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Volume HA, Number 5

April 1, 2019

The Big Cheese

Feta comes and goes, but fatbergs are forever

By Lily Muenster

The City of New York has fined the Food Coop \$60 million after Mayor DiBlasio announced at a press conference on Friday that the fatberg recently discovered in the NYC sewer system is comprised primarily of Bulgarian feta from the Park Slope Food Coop. Most fatbergs, like the one found last year in London, are typically comprised of things people either pour down the kitchen sink, like cooking grease, or flush down the toilet, like baby wipes, tampons and goldfish.

NYC's fatberg, which is located near the intersection of Nevins and Union streets, reportedly weighs 240 tons and stretches more than 1,100 feet. "All these years we thought that the foul stench in the area was coming from the Gowanus Canal," DiBlasio explained. "But it turns out that it was the result of a rotting mass of sheep-milk cheese."

Bulgarian feta is a "Coop darling," says General Coordinator Joe Szladek. Or at least it was. In 2018 alone the Coop sold 280,000 pounds of Bulgarian feta, but in January the Coop stopped selling it temporarily because the briny curds were clogging our drains. "We knew it was causing a problem for the Coop's pipes, but we had no idea it was having a wider impact," said Szladek, who will be repeating this unlikely story many times as the Coop fights the charges



Cheddar is nice but feta is betta.

filed by the mayor's office.

The real drama of the rise and fall of Bulgarian feta at the Coop is a little more complicated. Until December the product arrived from our distributor in 5-gallon buckets, the cheese floating loosely in its own salty liquid. It was the job of the Food Processing squads to sift out the curds and then dump the remaining liquid into the sink. As you might imagine, many of those wee curds also made their way down the drain. (The buckets made their way to the Coop's weekly drumming circle at Grand Army Plaza.)

Last summer, during a torrential rainstorm in Park Slope that caused a flash flood, the sinks in the basement backed up, causing a creamy regurgitation the likes of which no one had ever seen at the Coop. "Remember that episode of the *Brady Bunch* where Bobby puts too much soap in the washing machine and the laundry room fills with suds?" asked cheese buyer Yuri Weber, showing his advanced age. "Well, the entire basement frothed with about six feet of feta," he remembers. "When it hit the stash of pitted Kalamata olives and dried oregano we were drowning in the world's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

New York Times columnist and cookbook author **Mark Bittman** announced plans last week to open a new restaurant in Park Slope called the Park Slope Food Coop. When Bittman was asked about the possible conflict with another 45-year-old Park Slope establishment of the same name, Bittman reportedly replied, "Never heard of it."

READ THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 6

Coop Event Highlights

Mon, Apr 1 • Food Class with Yotam Ottolenghi

Psyyyyyyyyyy! But seriously, Membership Coordinator and food blogger Camille Scuria will prepare all 140 recipes from Ottolenghi's most recent cookbook, *Simple*, in under 30 minutes. 7:30 p.m.

Tue, Apr 2 • Film Night Double Feature:

All the President's Men and *Crime and Punishment* (the 1970 Russian version) With special guest speakers Michael Cohen, Paul Manafort and Roger Stone. 7:00 p.m.

Coop to Open a Gym in Industry City

By Dong Corleone

After 42 years of secret meetings with Richard Simmons and Robert DeNiro about the length of Coop work shifts, plus some savvy real estate dealings, the committee known as M.U.S.C.L.E.S. (Maybe U Should Come Lift Eggs, So?) has secured an 18,000 square foot space in Industry City and plans to open a gym for Coop Members ONLY!

Ironically, the gym will be in the midst of the food court and mere feet away from the new restaurant Avocaderia!

After years and years of Receiving workers coming to their shifts and complaining "I can't lift, bend, stand for very long, sit or stretch," the Coop has decided to go full out in supporting the wellbeing of our membership, and our coordinators, by providing them with a state-of-the-art training facility.

The gym will include many perks, not the least of which will be an 8-lane, Olympic-size swimming pool where several Receiving Coordinators (Ibou, Oren, Eric, Mark, Ev, Kusi, Gillian, Jessa, Alex and Jennifer) will work as lifeguards. None of them can swim but all of them are really strong and really funny. The pool will feature three diving boards—10 meters (33 ft. high), 7.5 meters (25 ft) and 5 meters (16 ft)—all of which will ensure that divers have enough time to perform the various acrobatic twists and turns of a particular dive. For example, bread buyer Lisa Hidem can do her renowned interpretive dance dive from the 10 meters board; Joe Szladek will do his Devo tribute dive from the 7.5 meters board; and Joe Doe (generic Coop member) will be pushed off the 5 meters board by a rotating line-up of Receiving Coordinators, beginning with Kevin O., who will call out either "Jump!" or "Dive!" while the member contorts their body mid-air. Completing the jump/dive in perfect form will result in FTOP or makeup credit.

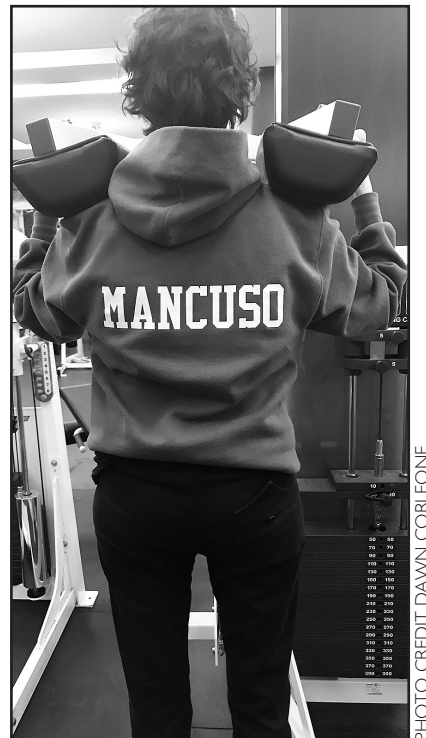


PHOTO CREDIT DAWN CORLEONE

Weightlifting champion Muscles Marinara Mancuso pumps iron at the new Coop gym.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Goings On About the Coop	2
Exciting Workslot Opportunities.	2
Membership Coordinators Arrested in Orientation Scam	3
How to Manage Chronic Pain Naturally	3
Coop Job Opening	3
Prospect Concert	4
Personal Ads	4
Welcome	4
Vegetable of the Month	4
GM Agenda	4

Big Cheese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

largest Greek salad.” (Weber admits to being high on CBD at the time.)

Members who were in the basement during the deluge kept paging out for help from the Maintenance squad, but because there was no Maintenance shift scheduled at the time, the calls for help went unanswered. It took three days to recover the marinated bodies and another eight to clean the basement and bring it back to Health Department standards.

After that incident, the Coop changed its approach to Bulgarian feta and started ordering it from the distributor in pre-packaged 14oz plastic tubs. But after 14 years of handling feta in the sink, the damage to our plumbing, and the city’s, had already been done.

Fast forward to the present and the giant fatberg resting comfortably in the bowels of Brooklyn’s sewer system. According to the Mayor, the cost to dissolve it could cause an economic downturn in New York. He is looking for ways to generate tax revenue, including expanding his millionaires tax to include anyone making



PHOTO CREDIT BY DONG CORLEONE

“Stop undressing me with your eyes and get back to work!” said Cynthia Pennycooke to her fatberg workers.

over \$10,000 a year and to residents who ride the subway more than twice a week. An anonymous source said that the Museum of Natural History is interested in acquiring a sizeable chunk of the fatberg for its Hall of North American Petrified Cheeses, but the museum could not be reached for comment. ■

GOINGS ON ABOUT THE COOP

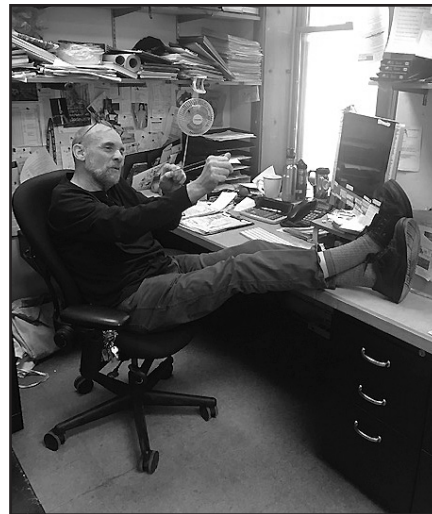
This Month Featuring Cynthia Pennycooke and Joe Holtz

Membership Coordinator Cynthia Pennycooke was seen being picked up in front of the Coop last month by her driver, Cyril, in a Bentley Continental GT. In spite of her efforts to remain anonymous, the initials C.P. emblazoned on her Stella McCartney Falabella tote bag gave her away.

A member yelled out to her as she ducked in to the Bentley, “Hey! What the hell are we paying you that you can afford that car?!” To which Pennycooke replied, “Mind your panniers, mate! And move your recumbent bike before I have my driver flatten it and YOU!”

A week later, Pennycooke was seen skulking through the aisles wearing Savile Row sunglasses and carrying a basket filled with burdock root, Fuller’s ESB, leeks and two bags of Panchamama coffee. When approached by good friend, Willy Wonka Senghor, Pennycooke made efforts to cover up the beer and coffee with her Mouse to Minx scarf.

Joe Holtz was recently injured at his own desk when a wide rubber band that he shot off his thumb ricocheted off the plexiglass wall separating him from the IT Department. “I got incredibly lucky, dude”, said Joe, giggling nervously. “I was aiming for the scales and my pinky twitched causing the rubber band to release early. I’m super psyched that that partition went up a year ago. If it hadn’t I think someone would be minus an eyeball!”



☆ EXCITING WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITIES ☆

Republican Party Committee

In an effort to create a more diverse membership, the Coop is starting a squad made up of members of the Republican Party. Some of the responsibilities of this squad will include building a wall around the Coop, lowering membership fees for our richest members and weakening our Environmental Committee. We welcome Neoconservatives, Paleoconservatives, Libertarians, Tea Partiers, Federalists, Log Cabin Republicans, Nixon Republicans, Reagan Republicans and Irish publicans.

High Five Squad

Were you a cheerleader in high school? Do you enjoy rewarding people for a job well done? Do you have strong hand and wrist muscles? If the answer to those questions is yes, the High Five Squad might be for you. This shift involves walking around the Coop and high-fiving members when they do something good. Examples of behavior deserving of high fives include helping another member reach the potato chips, paying for someone’s groceries when they forget their debit card and telling vis-

itors to stop freeloading and join the Coop. (Hand sanitizer will not be provided but can be purchased in aisle 5.)

Archery Squad

The Coop is seeking 70-80 experienced target archers for the soon to be formed Archery Squad. This squad will hold try-outs in Prospect Park on Sunday, May 26, in the Long Meadow. A huge target, featuring Membership Coordinator Matt Hoagland’s face instead of the traditional bulls-eye, will be placed at 70 meters, the standard Olympic range, from prospective archers. In the event that the Coop “wall” doesn’t get passed at the GM, we have chosen to form an army, starting with archers. Squad members are required to wear the organic tights found in aisle 6. BYOB (Bring your own bow and arrows).



The Licky Licky Squad

Members of this squad will do the very important work of slapping the hands, and occasional mouths/faces, of members who lick their

fingers prior to opening plastic bags in the produce and bread aisles. For example, a member who licks their fingers, opens a plastic bag and then uses the tongs provided for handling mushrooms will get a slap on the hand. If the aforementioned member does all of the above but does not use tongs and, instead, handles produce with their wet fingers, they will get a slap in the face. Training will take place over the course of two weeks in the Second Floor Meeting Room. Members who are obviously “asking for it” will be expelled from the Coop.

ASMR Squad

Do you have a sotto voce and a gentle touch? Join the Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response (ASMR) Squad and help members—especially those waiting on epically long lines—relax. We are looking for members to tap sauerkraut jars, speak softly over the paging system and brush people’s hair. Special consideration will be given to members with video production skills who can help us launch the Coop’s first ASMR YouTube channel.

Jack Squad

Move over Parm Squad and say hello to Food Processing’s newest workslot. Join the Jack Squad

and help us give this underrated American cheese a little love. Did you know that Monterey Jack was originally made by 18th century Franciscan friar monks in California? Did you know that aged Monterey Jack was substituted for Parmesan from Italy during World War I when Americans couldn’t get imported goods into the country? Did you know that Monterey Jack is the only cheese recommended for migraine sufferers because of its low content of tyramine, a compound associated with headaches? Did you know that all these facts were copied directly from Wikipedia? If you’re interested in joining this squad, please come to the Membership Office with a plate of nachos. Preference given to friends of Jack Stroman.

Gossip Rag Squad

The Coop is looking for reporters for its premiere Coop gossip rag called *Aisle Be Watching You*. This bi-weekly magazine will include stories about members’ shopping habits, illicit Coop affairs, UFO sightings at the Coop and badly behaved kids in Childcare. To be considered, submit a résumé and a short story about an actual member you have the goods on.

Membership Coordinators Arrested in Orientation Admission Scam

By Al Dente

Five Membership Coordinators were fired on Tuesday after they became embroiled in an Orientation Admissions scandal that rocked the Park Slope Food Coop. The names of the coordinators have not been officially released but General Coordinator Jess Robinson says if anyone wants to know who they are, just ask her.

According to the FBI, who arrested the coordinators at their respective McMansions around Brooklyn last Sunday, the scope of the corruption was extensive, possibly reaching to the Greene Hill Food Co-op and all the way across the country to the Berkeley Food Co-op in California. Special Agent Leith believes that the implicated coordinators—now known as the “Orientation Five”—received money, gifts and special favors in return for helping prospective members get slots at Food Coop Orientations and in some cases even hired actors to sit in on the Orientations.

If you joined the Coop within the last five years, you know how hard it is to get a spot at an orientation. New member Mike Pizzeria said, “The only workaround I could think of was to move in with my girlfriend who was already a Coop member. I wasn’t really ready for that level of commitment but now that I’m a member, I can dump her.”

Sadly, not everyone has an insignificant other they can take advantage of to join the Food Coop. One woman tried



PHOTO BY MUSCLES MARINARA

No keys to the CBD case for these five low-lives.

for 11 years to get a spot at an orientation. “During that time,” she said, “I shopped regularly at Back to the Land and had to take out a second mortgage on my apartment to afford groceries.” When Back to the Land closed in 2018, she hit rock bottom and came into the Membership Office to pitch a fit. She was met with one of the nicer coordinators, who said, “Sorry, them’s the breaks. Next!” According to the woman, as she was leaving the Coop, she was approached by a man in a Rangers jersey and a woman dressed in all white. “They told me that if I want to join the Coop they could help me and that it would only cost

\$75,000. After all the money I had spent at Back to Land, what was another \$75,000?” Once the woman went home that night, however, she had second thoughts. And after binging a few episodes of *Orange Is the New Black*, she called the police.

In the end, the woman agreed to be wiretapped, which led to a breakthrough in the case.

“Taking bribes, falsifying documents, impersonating members, these are all crimes in the eyes of the National Cooperative Grocers Union,” Leith said. “We expect the Orientation Five to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law once they get back from Costa Rica.” ■

Open a Gym

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Another incredible feature of the gym will be a scale where members can weigh their heads. “It’s brand-new technology!” exclaimed General Coordinator Lisa Moore. “Many people don’t know that 17% of their body weight is in their heads.” When asked why weighing one’s head is relevant, General Manager Joe Holtz excitedly replied, “with technology like this the possibilities are endless! For example, we could install a head scale and implement it at the Food Coop to weigh members heads as they enter and exit! Anyone whose head weighs more as they are exiting would be charged an additional price per pound for consumed-while-shopping items. We’d be able to effec-

tively end the “Don’t eat while you shop” pages.”

Another wonderful feature of the Coop gym will be a 6,000 square foot ball pit. Coop members, 21 and over, will frolic and dive in a sea of colorful, BPA-free plastic balls while being carefully monitored by local therapists (all Coop members working for workslot credit) after being given therapeutic doses of LSD or psilocybin, depending on availability. Please note that no swimming is permitted on nights that members use the ball pit.

With Karen Martin’s retirement coming up and Alex Walsh moving from Meat to Health & Beauty, we can expect that Alex will be searching for one-piece bodysuit thongs as required gym wear for all members.

All of the machines and exercise paraphernalia in the

gym will be renamed using playfully altered names of fruit. For example, the Bicep Curl machine will be referred to as the Melon Bend-y Arm Machine, the Rowing machine will be called the Banana Pull Ouchy Ouch machine and the Ab Crunch Machine will be referred to as the Lemon Me Outta Here machine.

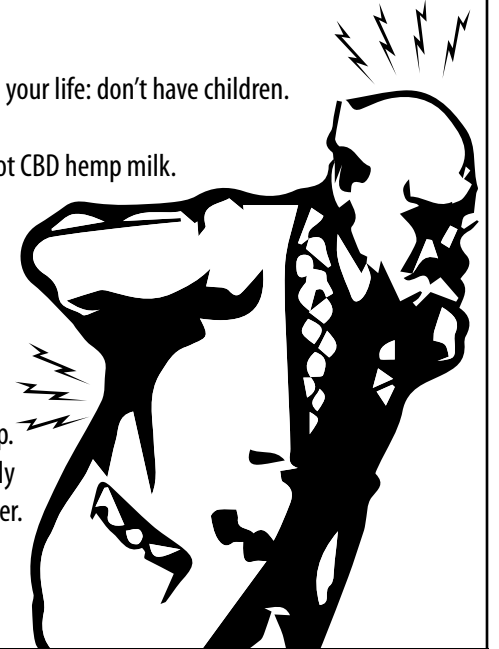
The gym has long been a dream and now is becoming a reality. DeNiro, a secret Coop member who goes by the name Bobby Effin’ Bullets, and his good friend and made man, GM Joe Holtz, are beyond stoked. When we caught up with them recently at a local McDonald’s enjoying Happy Meals, we asked DeNiro if it feels funny to see their dream finally coming to fruition. He exclaimed, “What do you mean funny? Like a clown? Do I amuse you?! Huh?!!” ■

HOW TO MANAGE CHRONIC PAIN NATURALLY

Managing pain without the use of pharmaceuticals may seem difficult. In this workshop, we will teach you that it’s actually impossible.

Some tips you will learn for Living with Chronic Pain include...

- ★ Meditate: Take deep breaths and alternate each breath with a hit from your bong.
- ★ Reduce the stress in your life: don’t have children.
- ★ Sleep better with hot CBD hemp milk.
- ★ Cut back on hard alcohol but don’t be embarrassed to hit the wine.
- ★ Join a support group. Complaining actually makes you feel better.



Tickets are \$100.

Price of admission includes a prescription pad and a barf bag.

Coop Job Opening: General Coordinator of Basic Math

The General Coordinating (GC) team is the Park Slope Food Coop’s top level of management. The GC team has responsibility for all aspects of the organization including long-term planning, financial stewardship, management of Coop daily operations including the member-labor system, and supervision of paid staff.

We are seeking a half-way decent applicant with so-so communication and organizational skills to join the GC team with specific responsibility in the area of 5th grade math. The ideal candidate is a self-starter and meh thinker with a knack for rudimentary multiplication tables, easy facility with a calculator and knowledge of one or two 20th-century accounting principles.

Desired experience:

We require all candidates to have a high school diploma or its equivalent. If a candidate doesn’t have a high school diploma, we will settle for a junior high graduate who made the honor roll at least once. Candidates who have made it to Level 2 in Math Blaster will be given special consideration.

Work schedule:

The hours for this position are whenever you are willing to grace us with your presence.

How to apply:

Résumés and cover letters written on the back of a napkin will be accepted starting April 1. References from your mother are fine.

The Park Slope Food Coop is an equal opportunity employer.

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

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



Meghan, Duchess of Sussex



The Coop is excited to welcome Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex, to its monthly concert series at Brooklyn Ethical Culture. This is the first time the Coop will be graced by a member of the Royal family. Because of security concerns all attendees will be subject to a year-long background check, so please buy your tickets early.

The Duchess will discuss a variety of topics including growing up biracial in America, her charity work for the organization United Nations Entity for Gender Equality, and whether or not Harry's carpet matches his drapes.

In the event the Duchess gives birth before this event is scheduled to take place, her appearance will be replaced by Princess Beatrice, the Queen's granddaughter, who will discuss what it's like to be pushed further down the line to the throne every time someone in the family has a friggin' baby.

153 Prospect Park North [at 2nd Ave.] • \$10 • 8pm [doors open at 7:45]
Performers are Park Slope Food Coop members and receive Coop workslot credit.

Receiving Coordinator Eric Vazquez Takes a Big Leek



PHOTO BY MUSCLES MARINARA

PSFC APRIL 2019
GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, April 30, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Agenda (8:00-10:30)

Item 1: Build a wall around the Coop to cut down on noise from early morning deliveries.
—submitted by everyone who lives on Union Street

Item 2: Instead of using plastic bags for bulk items members will fill their pockets with beans, nuts and grains. Croissants too.
—submitted by the Environmental Committee

Item 3: Adopt a pet parrot for the Membership Office who can repeat the Coop rules to members ad nauseam so we don't have to.
—submitted by the Membership Coordinators

- Meeting Location: Kick Axe Throwing Brooklyn, 622 Degraw St.
- You must be a Food Coop member to attend the General Meeting. Please bring your Coop I.D. card to be admitted. Entrance fee \$25, with a two-drink minimum. Any questions? Axe Karen.
- Times in parentheses are suggestions. The Chair has the discretion to change the order of the agenda or to make the meeting go on for an unbearable number of hours.

PERSONALS

COOP MUTT LOOKING FOR SOULMATE

I sit tied to the bench twice a week so the guy I live with can buy cheap craft beer and popcorn at the Coop. We met a year ago at this very spot and I haven't smelled you since. Dude, leave your mark. You're killin' me. Box 16

POS LOOKING FOR TOLLE-TYPE

Can you see the good in everything and everyone? I suck. I need you to tell me, and everyone I know, otherwise.

CHECKOUT WORKER SEEKING CASHIER

I do debit. You do cash PLUS debit plus EBT plus checks. You inspire and encourage. I do debit. Box 34

LEFT LEANING, POLYAMOROUS

Seeks serial monogamist for argument. Box 41

GRANDMA LOOKING FOR MOMMY SHARK

Will settle for Daddy Shark. Doo do da do da do. Box 27

MELON SEEKING PROSCIUTTO

Are you the sweet to my salty? The pot to my catnip? The pizza to my manigawt?? If you're clever and a little bit of a ham, please contact me asap. Box 28

COOL SEEKS COOLER

What are the odds? Mystery Coop bass player is looking for someone cooler than she/he. Instrument not necessary but must carry a gig bag and be able to discern between Bootsy Collins, Larry Graham and Catherine Popper. Box 33

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.

Angela Davis	Jimmy Fallon	Pearl Ring	Charlie Brown	A.O.C.
Abbie Hoffman	Frank Marino	Sandy Beach	Frank N. Beans	Dacey Tillerman
Cindy Brady	Bobby Brady	Patrick Ewing	Chris P. Bacon	Don Lemon
Debbie Parker (pending background check)	Keith Richards	Lenny Bruce	Catherine Popper	Preet Bharara
Questlove	Van Jones	Anthony Mason	John Starks	Jordan Peele
Nancy Pelosi	Bobby Seale	Etta D'Arcy	Teresa May	
Lorriean Marino	Meghan McCain	Charles Oakley	Huey P. Newton	
	Prince Charles	Muggsy Bogues	Simone Jung	