

LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

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Volume MM, Number 5

March 15, 2018

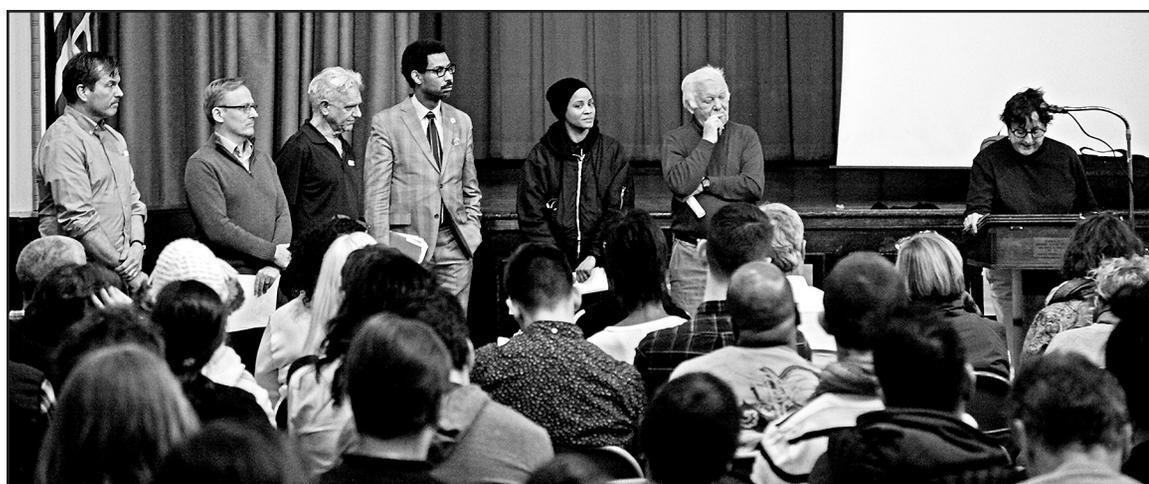


PHOTO BY KEVIN RYAN

Supporters of Reginald Ferguson testify in his support for due process.

General Meeting Report

By Taigi Smith

The PSFC February 2018 General Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 27, at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Academy. No items were presented at the Open Forum, sometimes the liveliest part of the GM, and the meeting quickly moved to the presentation of coordinator and committee reports.

General Coordinator Joe Holtz stated that no financial report was available this month, as the PSFC's fiscal year had only started on January 29. Holtz spoke briefly about membership growth and invited the membership to review a supplementary report titled "Membership Growth." (Copies are available in the office on the second floor.) The chart looked at the various measures the Coop had taken to increase membership size despite the physical limitations of the Coop. "The more membership that we have, the more money gets spent at the Coop. We created more capacity when we started taking debit cards," said Holtz. "This chart shows that we lost 14.1 percent of members this year, but new joins are 13.7 percent, which amounts to one of the lowest membership drops ever—basically we are holding steady.

When compared to other food coops, staff turnover at the PSFC is quite low. In 2017, just five people left Coop employment, eight left in 2016, and five in 2015. This number does not include retirees. "Our turnover rate is about 8% when you consider that we have on aver-

age 80 people on staff at any given time," said General Coordinator Joe Szladek. "The turnover rate for typical grocery stores and Coops on average is much higher, hovering around 60%, added Szladek. The pay here is really fair, great time off, excellent benefits," who added that staff are voicing their job satisfaction by "sticking around."

Technology is also changing at the PSFC. We are phasing out the clipboards and moving toward UPC bar code scanners. Eventually, members will be trained to use the UPC scanners. With more members using the scanners, PSFC staff members will have more time to do other things around the Coop.

Second Location Study Report

Margaret Stix of the Second Location Study Committee talked about her committee's desire to see our Coop expand. "It's not a big surprise to folks that the Coop is pretty much at capacity, especially on weekends," said Stix, who added that the physical size of the Coop precludes us from fulfilling its mission or branching out to serve other communities. "The Coop has been researching demographics and trend lines, and trying to be proactive in its analysis for a second location." Stix also reported that her committee is hoping to have a final summary of research by the fall. The Second Location Study Committee wants to hear from Coop membership and is urging

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Florida Farmworkers March for Worker Rights in NYC

By Hayley Gorenberg

Farmworkers who pick Florida tomatoes, a key ingredient in fast food menus, will converge on the New York City headquarters of the board chair of Wendy's restaurants for five days of protest. They have also planned a public fast and a march for worker rights scheduled to reach the United Nations' Dag Hammarskjold Plaza on March 15.

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a human-rights organization representing

U.S. agricultural workers—most of them from Mexico, Haiti, and a smattering of Central American countries—came together in 1993 when six workers joined to fight for worker rights and to confront farmworker maltreatment, including violence; abuse of women by fellow farmworkers, crew leaders, and managers; and sub-poverty wages and wage theft. The coalition characterizes the most extreme cases as modern-day slavery.

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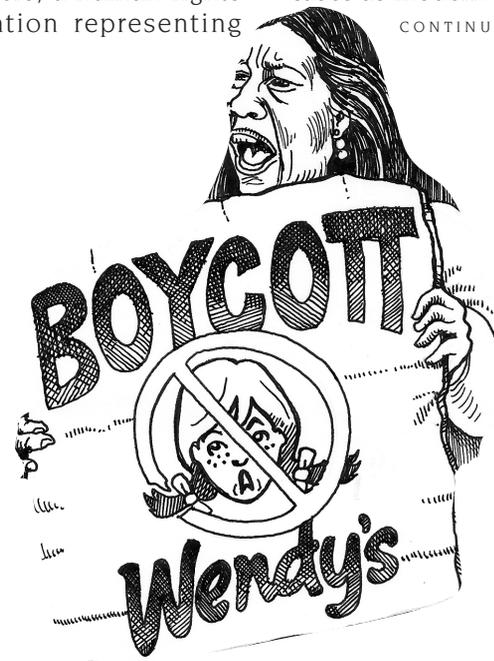


ILLUSTRATION BY TOM KANE

Next General Meeting on March 27

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The March General Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 27, 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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Coop Event Highlights

Thu, Apr 5 • Food Class:
Authentic Indian Home Cooking 7:30 p.m.

Fri, Apr 13 • Wordsprouts:
National Poetry Month 7:00 p.m.

Sat, Apr 21 • Food Drive to Benefit CHiPS Soup Kitchen & Sun, Apr 22 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

GM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

people to take a 15-minute survey on the Coop website. “We’re also doing focus groups, which are incredibly useful,” and she encouraged members to sign up for future focus groups. Focus groups last about two hours and count toward workslot credit. Members can sign up for focus groups online after completing the survey.

Bart DeCoursy from the International Trade Education Squad (ITES) discussed NAFTA and the renegotiation of NAFTA. He talked about the Mexican labor market and said the current administration is dragging its feet on renegotiating the current NAFTA deal.

Second Location Committee urges members to take a 15-minute survey on Coop Website.

Vote on Due Process

After the various committees gave their status reports, the two agenda items were presented and discussed. The first, presented by Reginald Ferguson and a group of 19 supporters, submitted a proposal to provide greater due process for all members under investigation by the disciplinary committee. Specifically, Ferguson and his supporters sought to “change the current disciplinary pro-

cedure of workslot adjustments [changing a member’s workslot] under the Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) from a non-hearing action to one that warrants a hearing.” The goal of the proposal, said Ferguson, is to “establish fair and transparent guidelines for the committee’s judgments.”

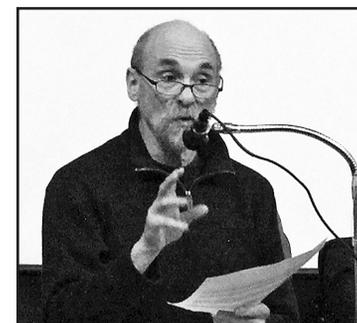
Ferguson presented his proposal because of his personal experience, saying he was “unceremoniously stripped” of his position as a squad leader without, as he put it, having the right to defend himself against his accusers. A group of 19 of Ferguson’s squad members and other supporters stood beside him as he described his demotion via voicemail from a member of the disciplinary committee named Curtis. Ferguson said he was told he was demoted because he played music too loudly during his shift. He said he was also accused of make-up sheet mismanagement. Ferguson had held the position for 20 years.

Ferguson called for greater transparency as it relates to the DRC and listed all of the ways he felt he was denied due process. Ferguson said he was fired without being given an opportunity to contest the action, and when his squad members protested, they were told they “had no standing,” as it pertained to the firing.

Margaret Stix, a lawyer and former administrative



PHOTOS BY KEVIN RYAN



Clockwise from top: Reginald Ferguson addresses the General Meeting; Joe Holtz discusses Coop attrition and expansion; The “Ayes” have it.

law judge, wanted to know more about the process that took place before the dispute resolution committee fired Ferguson.

Members of the Dispute Resolution Committee then addressed the membership.

“I will try to give you an idea of who we are and how we function,” said Grace Protos, a member of the committee. “We are an impartial group of members. Our job is to protect the Coop, to protect all of us. We look for ways to perform peaceful resolutions. We’re the committee that gets the complaint via a form.” The complaint is sent to the disciplinary committee and they investigate it. “We don’t kick members out. That’s not our role. Everyone has an opportunity to tell their story and argue on his or her behalf. Everyone is treated the same. We don’t distinguish between squad leaders and members,” said Grace. Grace was unable to go into the details of Ferguson’s case, but she was adamant about just how fair her committee aimed to be. “We are transparent. We have rules that we have to abide by, but we are transparent.”

Curtis March, from the dispute resolution committee, admitted to being the “Curtis” who fired Ferguson via voicemail. He said he

didn’t leave his last name on the voicemail because he didn’t want people harassing him at home. However, Curtis did leave his telephone number with Ferguson and says he received a slew of messages from people supporting Ferguson.

“Ferguson called for greater transparency.”

A vote was taken on Ferguson’s proposal that members who received a workslot adjustment—essentially an involuntary demotion—from the DRC be given a hearing and a chance to defend themselves against the charges and firings. One hundred sixty-four people voted in favor of the proposal and 113 members voted against.

Pension Advisory Committee Proposed

Next was a discussion-only item about forming a Pension

Advisory Committee, submitted on behalf of the PSFC staff by Ross Gibson and Silvia Ennes-Cabrera. “We are asking the Coop to create a Coop Pension Advisory Committee. The PAC will oversee the overall performance of the pension plan and act as a conduit between the plan administrators and the membership. The PAC would consist of five members who have a background in finance, and two staff members. The members would be nominated by an inaugural selection group consisting of different members with a similar background.”

Following discussion of the PAC, the Board of Directors held its meeting. Of the six members on the board, five were present. The board voted to accept the advice of the members to change the current disciplinary procedures for members. The February 2018 General Meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m. ■



ILLUSTRATION BY TOM KANE

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle. You are presented with a 9x9 grid of squares, and that grid is divided into 3x3 zones. You solve the puzzle by filling the empty squares with single-digit numbers so that every zone, column and row uses each of the numbers from 1 to 9.

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

Puzzle author: Abdul Powell. For answers, see page 5.

Farmworkers

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The workers co-founded the group with Greg Asbed, included in the most recent round of MacArthur “genius award” winners. Asbed received the award for devising a worker-driven social responsibility model (WSR) now used internationally. In the model’s “bottom-up” approach, workers play a key role in establishing work-condition standards.

In advance of the NYC protest, worker Julia De la Cruz came to the city to press the farmworkers’ cause, accompanied by Patricia Cipollitti, National Co-coordinator and Faith Organizer of the Alliance for Fair Food, to lend support, and to translate Spanish to English. On February 26, wearing jeans and a blue t-shirt lettered with a bright yellow “Justice for Farmworkers” slogan, De la Cruz addressed a group of dancers in Manhattan interested in putting activism into art. She described farmworkers’ stagnant wages and how they came away with almost nothing from long, unregulated days of work. Instead of tracking their time working in the fields, growers paid workers by the bucket or bushel, regardless of their hours. For the premier crop of tomatoes, workers made 40 or 45 cents for picking a bucket containing over 30 pounds of tomatoes.

In the past, coalition leaders organized protests, work stoppages, a march against violence and abuse, and even a 30-day hunger strike by six workers. They marched on the Orlando offices of the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association seeking dialogue with growers. Yet they saw very little change, De la Cruz said—aside from a slight uptick in wages and slight diminishment of violence. Around 2000, the group decided to bring the campaign directly to consumers, creating a “Campaign for Fair Food.” The Immokalee group also started building a base of allies and targeted corporate buyers of tomatoes, who wield the purchasing power to strongly influence prices and can exert downward pressure on wages and conditions.

The workers had three demands:

1. Pay one cent more per pound of tomatoes to change farmworkers’ poverty wages.
2. Protect workers’ human rights, including zero tol-

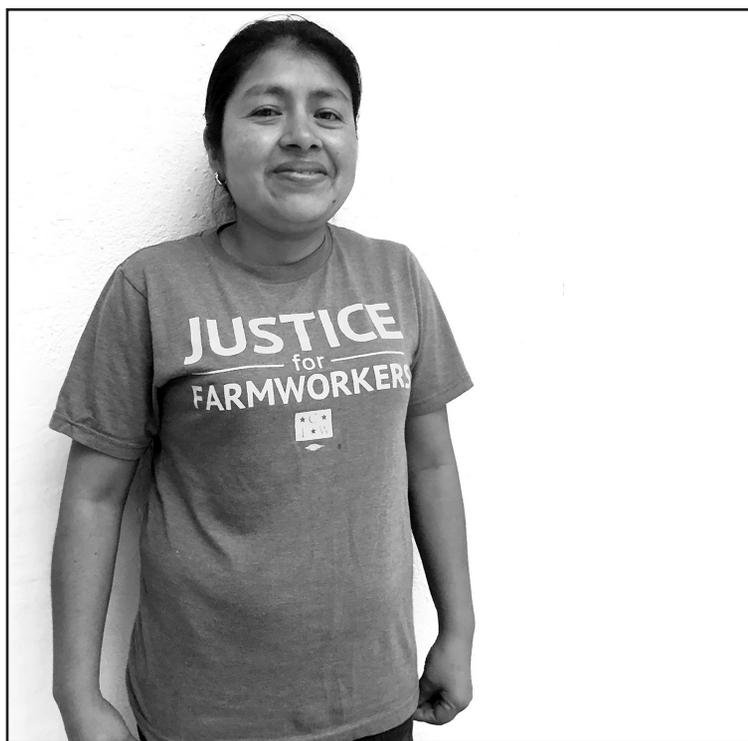


PHOTO COURTESY OF COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS

Julia De la Cruz came to NYC to press the farmworkers’ cause. She stated that farmworkers come away with almost no wages from long, unregulated days of work.

erance for sexual violence and forced labor.

3. Give workers a seat at the table, recognize their right to organize, and listen to what workers have to say.

The first campaign target was Taco Bell. The Immokalee workers reached out to consumers, faith leaders, and students at college and university campuses with Taco Bells on the premises with a “Boot the Bell” message. In 2005, Taco Bell signed an agreement addressing the farmworkers’ concerns, constituting the first big win for the campaign. The workers continued their campaign and now have more than a dozen corporations on board, De la Cruz reported. By 2011, the coalition established its Fair Food Program (<http://www.fairfoodstandards.org>), which uses the purchasing power of big brands that sign on to the program to in turn press growers to improve farmworkers’ working conditions. The Florida Tomato Growers Exchange and over a dozen purchasers, including Walmart and major fast-food chains (McDonald’s, Subway, Chipotle, Burger King, KFC, Whole Foods, Trader Joe’s, and Fresh Market—but not Wendy’s), have joined the program, which is monitored by the independent Fair Foods Standards Council. Though begun and based in Southwest Florida, the organization now stretches northward to half a dozen other states, and includes workers who pick oranges, tomatoes, bell peppers, squash, berries, and other crops.

The Fair Food Program supports worker rights with practical machinery like time

clocks to punch in and out and count hours for a base rate. On top of the base rate, workers receive a piece rate, ensuring fairness if weather or the number of tomatoes available doesn’t yield high poundage on a particular day.

The Fair Food Program uses the purchasing power of brands to compel growers to improve farm workers’ working conditions.

The Fair Food Standards Council, charged with implementing the Fair Food Program, maintains a 24-hour hotline in Spanish and Creole, the primary languages of most Southern farm workers, as well as English. It audits growers and investigates complaints. The organization also runs worker-to-worker educational sessions to advise workers of their rights, using in-person sessions for workers with limited literacy, and makes pamphlets in multiple languages available. Topics include everything from sexual harassment to the right to water, shade, and bathrooms while working. Workers can lodge complaints about trucks passing dangerously close to field workers, and the council can direct announced and unannounced visits to help promote humane conditions.

Because Wendy’s has been conspicuously absent from participation in the reforms, and has shifted its buying to Mexico, where worker protections are scant and abuse endemic, workers want to target abuses in Wendy’s supply chain, De la Cruz said.

The workers organized a

five-day “Freedom Fast” outside the Manhattan hedge-fund offices of Nelson Peltz, Wendy’s largest shareholder and chair of its board of directors, demanding that Wendy’s “join the rest of the fast-food industry in supporting the Fair Food Program’s groundbreaking worker protections” and pledging to “protest the ongoing human rights abuses faced by workers in Mexico’s produce industry where Wendy’s currently buys its tomatoes.” The action keys into the #MeToo movement, with features on sexual harassment and assault of farmworker women and messaging along the lines of “#TimesUpWendys: Join the Fair Food Program!” The campaign’s materials state, “For generations, farmworker women have endured some of the most hostile working conditions this country has to offer,” continuing, “Farmworker women have referred to the constant barrage of catcalls, groping and sexual assault as ‘our daily bread’ in the fields, and in one study, four out of every five farmworker women reported experiencing sexual harassment or violence at work.” The group’s boycott and its presence at Peltz’s firm, Triand Partners, on Park Avenue, will deliver the message that “For market giants like Wendy’s, refusing to take meaningful action to end sexual violence in the supply chain—when a proven solution is right at their fingertips—is no longer an option.”

After Wendy’s, the workers plan to approach Publix and Kroger supermarkets, seeking to leverage as much market power as possible and demanding financial transparency and fair pay for workers.

The workers ask that consumer allies, church groups, schools, etc., connect with the Fair Food program and respond to calls to action, including protests, letters, publications, and boycotts, noting, “Consumer action makes this Fair Food Program a success.”

Conceptual performance artist Jill Sigman, who leads ThinkDance and runs a class in interpretive protest called “Body Politic, Somatic Selves” (recently profiled in the *New Yorker*), invited De la Cruz to crystallize the meaning of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers’ efforts. “All workers who are human deserve the same respect, have the same merit,” De la Cruz said. “That is what we’ve built. Being in the struggle, fighting for my rights is something beautiful. It gives

energy to support a pathway to victory.”

Wendy’s has been conspicuously absent from participation in the reforms, and has shifted its buying to Mexico, where worker protections are scant and abuse endemic.

Coop Connection?

The Coop’s Labor Committee is exploring connections the Coop might make to the program, according to committee member Eric Frumin. Frumin noted that “the absence of worker involvement in development and enforcement of codes has resulted in terrible conditions—notably in the apparel sector, where thousands of workers keep dying in factory fires in Asian factories after decades of so-called monitoring by some of the same retailers,” Frumin wrote. “Ditto for peonage (another word for the virtual slavery that afflicted Florida farmworkers even into the 21st century), wage theft, sexual harassment, etc.”

In November 2017, Frumin and one of the Coop’s produce buyers, Ken Macdonald, met with Lindsay Adams of the Fair Food Standards Council. “It was our first meeting to find out more about them, and they wanted to see if it made sense for us to participate in their program,” Macdonald said. Formerly a Coop receiving coordinator for 17 years and member since 1991, Macdonald said the Coop would need to find the right way in to participate. “We’d be happy to do it, obviously, but we don’t know if it makes sense. They’re looking for big chain stores to agree to buy from suppliers they’ve vetted. They’re looking for growers that have a big footprint,” he said. “We’ve been following them for years as a group, and they’re fantastic. Everything about them we like.” ■



ILLUSTRATION BY BRIANNA HARDEN

LABOR COMMITTEE REPORT

Introducing the Labor Committee

By Genna Cherichello,
Labor Committee

When we shop at the Coop, there is a lot to see: fresh produce glistening with water (that may or may not have sprayed us, too), price tags boasting some of the best prices in the city, and labels that indicate whether something is organic or GMO-free. A lot remains unseen, however, including the many hands that tended, picked, packaged, prepared, and distributed that food. The Labor Committee was formed to address that gap, guided by the belief that labor rights are human rights.

The Labor Committee's

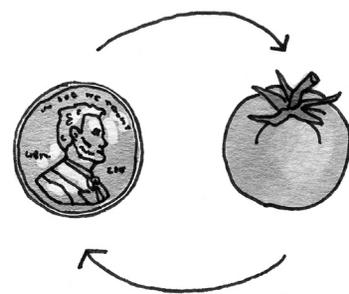
charter spells out its mission: "To systematize the way information on food workers' struggles is received, and keep the General Meeting and leadership abreast of these efforts and ways in which the Coop might engage with them." With this mission, we join other Coop committees that raise awareness among Coop membership and leadership about issues that inform purchasing practices: the Animal Welfare Committee, Environmental Committee, and International Trade Education Committee. All these committees were formed out of the Coop's strong tradition of prioritizing not only good products at

affordable prices, but products that reflect the values of our Coop community: sustainable agriculture, local economics, and human rights.

We believe that the Labor Committee plays a vital role in striving toward those values because of the unique concerns of workers across the food chain. These workers, who work in the farms, slaughterhouses, kitchens, factories, and distribution companies that supply our food, make up the largest and lowest-paid sector, and are likely to endure substandard working conditions. We hope that through raising awareness among Coop membership and leadership about food-chain-worker organizing, we can continue the Coop's long tradition of leading by example to improve the food system. This article intends to introduce Coop members to the types of issues we hope to address, and to give some examples of active campaigns and food worker struggles.

Working Conditions for Farm Workers

The Labor Committee is currently focusing on a handful of pressing issues affecting food chain workers. One issue is fair pay for farmworkers who harvest and process the nation's tomatoes. A national organization led by farmworkers, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) has made significant gains in this area through their Fair Food Program, which binds



corporations like Walmart and McDonald's to pay a penny more per pound of tomatoes. CIW has also made great strides in recognizing and organizing against gender-based violence and modern-day slavery conditions for farmworkers. The Labor Committee has committed to supporting the expansion of the Fair Food Program into the coop retail sector. Through our support of these CIW campaigns, the Coop is helping to ensure that the coop retail sector does its part for farmworker rights.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRIANNA HARDEN

The Labor Committee is also in conversation with the Rural & Migrant Ministry, a New York organization that is leading a campaign to pass state legislation to expand farmworker rights in New York. The bill, the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act, aims to extend labor rights that other workers currently have to New York's agricultural workers. It would protect the right of agricultural workers to unionize and receive minimum wage and overtime pay, and it would place stricter age limits on farm work. Farm workers were excluded from some of these protections in the landmark National Labor Standards Act of 1935, and New York's farmworkers still do not entirely receive these protections today.

Lessons Learned from Tom Cat

A third campaign that the Labor Committee was asked to support is the worker-led push to boycott Tom Cat Bakery products. You may have heard about the debate on this issue in New York and within the Coop: undocumented workers who were fired from the bakery as a result of immigration enforcement actions by the government are pushing for Tom Cat to adopt stronger protections for immigrant workers such as notifying workers of visits from immigration enforcement in a timely manner, permitting these visits only if immigration enforcement has a warrant, and providing fair compensation for workers who are laid off for being undocumented. Immigrant rights are a salient part of labor rights in the food industry in the U.S. currently, and we anticipate that this issue will continue to arise.

The Labor Committee responded to this request for support by bringing the proposal of a boycott to the Coop membership. The GM vote did not reach the 75% required to instate a boycott, so the Committee is finding other ways to inform members of the campaign so they can make indi-

vidual purchasing decisions. We are also focused on honing our process for how and when to sign onto campaigns, and welcome member input.

"The Committee is working to create a supplier code of conduct, and eventually to include considerations other than labor in the code."

The Coop's Mission Statement includes that our store "seek[s] to avoid products that depend on the exploitation of others." Coop buyers do what they can to ensure that products meet this and other standards listed in the Mission Statement, but the Coop does not yet have a formalized purchasing policy or supplier code of conduct. The Labor Committee is working to create a supplier code of conduct, and eventually to collaborate with other committees to include considerations other than labor in this code. Most importantly, we intend for the Committee to provide trustworthy research to buyers around labor practices of their suppliers, as well as answer specific questions they might have.

Future Projects

Future projects for the Labor Committee include developing signage to highlight products with good labor practices and creating explainers for established certifications like "Fair Trade" and "Food Justice Certified." We also have a website and social media in progress, as well as firming up our vetting process for engagement with potential campaigns. Please e-mail Genna (genna.cherichello@gmail.com) with questions or suggestions inspired by this article. The Labor Committee consists of founding members Richard Mandelbaum, Eric Frumin (non-voting), and Nancy Romer (non-voting), as well as Erika Inwald, Maritza Silva-Farrell, David Pratt, Peter Wohlsen, Jen Chapin, and myself, Genna Cherichello. ■

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



Witnesses to Cuba's Revolution in Organic Farming

By Pat Smith

Coop members Peggy Conte and Paul Wasserman recently traveled to Cuba with a program called Food Sovereignty Tours, which gives visitors to the island a chance to meet people who are farming in challenging conditions. The sponsor of the tours, the Institute for Food and Development Policy (better known as Food First), calls itself a "people's think tank" dedicated to ending the injustices that cause hunger and to helping communities take back control of their food systems. I met Peggy and Paul at their home in Brooklyn, near the community garden 6/15 Green, where Peggy is a founding member, to talk about why they went to Cuba and what they learned on their trip.

Prelude to a Collapse

What inspired you to join the Food First trip to Cuba?

"I've been interested in Cuba for years, especially since the changes that started in the '90s," Paul said. "I wanted to get a feel for what the reality is. Having heard that Cuba has a growing organic agriculture scene and cooperative structures that are part of that, both of those things appealed to me."

I asked Paul for some background on Cuban farming. "Before the Cuban Revolution in 1959, Cuban agriculture was dominated by large haciendas (landed estates), owned either by very wealthy Cubans or foreign, mostly American, companies," he said. "It was a colonial model, with large mono-crop farms growing food for export, predominantly sugarcane, plus coffee, tobacco and citrus fruits. After the revolution, the



Organopónico Vivero Alamar in the outskirts of Havana, a cooperative farm project.

heart of the land reform was breaking up these big estates. When the U.S. put up a trade embargo, Cuba shifted to a dependency on the Soviet Union and the Soviet bloc. To oversimplify it, Cuba was getting oil from the Soviet Union at below market prices in exchange for the Soviet Union getting sugarcane from Cuba at above-market prices.

"Cuban organic farming and permaculture research are really incredible... The 70% of farms in Cuba that are private or cooperative are all, in one way or another, organic."

"When the Soviet Union collapsed, instantly Cuba lost 85% of its imports and exports, and particularly its access to affordable oil, on which their agricultural model depended. They had to change pretty much overnight, and went through a horrible crisis called the Special Period in the 1990s. It was a disaster for agriculture."

The Great Hunger

What did you learn about that crisis period?

"There was almost a famine," Peggy said. "In a market economy it would have meant many, many deaths, but it was managed by the government, with severe rationing and harsh punishment for unauthorized killing of farm animals. The average Cuban lost 20 pounds."

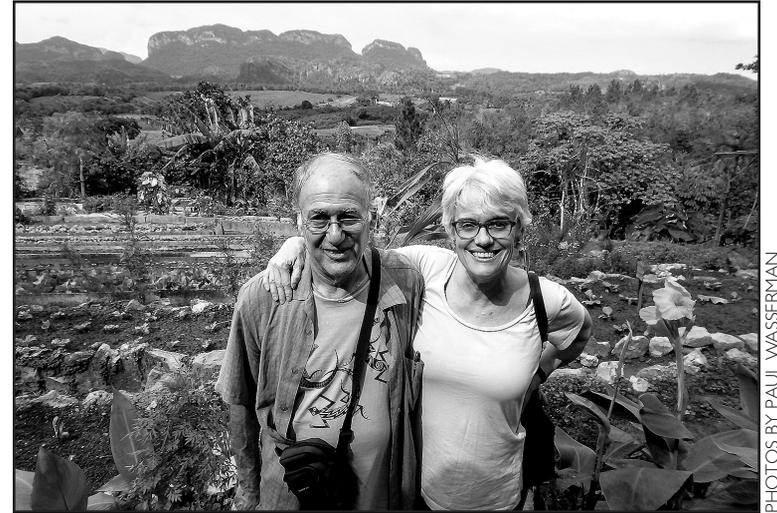
"Cuba always had a food rationing system, which meant people got the basics but often not much more than the basics," Paul said. "During the Special Period the rations shrank, so people were getting even less. They had to shift their whole model of agriculture to become more food self-sufficient," Paul said. "What that meant, first and foremost, was breaking up most of the state farms and encouraging urban agriculture. That's led to a structure that's, I think, 70% private or cooperative, and 30% state. The government has this land practice called usufruct, which means they offer people the land and some tools for free as long as they use it for growing food."

Goodbye to Petrochemicals

How much Cuban agriculture is organic?

"There's a lot of government support," Peggy said. "A lot of research is being done on organic methods of pest-control, bio-pesticides, and biological controls, to avoid commercial pesticides. They have a real knowledge base on that. We went to Bolivia in 2011, and the Bolivians were depending on the Cuban research."

"Cuban organic farming and permaculture research is really incredible," Paul said. "They had a knowledge base that could inform a shift to organic food production, which they had to do because



Paul Wasserman with his wife Peggy Conte visiting a cooperative farm Finca Paiso in Viñales.

they couldn't afford the petrochemical-based inputs in the conventional farming model. There was also a community of people who wanted to practice organic agriculture.

"The 70% of farms in Cuba that are private or cooperative are all, in one way or another, organic. Some of them are using very developed practices with a philosophical and scientific base to them, and some of it is just because there are no chemical pesticides, no chemical fertilizers, no gas to run tractors. They've brought back oxen for plowing and horses for hauling, though neither ever fully disappeared.

"One really interesting thing was that so much of the small-scale agriculture is cooperative," said Paul. "There are three kinds of coops. First, there are long-established cooperatives where people own the land and tools and manage production cooperatively. Then there are newer cooperatives where people got land in usu-

fruct and decided to manage it cooperatively. Finally, there are 'credit and service' coops in which a group of farms is privately owned and managed but for whom financing, marketing and tool purchasing are cooperative. That seems to be the most consistently successful of the models.

"We saw a lot of medicinal herbs—tumeric, moringa, neem—a lot of cool stuff that we only get in powdered form here, but that is actually growing there."

"Cuba has also opened up farmers markets, which they didn't use to have," Paul said. "They reluctantly realized they need to have a market side to the economy, though it runs against their non-market model of socialism. But farmers won't grow food if they don't have a market to sell to."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Solution to this issue's sudoku puzzle

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

STATEMENT ON THE COOPERATIVE IDENTITY

DEFINITION

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

VALUES

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

PRINCIPLES

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

They are as follows:

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

REFERENCE: ICA.COOP

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

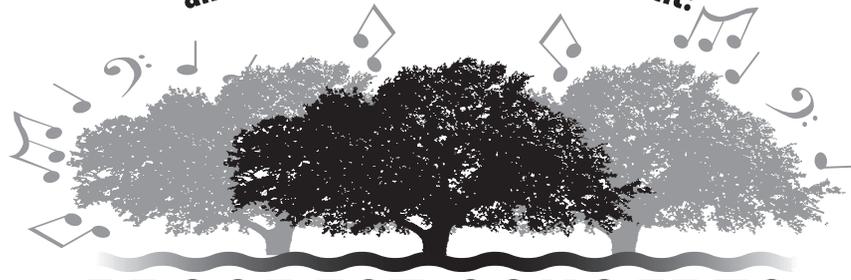
Submissions to the *Gazette* must not be hateful, racist, sexist, otherwise discriminatory, inflammatory or needlessly provocative. They may not be personally derogatory or insulting, even when strongly criticizing an individual member's actions.

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 20, 8:00 p.m.

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



PROSPECT CONCERTS



Annie Keating has performed at leading festivals, including Take Root in Holland, the Brooklyn Americana Festival, Glasgow Americana Festival, The Brooklyn Indie Music Fest NJ Folk Fest, Maverick UK and NXNE. Her recent album, *Trick Star* (Keating's seventh full-length release) was met with rave international reviews. For fans of Lucinda Williams, John Prine, Jason Isbell and other great alt-country songwriters, this is sun-dappled Americana at its best, sure to enchant.

Bev Grant is the 2017 Joe Hill Award winner from the Labor Heritage Foundation and the 2017 winner of the ASCAP Foundation's Jay Gorney award. Former leader of the cutting edge '70s and '80s folk/rock and world music band, Human Condition, Bev is also founder and director of the Brooklyn Women's Chorus. "Bev Grant is one of New York City's treasures." (Ron Olesko, *SingOut* magazine)



Songwriter **Steve Mayone** performs as a solo artist and with his band **Bastards of Fine Arts**, a collaboration with NYC songwriter Matt Keating. "Mayone ties up all of Americana, folk, classic and roots-rock, effortlessly flowing from one to the next and never at a loss for interest." (*Americana UK*). "Thoughtful, well written material." (*New England Scrapbook*). He's released five albums, his most recent *Sideways Rain* in 2017. "An album rife with flowing pop and folk-flavored ballads that exude a romantic and bittersweet glow."—Steve Morse

www.facebook.com/ProspectConcerts

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

RETURN POLICY



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

REQUIRED FOR ANY RETURN

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

CAN I EXCHANGE MY ITEM?

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

CAN I RETURN MY ITEM?

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

NEVER
RETURNABLE

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

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

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

RETURNABLE

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

This Issue Prepared By:

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Heloisa Zero
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Puzzle Master: Abdul Powell
Final Proofreader: Lisa Schorr
Index: Len Neufeld

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.

Persephone Allen
Isaac Anderson
Benjamin Bechstedt
Mazal Bientstock
Gaines Blasdel
Richard Boisvert
Zakia Bousbai
Melanie Breault
Nora Canby
Beth Carmody
Anshul Chaturvedi
Kim Coates
Rachael Compton
Young Sun Compton
Berta de Miguel

Sarah Dileo
Gina Dimanche
Samia Djaafar
Monifa Edwards
Shiri Eshel
Vera Fishman-Resheff
Michael Franklin
Mira Frenkel
Elizabeth Freund
Brook Garrison
Karen Gibbons
Cyra Gish
Sabrina Glover
Sophia Griffith
Sam Hammerman

Ana Maria Heeren
Matthew Heering
Hannah Hiassen
Nemo Hoffman
Allison Hooks
Veronica Johnson
Abigail Keel
Morresha Kennedy
Tyquan Kennedy
Rebecca Kish
Sarah Laties
Anne Leonardo
Deirdre Levy
Sean Lyons
Mateo Maduro

Egina Manachova
Ricardo Mosquera
Mikhaila Moynihan
Amy Murray
Tenzing Namgyal
Arielle Nathanson
Alexandre Neau
Daniel Nomura
Shirley Nwangwa
Ian O'Connor
Kathryn O'Grady
Stacy Osborn
Vikram Pathak
Dawn Philips
Holly Pierson

Ben Platt
Irene Polonskaya
Gandy Raahsan
Peter Reich
Sara Reich
Stephen Riesenber
Chana Rosen
Axelle Roset
Rachel Rudy
Dina Rybak
Rachel Sacks
Samantha Seneviratne
Haley Shaffer
David Shepard
Stephanie Shepard

Malathi Sicora
Alexandra Siega
Simon Smith
Amelia Tarpey
Savannah Turley
Kamaria Turner
Mara Veitch
John Wang
Benjamin Welles
Ted Willis
Katherine Wood
Jonathan Yang
Lucien Zayan

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, MARCH 27:
GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, APRIL 3
AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 7:30 p.m.
Submissions will be considered for the April 24 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

Mar 29 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Mar 19
Apr 12 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Apr 2

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

Mar 29 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Mar 21
Apr 12 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Apr 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 and at every General Meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 27, 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

mar 16
fri 7:30 pm

Meet Your Mind

A class in basic meditation. The fundamental nature of our mind is stable, strong and clear—yet these qualities become obscured by the stress and speed of our lives. Meditation opens and calms the mind. This is a basic meditation class for beginners, and for anyone who would like a renewed understanding of the technique. **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.

mar 16
fri 8 pm

Janie Barnett; Clay Ross



Virginia native **Janie Barnett** is an Americana artist, freelance musician, producer, and educator. She's made a name for herself in the freelance world,

singing on film, TV and commercials, as well as singing backup for the likes of Linda Ronstadt, Celine Dion, and Rickie Lee Jones. Barnett's 2017 release, "You See This River" was included on several "Best Of" DJ lists and has enjoyed regular play on independent Americana and Folk radio since its release. Since 2009, **Clay Ross** has pioneered an original sound as a founding member of the bands Matuto and Ranky Tanky. With these groups he has recorded albums for venerable jazz labels such as Motema and Ropeadope, and performed more than 1,000 shows around the world, including tours across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and South America. While spending these countless days on the road each year, Clay's wife begrudgingly works his Coop shifts. Tonight is his chance to redeem himself and your opportunity to dance to an uber-talented band of Coop members rocking the sounds of "Brazilian Bluegrass!"

Concert takes place at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West (at 2nd St.), \$10, doors open at 7:45. Prospect Concerts is a monthly musical fundraising partnership of the Coop and the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture.



mar 17
sat 4 pm

From.MeToo.WeRise

Time to heal the world from sexual assault. Sexual assault/harassment/incest is a bigger discussion for healing than the workplace. Accepted worldwide in a pandemic of manipulation and suppression, they are a human problem at home, worldwide everywhere in all history... in battles, genocide and every day. The time for healing is NOW. Discussion, non-judgmental and frank. How can we heal ourselves and can we expand that healing into the rest of the world which we reach out to in our lives? **Sensho Wagg** is a Certified Professional Coach in Transformation Coaching, trained specifically to use deep intuition without offering consulting, advice or instruction. With tools from other industries (natural foods and products, birthing and breastfeeding, speech therapy and cochlear implants, music and profound Buddhist practice), Sensho offers big experience and sensitive awareness to all who wish a full life and (!) joy.

mar 18
sun 12 pm

Freeze Your Rent

This event will give you a chance to meet with experts who can help you use this amazing benefit. SCRIE freezes the rent for head-of-household seniors 62+ who live in rent-regulated apartments and whose household income is \$50,000 or less. DRIE does the same for the disabled. Landlords get tax abatement credit equaling tenant exemption. We'll speed the process if you please bring copies of documents in addition to originals: proof of age showing your date of birth, such as U.S. passport, driver's license, or other government ID; proof of 2016 income for all household members, including yourself and co-tenants. **Raul Rothblatt** is a musician, father of two, activist and Coop member of 20+ years.

mar 27
tue 7 pm

PSFC MAR 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: Presentation of Candidates for Board of Directors (30 minutes)

Discussion: Presentation of two candidates for the Board of Directors followed by questions for the candidates. This gives the members an opportunity to be introduced to the candidates and hear them speak prior to the Board of Directors election. The election begins with the mailing of the proxy ballots at the end of May and ends at the Annual Meeting in June.

—mandated by General Meeting

Item 2: TerraCycle Squad Budget Renewal (30 minutes)

Proposal: Coop members have been making use of our TerraCycle collections, especially our ZeroWaste soft plastics. In order to continue this successful and popular program, we need to renew our budget. In May 2017 we were approved for \$6000 for one year. This approval included an additional \$1500 if needed (as approved by staff), which has also been used. Our request, starting April 1 for one year, is \$10,000.

—submitted by Sarah Chandler on behalf of TerraCycle committee

Item 3: Pension Plan Amendment: Allow Partial Lump Sum and Annuity Distributions (30 minutes)

Proposal: Allow pension plan recipients the option to request a partial lump sum distribution in addition to monthly distributions.

—submitted by Lisa Moore,

General Coordinator and Pension Plan Administrator,
and Joe Holtz, General Coordinator and Pension Plan Trustee

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.

mar 28
wed 7 pm

Learn About Cheese at the Coop

Cheese education at the Coop continues with another tasting session led by Coop member and American Cheese Society Certified Cheese Professional **Elena Santogade**. This month's class will feature a selection of unique cheeses from around the world! Coop member and American Cheese Society Certified Cheese Professional Elena Santogade will lead the tasting and offer guidelines for pairings and for designing cheese tastings of your own.

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.

mar 16–may 3 2018

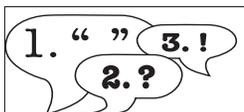
mar 31
sat 10 am

Food + Fitness

Shakara.NYC is a dance fitness party featuring exercise routines and choreography for core, glutes, arms, legs and abs, interpreted in Afrobeats culture. **Eka Take** founded Shakara.NYC, after moving to Brooklyn, to include elements of her West African culture into her daily fitness/wellness activities. Eka joined the Food Coop in July 2017 and the community has enabled her to eat and live healthier.

apr 3
tue 7:30 pm

Agenda Committee Meeting

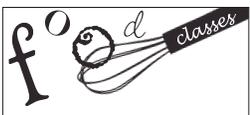


The Committee reviews pending agenda items and creates the agenda for future General Meetings. Drop by and talk with committee members face-to-face between 7:30 and 7:45 p.m. Before submitting an item, read “How to Develop an Agenda Item for the General Meeting” and fill out the General Meeting Agenda Item Submission Form, both available from the Membership Office or at foodcoop.com.

The April General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 7 p.m., at St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.

apr 5
thu 7:30 pm

Food Class: Authentic Indian Home Cooking



Learn the basics of healthy Indian home cooking, from the names and special characteristics of Indian spices, to the secrets that will give you the best flavor. The focus will be on best home cooking practices and the relationship between Indian culture and food. Chef Mukti Banerjee is the founder and instructor of Mukti's Kitchen, which offers hands-on Indian cooking classes, lecture/demonstrations and catering services. Mukti focuses on Indian food, Indian cooking and healthy eating. She uses authentic, modern Indian techniques, with adjustments for American kitchens and any dietary restrictions. *Menu includes: Vegetable Pulao (rice dish); Lasuni Dal (red lentil with garlic, onion, ginger and spices); Mixed Vegetable Korma; Mohon Bhog*

ASL interpreter available upon request, please contact the Membership Office. Materials fee: \$5. RSVPs by March 29 are appreciated, contact parkslopefoodclass@gmail.com. To inquire about leading a Food Class, contact parkslopefoodclass@gmail.com.

apr 10
tue 7 pm

Safe Food Committee Film Night: Hot Grease



Hot Grease hits the streets of Houston, Texas, the energy capital of the world, telling the story of how an environmentally beneficial industry has been built around an ostensibly worthless raw material—spent kitchen grease. With Congress considering elevating renewable fuel standards, potentially yielding billions in profits, the film is a real-life illustration of the challenges in trying to achieve the American Dream on the expanding green energy frontier. With insights from the innovators, entrepreneurs, environmentalists, and grease collectors, *Hot Grease* follows the industry as people carve out their piece of this modern-day “gold rush.” The filmmakers will be in attendance for a Q&A.

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.

apr 13
fri 7 pm

Wordsprouts: A Celebration of National Poetry Month



Four poets will present verse, then talk about their work. **Toni Blackman** is the author of *Inner-Course*, a collection of poetry and inspirational prose. At the invitation of the U.S. State Department, Toni served as the nation's first Cultural Ambassador for Hip Hop. A DOVE Real Woman (2012), Toni has traveled to 44 different countries performing, speaking, and teaching. Once a Receiver and an OUTS worker, she can now be found dancing with members while she does her checkout shift. **Beth Lisick** is a writer and actor. She got her start writing in the poetry slam scene in the '90s and is the author of five books, including the *New York Times* bestseller *Everybody Into the Pool*. Beth has no problem prepping olives on her Coop shift. **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 four collections of poetry and a book of essays, *What Teachers Make: In Praise of the Greatest Job in the World*. At the PSFC, he is known as Taylor the Baler. **Jon Sands** is the author of *The New Clean* (Write Bloody Publishing), as well as the co-host of “The Poetry Gods Podcast.” He's represented New York City multiple times at the National Poetry Slam, and you can find him once a month working in the Coop's dairy cooler.

Free for all Coop members & non-members. Refreshments will be served. Bookings: [John Donohue, wordsproutspfc@gmail.com](mailto:John.Donohue@wordsproutspfc@gmail.com).

still to come

apr 15

Estate Planning 101

apr 24

PSFC APRIL General Meeting

apr 20

Prospect Concert Series

apr 29

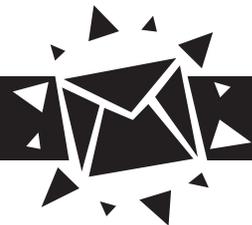
From.MeToo.WeRise

apr 21–22

Food Drive to Benefit CHIPS Soup Kitchen

may 3

Food Class



BETTER PACKAGING OPTIONS FOR GRAB'N'GO?

MEMBERS,

Can we get more information about what our staff buyers are doing about individual-serving plastic clam shells? Do we ask for more environment-friendly options from our vendors of

ready to eat foods, like the new salads and pie and other prepared foods, or have we just given up? I know this stuff is popular, and I buy it sometimes. Can we get vendors to use cardboard with cellophane windows? What are the options?

Thanks,
Lisa Guido

RESPONSE TO LISA GUIDO

THANKS FOR YOUR LETTER LISA,

We have asked every new vendor for our grab-and-go case if they can provide a different type of packaging that is more environmentally friendly. Their response each time has been that they don't currently see alternatives that will provide the

combination of durability and visibility needed to ship and display their products and as a result often default to using recyclable plastic. One of our recent vendors had experimented with compostable packaging but found that they weren't nearly sturdy enough and customers were complaining about collapsed packages. The staff here share the same concerns on plastic prolifer-

ation as our membership, and we're going to continue to push for our vendors to use the most environmentally friendly packing they can find. That might soon include our staff becoming experts in all of the packing alternatives available, so that we can make strong recommendations to vendors who would like to sell to the PSFC.

Joe Szladek
General Coordinator

Cuba

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Greens in the City

What were the urban farms like?

"We visited urban farms in two cities," Peggy said, "Havana and Spiriti Sanctus. In the

Havana cooperative, called Organipónico Vivero Alamar, my sense was they hadn't always been farmers. A few people in the Alamar neighborhood decided to get land in usufruct from the government and start a farm. I really enjoyed that place. They grow

a lot of herbs, because there's a market for magical herbs used in Santeria. There's also a big market for yerba buena, a mint put in mojitos, a rum-based drink popular with tourists. We saw a lot of medicinal herbs—tumeric, moringa, neem—a lot of cool stuff that we only get in powdered form here, but that is actually growing there.

"They grow a lot of lettuce—lettuce galore! Very pale green lettuce. At Alamar, we didn't really see dark green vegetables or that many root vegetables, whereas in the rural areas we saw a lot of yucca, taro, and all kinds of sweet potatoes—such a variety. I think that reflects the food habits embedded in Cuban culture. We saw very little tomato, summer squash, or eggplant. You could grow those so well in that climate—crops that, if it were warm here all the time, we would be growing like crazy.

Cuba Evolving

Is there anything our Coop might learn from Cuba?

"One of the takeaways from Cuba is that a lot more is possible when there's state support," Paul said. As someone who's always been very skeptical of the heavy hand of the state in conventional socialist models, I admire the way that Cuba adjusted to leave space for both individual and cooperative initiative. You have a society that's struggling with how to keep the basic values of social equality and ensure everyone's taken care of, along with a need to open up to other models. The ability of the state to make decisions and implement cultural shifts in the middle of a crisis was a big part of why they survived. It was a surprise to me to come away feeling there's a positive role for the state to play."

"Cuban socialism is amazingly resilient," said Peggy. "They've weathered their cri-

ses. They know how to adapt and make changes when they must. The Coop's also been around, not as long as the Cuban revolution, but it's

been resilient. We need to stay resilient."

Learn more about Food First and Food Sovereignty Tours at foodfirst.org. ■



PHOTO BY PAUL WASSERMAN

El Ranchon in Sanctis Spiritus is a permaculture coop farm.

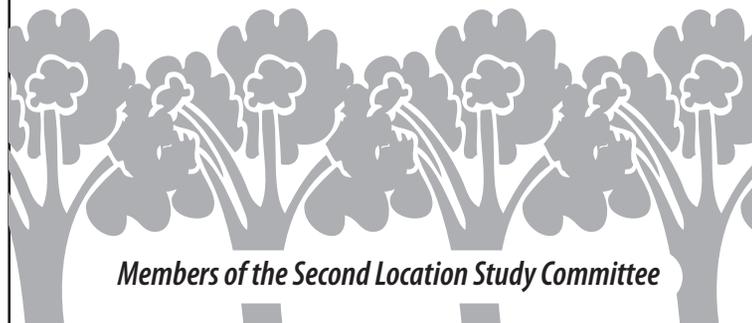
HOW MIGHT THE PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP GROW AND CHANGE IN THE FUTURE?

We are studying the possibility of a second location and need your input.

Please take 15 minutes to fill out this community-wide survey and share your thoughts about a second Coop location.

www.foodcoop.com/coop-location-survey

Thanks for your time and cooperation!



Members of the Second Location Study Committee



ecokvetch
the environmental
committee blog

Tip of the MONTH!

Need some inspiration?
The nomination of chemical industry lobbyist Michael Dourson to head the EPA's oversight of toxic chemical regulation was defeated by two Indiana moms living in a child cancer hotspot related to industrial chemical waste. Civic engagement matters!

Learn more at:
ecokvetch.blogspot.com

☆ EXCITING WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITIES ☆

Store Equipment Cleaning

Monday, Friday, 6 to 8 a.m.

This job involves meticulous deep cleaning of the store's checkout equipment and furniture. Workers are required to read and follow detailed instructions for cleaning the scales, printers, and monitors as well as cleaning the furniture and organizing checkout worker's tools and supplies. Must arrive on time at 6 a.m. Please report to Cynthia Pennycooke on your first work shift.

Bathroom Cleaning

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 12 to 2 p.m.

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

Office Set-up

Thursday, Friday, 6 to 8:30 a.m.

Need an early riser with lots of energy to do a variety of physical tasks including: setting up tables and chairs, buying food and supplies, labeling and putting away food and supplies, recycling, washing dishes and making coffee. Sound like your dream come true? This job might be for you. Please speak to Mary Gerety in the Membership Office for more information.

Receiving Produce

Monday through Friday, 5 to 7:30 am

Start your day early with a workout and a sense of accomplishment! Work side-by-side with our paid staff receiving daily fresh produce deliveries. If you are willing to get your hands a little dirty, lift and stack boxes, and work in our basement coolers, then you'll fit right in. We promise your energy will be put to good use. Boxes usually weigh between 2-30 lbs, but can weigh up to 50 lbs.

Parm Squad

Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday—various times

This shift requires extensive training with a member of the paid staff, and therefore requires a six-month commitment. You must have good attendance to join this squad and must be a member for at least six months. As a member of the PARM Squad, you'll prepare designated cheeses for sale. You should be fit enough to cooperate with other members to lift 90 lbs. (a wheel of parmesan). Involves also cutting hard cheese, moving in and out of the cooler. All members of the squad must follow the hygiene and safety guidelines as stipulated in the Food Processing manual. Please provide your e-mail address to be added to the shift-swapping contact list. Interested members must speak to Britt before joining this squad: britt_henriksson@psfc.coop.

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.

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Attorney Carol Lipton has been practicing law for decades with Barton L. Slavin, with offices in mid-town. We represent Accident Victims for Car Accidents, Slip and Falls and Construction Accidents; Sellers and Buyers of Co-ops and Condos; Estates and Wills, Guardianship, Business Litigation, Bankruptcy, and Civil and Family Court Appeals. We concentrate only in these areas of law.
718-436-5359 or 212-233-1010 www.nycattorneys.com

CLASSIFIEDS

MERCHANDISE WANTED

Seeking sturdy used PC laptop with CD and DVD and flash memory capacity. Susan 718-636-9089. Solidarity donation or inexpensive. Thanks, for a cultural project.

PEOPLE MEETING

The Brooklyn Chapter of the Holistic Chamber of Commerce will have its next meeting on Thursday, April 12 @ Pure Bistro, 88 Fifth Ave., Bklyn, NY 11217 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. They have an organic menu of delicious food, drinks and wine so, come and enjoy! See you there! 646-399-5236 Dr. Philip D. Craig.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

RESTORATION Did you break a special vase or chip enamel jewelry? I restore pottery and small objects (antique or just treasured) made of enamel, ivory, horn, tortoise, some plastics and wood, etc. Estimates cheerfully given. References available. Near the Coop. Roberta: 718-623-6777 or rrgordon42@gmail.com.

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, low lights, highlights, hot oil treatments. Specialist in autistic and special needs children and adults in the convenience of your home or mine. Kids \$20-up. Adults \$35+up. Call Leonora, 718-857-2215.

PHOTO SCANNING SERVICES— I can scan the negatives, slides and old prints that you've been meaning to but never got around to on my V750 Epson scanner. Any DPI and file size. Color correct and cleanup if you'd like. Contact Fred Becker 347-661-6634. fbeckerphoto@gmail.com.

Imani House, Inc. presents...
LET'S DANCE! Dancing through the Decades
March 29, 2018
HAPPY HOUR 6 - 7:30pm
COMMUNITY
KINGS BEER HALL
84 Saint Marks Place
Brooklyn
TICKETS \$20 advance (Eventbrite: bit.ly/2DQknw1)
\$25 at door Info: 718.638.2059
Imani House, Inc. 501(c)(3) is a youth, family & immigrant education & health nonprofit
imanihouse.org | 76A 5th Ave, Brooklyn NY 11217 | 718.638.2059

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New York Ski Club is looking for New Members!
Our cabin is located in Center Berlin, New York; we ski at Jiminy Peak, 20 minutes away

The Affordable way to ski and enjoy the Berkshires year-round -Kind of Like Indoor Camping w/friends
Guest Weekend is St. Patricks' Day weekend
FMI call Paul 908-723-3706

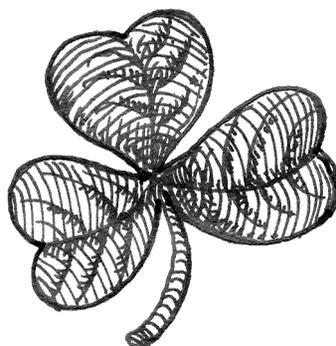


ILLUSTRATION BY TOM KANE

The Marketing Cooperative

Are you a freelance writer, graphic designer, photo/videographer, visual effects designer, or programmer interested in starting a marketing cooperative to serve businesses in the NYC area? I am seeking the right group of like-minded people with whom to discuss building a diverse and thriving worker-owned marketing cooperative that will provide us stable and well-paid employment and will also provide employment to formerly incarcerated creative individuals. Please send portfolios/resumes/LinkedIn profiles and letters of interest to rosana@rosanavidalmarketing.com. Thank you.

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

Two three-year terms on the Board are open.

To vote you may use a proxy or attend the Food Coop Annual Meeting on June 26, 2018.

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

You will have the opportunity to meet the candidates at the June 26 Annual Meeting. Candidate statements follow.

Sukey Tamarkin

My name is Sukey Tamarkin and I am running for a seat on the Coop Board. I currently work FTOP, and have been a Coop member for 24 years.

The skills I bring to this position are the ones honed from my 20 years as a public-school librarian. I am trained and expertly skilled to listen objectively to the information needs of the diverse community represented by a public institution, and to deliver the best information sources to solve constituent problems and requests. This professional expertise in keeping an open, non-judgmental mind while listening to an incredible diversity of views in order to bring the best information to assist in decision-making, would serve the Coop's General Meeting very well.

My long and continuous membership with the Coop affords my candidacy the authority of experience: I have worked in nearly every capacity throughout the store, receiving, and membership office. I have witnessed the

growth of the Coop from a tiny store with an extremely limited inventory a membership of maybe 3,000; to a fully stocked grocery that can rival with its offerings the corporate behemoths surrounding us, and a membership five times the size of when I first joined. Half my life has been spent as a Coop member. Throughout this I have come to realize that beyond our commitment to a cooperative business practice, there exists no monolith lens in which to view the Coop: we are many things to our many members. Each of us brings our talents, experiences, hopes, and expectations to our work here. It is both what makes us a strong business with a diverse talent pool from which to draw, as well as a messy and at times contentious organization grappling with the trials of human experience to hash out our differences together to propel our business forward.

I believe in the process we have for Board functioning in which the General Meeting, open to all members, is the mechanism by which Coop decision-making occurs. The Board takes its advice from the General

Meeting, while retaining an independent fiduciary duty to ensure that no General Meeting decision causes immediate and irreparable harm to the Coop's financial and legal obligations. I like to think of our Board's independent decision-making authority as one would a smoke detector—necessary to prevent a possible fire, but not likely to be used. While it is possible that the General Meeting could reach a decision that would cause immediate and irreparable harm to the Coop's financial and legal obligations, it is highly unlikely to happen. Thus while we are legally bound to have a functioning Board, our particular method to “crowd-source” Coop decisions through the General Meeting, and to use the Board as the affirming body of this process, represents our best intentions to create a fully cooperative and democratic business.

I chose not to include my photo as I believe the unconscious bias we may bring to how we perceive someone's looks should not inform Board candidacy. The Coop's General Coordinators endorse my candidacy. ■

Rachel Asher



I am writing to seek re-election on the Board of Directors at the Park Slope Food Coop for my first three-year term. Raised by a Food Coop founder and worker, I grew up appreciating the importance of having access to affordable, locally farmed products and working with a community towards a common vision.

I'm proud to continue that legacy as your board member. Over the last two years, I have listened to and respected the interests of the membership while protecting the Coop's mission. If re-elected, I pledge to continue my commitment to you, the membership, and to the Coop as an organization.

I hope to be a voice for the next generation of Coop leadership as we look toward the future, while remaining committed to bridging the gap between the members who built this institution, committing decades to ensuring its survival. As an employee at The Legal Aid Society, I am particularly sensitive to the needs of low-income members who are experiencing the economic strains of finding afford-

able housing while facing stagnant wages and an unrelenting cost of living. More than ever before, we need access to the Coop's high-quality food and sense of community. I hope, during my tenure, to be a voice for members who are not always heard—those of us who work multiple jobs, live with roommates out of necessity, or have new ideas to improve the Coop and make it more accessible and friendly to future members and leaders. Let's work together to find solutions to our challenges as they arise, and leverage our perspectives to envision the Coop's future together.

Rachel lives in Park Slope with her partner Erica, a Shopping Squad Leader, and their rescue dog Charlie. ■

Park Slope Food Coop Members

are invited to shop

At The Windsor Terrace Food Coop

Windsor Terrace Food Coop is located at

825 Caton Ave

(corner of E8th Street & Caton
just south of Coney Island Ave.)

Thursday 7- 9 am 3-9 pm

Friday 9-11 am 4-7 pm

Saturday & Sunday 10 am - 4 pm



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, MAR 16

7:30 p.m. Brooklyn Contra Dance. If Swing and Square dancing met in a bar, you'd get Contra. Live music, bringing a partner is not necessary. A great way to meet new people! @ Camp Friendship, 339 Eighth St., Brooklyn. \$15 General / \$12 Student / Volunteer/Dance Free. www.brooklyncontra.org.

SAT, MAR 17

8 p.m. Irish Women's Voices for Peace and Equality: Dian Killian; Alice Farrell; Alison Kelley. Peoples' Voice Cafe, 40 E. 35th St., NY. Wheelchair accessible. Sug. donation \$20/12 for subscribers. For info call 212-787-3903 or see peoplesvoicecafe.org.

THU, MAR 29

6 p.m. "LET'S DANCE!" Dancing Through the Decades—Join friends and neighbors and celebrate in style. DJ Tony Cortez - R&B Music. Happy Hour 6-7:30. A fun-filled night of dancing. Kings Beer Hall, 84 St. Marks Pl. Tickets \$20, bit.ly/2DQknwi. 718-638-2059. Proceeds benefit ImaniHouse.Org programs.

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ILLUSTRATION BY TOM KANE