easily find joy in your daily routine? From your personal life, to the workplace, from family, to social gatherings, from your community to interacting with strangers, this simple recipe for happiness will help you feel happy (or happier) in almost any setting. Come join me for a light-hearted and inspiring evening. **Shirley Politzer** has been a Coop member for more than 10 years. She believes our community is one of the most special places in the world for the way we get to interact with our neighbors who share so many of the same values. She not only connects people to relationships and jobs, but also to themselves! She has presented her recipe for happiness to several groups in Brooklyn over the past few years. Through her presentations, she provides new, fun and easy ways to experience happiness every day. She strives to make the most out of every moment and enjoy life to the fullest while inspiring everyone around her to do the same. Her motto is, "If you don't ask, the answer is NO!"

sep 26  
tue 7 pm

## PSFC SEP 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: Annual Hearing Officers Committee Election** (15 minutes)

**Election:** One current committee member will stand for re-election, and the committee will present one additional candidate for the committee. Hearing Officers work on an FTOP basis when needed and serve three-year terms.

—submitted by the Hearing Officer Committee

**Item 2: Annual Hearing Administration Committee Election** (15 minutes)

**Election:** One current committee member will stand for re-election. Hearing Administrators work on an FTOP basis when needed and serve three-year terms.

—submitted by the Hearing Administration Committee

**Item 3: Clarification of Retirement Policy** (30 minutes)

**Proposal:** This proposal seeks to remove the "gray" area between 65/20 and 60/30.

—submitted by Miles Manning

Proposed sliding scale of retirement:

AGE	YEARS OF SERVICE
65	20
64	22
63	24
62	26
61	28
60	30

**Item 4: Citibank Divestment Proposal** (30 minutes)

**Discussion:** Proposal to relocate the Coop's primary bank account from the major corporate bank (and fossil fuel investor) Citibank to the local bank Astoria Bank, or to another local bank or credit union that meets the Coop's needs in terms of daily transactions.

—submitted by Rachael Wilson

For more information on this proposal see the letter to the editor, "Divesting from Citibank," in the *Linewaiters' Gazette*, April 13, 2017, p.10 ([https://www.foodcoop.com/files\\_lwg/lwg\\_2017\\_04\\_13\\_vLL\\_n07.pdf](https://www.foodcoop.com/files_lwg/lwg_2017_04_13_vLL_n07.pdf)).

**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.

sep 26  
tue 7:30 pm

## Buddhism 101

This will be an overview of the essential teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha, shorn of the ritual and cultural accretions that arose when Buddhism migrated from India to Tibet, China, Japan and Southeast Asia. Arriving in the West in the late '60s—early '70s, it has now become a more-or-less familiar presence, particularly with respect to the "mindfulness" practices and the notion of karma (often misunderstood) that are part of its heritage. If Buddhism is indeed a "science of mind" rather than a religion, as some teachers assert, what makes it so? **Allan Novick** has practiced meditation since 1975. He is a meditation instructor at the New York Shambhala Center and Nalandabodhi New York and has taught meditation at corporate venues. He lives in Park Slope, has been a Coop member for many years, and is a retired school psychologist.

For more information on these and other events, visit the Coop's website: [foodcoop.com](http://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.

## 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.

## FRI, SEP 15

8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15, and 12-10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16. The Park Slope Bluegrass and Old-Time Jamboree at The Old Stone House in Brooklyn. On Saturday, workshops, all-day jamming and an evening concert for \$10, free for kids under 12.

## SAT, SEP 16

8 p.m. Carolyn Hester's 80th Birthday Celebration at the Peoples' Voice Cafe. Community Church of New York Unitari-

an Universalist, 40 E. 35th St., NY. Wheelchair accessible. Sug. donation \$20/12 for subscribers. For info call 212-787-3903 or see peoplesvoicecafe.org.

## SAT, SEP 23

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

## THU, SEP 28

7 p.m. Community Dialog on NAFTA 2. Rules for Trade among 3 North American Nations. Bring your questions, concerns and comments to the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (BSEC) on Prospect Park West at Second St. Background information is available on the blog: CoopITES.wordpress.com. All welcomed.



## CLASSIFIEDS

## BED &amp; BREAKFAST

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 4-5, private bath, deck, AC, wifi, kitchenette, 12' ceilings! houseon3st.com, or call Jane, 718-788-7171. Grandparents are our specialty.

## CLASSES/GROUPS

Italian and French classes for children 0-12 years at the language and laughter studio, pioneer in progressive language education since 2005. 139 Nevins Street at Bergen Street. www.thelanguageandlaughterstudio.com.

## MERCHANDISE-NONCOMMERCIAL

SIDEWALK SALE. 862 Union Sept 16, 23rd. New rollerblade, hibachi, shaver, some men's clothes incl leather jacket, mostly classical lps & cds, wok, flatware, minolta film and lumix digital cameras, omega concept 6 enlarger, free camping gear & technics turntable (needs repair), kid's noisemakers. 10 a.m.

## 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. Specialist in autistic & special needs kids & adults. 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.

## SERVICES-HEALTH

FAMILY CONSTELLATIONS: an effective way to transform what is holding you back. It uncovers and dissolve the blockages affecting your health, relationships, career, finance so you are

free to live the fulfilling life you were really meant to live. Email: marine@marineselenee.com, marineselenee.com.

## VACATIONS

THREE-SEASON BUNGALOWS Affordable 1- and 2-BR cottages in historic cooperative community in Westchester County, near the Hudson, 1 hour NYC. Swimming pool, organic community garden, social hall w/internet, social activities. \$44K-75K. reynoldshills.org. Contact cottages@reynoldshills.org.

## The Agenda Committee is seeking new members! Join the Committee and help set the monthly General Meeting agenda.

### Requirements:

- ◆ Attend monthly Committee meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 8:00 p.m.
- ◆ Attend at least five General Meetings per year
- ◆ Have a cooperative spirit and willingness to work in a collaborative committee environment
- ◆ Be interested in the ongoing business of the Coop
- ◆ Have a good attendance record

If interested, contact Ann Herpel at 718-622-0560 or ann\_herpel@psfc.coop. The Committee will interview applicants before submitting candidates to the GM for election. We are seeking an applicant pool that reflects the diversity of the Coop's membership.

## To Submit Classified or Display Ads:

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

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

## TECH HELP

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

www.tech11215.com

Call Dan: 347-954-9353 • info@tech11215.com

SENSHO WAGG, CPC  
sensho@senshowagg.com

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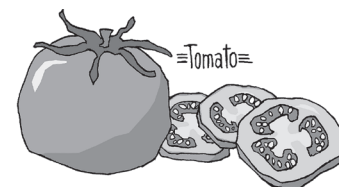


ILLUSTRATION BY  
LYNN BERNSTEIN

## LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

seeks members with InDesign  
knowledge for the production teams.



Be one of a four-member team that  
works every eight weeks on  
Sunday at the Coop. You must  
have extensive knowledge of  
InDesign for print.

Please send inquiries to  
annetteATpsfcDOTcoop.



MEMBER SUBMISSION

Musings on Our Bylaws

By Jesse Rosenfeld, Coop Secretary  
PSFC's legal cornerstone, our bylaws, face amendments submitted by the General Coordinators (GCs). Having submitted my own successful proposal recently to raise the boycott minimum from 51% to 75%, which depended on clearly understanding these bylaws, I feel a compelling interest in how they are amended. I have listened to the debate several times, since as Secretary at the monthly General Meeting (GM) I record the proceedings to ensure accuracy in the Minutes. Below is my summation of the suggestions and objections.

Article 5 Section 1

THE RATIONALE: The General Coordinators oversee operations and are simply codifying a standard hiring practice for legality's sake.  
OBJECTION: Even nominally more hiring power should not go to the GCs. All nominations should be brought before the GM.

COUNTER-OBJECTION: The General Coordinators, in the interest of efficiency, don't/shouldn't need to submit an agenda item to the GM for every hiring decision. The slowdown would cripple operations.

Article 5 Section 2

THE RATIONALE: More of the same, except it expounds upon the GCs' role to contract outside utility and financial services. The GCs run Operations, but the GM still has the power to direct the General Coordinators to hire particular services, i.e. Terracycle.  
OBJECTION: Too much power already goes to the GCs, who endorse candidates for the Board of Directors (BOD), control the BOD, run the BOD elections, charge committees, supervise, hire and fire Operations, and therefore submit a plurality of agenda items at the General Meeting to perpetuate all this. Pushing aside floor-member proposals is the price we all pay for this.  
COUNTER-OBJECTION:

Again, the General Coordinators shouldn't need to notify the GM for all contracting decisions because the slowdown would cripple PSFC. Second, no floor member is turned away from the Agenda Committee. Third, I've been on the Board of Directors and the GCs do not have control over it. Last, the Chair Committee runs all elections, not the General Coordinators.  
OBJECTION: A 100-member quorum is no longer adequate in the face of 17,500 members. We should also update the bylaws to reflect a greater quorum because of explosive membership growth.  
COUNTER-OBJECTION: That 51% of the 17,500 membership do not show up to General Meetings to vote is negligence, but that is their right. It has not hurt our bottom line or the running of the GM itself.  
OBJECTION: The Coop is one of the most important institutions in this country because it's not state-run and it's not for-profit. So we shouldn't change the bylaws.

COUNTER-OBJECTION: A quick use of Google Analytics shows this belief is more self-importance than anything. I do wish cooperatives were as important as Whole Foods though.  
OBJECTION: These changes where the General Coordinators consolidate power are a reflection of our presently unstable time in our country, and these radical bylaws changes could create an unstable Coop.  
COUNTER-OBJECTION: This is a stretch, implying that the GCs somehow internalize authoritarian tendencies in the U.S. government.  
OBJECTION: Consolidating more power into the hands of the General Coordinators will increase their power over the PSFC's budget. A bulwark against this is an independent and active Board of Directors who are elected in transparent conditions overseen by unbiased members.  
COUNTER-OBJECTION: Let the General Coordinators continue their successful administrative roles. Have they

betrayed our trust somehow? If so, when? Furthermore, the BOD is no bulwark against the GCs. When the GCs make proposals the General Meeting votes yes or no, and then the Board of Directors (who never meet outside monthly GMs) approve of the wisdom of the GM; that is all. Finally, implying without evidence that the Chair Committee is biased in overseeing elections to the BOD is itself biased.  
OBJECTION: In 1995, the Board vote was split over Coop expansion. We had Athenian, knock-down, drag-out participatory democracy at PSFC.  
COUNTER-OBJECTION: That's glorious. But because no agenda item has since contested U.S. law or threatened to undercut our finances, the Board of Directors has thankfully fulfilled their primary role to approve the votes of membership at every General Meeting. The above objection romanticizes a model of democratic engagement that would only hobble a cooperative business where stuff has to get done yesterday. ■

ITES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Talks about altering the trade rules which organize exchanges among Mexicans, Canadians, and the U.S. are going on now in secret among the same corporate crew who brought you the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Proposals are being debated with advice from hundreds of lobbyists paid by multi-national corporations. Congress members, the press, advocacy groups and the public are locked out, so we do not yet know what those proposals are.  
The TPP was a corporate fantasy in which the Obama administration invested enormous political capital. They lost. We have 23 years of experience of NAFTA's impacts, proven negative for the overwhelming majority in all three countries. The goals of the Trump administration published in mid-July gave little indication of their priorities in this round.

The Trade Justice Movement (unions, congregations, advocacy organizations, community groups of all kinds and individuals) calls for transparency and public debate of policy proposals.  
The U.S. administration's goals and objectives made no mention of the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS). ISDS trade tribunals are built into FTAs. These enforcement mechanisms enable corporate investors to sue governments when an investor claims that expected profits are limited by laws or regulations passed through any legislature. The "judges" on the three-member arbitration panel have the authority to award endless amounts of public money in fines when they find investors have been short changed. ISDS is one point of conflict, not between countries, between capital and labor in each country. Placing investors on the same status plane as a government is a direct assault on

sovereignty and democracy. No longer would legislatures be able to make laws and create regulations. Under ISDS written into FTAs public laws and regulations are being attacked in private trade tribunals where three corporate lawyers decide how much money an investor justifiably has a right to expect and order the government to pay if they pass any legislation that interferes with those expectations.  
In the struggle against the last FTA, the TPP, the City Council voted to declare New York City a "TPP Free Zone." "Dear Colleague" letters began circulating in both chambers of the NY State legislature to make NYS TPP Free. The entire Brooklyn delegation in Congress all committed to voting No on the TPP. So did many other congress members. As a result, the Obama administration never brought the TPP before congress for a vote. The Trade Justice Movement won. In the 2016 election, candidate Trump capitalized on that victory.  
Instead of protecting investors' profits, the Trade Justice Movement calls for enforceable labor and environmental standards. During the original NAFTA negotiations during the mid-90s, "side agreements" were added late process to win the votes of a few centrists of both parties needed to pass the

treaty. No enforcement mechanisms protect labor organizers nor environmental activists who have been harassed and harmed and even assassinated in FTA signatory countries, notably Colombia and including Mexico.  
The whole story of the creation of NAFTA is vividly recounted in *The Selling of Free Trade: NAFTA, Washington and the Subversion of American Democracy* by Harper's Magazine publisher John MacArthur. MacArthur begins and ends following

workers from the Swingline Stapler factory formerly located in Long Island City and now functioning in Mexico. The award-winning journalist chronicles the experiences of the whole range of people involved and affected.  
The novelty and complexity of international trade is confusing and off-putting. Bring your questions and concerns to the Community Dialog on NAFTA, Thursday, September 28, 7 p.m. at Brooklyn Ethical Culture for a good discussion. ■

Crossword Answers

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

