

Established  
1973

# LINEWATERS'

## GAZETTE

100%  
SOY BASED  
Ink System  
Contains no solvents or

Volume NN, Number 12

June 20, 2019

## Sound and Fury at the General Meeting

By John B. Thomas

An average participant at the May 28 General Meeting might be forgiven for mistaking the gathering as an adult shouting match instead of a formal governance meeting of a cooperative whose primary responsibility is to sell good food, at low cost, for working members, through cooperation.

The five main items on the agenda were the annual election of members of the Revolving Loan Committee as well as the newly formed Pension Advisory Committee; consideration of several banking resolutions; the financial report (available at the Coop entrance); and a proposal by a frequent letter writer to thwart the *Gazette's* letter rejection policy. In sum, members were elected and banking resolutions passed without fanfare, and the *Gazette* proposal was defeated.

As usual, the meeting began with an open forum that started with a mix of longstanding Coop issues (modifying the retirement age, accommodations for bulk purchasing in reusable containers) and hot-button topics, like the effort some Coop employees are undertaking to explore unionizing.

As a reminder to the mem-

bership, paid staff at the Coop consist of six General Coordinators (akin to the "management") and 69 Area Coordinators, who work in IT, bookkeeping, receiving, and membership. It is these 69 Area Coordinators who are exploring the benefits and drawbacks of forming a union, and it is ultimately their decision alone as to whether to unionize.

While the decision to unionize is not a decision unpaid Coop members are entitled to make, several paid staff members expressed the desire to learn from the expertise in the Coop membership about how to unionize, and how to consider the benefits and potential drawbacks. Despite a range of perspectives expressed at the meeting in support of and questioning the benefits of unionizing, Area Coordinator Gillian Chi reminded all those in attendance that "If we decide to unionize it's because the majority of us [paid Coop staff] want it. If we don't it's because the majority of us don't."

The Coordinator and Committee Reports were packed with information, starting with the International Trade Education Squad, which provided an update on President Trump's

ongoing trade disputes. Coop members seeking to learn more can check out the ITES website, <http://coopites.wordpress.com>.

Coop Member Eric Fruman provided an update on the Labor Committee, and previewed that in July it will bring a proposal to the membership to formally collaborate with the Fair Food program, a program to protect the 35,000 workers in the tomato industry. In addition, Fruman offered the following commentary about the unionizing dialogue: "The Labor Committee supports the rights of all workers to self-organize. We believe it should be supported throughout the Coop in a neutral and respected environment." Coop members seeking to learn more about the work of the Labor Committee can check out <http://psflaborcommittee.wordpress.com>.

The meeting quickly moved to the Coordinator reports, where GC Elinor Astrinsky responded to the earlier question about bulk purchasing with reusable glass containers. She provided an update on the Coop's inventory system, which is currently being re-written, with the goal of being re-launched within the next two years, at which point Coordinators hope they will be able to have a tare with glass option.

Astrinsky also made the membership aware that the elevator will be down for three weeks, starting July 15, in order to upgrade it to meet

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

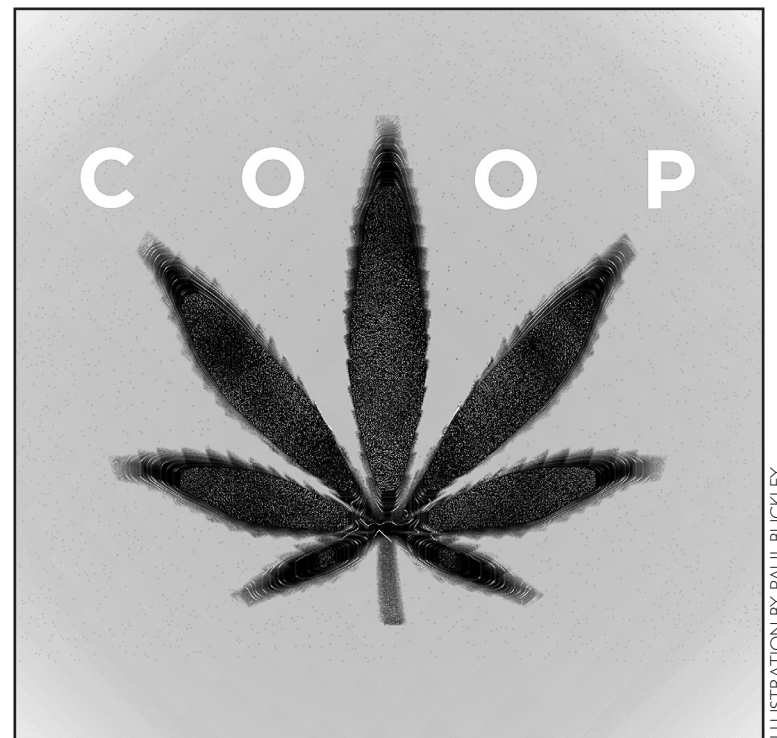


ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL BUCKLEY

## What If the Coop Could Sell Weed?

By Meredith Kolodner

As state legislators debate whether and how to legalize cannabis for recreational use, the Coop may be faced with a burning question. If a bill somehow makes it through Albany, indubitably brokered in a smoke-filled room, could weed come to the Coop?

Is it possible that members could one day choose from an array of THC prod-

ucts, just as they now sift through the many varieties of pasta that currently grace the Coop's shelves? Will the Coop need to create a marijuana bagging squad?

Before I try to answer some of these questions, some background is necessary. For people who lived or are still living through the War on Drugs, the fact that these are even questions is fairly stunning.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

### CORRECTION

An article about the GM in the May 23 issue of the *Gazette* incorrectly identified the member who delivered the committee report for the Coop's International Trade Education Squad as Willy Naess. In fact the speaker was Bart DeCoursy.

## Coop Event Highlights

**Tue, Jul 9 • Plow-to-Plate Film:**  
*One Man, One Cow, One Planet* 7:00 p.m.

**Fri, Jul 12 • Wordsprouts:**  
*Betsy Andrews* 7:00 p.m.

**Sat, Jul 20 • Learn About Cheese at the Coop**  
12:00 p.m.

**Fri, Aug 2 • Film Night**  
7:00 p.m.

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

### IN THIS ISSUE

|  |    |
|--|----|
| More About Those "Organic" Berries                 | 4  |
| Horoscope  | 4  |
| Puzzle   | 6  |
| Governance Information, Mission Statement, Welcome | 9  |
| Calendar of Events                                 | 10 |
| Letters to the Editor                              | 12 |
| Community Calendar                                 | 14 |
| Classifieds  | 15 |
| Thank You  | 16 |
| Exciting Workslot Opportunities                    | 16 |

## Sound and Fury

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

compliance with New York City laws, and that more information will be forthcoming on how the Coop will manage accessibility during this time.

General Coordinator Ann Herpel delivered a statement on behalf of the General Coordinators in response to questions and concerns about the effort to unionize, specifically that employees had filed a complaint with the National Labor Review Board. As this process is considered a legal action against the Coop, the Coop has retained a lawyer (Eric Jones of Jones PLC) to represent the Coop. Despite member desires to understand the nature of the complaint and those involved, Herpel maintained that this process would remain confidential to protect those involved, but that “We [the Coop] are currently cooperating and plan to fully cooperate with the investigation.” Herpel also affirmed full support, on behalf of the GCs, of the right of Coop staff to self-organize.

Regarding the items of business on the Coop agenda for the May 28 GM, the annual election of a member of the Revolving Loan Committee and the approval of banking resolutions for the Coop’s bank accounts were relatively standard items of business.

As a reminder, the Revolving Loan Committee is responsible for overseeing the support (via loans) that the Coop offers to nascent cooperatives, based on the view that the Coop has a role to play in supporting the broader cooperative movement. As this committee is tasked with evaluating the loan applications, committee members

are required to have significant financial expertise. Kathy Martino, who was proposed as a candidate, has already been involved in writing and creating loan documents that both made loans accessible to the borrower and protected the interests of the Coop. She was elected by overwhelming majority.

The second item was presented by General Coordinator Joe Holtz. Holtz was seeking a formal resolution from the Board of Directors to allow the Coop to open bank accounts at local banks or credit unions to help manage cash flow. This issue has become important in recent years as interest rates have increased, and so the Coop has the potential to earn some money on its cash through CDs with higher interest rates (e.g. 3.1% over 2.5-3 years at the National Cooperative Savings Bank). After some questions relating to the breadth of authority these resolutions bestowed on the GCs, the consensus seemed to emerge that these resolutions were long overdue in order to enable the GCs to effectively manage the Coop’s finances, part of the reason they are paid employees. The motion was passed overwhelmingly.

A third item—the election of trustees to the Pension Advisory Committee—was presented by General Coordinator Lisa Moore, who became the Coop’s Pension Plan Administrator in 2016 after concerns about the previous management of the pension plan were brought to light.

Moore reminded the Coop that the Pension Advisory Committee is a new committee, and that the vote was the result of a year-long effort—authorized by the GM—to interview and

recommend at least five committee members who have the requisite experience to understand how the pension plan is performing and to communicate issues and concerns to the membership, which is the defined role of the Pension Advisory Committee.

After hearing statements from the six candidates, Jesse Shapiro, Allison Thrush (in absentia), Ben Millard, Kathy Martino, Avi Fisher, and Nils Mellquist, there was a brief comment period that centered on how the committee would deal with a situation in which the Pension Plan Committee would not turn over requisite information. Fortunately, the proposal that approved the Advisory Committee at the July 2018 GM requires the Pension Plan Trustees to provide any information requested by the Advisory Committee. After a vote later in the meeting, Shapiro, Thrush, Martino, Fisher, and Mellquist were elected. Millard was not elected.

The final issue for discussion at the Coop was a proposal by Jesse Rosenfeld to modify the *Gazette*’s letter rejection policy. Rosenfeld sought to approve a motion that would require editors to reply with specific reasons for the rejection (with specific sections highlighted and a checkbox indicating the reason), as opposed to the *Gazette*’s current policy, which provides a long list of potential reasons for rejection that editors reference at their discretion.

While on its surface this portion of the proposal seemed reasonable to many in attendance, Rosenfeld also wanted the policy changed so that “entire letters cannot be rejected.” That seems to have been the most conten-

tious piece of the proposal, suggesting that Rosenfeld wanted to ensure that all letters—and specifically his letters—would be published. This language was interpreted by those present, and by the *Gazette* editors, as indicating that all letters received by the *Gazette* must be published.

When pressed on this issue, Rosenfeld seemed not to understand the concern, and replied with vague assurances that he only meant that Coop editors couldn’t issue blanket rejections, not that all letters had to be published. However, when he was offered the opportunity to amend his proposal to address this concern, Rosenfeld declined.

With the meeting running late and Rosenfeld’s presentation taking approximately 20 minutes, there were less than 10 minutes for a comment and a vote, which led to significant chaos, acrimony, hostility, and generally uncooperative spirit.

*Gazette* Editors Nancy Rosenberg and Carey Meyers tried to deliver measured responses to Rosenfeld’s proposal on behalf of the *Gazette*, but were only offered a minute each to defend the *Gazette*’s approach out of a well-intentioned but poorly executed desire by the Chair Committee to offer both sides the opportunity to comment.

The most telling exchange during this period was when a Coop member asked Rosenfeld if he had conducted any research into how much of an impact the *Gazette*’s policy was having on the membership, to which Rosenfeld replied, “I’m not the only person bothered; others just haven’t stepped forward.”

During their statements, *Gazette* editors Rosenberg and Meyers stated, “We have received no complaints about the rare rejection.”

The proposal was defeated with 74 in favor, and 247 opposed. ■

## PLASTIC PACKAGING RECYCLING

**Saturday, June 22, 1:45-4 p.m.**

**Wednesday, July 10, 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 Jacquelyn Scaduto in the Membership Office.

For more information about Terracycle, visit [terracycle.com](http://terracycle.com)

Questions about items we accept should be e-mailed to [ecokvetch@yahoo.com](mailto:ecokvetch@yahoo.com)



## 3 GREAT reasons to register for member services!

**1 Intelligent Shift Notifications:** Receive TEXT or EMAIL alerts for upcoming shifts. ↗

**2 Easily 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](http://foodcoop.com) and click on “Member Services” in the upper right-hand corner to get started.





Frustrated Coop members were keen to get home after calls to extend the length of the May General Meeting.



May GM union button.



The auditorium at St Francis Xavier quickly emptied out at 9:45 p.m. when the GM came to a close.

PHOTOS BY ROD MORRISON

park slope  
FOOD COOP

GOOD FOOD AT LOW PRICES FOR WORKING  
MEMBERS THROUGH COOPERATION SINCE 1973

ABOUT ► FOOD ► MEMBERSHIP ►

Home → Announcements

In this section  
General Coordinator  
Statement on Union  
Organizing

## General Coordinator Statement on Union Organizing

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.

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.

General Coordinator statement on Union Organizing on [foodcoop.com](http://foodcoop.com).

Read the *Gazette* while you're standing on line OR online at [www.foodcoop.com](http://www.foodcoop.com)



## More About Those “Organic” Berries

By Alison Rose Levy

In the April 25, 2018, issue of the *Gazette*, I reported on mounting concerns over whether Driscoll's certified organic berries are indeed really organic. And now, thanks in large measure to Dave Chapman, farmer and Executive Director of the Real Organic Project, the organization featured in that article, there are some new developments.

A summary of the prior article: In 2017, in opposition to concerted protests by organic farmers, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB), which is populated by the largest companies that sell and in many cases have acquired what were originally small, pioneering organic brands, decided in a close vote to certify as organic hydroponically and container-grown foods. The article focused on Driscoll's, a massive company that made its name growing and selling as organic hydroponically-fed container-grown berries, including some on the Coop's shelves.

The prior article detailed that although Driscoll's lobbied for over a decade to certify its hydro-grown container berries as organic, at some point the company scrubbed all mention of hydro from its website and currently maintains that its container products are not hydro grown. The Driscoll's website says its berries are grown in fields in soil and in containers by inde-

pendent farmers. But container-grown berries, grown in sterilized environments and fed by inputs circulating in a closed water system, are indeed hydroponic.

Chapman says the term hydroponics denotes the way the plant receives its nutrition. “When a plant gets all or most of its nutrition from a liquid feed, that's hydroponic growing,” Chapman says.

“The liquid feed contains fertilizers typically allowed in organic production but never intended to supply the plant's entire nutrition,” which in all other organic produce comes from the soil.

Hydro-fed container growing lacks the “checks and balances of a complex system with all that rich microbiology living in the soil. This makes it easier for weeds and pests to become a problem,” Chapman explains. “That's why these berries are very prone to disease and insects. The solutions are fungicides and pesticides. In a real organic system, not needing a pesticide is the result of how you farm, not what gives you the rights to define your methods as organic.”

The plant fragility caused by hydro-container growing methods prompted the need for container-growers like Driscoll's to use the carcinogenic herbicide glyphosate, which had never before been allowed in any phase of organic growing.

My earlier article left readers with an open ques-

tion: Do Driscoll's berries meet or fail long-standing organic standards?

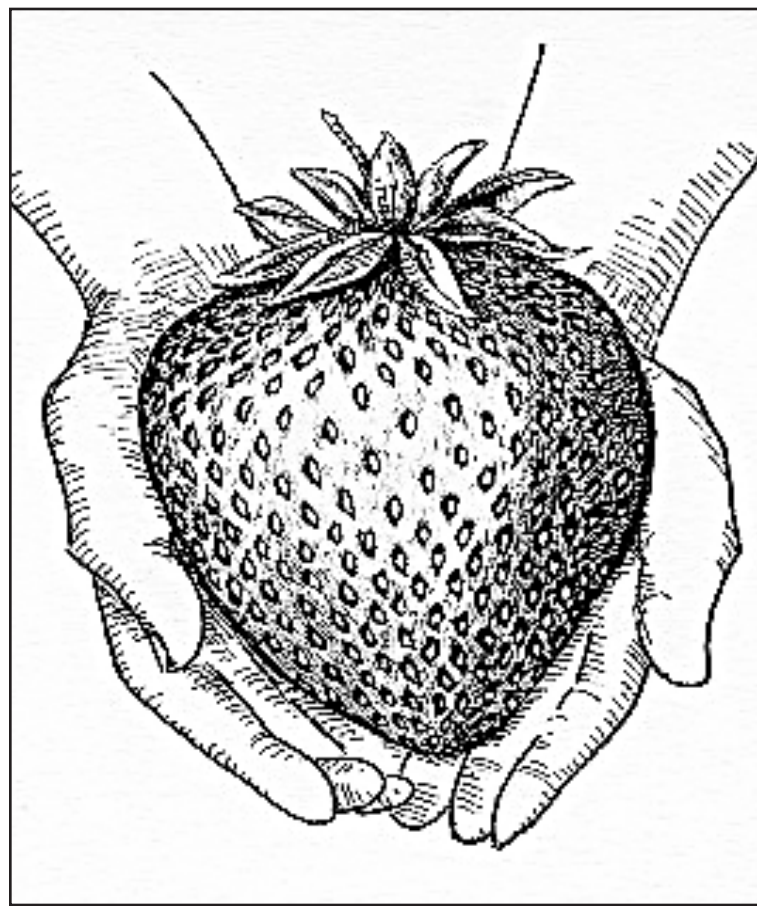
As that article was being completed, Chapman alerted the USDA National Organics Program (NOP) that hydroponic-fed container growers like Driscoll's were reported to be spraying their fields with glyphosate within days of planting, a practice in clear violation of the Organic Standards, which require a minimum of three years of organic agriculture prior to growing crops for sale.

This article picks up where the prior article left off.

In *Civil Eats*, Gosia Woznicka explains why this matter goes right to the heart of the integrity of the organic food supply: “Soil-based farmers must go through a three-year transition period from conventional agriculture to a certified organic harvest. It's a major challenge, as during this period they're required to relinquish all prohibited chemicals, improve soil quality and face diminishing yields all without getting paid a premium for organic crops.”

Not adhering to the three-year transition means that “a conventional hydroponic grower can switch to organics practically overnight. Glyphosate and other chemicals can potentially be used shortly before organic production begins, just prior to the application for certification is filed,” wrote Woznicka.

In a public exchange with



Jennifer Tucker, deputy administrator of the NOP, Chapman revealed the reported use of glyphosate in hydroponic-fed container growing and asked Tucker if the USDA was currently permitting such practices. She reluctantly acknowledged that indeed the agency was.

The ensuing public outrage at this revelation “was so extreme that some even accused me of making the whole thing up,” Chapman says. “Some insisted that this could NOT be happening.” But Chapman says his conversations with organic certifiers continued to confirm the widespread use of glyphosate in certified hydroponic-fed container growing.

This controversy instigated a firestorm at the National Organics Program and a massive reaction within the organic farming and certification community.

“The confusion over how to organically manage container systems arose in the first place due to the relative novelty of allowing any container systems to be considered as organic,” according to the advocacy group Beyond Pesticides, which questions the basis for certifying any hydroponic operation as organic.

In an April article, Tucker admitted to *Civil Eats* that the USDA does not require hydro-container growers to play by the same rules: “The three-year transition rule applies to a soil-based system. A greenhouse does not need to go through the three-year transition period.”

What does that mean for the organic berries you or I

bring home to eat? Chapman explains: “Zero transition time means that glyphosate, malathion, and other egregious materials can be permitted the day before organic certification. With no transition time, what is there to stop some cynical hydroponic producers from transitioning in and out, taking a week between crops to ‘bomb’ their greenhouses with, an insecticide or ‘clean up’ their fields with an herbicide? Then the next week they could bring in new ‘containers’ and get recertified as organic.”

Tucker admitted that hydro-fed container growers, like Driscoll's, are allowed by the NOP to play by different rules. Yet she denied the rumors of glyphosate use as a result of this exemption. In a June National Organic Standards Board meeting in Seattle, Tucker stated that she had conducted a brief investigation and heard farmers and certifiers deny that they were using glyphosate. Based on these preliminary findings, she called reports of glyphosate use “hypothetical.”

It's not that easy to “catch” a grower using glyphosate, nor to force them to admit in their marketing that they are doing so.

Tucker's attempt to settle this question was short-lived. Chapman said that “compelling evidence that this spraying was, in fact, happening” appeared.

Americert International is a USDA accredited certifying agent under the USDA National Organic Program, which provides “organic certification for producers, processors, and

## HOROSCOPE

June 6, 2019 – July 3, 2019

**Aries:** You are able to make peace with the past during this cycle. Do a ritual to sow seeds for your bright future.

**Taurus:** This is a time of abundance as the Sun transits your house of green through June 21. Let your garden grow!

**Gemini:** You may be very in demand for your ideas and your ability to tap into what the planet needs right now. Brainstorm with the best!

**Cancer:** It's time to celebrate you (!) as the sun enters your sign and the season of summer. Make wishes with abandon, and abandon negativity.

**Leo:** We are approaching your birthday season, making it a good time to look back on what you've gained and lost this year. Meditate on a new and better life.

**Virgo:** It's hard to imagine a more fun time for you and your friends. Make time to build an even stronger community. Your stewardship is needed.

**Libra:** Your career has some good surprises in store. You may be called upon to take on a bigger leadership.

**Scorpio:** Confidence is key now, Scorpio. Uranus in your opposite sign is making your love life a rollercoaster, but you will land safely.

**Sagittarius:** You are the object of affection of so many, Sag, so get out of your head and mix it up with the people like only you can!

**Capricorn:** The Sun enters your house of love on June 22 and you may want to go “all in” with someone you adore.

**Aquarius:** Your body is trying to speak to you, Aquarius, so listen up. Keep up your best health routines, and stop pushing yourself into overdrive.

**Pisces:** The muse is with you, Pisces. Whether it's music or art, writing or dance you have much to express during this cycle.



handlers, providing organic certification in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, New York, New Jersey, and throughout the United States and the world." These are the people who go out, inspect, and validate the practices that assure that the food grown on organic farms meets the required criteria for labeling as organic.

In an April 26, 2019 letter, the Americert Technical Director informed Americert's suppliers, staffs, and the growers it certifies that Americert had not followed the three-year requirement to desist from certifying as organic any container operation that used "prohibited substances, such as pesticides and herbicides."

In other words, they provided organic certification to container growers who sprayed with prohibited sub-

stances, such as glyphosate, even the day before receiving certification. Nor was this practice "hypothetical" or unproven, as claimed by the NOP's Tucker. The Americert letter confirmed that container growers were allowed an exception.

Americert further revealed in its letter that it had explicitly informed the NOP of this and asked for their confirmation that "the approach used by Americert was a proper interpretation of the NOP rules." Americert wrote: "We have not been able to obtain a clear statement from the NOP one way or another on this issue. It may be that the NOP itself, having not previously considered this issue deeply enough, does not know where it stands on this issue. To date it has not publicly and specifically approved of the practice, but neither

has it specifically and publicly disapproved of this practice." Americert went on to say: "While the NOP is aware that many certifying agents, including Americert, has [sic] interpreted the rules in this manner, it has not issued a Notice of Noncompliance to Americert on this basis, and has not issued specific guidance or a specific statement approving or condemning the practice. It appears that on this issue, we are left on our own to determine how to proceed."

When Dave Chapman just recently called Americert's confirmation to Tucker's attention she did an about face and reissued the original organic rules, without alteration, reiterating that prohibited substances may not be used on land slated for organic production for the prior three years:

"This memo clarifies that the legal requirements related to the three-year transition

period apply to all container systems built and maintained on land."

This is a win for organic growers and eaters—and demonstrates that with persistence, David can sometime prevail over Goliath.

There is just one little problem. Prior hydro-fed container operations, such as Driscoll's, are now grandfathered in. The NOP memo "is not retroactive to already certified operations and sites. All currently certified container system operations retain their certification."

That means that growers like Driscoll's can keep their certification, while exempted from the three-year rule—indefinitely. If major container growers were not dependent on glyphosate to keep plants healthy, there would be no need for Tucker to grandfather their use of it. Tucker might have simply reaffirmed the longstanding organic rules. But instead she

changed the rules for hydro-fed container growers.

The question is whether or not there are glyphosate residues in Driscoll's berries. The only way to know for sure would be to test them. But neither the NOP, the certifiers nor the growers themselves propose to do that. ■

#### Sources:

[www.realorganicproject.com](http://www.realorganicproject.com)  
[www.foodcoop.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/lwg\\_2019\\_04\\_25\\_vNN\\_n08.pdf](http://www.foodcoop.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/lwg_2019_04_25_vNN_n08.pdf)  
[civileats.com/2019/04/23/can-hydroponic-farmers-spray-glyphosate-just-before-becoming-organic/](http://civileats.com/2019/04/23/can-hydroponic-farmers-spray-glyphosate-just-before-becoming-organic/)  
[beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/2019/06/responding-to-pressure-from-advocates-usdas-national-organic-program-announces-stricter-enforcement-for-organic-container-systems/](http://beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/2019/06/responding-to-pressure-from-advocates-usdas-national-organic-program-announces-stricter-enforcement-for-organic-container-systems/)  
[www.americertorganic.com/](http://www.americertorganic.com/)  
[www.realorganicproject.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/042619-Americert-Policy-on-the-Application-of-Section-205.2026-Three-Year-Rule-to-Field-Based-Container-Operations.pdf](http://www.realorganicproject.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/042619-Americert-Policy-on-the-Application-of-Section-205.2026-Three-Year-Rule-to-Field-Based-Container-Operations.pdf)

## 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...

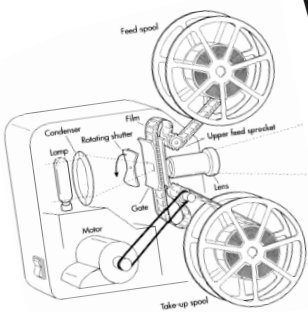
Send an e-mail to Len Neufeld, Gazette indexer, at [lenneufeld@verizon.net](mailto:lenneufeld@verizon.net), to request PDF files of either or both of the following indexes:

- 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.)

## 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](mailto:gabrielrhodes@me.com).**





Weed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As of June 2019, 10 states plus Washington, D.C., have legalized marijuana for adult recreational use. Those states are Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, California, Colorado, Alaska, Michigan, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. Thirty-three states and Washington, D.C. have legalized medical marijuana. Cannabis is fully illegal in just 10 states—meaning neither medical nor recreational use is allowed.

In 1996, California became

the first state to legalize the use of cannabis for medical purposes when voters approved a measure known as Proposition 215.

In 2012, Colorado and Washington became the first two states to make recreational use legal, both also by ballot initiatives.

So What’s the Deal in New York?

Of all the states that have legalized recreational use, only Vermont did it through its state legislature. The preference for ballot referendums may be because the

political obstacles in state legislatures are too complicated to navigate. And it is difficult to think of a state capital that can surpass the political wrangling and back door deal making that takes place in Albany, which is where the current battle for adult recreational use is taking place.

“I would be against it. I’m philosophically against mind-altering substances.”  
—Robert Matson

Marijuana was officially decriminalized for private use in New York in 1977—residents who possess 25 grams or less can be given a summons and made to pay a \$100 fine. But having marijuana in public view is still a misdemeanor, and that’s where major racial disparities in arrests have happened.

In a survey of city residents in 2017, 33 percent of whites, 32 percent of African Americans and 27 percent of Latinx acknowledged they have used marijuana. But during Mayor Bill de Blasio’s administration, roughly 20,000 New Yorkers a year have been arrested for marijuana-related offenses and 85 percent were people of color, about the same as the percentage as during the Michael Bloomberg administration. In response, three local district attorneys, including

Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, have vowed to stop prosecuting low-level marijuana possession cases. Gonzalez has said that 93 percent of those arrested for possession in Brooklyn were people of color.

What’s Happening in Albany?

Medical marijuana has been legal in New York since 2014 but the regulations Governor Andrew Cuomo promoted were so restrictive that there are only five medical dispensaries in the state, and doctors can only prescribe the drug for 17 severe illnesses, such as cancer, Multiple Sclerosis, ALS and PTSD. Now there is an effort in Albany to liberalize those rules.

Cuomo, who declared his support for recreational legalization during his 2018 re-election campaign, included a detailed proposal for it in his initial budget, announced in January. The plan included taxation on sales and a new state office, the Office of Cannabis Management, to regulate the drug. The agency would have also been charged with reviewing and possibly sealing previous marijuana convictions.

But since then, as some legislators have balked—and advocates claim that Cuomo backed off—money for the plan didn’t end up in the

Governor’s final budget.

Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes, who represents Buffalo, has sponsored a bill that includes some of the Governor’s initial proposals, while also addressing several issues long important to advocates.

The measure would require that a portion of the tax revenue generated by cannabis sales be invested in communities that have been heavily, and unequally, affected by marijuana arrests and incarceration. Those are mostly low-income communities of color. She also wants to make sure that licensing is done in a racially equitable way and allows people to grow their own weed.

So Could It Come to the Coop?

The road to stocking the Coop shelves with cannabis products is complicated.

The Coop would likely need to bid to get a license to sell weed to adults. The current bill sponsors, and many advocates, want minority-owned businesses in communities hit the hardest by marijuana prosecutions to be first in line. It’s difficult to see how Park Slope would qualify as a priority zone, though the Coop has many members who do not live in Park Slope.

“I think cannabis should be legal, and if the Coop sold it, I’d trust them to buy in a way that respected the environment and was ethical.”  
—Anna

While the bill doesn’t outline the details of how a business would qualify, the states that have legalized marijuana have set a relatively high bar. New York is hoping to lower the barriers to small sellers but in Colorado, for example, a dispensary must be 1,000 feet from a church, a school and a residential zone. And the application fee can be as high as \$15,000. The paperwork and regulations required there have meant the upfront costs have made it tough for small enterprises to join in.

The Coop would also need to make sure that sales would be robust enough to cover the costs of stocking marijuana, although if CBD sales are any indication, this may not be an issue. The Coop currently sells about \$15,000 a week of CBD products, which accounts for as

Crossword Puzzle

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |    | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |    | 11 | 12 | 13 |    |
| 14 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 15 |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |
| 17 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    |    | 20 |    |    |    |    | 21 | 22 |    |    |    |    |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |    |    |    | 28 | 29 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 30 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 32 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 33 | 34 |    |    |    | 35 | 36 | 37 |    |
| 38 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 39 |    |    |    | 40 | 41 |    |    |    |
| 42 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 43 |    |    |    | 44 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    | 45 | 46 |    |    |    |    | 47 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 48 | 49 | 50 |    |    |    |    |    | 51 | 52 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 53 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 54 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 55 |    |    |    |    | 56 | 57 | 58 |    |    |    | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 |
| 64 |    |    |    |    | 65 |    |    |    |    | 66 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 67 |    |    |    |    | 68 |    |    |    |    | 69 |    |    |    |    |    |

**Across**  
1. 1965-74 TV series for which J. Edgar Hoover served as a consultant  
7. Boneheaded  
11. Finsteraarhorn, e.g.  
14. Get for less  
15. “I’m cool with that”  
16. Word with sweet or sugar  
17. Improvise  
19. Smoking \_\_\_\_  
20. “We \_\_\_\_ the Champions”  
21. Taking too much  
23. Acoustic engineer’s concern  
30. Opposite of dethrone  
31. 180s  
32. Plural French word that spells its singular English form in reverse  
33. Centers of attention  
35. Chocolate \_\_\_\_  
38. Rod Stewart hit on Rolling Stone’s list of “500 Greatest Songs of All Time”  
42. Place for a bachelorette party  
43. Greek counterpart to Mars  
44. Takes a toll?  
45. Some luxury cars  
47. One-named singer of the 1994 hit “You Gotta Be”  
48. Something to discuss at a meeting  
53. Florida senator Marco  
54. Annoying bark  
55. Tres menos dos  
56. Set aside a moment in one’s schedule for something worthwhile ... or what you do in 17-, 23-, 38- and 48-Across  
64. \_\_\_\_ Goodman, longtime judge on “Dancing With the Stars”  
65. The yoke’s on them  
66. Child’s wish for Christmas  
67. Big name in ice cream  
68. 1970s Olympic gymnastics star Korbut  
69. Funnywoman Boosler

**Down**  
1. Cough syrup amt.  
2. “2001: A Space Odyssey” villain  
3. Actress Green of 2006’s “Casino Royale”  
4. Tina who won a Mark Twain Prize for American Humor  
5. Avril Lavigne 2002 hit “Sk8er \_\_\_\_”  
6. Together  
7. Senior member  
8. Maui music maker, informally  
9. Nanny goat’s cry  
10. One way to learn  
11. H.S. class for a future doctor, maybe  
12. Singer Rimes  
13. Feelings of hunger  
18. Man cave invitee  
22. Talk smack about  
23. Imperatives  
24. Up next  
25. Warwick’s “\_\_\_\_ Little Prayer”  
26. \_\_\_\_ good example  
27. Heading for Marco Polo  
28. University of Oregon team  
29. Rare grandfather clock numeral  
33. Guinness Book adjective  
34. 55-Across, in English  
35. Partner of live  
36. Connected to a bar  
37. What “two” meant to Paul Revere  
39. Midler and Keaton’s costar in “The First Wives Club”  
40. Multimedia file format  
41. Zaire’s Mobutu \_\_\_\_ Seko  
45. Fitness mag stat  
46. “Old MacDonald” sounds  
47. “Scooby-Doo” girl  
48. “Go me!”  
49. Like a good-sounding piano  
50. Sister magazine of Jet  
51. “Laughing” animal  
52. Snack  
57. Rose with a Slash  
58. Centerpiece of a frat party  
59. Long swimmer  
60. Howard Hughes acquisition of 1939  
61. Suffix with superficial  
62. Many a fed. holiday  
63. Get a good look at



**Puzzle author: David Levinson-Wilk. For answers, see page 15.**

Dance Teachers  
WANTED/WORKSLOT

Available for PSFC  
FUN Committee's  
International Dance Night

Friday, November 22, 7 - 9pm

Lead a 30-minute dance lesson for group or partner dancing from various cultures and countries.  
Contact FUN Committee member Dalienne Majors for further information: daliennemajors@gmail.com







# LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

The *Linewaiters' Gazette* is published biweekly by the Park Slope Food Coop, Inc., 782 Union Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215, 718-622-0560. Opinions expressed here may be solely the views of the writer. The *Gazette* will not knowingly publish articles that are racist, sexist or otherwise discriminatory.

The *Gazette* welcomes Coop-related articles and letters from members.

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The *Gazette* will not knowingly publish letters, articles or reports that are hateful, racist, sexist, otherwise discriminatory, inflammatory or needlessly provocative.

The *Gazette* welcomes Coop-related articles, letters and committee reports from members that follow the published guidelines and policies. The following is a summary—please see the detailed guidelines for each type of submission on the Coop website: [www.foodcoop.com](http://www.foodcoop.com).

All submissions must include author's name, phone number and e-mail address, conform to the following guidelines and to the Fairness, Anonymity and Respect policies. Editors will reject letters, articles and reports that do not follow the guidelines or policies. Submission deadlines appear each edition in the Coop Calendar section.

For topics that generate a large number of submissions (letters or Member Articles) serially and continuously over an extended period of time, the *Gazette* will not necessarily publish all submissions, but the editors will use their editorial discretion to select a small number of submissions (whether letters or Member Articles) from each side as representative of that viewpoint of the issue. The selected submissions will also adhere to the current guidelines of civil discourse and should serve to advance the discussion in new ways.

**You may submit via e-mail to [GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop](mailto:GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop).**

**Letters:** Maximum 500 words.

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

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

### LETTERS, ARTICLES AND REPORTS SUBMISSION POLICIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### FAIRNESS, ANONYMITY AND RESPECT POLICIES

In order to provide fair, comprehensive, factual coverage:

#### Fairness

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

#### Anonymity

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

#### Respect

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

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

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

# SUMMERTIME

## DON'T FORGET YOUR COOP SHIFT!



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

One way to do it is to use the Shift Swap at [www.foodcoop.com](http://www.foodcoop.com)!

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

# YOUR CO-WORKERS WILL LOVE YOU FOR IT!

## RETURN POLICY



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

### REQUIRED FOR ANY RETURN

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

### CAN I EXCHANGE MY ITEM?

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

## CAN I RETURN MY ITEM?

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

NEVER  
RETURNABLE

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

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

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

RETURNABLE

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

### This Issue Prepared By:

Coordinating Editor: Alison Rose Levy

Editor (development): Dan Jacobson

Reporters: Meredith Kolodner

Alison Rose Levy

John Thomas

Art Director (development): Michelle Ishay

Illustrators: Paul Buckley

Thumbnails: Mia Tran

Photoshop: Fanny Gotschall

Preproduction: Claudia Reis

Art Director (production): David Mandl

Desktop Publishing: Beverly Brooks

Midori Nakamura

Tuesday Smillie

Editor (production): Michal HersHKovitz

Final Proofreader: Nancy Rosenberg

Puzzle Master: David Levinson-Wilk

Index: Len Neufeld

Advertisement: Eric Bishop



WELCOME!

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

|                     |                   |                  |                     |                      |                   |                    |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Jacques Aboaf       | Kira Clark        | Jennifer Gootman | Amanda Kmett'Pendry | Paul Merle           | Katie Rein        | Michael Taylor     |
| Hadas Alterman      | Maria DelliPizzi  | Mennen Gordon    | Marina Krioukova    | Erin Montanez        | Bridget Saracino  | Anita Tepp         |
| John Andersen       | Katie Dillon      | James Harvey     | Katia Kushnir       | Caitlin Neuhaus      | Madeline Scholl   | Ana Tessier        |
| Nate Anderson       | Ananda Dimartino  | Milo Henderson   | Jeremy Lanou        | Kilgore              | Frederun Scholz   | Prinita Thevarajah |
| Dot Armstrong       | Timothy Duschenes | Alice Hintermann | Davin Larson        | Robert O'Neil        | Victoria Schwartz | Brina Thurston     |
| Keri Lynn Ashkenazy | Benjamin Duvall   | John Hoge        | Hannah Lieberman    | Comfort Olunubi      | Jamie Scott       | Ian Turner         |
| Judy Aspelin        | Jonah Fox         | Emily Hu         | Amanda Lindner      | Tiffany Pai          | Anna Sellinger    | Charles Tyshkov    |
| Alexandra           | Issa Frangieh     | Monique Jaques   | Paul Lindsey-Thomas | Rebecca Parker       | Sara Shaw         | Kristina Usaite    |
| Bacopoulos-Viau     | Michael Gavriel   | Dana Kardoush    | Eric Mandelbaum     | Valincy-Jean Patelli | Aditya Singhal    | Sara Vargas        |
| Thomas Boorstein    | George Georgalas  | Sophia Karwowski | Liz Maynes-Aminzade | Jesse Patrone-       | Rachael Singhal   | Alice Villarreal   |
| Jean-Guillaume      | Eamonn Giblin     | Jean Kersaint    | Melissa McFarland   | Werdiger             | Jessica Soodek    | Emmett White       |
| Buckel              | Sangita Goel      | Shreshth Khilani | Keith Mcgraw        | Emma Pattiz          | Samuel Sparks     | Leland Whitehouse  |
| Timothy Bula        | Casey Gollan      | Alex Kirkpatrick | Michael McHugh      | Brent Paynter        | Emma Steinbergs   | Kate Whittemore    |
| Michael Cairl       | Natalie Goncharov | Andrew Kittredge | Ceciel Meiborg      | Paúl Perez Condor    | Elijahu Stern     |                    |

COOP CALENDAR

New Member Orientations

Attending an Orientation is the first step toward Coop membership. Pre-registration is required for all of the three weekly New Member Orientations. To pre-register, visit [foodcoop.com](http://foodcoop.com).

Have questions about Orientation? Please visit [www.foodcoop.com](http://www.foodcoop.com) and look at the "Join the Coop" page for answers to frequently asked questions.

The Coop on the Internet

[www.foodcoop.com](http://www.foodcoop.com)

The Coop on Cable TV

Inside the Park Slope Food Coop

The fourth FRIDAY of the month at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Channels: 56 (Time-Warner), 69 (CableVision), 84 (RCN), 44 (Verizon), and live streaming on the Web: [www.bricartsmedia.org/community-media/bcat-tv-network](http://www.bricartsmedia.org/community-media/bcat-tv-network).

General Meeting Info

TUE, JUNE 25

ANNUAL & GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, JUL 2

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 7:30 p.m.

Submissions will be considered for the July 30 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:

Jul 4 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Jun 24  
Jul 18 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Jul 8

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

Jul 4 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Jun 26  
Jul 18 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Jul 10

ALL ABOUT THE GENERAL MEETING

Our Governing Structure

From our inception in 1973 to the present, the open monthly General Meetings have been at the center of the Coop's decision-making process. Since the Coop incorporated in 1977, we have been legally required to have a Board of Directors. The Coop continued the tradition of General Meetings by requiring the Board to have open meetings and to receive the advice of the members at General Meetings. The Board of Directors, which is required to act legally and responsibly, has approved almost every General Meeting decision at the end of every General Meeting. Board members are elected at the Annual Meeting in June. Copies of the Coop's bylaws are available on [foodcoop.com](http://foodcoop.com) and at every General Meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 25, 7:00 p.m.

The General Meeting is held on the last Tuesday of each month.

Location

St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President Street, between Sixth and Seventh Aves.

How to Place an Item on the Agenda

If you have something you'd like discussed at a General Meeting, please complete a submission form for the Agenda Committee. Forms are available in the rack near the Coop Community Corner bulletin board, on [foodcoop.com](http://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](http://foodcoop.com) and may also appear elsewhere in this issue.

**Wrap Up (9:30-9:45)** • Meeting evaluation • Board of Directors vote • Announcements, etc.

Attend a GM and Receive Work Credit

Since the Coop's inception in 1973, the General Meeting has been our decision-making body. At the General Meeting (GM) members gather to make decisions and set Coop policy. The General-Meeting-for-workslot-credit program was created to increase participation in the Coop's decision-making process.

Following is an outline of the program.

• Advance Sign-up required:

To be eligible for workslot credit, you must sign-up at [foodcoop.com](http://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.**



park slope  
FOOD COOP

## calendar of events

jun 21  
fri 7 pmBrilliant Pixels: Tackling  
Your 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.

jun 22  
sat 12 pm

## Beginners' Yoga

Are you curious about yoga but feel intimidated 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.

jun 23  
sun 12 pmSweet 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.

jun 25  
tue 7 pmPSFC JUN Annual and  
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 (7:00-7:15)

Please read materials relevant to the meeting that are available at the entrance tables.

## II. ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA:

**Item 1:** Presentation of the Audited Financial Statement

**Report & Vote:** Representatives from Cornick, Garber & Sandler, LLP, the Coop's outside auditor, will present the audited financial statement for the year ended February 3, 2019. Members will have the opportunity to pose questions to the auditors following their presentation. Members will vote whether to accept the audited statement.

**Item 2:** Board of Directors Election

**Election:** Two three-year positions are open for the Board of Directors. The

candidates will make brief presentations to the meeting prior to the vote.

## III. GENERAL MEETING AGENDA:

**Item 1:** Renewing the Services of the Auditor

**Proposal:** To retain the services of Cornick, Garber & Sandler, LLP, to perform an audit of the Coop for the fiscal year ending February 2, 2020.

**Item 2:** Election of Officers

**Election:** Following the election of members to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting, the General Meeting will elect Officers of the Corporation: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The President and Vice-President shall be, at the time of election, members of the Board of Directors. The positions of Treasurer and Secretary can be elected from the membership at large.

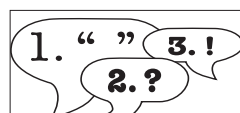
**IV. Board of Directors Meeting (9:30)**

**V. Wrap-Up (9:30-9:45).** Includes member sign-in for workslot credit.

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

jul 2  
tue 7:30 pm

## Agenda Committee Meeting



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

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

**The July General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 30, 7 p.m., at John Jay Educational Campus, 227 Seventh Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts.**

jul 9  
tue 7 pmSafe Food Committee Film Night:  
One Man, One Cow, One Planet

*One Man, One Cow, One Planet* exposes globalization and the mantra of infinite growth in a finite world for what it really is: an environmental and human disaster. But across India, marginal farmers are fighting back. By reviving biodynamics, an arcane form of agriculture,

they are saving their poisoned lands and exposing the bio-colonialism of multinational corporations. *One Man, One Cow, One Planet* tells their story through the teachings of an elderly New Zealander many are calling the new Gandhi.

**See upcoming events, past reviews and a comprehensive list of films shown at [www.plowtoplatefilms.com](http://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](http://www.foodcoop.com).**

## ATTENTION MEMBERS

**Work to upgrade the passenger elevator will begin mid-July. The elevator will not be available for use for approximately four weeks. Check [foodcoop.com](http://foodcoop.com) for updates.**



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

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

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



# jun 21–sep 6 2019

jul 12  
fri 7 pm

## Wordsprouts: Betsy Andrews



Poet **Betsy Andrews** shares thoughts on poetry, environmental activism, and ecopoetry. She will read from her new book *Crowded*, which is focused on “our f\*cked up relationship to the environment” and specifically on AIR. Andrews is the author of two award-winning books of poetry: *The Bottom*, winner of the 42 Miles Press Prize in Poetry, and *New Jersey*, recipient of the Brittingham Prize in Poetry. Her chapbooks include *In Trouble*, *She-Devil*, and with artist Peter Fox, *Supercollider*. Her poems and essays are widely published, including most recently, in “Love’s Executive Order,” “Mom Egg Review,” “Snowy Egret,” and the Nauset Press anthology “Fierce: Essays by and About Dauntless Women.” She is the co-creator with photographer Carolyn Monastra of The Elder Project, documenting senior activists. Betsy makes her living as a journalist and has been nominated for James Beard and International Association of Culinary Professionals writing awards. WordSprouts’ Sarah Schenck will moderate the event. Refreshments, healthy and delicious, will be served.

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

jul 20  
sat 12 pm

## Learn About Cheese at the Coop

Cheese education at the Coop continues with another tasting session led by Coop member and American Cheese Society Certified Cheese Professional, **Elena Santogade**. This month’s class will feature a selection of unique cheeses from around the world and fun pairings you can try at home!

jul 30  
tue 7 pm

## PSFC JUL 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: John Jay Educational Campus, 227 Seventh Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts.**

aug 2  
fri 7 pm

## Film Night

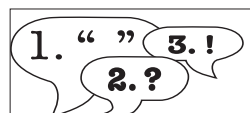


Film to be announced.

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

aug 6  
tue 7:30 pm

## Agenda Committee Meeting



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

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

**The August General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 27, 7 p.m., at John Jay Educational Campus, 227 Seventh Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts.**

aug 27  
tue 7 pm

## 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.

## ATTENTION MEMBERS

**Work to upgrade the passenger elevator will begin mid-July. The elevator will not be available for use for approximately four weeks. Check foodcoop.com for updates.**



## still to come

aug 27 **PSFC AUGUST General Meeting**

sep 5 **Food Class**

sep 3 **Agenda Committee Meeting**

sep 6 **Film Night**



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## A MESSAGE FROM PSFC STAFF WORKING TO ORGANIZE A UNION

### DEAR MEMBERS,

We are staff of the Park Slope Food Coop organizing to make the Coop stronger and more sustainable. We think the Coop is an amazing place, and we are excited to make it even better.

Forming a union with the Retail Wholesale Department Store Union (RWDSU) connects us in solidarity with other workers across the food chain and strengthens the Coop and the labor movement to build a just and equitable economy. Unionizing can also save the Coop money on health insurance, retirement benefits, safety training, and legal assistance. As member owners, we know the benefits of buying in bulk and joining together to meet common needs. By building a staff structure to address issues in a timely, fair, and effective way, we can better support a good experience for members shopping and working their shifts and continue to improve our shared institution.

Collective organizing is a right that all employees have: U.S. labor law applies here as in any business. Many food cooperatives around the country have organized unions, including Takoma Park Silver Spring in Maryland; Central in Seattle; Seward, The Wedge, and Eastside in Minneapolis; Peoples' in Michigan; East End in Pennsylvania; Brattleboro, Hunger Mountain and City Market Onion River in Vermont. Unions are an important tool for worker self-determination and fighting inequality in all industries.

Issues Area Coordinators have identified together include safety, workload, communication, racism and other forms of inequity, scheduling, and employee policies (e.g., hiring/firing, discipline, and staff development). Organizing efforts have brought staff together to discuss these issues, and this work needs resources and real mechanisms for accountability. We hope to achieve greater participation in decision-making, better training and support, transparency, and representation. A union can be a sustaining structure for these aspirations in a workplace,

and a strong labor movement can contribute to transformations needed on a societal level.

Paid staff at the PSFC is six General Coordinators who supervise about 78 Area Coordinators. As management, GCs decide all employment policies (wages, benefits, job assignments, time off, etc.) outlined in the PSFC Employee Handbook and these policies are subject to change at any time without input from the staff they affect.

A union ensures that staff have a seat at the decision-making table by providing a clear, accountable, democratic structure to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement (or "union contract") to incorporate all of our shared knowledge to strengthen the Coop, improve our working environment, and live our values.

Unionizing reflects the international cooperative values of democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity and PSFC's own mission statement which includes: "We strive to be a responsible and ethical employer" and "We seek to maximize participation at every level, from policy making to running the store."

Want to participate in our effort to build a just food system and solidarity economy? Get in touch: psfc-union@protonmail.com.

Marc Thompson, Eddie Rosenthal, Ev Ruch, Miriam Eusebio, Lauryl Berger-Chun, Dominique Esser, Janet Farrell, Jessica Gath, Kimberly Curran, Ronald Jean-Gilles, Theresa Gray, Kusi Merello, Eric Vazquez, and Sara Greenfield for the PSFC Organizing Committee

## WHY I OPPOSE RWDSU FOR THE COOP EVEN THOUGH I AM PRO-UNION

### DEAR MEMBERS,

Many members have probably heard by now that about 11 of the Coop's 73 paid staff are pursuing unionization. The common instinctive reaction is to support this cause—I would too if I didn't know the whole story!! However this is not a simple issue, and so far 43 members of staff have publicly expressed our concerns about this (see MAJORITY OF COOP STAFF HAS SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT

UNIONIZING AT THE COOP in the May 23 *Gazette*). I want to share some reasons why I do not want this union to represent us.

The Retail Wholesale & Department Store Union (RWDSU) representatives have engaged in unethical, undemocratic and uncooperative tactics to try to garner support for their cause. RWDSU staff have misled numerous Coop staff on the true effects of signing union cards (encouraging them to sign union cards just to "get more information") and have tried to take away our legally protected right to vote on unionizing (using the poorly named "Neutrality Agreement" technique). When we requested details of the proposed neutrality agreement, organizers refused. Why?? Organizers have preyed on people's fears, falsely telling a few staffers that joining a union is the only way to avoid termination. RWDSU representatives have used tactics of intimidation, blackmail and smear campaign. Phil Andrews of RWDSU told the General Coordinators (in a meeting with all staff) that if they did not sign the neutrality agreement, complaints would be filed with the NLRB. I asked "isn't this blackmail?" Phil Andrews chose not to respond. I had previously encouraged any co-workers who believed their rights have been violated to file complaints with the NLRB or EEOC; these are serious allegations and must be investigated. But using the threat of such filings as a bargaining chip to force the GCs to sign a legally binding document which negatively impacts all staff is morally reprehensible.

PSFC workers are already permitted to collectively meet and negotiate with our employer. In April 2019, when RWDSU asked the GCs to negotiate a "neutrality agreement," the GCs invited ALL staff to the meeting. All PSFC staff have also been given paid time to meet without management present numerous times since October 2018. At these meetings we identified some long-standing issues that need to be addressed. We agreed to work collaboratively (without unionizing) to brainstorm and implement solutions and we have been met with support from management.

A few members have been circulating a petition and

expressing a desire to vote on this issue. If we hold a union certification election and a majority of votes cast by employees are for union representation, the NLRB would certify RWDSU as the exclusive representative of all PSFC employees. A vote of the membership has no relevance in this scenario. If the PSFC staff wants to unionize, we will!! While we respect and value our membership, this particular issue must be decided by the staff alone. We need your respect and your trust that this is a matter we can and will decide for ourselves.

Gillian Chi  
Buyer/Receiving Coordinator

## CONCERNING STAFF UNIONIZATION

### TO THE EDITORS:

The May 23 edition of the *Linewaiters' Gazette* featured two related items, an open letter (the Coordinator's Corner column—ed.) from General Manager Joe Holtz in the Coordinator's Corner and a letter signed by several staff members who describe themselves as opposed or undecided on unionization. I am glad that staff, management, and members can be involved in a discussion of this important topic. I personally support unionization efforts and am heartened to see that Mr. Holtz affirmed a neutral position by management in this regard. It would be more reassuring if management would sign a neutrality agreement, which was also petitioned at Tuesday's General Meeting.

I'd like to touch on a few issues that went unaddressed in either letter, each of which was primarily focused on a complaint recently filed with the National Labor Relations Board. (It bears noting that management has, in the past, engaged legal counsel from Seyfarth Shaw, a firm that earlier wrote legislation that reduced the NLRB's power to protect workers.) First, it should be said that if staff feel the need to file a complaint, that should be taken, I think, in good faith as a pretty clear signal that internal mechanisms for resolving workplace issues are not providing the necessary remedy. The undecided staff members write, "The Coop has a rich

history of solving problems ourselves. [...] Many of us on staff have been working together (without a union) to affect change in our workplace and we are making progress." The history of the Coop plainly demonstrates that this is true, but this claim elides the fact that workplace issues might be resolved more quickly and in favor of workers with a union, and that certain serious issues are not currently being effectively addressed by management.

Second, the NLRB complaint, from what I can see of it and from my conversations with staff, regards retaliation and other practices by management that could discourage unionization efforts. It does not appear to include problems which have galvanized staff to advocate for unionization, such as racial bias and workplace safety hazards. I would encourage all members to talk to staff about their experiences and in particular to those interested in unionizing to ask them why they have an interest in doing so.

A recurring claim about why unionization is unwarranted, which is alluded to in Holtz's letter and is more plainly said in the staff letter, is that workers are well treated by the system we have, without the imposition of outside parties. This, I believe, is not in keeping with the Coop's values. We coordinate with all kinds of other organizations in the operation of the Coop: suppliers, certification organizations, safety and tax and other bodies of the local and state and federal government, the firehouse, other coops, and on and on. If staff concerns are not being addressed, and if their aligning with another organization might help address those concerns, then it seems that union values are coincident and consistent with Coop values. I look forward to seeing this conversation develop among management and members led by staff.

Sincerely,  
Noah Dillon



Baby Sugar Melon

## L E T T E R S T O T H E E D I T O R

REGARDING  
UNIONIZATIONDEAR COOP  
COMMUNITY,

As a member, I don't play any direct role in whether or not the Coop staff unionizes, of course, but since the issue is being publicly discussed I want to express support to the staff. Having been a proud member for almost 17 years, I'm well aware of how special the Coop is. And I know that some staff have been here alongside one another for decades! Relationships are undoubtedly richly layered, with affection, resentment, respect, mistrust, and friendship all coloring how people work together over time. Being part of a union adds infrastructure and more equity to these relationships. I'm happy that so many staff are vocally satisfied with their workplace, but the fact that others have experienced unfair treatment and other problems that could be mitigated by this infrastructure gives it my support.

Since learning about the organizing at the Coop, I've heard about other workplaces—also progressive organizations with social justice-related missions—where unionizing efforts were met with the same type of internal opposition. The Coop is indeed special, but the ill-effects of power differentials are all too universally human. “Us versus them” happens regardless of personal good intentions or a lack of individual evil. The Coop is wonderful, but unique it is not.

As in any situation where one or more people are claiming abuse of some kind, even as it exposes them to backlash, I believe them and want to help work towards a just resolution for all.

Melissa Morrone

HEART-BROKEN  
BY UNIONIZATION  
DISPUTE (FROM  
AWAY!)

## DEAR MEMBERS,

While it's true I'm a former staffer, the Coop and staff are very dear to me. When I heard about the current situation, my heart broke.

I was still working at the Coop when talks first began. I actually hosted a meeting in my home. I thought the

intention of the meeting was to discuss common issues and concerns to come up with suggestions and work toward solutions in unity. However, while some of us were focused on ways to secure a much needed HR department, it became very clear that others wanted a union. It was also very clear that those who saw unionizing as the solution had no interest in talking about anything else, or in hearing opinions from staff who have been part of the Coop for many years. It felt to me that this was their agenda, rather than unifying for workable solutions, that might include joining a union.

When a group of people, who collectively have less working knowledge of the Coop than myself or other staffers, get together and make demands it can't possibly be a good thing. When they then attempt to bring folks on board with lies and misinformation, that is not cooperation, that's a coup.

I'm in agreement that changes need to happen; the Coop's infrastructure hasn't grown to keep pace with the growth of the organization. All organizations that see tremendous growth go through growing pains, and the Coop is no different. I do feel that sincere communication with all paid staff, and some concerted internal efforts, can lead to the desired result. It might take more time than some may like, it might close the gap and bring you all closer rather than ripping you apart.

*With Respect and Cooperation,*  
Deb Parker, Former  
Membership Coordinator

## PSFC AND UNION

## DEAR MEMBERS,

The difficulty with the unionization of the Coop is that it's not just another food store; it's something more fragile and unique. The history of the union movement began because working conditions were horrendous. That is not the case at the Coop.

There are thousands of us who care for the Coop and the staff makes the model work. The Coop is more than a store; it is an equitable and sensible business model, even without a union. The union vibration has been there from the start.

The Retail Wholesale Department Store Union negotiates with profit-making

businesses and is inappropriate for the Coop. “Unionized grocery stores in the New York area include Pathmark, Food Town, Zabar's, Morton Williams, Fairway, and Gristedes. Neither Whole Foods nor Trader Joe's is unionized at present.” *Gazette*, NN, #11.

At the Coop it is the staff that supervises members. The arrangement could be considered quid pro quo or pro bono, depending on how one looks at it. In the stores above, some of the salaries are abysmal and working conditions aren't much better.

We are not a for-profit entity and imposing a mentality of combativeness or a management vs. labor paradigm has little to do with how PSFC has evolved. For the staff, I hope the choice is one that keeps the ship on course. There's much to lose if we run aground. Whatever comes, most members support the staff; it's up to you.

Rodger Parsons

IN FAVOR OF  
UNION

## DEAR MEMBERS,

I'm troubled by what feels like an aggressive campaign against the effort to unionize the PSFC staff. The May 23 issue of the LWG had a full-page article by a General Coordinator and a letter by staff “who are not in favor of unionizing or are undecided,” both of which sought to discredit the idea of a union in general and the unresolved grievances that led to organizing in particular; and an anti-union flyer handed out at the last general meeting copied and inverted every point from an earlier unionizing-staff flyer in what came across (to this reader) as gaslighting.

First, I hope I wasn't the only one surprised to learn that PSFC staff was not already unionized. That a 40-year institution in a famously union town (literally on Union Street), with a mission of cooperation, diversity, and inclusion, has a hardline at-will employment policy seemed unthinkable.

I was initially disheartened that so many staffers signed onto the (“not” anti-union but expressly) anti-union LWG letter. But it's important to note that there is a big difference between staff who are

affirmatively against unionizing and those who have questions or concerns about what unionizing would mean.

Reading both LWG pieces and the flyer, I see a lot of rhetoric but little substantive argument against a PSFC union. The two clearest concerns I can gather to date are: 1) the union is outside agitators, and 2) we don't need a union. I wanted to address both.

The first seems to be a product of the very kind of deliberate misinformation the pieces accuse unionizers of pushing. The fact is, the union is and always will be the staff itself. The RWDSU can help organize, but the PSFC staff will collectively write their own bylaws, negotiate their own contract, and handle issues as they arise themselves. Union protections would simply ensure fairness, equity, and accountability in the process of the Coop's “rich history of solving problems ourselves.”

The second concern is a common refrain in proudly progressive organizations, which, ironically, can make them the hardest places to effect positive change. My response is: you may feel heard and safe and unexploited in your workplace, but it doesn't follow that everyone else does too. Believe your co-workers. Times change and the ways things were done 40 years ago won't necessarily work today.

If there are other concerns, I have yet to hear them articulated. The worry that a union could destroy the culture of the Coop strikes me as vague and generalized fear of change. We should hold ourselves to at least the labor standards we expect of our distributors and suppliers. Formalizing a process through which traditionally silenced and erased voices can feel safe airing their grievances should be a no-brainer, and if maintaining the status quo comes at the expense of that, then the Coop isn't living up to its core values.

The choice is the staff's alone to make. But I firmly support a PSFC staff union.

*In Solidarity,*  
Carl Snodgrass

WORKERS AT  
'SOVIET-STYLE'  
PARK SLOPE FOOD  
COOP

## DEAR MEMBERS,

I was delighted to be reminded recently by the fine publication, *The New York Post*, of our socialist roots here at the Coop. We at the Coop knew from the beginning that we were in the Bolshevik vanguard destined to oppose the bourgeois imperialists with their ultra-processed foods made from cheap industrial ingredients engineered to be super-tasty. Chairman Holtz saw the truth that these abominations were the “opium of the masses” and following the edicts of the “Central Committee,” now called the Board of Directors, we worked to create and expand our Coop to become the socialist paradise that it is today. From our “Labor Committee” to our “Child Care” indoctrination room we strive, ever moving forward toward the ideal communist society. In the words of our hero Fidel to reaffirm that “capitalism is repugnant. It is filthy, it is gross, it is alienating.” Our fearless leader said that that we may never win over the masses with intellectual “jibber jabber,” but we can win them over with good food at low prices.

In closing I would like to say that of course Chairman Joe should be interred in a 10,000 square foot mausoleum at Coop expense; it is the least we can do to honor his sacrifice. It is only the bourgeois imperialist reactionaries that would say otherwise. We will always love and cherish your memory, dear Chairman Joe.

Kevin Cunneen

MAY 28 GENERAL  
MEETING A  
DISGRACE

## DEAR MEMBERS,

Yesterday's General Meeting was a disgrace. It was unbecoming of an institution organized in the spirit of cooperation with 17,000 members and millions of dollars in annual revenue.

The auditorium was held hostage by a tyranny of one, and the Chair failed to properly govern and run the meeting. Jesse Rosenfeld and another member were (and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

are) permitted to interrupt the meeting regularly and as they see fit.

The Forum was used to air personal grievances rather than substantive issues concerning the organization, like the pension fund of our hard-working coordinators.

If members have no vote or say in the unionizing of its employees, then it shouldn't be brought up.

If members are disgruntled about BDS, then they should renounce their membership.

It is completely unfair and disrespectful to all of the members attending the GM to have to sit and listen to the various personal gripes of other members.

Alfred R. Fuente

## THE GM: I LOST AND WON

### DEAR MEMBERSHIP,

A few thoughts from the last GM.

A single speech of mine, "Transparency and Accountability at the *Gazette*" gained 29% of the vote. The *Gazette* is no doubt congratulating itself, but only because it overlooks how the vote can be seen as a negative comment on their job performance.

Everyone witnessed the *Gazette*'s plain bias in rejecting Letters to the Editor, a bias the editors did not deny

even once. The *Gazette* did win fair and square, but it was worth a defeat to confirm long-held suspicions of how the *Gazette* truly operates, and to witness the methods they will utilize to avoid even minimal concessions to transparency in their squad.

Their lack of standards are now public information. For the foreseeable future, the *Gazette* editors cannot assume a reputation for integrity. This reflects terribly on the Coop because we all own the *Gazette*, and anything less than an ironclad reputation for our most public-facing department can negatively impact Operations in unpredictable ways. I'm sad to say that irrefutable evidence of an arbitrary selection process for Letters to the Editor did not earn our paper an F, but perhaps our General Meeting handing the editors a grade of C-minus will encourage some professional self-reflection.

Jesse Rosenfeld

## COOP 'STAFF' DEFINITION

### DEAR EDITORS,

Having read letter "Majority of Coop Staff Has Serious Reservations About Unionizing at the Coop" bearing the signatures of at least a few individuals I thought were General Coordinators, I am

confused. I have never seen a definition of Coop "staff." Are all Coop employees (including General Coordinators) staff? Or only the non-Coordinator staff? Please clarify.

I don't recall ever reading about non-Coordinator staff members. How about publishing an article devoted to the staff which has just been brought to us members' attention? Is there a largely unseen group of workers toiling away for us?

In Cooperation,  
David Mann

## DEFEND THE COOP DEAR MEMBERS,

An enterprise of 17,000 working members runs a store that provides each with sustenance in a world at risk. "This is the way we do it" failed communism and corporate capitalism. The Coop offers another model. Our community needs to evolve organically around humanistic values. Reread the Mission Statement. We struggle internally and within a materialist culture to realize a vision of sustainability, justice and peace, equity and mutual aid.

Local independent enterprises compete with multi-national corporations and encounter opponents. We benefit as consumers and community members from this collective form of organization. As we want our Coop to thrive and its influence to spread, let's accept responsibility to defend it.

Our challenge is to sustain our goals and our gains during this chaotic era. The enormous intelligence and creativity of our members is our greatest resource. We can think outside the box.

Certainly, we need accurate information to avoid mistaking fabrication for Coop history. Archives of early *Gazette* issues are in the Brooklyn Collection of the Grand Army Plaza BPLibrary. To fact-check stories, current writers need access to the authentic record created as the Coop was evolving over 46 years. These archives can be digitalized and on the Internet.

In case of difficulties with selection of material published in the *Gazette*, it is not a failing of the editors. Flawed is a system of work credit that disregards the stresses of tasks that cannot be effectively accomplished in seg-

ments of under three hours every four weeks. Squabbles erupt when faulting individuals in certain roles rather than analyzing and refining the system. We need more flexibility in assignment of work credits.

Member and staff work assignments are defined by management. Uses of human resources, as valuable cash, are without oversight. The Personnel Committee admitted at a recent GM that they are dysfunctional.

Possibly related, some staff members are reported to have entered a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board. The aggrieved Coop staff members, employees, went to a committee appointed by government authorities rather than to the GM. Missing in the *Gazette* (May 23) are those staff members' grievances. Members need to pay full attention to this potentially explosive issue that has already broken through major corporate media to the public.

The internal power, influence and authority that members have is in the hands of members on the Board of Directors who are legally and also morally responsible to protect the Coop. Last election found one opening and one candidate. This year, one anointed candidate has vowed to be the guardian of the box and the other the keeper of fabrications. Attending GMs and voting Yes is not sufficient. Members need representatives who participate fully in Coop community life.

I will write Void in Resistance across my ballot with the expectation that will be counted.

Think outside the box.  
Read and write for the *Gazette*.  
Run for the Board.  
Defend the Coop.

Susan Metz

## CALL TO ACTION: OPPOSE THE WILLIAMS PIPELINE

### DEAR MEMBERS,

Laws and policies, each well-intentioned, could be in conflict here in New York. NYC recently passed a law, number 2019/097—Commitment to achieve certain reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This law puts a limit on the amount of CO2 that may be generated by buildings larger than 25,000 square feet. The CO2 emissions are measured in metric tons equivalent of CO2 per calendar year. The CO2 caps become effective 2025 and are then lowered after 2030.

Based on news stories large commercial building that would be non-compliant based on their energy use probably use boilers fired with fuel oil. Simplifying the issue, most of such non-compliant properties will need to convert their boilers to use natural gas to meet the guidelines of the new law at considerable expense.

NY State has banned fracking and objects to new pipelines like the so-called Williams pipeline (Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (CP17-101-000). Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued the final environmental impact statement for this project in January this year. "FERC staff determined that construction and operation of the NESE Project would result in some adverse environmental impacts. Most of these impacts would be temporary and occur during construction (e.g., impacts on residences and offshore impacts related to turbidity, sedimentation, and pile driving noise)." Source: FERC website. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Environmental

**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.**

## ATTENTION MEMBERS

**Work to upgrade the  
passenger elevator will  
begin mid-July.  
The elevator will  
not be available  
for use for approximately  
four weeks.  
Check [foodcoop.com](http://foodcoop.com)  
for updates.**



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community calendar listings are free. Please submit your event listing in 50 words or less to [GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop](mailto:GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop).

Submission deadlines are the same as for classified ads. Please refer to the Coop Calendar in the center of this issue.

**THU, JUN 27**

7:30 p.m. Archie Fisher, one of Scotland's foremost folksinger/songwriters, a lyrical singer and outstanding guitar player. At Second Presbyterian Church, 6 W. 96th St. at Central Park West, Manhattan. General public \$25. Folk Music Society NY members \$20. Info [folk-musicny.org/#archie](http://folk-musicny.org/#archie).

## L E T T E R S T O T H E E D I T O R

Protection Agency, and the City of New York participated as cooperating agencies in the preparation of the final EIS.

National Grid has stated they will be unable to provide new connections without additional supply of natural gas.

Nationwide we have a trend to expect uninterrupted supply of whatever the public utilities provide: natural gas, electricity, water, telecommunications, etc. However, anytime a utility needs to add capacity to serve new demand activists organize protests objecting to a new pipeline or a new power transmission line.

So, before we call to action please give some thought to possible impacts. Presently not all modes of energy use are easily replaceable with Wind, Solar or Hydro Power. For example, flying aircraft, sailing large container ships.

Side note: Starting in the Jimmy Carter years and later in the Reagan first term many things in the US were deregulated: energy prices, trucking, airline ticket prices etc. Since then FERC mostly does environmental impact statements for new pipelines or modernizing existing pipelines.

Thank you,  
Amol Kaikini

## LINEWAITING

### DEAR EDITORS,

I enjoyed reading "What Does the Gazette Mean to Us?" (May 23, 2019) for various reasons, most notably because I got to see which prepositions interviewees associate with lines. Thank you, Jen Cain and nameless non-reader, for keeping New York expressions alive by waiting ON line. I'm also happy to see that the Gazette has also taken a pro-New York stance on this linguistic controversy in the paper's footer.

Yours in waiting,  
Sherri Cohen

## UNITS OF ENERGY & POWER

### DEAR EDITORS OF THE LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE:

The letter of Tracy Fitz in the May 23 issue was a little confusing because of some (admittedly minor) errors regarding the units of energy and power. I have to confess

that because I am a retired chemistry professor these errors bothered me particularly. The letter starts out with an error by saying that one megajoule per second equals one megawatt per second. The joule is a unit of energy, and the watt is a unit of power, or energy per unit time. Specifically, one watt equals one joule per second. So one megajoule/sec (which is one million joules per second) equals one megawatt, period, not one megawatt per second.

The author's statement that it takes 0.48 megajoule (not 0.48 megajoule per second) of energy to make a plastic bag seems plausible; for comparison, burning a 100 watt bulb for one hour uses up 0.36 megajoule (100 joules/sec x 3600 sec = 360,000 joules). Continuing on, the author introduces the unit of kWh, or kilowatt hour. This is power times time, so it has units of energy. As is well known, it's also the unit used by your electric company to measure your electric energy consumption. One kWh is 1000 joules/sec x 3600 sec (the number of seconds in an hour), which equals 3.6 million joules, or 3.6 megajoules (MJ). Using the author's figure of 0.48 MJ for a plastic bag, one can convert this to kWh: 0.48 MJ x 1 kWh/3.6 MJ equals 0.133 kWh, the figure correctly quoted in the letter.

The usage of 49,000 plastic bags per week in the vegetable aisle then requires 49,000 x 0.133 kWh which equals 6517 kWh, which the

author reasonably states to be roughly equivalent to a family of four's electrical consumption for a year. This would be 543 kWh per month and I would comment that my last bill was for 164 kWh, but I am a family of one. Thus in a year, the energy expenditure for the plastic bags would be equivalent to the yearly electrical energy usage by 52 families. Kind of amazing. Maybe still not convincing enough to make we want to give up my use of plastic bags for green beans, chard and bulk items. I do save them at home and reuse them.

Finally, I was puzzled by the author's calculation of the monetary equivalent of this energy expense, when he/she multiplies the 52 families by \$450. Is this supposed to be the yearly Con Edison bill?

Sorry for the lecture. I also wonder if perhaps the author had the units completely correct in the original submission, and the confusion about units of energy and power arose because of some editorial changes made before publishing.

Henry C. Brenner

## INVEST MORE INTO RECYCLING COOP PLASTIC

### DEAR MEMBERS,

I wonder if those who voted down our investment in Terra Cycle are even aware of our mission statement.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

## Crossword Answers

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

## 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 [www.nycattorneys.com](http://www.nycattorneys.com)**

Contact me to accomplish all your real estate goals. As your neighborhood real estate expert, I would be happy to help you.

**triplemint.**



MARINA SINEBOK  
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson  
[marina@triplemint.com](mailto:marina@triplemint.com) • 917.865.1785



FITTING TRIBUTE  
FUNERAL SERVICES LLC

Thoughtful, Eco-Friendly  
Funeral Services &  
Advanced Planning

Amy Cunningham  
Funeral Director  
(718) 338 - 8080  
[Amy@FittingTributeFunerals.com](mailto:Amy@FittingTributeFunerals.com)



## CLASSIFIEDS

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

EXPRESS MOVES. One flat price for the entire move! No deceptive hourly estimates! Careful, experienced mover. Everything quilt padded. No extra charge for wardrobes and packing tape. Specialist in walkups. Thousands of satisfied customers. Great Coop references. 718-670-7071.

HAIRCUTS HAIRCUTS HAIRCUTS. Color, low lights, highlights,

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

MADISON AVENUE HAIRCUTTER is right around the corner from the Food Coop, so if you would like a really good haircut 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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Here the second paragraph states clearly and boldly:

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.

Members of the Park Slope Food Coop are committed to recycle. Why? To reduce our lifestyle impacts on our living earth and attempt to reduce the burden that future generations will bear for our convenience.

I'm sure most Coop members have seen footage of or have read about the continent-sized rafts of single use plastics polluting the world's oceans, causing unprecedented death and decline of marine life who literally eat our waste. According to the

United Nations, more than 100 million tons of plastic waste can be found in the world's oceans. Even on the latest, deepest submarine dive, more than 35,000 feet into the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench, single-use plastic was discovered.

And it is not just the ubiquitousness of single use plastic pollution and threatened extinction of the ocean environment and species, but new research by the Center for International Environmental Law finds that "at current levels, greenhouse gas emissions from the plastic lifecycle threaten the ability of the global community to keep global temperature rise below 1.5C." And moreover, "with the petrochemical and plastic industries planning a massive expansion in production, the problem is on track to get much worse" (<https://www.ciel.org/news/plasticandhealth/>).

According to the report's

authors, we need to get seriously busy doing the following:

- Immediately end the production and use of single-use plastics.
- Stop the development of new oil, gas and petrochemical infrastructure.
- Foster the transition to zero-waste communities.
- Implement a system where polluters pay for the impact of their products – known as extended producer responsibility.

As a cooperative, with environmental responsibility a central theme of our mission, we should be investing more into recycling the plentiful plastics that we daily use and purchase at our beloved Coop. Recycling single use plastics should not be seen as a financial cost but as our responsibility. As members of the Park Slope Food Coop we should be fully embracing plastics recycling on a much broader scale than before, and

spreading this practice to other parts of the New York Metro Area.

And if we consciously chose not to reduce and recycle single use plastics to the best of our ability, we should convene a committee to change our mission state-

ment to reflect only a partial respect for the environment, defining the unfortunate reality that when it comes to plastic pollution we would rather save money than save our planet for future generations of all life.

Kathleen Sullivan

THANK YOU!

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

|                    |                  |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Baba               | Lillian Hope     | Miya Rotstein    |
| Elisheva Balkany   | David Horowitz   | Christopher      |
| Beth Baltimore     | Judy Jacob       | Sbrollini        |
| Peter Bergold      | Jake Jeppson     | Sebene Selassie  |
| Leslie Blum        | Sophia Karwowski | Samantha Sher    |
| Marie-Eve Bouchard | Marion Kassaei   | Mariko Singhal   |
| The Costellos      | Sylvia Kates     | Jasmine Spacher  |
| Liz Deluca         | Nancy Larsen     | Rachel Stein     |
| Dana Dillon        | Hali Lee         | Pavani Thagirisa |
| Emily Doman        | Elena Light      | Derek Tobia      |
| Frederic Fasano    | Scott Lyons      | Kian Vesteinsson |
| Naiti Gamez        | Miranda Maher    | Bennett Webster  |
| Rachel Glicksman   | David Mahfouda   | Amy Whitsell     |
| Shterna Ginsberg   | Cathy Mather     | Daniel Wong      |
| Ashraya Gupta      | Temmi Merlis     | Mario Yanez      |
| Caitlin Hersey     | Natalie          | Julianne Zaleta  |
| Daniel Hersey      | Kristin Negele   |                  |

☆ 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 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. are 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, Tuesday, 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 laundry. 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, Friday 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 workers' tools and supplies. Must arrive on time at 6 a.m. Please report to the Membership Office on your first work shift.

Maintenance

Sunday, 9-11 p.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 supplies 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-by-side with our paid staff receiving daily fresh produce deliveries. If you are willing to get your hands a little dirty, lift and stack boxes, and work in our basement coolers, then you'll fit right in. We promise your energy will be put to good use. Boxes usually weigh between 2-30 lbs, but can weigh up to 50 lbs.