# INEWAITERS' GAZETTE

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### GM Update: *Gazette* Editors, PSFC Secretary Spar Over Letters Policy

Bu Heidi Brown

Expectations of a vigorous debate at the latest General Meeting were high on Tuesday night. Although an agenda item—which contemplated new disclosure requirements from Gazette editors who reject a letter to the editor—didn't mention the issue directly, many attendees seemed to infer that it concerned some members' ongoing discussions over whether to boycott products from Israel. Before attendees even entered the cavernous auditorium of the St. Francis Xavier School, they were approached by members handing out flyers meant to sway the recipients in one direction or the other on the issue.

But before the expected drama, there was Coop business to attend to. The GM got off to a brisk start shortly after 7 p.m., as meeting Chair Maribeth Batcha opened the forum with a reminder of the meeting rules: Committee members had four minutes to speak. Coordinators could take 15 minutes. Audience members were to limit their comments—and they had to be comments, not comments in the form of a question—to two minutes. With the auditorium packed, floor to balcony, with eager and sometimes vocal spectators, it was clear Batcha was determined to keep the evening on schedule.



A total of 42 Coop members and staff spoke at the April General Meeting.

As Batcha invited members to approach the microphone for the Open Forum segment of the GM, Susan Metz—who appeared several times at the microphone that evening—expressed her disappointment that only two candidates have stepped forward to fill the two open Board of Directors slots. "It's not tremendously

healthy for an organization of 17,000 members facing expansion," she noted. Although she respected the two candidates, Metz was so frustrated with the current election procedures, she said she would write "void" on her ballot. (Editors' note: Jesse Rosenfeld was originally on this ballot but withdrew his

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### Coop Event Highlights

Thu, Jun 6 • Food Class:

Intro to Ferments 7:30 p.m.

Fri, Jun 7 • Film Night:

Becks 7:00 p.m.

Tue, Jun 11 • Plow-to-Plate Film:

The Birth of Sake 7:00 p.m.

Fri, Jun 14 • Wordsprouts:

Tragedy and Resistance with Tanya Pollard 7:00 p.m.

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

# What Does the *Gazette* Mean to Us?

By Frank Haberle

hy are you reading this newspaper? This is not just a rhetorical question. Every two weeks, the PSFC prints 2,500 copies of the Linewaiter's Gazette, and stacks them in key spots on the shopping floor. By the end of two weeks, the stacks are almost gone. Clearly, several thousand members still take home the Gazette. Why?

For answers, we asked 12 members who are not in any way affiliated with the Gazette. One-half were randomly interviewed on the

shopping floor, and others were reached by email. (An additional three members stated that they do not read the *Gazette*). Some only gave first names. Their length of membership ranged from four weeks to 40-plus years. Our questions, and their thoughtful responses, follow.

**PSFC:** Why do you read the Gazette?

**Jim Nelson**, 20-year member, Sunday Morning Shopping Squad Leader: The PSFC is an incredibly diverse community, and I like hearing

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### **Next General Meeting on May 28**

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The May General Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 28, at 7:00 p.m. at **St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.** 

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

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### **GM Update**

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name at the March GM.)

Tracy Fitz, a member since 1975, demanded in calm but serious tones that the PSFC cease the use of fossil fuelbased plastic bags in the produce section. Without citing her source, but to gasps from around the auditorium, Fitz noted that members use 49,000 plastic produce bags per week. "Let's stop, in the vegetable aisle," she said, as the audience applauded. (Batcha asked the audience to refrain from clapping as it could make other presenters feel less appreciated.)

Casey O'Shea, a food processor who said he had gone three years without missing a shift, recently had missed two, and he proposed a way of "banking" shifts. A member could "bank" one shift after completing 12, he suggested.

Carol Wald asked for a moment of silence to remember the victims around the world who were murdered while practicing their faith. After the audience complied, she noted that she is Jewish, though not religious, and wants to remind all assembled that it is "OK" to criticize Israel; it is not anti-Semitic, she said.

A member named Hima started off by asking the Chair Committee for a rough count of audience members at the GM; they seemed to agree there were 300-400 people there. Hima pointed out that this was just a small percentage of the total PSFC membership and therefore not representative of the diversity of the organization. She proposed that any member should be able to participate in any decision at the GM, whether it be from their computer or phone. This would allow the organization to be a "truly democratic collective," she said, even though such an innovation like electronic voting would require investment on the part of the PSFC up front.

The General Coordinators were then instructed to present their updates; General Coordinator (GC) Joe Holtz went first. Before presenting the Coop financial report for the first three months of 2019, Holtz noted that Receiving Coordinator Karen Martin had retired after nearly 30 years with the PSFC. Martin was responsible for buying nonfood items, such as oven thermometers and spatulas, Holtz said. He then moved on to PSFC's financial results, cau-



tioning that the numbers were "preliminary" because the annual audit of the prior year's results, performed by Cornick Garber Sandler LLP, was not yet complete. In the hopes of expediency, Holtz provided members a sheet of summary highlights which contained seven items. Among the notables were an increase in the gross margin from 17.49% for the first three months of 2018 to 17.61% for the same period in 2019. Expenses as a percent of sales declined to 16.21%, mostly due to a 3.4% increase in sales, and not a decrease in expenses. Interest income also rose this year over the same period the previous year, thanks to higher interest payments from banks; the PSFC has shifted some accounts to take advantage of this change.

Members were invited to ask questions. Fitz asked how the cost of the plastic roll bags is reflected in the results; Holtz explained that because the bags are a vehicle for selling the food, the cost is folded into the total cost of goods sold. In response to a question from the audience, Holtz said sales increased in part due to coordinators' increasing ability to "match members' tastes." He added, to giggles around the auditorium, that CBD sales, which now account for 1% of sales, are also partly responsible for the increase.

Perhaps as a result of Fitz's remarks about plastic bags, a fellow member asked about how the cost of the PSFC's participation in Terracycle is reflected in the results. Holtz replied that Terracycle costs are included in the "recycling and garbage removal" line item; the Coop also pays Metropolitan Recycling \$2,000 per month to cart garbage and bales of plastic and cardboard. In response to another audience question, Holtz noted that the PSFC now has a separate product liability policy for CBD, as the Coop's business liability policy does not cover CBD as part of the

Coop's business liability coverage. However, at \$5,000 per year, the insurance cost barely dents the PSFC's revenue from the popular product.

Next, General Coordinator Jess Robinson updated members about the scaffolding on the exterior of the PSFC building. The unsightly and ungainly sidewalk protection is actually a sign that the PSFC's roof repair and facade restoration are nearly complete, Robinson said. The work should finish in the next 10 to 12 weeks. She added that the structure was designed specifically to allow pallets to be moved in and out of the facility without obstruction. Electricians will add lighting to the scaffolding's underside.

Robinson also addressed recent discussions about the PSFC's financial arrangements with Terracycle. She noted that at the last GM, members declined to approve Terracycle's requested annual budget of \$20,000, and the PSFC has not increased its spending on the program since the vote. Nevertheless, she said, because of apparently strong member support for the program (she estimates that 1,200 to 1,500 PSFC members per year bring their plastics to be recycled through Terracycle), the collections are continuing. The Coop has been negotiating with Terracycle to reach a more economical arrangement, and there is a likelihood that the PSFC will be able to participate in the organization's industrial recycling program. This will involve transporting baled plastic to Terracycle rather than having the materials picked up, which will save a significant amount of money. Also underway is outreach to certain companies whose packaging is recycled through Terracycle to ask them to help underwrite the PSFC's recycling costs. Results of the negotiations will be presented at the July GM. In the meantime, Robinson encouraged members to donate money at the Terracycle events.

### **Committee Reports: Farm** Workers' Rights a Major **PSFC Committee Focus**

Eric Frumin and Jen Chapin presented an update from the two-year-old Labor Committee. There is now a link on the PSFC homepage that brings visitors to the Labor Committee webpage. The committee has been raising support among PSFC members and produce distributors for the Fair Food Program (FFP). The program focuses on ensuring fair and safe working conditions for produce growers within the U.S., particularly the 35,000 seasonal tomato workers in Florida, some of whom have been found to work in slavery-like conditions, according to press reports. The committee has initiatives to increase awareness of the FFP among PSFC members; at the July GM, it will propose payment of an annual fee to support the program.

Frumin and Chapin also spoke about a bill before the New York State Legislature, the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act, which seeks to protect the rights of farm workers—who are not covered by fair labor laws—speoppose this latest iteration of NAFTA, meeting with local U.S. Representatives Hakeem Jeffries and Yvette Clarke to present 100 signatures of Coop members who oppose the trade bill. Jeffries is in line to replace Nancy Pelosi as Speaker of the House and has not yet stated his opposition to the bill, Naess said

The Personnel Committee then conducted an election to appoint four new members. This committee, which is supposed to have seven members, currently has only three, and its role has been changing in recent years. It is currently advising General Coordinators on retirement issues, hiring new GCs, and succession



cifically in our state. Farm workers in New York do not have the right to organize or to take lunch breaks, and do not have work-related injury wage protection. Local State Senator Velmanette Montgomery (Fort Greene, Boerum Hill, Sunset Park, Red Hook) is the only local Democrat who has failed to co-sponsor this bill, and the Labor Committee urges PSFC members to call or email her office to ask her to sign on.

Leaders of the International Trade Education Squad (ITES), Susan Metz and Willy Naess, announced that there is an open position on the ITES. Requirements for this squad can be found on the committee's webpage; a link is on the homepage of the PSFC website. Naess told members that former U.S. Representative Joe Crowley, who was recently unseated by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, has joined a leading law firm in Washington, DC, that is lobbying in support of "NAFTA 2.0"—after claiming while campaigning that he would oppose it. Meanwhile, the ITES has been busy mustering the PSFC's resources to

planning. It generally seeks members with employment law, nonprofit law, human resources or business management/entrepreneurship expertise.

Before the vote at the GM, the committee advertised its openings at the Coop and through the Gazette, as well as reaching out to specific Coop members thought to have the expertise required for this committee. Fifteen people applied, and then interviews were conducted. The three who were chosen to be presented at the GM for ratification by the Coop membership were Tiffany Lu-Heda, Paul Keefe and Isadora Tang. There were insufficient paper ballots for the generous turnout, so Batcha conducted a hand vote. A small number of audience members voted in opposition or abstained; all three candidates were elected to the committee.

While the vote was being held, members were allowed to ask questions of the committee. Susan Metz—as noted, a co-head of the ITES asserted that her squad had been disbanded last year because the GM at which ITES

### **Discussion Items: Adjusting the Retirement Policy and New Requirements for Gazette Editors**

Next, GM attendees heard two suggested policy changes. These issues were only discussed; no votes were taken.

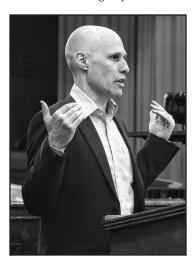
The first concerned adjusting the current retirement guidelines that govern the number of years a member must work before "retiring"becoming exempt from the PSFC's work requirement. At the moment, a 60-year-old member must have worked 30 years to retire, and a 65-yearold, 20 years. Member Ruth Willner proposed a schematic that would make it slightly easier for older members to retire. "There's nothing formal for those over 65. Nothing," she pointed out. "Having a 20-year minimum can be quite a challenge for someone if they're older," she said. She wants to "extend the range" so that those 70-Years-Old and up must have worked only a minimum of 10 years; 66-yearolds have to work 18 years; and 67-year-olds must have worked 16 years. She pointed out that under this proposal, retired members could still work if they wanted to do so.

After this brief presentation, she asked for feedback and questions. Member Patricia Aznavoorian suggested maintaining a pool of retired members who were interested in doing "fill in" work. David Conroy thought it would be prudent to phase in these changes (if they are approved) to have time to analyze what kind of impact an unknown number of members no longer working might have on the PSFC. The difficulty of assessing the potential impact became clear to the audience when General Coordinator Ann Herpel announced that members' dates of birth are not maintained at the Coop: It is therefore not known how many members might even qualify for this change.

Member Raygine DiAquoi asked senior members of the PSFC to provide their opinions. Member Michael Braudy who stated that he is old enough to retire under the proposed rules, asked why, if the PSFC is concerned about a potentially large number of members suddenly not working, the 75-person staff and their household members are exempt from fulfilling workslot requirements. Another member, who did not give her name, said she found the proposal "compassionate," although she noted that she, personally, would like to remain a working member even when she's "toddling around."

Another member asked rhetorically whether anyone thought there was really a shortage of workers, to which the audience gave thundering applause. This prompted General Coordinator Elinoar Astrinsky to approach the microphone and remind members that the Receiving Shift is always short of workers.

Herpel also noted that the retirement policy has been adjusted three times before. In the seven or eight years since



Jesse Rosenfeld proposed a new requirement for Gazette editors when they receive a letter that they choose not to run.

the policy was first adjusted to broaden the number of those eligible, Herpel said, 1,100 members have retired. Many in the audience gasped

The other discussion item, which likely accounted for the extra-large audience and flyer handouts before the GM, came from Secretary Jesse Rosenfeld. A member since 2004, Rosenfeld has had numerous disputes with *Gazette* editors over the years concerning his views on the newspaper's handling of the debate over whether the Coop should stock products from Israel. Rosenfeld has attempted to air his concerns in front of the Dispute Resolution Committee and has long expressed his views via letters to the Gazette editors.

In a slide presentation, Rosenfeld posted a theoretical



Linewaiters' Gazette editors, Tom Moore and Nancy Rosenberg, defended the Gazette's editorial policies.

letter that had been "rejected," one that focused on a Coop member who was eager to establish a dog shelter business outside of the Coop.

He described the current policy; editors send a form rejection letter that contains a variety of potential reasons for the rejection. These reasons include the absence of a signature; the letter's use of "hearsay or unsubstantiated accusations;" a lack of clarity; a letter that is primarily an advertisement for a business or service in which the writer is involved or writing that violates the Gazette "policy of excluding language that is hateful, racist, sexist...." The list also includes this possible reason: "Your letter or article is on a topic that has been covered extensively in the [Gazette] and is not a matter of current Coop action."

"I am saying that the Gazette Squad Leaders are not playing by the rules." —Jesse Rosenfeld

Rosenfeld noted that he does not propose changing the submission guidelines for letters to the editor. "I don't want my old letters published," he said. "I am saying that the Gazette Squad Leaders are not playing by the rules." Under his proposal, the editor rejecting a letter would be required to check all the reasons on the 10-item list that explain the reason for the rejection, and the editor would have to highlight all sections or sentences of a letter that support the reasons for the indicated checklist items. This requirement, Rosenfeld said, would prevent an entire letter from being rejected. Finally, he proposed requiring the editor to provide their signature.

Rosenfeld posted on screen a letter to the editor

which was recently rejected. It invited PSFC members to come to the next GM to support his upcoming proposal. After it was rejected, he said he offered to meet privately with the Gazette coordinating editors, but was refused. "The coordinating editors decide the tone of the Gazette," Rosenfeld said. "They should take responsibility for the policy of letter rejection...the buck should stop with them."

After Rosenfeld invited questions from the GM audience, several members had questions. One member asked if Rosenfeld truly thinks every letter to the editor should be printed, and did he truly not know why his letters are not printed? This was met with widespread applause.

Naomi Brussel, a member of the Diversity & Equality Committee, pointed out that a photo of highlighters Rosenfeld used as part of his presentation lacked a photo credit. "What about the transparency in that?" Brussel asked.

Another member questioned the requirement that editors should sign the rejection letters, saying that it could open the person up to being confronted aggressively by the letter's author outside the PSFC.

Someone wondered aloud at the microphone whether the letter-rejection policy has anything to do with the discussions about the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, but Batcha moved the discussion along before Rosenfeld could answer.

Another member asked why there seemed to be so much "animosity" toward the discussion and the proposal. She said if she had written a paper and gotten an "F," she would want to know the name of the teacher who gave her the grade and why she got the grade. Rosenfeld agreed, noting that

he is a "member and a shareholder," and he believes he is entitled to know why his letter is being rejected so he can rewrite and resubmit the letter.

Rosenfeld encouraged more members to pose questions ("I'm not afraid of questions"), but Batcha told him that she was the Chair and that this portion of the meeting was done.

Next, two Gazette editors, Nancy Rosenberg and Tom Moore, began reading a prepared response to Rosenfeld's proposal. This took longer than their two-minute allotment so it was not read in full. Rosenberg, who has been with the Gazette for 25 years (23 years in production; two as an editor), noted that Rosenfeld knows when she rejects his letters because her rejection letters include both her name and email and, as a consequence, she had received threatening mail from Rosenfeld. She also pointed out that the letter issue was not about setting up a dog shelter business, as Rosenfeld's slide show suggested, but about letters related to the defunct Israel boycott and other BDS matters.

[Tom Moore] highlighted problems editors have had with letters being resubmitted—as many as seven times...emphasized that the editors all work as a team and make decisions by consensus.

The full statement provided background to the issue, which started when the PSFC was in the throes of dispute over the role BDS should or should not play at the Coop. The vote taken at a 2012 GM on whether to hold a referendum on a potential boycott resulted in a vote of 1,005 against and 653 in favor. Therefore, the Gazette editors noted, it is evident that the Coop membership is not interested in engaging in this debate anymore.

And yet, a small group of members on opposite sides of the BDS issue continued to pursue this issue in the Gazette. The letters "contained repetitive arguments about why a referendum should be held," according to the statement. "While a new fact or expansion of point of view was occasionally included, the letters contained variations of the same content. These letters regularly needed significant editing to meet the standards

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### **GM Update**

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of cooperation..." Rosenfeld, who is among those who continued to write these letters, resubmitted letters with small amounts of wording adjusted. Editors were forced to spend far in excess of their workslot time allotment to edit the letters or explain their rejection. The editors also felt these letters did not respect the desire clearly expressed in the vote on whether to hold a referendum.

To manage their own time more effectively, the Gazette editors drew up the form letter that now accompanies rejected letters. And yet, a small group of members on opposite sides of the BDS issue (whom the editors characterized as the "Gang of 12") continued to debate this issue. The letters "contained repetitive arguments about whether or not a referendum should be held." According to the statement, "the Gang of 12 has spent years being counseled by the editors on how to meet the letter guidelines. These writers continue to opt not to do so. With the form letter—unchecked—they no longer get the personalized attention and hours of our time that some of them seem to thrive on, to be frank."

In their statement, the edi-

tors singled out Rosenfeld as particularly provocative. "Our main reason for not checking a box, as Jesse has requested in his agenda item, is that we know from experience that it won't be enough," the statement reads. "Receiving an email with a checked box will only result in Jesse writing to argue about why we are wrong to have checked any box—and then if we don't reply, or if he doesn't like our reply, he will threaten to report us to the Disciplinary Committee for being uncooperative."

Tom Moore, a 15-year editor at the Gazette who teaches journalism at CUNY and is a veteran CBS reporter, also read from the statement. He noted that many of the editors on the Gazette squad are either previously from or still in the journalism field. He highlighted problems editors have had with letters being resubmitted—as many as seven times—and recalled speaking personally with certain writers about inappropriate letters they submitted. Moore also emphasized that the editors all work as a team and make decisions by consensus.

After Batcha ended Moore and Rosenberg's rebuttal, a few audience members spoke. One said the Gazette is "authoritarian," and another called Rosenberg and Moore "technocrats." They complained that the Gazette does not foster "cooperative" communication on issues important to Coop members. Another member asked how many letters the editors were getting when they decided to issue the form rejection letter. Moore noted that "when the problems were exploding," they regularly received 10 to 15 letters per issue, half of which were "incendiary." Susan Metz spoke again, saying she gets frustrated when her letters are rejected and that the debate over Israel and Palestine should not be shut down, but she appreciates the work of the Gazette staff and thinks the proposal is "preposterous."

After commentary on Rosenfeld's discussion item ended, the Board of Directors then took a vote on whether to accept the recommendation of the GM concerning the vote for the three new members of the Election Committee; all members voted in favor. When the audience was given a chance to make final comments, a member opined that the Personnel Committee election was not truly an election, as the "candidates" had already been selected. Batcha then adjourned the meeting.

### EDITORIAL

### From the Editors of Linewaiters' Gazette

r. Rosenfeld asks for a "Yes" on a proposal that would effectively end the ability of the Gazette to print letters to the editor on the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) issue. This is not something the editors should be forced to do based on demands made by a partisan on any side of this controversy.

For over two years, the paper's current policy has managed and lessened the onslaught of letters for and against the BDS movement. Prior to that time, a handful of members—including Mr. Rosenfeld— continually aired their grievances about this single issue, often in defamatory language that did not meet the paper's standards of civility.

In his recent GM proposal (covered in this issue's GM report), Mr. Rosenfeld used as an example a fictitious letter about a dog. But this is not about Lassie. His misrepresentation was apparent to those familiar with his role in the ten-year BDS controversy, but it put newer members at a disadvantage. In his call for transparency on behalf of all members, it is Mr. Rosenfeld who failed the transparency test, concealing his role as a partisan letter writer.

Why, following the misleading presentation, the Agenda Committee allowed this proposal to proceed to a vote at the May 28 meeting, is a puzzling question.

Given that we've received no complaints about the rare rejection of letters by the Gazette on other topics, this proposal should be seen for what it is: a demand by a partisan on the BDS issue to control what the Gazette publishes.

The actual letters Mr. Rosenfeld and others repeatedly submitted were rude and accusatory. Editors have been threatened with disciplinary action for not printing them. Mr. Rosenfeld himself, the Coop's board secretary, inquired into the editorial process in a thinly-veiled attempt to use his position to single out individual editors. To one editor, he wrote, claiming, "I can approach absolutely anyone at the Coop or go to their meetings and ask them anything I want about the process.

Given that we've received no complaints about the rare rejection of letters by the Gazette on other topics, this proposal should be seen for what it is: a demand by a partisan on the BDS issue to control what the Gazette publishes.

When multiple Coop editors rejected a letter containing his potentially libelous allegations that the "Coop condones violence," based on his unsupported interpretation of events at a GM, he resubmitted different versions of that letter six times, in violation of the Gazette policy disallowing resubmissions.

Why do we disallow resubmissions? Because both pro- and anti-BDS letter writers come back to us with rejected letters multiple times, requiring a series of editors to endlessly re-engage with them.

This proposal represents a personal and long-standing grievance by Mr. Rosenfeld about the paper's unwillingness to be intimidated by or print diatribes.

The Gazette responds to letters with a brief form that lists the criteria for non-publication. That policy has slowly brought this issue under control, and has allowed the paper to continue to invite and print letters on many issues—including the boycott issue. Mr. Rosenfeld alone insists that he should know precisely why his letter was rejected—and by whom.

During the proposal discussion, one new Coop member posed some hypothetical questions to Mr. Rosenfeld: He wanted to know if other newspapers disclose the names of the specific editors who declined to run a letter. What if, he asked, certain letters contained defamatory and misogynistic language, and some of the editors receiving them are women? Might not women editors feel more vulnerable to retaliation? Mr. Rosenfeld did not respond to the question.

The letters policy has spared editors from hours of overtime working with letter writers who are not satisfied with any reason for a rejection, who seem incapable of moderating their tone or learning to write a respectful letter—even after years of individual attention. We know from experience that nothing will be enough, especially for the most demanding and least self-reflective among them.

The editors are asking members to show up and vote NO on this proposal.

### **Crossword Puzzle** 25 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 52 55

### Across

- 1. Like some poisoning
- 10. Skeptical rejoinder ... or a comment upon seeing this puzzle's black squares
- 12. Describes, as a person or situation
- 14. "Forgot About \_ \_\_\_" (2000 rap hit)
- 15. When to expect someone, for short
- 16. Alf and Mork, for short 18. Ocasek of the Cars
- 19. Aug. follower
- 20. Program that sends unsolicited
- messages 24. Dashboard Confessional's genre
- 25. There is a "super" one every four yrs.
- 26. Physician Golgi, for whom Golgi
- hodies are named
- 27. Not feel 100%
- 28. Gasteyer formerly of "Saturday Night
- 29. Support group for kids of problem drinkers
- 30. Phone letters for 6
- 31. Sch. that e-mails application decisions on Pi Day
- 32. Inhabiting elevated regions
- 33. One staying in a lot? 34. Cpl.'s inferior
- 35. Undecided, on a sked
- 36. Yodeler's peak
- 37. "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" woman
- 38. In 2014, Berkeley, CA became the
- first U.S. city to approve one
- 42. Fort Worth campus, for short
- 43. Suffix with north or south 44. French saint called "The Little Flower"
- 45. One of two N.T. books
- 46. Bermuda setting: Abbr.
- 47. Calls again?
- 48. Start of a drill sergeant's count

- 49. Number of weeks per annum?
- 50. Opens, in a way 51. Schubert's "The
- 52. WWII zone, for short
- 53. Colgate rival
- 54. GPS offering: Abbr
- 55. Rembrandt van
- 56. Actor MacLachlan

### Down

- 1. "Eureka!"
- 2. Person who might sell you an Inverted Jenny
- 3. Rutgers, e.g.
- 4. Go unnoticed
- \_ King Cole Singer
- 6. "May excused?"
- 7. Geom. figure
- 8. Form 1040 fig.
- 9. Tina's "30 Rock" role 10. 1982 novel whose opening sentence is "You better not never tell nobody but
- 11. Not much of a try
- 12. Judge Judy was appointed to it in
- 1982 by Ed Koch
- 13. Rickey Henderson's 1,406
- 14. Native American charm made with a willow hoop
- 17. Neolithic tools 20. Ponzi scheme, e.g.
- Alto, CA
- for All Seasons"
- 23. Catcher's glove 38. X'd
- 39. Writer who coined the term "banana republic" (1904)
- 40. He won Best Actor the same year that Halle won Best Actress
- 41. "Say, boss, how about \_
- Puzzle author: David Levinson-Wilk. For answers, see page 14.

### **Gazette** Means

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

perspectives on issues that concern me (many of which concern other PSFC members) but from a different experience or background than my own. I also enjoy keeping up on the day to day realities of the organization, especially things like new squads that have been created, how many pounds of produce we sell in a given week and how we treat our employees. I find that sort of detail fascinating

Glenda (last name withheld), four-week member, Saturday Night Front Desk: As a new member, I picked up a copy because I wanted to see what it told me about the PSFC. There is so much great information in it. It made me feel like I was really becoming part of a community.

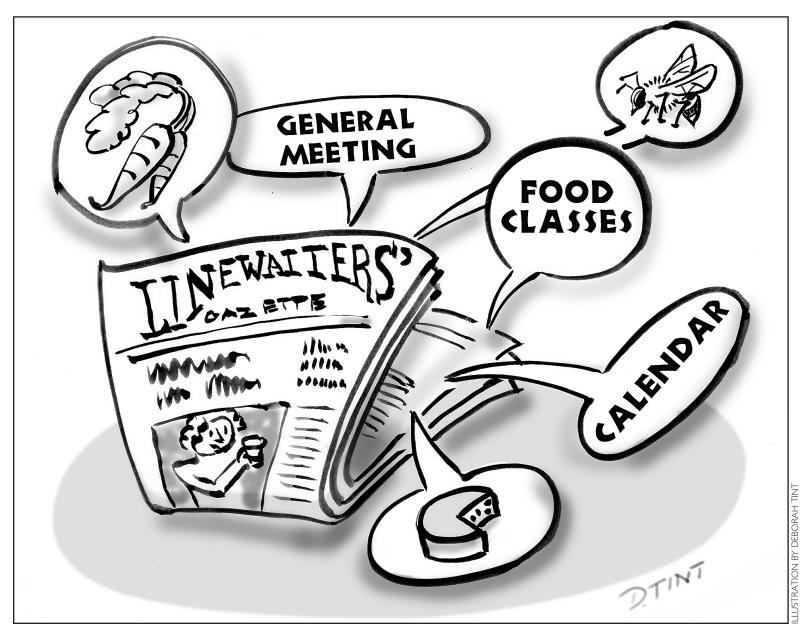
Jeannine (last name withheld), 18-year member, Saturday Evening Walker: I like to get the latest information on the PSFC, I feel I learn a lot from the Gazette. I enjoy reading about activities that are for free, like health classes. It keeps me up to date on what's going on.

Ilana Storace, 28-year member, Friday Shopping Squad Leader (since 1994): I thought everyone does...It's free, it's short, it's generally interesting and I feel more connected to the PSFC community after reading it. But I never read it while waiting in line anymore, I wait until I get home. Maybe this is because the lines are faster than they used to be or maybe it's because I look at my cell phone, maybe both.

Hector Ramos, 22-year member, Office Worker: I peruse it briefly. I like sections on specific foods, especially cheese. I don't have time to go to General Meetings and its good to learn what people are concerned about.

Jen Cain, 20-year member, Monday Evening Shopping Squad Leader: I used to read the Gazette while waiting on line as a welcome respite from the national news. I like checking the classified ads to see vacation houses for rent in Vermont or Italy, and I also scan the lists of new members for any familiar neighborhood names.

Moe Kornbluth, 40-plusyear member, retired (does occasional FTOP): I am a reader of physical documents, I feel more comfortable opening a book than opening an app or laptop.



I also find it easier to read from paper but that might be a function of age. I love to turn pages rather than flip my finger.

Sharon (last name withheld), six-year member, Saturday Receiving: I read it because I like to get updated on any events that are going on at the PSFC. It makes me feel like part of the community.

Paul Barman, five-year member, Walker: There was once a time when NYC had hundreds of newspapers in many languages. Growing up, I read all the weeklies. Now that so many are gone or absorbed into chains, the Gazette is a real standout as an independent and regular

"There was once a time when NYC had hundreds of newspapers in many languages; the Gazette is a real standout as an independent and regular entity." —Paul Barman

PSFC: Why do you think the Gazette is valuable?

Glenn Cain, 16-year member, Bike Valet: I can't say that I've thought too much about

the Gazette in terms of its value or what it means to me. But now that you ask, I think that the role it fulfills is not only important as a forum for members to express themselves and for the organization to relay what's going on; it can't be replaced by another form of communication, say a digital version, because there are already too many digital sources vying for attention on our devices for the Gazette to compete.

Sonia Ruschack, eightyear member, FTOP: I used to read the Gazette a lot more than I have been lately but just picked up the latest copy. I like the articles mostly and then the classifieds. I do think it's valuable because the articles are generally about issues that I find important or interesting, especially the environmental ones. I think it touches base with PSFC members that are still interested in community.

Jim: I learn something new in every issue. Sometimes its a new fact about the PSFC or a specific member, sometimes it's about a new item we carry or a new way to use something I already buy. I essentially read it cover to cover, every issue. Sometimes the news and stories regarding the PSFC have a more direct effect on my

everyday life than those coming from the New York Times.

Jen: The Gazette is essential for members to feel like the PSFC is more than a store, but rather a community of consumers. Without an independent newspaper for members to communicate with each other, the PSFC would feel more elite. We'd simply be defined by membership status, not including all the contributions made as recorded in the Gazette: outreach to other coops, purchasing decisions, social events, etc.

"The PSFC is an incredibly diverse community, and I like hearing perspectives on issues that concern me...but from a different experience or background than my own." —Iim Nelson

Ilana: I do think it's valuable! The paper itself is a small thing, but to me it represents something big: getting to know the stories behind the faces of fellow PSFC members and to learn more about who we are as an organization, what that means in our micro-PSFC-village, as well as in the macro-world.

**PSFC:** What is your favor-

ite section?

**Jim**: Definitely the feature articles. I used to appreciate the letters section more but the BDS debate seemed to shatter the good-natured and insightful quality of the letters. It's coming back but

**Moe**: I really don't have a favorite. I enjoy reading about the latest topics affecting the PSFC, and being updated about the schedule for movies and readings and music, and getting an understanding about the products we sell and the environment. I like learning what other people are thinking in the letters section. The only thing I don't get into is the ads portion.

**Ilana**: Anytime there's an article about a PSFC member and who they are or what they think is my favorite! In the April 25 issue, the cover story "Some Advice From Kids at the PSFC" is terrific. And that fantastic photo by Joshua Kristal of 10-year-old member Mabel Steinmuller is so awesome! I want to hear more from the children! In the old days I loved the classifieds for second-hand furniture and clothes. Remember those? And, here's an embarrassing confession: I used to like looking for my name in the "Thanks for Referring a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

### COORDINATOR'S CORNER

### **Charges Filed Against Coop at NLRB**

By Joe Holtz, General Coordinator & General Manager

ear Members,

On April 23, 2019, the Park Slope Food Coop was notified that a complaint had been filed with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) against the Coop. While we have been advised to limit discussion, the General Coordinators and I, as General Manager, feel we have a responsibility to inform the membership about the situation. Before we could report on the charges at the May General Meeting, the New York Post published an article about it on May 12/13 without our input. We want to both inform members and clarify a few of the many mistakes and absurdities in the Post article.

For many months, some staff members have made efforts to unionize the Coop. It is the policy of the Park Slope Food Coop and the opinion of the Coop's General Coordinators to support staff consistently and support the right of the staff to form a union should a majority vote to do so. Some efforts to develop support for the union appear to assume hostility from the Coop's management, however management has consistently provided verbal and practical affirmation that exploration of a union is legitimate and that we have no intention of interfering. While we believe that our staff benefit from one of the best (if not the best) compensation packages in grocery stores, including food coops in the country, we have nonetheless provided paid time for staff to meet and discuss forming a union.

We believe that the com-

plaints against the Coop will be found to be unsupported. They detail a small number of cases in which a General Coordinator is alleged to have said or done something threatening or retaliatory. No dates and few details are provided. The NLRB complaint can be viewed at https://www. nlrb.gov/case/29-CA-240076. We regret that the RWDSU (Retail Wholesale Department Store Union), at the behest of some staff, has decided to pursue an aggressive path to exploring the utility of unionizing the Coop's staff. Part of why we regret it is because it will take a substantial amount of time and money (the Coop has had to retain an attorney) to respond to these complaints. A more significant part of our regret is because we have worked diligently for more than 40 years to be fair and transparent with staff, and it saddens us to see this issue sow seeds of division. The Coop has long advocated for excellent treatment of our staff, and I believe that we have, consequently, an excellent staff with unusually high commitment to the Coop and you, its members.

The Coop just celebrated our staff at our annual party. That night I gave a speech about how much our staff do and how invaluable our staff is to protecting our Coop and being stewards of the Coop. I am confident that the Coop's management and staff will work together through this latest challenge. I will keep you abreast of activities as they unfold. Below is a copy of an email we sent to employees on April 25 followed by a statement for the press that we prepared in case of a press inquiry.

[W]e have worked diligently for more than 40 years to be fair and transparent with staff, and it saddens us to see this issue sow seeds of division.

Dear Staff,

We want to let you know that allegations were filed by RWDSU with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) on Tuesday, April 23. You can read the allegations if you follow this link: https://www.nlrb.gov/case/29-CA-240076.

The General Coordinators working with legal counsel are in the process of responding to these allegations. We have no other information to share

with you at this time.

Some GCs and staff are being solicited, via email or phone calls, by firms who scan the NLRB website for recent filings. These firms are offering to educate the GCs and/ or the staff on the reasons to not have a union. The GCs have declined these solicitations and will not engage any of these firms. The GCs maintain a neutral position on the efforts to organize a union.

We want to reiterate that the decision to associate with a union, or not, is solely the decision of the area coordinator staff. We respect the rights of employees to form legal associations and encourage a respectful and open discussion among the staff in the decision-making process.

### **General Coordinator Statement for Press Contacts**

The General Coordinators, the management team of the Park Slope Food Coop, recognize the right of any group of people to form legal associations to meet their collective needs and support their mutual benefit. This includes the right of Coop employees to choose to organize or join a union in the workplace.

We respect the rights of employees to form legal associations and encourage a respectful and open discussion among the staff in the decision-making process.

The decision to associate, or not, is up to each employee. The Coop's General Coordinators, coop member-owners, and the Board of Directors do not have a role in the decision to unionize.

The General Coordinators will work to ensure that the decision to unionize is an employee decision and that staff can participate in all efforts to organize. Following Coop principles, we would like to see that any decision by our staff will be made democratically.

### 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.

May 9, 2019 – June 5, 2019

**Aries:** Your ruler Mars moves into your home sector on May 16. Time in your garden, or cooking special meals grounds you.

Taurus: Taurus season lasts through May 20, and you have a chance to show your leadership skills. In other words, boss people around. Start in your kitchen!

**Gemini:** May 21 starts Gemini season and it's all about being spontaneous. Make life a buffet of treats, and don't forget a few

Cancer: Mars in your sign starting May 16 gives you extra energy. If you've forgotten how to run or work out, this is your wake up call to get more active.

Leo: Communicative Mercury moves into your friendship sector in late May and it's time to re-connect to the non-drama queen pals in your life!

**Virgo:** This is an excellent time to plot out your future. If you can imagine it, you can take action to manifest it.

**Libra:** May 21 begins a frolicking season for you, Libra. Don't take yourself too seriously. Throw a party and serve funny mocktails. Don't forget the umbrellas.

**Scorpio:** This season is all about your relationships. The key is to do less and be still. People will come to you because they like you. Just stop trying to strategize so much.

Sagittarius: Your season of love starts May 21, Sag. You don't need to be a lone wolf. Plan an herbal tea for two date

Capricorn: The Sun moves into your body sector on May 21. Try a new healthier eating regime, but make sure it feeds

**Aquarius:** Late May begins a fertile time for your creativity. What do you want to see in the world? Be it, make it, don't just dream it.

**Pisces:** The Sun moves into your home and family sector on May 21. Make sure your living space reflects who you are today, not just in the past.

### 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.

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

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT

### **Call to Action: Oppose the Williams Pipeline**

By Barbara Hertel, Environmental Committee

The Williams Transco energy company is currently in contract with National Grid and is proposing to build a 23-mile pipeline that will carry fracked natural gas all the way from Pennsylvania through New Jersey to New York and in the seawater to meet an existing tunnel in Rockaway Beach. The pipes carrying fossil fuels will be constructed under the seabed in the waters around Staten Island, Coney Island and the Rockaways. This project not only has potential to cause a lot of harm to human and marine life in many ways, but it contributes to expediting the impacts of climate change. The good news is that this project has not been approved yet, and can be stopped! Here are a few reasons why you should oppose the pipeline:

Natural gas is not actually clean to process. Part of the process of hydro fracking is the heavy release of methane. Methane is a greenhouse gas and contributes to climate change. In addition there are a slew of chemicals

used in the fracking process that are company "secrets." It is a fact that water used in the process has benzene in the mix. In some areas there are earthquakes and poisoned water.

The construction of a pipeline in the New York Harbor would stir up toxins such as PCBs, lead, and arsenic that have contaminated the seabed. This disturbance would be particularly detrimental to the sea life that has recently been rebounding. Williams Transco admits that Atlantic sturgeon and other fish could be harmed by the pipelines. The fact that dolphins and whales swim in New York waters and that shore birds nest on the beaches where the tunnel would be built raises further questions about the environmental damage and its impact on wildlife.

The cost of the tunnel is one billion dollars. National Grid, a private company, is paying Williams Transco to build it. Most likely National Grid customers will face a rate hike so that its shareholders can make a return on their money. Wil-

liams Transco has a poor record of safety in its facilities. Workers have been severely injured and killed while on the job. Pipelines have exploded or caught on fire. The Environmental Protection Agency and Occupational Safety and Health Administration have both administered civil penalties for noncompliance.

National Grid is telling the press that we need more natural gas, but will not release the data to prove this "fact" because they hold that this is propriety information.

In a letter to its customers, National Grid stated that the New York City Housing Authority's problems with providing heat to its clients would be solved if there was more gas, which would be the case if the NESE tunnel were built. The problem is not that there is a lack of gas, but that the NYCHA boilers and the heating system need repairs.

Instead of supporting fracked gas, the governor's office should be supporting alternative energy such as geothermal, solar and wind. We need to move away from fossil fuels. The funding from this expensive program could be reallocated to support investment in renewable energy.

For further information on this subject, please see the websites of the many groups that are working on this issue; they include Food and Water Watch, NY/NJ Baykeeper, National Resources Defense Council and the Surfrider Foundation.

While the public comment period has ended, you can still call the governors' office in New Jersey and New York to tell them to stop this project. There are petitions. One of them is at williams-pipeline.squarespace. com/. The most important thing to do is make your voice heard. Thank you for whatever you can do.

Editor's Note: After this article was submitted, New York State regulators denied the application for a \$1 billion natural gas pipeline. However, the fight is not over because Williams Transco can now resubmit its application. Stay tuned for new developments. ■

### PLASTIC PACKAGING RECYCLING

Saturday, May 25, 1:45-4 p.m. Wednesday, June 12, 3:45-6 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

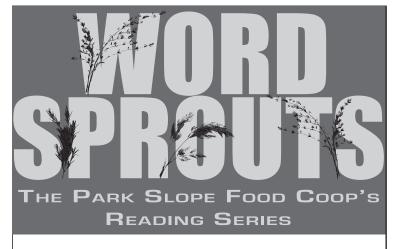
Donations in any amount are welcomed to help offset the cost to the Coop of this collection.

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







### Are you a writer? Do you want FTOP credit?

Wordsprouts, the Food Coop's reading series, is looking for you, for its monthly events in the second-floor meeting room.

Please contact the organizers at wordsproutspsfc@gmail.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.



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 needless-

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:

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.

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!

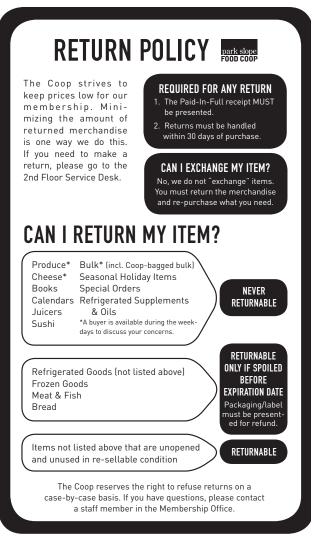


If you plan on being away during one of your workslots, please make arrangements to have your shift covered.

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!



### This Issue Prepared By:

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### WELCOME!

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

Inbal Aderka Saad Alameddine David Anderson Haley Arndt Carlos Baquero-Diaz Anne Cousineau Eric Bayless-Hall Barbara Bechtel Katrin Bichler Jonathan Bloch Laurence Boussie Severin Boussie Isabelle Brauer

Dean Brooks Maren Cadwallender Jeffrey Colgan Camille Coonrod James Decker Amanda Del Bove Christopher Denzer Jordan DeVos Helene Dubois Megan Ducoff Tamar Epstein Kaye

Susan Epstein Jordan Estes Bryan Finnegan Willa Goldman Arnold Gore Michael Grierson Amanda Hageman Gabrielle Hanlon Diana Heinzerling Steve Heinzerling Laura Hollander Jessica Huang

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Mary Figuers Stallings Robert Stein Carla Stickler Carolyn Strom Caroline Surratt Hallie Tarpley Riny Tawadrous Natalia Tenetko Alexis Toriello Eloise True

Sebastian V-Santamaria Esther Vonwil Kilian Walsh David Whitcraft Amy Whitsell Patrick Whitsell Abigail Willis Visola Wurzer Alice Zavelsky Edgardo Zuniga

### COP 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, MAY 28

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

### NO AGENDA COMMITTEE MEETING IN JUNE

### TUE, JUL 2

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 7:30 p.m. Submissions will be considered for the July 30 General Meeting.

### **Gazette Deadlines**

### **LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:**

Jun 6 issue-12:00 p.m., Mon, May 27 Jun 20 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Jun 10

### **CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:**

Jun 6 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, May 29 Jun 20 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Jun 12

### 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 decisionmaking process.

Following is an outline of the program

### Advance Sign-up required:

To be eligible for workslot credit, you must signup 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.

### 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 Workslot Credit Attendance Sheets will be available to sign in.

### **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.

### 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,** May 28, 7:00 p.m.

The General Meeting is held on the last Tuesday of each

### 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, on foodcoop.com, 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.

# calendar of events

### **PSFC MAY General Meeting**



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

between 7 and 7:15 p.m.

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

- I. Member Arrival and Meeting Warm-Up
- II. Open Forum
- III. Coordinator and Committee Reports
- IV. Meeting Agenda

Item 1: Annual Revolving Loan Committee Election (15 minutes)

**Election:** One current committee member will be presented for re-election.

—submitted by the Revolving Loan Committee

### Item 2: Banking Resolutions for Coop's Bank Accounts (15 minutes)

- To approve the attached required Corporate Resolution for our new CD account at the National Cooperative Bank and
- To acknowledge the Coop's other accounts at Sterling Bank, Spring Bank, the People's Alliance Federal Credit Union, and the National Cooperative Bank
- To approve any additional accounts at the above listed banks/credit unions that may be needed
- To authorize the General Coordinators to open any additional accounts that may be needed at other credit unions and/or other New York area community
- To authorize the Coop's elected officers to sign any bank documents that require their signatures —submitted by Joe Holtz, General Coordinator Item 3: Pension Advisory Committee Election (25 minutes)

**Election:** Five candidates will be nominated to the Pension Advisory Committee consisting of five members and two staff.

> —submitted by the Inaugural Selection Group for the Pension Advisory Committee

Item 4: Transparency and Accountability at the *Linewaiters' Gazette* (35 minutes) **Proposal:** Every time a letter is rejected, the editors must reply specifying the reasons and specifying which words and/or phrases in the letter are objectionable. Rejection letters must come with checkboxes next to the reason and be marked. Entire letters cannot be rejected. Only specific objectionable words and phrases will be highlighted for transparency. Highlights must be reasonably related to the aforementioned checkboxes. —submitted by Jesse Rosenfeld

### 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.

### **Achieve Your Ultimate Goal First**

A Short Recipe for Life Satisfaction. As children, our dreams were alive. Some dreams morphed into specific life goals as we became adults. Many of us put off pursuing our big goals, taking "safer" paths with more money or status, or just because it was easy to fall into. We might have even worked on our big goals here and there in feverish bouts of willpower before giving up, defeated by impatience and drained of aliveness. We lost the connection to our old dreams and forgot the purpose of striving for our goals in the first place. In this hour-long workshop, we'll reconnect with our big goals in a safe, playful, and productive way, refocusing our childlike energy and using it to immediately heighten our enjoyment of life. Specifically, we will: learn about the role of goals in life satisfaction; identify the ways in which we deceive ourselves around big life goals; clarify the essence of our big goals and understand "ultimate goals"; generate easy solutions to achieve

our ultimate goals right away and every day moving forward; use embodied and mindful practices to access deep wisdom and playfulness. Together, we'll regain the feeling of aliveness that grows by itself, bringing us forward to more aliveness, whether we end up achieving our original goals, or finding even better ones. Led by Coop member Dave Wolovsky, a process coach and teacher of many things, including math, writing, yoga, and qi gong. He holds a MS degree in Neuroscience and Education and is trained in applied Positive Psychology. RSVPs are appreciated. Contact dave@effortwise.com.



### Food Class: **Intro to Ferments**



Fermentation is a technique that has been an essential aspect of food preservation for humankind. Presently, it is resurging in popularity as we discover how closely our evolution is tied into the activity of our healthy gut bac-

teria. We will work with common fermentation techniques and talk about the science and the culinary application of these living foods. Chefs Sung Uni Lee and Dianne De la veux are teaching chefs who work on the administrative team of the Park Slope Food Coop Cooking Class. With a combined 30 years of teaching experience, they will take you step-by-step so that you can confidently and safely create these living foods in your home. Menu includes: Yogurt; Kvass; Sauerkraut. This class is vegetarian and gluten-free.

ASL interpreter available upon request, please contact the Membership Office. Materials fee: \$5. RSVPs by June 4 are appreciated, contact bit.ly/FoodClassRSVP. To inquire about leading a Food Class, go to bit.ly/CCCChef1.



### Film Night: **Becks**



Inspired by the real life of singer/songwriter Alyssa Robbins, Becks follows a musician who moves back to her childhood home in St. Louis after a crushing breakup with her longtime girlfriend. While performing for tips at a local tavern and struggling to reconnect with her ultra-Catholic mother, she strikes up a unique

friendship with the wife of an old nemesis. Becks begins to discover her musical voice as she performs deeply personal songs about her ex and the loss of their relationship. Driven by an original score, the film's musical numbers bring a unique new voice to the American musical movie. Director / Writer / Producer Elizabeth Rohrbaugh is a writer and director based in NYC. Her documentary, The Perfect Victim, was on the PBS series America Reframed after premiering at the Hot Springs International Film Festival. The film won a Telly Award and was nominated for a Silver Gavel Award. Her short film, *Dylan*, saw a successful festival run and was named Vimeo Short Of The Week and a Vimeo Staff Pick. Liz was a writer/director at MTV, where she won an Emmy Award and multiple CTAM Awards. Her work has been featured on The Takeaway with John Hockenberry, Glamour magazine, Verily magazine, Psychology Today, The Progressive, Indiewire, and the Feminist Current. To book a Film Night, contact Gabriel Rhodes, gabrielrhodes@me.com.

## jun 8-9 Food Drive to Benefit CHiPS Soup Kitchen

CHiPS Soup Kitchen, located at Fourth Avenue and Sackett Street, is the recipient of much of our edible but unsaleable perishable food. They also need donations of nonperishable foods. This food will go to CHiPS to help them feed people in the neighborhood who are in need of a nutritious meal. Consider contributing nonperishable foods and commercially packaged foods; canned fish; canned fruits and vegetables; pasta sauce; pasta; pre-packaged rice; pre-packaged beans; canned beans; canned soups; Parmalat milk; dry milk; peanut butter; cooking oil; or boxed raisins. Give donations to the collection table outside the Coop.

### 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.



### Safe Food Committee Film Night: The Birth of Sake



In a world where mass-produced goods are automated, a small group of laborers brave unusual working conditions to preserve the 2000-year-old tradition of making saké, living and working for a six-month period at Yoshida Brewery, a 144-year-old family-owned small

brewery. The Birth of Saké is a documentary that reveals the passionate story of what it takes to make world-class saké. Currently, stiff competition and the eventual retirement of experienced workers intensify the pressure of preserving quality, tradition and brand reputation. Surrounded by 1,000 competitors, Yoshida must surface as a worthy contender in a market overrun by choices. See upcoming events, past reviews and a comprehensive list of films shown at www.plowtoplatefilms.com which can now also be reached via a link on the Park Slope Food Coop's home page at www.foodcoop.com.

jun 14

### Wordsprouts: Tragedy and Resistance w/Tanya Pollard



Coop actors will perform short segments from King Lear and Antigone. Shakespeare Scholar Tanya Pollard is Professor of English at Brooklyn College and the CUNY Graduate Center, and member of the Council of Scholars at Theater for a New Audience. Her books

include Reader in Tragedy, co-edited with Marcus Nevitt (2019); Greek Tragic Women on Shakespearean Stages (2017); Milton, Drama, and Greek Texts, co-edited with Tania Demetriou (2016); Shakespearean Sensations: Experiencing Literature in Early Modern England, co-edited with Katharine Craik (2013); Drugs and Theater in Early Modern England (2005), and Shakespeare's Theater: A Sourcebook (2003), A former Rhodes Scholar, she has received awards from the NEH, Whiting, and Mellon foundations, and the

Free for all Coop members & non-members. Refreshments will be served. Bookings: Sarah Schenck, wordsproutspsfc@gmail.com.

**jun 16** 

### **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 and fun pairings you can try at home!

jun 21

### **Brilliant Pixels: Tackling Digital Photo Overload**

This is Part One of a two-part series. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the thousands of photos we accumulate on our phones and computers—especially when you want to record every cute thing your kids do! The cause is simple math: parent + smartphone = taking pictures of your kids—constantly. Isabelle Dervaux, photo curator and organizer, will share her three most powerful secrets to tackling the photo clutter on your iPhone and Mac. You'll learn to: find photos like magic; the quickest way to make albums; make pain-free decisions about what to keep and what to let go; use the one shortcut that changes everything. Coop member Dervaux uses her artist's eye and sensibility to help busy New Yorkers tell their family stories; empowering them to organize, rediscover, and curate their photo collections so they can be passed on to the next generation.

### Beginners' Yoga

Are you curious about yoga but feel intimated by the prospect of entering a studio class? Would you like to do a workout that moves your body and mind? Be with a teacher who sees you as a unique person rather than a number? Then come to this beginners' yoga workshop. Rebecca will create a welcoming environment in which to playfully explore your movement patterns creating a space where you can feel better, be more and creative. Please bring a yoga mat. Two large bath towels will be helpful but are not required. Rebecca Schwarz is a 500-HR Yoga Alliance Certified Instructor. She received her training from the world-renowned YogaWorks studio based in NYC. She teaches chair yoga in Brooklyn and Queens. Rebecca has been a Coop member for 13 years.

### **Sweet Relief Home &** Office Counseling

Declutter. Clear. Transform. Make room for yourself! Be inspired, productive and at peace in your spaces. Clear overwhelm and shame. Open your space and life to new possibility. Allow your home and workplace to support you to thrive. **Shira Sameroff** has been a member of her beloved PSFC for 25 years. Her work has evolved over 25 years of experience with individuals, groups and organizations as a counselor, workshop facilitator, program director, event planner, activist, board president, volunteer coordinator and more. Her many passions include trees, singing, biking, travel and dark chocolate.

### **PSFC JUN Annual and 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.

### still to come

Agenda Committee Meeting

jul 30 PSFC JULY General Meeting

jul 9

Plow-to-Plate Film

Film Night

### 0 H R IT

### **MAJORITY OF COOP STAFF HAS SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT UNIONIZING AT** THE COOP

### DEAR MEMBERS,

Some of you may have heard rumors that the paid staff at the Coop has been trying to unionize and has been met with resistance from the General Coordinators. The purpose of this letter is to share a different side of the story from some of the paid staff who are not in favor of unionizing or are undecided.

It is true that a small group of paid staff would like to see the staff join a union. This small group has been waging a relentless campaign toward unionization despite the fact that the majority of staff has expressed numerous times that they don't think unionizing is warranted at the Coop or needs more discussion.

Sadly, this campaign has included misinformation, rumors, uncooperative behavior and a lack of transparency. And painfully, this campaign has characterized some people who don't want to unionize or who have concerns about

unionizing as "union busters," an accusation that couldn't be further from the truth. Just because a majority of staff aren't in favor of unionizing at the Coop doesn't mean they are anti-union. Most are actually pro-union and have doubts that the traditional union model is the right fit for our very non-traditional workplace.

The strongest and loudest opposition to unionizing has come from fellow staff members, not the General Coordinators. The General Coordinators have remained steadfastly neutral on this topic and have acknowledged that it is our (the Area Coordinators') decision whether or not to unionize and have stated this neutral position in writing numerous times.

It's true that the Park Slope Food Coop is not a perfect organization. Many of us believe that the PSFC is one of the most progressive organizations in the country. That doesn't mean we don't have problems or that things can't be better. The Coop has a rich history of solving problems ourselves—isn't that what cooperatives are all about? Many of us on staff have been working together (without a union) to affect change in our workplace and we are making progress.

If you hear talk around the Coop about unionizing we hope you'll remember that it is a complicated issue and that not all of the staff are in agreement. We hope that you'll seek out other perspectives to this story.

In Cooperation, Karen Mancuso, Gillian Chi, Dawn D'Arcy, Annette Laskaris, Mary Gerety, John Horsman, Jacquelyn Scaduto, Cecelia Rembert, Jennifer Brown, Cody Dodo, Liz Christ, Alex Marquez, Ithran Einhorn, Terry Meyers, Alex Walsh, Valerie Ratron-Neal, Britt Henriksson, Carline Aurelus, Yuri Weber, Julie Gabriel, Ross Gibson, Lewanika Forde-

St. Germain, Martha Hoffman, Kathy Hieatt, Charles Parham, John McNally, Jonathan Miller, Oren Yaniv, Ibou Diallo, Kevin O'Sullivan, Jason Weiner, C. Goldenstein, Mike Voytko, Gerald Barker, Margie Lempert, Brian Robinson, Jerome Petitgand, Ellen Weinstat, Matt Hoagland, Ken MacDonald, Jorge Jimenez

Senghor, Kathleen Keske, David

### **ABOUT SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF** THE PSFC BOARD **OF DIRECTORS**

### MEMBERS,

Two candidates for two slots is not healthy for a cooperative or business or community of 17,000 who use services and

are also workers and owners. Especially unhealthy when the group faces two questions critical to its identity: the size, scale and scope of the enterprise e.g. whether to expand into another site, and whether we can debate and decide through a vote with majority rule which products we buy and sell. We face a crisis in decision-making, also known as in governance, a.k.a. a crisis in participation a.k.a. democracy.

Decision-making structures, which are effective and efficient for 3,000, need to evolve to allow participation of 6,000. Constant revision to accommodate 12,000...and....17,000???? Announcing "This is how we do it" without considering this growth is unwise conservatism; Coop budget and the influence have also increased drastically.

Both candidates, Allen and Imani, are and will remain members of the Board whether there is a vote or not. Allen and Imani have served the Coop beyond the call of duty for years. Both have earned my admiration for their work. I have differences with their politics.

I asked at the March GM to what extent Allen and Imani felt responsible to the ethical commitments articulated in the Mission Statement. Allen expressed vague doubts about the Mission Statement. Imani said that her

intention on the Board is to affirm the GM vote on each item presented. She identifies the GM with "will of the members" despite the fact that on-going tensions result from a prohibition on discussing in any Coop forum whether to carry products from Israel rather than to bring the issue to a vote. Both responses are disappointing.

I wish candidates ran on a platform of ideas about how to resolve the two on-going conflicts of sustainability vs. growth and ethics in purchasing. I want to support younger people with a contemporary sensibility and also an understanding and commitment to the goals and values which brought us together and keep us together—those we worked long and hard to articulate into our Mission Statement 23 years ago.

To vote No on either Allen or Imani after their long dedication is disrespectful. I think NO on a ballot is humiliating and should be taken off. And to abstain avoids the critical issues.

I will hand in my ballot with VOID IN RESISTANCE written across it. I feel the process is contaminated, and I am convinced we have to re-think how we choose leaders. Board members should assume the responsibility they are given under the law and exert the influence

### **Gazette** Means

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

New Member" section, now defunct. I also loved Eco Kvetch's column. Can we bring that back?

**PSFC:** What would you like to see the Gazette do differently?

**Hector**: I'd like to see a dedicated section for recipes that focus on locally sourced foods, like a dedicated monthly column just for recipes. And I'd like to see someone do a column on the beer we offer.

**Glen**: Perhaps inject a bit more humor into it. Maybe there's an aspiring satirical writer who would like to do a regular column.

Sharon: It definitely could use more recipes. They used to do cooking classes here, and you could book it on Instagram. I hope they bring that back.

Jim: I'm always disappointed at the classifieds. I know most of this type of exchange has moved to the internet but the quantity of crap on the web makes me wish members used the classified a bit more. I know it would be for the most part local and of honorable origin. That said, not sure there is anything the Gazette staff or PSFC in general can do to change this.

Jen: If I could change one thing, I suppose it would be the puzzles. With apologies to the current puzzle maker, perhaps a little more engaging puzzles are possible. Also no more Israel stuff, please! I think that issue is why I stopped picking up the Gazette about a year ago. Is it

**Moe**: I wouldn't change a thing. The Gazette has evolved into a wonderful organizational information spreader. I applaud the staff for the professional product they produce so frequently.

### **An Interesting Angle**

One 5-year member, who shall go nameless, working his Sunday morning Shopping Squad, was interviewed and said he's never picked up and read the Gazette. He did, however, offer what he thought the PSFC needs—

# 3 GREAT reasons to register for member services!

- Intelligent Shift Notifications: Receive TEXT or EMAIL alerts for upcoming shifts. ➤
- **Zeasily available FTOP info:** View number of FTOP cycles covered or banked and upcoming

shifts scheduled!

**3** Avoid surprises at the entrance desk: Check your status before coming to the Coop.

**Ready to enroll:** Go to foodcoop.com and click on "Member Services" in the upper right-hand corner to get started.

its own newspaper. "It would be great if we had a newspaper that just focused on the PSFC, and not on outside politics," he said. "It would be good to know about the things that go on at the PSFC and what our policies

are about things like plastic bags, and how to ensure prices on labels are correct." He felt it would be especially helpful if the newsletter could be offered as a tab on the PSFC's new app, "so members could easily

access it and read it while they are waiting on line." Five feet away from him, a hundred copies of the latest edition of the Linewaiter's Gazette sat by the door in a small stack, waiting to be picked up. ■

### 0 Н E E

they have because they come to every General Meeting as their work-slot.

I expect whomever counts will report also the number of VOID votes cast. Allen and Imani will continue to be on the Coop Board in any case.

> Solidarity, Susan Metz

### **COFFEE CLARIFICATIONS**

### **DEAR EDITORS OF THE** LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE,

Whenever I want to buy coffee at the Coop, I find myself in a pickle: while I certainly want to support a fair price for the primary producers, I also want coffee grown in conditions, which reduce the impact on the local flora and fauna. Thus, I am looking for something like "shade grown," "Rainforest Certified," in addition to "Fair Trade." Alas, this has been proven very difficult, most of our bulk coffee, if not all of it is "Fair Trade," but has very little signage telling the consumer about its impact on biodiversity. Could there be clarifications on why we are not carrying both, ideally, a combination of both?

Thank you, a faithful reader, while being in line, or at home. Harald Parzer

### HI HARALD,

Thank you for asking about how the Coop sources our coffee. This is an important story, but one that is hard to communicate in the tight shopping aisles.

Equal Exchange (EE) is our primary partner for bulk coffee, and we carry twelve types of their beans. EE supports sustainable agriculture practices whenever possible. Over the past 30 years, they have developed relationships with small farmer co-ops, each of which has its own unique social, political and ecological history and is engaged in fostering sustainable agricultural production systems. Many of the small farmer cooperatives are based in regions with extensive landscape degradation. By working with these producers, Equal Exchange supports the critical work of restoring these landscapes.

Over 98% of EE coffees are certified organic, the majority of which are shade grown. The coffees that are not certified come

from locales where deforestation has occurred. The land in these areas is in transition, and in the process of being restored with agroforestry systems using coffee as the principal crop.

While the shade grown certification system is appropriate for some growers, it does not provide sufficient additional benefits for Equal Exchange to ask their producer partners to go through this process on top of the Fair Trade and organic standards they are already meeting because Organic and Fair Trade standards have environmental components that cover much of what shade grown certification requires.

The other coffees that the Coop stocks are also socially and environmentally conscious, and more information about their practices and processes can also be found on their websites.

> Cody Dodo, Receiving Coordinator, Coffee Buyer

### **VOTE YES ON MAY 28** DEAR MEMBERSHIP,

I look forward to seeing you at the next General Meeting. Please vote YES for my agenda item, Transparency and Accountability at the Linewaiters' Gazette. In doing so you will take the side of fairness, openness, and better communication between the Gazette and membership.

Jesse Rosenfeld

### **REGARDING GM** 4/30/19, ON PLASTIC **BAGS IN VEG AISLE**

### MEMBERS,

Hi, one of my statistics was incorrect. I megajoule /sec = 1megawatt/sec. It takes .48 mj/s to make one plastic bag like the veg aisle or  $.48 \times 1000 =$ 480 kj/s = 480/60\*60 = 480/3600kilowatts per hour or .133kwh per bag (not 480Kwh as I had said in the meeting). I forgot the change seconds to hours, 60 seconds in a minute x 60 minutes in an hour to get 3600 which has to be used as the divider. In any case, our 49000 bags used per week takes 49000 x .133kw to make or 6517 kilowatts per hour per week, which is about the amount of electricity it takes to run a household of 4 people for a full year (at 543kwh/month, look at your

electric bill and see what you use a month), so if we stopped those bags all together we would be saving 52 4 person households of electricity a year and the cost of Coop food by 450 or so x 52= \$23660 enough for a small solar electric system you could say it's like installing 52 solar electric systems on our houses that were large enough to make 6517kwh per year (probably cost around \$35000-\$45000 each in Brooklyn), but it only costs time to buy and use nylon, cloth, or silk bags instead and wash them. https://www.abs.gov.au/ ausstats/abs@.nsf/Previousproducts/1301.0Feature%20 Article212004

To make one plastic bag takes 4 cups water. Or 22 gallons per pound of plastic, and a bag is approximately 5.5 grams to make a cell phone uses about 3190 gallons. https:// www.watercalculator.org/wateruse/the-hidden-water-in-everyday-products/

If your lifestyle were to become conscious, we could save life on the earth as we know it and her inhabitants.

> Best, Tracy Fitz



### 🎓 EXCITING WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITIES 🎓



### **Dairy Inventory**

Monday, 6-8:45 a.m.

This is the perfect job for someone who prefers to work alone and on a single project for the majority of your shift. Necessary skills: good handwriting, ability to count by 6, 12 and 24, reliability and very good attention to detail. Under the supervision of the Coop's dairy buyers, you will take an accurate inventory of unsold product in the walk-in coolers on shopping floor and in the basement (we provide appropriate warm outerwear). Please ask for Eddie upon arrival.

### Office Post-Orientation Wednesday, 11:15 a.m.-2 p.m.

Work with a small, dedicated team to facilitate new members joining the Coop after orientation. Attention to detail skill a plus. Must have excellent attendance and Membership Office experience. Contact Jana Cunningham in the Membership Office at 718-622-0560 to sign up for this shift.

### **Entrance Desk** Thursday, 5:45 - 8:00 a.m.

Supervised by Membership Coordinators, you will be staffing the Entrance desk in hours of the weekday before the Coop is open to shoppers. You will be checking in working members, informing them of their member and household status, and handing out entrance desk slips to members who need them. Must be welcoming, polite, able to read and interpret information on the entrance desk screen, able to clearly convey information about member status directly to members. Entrance workers also provide a key security function, and must remain alert throughout the shift, which may have slow periods. Therefore reading, writing, talking on the phone, texting, etc. is not allowed. Punctuality and good attendance will be essential, as you will be the only Entrance worker scheduled at this time of day. Paid Membership Coordinators will be present to train you on your first (and second) shift, and then to support you and answer questions going forward.

### Office Set-Up Monday, Thursday, Friday 5:45-8:15 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, drying, folding and distributing laun-

dry. 6-month commitment is required. Please speak to Mary Gerety or Jana Cunningham in the Membership Office for more information.

### **Bathroom Cleaning** Monday, Friday 12-2 p.m.

This job involves cleaning the Coop's six bathrooms: two on the shopping floor, one in the basement, and three on the second floor. Using a checklist of tasks the squad of two members will coordinate the work by dividing up various cleaning tasks that include, but are not limited to, scrubbing floor tile, cleaning toilets and sinks, mopping floors, and re-supplying the bathrooms. The Coop only uses all natural products for its maintenance tasks. This job is perfect for members who like to clean and will be conscientious about doing a thorough job. Please report to the Membership Office on your first shift.

### **Store Equipment** Cleaning

Monday, 6-8 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 the Membership Office on your first work shift.

### Maintenance Sunday, 9-11p.m.

This shift includes a variety of cleaning tasks that focus on deep cleaning the refrigerated cases. The work includes removing products from particular cases, scrubbing, hosing down shelves, and restocking the cases. Other tasks may include cleaning, sweeping, mopping areas of the shopping floor and basement. Gloves and cleaning supply are provided. Because the shift is only two hours arriving on time is essential.

### **Receiving Produce** Monday-Friday, 5-7:30 a.m.

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



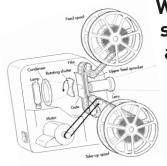








### **ARE YOU A BROOKLYN-BASED** FILMMAKER?



Would you like to screen your work at the Coop?

Then submit your film for possible inclusion in the Coop's Friday Film Night Screening Series.

If you're a Coop member you'll receive one FTOP credit for screening and offering a Q+A with your film. If you're not a member, it's still a chance to spread the word about your work and build your fan base by screening for a local audience.

We accept documentary and fiction, both features and shorts (we program shorts as a group).

Please e-mail Gabriel Rhodes for details at gabrielrhodes@me.com.

### THE GAZETTE INDEXES

If you are interested in the history of the Coop or in when and how particular subjects have been discussed in the Linewaiters' Gazette...

Send an e-mail to Len Neufeld, Gazette indexer, at lenneufeld@ verizon.net, to request PDF files of either or both of the following

- An alphabetized list of the titles of all articles published in the Gazette from 1995 to the present, with issue dates.
- An alphabetized list of all subjects (including people's names) discussed in Gazette articles from 1995 to the present, with article titles, issue dates, and page numbers (titles and subjects for earlier years are being added).

Many of the Gazette issues referenced in these indexes are available as PDFs on the Coop's website. (Copies of these and additional issues are also available at Brooklyn's Central Library, located at Flatbush Ave. and Eastern Pkwy. on Grand Army Plaza.)

### **Crossword Answers**

|   |   |   | Α | R | S | Ε | Ν | I | С | Α | L |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | Т | Η | Α | Т | S | Α | В | ı | G | ı | F |   |   |
|   | С | Н | Α | R | Α | С | Т | Е | R | I | Ζ | Ε | S |   |
| D | R | Е |   | Е | Т | Α |   |   |   |   |   | Е | Т | S |
| R | I | С |   | S | Е | Р |   | S | Р | Α | М | В | 0 | Т |
| Ε | М | 0 |   | Т | J | Е |   | С | Α | М | I | L | L | 0 |
| Α | I | L |   | Α | Ν | Α |   | Α | L | Α | Т | Ε | Ε | Ν |
| М | Ν | 0 |   | М | I | Т |   | М | 0 | Ν | Т | Α | Ν | Е |
| С | Α | R |   | Р | ٧ | Т |   |   |   |   |   | Т | В | Α |
| Α | L | Р |   | D | Е | Е |   | S | 0 | D | Α | Т | Α | Х |
| Т | С | U |   | Е | R | Ν |   | Т | Н | Е | R | Ε | S | Е |
| С | 0 | R |   | Α | S | Т |   | R | Е | Ν | Α | М | Е | S |
| Н | U | Ρ |   | L | I | I |   | U | Ν | Ζ | I | Р | S |   |
| Ε | R | L |   | Е | Т | 0 |   | С | R | Е | S | Т |   |   |
| R | Т | Е |   | R | Υ | Z |   | K | Υ | L | Е |   |   |   |

### Coop Job Opening: REVISED **Membership Coordinator**

Membership Coordinator work is divided among three areas: supervision of the Membership Office Committee; providing operational, managerial and policy support to the shopping floor during shopping hours; oversight/coordination/ ongoing innovation of the Coop's administrative functions. As with all paid staff positions, the main goal of the Membership Coordinator team is to facilitate the member labor system and to ensure the smooth functioning of the Coop for shoppers and working members.

### All candidates must possess these qualities:

- Excellent administrator and problem solver with strong organizational skills and the capacity to do accurate, detailed record keeping
- Reliable, and self-motivated and able to identify and evaluate the Coop's needs and prioritize tasks
- Very comfortable with computers (Macs and Microsoft Office a plus) and computer and online systems
- A team player with outstanding communication and listening skills who enjoys lots of interactions with people
- · Able to oversee the work of others, give constructive feedback, delegate, train and explain procedures
- Prepared to commit to working on many of the major Federal holidays, and during the winter holiday season which stretches pre-Thanksgiving through the end of January, which sees the Coop's highest weekly sales volume

Approx. 40 hours in 5 days/week Thursday through Monday (Tue/Wed off). Weekday schedules will be afternoon/evening hours (some shifts until 11:00 p.m.). Saturday and Sunday hours will vary, though shifts are between 6 and 8 hours in length.

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.

Working Environment: Candidates must be comfortable in noisy, hectic surroundings in close quarters with others and able to navigate our three-floor work environment, including going up and down stairs, some lifting, kneeling and ladder use

### **Pre-Requisites:**

Candidates must be current Park Slope Food Coop members for at least 12 months immediately prior to application. Candidates must have worked at least two shifts in the Membership Office prior to being interviewed. If you have not met that requirement and wish to schedule shifts in the Office please submit your application, and then immediately contact the Coop at hc-membershipcoordinator@psfc.coop to schedule shifts. Please put "Schedule Shifts" in the subject field.

### **How to Apply:**

Attach resume and paste cover letter at the link below:

http://bit.ly/PSFC-MC2019

Applicants will receive an acknowledgment of receipt of application via email. Please 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, at which point all applicants will be notified. 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.

### CLASSIFIEDS

### BED & BREAKFAST

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

### HOUSING SUBLETS

SUBLEASE AND CAT SITTING -Lovely Cobble Hill 2 bedroom ideal for single & couple. Near F & Brooklyn Bridge Park. 9 windows. AC, dishwasher, high-speed wifi. Sweet 14-year-old tabby. \$2,600 a month includes utilities. July 1 -Aug. 11. lwshapiro@gmail.com.

### MERCHANDISE-NONCOMMERCIAL

Hoover HEPA vacuum cleaner 4 allergy sufferers \$40 or Dyson

DC17 \$100. Farberware coffee/ herb grinder \$10. New electric can opener \$10. Krups 10-cup coffee maker \$10. Maxim cappuccino maker new \$40. DeLonghi toaster oven \$14. Sunbeam toaster \$8. George Foreman grill \$15. Ask about my bikes. Marc 718-314-5462 or 718-636-6348.

### MERCHANDISE WANTED

Our 6-month-old granddaughter is visiting us in Bklyn in July. We need to borrow or buy used baby stuff: small stroller, high chair, clip-on seat. bouncer w/rocker seat. Please email ralph.engelman@gmail.com.

### SERVICES **AVAILABLE**

EXPRESS MOVES. One flat price for the entire move! No deceptive hourly estimates! Careful, experienced mover. Everything quilt padded. No extra charge for ward-

robes and packing tape. Specialist in walkups. Thousands of satisfied customers. Great Coop references. 718-670-7071.

MADISON AVENUE HAIRCUTTER is right around the corner from the Food Coop, so if you would like a really good haircut at a decent price, please call Maggie at 718-783-2154. I charge \$60. I work from Wednesdays thru Sundays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

### **VACATION RENTALS**

Rent a charming one-bedroom apartment in Paris from longtime Coop members. On the top floor with an elevator and quintessential views of Paris rooftops in a lovely residential neighborhood. Wi-fi, cable TV, DW, W/D, free calls to U.S. Photos/description: homeexchange.com/en/homes/ view/425686. email: magisson@ gmail.com.

### To Submit Classified or Display Ads:

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

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

Attorney Carol Lipton has been practicing law for decades with Barton L. Slavin, with offices in mid-town. We represent Accident Victims for Car Accidents, Slip and Falls and Construction Accidents; Sellers and Buyers of Co-ops and Condos; Estates and Wills, Guardianship, Business Litigation, Bankruptcy, and Civil and Family Court

Appeals. We concentrate only in these areas of law. 718-436-5359 or 212-233-1010 ww.nycattorneys.com

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### Outdoor Brooklyn Summer Camp Ages 2-4

Join Little Wings for a summer of nature, art, music and movement. Progressive, unique and nurturing approach. Close to Park Slope and Atlantic Terminal. Weekly sessions starting June 10th.

> 917-856-0058 queenstreet321@yahoo.com





Classified advertising in the Linewaiters' Gazette is available only to Coop members. Publication does not imply endorsement by the Coop.

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

Two three-year terms on the Board are open.

To vote you may use a proxy or attend the Food Coop Annual Meeting on June 25, 2019. Every member will receive a proxy package in the mail in late May.

You will have the opportunity to meet the candidates at the June 25 Annual Meeting. Candidate statements follow.

### Imani Q'ryn



I have been a member of the Coop for 23 years. I joined because I wanted to eat only fresh organic food. The Coop provides the savings I need to be able to afford to do that. I love the Coop, its energy, the diversity of the membership, the ideals of cooperation and democracy and above all the beautiful food at unbelievable prices.

The Coop reflects what's possible in the world. It's a privilege to be a part of it.

I started going to the General Meetings in 2001. Initially, I went for work slot credit and was surprised to discover that the meeting was small compared to the vast size of our membership and that the diversity which I saw while shopping at the Coop was not powerfully reflected in the meeting. I thought to myself, "here is the decision-making body of the Coop and only a few members are making these decisions and even fewer people of color. "

I wondered, "What can I do to encourage greater diversity and participation in the meeting?" I live by the words of Gandhi who said, "Be the change you seek to see in the world." I decided to join the Chair Committee soon after my first meeting. I have been committed to making all people feel welcomed at the meeting, being fair and open to all sides of an issue and to being clear on the policies and how the meeting is run. I am encouraged that in the last few years our General Meeting attendance has grown significantly due to a change in the work slot credit policy.

I was elected to the Board of Directors 14 years ago and have continuously served in this capacity. I have served on the board longer than any other elected member. I am also still a member of the Chair Committee and have been so throughout my service on the Board.

Our Board of Directors is not a typical Board. It was required by state law that the Coop have a Board of Directors. As a cooperative we liked our town hall style of governance, that every member has a say, every member has a vote. We wanted to continue that tradition. The Coop's attorney at that time came up with the idea that the Board should take the advice of the members on all subjects as a means of limiting the powers of the Board. It was written into our By Laws. Most of the Board Members that we've had since the Board was instituted decades ago have accepted this policy.

I take the mandate to trust the membership and take their advice as a sacred duty. It's not my opinion, or my position on an issue that is important. It is vital that I respect and trust the voice of the membership. The membership guides my vote.

The purpose of the Park Slope Food Coop Board is to be a safeguard for the voice of our membership. We are fulfilling the legal requirements of the state and holding sacred our right as a Coop to govern ourselves. We must have Board Members who hold this dear and whose number one priority is to the Coop and its membership.

In closing, I have intimate experience with Coop policies, procedures and the workings of the Board of Directors. I think our cooperative process works and as a board member I respect the members' deliberations and will strive to ensure that the General Meeting remains the highest decision-making body in the Coop. I will also continue to encourage diversity in the General Meeting as well as all aspects of the Coop.

My candidacy has been endorsed by the General Coordinators of the Coop and I welcome that support. Please vote for me. Thank you for your consideration. ■

### Allen Zimmerman



I have been a member of the Park Slope Food Coop for over 40 years. I have served on the Board of Directors before I was hired as a General Coordinator in 1988 and again after I retired in 2015. I have attended over 400 General Meetings and chaired many times. I co-authored our original meeting rules of order and worked

with the team that wrote our current version.

When I was hired in 1988 our staff grew from three to four. I was responsible for a great deal of buying, supervision of deliveries, some minor bookkeeping, participation in our management team. I most enjoyed apprenticing with Joe Holtz, our first produce buyer. When the staff needed Joe to take on the responsibility of General Manager, I became our produce buyer. I enjoyed supervising and training a growing produce staff and especially enjoyed working with countless members before the crack of dawn. It is gratifying to me that the lessons I learned from Joe and then taught to my produce team are still evident whenever I shop.

I love the Park Slope Food Coop and believe in the General Meeting. I appreciate the face to face interaction. I remember instances when I came to a meeting to support or advocate for a position and had my mind changed by a single differing voice. I don't want to give up on our meeting style and the opportunity to persuade or be persuaded in real time. I want to learn about meeting alternatives or innovations that

allow for more inclusion without sacrificing active give and take.

For most of my adult life I have loved, served, supported, promoted and defended the Park Slope Food Coop. I will continue to do so. I have never been a rubber stamp for the General Coordinators, even when I was one. As a board member I have always voted to support the decisions of the members at every General Meeting. I support the Rochdale Principles of Cooperation. I support our Mission Statement but more importantly to me, I support the mission that we had long before we had a statement, "Good food at affordable prices for working members through cooperation." I hope that I have earned your trust over the years and that you will support my candidacy for the Board of Directors as have the General Coordinators who have endorsed me. Thank you for reading my statement. ■

### THANK YOU!

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

Andrew Ahern Marco Albanese Anna Auster Ellie B. Skyler Barr Nancy Blaine Hali Brindel Charrow Charrow Carol Chin Erin Cornell Erika Dagress Millie David Alexandra deToth Susan Duprey Andre Eamiello Cerise F. Natalie Fairchild Brit Frver Dante Fuoco William Gentle

Zachary German Rachel Glicksman Ana H. Vicente Hansen Hannah Harpole Marian Hertz Noa Heyman Caitlin Hohn Carrie Jones Abigail K. Sarah K. Kai Jessica Kaufman Serene Khader Lenore Kitching Ewa Ligeza Corey Liston Michael Lopez Jacob M.

Patrick S. McCarty

Leigh Anne Miller Yevgenia Navberg David Peer Dinah Pena Tanva Pollard Lupe Ramsey Susan Rapalee Cecilia Rembert Mayra Rodriguez Stuart Rosenfeld Sasha Melissa Schulz Vanessa Seis Anthony Sepulveda Aucher Serr

Jennifer Shin

L. Solomon

Sophia

Ellen Sidles Farhi

William Stenhouse

Hanna Tulis Ariel Utin Lalkin Bradley Vopni Jocelyn Vopni Jamie Whiteman John Wright Tina Y. Manuel Zelaya

Vita Taurke

Robert Taylor

