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LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

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Volume NN, Number 25

December 19, 2019

Union and Food Delivery Discussed at General Meeting

By Jess Powers

The main topics at the most recent General Meeting were: a Thanksgiving sales recap, a petition supporting a neutrality agreement in the effort to unionize paid staff, votes on employee benefits plans, and an introduction to the food delivery pilot project for people with physical disabilities.

The post-holiday meeting, held at 7 p.m. at John Jay Educational Campus on December 3, was relatively subdued and modestly attended. Members voted to approve a new

Hearing Officer Committee member, to amend the staff Pension Plan and Trust, and to amend the 401k plan. A preliminary discussion on a three-month pilot program to deliver food to Coop members with physical disabilities highlighted gaps in accessibility at the Coop.

During the 15-minute open forum, General Coordinator Lisa Moore responded to an anonymous question about maternity leave. She said the Coop currently doesn't have a paid parental leave policy. Employees receive

20 weeks of unpaid parental leave along with leave by the federally mandated Family and Medical Leave Act and state-mandated Paid Family Leave and Short Term Disability. They also retain benefits and employment status during their leave, she said.

A Coop member voiced interest in seeing educational materials around the store to encourage reduction of plastic consumption. Others urged people to refrain from applauding after comments to keep the meeting progressing or using the sign for yes in American Sign Language: knocking with a closed fist on the right hand.

Coop staff and members who are in support of unionization are calling for the General Coordinators to sign a neutrality agreement for the process to move forward. The neutrality agreement would require the General Coordinators to remain neutral when the union came on the Coop premises in an effort to organize a union.

Receiving Coordinator Gillian Chi, a staff member, argued at the meeting that the General Coordinators should not sign a neutrality agreement because over half the staff signed a second internal petition asking the GCs not to sign it. She said that since it affects staff and not membership, it is the staff whose voice should matter more than "community supporters."

Chi said that the neutrality agreement would take away the staff's right to vote on whether or not to unionize by enabling a "card check" process. She continued that the majority of staff wants to keep their federally protected right to vote on whether or not to unionize.

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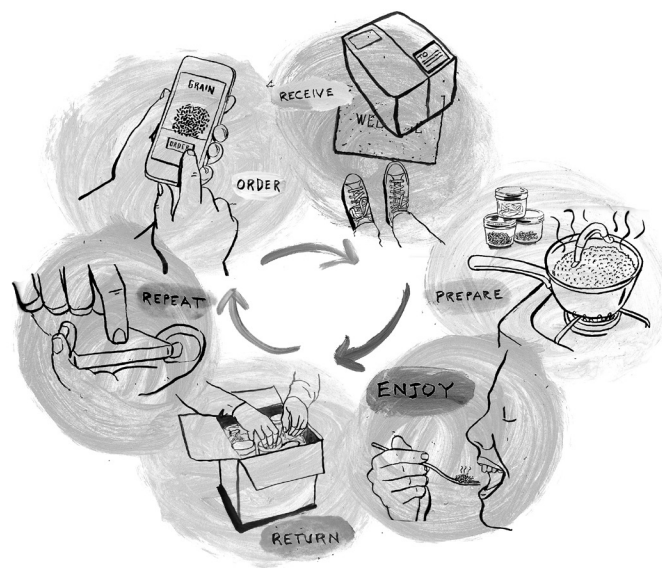


ILLUSTRATION BY CATY BARTHOLOMEW

The Wally Shop Takes The Plastic Out of Grocery Shopping

By Leila Darabi

As growing local business has come up with a new solution for solving one of the most frustrating problems that Coop members bemoan: the enormous amount of plastic waste generated by a typical visit to the store.

The Wally Shop, a Bushwick-based startup that ships food to homes in reusable packaging, currently delivers to the five boroughs. The service plans to expand to serve the continental U.S. in early 2020. Company officials declined to discuss how much

business it's currently doing.

"In our future, everything that used to be in disposable packaging will come in reusable," said founder and chief executive Tamara Lim in a recent email to subscribers.

The Coop has long grappled with the waste issue. There have been heated debates at General Meetings over whether or not to remove plastic bags from the bulk and produce aisles.

The Coop even pays the private company Terracycle to collect plastic packaging that

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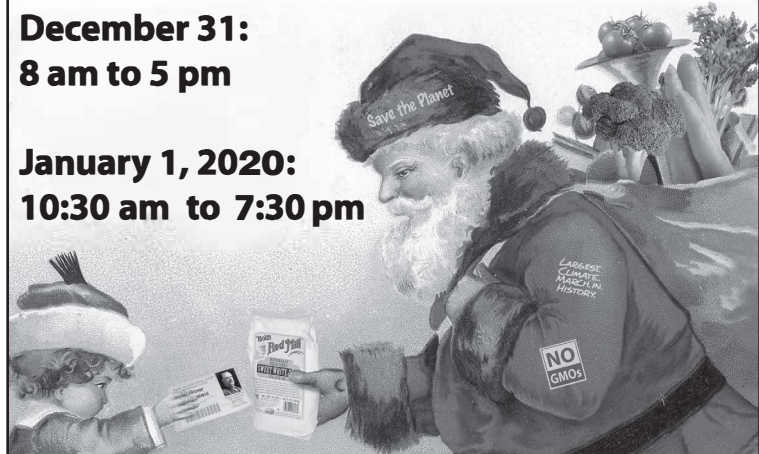
LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

will not be published on January 2. The next issue will be published on January 16.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING HOURS:

December 24: 8 am to 5 pm

December 25: CLOSED

December 31:
8 am to 5 pmJanuary 1, 2020:
10:30 am to 7:30 pm

Next General Meeting on January 28

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The January General Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 28, at 7:00 p.m. at **John Jay Educational Campus, 227 Seventh Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts.**

For more information about the GM and about Coop governance, please see the center of this issue.

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GM

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A Coop member from the receiving squad said that the “card check” process is the “most democratic way” to create a union because everyone weighs in and they can’t be neutral by abstaining from the voting, according to her experience as an organizer. Card check has been an alternative to the National Labor Relations Board’s election process since 1935. Employees sign

cards indicating that they want a union, and if more than half of employees submit them the NLRB requires the employer to recognize the union. The main difference is that in the other process, there is a secret ballot after the cards are submitted.

The controversy spilled over into the Coordinator and Committee Reports section of the meeting, when Labor Committee members presented General Coordinator Joe Holtz with a petition signed by 3,700 Coop members and commu-

nity supporters. The members argued that a neutrality agreement shortens the process and is the “best practice for employers who are labor friendly.” They said they have heard “stories of retaliation and intimidation” of the staff who do support the union.

The Coop sold 1,063 pies in two days.

Four or five staff members in the audience began shouting comments out of turn such as: “Half the staff don’t want it!” and “Have they read the neutrality agreement?”

Labor Committee mem-

bers also shared that the Coop is the first retail store in the country to support the Fair Food Program, paying a six percent markup on some winter tomatoes that come from Florida. This will raise an estimated \$10,000 annually and members can expect to see new labels indicating the collaboration on Florida tomatoes shortly. The Fair Food Program leverages purchasing power to ensure decent wages and working conditions for farmworkers in participating programs and is organized by the workers themselves.

The Coordinator and Committee Reports of the meeting also included General

Coordinator Joe Szladek giving a rundown of sales during the incredibly successful Thanksgiving holiday season (the two weeks leading up to the holiday). The big logistical challenge was receiving and moving 1,000 turkeys: 15,000 pounds of turkey were sold this year. The Coop also sold 650 pounds of garlic, 11,200 pounds of sweet potatoes, 100,000 individual eggs, 5,400 pounds of butter, and 1,063 pies as well as two weeks’ worth of gruyere in only two days.

Ann Herpel, General Coordinator, showed two new alternative bags that the Coop will be rolling out in the near future. One is a milky green, compostable bag, and the other is a 100% post production recycled bag that is a bit sturdier. She reviewed other products available and said that using bar soap instead of liquid is an easy way to reduce household plastic consumption because many bar soaps at the Coop aren’t packaged in plastic at all. The new bags will be available after new dispensers are acquired and installed. A new deli container made of compostable plant-based materials will also be tested out.

By 8 p.m., the meeting transitioned to the Meeting Agenda portion of the evening. The first item was the election of a member to the Hearing Officer Committee. The HOC determines the consequences once the Deciding Group, a randomly selected group of members, decides whether or not a member has violated a Coop rule or policy.

Julie Vasady-Kovacs worked as a prosecutor in the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office and is currently a compliance officer. She’s been a Coop member since 1986, wants to give back, and believes in “fair and appropriate outcomes” when someone is accused of violating rules. Paper ballots were circulated and later in the meeting it was announced that she won her election bid by an overwhelming vote of 244 to 13.

General Coordinators Lisa Moore and Joe Holtz next presented amendments to the Coop Pension Plan and Trust. The four amendments would:

- Change the pension plan year for all participants for parity with the Coop’s 401k plan;
- Make entry into the pension plan occur on the first day of the month after eligibility is established;
- Streamline distributions when employees leave the company with a present value less than \$5K;

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	
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47	48	49				50		51		52		53			
54							55				56				
57					58				59						
60					61			62				63	64	65	66
67					68					69					
70					71						72				

Across
1. “To life!”
7. R&B singer Bryson
12. _____ Paese cheese
15. Patriotic chant
16. Mass communication?
17. Words before fix or flash
18. “Kitty Foyle” Oscar winner
20. The “me” of “Despicable Me”
21. Org. with a flower logo
22. Suffix with crock or mock
23. _____ bag (event handout)
24. Explorer who was executed at the Tower of London in 1618
30. “Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi,” e.g.
31. Prey for a barracuda
32. Begins a conversation with
33. Photographer Cartier-Bresson
35. _____ Jones industrial average
37. Tech giant known as Big Blue
38. Media mogul who was the subject of the 2018 book “The King of Content”
43. A germophobe might have it, for short
44. Yoko from Tokyo
45. Thick spread
47. Come out on top
51. _____-Magnon
53. _____-Ball (arcade game)
54. Actor who lived with Robin Williams while they were students at Juilliard
57. Donated
58. Sold-out box-office sign
59. Good name for a lawn care guy?
60. “_____ reading too much into this?”
61. Classic line from an Alexander Pope poem ... and an apt description of 18-, 24-, 38- and 54-Across
67. Restroom sign
68. MTV show hosted by Ashton Kutcher
69. Alcatraz inmate of the 1930s
70. Suffix with legal
71. Hotel visits
72. White House family with the dog Bo

Down
1. Haul
2. CBS show with a 15-year run ending in 2015
3. _____ Solo of 2018’s “Solo”
4. Mo. to buy back-to-school supplies
5. “_____ little silhouetto of a man” (Queen lyric)
6. Agatha Christie detective
7. West Bank grp.
8. Raring to go
9. Pied-_____
10. Indian dishes flavored with saffron or turmeric
11. Clip-_____ (certain sunglasses)
12. High-muck-a-muck
13. Infuriate
14. Comic’s rewards
19. Like “Moonlight” but not “La La Land”
23. Rodent-sized marine worm
24. Globe shape: Abbr.
25. Specks in la mer
26. Bausch + Lomb brand
27. “Dunkirk,” e.g.
28. What Spanish athletes go for at the Olympics
29. Pride parade letters
34. People encountered by Pizarro
36. Shakespearean barmaid
39. Removes from the story
40. “The Sound of Music” song
41. Big name in sneakers
42. Alt.
46. Football kickoff aid
47. Minecraft or StarCraft
48. Ving of the “Mission: Impossible” franchise
49. University of California campus
50. Bobbitt in 1993 headlines
52. Jesse who pitched in a record 1,252 major-league games
55. Pig voiced by Mel Blanc
56. 2007 Record of the Year by Amy Winehouse
61. Pulls a yard prank on, briefly
62. They go from town to town: Abbr.
63. Put _____ fight
64. _____ jeans
65. Newswoman Cabrera or Navarro
66. “Super” game console

Puzzle author: David Levinson-Wilk. For answers, see page 11.

Special Ordering Temporarily Suspended

We will not be taking special orders 11/11/19 through 2/3/20 (special orders resume 2/4/20)

Vitamins/Supplements special orders are suspended indefinitely and will not resume on 2/4/20

No special orders on fresh baked goods

Orders for bulk or produce by the case must be placed directly with a bulk or produce buyer

JOIN THE LABOR COMMITTEE

The Committee helps the Coop assist suppliers in improving working conditions and stopping workplace abuses.

Interested? Want to join – and get work credit?

Diverse applicants encouraged.

For information to apply, send an e-mail or text to Eric Frumin: erfrumin@gmail.com or 917-209-3002.



PHOTOS BY CAROLINE MARDOK

1-3: General Coordinators Joe Szladek, Lisa Moore and Joe Holtz. 4: Bart DeCoursey of the International Trade Education Squad. 5: General Coordinator Ann Herpel on new compostable plastic bags. 6-9: Lenore Los Kamp, Stephen Husiak, Sharon Goldzweig and Josh on food delivery. 10: Glenn Moller of the Agenda Committee. 11: Michelle Kuchinsky of the Labor Committee. 12: Liam Malanaphy of the Hearing Officer Committee.

• Change the plan's wording to ensure immediate distributions to beneficiaries when an employee passes away.

Moore explained that the first change was suggested by the actuaries and that the fourth makes payouts to beneficiaries of employees who pass away as soon as administratively possible with no cost impact. The items passed unanimously after being called to a vote.

The third item on the agenda was an amendment to the 401k plan to allow for entry into the plan at 30 days after the start of employment rather than the current wait time of 1,000 hours of work. This item also passed unanimously.

The final item on the agenda was a discussion of the food delivery pilot program for people with disabilities submitted by the Home Delivery Study Committee.

The committee has discussed ideas with General Coordinators, and conducted test drives amongst themselves. The feedback from that process was positive, so the committee wants to run a pilot to test their assumptions and plans. They will take the feedback they received during this meeting and return to the January General Meeting to ask for a formal vote to start the test pilot in March.

Committee Member Lenore Los Kamp explained that people with "physical challenges that make it hard to shop and don't have anyone to be a designated or authorized shopper" may qualify. The committee's first priority would be existing Coop members, but it could possibly expand to new members if successful. The pilot would begin with people who live within the designated walking area, although in the long term, further locations could be explored. Members would need to have a working phone and to contribute at least \$100 in extra investment as required by the check writing policy. It would be on a first-come, first-serve basis for the eight participants in the program.

Stephen Husiak explained that the committee created an order form and users would have a "high, medium, and low tech option" to submit it. They could electronically receive, fill out, and return the form; fill out a printed order form and email a photo of it; or lastly, they could call in the order and it would be completed by the person on the phone.

The next day would be designated for shopping and delivery. The person would receive a call that their order is about to be filled and confirming that they are home and

would get a second call as the two-person order team leaves the Coop. Committee member Helen Gilchrist explained that during a mock shopping trip, the process took 83 minutes from start to finish.

One of the challenges of the food delivery program would be the current policy of the Coop that no food can leave the store before payment being made. The Coop would need to make policy changes to enable accepting cash in person by the deliv-

ery squad members, and the Coop doesn't currently have the technology to accept EBT or debit by phone.

Sharon Goldzweig, another committee member, explained that the person taking a phone order would be trained to ask clarifying questions and must be very familiar with what is available at the Coop. Groceries would be brought up and into an apartment, but not put away. They would require one order taking shift, a shift leader, and eight shopper shifts to accommodate the two-person teams that do the actual delivery.

A board member who asked not to be identified cautioned that while there is a need for such a program, the Coop would possibly be in breach of contract with its insurance company—"and potentially insolvent"—by offering delivery. Food safety questions could also open the Coop to liability.

Holtz, who is in direct contact with the insurance company, responded that while it does "open the Coop to vulnerabilities, I don't believe that it's necessarily a reason to reject it." He explained that there are possibilities of liability now with walkers who push carts instead of the member.

Holtz said he "hit a dead end" trying to get insurance for any criminal liability for something that a delivery person might do inside a home. But if something is damaged in the home by accident, it would be insured, he said.

A Coop member on the Future Time Off Program Squad expressed disappointment with hearing about litigiousness with such a "cooperative proposal." She

said that spending hours in freezers, walking on snowy days, and even the knives in food processing are risks the Coop chooses to bear.

Holtz said he "hit a dead end" trying to get insurance for any criminal liability.

The discussion indicated there are still unanswered questions about how the program could offer the full variety of Coop items, how to handle shoppers who want to limit costs, and how some returns would be handled.

A Coop member who works on the food processing squad and is an American Sign Language interpreter asked about the accessibility of the form itself, whether it is screen readable or if there is an option for deaf or hard-of-hearing people to text. The Coop website isn't currently accessible for people with disabilities.

"In general, the Coop is not friendly to people with all kinds of disabilities," said Los Kamp of the study committee. "There's minimal wayfinding." Goldzweig talked about the trend towards aging in place and the need to provide options for older people.

Los Kamp said that the authorized shopper program, which lets people with disabilities elect a nonmember to shop on their behalf, could also be publicized more, as not everyone is familiar with it. She said she hopes the delivery pilot would be the beginning of a broader push for accessibility.

Shortly after that, the General Meeting was adjourned. The Board unanimously voted to pass the agenda items. ■

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 and click on "Member Services" in the upper right-hand corner to get started.

The Wally Shop

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the New York City Department of Sanitation does not accept. At the March 2019 General Meeting, members voted not to continue the service, which had grown to cost \$20,000 per year. But it was reinstated at the October 2019 General Meeting after the cost was reduced.

The U.S. produces 35.4 million tons of plastic each year, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. And analysis by the global risk consulting firm Verisk Maplecroft published in the Guardian found that only 35% of U.S. waste is recycled, less than any other developed country.

Lim previously worked in packaging and shipping at Amazon, a position that inspired her to pursue a more environmentally sustainable life both personally and professionally. She got the idea for The Wally Shop from collectives known as “dab-bawalla” in India that deliver lunches to workers in reusable metal containers.

Cloth Bags and Glass Jars

I tried out The Wally Shop and found the packaging to be charming as well as environmentally friendly. The mesh-style bags, and mason jars that goods arrived in seemed like something out of a book from the, “Little House on the Prairie” series. You can either keep the bags and jars for home storage or get your \$10 back when you return them to the courier with your next order.

But as I tested The Wally Shop I also realized that parts of its business model remain a challenge. The same day I placed my first order, I received an email from Lim, sharing that the company will soon halt delivery of fresh items.

“We’ve done a lot of soul-searching in the past month... We’ve been trying to balance a potential nationwide launch with also running our Fresh services. And to be honest, it’s been hard,” she wrote.

“We’re choosing to double down on bulk, shelf-stable foods and products because they usually come with the most amount of packaging,” the letter said. “We launched Wally with the intent to make waste-free shopping convenient and accessible to all and we fully intend to keep doing that. This isn’t goodbye to fresh, it’s much more like see you later!”

Speedy Delivery

In its first year, The Wally Shop deployed a “zero emissions model.” Fast Company profiled the business this past January, describing a hyper-local system. Using a website or mobile app to receive orders, they sourced items from local shops and farmers markets and made deliveries by bike.

Run by a core team of four plus delivery staff, The Wally Shop uses a central warehouse to collect items in bulk and package them for delivery. The company plans to use UPS, FedEx and USPS to serve the lower 48 states.

“In our future, everything that used to be in disposable packaging will come in reusable.”

—Tamara Lim, founder of The Wally Shop

In addition to the muslin bags and mason jars deployed in local deliveries, orders beyond New York City will be shipped using a collapsible, reusable tote that can be divided into sections using cardboard and zipped closed.

Here’s how the company describes how to use the service on its website:

Step 1: Choose your favorites from responsibly produced bulk foods, home goods, and personal care products. Place your order!

Step 2: Your favorites will be delivered to your doorstep in all reusable, returnable packaging. Once done, flip the shipping label over, and send it back to us.

Step 3: While you’re using the products, fold the tote to fit into the tiniest spaces!

A Successful Kickstarter

In order to grow from local bike delivery to a national business, The Wally Shop launched a campaign on Kickstarter. Lucy Phillips, general manager of The Wally Shop and a Coop member explained that the campaign focused on \$1 donations “because we believe everyone should have an equal voice in shaping our future.”

Despite the focus on tiny donations, some chipped in more. Launched on November 5, the drive generated \$51,543 from 733 backers, surpassing The Wally Shop’s \$50,000 goal in just one month.

To put that momentum in context, the average Kickstarter goal is set to \$5,000 and most campaigns don’t reach their targets. With its

EFFORTS @ PLASTIC REDUCTION REPORT

Look for two alternative bags in the produce and bulk aisles soon! We will be trialing a compostable, plant-based bioplastic bag and a 100% post-consumer recycled plastic bag. The compostable bag can be placed in your home composting system or the City brown bins. We welcome your feedback on these bags and will post an email on the bag dispensers for you to contact the Coop.

A compostable, plant-based deli tub will be tried out in Food Processing for cream cheese. You will need to remove the label from the lid before composting in your home composting system or the City brown bins.

TIP OF THE MONTH:

Switching from liquid soap to bar soap will dramatically reduce plastic usage for this everyday item. The Coop sells a wide variety of bar soaps in aisle 5. The soaps, some locally sourced, sell at all price points and come in a variety of packaging from no packaging to minimal packaging. You will also find shampoo in a bar in aisle 5.

REMEMBER TO REDUCE, REUSE, TERRACYCLE, AND RECYCLE

Hearing Administration Committee Is Seeking New Members



The HAC performs administrative functions necessary to arrange and facilitate disciplinary hearings, coordinating with the Coop’s Dispute Resolution Committee and the Hearing Officers Committee. Applicants should be detail-oriented, comfortable working by e-mail and telephone; they should be Coop members for at least one year and have excellent attendance records. Members of the HAC work on an as-needed basis, only when hearings are required, and earn FTOP credit. Therefore, these members must maintain regular Coop shifts or be FTOP members in good standing. **The nature of this work requires that all members maintain strict confidentiality with respect to all matters on which they work. We are seeking an applicant pool that reflects the diversity of the Coop membership at large.**

THOSE INTERESTED SHOULD E-MAIL THE HAC AT PSFCHAC@GMAIL.COM



campaign, The Wally Shop confirmed strong interest in more sustainable shopping models.

Testing It Out

When new members register online, The Wally Shop offers a \$30 store credit by providing a discount code to use at checkout. I tried it out one weekend in December.

I entered thewallyshop.co (not a typo, it’s a .co website) through my browser, entered the address of my Brooklyn home and credit card info, and began to browse.

I added a bunch of radishes (organic and local); a dozen eggs (free range); a bunch of dill (organic and local); a bunch of mint; three lemons (organic); crushed red pepper (4oz); broccoli (organic and local); dried lima beans (organic); and some basmati rice (32 oz) into my cart and selected a two-hour range for delivery the following day.

The subtotal came to \$31.36 for the groceries, or \$1.36 after the first-time shopper credit. There also was a \$1.57 service fee, \$7.99 delivery fee, \$4.78 delivery tip and a \$10 deposit for the reusable packing materials (charged only the first time one uses the service).

High Quality But Limited Selection

For the moment, The Wally Shop seems to carry limited but very high-quality items, all local organic or responsibly sourced.

Still, local, organic and responsibly sourced items might come with a cost. For example, nondairy milks available in my zip code all come from NotMilk NYC, a local producer of fresh nut milks. Those products (almond, oat or rice milk) are priced at \$12 per quart at The Wally Shop.

And a single organic lemon from The Wally Shop sourced from the Greene Grape cost

\$1.06 compared with the Coop price of \$1.44 per pound.

Taking a Stand

The challenge for any ethical supplier has always been cost. How much are consumers, even ethical and educated consumers, willing to pay to save the planet and alleviate guilt?

For those without access to a resource like the Coop, or who might struggle to find the time to make it to the grocery store, the high prices could be seen as the cost of convenience. Not to mention an attractive alternative to mega-corporations like Amazon.

Hopefully, big and small grocery home-delivery companies will learn from what The Wally Shop is doing. A study conducted by Nielsen estimates that online grocery sales will grow to \$100 billion in the U.S. over the next five years, driven by large corporations expanding their share of the market. ■

A Taste of Virtual Reality

By Rene Brinkley

Some Coop members think they're edgy in the food world because they eat foods their friends have never heard of like fiddlehead or kohlrabi, or foods that have an element of danger like stinging nettles, or they make their own exotic sounding treats like kombucha.

But if you really want to stand out among your friends and the foodies of New York, I have just the event for you—an exclusive dining experience taking place in virtual reality.

As a self-described food adventurer, I was searching for my next adventure when I came across Aerobanquets, a virtual reality dinner party taking place at the legendary James Beard House in Manhattan. Over the course of an hour, four guests don virtual reality headsets and eat fine food while watching and hearing sights and sounds. The dining twist is: what you see is NOT what you eat.

Fine Dining Goes Virtual

Aerobanquets was created by Mattea Casalogno, a visual artist from Italy who works with new media. The project first appeared at art and technology conferences in China and South Korea last year. Its debut last month at James Beard House marks its first introduction to the American public, and food expectations are running high. After all, James Beard, who died in 1985, was a highly regarded chef, cookbook author and a leading authority on American cuisine. His home, a townhouse in Greenwich Village, was the



location of his famous cooking school. It now hosts over 200 dinner events a year featuring highly regarded chefs from around the world.

Mitchell Davis, chief strategy officer of the James Beard Foundation, brought Aerobanquets to the location for several reasons, including to attract new people to the organization. He also hoped to change what people think of the organization and wanted the opportunity to play with people's perceptions and memories of food.

So far the event is succeeding in attracting new people

to James Beard House. I was a new visitor as was Hannah Kulczak, a 28-year-old resident of California who participated in my dining session. She signed up for the November dining event as part of her birthday celebration in New York. Kulczak was intrigued how a virtual reality experience would combine with food. She stated: "I thought I was going to be in a real life video game and would never be able to look at food the same way."

This type of talk, anticipation and excitement around Aerobanquets is exactly what Davis had hoped for. "People don't expect this from James Beard House. But this is the type of thing we should be using the house for," Davis said. "Thousands of people come here over the course of the year and as we think about the future of food we want to assert ourselves and our art as a cultural art form."

A Taste of the Future

Aerobanquets was inspired by the 1932 Futurist Cookbook, which bans forks and knives and contains surreal dinners and colorful recipes like immortal trout, sculpted meats and zoological soup. It was further enhanced and brought to life by Casalogno's passion for virtual reality, he said in an interview. "This project is all about how to introduce the language of taste into the virtual reality experience," he said.

Aerobanquets is described on the James Beard House website as "a virtual and augmented reality art and dining experience in seven bites." To make sure those bites are bursting with flavor, Casalogno collaborated with Chintan Pandya, a rising star chef.

Virtual Pre-Game

I met Kulczak and her boyfriend Rigo in the lobby before the start of the event. We were all excited for something that promised to be memorable. But we were nervous wondering what on earth we were walking into.

Mitchell Davis of the James Beard House said: "The biggest challenge for most people is you don't know what you are eating and what you see is not what you are eating." He assured me that the food was "yummy."

And with that we had a glass of champagne, a brief lesson on how to eat from the "food vessel"—throw the food back like a shot—and we were ready to go!

Ready to (Virtually) Eat!

Once strapped into the headset, you enter this magical world



A person with virtual reality glasses looking at a plate of food.

of floating objects and oversized foods. This is all set to music and narration that at one point describes a "mousse of roasted hopes" that has been cooked for 30 years. Now who doesn't want to try some of that!

I was guided through several settings where I saw pink pineapples and blue cherries falling from the sky, meat dancing through the air and colorful environments that seemed to light up with each bite.



Casalogno explained: "All scenes are inspired by the Futurist book. I picked scenes that were more effective in terms of emotions. So there is a scene that is cold and dark, a scene that is hot like summer, and a scene that is more like spring."

He continued: "By placing people in different spaces I was thinking how that will influence taste and expectations about what you would be eating."

In each scene a table would appear out of thin air with an object representing the food we are about to eat. I wondered what the red sphere on the plate in front of me would actually taste like. The narrator told me: "I think it tastes like the whistle that the wind makes through a door lock on a cold autumn afternoon." Say what?!

As my hands reached for the vessel, all I could focus on was throwing my food shot back without spilling it all over the place! The shot was yummy, but I had no idea what I was eating and, no, it didn't taste like a whistle thank goodness! As the bites kept coming I did recognize a few flavors: there was a spicy bite, a fruity bite and

a bite that tasted like meat. I found myself enjoying the magical world around me and just ate what was being served even though it all looked very strange.

Kulczak enjoyed the dining experience and recognized some of the foods including the first course of watermelon and mint and another bite featuring toast with truffle.

Kulczak remarked: "Eating and having the [virtual reality] glasses allowed me to focus on elements of food that are taken for granted when you see what's in front of you. The flavors seemed more distinct, the textures more prominent. I feel like the visual art used warm and cool colors to portray a feeling and used objects like sunset to emotionally connect you to the dining experience."

Not Just a Bite

Aerobanquets is set to run through the month of December. It costs \$125 which means those are some expensive bites. But keep in mind: it's not just a bite, it's an experience.

Davis said the experience is about heightening awareness of the food we eat. "I want people



to think of food in a different way as serious not frivolous but fun."

Davis also sees this project as an opportunity to reexamine the relationship between the diner, the food and the chef. "My personal food goal is to invert the power dynamic between the diner and the cook so there is more openness and willingness on the part of the diner to let things go and let some things happen," Davis said.

Davis sees Aerobanquets as a small step towards confronting this power dynamic and he said he hopes the experience "messes with your brain and disorients you in a way that could be positive."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

STATEMENT ON THE COOPERATIVE IDENTITY

DEFINITION

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

VALUES

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

PRINCIPLES

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

They are as follows:

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

REFERENCE: ICA.COOP

LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

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

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

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

You may submit via e-mail to GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop.

Letters: Maximum 500 words.

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

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

LETTERS, ARTICLES AND REPORTS SUBMISSION POLICIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FAIRNESS, ANONYMITY AND RESPECT POLICIES

In order to provide fair, comprehensive, factual coverage:

Fairness

1. The *Gazette* will not publish hearsay—that is, allegations not based on the author's first-hand observation.

2. Nor will we publish accusations that are unnecessary, not specific or are not substantiated by factual assertions. The *Gazette* will not publish gratuitous personalization. That is, no unnecessary naming of Coop members in polemical letters and articles. Writers must address ideas not persons.

3. Submissions that make substantive accusations against specific individuals, necessary to make the point of the submission and within the Fairness, Anonymity and Respect policies will be given to those persons to enable them to write a response, and both submissions and response will be published simultaneously. This means that the original submission may not appear until the issue after the one for which it was submitted.

Anonymity

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

Respect

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

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

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

Friday, January 17, 8:00 p.m.

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



PROSPECT CONCERTS

The Sugar Ray Rodriguez Latin Soul Dance Party



From Prince, Miles Davis, Chucho Valdez, Celia Cruz, Marc Ribot, to Miley Cyrus, Jay Rodriguez has brought his saxophone sound and musical experience to many genres and generations. NYC-raised music veteran Jay Rodriguez-Sierra is one of its best-kept secrets!

Jay will bring the ultimate culmination of his experiences for a not-to-be-missed performance of Soulful Descarga Dance Floor Music infused with jazz, Latin, funk

and soul for the inimitable Food Coop Prospect Concert series in Brooklyn. The all-star ensemble will feature Coop member/artists: Jose Joaquin Garcia, Alexis Cuadrado, Sean Moran, Brian Drye, Aruan Ortiz, Ludovica Burtone, Urbano Sanchez, Marta Sanchez, Andrew Drury and many others, including a string section and special guests TBA ...

Let's kick off the new year right on a positive light! Bring your dancing shoes! It's a dance party! Let us party like it's 2020!

www.facebook.com/ProspectConcerts

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

RETURN POLICY



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

REQUIRED FOR ANY RETURN

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

CAN I EXCHANGE MY ITEM?

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

CAN I RETURN MY ITEM?

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

NEVER
RETURNABLE

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

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

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

RETURNABLE

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

This Issue Prepared By:

Editor (development): Peter Grant

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Leila Darabi

Jessica Powers

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Matt Willey

Editor (production): Esther Breger

Final Proofreader: Lisa Schorr

Index: Len Neufeld

Advertisement: Tuesday Smillie

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.

Elina Amiryan	Tamta Chkhikvadze	Julie Gash	Dan Katt	Merida Mehaffey	Hadley Robinson	Donald Weisman
Stela Arraes	Cara Conaboy	Dile Gjini	Sean Lee	Ross Meyerson	Alison Rollman	Elizabeth Weybright
David Bartner	Maggie Crow	Benjamin Cyril	Cyrielle Lefebvre	Rebecca Mitchell	Jacob Sabbah	Sandra Wheeler
Sasha Berger	Jessie Damuck	Goberman	Jacob Leizman	Jenna Moorman	Sarah Schluep	Jenny Willis
Christina Bertinelli	Kimon de Greef	Lital Gold	Rachel Levenson	Daniel Nissenbaum	Harry Shock	Alexander Yablon
Christopher Bertinelli	Abigail Deatley	Lily Goldstein	Junyi Liu	Georjie Opalich	Sara Softness	Jessica Yung
Brian Betancourt	Brian Denz	Dan Gordon	Morgan Loehr	Henry Pearson	Elif Sozer	Katie Zabronsky
Anne Billows	Jack Devereux	Richard Grunn	Jenny Lu	Taylor Potere	Michael Sterling	Rachel Zabronsky
Benedict Bolton	Pat Dodd	Sam Hason	Zoe Lye	Thorsten Prenzel	Daniel Stigall	Allan Zaretsky
Denise Brauner	Ilona Dzhamgarova	Gracie Himmelstein	William Makepeace	Lu Qin	Paul Stoica	
Nate Brauner	Elijah Ebrahimi	Nathalie Hirschtritt	Morgan Manchester	Svetlana Ragulina	David Swartz	
Frankie Burney	Anthony Falcone	Kelsey Hitt	Elena Matsui	Arman Rahman	Hannah Tuschman	
Bea Alyssa Catapang	Beth Forester	Clare Johnson	Eileen McGill	Isabel Rhys-Jones	Victoria Uren	
Leo Chang	Carson Frost	Veronica Jong	Shane McKeon	Justin Risica	Jamie Webb	

COOP CALENDAR

New Member Orientations

Attending an Orientation is the first step toward Coop membership. Pre-registration is required for all of the three weekly New Member Orientations. To pre-register, visit foodcoop.com. Have questions about Orientation? Please visit www.foodcoop.com and look at the "Join the Coop" page for answers to frequently asked questions.

The Coop on the Internet
www.foodcoop.com

The Coop on Cable TV

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

General Meeting Info

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

TUE, JANUARY 28
GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Gazette Deadlines

LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:
Jan 16 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Jan 6
Jan 30 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Jan 20

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:
Jan 16 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Jan 8
Jan 30 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Jan 22

ALL ABOUT THE GENERAL MEETING

Our Governing Structure

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

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 28, 7:00 p.m.

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

Location

John Jay Educational Campus, 227 Seventh Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts.

How to Place an Item on the Agenda

If you have something you'd like discussed at a General Meeting, please complete a submission form for the Agenda Committee. Forms are available in the rack near the Coop Community Corner bulletin board, on foodcoop.com, and at General Meetings. Instructions and helpful information on how to submit an item appear on the submission form. The Agenda Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month to plan the agenda for the GM held on the last Tuesday of the month. If you have a question, please call Ann Herpel at the Coop.

Meeting Format

- Warm Up (7:00 p.m.)** • Submit Open Forum items • Explore meeting literature
Open Forum (7:15 p.m.) Open Forum is a time for members to bring brief items to the General Meeting. If an item is more than brief, it can be submitted to the Agenda Committee as an item for a future GM.
Reports (7:30 p.m.) • Financial Report • Coordinators' Report • Committee Reports
Agenda (8:00 p.m.) The agenda is posted on foodcoop.com and may also appear elsewhere in this issue.
Wrap Up (9:30-9:45) • Meeting evaluation • Board of Directors vote • Announcements, etc.

Attend a GM and Receive Work Credit

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

Following is an outline of the program.

• Advance Sign-up required:

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

Some restrictions to this program do apply. Please see below for details.

• Two GM attendance credits per year:

Each member may take advantage of the GM-for-workslot-credit program two times per calendar year.

• 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

dec 20
fri 8 pm

David Roche; Marta Sanchez



David Roche is a singer/songwriter from a family of singers and musicians, poets and songwriters. It's something he's been doing since he was a little kid. Now, his third studio album of original songs, *Griefcase*, is enjoying air-play around the world. Roche plays guitar and will be joined by David Kumin on bass and George Vahamonde on drums. He's gratefully retiring in good standing from the Coop after this gig. Pianist **Marta Sanchez** will present the music of her new album *El Rayo de Luz* (2019, Fresh Sound). Her unique vision for her quintet—celebrated by *The New York Times* (10 best albums of 2015), NPR's *Fresh Air*, *DownBeat Magazine* and many others—is further developed and explored in her new music on *El Rayo de Luz*. Marta's highly evocative music is textural, visual, and constantly surprising with invention and wit.



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

Bookings: Bev Grant, bevgrant1@aol.com.

jan 3
fri 7 pm

Film Night: Eating Animals



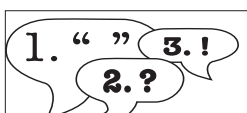
Eating Animals is the feature-length documentary adaptation of Jonathan Safran Foer's critically acclaimed book of the same name. The film reveals through intimate narratives what has happened to our country in the past 40 years as we have moved away from traditional farming communities to massive industrial farming complexes that produce a seemingly endless supply of so-called "cheap" meat, eggs, and dairy. What starts out as a simple question—"Where does our meat come from?"—quickly takes us down the rabbit hole of today's industrial animal agriculture and becomes an exploration of the ultimate stakes of eating animals, the destruction of farming, and the complete unwinding of the American mythos.

Geoffrey Richman is the editor of *Murderball*, *Sicko*, and *The Cove*—the 2006, 2008, and 2010 Academy Award nominees for Best Feature Documentary—and *Time Freak*, the 2012 Academy Award nominee for Best Live-Action Short Film. *The Cove* went on to win the Oscar, and an ACE Eddie Award for editing. At the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, Richman was awarded the first-ever Special Jury Prize for Editing for his work on *Murderball*.

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

jan 7
tue 7:30 pm

Agenda Committee Meeting



The Committee reviews pending agenda items and creates the agenda for future General Meetings. Members may submit in person their agenda item 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 January General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 7 p.m., at John Jay Educational Campus, 227 Seventh Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts.

jan 10
fri 7 pm

Wordsprouts: Belladonna* Collaborative Rach[a]els



A reading and conversation with members of the Belladonna* Collaborative, building poetry's feminist avant-garde in Brooklyn for 20 years and (collectively speaking!) Food Coop members for more than 30 years. **Rachel**

Levitsky started Belladonna* in 1999 as a reading series at the then brand new Bluestockings (then) Women's Bookstore. She is the author of *Under the Sun* (Futurepoem 2003), *NEIGHBOR* (UDP 2009 & 2019), *The Story of My Accident is Ours* (Futurepoem 2013), and *DogWalk1111* (forthcoming) and numerous chapbooks. **Rachael Guynn Wilson's** critical and poetic work has appeared in *A propósito de nada / Apropósito of Nothing* (Aeromoto + Wendy's Subway), *apricota* (Secretary Press), *BathHouse Journal*, *Brooklyn Rail*, *The Distance Plan*, *Evening Will Come* (The Volta), and elsewhere. She is a co-founder of the Organism for Poetic Research, a member of Belladonna* Collaborative, Managing Editor at Litmus Press, and teaches at the School of Visual Arts. **Free for all Coop members & non-members. Refreshments will be served. Bookings: Sarah Schenck, wordsproutspfc@gmail.com.**

jan 11
sat 2-5 pm

Auditions For Our Coop Kids' Variety Show



Auditions will be held at a remote location, not at the actual Food Coop. Coop members ages 4-18 may audition on Saturday, January 11, 2-5 p.m. or Sunday, January 19, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Contact **Martha Siegel** at 718-965-3916 or msiegel105@earthlink.net to reserve an audition time and confirm audition location. You must audition to be in the show. Polished act not required for audition; we can help you polish it. Singers and other musicians, poets, jugglers, stand-up comics, rappers, dancers, magicians, gymnasts, etc. (no lip-syncing please). Show time and place to be determined. We look forward to hearing from you!

Another audition takes place on Sunday, January 19, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Performance date to be announced soon.

jan 11
sat 2 pm

Declutter. Clear. Transform. MAKE ROOM FOR YOURSELF!

Sweet Relief Workshop. Be inspired, productive and at peace in your home or workspace. Clear overwhelm and shame. Allow your physical spaces to support you to thrive! **Shira Sameroff's** work has evolved over two decades years of experience with individuals, groups, and organizations as a workshop facilitator, therapist, event planner, activist, board president, volunteer coordinator and more. She has been a member of the beloved PSFC for as long. Shira's many passions include trees, singing, biking, travel, and Honey Mama's chocolate.

jan 11
sat 5 pm

Healing From Climate Grief

Unhealed grief, fear, and frustration about the climate emergency affects our initiative and hope for the future. Our unexpressed emotions interfere with our ability to bring our intelligence and energy to effectively respond to the climate crisis. The opportunity to openly express emotions about the damage to the earth and its inhabitants can release enormous thinking and action. This workshop will be an interactive event and all Coop members all welcome. It will be led by longtime Coop members **Azi Khalili** and **Adley Gartenstein**.

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

All events take place at the Park Slope Food Coop unless otherwise noted. Nonmembers are welcome to attend workshops. Views expressed by the presenter do not necessarily represent the Park Slope Food Coop.

dec 20 2019–feb 4 2020

jan 14
tue 7 pm

Safe Food Committee Film Night: Symphony of the Soil



Drawing from ancient knowledge and science, *Symphony of the Soil* is an exploration of the miraculous substance soil. By understanding the elaborate relationships between soil, water, the atmosphere, plants and animals, we come to appreciate its complex and dynamic nature. The film

also examines our human relationship with soil, its use and misuse in agriculture, deforestation and development, and soil's key role in ameliorating environmental issues. Filmed on four continents, featuring esteemed scientists, farmers, and ranchers, *Symphony of the Soil* highlights the possibilities of healthy soil creating healthy plants creating healthy humans living on a healthy planet.

See upcoming events, past reviews and a comprehensive list of films shown at www.plowtoplatefilms.com which can now also be reached via a link on the Park Slope Food Coop's home page at www.foodcoop.com.

jan 16
thu 7:30 pm

Food Class: Knife Skills



Knife skills are the foundation of any cooking project. Mastering the art of slicing and dicing will improve your speed and efficiency in the kitchen. In this hands-on knife skills class, you will learn: the anatomy of a knife;

how to sharpen and care for your knife; knife safety; classic French knife techniques, including dicing, julienne, brunoise, batonet. PLEASE BRING your own 6-8-inch knife (safely covered for travel please!), a cutting board, and containers or bags for all the perfectly cut vegetables you'll create. **Chef Dianne** is a graduate of the Natural Gourmet Institute and has worked in the food business for 13 years in restaurants, catering companies, culinary schools and cafes. She currently works as a private chef all around the city and regularly teaches cooking classes privately, at Haven's Kitchen in Chelsea, and at Cook Space Brooklyn in Prospect Heights. *We'll be chopping onions, carrots, peppers, garlic, and more. Please eat before class as a meal will not be provided.*

ASL interpreter available upon request, please contact the Membership Office. Materials fee: \$5. First come, first seated. To inquire about leading a Food Class, go to bit.ly/CCCChf1.

jan 17
fri 8 pm

The Sugar Ray Rodriguez Latin Soul Dance Party



From Prince, Miles Davis, Chucho Valdez, Celia Cruz, Marc Ribot, to Miley Cyrus, **Jay Rodriguez-Sierra** has brought his saxophone sound and musical

experience to many genres and generations. NYC-raised music veteran Jay Rodriguez-Sierra is one of its best-kept secrets! Jay will bring the ultimate culmination of his experiences for a not-to-be-missed performance of Soulful Descarga Dance Floor Music infused with jazz, Latin, funk and soul for the inimitable Food Coop Prospect Concert series in Brooklyn. The all-star ensemble will feature Coop member/artists: Jose Joaquin Garcia, Alexis Cuadrado, Sean Moran, Brian Drye, Aruan Ortiz, Ludovica Burtone, Urbano Sanchez, Marta Sanchez, Andrew Drury and many others, including a string section and special guests to be announced. Let's kick off the new year right on a positive light! Bring your dancing shoes! It's a dance party! Let us party like it's 2020!



Concert takes place at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West (at 2nd St.), \$10, doors open at 7:45. **Prospect Concerts** is a monthly musical fundraising partnership of the Coop and the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture. **Bookings: Bev Grant, bevgrant1@aol.com.**

jan 19
sun 11 am–2 pm

Auditions For Our Coop Kids' Variety Show



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jan 25
sat 11 am

Curious About Cohousing?

Want to raise your kids in a warm supportive community? Join us for the NYC premiere of a new, 30-minute documentary, *The Best of Both Worlds: The Promise of Cohousing*. Representatives from two cohousing communities forming in Massachusetts and Connecticut will be on hand to answer your questions. What is cohousing? Picture a group of people coming together to design their own community of private dwellings, each with its own kitchen and privacy for residents. Also on the property: a large "common house" serving everyone. Optional group meals are offered several nights a week, and residents take advantage of recreation or exercise rooms, a community garden, children's playrooms and other amenities. All this occurs within a framework of shared values and a deep concern for kindness, connectedness, and sensitivity toward the environment. The U.S. to date has 165 cohousing communities. *The Best of Both Worlds: The Promise of Cohousing*, which will premiere at the Wild and Scenic film festival in January, profiles four cohousing communities in California. **Dick Margulis** is an independent book editor and book designer whose second full-time job is helping to get Connecticut's first cohousing community, 30-unit Rocky Corner (www.rockycorner.org), built in Bethany, Conn., near New Haven, on a 33-acre former dairy farm. **Joan Oleck**, a writer and editor and a Coop member since 1992, recently moved to (soon-to-be) 28-unit Village Hill Cohousing (www.villagehillcohousing.com) on 6.6 woodsy acres adjacent to downtown Northampton, Massachusetts.

jan 26
sun 12 pm

Cultivating Emotional Resilience

We are all trying to find ways to be happier and every day there is a new method for us to increase our "positivity." What is it that really makes some people have a more positive outlook than others? What allows some people to bounce back from tragedy while others struggle to recover for years? What if some of our efforts to cultivate better thinking habits actually undermine our capacity for resilience? This workshop will illuminate the factors that contribute to genuine positivity and cover small steps anyone can take to build their own capacity for emotional resilience. Coop member **Abra Havens** is a clinical psychologist practicing in NYC. Abra specializes in the treatment of trauma, especially in survivors of childhood abuse and neglect.

still to come

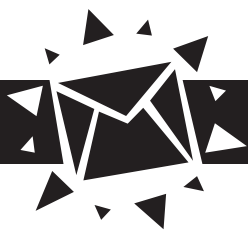
jan 28 Curbside Composting

jan 28 PSFC JANUARY General Meeting

feb 1 Valentine's Day Card-Making Party

feb 4 Agenda Committee Meeting

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



HOME DELIVERY

MEMBERS,

At the December 3 GM, the Home Delivery Study Committee presented a discussion item regarding a potential pilot program for delivering food to people with physical disabilities. This item may be voted on at an upcoming meeting. The gist is to have a workslot where members would take orders from eligible persons, and then shop and deliver their food. The initial estimate is that a squad of eleven people could service eight members with disabilities, although the hope is this

would be more efficient over time. Presumably, though, we would need four such slots, one for each of the ABCD weeks, meaning that we would potentially need as many 44 workslots to service eight people. This is a beautiful and compassionate idea. It saddens me to say that I will probably vote against it.

My concern is related to the recent significant expansion of the retirement program. (At the August meeting this year we substantially liberalized retirement rules for persons aged 66-70.) Like many of you, I too am aging and hope that someday I can shop at the Coop—

or potentially have this squad shop for me— without having to work shifts. The problem is that I suspect that many of our younger members may balk at continuing to maintain Coop membership if they have to work extra shifts to support a huge non-productive membership. And I am certain that they will balk if we have to raise prices to hire staff to do the jobs that the retired population used to do. We do not appear imminently to be headed over this waterfall but since we don't have any data on the age of our members it is hard to know for sure. I will say that at 50 I felt like I was on the

younger side of the various persons at the last GM.

Long story short, there is no question that our continuing to age will create problems for us both inside and outside the Coop, but we cannot count on the young'uns to bail us out if it is no longer in their interest to service us. That being said, I am quite seriously touched by the delivery idea and would potentially support it if the following changes were implemented. (1) We should only deliver fruits, vegetables, and meats, i.e. things that you cannot order for delivery easily elsewhere. (This would solve the problem

of accidentally buying an incorrect brand, and would solve the problem of potential dairy spoiling during delivery.) (2) We should not enter the apartments of the members. They can meet us at the door or have a friend do so. (This would save time and substantially reduce problems relating to insurance.) (3) There should be a maximum order size and in addition there should be one delivery per month maximum. (This would substantially reduce the personnel investment and would allow a small squad to service a much larger population.)

David Moss

Virtual Reality

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

For Kulczak it was about celebrating her birthday with a unique event. "The most memorable part of the experience was seeing and meet-

ing the masterminds that orchestrated it. Art is such a process so I enjoyed hearing, learning and being a part of such an innovative dining experience. It's truly something I'll remember forever."

Indeed this is something

I will remember—my first virtual dining experience. I love trying new things and eagerly embrace opportunities to go off the grid. That's why instead of shopping at supermarkets, I shop at the Coop. Instead of buying the

standard vegetables, I pick up the purple variety. I buy apples and oranges but will throw an ugly fruit in the cart to keep it interesting. I'm that Coop member who will give any food a try including zoological soup if that ever

becomes a thing.

So if you are a Coop shopper who dares to go wherever good food takes you, check out Aerobanquets. But don't come too hungry because seven bites in virtual reality left me hungry in real life! ■

Coop Job Opening:
Receiving Coordinator
Evenings/Weekends

Description:

All Receiving Coordinators ensure the smooth functioning of the Coop.

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

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

The ideal candidate will:

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

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

Wages: \$28.57/hour

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

Requirements:

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

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

Applicants must be able to:

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

How to Apply:

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

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

<http://bit.do/Receiving-0919>

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

We are seeking an applicant pool that reflects the diversity of the Coop's membership.

PLASTIC PACKAGING RECYCLING

Saturday, December 28, 1:45-4 p.m.

Wednesday, January, 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

Questions about items we accept should be e-mailed to ecokvetch@yahoo.com



A Call for Articles About Governance

By Ed Levy,
Editor, Team 1

For the May 7 issue of the *Linewaiters' Gazette*, members are invited to contribute their thoughts and ideas about the General Meeting.

Under the current system, proposals are screened by the Agenda Committee, discussed at one meeting, and then voted on in another by a largely different group of attendees—most of whom are there for workslot credit. "This can make for a partial, haphaz-

ard sort of decision-making," is how Alexandra Schwartz put it in her recent *New Yorker* profile of the Coop.

Are there other forms of decision-making?

Can this system be reformed? How can the General Meeting, typically attended by a few hundred people at most, better reflect the size of the membership, now over 17,000? Are there other forms

of decision-making, such as a smaller representative body, that would be less fractious and more efficient, while preserving Coop democracy?

New Yorkers recently voted in ranked choice voting. What fresh ideas do you have to bring Coop democracy to the next level. Please keep your contribution to 500 words or less and send it to Gazette-Submissions@psfc.coop no later than April 27, 2020, with "Coop Governance/May 7 Issue" in the subject line. ■



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community calendar listings are free. Please submit your event listing in 50 words or less to GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop. Submission deadlines are the same as for classified ads. Please refer to the Coop Calendar in the center of this issue.

FRI, DEC 20

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

SAT, DEC 21

8-10:30 p.m. *The Blackbird Trilogy*. Lindsey Wilson's *The Blackbird Trilogy* musical is an interpretation of the iconic Beatles song, written to honor the struggle of black women. Lindsey will be joined by renowned folk artist DuPree, cellist Barry Kornhauser, and spoken word artist Rachel RighteousLuv. Community

Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 E. 35th St., NY, NY 10016. Wheelchair-accessible. \$20. No one turned away.

8-10:30 p.m. Heavenly Havens: A Richie Havens Tribute by Robert Tellefson. Brooklyn native Bob Tellefson used to share the stage with the likes of Richie Havens, Bob Dylan, and Joan Baez. Now he brings you back to the garden to celebrate the style and energy of Richie Havens. Accompanied by Lindsey Wilson's Human Hearts Trio. Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 E. 35th St., NY, NY 10016. Wheelchair-accessible. \$20. No one turned away.

SAT, JAN 4

8-10:30 p.m. Benefit Concert for Eco-Logic/WBAI. Community Church of New York Unitarian

Universalist, 40 E. 35th St., NY, NY 10016. Wheelchair-accessible. \$20. No one turned away.

SAT, JAN 11

8-10:30 p.m. Jess Clinton; Diana Jones. Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 E. 35th St., NY, NY 10016. Wheelchair-accessible. \$20. No one turned away.

SAT, JAN 18

8-10:30 p.m. Trans-Atlantic Hoot: Skinner & Twitch; Lee, Cross, & Suffet. Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 E. 35th St., NY, NY 10016. Wheelchair-accessible. \$20. No one turned away.

To Submit Classified or Display Ads:

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

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

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Crossword Answers

L	C	H	A	I	M		P	E	A	B	O		B	E	L
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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, 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.

ATTORNEY CAROL LIPTON has been practicing law for decades with former Coop member Barton L. Slavin. We represent accident victims in car accidents, slip and

falls, and construction. We also handle co-op and condo transactions, estates and wills, guardianship, business litigation, and civil and family court appeals. We provide courteous, attentive service. Convenient midtown location. 718-436-5359 or 212-233-1010. nycattorneys.com.

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

Read the *Gazette* while you're standing on line OR online at www.foodcoop.com

☆ EXCITING WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITIES ☆

Bread Invoice Checking Sunday Daytime Flexible

This shift is a double shift done once every eight weeks, alternating with another bread voucherer. Must be available to work Sundays. Commitment to come to your shift—must have excellent attendance. Must be detail-oriented and comfortable working on the computer. This job entails entering invoices into our online bookkeeping system. Every week there are over 100 bread invoices to enter into the system, as well as generating and receiving invoices from a few select vendors into the inventory system. The job will always require you to work on Sunday because we get bread deliveries every day and the invoices must be entered by Monday morning. You have some flexibility as to when you do your shift provided you enter all the invoices for your given week slot by Sunday at 8 p.m. This means you could come every day that week and enter each day's invoices, or you could come once on Sunday and enter all the invoices for the week. This is a specialized shift that requires training and can only be swapped with another bread voucherer (of which there will be eight, two voucherers per week.) You must contact Lisa Hidem at: lisa_hidem@psfc.coop or 718-622-0560 before signing up for this workslot.

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.

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.

Bathroom Cleaning Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 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.

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.

Office Set-Up

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

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.

Where to Find Holiday Treats at the Coop?

Seasonal and holiday products can now be found in the Coop produce aisle end cap and between aisles 3A and 2B. Also the Florida citrus season has begun: just in are bags of Candy Mandy organic mandarin oranges in orange mesh bags, stacked in the rear of the produce aisle. Holiday pies from Abu's, Bread Alone, Food Gems, Four & Twenty Blackbirds, Margaret Palca, Pie Corps, Steve's and Whipped Pastry can be found in the back coolers. ■



Holiday products shelved in the Coop aisle end caps.



Panettone, Mandorle Italia almonds, pie pans, MI-DEL Candy Cane Cremes cookies and Foodstirs organic Very Merry Gingerbread mix.



Hanukkah candles.



Sjaak's chocolates.