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Volume MM, Number 14

July 19, 2018

Annual & General Meeting Report: Cash, Pensions, Board Elections & BBQ

By John B. Thomas

The Coop is in sound financial shape, with increased cash assets and improved performance of the pension plan, according to the Coop's auditor who walked members through the Coop's audited financial statement at the annual meeting, held every year in conjunction with the June General Meeting.

In addition to hearing about the Coop's financial health, members elected candidates to two open seats on the Coop board of directors and elected officers to positions of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.



PHOTO BY INGSU LUU

Robert Reitman from Cornick Garber & Sandler presented the Coop's Audited Financial Statement for the fiscal year ending January 28, 2018.

Presentation of the Audited Financial Statement

After the meeting was called to order promptly at 7:15 p.m. a representative of the Coop's auditor—Robert Reitman from Cornick Garber & Sandler—presented the Coop's audited financial statement for the fiscal year ending January 28, 2018. Reitman systematically went through the main documents: the balance sheet, income statement, statement of change in members' equity, cash flow statement, and the required notes to all of the above.

Balance Sheet

There were many changes pointed out on the Coop's balance sheet for the most recent fiscal year. First, the Coop's assets have increased to \$8.4 million as of January 28, 2018 from \$7.7 million a year prior, mainly due to a \$758,000 increase in the cash balance. And second, the pension plan liability decreased, due to both changes in the market and changes in the composition of its investments.

The end result is that the Coop has an increase in working capital balance of \$496,000.

Statement of Operations and Comprehensive Income

From the income statement, the top take-home was that even though operating expenses increased, so did revenue, while gross profit stayed roughly the same (17.2 percent in FY17 vs. 17.3 percent in FY18), meaning that the Coop was able to maintain its profitability in the face of higher costs. As the Coop strives to pass the savings of its unique member-labor structure onto the members, the goal is to break even. So, for Fiscal Year 2018 the Coop achieved that, with a positive but minimal net income of \$38,000.

Statement of Changes in Members' Equity

Another point of interest concerned what's called total members' equity, which primarily refers to members' redeemable investment and retained earnings. In FY18 total members' equity increased by roughly \$600,000, primarily due to increased income on pension plan assets of \$512,000.

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Are You Down with CBD? Cannabidiol Oil Turning Coop Heads

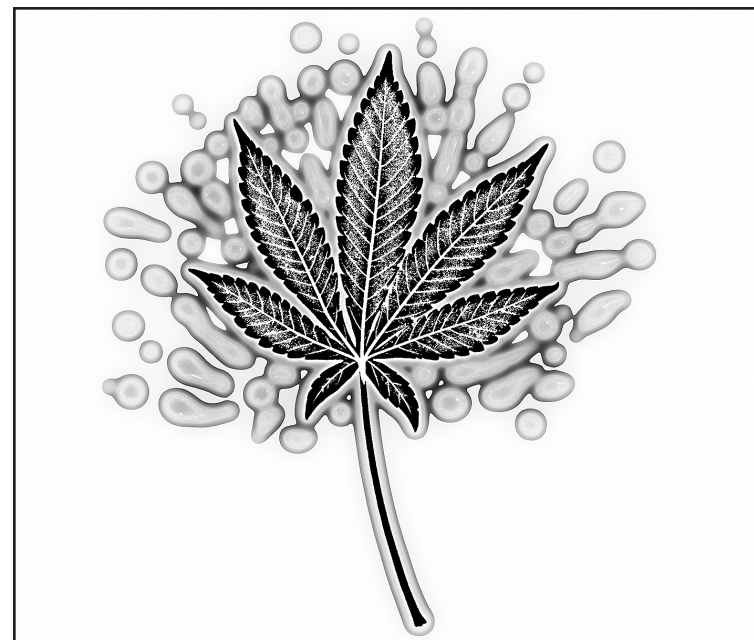


ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL BUCKLEY

By Meredith Kolodner

There's a pricey new product flying off the Coop's shelves, existing as it does in the sweet spot between claims of medical miracles and drug demonization.

No, the Coop is not selling pot—not yet at least. The new "it" item is cannabidiol, better known as CBD, which can be extracted from hemp or cannabis plants. On its own it does not have the psychoactive properties of its favored fellow cannabinoid, THC, but its potential health benefits may be just as potent.

CBD oil, which is used for a wide variety of maladies, has jumped to more than 1 percent of total Coop weekly revenue in the few short months it's been for sale. Whether or not it continues its climb depends in part on whether more research

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Next General Meeting on July 31

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The July General Meeting will be on Tuesday, July 31, at 7:00 p.m. at **St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.**

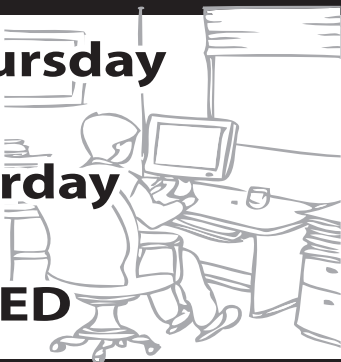
The agenda is in this *Gazette*, on www.foodcoop.com and available as a flier in the entryway of the Coop. For more information about the GM and about Coop governance, please see the center of this issue.

NEW OFFICE HOURS AT THE PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP:

Monday – Thursday
8 am – 8 pm

Friday & Saturday
8 am – 5 pm

Sunday CLOSED



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GM Report

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Statement of Cash Flows

Reitman described this statement as “probably the most important document” as it shows whether the Coop is able to generate cash from its operations, in other words, operate as a viable business. The Coop had an end-of-year net cash increase of \$758,000. As the Coop turns over its inventory frequently, it increases the cash on hand for its basic operations.

Notes to Financial Statements

Reitman waded through the extensive set of notes on the Coop’s financial statements, notes that are required under generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and help explain the basic operations, essentially how to interpret the financial statements.

Reitman responded to several questions from the members. First, he noted that only 46 percent of Coop members have eligible status, meaning that the remainder are inactive and cannot shop. While on the surface this looks problematic, in the discussion General Coordinator Joe Holtz clarified that if you leave the Coop but still have money in it, the Coop still defines you as a member. The Coop has 17,000 members with active status. There are thousands of inactive members, however, who have left but have not redeemed their investment.

Second was the issue of self-funding for health insurance costs. There is an outstanding issue at the state level in New York about the eligibility of entities with 51 to 99 employees to be self-funded. This has not been resolved, but for the current year the Coop is able to buy self-funded insurance and reduce its exposure to increasing health

insurance premiums.

Third was the implications of the recent tax law changes. The Coop’s federal tax rate fell to 21 percent from 35 percent, which reduced the Coop’s deferred tax assets by \$139,000. During the discussion a Coop member asked why, if the federal tax rate went down, the income tax provision increased. The answer is deferred taxes that are now included in that provision. The lower tax rate applies to taxes paid in 2019, not 2018.

Pension Plan Notes

Fourth was the pension and 401K plan, which was a major topic of discussion in the past, with concerns raised about the pension plan’s management, its investment composition and performance.

At the start of the fiscal year it was reported that the pension plan was underfunded by \$592,000—meaning that the plan’s liabilities exceeded its assets. That’s why the Coop made a contribution of \$650,000 in May. But it does not anticipate adding more money to the plan in the current fiscal year.

Reitman, who clarified that he does not comment on the pension plan’s performance strategy, reported that the plan had increased income of \$512,00 this year. At the same time, the Coop’s pension plan liability (the amount of money it must eventually pay out in pensions) has decreased.

Separately, the Coop has hired an actuary firm to quantify the funded status of the pension plan.

Detailed Statement of Operations

At a high level, the Coop’s costs for health and pension benefits decreased, as did personnel costs, although the number of employees increased. Additionally, occupancy costs for its current

space increased because of the phasing out of real estate tax abatements from the city.

Finally, other income increased primarily due to dividends from the Coop’s membership in National Cooperative Grocers. A significant portion of the “Misc. Expenses” category of the financial statement goes to member fees for NCG. Through this membership, though, Coop members receive savings on many products.

After the discussion, a motion to accept the audited financial report was put to the membership and passed overwhelmingly.

Board of Directors Election

Two positions were available for the Board of Directors, and the Coop received applications from two candidates who met the March deadline—Rachel Asher and Sukey Tamarkin.

The candidates each had the opportunity to make one-minute statements, followed by three minutes to answer member questions.

In her statement, Asher discussed her personal connection to the Coop via her childhood participation in her father’s coop, her current role as a board member, and her professional experience working for the Legal Aid Society. Tamarkin discussed her extensive membership in the Coop, and her professional experience as a public school librarian, civil servant, and union member.

The candidates received two questions from the membership. The first: “What would it take for you to vote against the membership?” Asher responded that this is a question that comes up regularly, but that in her experience is not relevant in practice. Both Asher and Tamarkin expressed that only in a case where the member-

ship voted on something that would cause immediate, irreparable financial harm would either consider voting against the membership.

A second question was about unanticipated challenges—both in terms of experience (for Asher), and what one might expect (for Tamarkin). Asher noted that it surprised her how things can become contentious quickly, but that the depth of experience in the Coop enables these situations to get resolved. Tamarkin brought up the use of electronic devices during Board Meetings and the use of photography during the Board Meeting, as she surmised that victims of domestic violence or unclear immigration status may be hesitant to participate as a result.

The election was held via paper ballot, and both Asher and Tamarkin were elected.

General Meeting

After the presentation and election, meeting chair David Moss advanced to the General

Meeting portion. The first item to be discussed was renewing the services of the auditor, presented by General Coordinator Stephanie Lee. The two questions asked concerned whether or not the Coop had solicited bids from other auditors, and what would make the Coop decide to change auditors. Holtz clarified that they did not solicit new bids, and that the Coop has retained the same auditors since 2007, and previously had had the same auditor for 30 years, since the Coop’s incorporation in 1977. The general sentiment expressed was that the benefit of consistently working with an auditor who understands the Coop’s unique business model outweighs the benefits of new advice. A motion was put forward to no discussion, and passed with an overwhelming majority.

The next item on the agenda was the election of officers. Bill Penner was nominated as president, Imani Q’ryn as vice president, Jesse Rosenfeld as secretary, and Stephanie Lee

WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITY

Print Production Professional Signage Committee

The Coop Sign Committee is responsible for designing and producing signage throughout the Coop. You will sometimes put in more than the requisite 2.75 hours per month and will therefore accrue hours. You must meet the following requirements:

- Ability to attend Monday or Thursday night meetings every four-five weeks at 7 PM at the Coop
- Willing to use your own software and to work from home on your own computer
- Must be a Coop member for at least six months
- Must have a good attendance record

Seeking experienced PRODUCTION PROFESSIONAL who meets (at least most of) the following criteria/abilities:

- General graphic design knowledge for signage work (familiarity with InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop preferred). Ideally candidate will have access to these tools at home.
- Ability to prepare files for output using a variety of large format print technologies and PDF workflow. This includes reviewing files from other designers and confirming compatibility for output: color specs, sizing, fonts, etc.
- Checking prepared signage files to ensure designs meet Signage Committee stylebook standards.
- Initiating and managing print jobs with multiple sign projects sent to different outside print vendors, according to project requirements.
- Maintaining pending project database and job file archives.
- Direct knowledge of and working contacts with local signage production houses would be helpful.
- Familiarity with different large format printing systems and materials to determine the best fit for diverse indoor and outdoor signage needs.

If interested, see the **ANNOUNCEMENTS** on foodcoop.com

Election Results

Rachel Asher
Yes - 1384
No - 62
Abstain - 69
Blank - 56

Sukey Tamarkin
Yes - 1288
No - 87
Abstain - 95
Blank - 101

Officer Positions*

President - Bill Penner
Yes - 206
No - 4
Blank - 7

Vice President - Imani Q’Ryn
Yes - 207
No - 1
Blank - 9

Secretary - Jesse Rosenfeld
Yes - 196
No - 11
Blank - 10

Treasurer - Stephanie Lee
Yes - 208
No - 1
Blank - 8

**The officer position vote is considered part of the General Meeting, not the Annual meeting. We do not have an abstain option for votes that occur during regular General Meeting business (per a 2011 GM decision).*

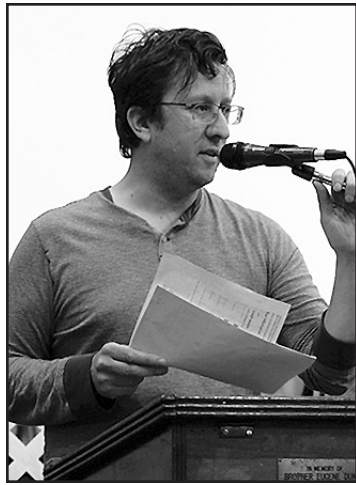
as treasurer. There was limited discussion of the role of treasurer, as Tricia Leith, who is the current treasurer (and has been for 20 years) is retiring in August. Her recommendation was to nominate a general coordinator focused on finance to the treasurer position, given the need to integrate the treasurer's responsibilities with Coop operations, especially when it comes to reviewing vendor payments. There was no discussion, and everyone was elected to the roles for which they were nominated.

Coordinator & Committee Reports

While votes were being counted for both elections, the Chair switched back and forth between regular General Meeting business, including the Coordinator and Committee Reports.

Coordinator Report

General Coordinator Joe Szladek provided a produce and general update, encouraging members to try the produce, much of which is currently coming from the Northeast. Items on shelves include local strawberries, cherries, apri-



General Coordinator Joe Szladek provided a produce and general update.

cots, nectarines, pluots, plums, peaches, donut peaches, cotton candy grapes, lychees, and raspberries in the fruit department, with local squash, zucchini, and spinach, as well as non-GMO corn. There are also lots of local salad greens and some very large watermelons.

The Coop is also selling beer from 20 of the 32 countries that were represented in the World Cup, a tremendous feat by the buying team in sourcing such a diverse range of beers. There also are Korean BBQ-style short ribs.

In terms of general updates,

Szladek provided an update to work on the two shopping floor bathrooms, which are expected to be completed in the next few weeks. And the new member services site is now available on the Coop website.

Committee Reports

Eric Frumin made two announcements from the Labor Committee. The first is a current vacancy. Interested members can apply with a few paragraphs as to why they'd like to join via email to erfrumin@gmail.com. The second was for a forum with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers hosted at the Coop on July 11, which Frumin advertised as a great opportunity for Coop members.

Bart DeCoursy from the International Trade Education Squad provided an update about the Trump Administration's ongoing trade war. He said the two most relevant items for Coop members concerned the administration's interest in stalling NAFTA negotiations in an effort to kill it entirely and replace it with two unilateral trade deals with Mexico and Canada, and the administration's blocking of nominees to the World Trade Organization's appellate body, which settles trade disputes. By blocking nominees the administration is effectively paralyzing the dispute settlement system. Members were also encouraged to review the investor-state dispute settlement system (ISDS) whereby corporations are allowed to sue countries that don't behave favorably towards them, via a June 5 article in *The Guardian*.

Open Forum

Open Forum comments were wide-ranging but of short duration, including a wildly popular comment about reducing the number of hours on shifts, a comment about soap in the bathrooms, suggestions for a dog-watching shift, a thank you by one of the Greek members about the artisanal olive oil and sea salt that are now being sold at the Coop, a request for the Coordinators not to disband the Laundry Squad, a question about how food items are priced, and a question to the Chair Committee about improving management of meetings to avoid abuses (as occurred in a previous Coop meeting via sequential, coordinated two-minute presentations). Members were encouraged to approach the Agenda Committee to instigate further action.

After a brief Board of Directors meeting, the June 26 Annual meeting was brought to a close. ■

NEW: VIEW YOUR MEMBER INFO ONLINE!

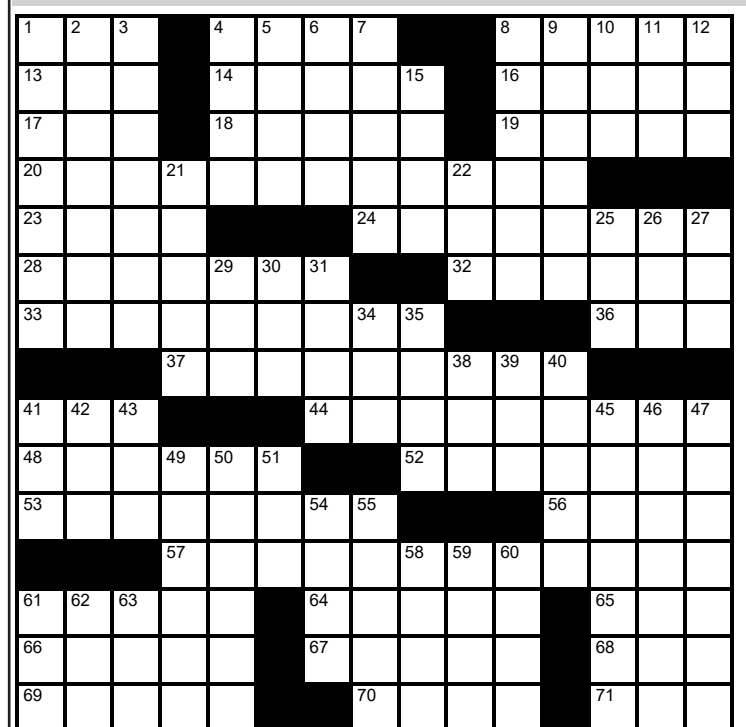
➤ Register for a Member Services account and get 24/7 access to a snapshot of your member info: member & household status, current work slot, upcoming shift dates, including FTOP, and number of make-ups owed.

➤ Click "Member Services" on foodcoop.com to register.

Use the email address you have on file in the Office to create an account.

Don't remember that email or need to update it? Visit the Office in person to verify or update your information.

Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Canadian interjections
4. Rising concerns in modern times?
8. Presided over, as a case
13. "The Confessions of ____ Turner" (1967 Pulitzer winner)
14. Facing the pitcher
16. Totaled
17. Roman 506
18. Neighbor of Jordan
19. Opposite of a liability
20. Key ingredients in Rice Krispie Treats
23. "... ish"
24. Key ingredients in Coquilles St. Jacques
28. Classy person?
32. Fly over the Equator
33. Speaker of the House who called himself "a Democrat without prefix, without suffix, and without apology"
36. ____ Flags
37. Key ingredients in Italian wedding soup
41. Steal from
44. Author of the 2007 book "If I Did It"
48. Tiny bit to eat
52. Like a small farm, perhaps
53. Key ingredients in Bordelaise sauce
56. Freaks (out)
57. Buffet deal ... or a three-letter feature of 20-, 24-, 37- and 53-Across
61. '80s-'90s entertainment combo
64. Stage, as a play
65. Reverse of SSW
66. Japanese watchmaker
67. Shade of green
68. Quick smoke?
69. Minuscule, informally
70. Killed, as a dragon
71. Heart chart: Abbr.

Down

1. Farthest
2. Pale yellow Danish cheese
3. Agitates
4. Miss America accessory

5. It may follow a def.

6. ____ Kadabra (DC Comics foe of the Flash)
7. Flies (through)
8. Tries to catch shrimp, say
9. Fight in the backwoods
10. Helpful connections
11. Summer in Provence
12. Pixel, e.g.
15. It's 1 on the Mohs scale
21. What Lot's wife looked back at
22. Cracklin' ____ Bran
25. Fifth qtrs.
26. It comes between chi and omega
27. ____ ed
29. Chemical suffix
30. Org. with a campaign called "Degrees Not Debt"
31. One of the Jackson 5
34. ____ Ranch (onetime "Texas White House")
35. Have legs
38. Fib
39. Trio after K
40. Offspring
41. Hotel capacity: Abbr.
42. "How cool!"
43. Maidenform product
45. "It's true whether or not you believe in it": Neil deGrasse Tyson
46. Free of hormones, say
47. Retirement fund
49. Pants
50. Crime novelist James who wrote "L.A. Confidential"
51. Response to an online joke
54. Tears for fears, for example
55. Persons
58. Elec., e.g.
59. Smuggler's hideaway
60. Freshly
61. "The Waste Land" poet's monogram
62. Neckline shape
63. Longtime Dodger announcer ____ Scully

Puzzle author: David Levinson-Wilk. For answers, see page 12.

ATTENTION New Monday Orientation Time

Starting **July 16th**
monday orientations will begin
half an hour earlier at:

7:00PM

CBD Oil

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

can verify claims of physical and emotional pain relief, and whether Attorney General Jeff Sessions and the Drug Enforcement Administration decide to give it a pass in their continuing crackdown on American drug use.

The Coop sold \$13,700 in CBD products in just the first week of June, making up more than one percent of the week's total sales of \$1,000,033, according to Joe Szladek, a General Coordinator.

"It's not normal," he said, explaining that most new products, even if successful, don't create such a large bump in volume.

"People are really excited about this, obviously," Szladek said. "It's hard to find these products other places for even close to these prices."

Serum & Salves in Locked Case

Part of the reason revenues have been high is that even though the products are a relative bargain, they are expensive. A bottle of the serum, which is taken orally with a dropper, starts at around \$50 and can go above \$100. That's part of why it's being kept in a locked case in the end cap aisle near the ice cream case. Disappearing CBD products could add up to significant financial loss-

es. So members must page for the item and then give their name and Coop number when they get one.

The Coop currently sells several brands in several different dosages and is looking for more suppliers. Members can buy the serum, as well as salves, which are applied topically. The serum is often used as a sleep aid, for general physical and mental wellness, for inflammation and for anxiety. The salve is mostly used for pain management.

"People are really excited about this."

—Joe Szladek

Receiving Coordinator Spread the Word

Receiving Coordinator Theresa Gray was the buyer who brought the idea of carrying CBD to the Coop General Coordinators. She sustained an injury over the winter and was trying to find a way to control the pain from tendinitis, she said. One of the Coop's hemp soap suppliers sent her a sample. It not only relieved the pain but also helped her to sleep.

"When you fall asleep, you heal," said Gray. "You allow your body to do what it can do...I was like, oh my god, we need this at the Coop."

She said there were some skeptics initially but a general willingness to give CBD a

try. She picked two vendors after doing some research on the debates around the extraction process. There are varying opinions on the best way to extract CBD from hemp or cannabis and whether (and which) other cannabinoids should be included in the products.

Greg Kerber, the CEO of Gnome Serum, which the Coop sells, asserts that CBD is most effective in concert with some other cannabinoids found in hemp, in particular THC.

"I cannot be convinced that CBD's without it (THC) is the same in its effectiveness," Kerber said.

THC & Drug Tests

Gnome's products are extracted from hemp and have 0.24 percent THC (federal law designates anything with a THC level below 0.30 percent as hemp and not marijuana or cannabis), which at a regular dose should not have any psychoactive effect on most users, Kerber said. But he warned that anyone taking a normal daily dose of Gnome's 750mg CBD serum for a month will test positive for THC on most drug tests.

He also noted that each individual must find the dose that works best for them, a thought that was echoed by several Coop members who have used CBD-based products. Some said they take a dose at night, because it makes them sleepy, while others take it in the morning and say it helps them feel relaxed throughout the day.

A "Miracle"

Some members, like guitarist Bev Grant, have found CBD-based topical ointments helpful for pain. Grant has arthritis in her thumbs and was having trouble holding her pick. After getting a cortisone shot and starting physical therapy she tried a CBD-based salve. It meant she no longer had trouble holding a pick and didn't have pain at night. "For me, it was a miracle," said Grant, who is 76 years old, "and it didn't get me high."

Others aren't so sure. Coop member Annie Keating said she tried one of the serums, having been told that it didn't contain THC. At first she found it relaxing when she took it at night, but she hasn't used it since having an unpleasant experience in April. "It crossed the line from relaxation to, uh oh, I feel sort of chemically altered," she said. "I didn't

like the feeling, but maybe I didn't pay enough attention to the dose."

Research Incomplete

The research on the medical use for CBD is promising but incomplete for many conditions. There have been multiple, double-blind studies confirming that CBD helps young people with some kinds of severe epilepsy, and the federal Food and Drug Administration in June approved a CBD-based product to treat it. That marked the first time the FDA has ever approved any cannabis-derived substance for a specific medical use.

There have also been several studies that showed CBD oil helps in pain management, but most have studied CBD in concert with low levels of THC.

Researchers are hopeful about the use of CBD for anxiety, depression, and even addiction treatment, but while some of the studies have shown positive outcomes, others have shown no effect at all.

There is also a difference between pharmaceutical- or research-grade cannabis and that grown for consumer use. There isn't much research available on the long-term effects of CBD or the other more than 100 cannabinoids found in hemp and cannabis. Even less is known about how these substances work together and the effect of isolating them.

"For me, it was a miracle, and it didn't get me high."

—Bev Grant

Part of the reason that the information on CBD usage and effect isn't more robust is that medical research ground to a halt when the United States effectively outlawed cannabis and hemp in 1937. Hemp was widely grown in the United States and in Mexico in the 1800s, and Americans could buy medicines made from cannabis in pharmacies to treat nausea, headaches, insomnia, and a host of other ailments in the late 19th century. Efforts to curb imports and use grew alongside rising anti-immigrant sentiment and hostility towards Mexico in the early 1900s, and 29 states outlawed the use of marijuana between 1916 and 1931.

But the real public relations war on marijuana took off in 1930, just as alcohol prohibition was crumbling.

Harry Anslinger, the first commissioner of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, ignored the advice and opinions of dozens of scientists, and the repeated pleas of many doctors, and began to promote the idea that marijuana was dangerous. The Marijuana Tax Act of 1937 basically banned it, even though the American Medical Association objected, citing important medical uses. The legislation passed just a year after a wildly inaccurate film called *Reefer Madness* became a national sensation—it essentially claimed that smoking weed turned young people into sex-crazed maniacs.

Anslinger also used and bolstered racism in his efforts to outlaw pot: "There are 100,000 total marijuana smokers in the U.S., and most are Negroes, Hispanics, Filipinos, and entertainers. Their Satanic music, jazz, and swing result from marijuana use. This marijuana causes white women to seek sexual relations with Negroes, entertainers, and others."

The Controlled Substances Act in 1970 reaffirmed the dangers of marijuana, classifying it as a Schedule I drug, the most restricted and dangerous category. And there is ample evidence that the racism that was part of its criminalization continues today in its enforcement. Black men, especially low-income black men, are arrested, prosecuted, and jailed in much larger numbers for marijuana use than white Americans of any income background who have similar usage patterns.

The use and distribution of cannabis and its products remains a federal crime even though nine states have now made recreational use legal for adults over 21, and 30 states have legalized it for medical purposes. A Gallup poll last year showed that almost two-thirds of Americans think marijuana should be legal, including a majority of Republicans.

Despite continued anti-cannabis rhetoric and proclamations from Attorney General Sessions, it is likely that research will continue to proliferate as scientists find new freedom to study the uses and effects of this multifaceted plant.

Coop staff also expect sales to continue to climb.

"It hasn't leveled off yet. Sometimes as quick as things rise, they can also fall," said Szladek. "Kombucha didn't do that, and I don't think this will either." ■

The Linewaiters' Gazette is looking for a PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER

You will work with a team of three other artists, under the guidance of an art director, to take photos for the articles. This is a regular workslot that has strict deadlines. The Gazette is always printed in grayscale (no color photos); the photos must be submitted digitally. The photographers work on an eight-week rotation. You have to have been a member of the Coop for at least one year.



If interested
please
send resume
to
annette@psfc.coop

Aged to Perfection: The Cheese Caves of Crown Heights



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CROWN FINISH CAVES

By Pat Smith

Summer's here, time to beat the heat! Where's the coolest place in town, outside of the Coop meat locker? Crown Finish Caves, 30 feet beneath the steamy street in Crown Heights, where it's a year-round 50 degrees. The scene is chill in these arched brick tunnels of a former brewery. The place is packed with 30,000 pounds of glorious, aromatic, aging cheese. Since cheese mostly rules my world, I took a tour with Benton Brown, a caveman cheese maven with a crazy glint in his eyes, to talk about how he and his partner Susan Boyle got into the business, where they get their product, and what else is lurking there underground.

Young and Immature

When Benton and Boyle bought the building in 2001, were they planning to fill the tunnels with cheese? "Not at all—our idea was to rent out some units and pay our debt as fast as we could," Benton said. "These underground spaces were sort of the last thing on the table. We both had a real passion for cheese, so I was thinking we should make it. But I quickly learned that that was not a good idea. We don't have any animals. Then we realized this space is ideal for affinage, the French term for cheese maturing. The temperature is almost perfect because we're so deep. The only reason we have climate controls is that the cheese puts off heat as it's fermenting."

Despite the unusual space, the business model is traditional. "It's not a new idea to age cheese in an

urban environment—they've been doing it in France forever," Benton said. "The producers stay on the farm, they bring in their cheese, but it's young, it's not ready for sale, so they sell it to the affineur. They get their money and they get back on the farm. They don't have to constantly peddle their product."

Learning from the Cheese Whisperer

Not many people would think of cheese as the answer to unused space in Brooklyn. Did Benton grow up dairying? "No, I grew up in Nashville, Tennessee, from more of a construction, architecture and art background," he said. "I was in the art world. But the cheese world is a much better world. You get to work with farmers. There are no galleries, but there are awesome restaurants and places that you want to get your art, your cheese, into. So, it's kind of analogous."

Who opened the door to the cheese world? "Peter Dixon," Benton said. "He's a great cheesemaker, he teaches, he's been around a long time. They call him the Cheese Whisperer. I saw his ad for dairy food consulting at Consider Bardwell Farm in Vermont, where he was the cheesemaker at the time. I went up there and took a class. Then I came back to him again, because he was offering a course on affinage. I got to be better friends with Peter and he said he was going to start his own creamery with his wife. It's very hard to do such a thing, but easier if there's someone like me who's going to give him a lot of money, right off

the bat, to make something, not knowing what it's going to taste like. And he made great cheeses for us. So, it worked. We agreed to take half of the production of his new creamery, Parish Hill. At the start we got all of our cheese from that small cave."

A Prized Customer

Once the cave was up and running, how did Benton spread the word? "There's something called the American Cheese Society Conference," Benton said. "They have a competition, and the first year we entered, we won! We got first place in the washed-rind category with Peter Dixon's cheese called Vermont Herdsman. I think that maybe put us on the map a little bit. Whole Foods said they wanted to do a project. We had a meeting at Grafton Creamery in Vermont, and we figured out an exclusive brand. It's a natural rind cheddar. It would be considered a raw-milk cheese; it's unpasteurized. That's a lot of what's in the middle of the cave. It helps us stay in business because they're a regular customer."

Very Special Milk

Crown Finish Caves also buys milk from farmers and designs its own cheeses. "We work with them, and we co-brand," Benton said. "We're a little bit unusual, we're not a distributor. The Coop orders cheese directly from us, but we're all about sharing where this stuff came from. A lot of the affineurs in France brand the cheese with their own name. Who made it? You won't know."

Benton walked us over to a shelf of big, golden, Alpine-style wheels. "Here's a cheese that's called Tubby," he said. "The Coop gets this. It's being aged for about a year. We get it from a place called Springbrook Farm in Vermont. Springbrook was having a lot of excess milk. They wanted to keep up their relationships with farms that are producing milk solely for them, but they needed to put it somewhere. And cheese milk is different, more costly than regular milk. You've got to give the animals special feed and they have to be treated a certain way. Farms get more than the commodity milk prices for cheese milk. Tubby is a product of that excess milk. It's helping those farms that would otherwise go out of business at commodity prices.

We have 400 30-lb. wheels in here. We have people pulling them out, flipping them and washing them in a salt brine. Despite the romanticism of cheese aging, it's really hard work. You have to really love it. But we do because you see dramatic changes on a daily basis."

Bugs in the System

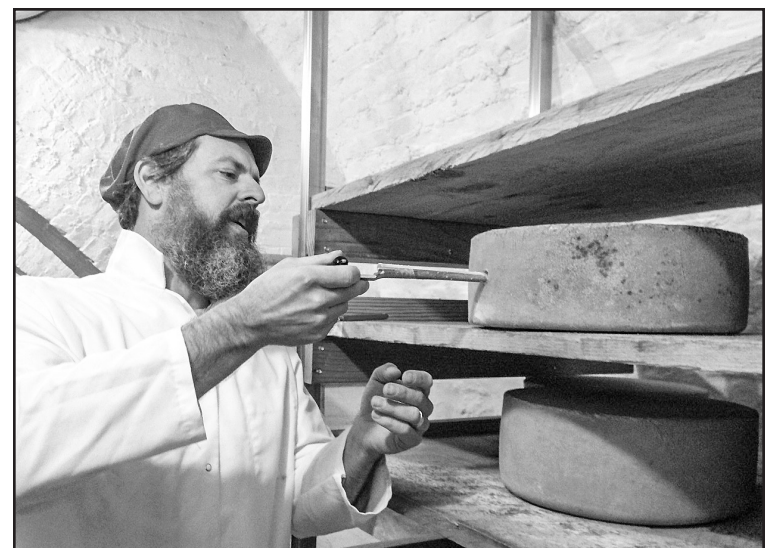
Along with tons of cheese the tunnel also houses a happy population of cheese mites, microorganisms that exist everywhere but especially love the damp, cool atmosphere found in caves d'affinage. "I don't know where the mites come from," Benton said. "I do know you can never get rid of them. You can only kind of control them. We brush and vacuum. A lot of what we do in the affinage is constantly brushing and turning the cheese to control the mites and to help promote the growth of different molds."

All Directions Point to Cheese

What other cheese does Crown Finish sell to the Coop? "Cloud Heights, our newest cheese," Benton said. "Yuri [Weber, Coop cheese buyer] loved it, he came over and did a big tasting. The name is a take-off on Crown Heights; it's a super fluffy goat and cow cheese, a typical French-looking cheese. The Coop also buys Gatekeeper, a sheep milk cheese. And when we wash the same cheese in beer it's called Trifecta, in a square format. The Coop buys that as well. They're quick and easy. Grab one for a picnic and go."

What drew Benton to his cheese adventure? "You can take cheese in all these different directions," he said. "I was never a painter, but it's this endless canvas, this blank slate. A sort of creative lab. That's what's exciting." ■

Visit the Crown Finish Caves website at crownfinishcaves.com.



Crown Finish Caves' owner and affineur Benton Brown tests a cheese for maturity.

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 via e-mail to GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop.

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.

SUMMERTIME

DON'T FORGET YOUR COOP SHIFT!



If you plan on being away during one of your workslots, please make arrangements to have your shift covered.

One way to do it is to use the Shift Swap at www.foodcoop.com!

If you plan on being away for eight weeks or more, contact the Membership Office to take a leave of absence.

YOUR CO-WORKERS WILL LOVE YOU FOR IT!

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
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:

Coordinating Editors: Carl Arnold

Alison Rose Levy

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Diana Quick

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Final Proofreader: Nancy Rosenberg

Puzzle Master: David Levinson-Wilk

Index: Len Neufeld

Advertisement: Eric Bishop

WELCOME!

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

Meaghan Accarino	Sarah Capshaw	Melissa Hohl	Genevieve Morton	Sourabh Singhal
Dane Aloe	Ben Carey	Rafael Jaeger	Amanda Nietzel	Michael Solomon
Janus Babstock	Zo Carroll	Rabia Jaffe	Parisa Pahlevan	Sarah Taitz
Max Basch	Alexandra Coffey	Karen Jarman	Ben Parisi	Vita Taurke
Mira Lena Bhattacharya	Stephanie Dos Santos	Rosa Joly	Nanette Phillips	Emmy Thelander
Lynn Bianchi	Kate Dunn	Artemis Karotseri-Vermeulen	Elizabeth Redekop	William Todd
Robert Bianchi	Andre Eamiello	Amy Kelly	Nina Richardson	Julie Trachtenberg
Fredda Bisman	Grace Edquist	Haley-Jo Kenny	Elena Rodriguez	Matthew Truslow
Mark Bisman	Ilona Farkas	Zouhair Khallaf	Emily Rogers	Mikahla Vicino
Margaret Bissell	Robert Franco-Tayar	Akiko Kobayashi	Rachel Seed	Rochelle Voyles
Frantz Boisson	Tyler Gilmore	Meghan LaValley	Justin Shaw	Kim Wormley
Whitney Browne	Dagmara Grabowski-Aloe	Donald Leistman	Robin Shaw	Matt Wormley
Kevin Burg	Julia Hanson	Margaret Liffey	Temitope Shoneye	Jun Zhao
David Calhoun	Lynne Hirschfeld	Rosy McMahan	Mariko Singhal	

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.

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, JULY 31:
GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, AUGUST 7
AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 7:30 p.m.
Submissions will be considered for the August 28 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

Aug 2 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Jul 23
Aug 16 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Aug 6

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

Aug 2 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Jul 25
Aug 16 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Aug 8

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, July 31, 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.

• Advance Sign-up required:

To be eligible for workslot credit, you must sign-up at foodcoop.com. A computer dedicated to sign-ups is located in the elevator lobby. You may sign up for the meeting all month long, until 5 p.m. of the day of the meeting.

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

jul 31
tue 7 pm

PSFC JUL 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: PSFC Public Endorsement of New York Health Act (25 minutes)

Proposal: To publicly endorse the NY Health Act, guaranteed universal healthcare for all in NY, on the CNYH website and to publish a Memo of Support.

—submitted by Lynn Evans and Marion Yuen

Item 2: Home Delivery (30 minutes)

Proposal: Should the Coop form a temporary committee of five to six members for six months to gather information and present a final report/proposal about expanding options for shopping for people with mobility limits? Yea or Nay.

—submitted by Sharon Goldzweig, George Olken, Lenore Los Kamp

Item 3: Formation of Pension Advisory Committee (35 minutes)

Proposal: To create an advisory committee comprised of five members and two Area Coordinators who will represent the interests of the membership, the staff, and the Coop as a whole concerning the Coop's Defined Benefit Pension Plan. The committee will be charged with: monitoring the overall performance of the fund; maintaining regular communication with the Pension Plan Trustees; ongoing education about the pension plan and reporting of pension plan performance to the membership at large via GM committee reports and/or Gazette articles.

—submitted by PSFC Employees in Favor of the Formation of Pension Advisory Committee

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.

jul 31
tue 7:30 pm

Do You Know the 10 Signs of Alzheimer's Disease?

Early detection matters. The warning signs of Alzheimer's disease are often dismissed as side effects of normal aging. If you or someone you know is experiencing memory loss or behavioral changes, it's time to learn the facts. Also, please join us if you're interested to learn, generally, about the disease and how your participation via the Brooklyn Walk to End Alzheimer's can help contribute to finding a cure. Eve Vaval is a Licensed Master's Social Worker who offers a different perspective on dealing with this disease as she is not just a professional who works with the Alzheimer's Association, but also a caregiver for her father who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Coop member **Wendy Blattner** is an Alzheimer's Association NYC Chapter board member and the Chair of the Brooklyn Walk to End Alzheimer's.

aug 3
fri 7 pm

Film Night: Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA



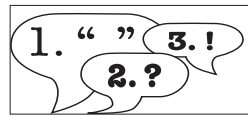
Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA tells the stories of how guns, and the billions made off of them, affect the lives of everyday Americans. It features personal stories from people across the country who have been affected by gun violence, including survivors and

victims' families. The film exposes how the powerful gun companies and the NRA are resisting responsible legislation for the sake of profit—and thereby putting people in danger. The film looks into gun tragedies that include unintentional shootings, domestic violence, suicides, mass shootings and trafficking—and what we can do to put an end to this profit-driven crisis. Through this film and campaign, Brave New Films will work with partners to fight for a country where public safety is more valued than profit. **Robijn van Giesen** is a strategic researcher and consultant, with more than 200 projects' worth of experience working on electoral campaigns, corporate accountability projects and as an advisor to legal and non-profits clients. Van Giesen was hired as a research consultant for the film *Making a Killing* and now works as senior researcher for Vigilant Strategic in New York City.

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

aug 7
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 August General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 28, 7 p.m., at St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.

aug 15
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.

aug 28
tue 7 pm

PSFC AUG General Meeting

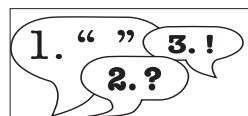


Meeting Agenda to be announced. For information on how to place an item on the Agenda, please see the center pages of the *Linewaiters' Gazette*. The Agenda Committee minutes and the status of pending agenda items are available in the Coop office.

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

sep 4
tue 7:30 pm

Agenda Committee Meeting



The Committee reviews pending agenda items and creates the agenda for future General Meetings. Drop by and talk with committee members face-to-face between 7:30 and 7:45 p.m. Before submitting an item, read "How to Develop an Agenda Item for the

General Meeting" and fill out the General Meeting Agenda Item Submission Form, both available from the Membership Office or at foodcoop.com.

The August General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 25, 7 p.m., at St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.

For more information on these and other events, visit the Coop's website: foodcoop.com

All events take place at the Park Slope Food Coop unless otherwise noted. Nonmembers are welcome to attend workshops.

Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop.

PLASTIC PACKAGING RECYCLING

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

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

For Coop members only

Please be prepared to show your Coop membership card.

Plastic bags/wrap/packaging 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.

Plastic food storage zip lock bags (any size), plastic cling wrap, and small bulk bags.

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

For all community members:

Pre-sort and separate according to the categories below.



Toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes
Energy bar wrappers and granola bar wrappers
Brita water filters and related items (other brands also accepted)
Cereal and cracker bags/box liners



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?
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



ecokvetch

the environmental
committee blog

Tip of the MONTH!

Kill the vampires!
So many electronics—
appliances, games,
computers, chargers, TVs,
sound systems—
suck electricity from the
grid when you're not
using them. If you keep
them plugged into power
strips you can easily
keep them off when you're
not using them.

Learn more at:
ecokvetch.blogspot.com

Have you lost something valuable?

**Perhaps you lost it at the
Park Slope Food Coop!**

**Come up to the
Membership Office to
reclaim your valuables.**



**PLEASE RETURN FOOD COOP
BOX CUTTERS AND PENS TO THE
FOOD COOP, IF YOU HAVE THEM
IN YOUR POCKETS OR AT HOME.**



THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



PSFC AND THE NEW YORK HEALTH ACT

DEAR EDITORS,

As one of the speakers at the May 29 GM urging the Coop to adopt a resolution in support of the New York Health Act, I was pleased to see the *Gazette's* coverage of our presentation in the June 21 issue. (My only caveat is that I am not, in fact, a physician; I teach public health and health policy.)

But I am dismayed at the article "Do You Support Universal Health Care for All New Yorkers?" in the July 5 *Gazette*. While presenting the views of some PSFC members in favor of the Act, its opening sentence is written in scare quotes: "A small group of Coop members are pushing for the PSFC to publicly endorse the New York Health Act." The article continues with some comments by some of the bill's supporters, and then turns, presumably for "balance," to—of all places—The Empire Center. What's the Empire Center, you may ask? It's one of a number of state-based right-wing, Koch-funded "think" tanks working against the interests of working people in a multitude of ways. Its own mission statement says that "Our mission is to make New York a better place to live and work by promoting public policy reforms grounded in free-market principles, personal responsibility, and the ideals of effective and accountable government." The person quoted extensively in the article trots out the same tired arguments about unaffordability—when the data in fact show the exact opposite: it is our current system, not an efficiently financed Medicare-for-All system, that is economically unsustainable. Our current system is, in addition, a public-health threat, and finally—and most importantly—a violation of the basic human right to health care.

I would urge all PSFC members to learn more about this exciting legislation by visiting the Campaign for New York Health website and learning more for yourself. But please, folks, let's not fall for the right's anti-healthcare foolishness.

Yours in cooperation,
Martha Livingston

LETTER TO THE EDITOR AND CORRECTION TO JULY 5 ARTICLE: "DO YOU SUPPORT UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE FOR ALL NEW YORKERS?"

DEAR EDITOR,

In response to this article, I'd like to correct my name as it is incorrect in the article; from Jane "Lewis," to Jane Willis. And to add: We Coop members/Volunteers for The Campaign for New York Health express again our belief that the New York Health Act/Universal Healthcare for all New Yorkers aligns with the principles and values of the PSFC's Mission Statement:

"We seek to avoid products that depend on the exploitation of others..." NYHA: For-Profit Health Insurance sells health insurance "products" (what they are literally called by insurers) and prescriptions at inflated costs. Many New Yorkers cannot afford the premiums, co-pays, deductibles of ACA plans. Small businesses buckle under and close shop in having to carry these expenses for employees.

"...We try to lead by example, educating ourselves and others about health and nutrition." NYHA: The New York Health Act allows individuals to choose their own doctors and pathways to care in a way that the current For-Profit system does not. Therefore, we will be a more healthcare literate public, with better access to a system that serves people, instead of For-Profit Insurance and Big Pharma.

"...We are committed to diversity and equality." NYHA: Everyone—regardless of long or short term medical care needs, gender (including Reproductive Health Care), annual income, documentation, age, or employment status will be eligible for health coverage.

"We oppose discrimination in any form...We welcome all who respect these values..." NYHA: All New Yorkers would have access to healthcare through a Progressive Tax—based on ability to pay/annual income. This would replace skyrocketing premiums, deductibles and co-pays that enrich For-Profit Insurers and Big Pharma.

We believe that PSFC can be a shining example of a

respected and credible institution that stands with an inclusive and more socially just healthcare system, and that our position would send a powerful message to our state legislators.

Jane Willis

GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF THE DIAPER WIPES PROBLEM

DEAR MEMBERS,

It's always great to read an article on the environmental impact of Coop products in the *Gazette* ("Paper Products: Cleaning up at Home—and Burdening the Planet?" June 21). I for one would love to read more about the Environmental Committee's work.

It's worth mentioning though that the article groups diaper wipes with paper towels and toilet paper under the banner of paper products. Diaper wipes are not actually a paper product at all. In fact, thinking of them as such is confusing—they should never be put in the paper recycling bin and the majority should not be composted or flushed, while paper products can be.

Rather than paper, which breaks apart when wet, wipes are made from "nonwoven fabric" and the majority of them are strengthened with plastic fibers. Seventh Generation, who deserve a hat tip for transparency if not eco-friendliness, state on their package that their wipe is made from wood pulp, polyethylene and polypropylene. This means that each Seventh Generation wipe you use will languish in landfill, never fully biodegrading and only ever breaking down into harmful plastic microfibers. Those that get flushed cause havoc with sewage treatment plants and any that end up in the ocean will float around for a long time, ready to be gobbled up by turtles.

Earth's Best wipes are also reportedly over 60% polyester-based and while I was unable to find data for Field Day wipes they make absolutely no claims of eco-friendliness or biodegradability. So probably more plastic.

The Honest Co. proudly state that they use a plant-based material and Naty wipes are made from wood pulp. While these get points for using renewable resources

and being biodegradable, the exact process used for turning the raw cellulose into fabric is not disclosed and is likely to be far from earth-friendly. In addition, Naty wipes contain Potassium Sorbate and Sodium Benzoate, chemicals rated as a three (Moderate Hazard) on EWG's Skin Deep database.

So what's the best choice? Obviously in an ideal world using reusable cloth and water is the greenest option. But in the real world of parenting where convenience is king, it's clear we need more and better eco-friendly wipe choices (at the Coop and in general) and lots more transparency into the lifecycle of the ubiquitous wet wipe.

Ella Ryan

A PLEA TO COOP ADMINISTRATORS AND THE GAZETTE COMMITTEE

TO THE ADMINISTRATORS, GAZETTE COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS,

The international effort by organizations and individuals to attack and isolate Israel through boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) has done nothing to achieve peace or to help the Palestinian people. Its sole purpose is to vilify and isolate Israel.

In response, Congress, state governments, and human rights groups, along with other countries, have labeled the BDS movement anti-Semitic and are passing laws to make its support by large companies, states, and local governments illegal.

States passing or considering such laws include New York, Arizona, Texas, South Carolina, California, Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Illinois and Florida.

One NYS co-op, the Ithaca Green Star Food Co-op, on advice from its attorney, rejected BDS because it violates New York State's Human Rights Law.

The French government formally classified BDS activity as criminal. The Dutch parliament and those in Spain and Switzerland have prohibited government funding for BDS. The UN Committee for Human Rights discussed making it illegal for U.S. companies to boycott Israel. The Canadian parliament rejected BDS saying, "It promotes the demoni-

zation and delegitimization of the state of Israel."

A number of German political parties, including Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union Party, observed that BDS is a modernized version of the Nazi movement's boycott campaign against Jewish businesses during the 1930s.

In a poll taken in the United Kingdom last year, the vast majority of Jewish respondents said they felt "directly threatened by the BDS movement" since they "had witnessed anti-Semitism disguised as a political comment about Israel or Zionism."

However, even in view of international recognition of the destructive and anti-Semitic nature of BDS, our Coop continues to publish factually inaccurate pro-BDS letters. I appreciate that *Gazette* editors don't have time to fact-check letters on so complex a subject and this alone is reason not to publish them.

It has been pointed out repeatedly that pro-BDS letters violate the *Gazette's* guidelines as well as the Coop's mission statement: "...We strive to make the Coop welcoming...to all and to respect the...needs and concerns of every member." The Coop was founded to be supportive and respectful to all its members, regardless of their faith, nationality or color.

For years many of us have been writing opposing letters in the *Gazette*, pointing out inaccuracies, distortions and outright falsehoods in published pro-BDS letters. For the most part our letters have expressed factual, logical and political disagreements rather than our feelings about this movement.

For the record, I'd like to express mine. I'm currently a psychotherapist and was formerly a philosophy instructor specializing in Ethical Theory, a subject I've taught at two universities. For years Coop administrators and *Gazette* personnel have tacitly agreed to the continued publication of letters in support of a movement widely considered anti-Semitic. This has had strong emotional, and sometimes even physical, effects on many members.

Like others, I find it extremely disturbing, painful, and morally abhorrent.

Please stop publishing them.

Ruth Bolletino

Coop Job Opening: Receiving Coordinator Evenings/Weekends

Description:

All Receiving Coordinators ensure the smooth functioning of the Coop.

- Facilitate and supervise continual stocking of the store
- Train working members how to stock and complete projects
- Communicate with Squad Leaders and squads about priorities
- Sustain knowledge about products and inventory
- Answer members' questions
- Respond to physical plant and refrigeration issues

Evening/Weekend Receiving Coordinators are generalists who work with members to maintain and restock all aisles including produce. They also oversee late deliveries, inspect for dates/quality, and support the Receiving and Food Processing squads.

The ideal candidate will:

- enjoy working with people and crowds
- be an excellent team player with strong communication skills
- have ability to teach, explain procedures, give feedback
- be able to evaluate Coop needs, prioritize tasks and delegate work
- be comfortable with computers (Macs preferred)
- experience working in a grocery store is a plus

Hours: 38 hours. 5 days per week including both Saturdays and Sundays.

Wages: \$28.12/hour

Benefits: A generous package including but not limited to: 3 weeks vacation, 11 Health/Personal days, health insurance, and a pension plan.

Requirements:

Candidates must be current members of the Park Slope Food Coop for at least six months immediately prior to application.

Applicants must be prepared to work during holidays, the Coop's busiest times.

Applicants must be able to:

- lift up to 50 pounds
- reach, crouch, bend, stand, climb stairs and work for hours in walk-in coolers and freezers
- work with and around common allergens including nuts and dust
- work in noisy, hectic surroundings

How to Apply:

We strongly encourage candidates to work one Saturday or Sunday afternoon Receiving shift. Please introduce yourself as an applicant to one of the Receiving Coordinators.

Attach resume and cover letter as a single document at the link below:

<http://bit.do/receivingcoordinator042618>

Applicants will receive acknowledgment of application via email. Do not call the Membership Office to check on the status of application. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until position is filled. If you applied to a previous Coop job offering, please re-submit your materials.

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.

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Director
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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, low lights, highlights, hot oil treatments in the convenience of your home or mine. Kids \$20+up. Adults

\$35+up. I also specialize in autistic and special needs children and adults. 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 Wednesdays through Sundays.

THE ARTFUL DODGER is a reasonable, clean, efficient artist run company that has served NY for over 35 yrs. Everything from the initial stages of wall prep to the final coat of paint are handled with the same level of expertise. Insured. Satisfaction guaranteed! FREE estimates. 646-734-0899, eyegrease@earthlink.net.

Need a live-in nanny? Babysitter? Eldercare? Household help? Mother with 10+ year experience with childcare; good w/ household chores and cooking; responsible and hard work-

ing. Avail. 9/18 as live-in or daily help. References avail. contact Tasha Paley, tashapal@gmail.com 917-200-8451.

SERVICES-HEALTH

YOU ARE INVITED TO my psychotherapy-focused practice to reduce the stress in your relationships and relieve anxiety. I am a community psychiatrist with more than 20 yrs of experience. For more info visit www.anxietyreliefpsychiatrist.com or call 718-570-7701. Albert Speranza, MD.

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. \$74K-76.5K. www.reynoldshills.org. Contact cottages@reynoldshills.org.

THE FOOD CLASS

is seeking "chef instructors" for the monthly Food Class occurring **the first Thursday of the month 5:45 to 9:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor kitchen.**

"Chef instructors" would work one class: demonstrate 3-4 recipes assisted by team members for an audience; attendees receive tastings. Recipes highlight Coop products, relate to food culture, nutrition, and/or cooking

techniques. Professional training not necessary but helpful.

FTOP credit would be earned for prep and class time.



Please contact
parkslopefoodclass@gmail.com
to propose a class.

☆ EXCITING WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITIES ☆

Terracycle—Plastic Recycling

Three hours per shift one shift per month, second Wednesday of the month, 3:30 to 6 p.m.

Must be prepared to work outdoors in front of the Coop—winter months included. Tasks include: setting up the TERRACYCLE table and bringing supplies down to your work area. Staffing the TERRACYCLE throughout the shift. Helping to educate recyclers about the TERRACYCLE PROGRAM. Making sure only acceptable recyclables are donated. Packing the TERRACYCLE shipping box/boxes and taking them to the UPS store. More details provided once you sign-up—this squad communicates via e-mail, so please make sure the Membership Office has your correct e-mail address on file. If interested, please leave a message with Membership Coordinator Cynthia Pennycooke.

Office Set-up

Monday through 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.

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, 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.

Crossword Answers

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Take Advantage of People's Alliance Federal Credit Union Membership

As a Park Slope Food Coop Member, you are entitled to join People's Alliance Federal Credit Union (PAFCU)!

Unlike a bank, they answer to their members—not investors. This allows them to offer higher dividend rates and lower loan rates. The credit union offers the following NO CHARGE Services:

- \$5.00 Minimum Savings Accounts
- Direct Deposit
- No Minimum, No Fee Checking Accounts
- Low Rate Credit Cards
- A Variety of Loans
- And much more!

They also participate in a cooperative shared branching program with other credit unions across the country which gives credit union members access to use nearly 30,000 surcharge-free CO-OP ATMs and more than 5,000 shared branch credit union locations to make in-person transitions.

For membership packets and more information stop by the office at Park Slope Food Coop. Everyone is welcome to visit a People's Alliance branch. For a listing of credit union locations, visit www.pafcu.org.

THANK YOU!

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

Sara Adelsberg
Beatrice Anderson
Jane Anderson
Meghan Bernhardt
Josh Bisker
Aaron Bisman
Caroline Brennan
Brill family
Meg Callery
Akilah Chandler
Abigail Cheney
Janet Christie-Wile
Colin
Evan Corn
Alexandra Crosier
Drew D.
Julian Elman
Grace Ezzell
Ashlie Flood

Sara Freeman
Dawn Froome
Orville Froome
George Fuchs
Jenna G.
Rahsaan Gandy
Fiona Gardner
Phoebe Gilpin
Randy Gordon-Gatica
Amber Gray
Aviva Grinnell
Anna Hanau
Naftali Hanau
Hannah Harpole
Panama Harris
David Hausman
Caroline Hiteshew
Jeff Houghtaling
Jess Jiang

Monica Johnson
Sabrina Kenny
Charles Kitchen
Dina LaFonte
Chloe Lyon
Doug M.
Marjorie M.
Josh MacPhee
Maggie
Mackenzie Martin
Ignacio ("Nacho") Monclus
Helen Noel
Traci O'Kelly
Valerie Opielski
Natalie Oshukany
Cheryl Paswater
Daniel Penny
Karla Pippa
James R.

Molly Rottman
Annie S.
Gabe S.
Ariana Samuelson
Lauren Schoen
Stephanie Schulter
David Shuck
Midea Stewart
Sophia Treanor
Lissy Vomacka
Marie Warsh
Cheyenna Weber
Doug Wile
Dylan Wong
Kim Y.
Marika Yip-Bannicq
Tamara Zahaykevich
Emily Zhang