

LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

Established 1973



Volume HH, Number 4

February 21, 2013

On Debating Debate: Jan. 29, 2013 General Meeting

By Allison Pennell

When I try to explain the Food Coop's monthly General Meeting to the uninitiated, they laugh at me. One out-of-town friend told me a couple of weeks ago that the Coop membership is obviously suffering from an undiagnosed communal case of Stockholm Syndrome. Because what else would account for the devotion in the hostage situation that is the Food Coop and most particularly the monthly GM? Yes, fine, it's a new year and a new opportunity to do a make-up while having a reasoned discussion about the role of politics at a grocery store. But, let's face it, my friend may have a point.

I arrived on the cul de sac of the new meeting entrance to see people using cars as tabletops while they scarfed down their dinners en route. Two FTOP workers in search of a shift credit were standing in the vestibule eating pizza. MS 51 doesn't want our crumbs and there is zero tolerance for snacking.

I didn't know how good I had it in the synagogue's chintzy wallpapered ballroom until I had to spend two hours and forty-five minutes in the food-free auditorium of our local middle school. Truth to tell, I miss Rabbi Andy Bachman. After covering one particularly psychedelic pre-boycott meeting last winter, I had e-mailed the rabbi asking what the creators had been on when



MS 51, the new GM meeting venue, doesn't allow food.

they first decided on the wallpaper. "Sanka," he wrote back. We could have used some of that pith (and brevity) on January 29th because... OY.

Bachman was about the only supporter of Israel not in attendance to propose or weigh in on how to stop hypothetical future boycotts of Israeli soaps and soda streams. Lovers of democracy were also out in numbers to stop the stopping of voting to vote on stuff and also to talk about the current market value of their brownstones. Old hippies work that in to a conversation just like Harvard grads do. Yes, we get it. You bought your brownstone for a bag of patchouli, and now you're sitting on your stoop like Croesus.

I should have done my homework before volunteering to cover the January meeting because I mistakenly presumed that we were done

with the Middle East and on to hotly debating—I don't know—something **new**. But, as my rival GM correspondent Chadwin Matlock or Chadwick Matlin, asked to his undoubtedly enormous Twitter following: what else would the Coop talk about? And yes, it is an honest question. Honestly.

Had I looked, I would have known what I was in for: not one or two but three separate proposals relating to redefining the Food Coop's boycott policy.

Jesse Rosenfeld went first. His proposal was that language be tightened to make any future boycott referendums require an 80% margin. Actually, it wasn't entirely clear whether that would be 80% of the GM voting to vote or on a Coop-wide vote. But, whichever it is, Rosenfeld didn't want such potentially polarizing decisions made on

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PHOTO BY ALLISON PENNELL

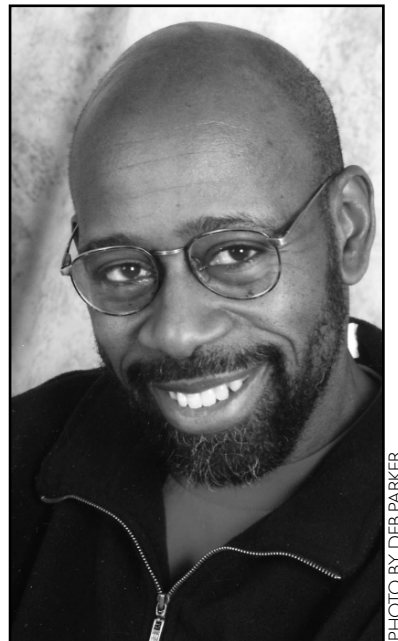
PHOTO BY DEB PARKER

Alexis

Oct. 31, 1954–Feb. 11, 2013

With great sadness, the Coop staff announce the death of our beloved colleague and Coop member, Billy Donald Alexis, known to all of us as Alexis. He passed away at home on February 11, 2013.

Alexis was the face that greeted most early morning weekday workers. He brought a warm ray of sunshine in those early hours when trucks are unloaded and shelves stocked. He orchestrated the work of dozens of members with grace, humor and an infectious smile. Always warm and welcoming, Alexis had an uncanny ability for matching the right person to the right job. No task was too big, no crisis too great for Alexis to manage with a smile on his face and a hug to share.



Alexis worked for the Coop for 19 years and was the Coop's bread buyer. He initiated a vast expansion of the Coop's bread offerings, making the Coop a true destination for excellent bread, bagels, muffins and other baked goodies. He was always looking for the next best bread to bring to Coop members.

The Coop will be helping to organize a memorial celebration for Alexis. Details to follow in the next few weeks.

Please share with us in extending our heartfelt sympathy to Alexis' wife, Shelia Martin, and their children, Stephen, Darian and Jordan. The Coop mourns his passing. We are heartbroken and miss him deeply and profoundly. He was a wonderful person.

Cards and Donations for Alexis

We've been asked by members for guidance on how to send notes/cards to Alexis' family, or how to provide funds for the benefit of his wife, Shelia Martin, and their three children. You may send mail for his family to Shelia Martin, c/o Park Slope Food Coop, 782 Union St., Brooklyn NY 11215 and we will make sure it is brought over to the family. And any donated funds should be in the form of checks paid to the order of his wife, Shelia Martin.

Thank you on behalf of Alexis' family.

Coop Event Highlights

Tue, Feb 26 • February General Meeting 7:00 p.m.
At MS 51, 350 Fifth Ave., bet. Fourth and Fifth Sts.

Fri, Mar 1 • Film Night: Give Up Tomorrow 7:00 p.m.

Thu, Mar 7 • Food Class: Super Fresh Spring Cleaning With Raw Foods 7:30 p.m.

Fri, Mar 8 • Wordsprouts: Group Reading: Stories from the City & Beyond 7:00 p.m.

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

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January GM

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a bare majority vote.

Then came Murray Lantner. His proposal was a five-year moratorium of Israeli boycott referendums. "Give us time to heal. Breathing space. Take time away from making this a perpetual agenda item. There's plenty that we can work on; let's give this issue a rest for five years."

Finally, Eric Eisenstadt advocated for benevolent authoritarianism in letting the General Coordinators decide whether to entertain future boycott proposals before they come before the membership. "General Coordinators made it clear that

they thought this boycott was a bad idea and they were right. This was divisive and unnecessary. The GCs can prevent an issue from going forward. I have great trust in the wisdom of the General Coordinators."

The feedback really came in between each proposal but for the sake of clarity, I wanted to give you the boycott proposals first.

Robin on the Agenda Committee was first up, saying that voting margins wasn't really at issue and the first proposal was a bad idea. "I'm sympathetic to the uncertainty and scariness of proposals but the proposal, not the outcome, is what made people uncomfortable. You can't pre-

vent the discussion whatever the threshold is."

Tim, of Receiving, said he found all three proposals objectionable but taken together, particularly disturbing. Retired member Naomi agreed and registered her concern that the boycott proposals were an attempt to rig future votes. Glenn Moller of the Agenda Committee likened the proposals to "voter-fraud laws that the Republicans keep trying to pass" and said that the Coop is more than a grocery store but inherently political.

Susan, a now-retired member since 1980, called the proposal for a supermajority "dominance of the minority" and said a screening panel is similarly undemocratic. "To try and silence people is a terrible, terrible mistake. It's like asking the workers to give up the ability to strike."

Sighs and spontaneous applause. Carl Arnold, chairing the meeting, asked the audience not to applaud anymore.

Mitchell, of something and somewhere, then pointed out that last spring's vote was not a vote on whether to ban Israeli products but a vote on whether to allow the full membership to vote on this issue. "Democracy means that these issues should be voted upon by the full membership, not by the attendees of one General Meeting."

Jesse Rosenfeld, author of the supermajority proposal, responded that everybody had raised good points and that he didn't have answers for all of them. He reiterated that he's not against discussion or democracy but argued that an 80% voting margin was not tyranny by the minority but a way of avoiding a divisive and polarizing outcome.

Matt came to the podium to agree with Jesse and Murray that the idea of a higher threshold or moratorium is not shutting down discussion or freedom of speech.

Barbara, of *More Hummus*, *Please* and *The Daily Show*, rose in support of the five-year moratorium on debate and asked that it include letters to the *Linewriters' Gazette*. Then she said BDS supports people who want to kill Jews to which an audience member yelled, "out of order" and another, "Zionism equals racism." At this point, Carl Arnold asks Barbara to limit her comments to the boycott proposals without revisiting the BDS issue. Barbara closes with, "You lost. Get over it. Leave us alone. Let Jews come back to the Food Coop." "How

cooperative of you," yells a man in the audience.

Oh lordy.

Then came Tom, a recently retired Receiving worker, who opposed a five-year moratorium as being too long. Glenn Moller, back again, pointed out that the Agenda Committee policy already creates at least a de-facto year+ moratorium on broaching the same issue again.

"I've never seen this kind of divisiveness in 30 years of membership. This [boycott debate] could destroy this place."

At this point, my notes read: "Somehow it became a discussion of the Senate filibuster policy. Okay, I'm done. A half hour left??? I didn't catch his name and I'm sorry, the words are sounding like adults in Charlie Brown." Sadly, I was an hour off in thinking I only had another half hour.

Jeff, an FTOP cashier, rose to say that an 80% voting margin may not be the right number but some higher threshold isn't out of the question. "We should think a little harder before we bring up the next alienating and divisive issue."

Rebecca, who lived in Israel for ten years, argued that the boycott proposal to let the GCs decide on whether to take up an issue was tantamount to taking away the democratic rights of Coop members.

Aaron told the crowd that there was a big difference between supporting the referendum and supporting the boycott. The 40% vote for moving the boycott forward shouldn't be confused with 40% support for a boycott of Israeli products, he said. "Tonight is why I voted the way I did in March, because if we had a referendum on this, we wouldn't still be talking about it. Next time, let's vote on the damn thing and vote it down like I was prepared to do."

People's mouths are moving, and I'm losing track.

Glenn (again) speaketh and says, "Sorry, politics is here. This is the Coop. You came late. Sorry. In the past we've had referendums to decide divisive issues. Then just like you say, you had your chance, we're not doing it again. Perhaps we made a mistake in voting to vote instead of just going to a referendum."

Then Jesse Rosenfeld says that having three boycott proposals was not, in fact, a conspiracy. And also: "I am such an egomaniac that I would

have preferred to stand alone on my boycott proposal and not get lumped in here."

Eric agrees that his proposal is "on-its-face anti-democratic but we can all get poetic about New England town meetings, but this is one of those issues when our mechanism doesn't work well."

Felicia, retired member even though she looks really, really young to be retired, spoke out in favor of Eric's proposal. "I don't think it would have been put to rest if it HAD been put to a referendum. When I look into how other coops handled this across the country, other general coordinators did opt not to raise this issue. I've never seen this kind of divisiveness in 30 years of membership. This could destroy this place."

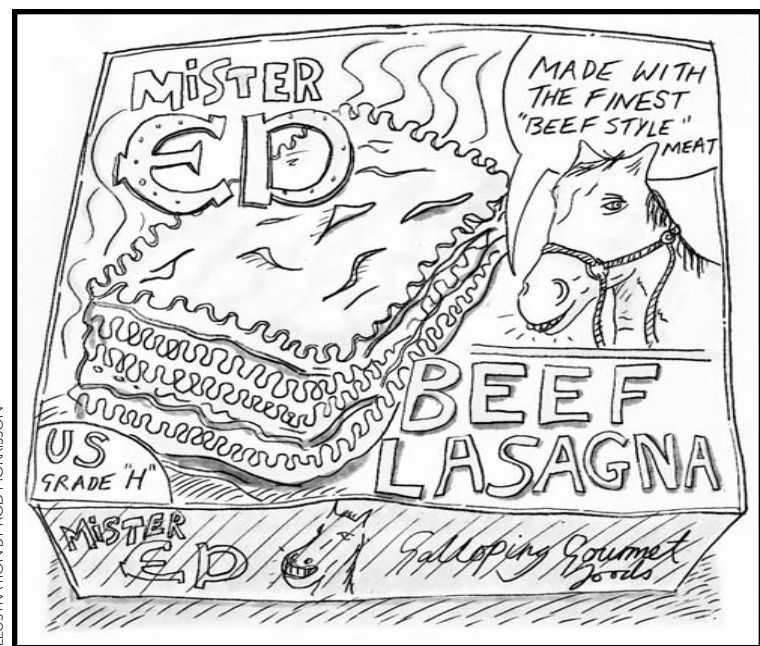
Susie points out that, as a Palestinian American, she too felt very alienated that the referendum didn't come to a vote but that she didn't leave the Coop because of it. "It's fear that tries to squash all discussion."

Tim, of the Chair committee, then broached that the Coop's General Coordinators "are not crazy enough to want to take on this kind of responsibility," which drew a hallelujah from GC Mike Eakin behind me. Then Tim talked about the checkout woman who didn't want to touch the murdered corpse of their chicken breast when meat first came to the Food Coop and how, instead of making a big whoop about it, Tim and his wife had simply gone to another counter. Let common sense and peace-loving checkouts prevail.

The guy next to me had been chomping at the bit and finally got the mic. His name is Ben, and he got a laugh when he said, "I'm a pacifist except for a split second in seventh grade," before taking exception to the first proposal's wording that boycott must be "based on established and credible information from non-violent sources," which he pointed out rightly would exclude the U.S. government, among sundry others. "I like the term credible although I have no idea what that means." Yes, Ben didn't like proposal one either.

Thirty-nine-year member Gloria had the last(ish) word. "The Food Coop is not that democratic. Even with that I think it works well. I'm sorry to hear that some people feel alienated. I don't feel unhappier because of this happening here. I think it's made us stronger."

Enough said. ■



The Coop will soon be carrying Mister Ed Lasagna, which will feature the famous television star in more ways than one!

RETURN POLICY

park slope
FOOD COOP

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 weekdays to discuss your concerns.

NEVER
RETURNABLE

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

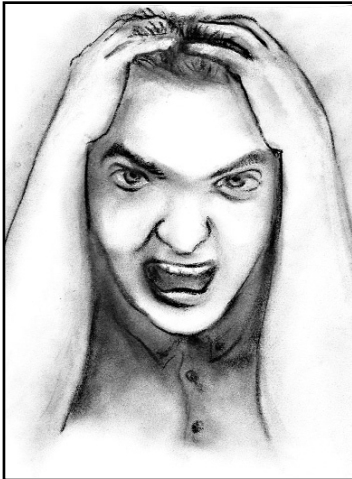
RETURNABLE
ONLY IF SPOILED
BEFORE
EXPIRATION DATE
Packaging/Label
must be presented
for refund.

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.

Leaving the Coop! Why Folks Fly the Coop



By Taigi Smith

We shop at the Coop for its fresh organic produce, low prices and generous selection of artisanal cheeses, fresh-baked croissants and treasure trove of rare beers. For some members of the Coop, shopping in its cramped aisles, full of organic this and gluten-free that has become a religious experience of sorts, akin to attending church on Sunday morning. Our membership is teeming with Coop junkies, who hastily push their way through crowded aisles, convulsing from Shitake mushroom withdrawal or struggling to grab that last container of non-organic blueberries from Chile lest they be left without their berries or even worse... forced to buy those non-organic blues from that other place down the street called Key Food. They sweat and snarl as they plow their way

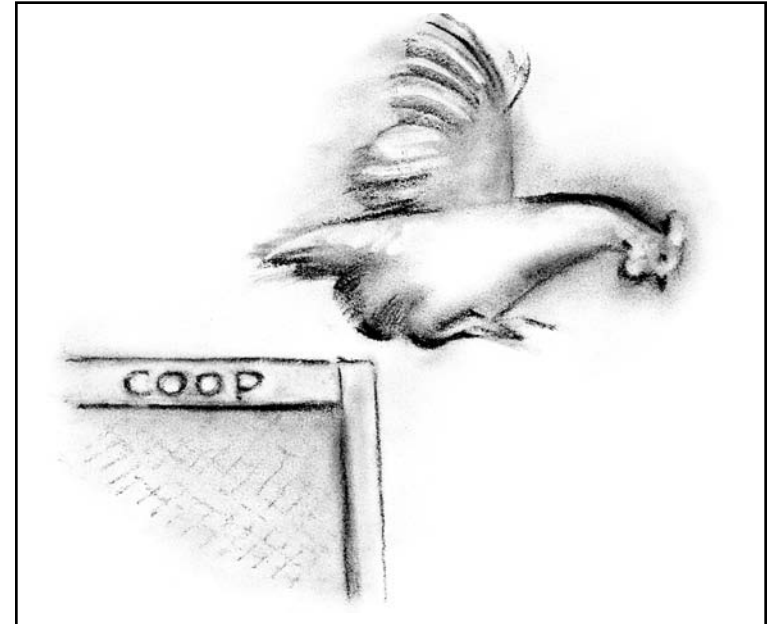
through the aisles and make snarky remarks at any and everyone who dares to get in their way. These are the Coop junkies.

For the PSFC junkies, shopping elsewhere is akin to foodie suicide. Give them the Coop or give them death! They are the ones who'd rather go hungry than to Whole Foods; these are the members who proudly wear their PSFC T-shirts and stand in the aisles waxing poetic about the virtues of vitamin D and kombucha as they glare nastily at everyone else's rowdy children, and bump into you with their carts. For them, an afternoon spent in the long lines of the Coop is like they're on a religious pilgrimage. These are organic food disciples and the Park Slope Food Coop is their holy ground. And then, of course, there are the rest of us.

It might surprise you to learn that an estimated 2,600 members leave the Coop each year—that's about 16% of the overall current Coop membership. Over the past 25 years, the Coop leadership has surveyed people who have terminated their memberships. These surveys not only reveal members' reasons for leaving, but also provide valuable insight into changes departing members would make at the Coop. Several respondents suggested longer intervals between

work shifts while others said they felt members of the office staff were dismissive and rude. Of the almost 100 surveys reviewed, more than half revealed mounting frustration over crowded aisles, long lines, and lack of civility displayed by shoppers. "The crowdedness makes the shopping experience hyper stressful...too many people in too small a space at once," wrote Jennie L. Still, Jennie says she was sad to quit the Coop, but her move to the South Slope made shopping at the PSFC inconvenient. Another former member, Liam, quit the Coop because of "the unpleasant, combative experience of shopping there" and "the silly punitive policy of giving two make-ups for a missed shift." When asked what he would change about the Coop, Liam had this to say: "Stop kowtowing to people who want organic frozen waffles and 2 oz. blocks of cheese."

Attorney Emily P. left the Coop in the mid 90s just six months after joining. "I was living around the corner and it was pretty much the closest food market near me," says Emily who blames her departure on unpleasant interactions with other members and an undesir-



ILLUSTRATIONS BY CATHY WASSYLENKO

able work shift. "There were too many personalities, and I had a really unpleasant shift. On Sunday afternoons, I was responsible for putting price labels on canned goods." During Emily's Sunday shift, the Coop was usually crowded, and she was often unable to label the cans without bumping into people. "It was when everyone was shopping, and I was always in the way," remembers Emily. Emily also hated not being able to purchase all of her food in one place, which was her primary reason for joining. "Something was always out. Part of the

point of joining was to not make myself crazy going shopping."

It was an outburst from an irate shopper that finally sent Emily packing. "I nudged my basket with his basket while waiting in line, and the guy yelled at me. I had enough." But the anger wasn't just felt by Emily, but by several members who gave the Coop the boot. In Lucy C.'s exit survey, she cited leaving because of the "unpleasant shopping experiences," and "unfriendly workers and customers." She also hoped that in the future,

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Textonyms

The numbers on modern telephone keypads are associated with groups of three or four letters:

2 = ABC, 3 = DEF, 4 = GHI, 5 = JKL,
6 = MNO, 7 = PQRS, 8 = TUV, 9 = WXYZ

Many texting devices support "predictive text." That is, when number keys are pressed, the matching letter possibilities are looked up in a dictionary to find a matching word. For example, 2-2-8 might be turned into the word C-A-T.

However, the same keys (2-2-8) also correspond to other words—BAT or ACT. These alternative possible words are known as "textonyms."

Each of the words listed below has at least one common English word textonym. It may help to first turn the word back into a corresponding letter sequence. The first word is done for you.

ACHE	2243 = ACID, CAGE
ALOE	
ANEW	
BASS	
KNACK	
QUART	
STONY	
RECUSE	
SELECT	
QUENCH	
PUCKISH	
COMPRISE	

Puzzle author: Stuart Marquis. For answers, see page 14.

Board of Directors Election

The General Meeting & The Board of Directors

From our inception in 1973 to the present, the monthly General Meeting has been the decision-making body of the Coop. Since the Coop incorporated in 1977, we have been legally required to have a Board of Directors.

The Bylaws of the Park Slope Food Coop state: "The portion of the Board of Directors meeting that is devoted to receiving the advice of the members shall be known as the General Meeting.... The members who gather to give advice to the directors may choose to vote in order to express their support or opposition for any of the issues that have come before the meeting."

Duties of the Directors

The Board of Directors is comprised of five elected Coop members and the senior General Coordinator present. Members serve three-year terms. Members of the Board are expected to attend GMs monthly. They receive Coop work credit for their attendance.

The Board of Directors conducts votes at the end of every GM whether to accept the advice of the members that night. Members of the Board are required to act legally and responsibly.

Openings

There are two openings on the Board. Each position is for a term of three years.

Candidate Deadline

If you wish to place your name into nomination, you must declare your candidacy by Friday, March 1, 2013. Please submit a statement of up to 750 words to GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop. Please include a small photo for publication in the *Linewaiters' Gazette* and the member proxy mailing.

Deciding and Voting

Candidates will have the opportunity to present their platform at the March 19, 2013, General Meeting.

Every member will receive a proxy package in the mail in late May. Members may vote by returning their ballot by mail or by bringing it to the Coop. Members may also vote at the Annual Meeting on June 25, 2013.



Leaving Coop

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the Coop would be more welcoming to younger members who didn't know the unwritten rules of the PSFC.

Like Emily, Aaron Taylor-Waldman also quit the Coop after joining in 2005. He remained a member for about 1½ years but finally grew so fed up with the PSFC, that he took to Yelp.com to express his frustration. "I did enjoy the 15 varieties of plouts for a couple weeks, but alas, this place is just not for me," wrote Aaron, a child of Vermont hippies. Aaron remembers his parents shopping at Vermont coops when he was child, but nothing, says Aaron, prepared him for the PSFC orientation. "It felt like a pitch presentation. I had never been to a coop where you have a back room, where new potential members are indoctrinated with PowerPoint slides. I felt like it was unorthodox." Aaron actually liked working in Receiving, but says the long lines for food simply became too much when he launched his new business. "Doing a

quick staples run was not possible. Buying bread and bananas could take 30 minutes or more. Shopping for basics could take 45 minutes to an hour. And the elaborate three-checkouts process, where bags were compared to receipts to make sure nobody was doing any quinoa smuggling...it was not for me."

Ironically, Aaron's brother, Jesse, who is currently a member of the Coop, loves the place. Aaron says, "He only works about once every three months, but he works like a six-hour shift." Jesse's job? "He gets hairballs out of the wheels of the carts and he cleans the vents of the yogurt and tofu coolers. Jesse does the dirty, dirty jobs." Aaron is proud of Jesse's commitment to the Coop, boasting that current members owe a huge debt to members like Jesse, who do the jobs no one else wants. "The place is so dirty, and we would never know it and people on the maintenance shift have some good tales about how dirty it gets. The maintenance people get to see the Coop in its rawest state."

On Yelp.com, Aaron gave the Coop a one-star rating and wrote in a post, "The Coop is perfect for you if you like to extend basic shopping errands into elaborate, volunteer-staffed free-for-alls with multiple checkpoints and guilt-laden finger wagging." And Aaron wasn't alone. While the majority reviewers on Yelp love the Coop, there are a vocal few who just can't stand the place. Good S. from Brooklyn wrote in a post, "Too many rules, the people are not pleasant, and it ends up just adding stress to my life. The savings are no longer what it used to be." For Megan C. of Manhattan, she posted that the long lines and minimal savings are what drove her away. "The childlike joy of getting to play store on my shopping shift has slowly faded away. The excitement of dodging fellow shoppers as I weave in and out of aisles packed full of wholesome, delicious treasures has given way to frustrating hours just trying to get through the experience." And with that final declaration, Megan gave the Coop 2½



ILLUSTRATION BY CATHY WASSYLENKO

stars and announced to cyberspace that her relationship with the Coop was over. "I am pretty sure the Coop is a good idea. I was definitely one of the not-so-few and overly proud. But after a while...it gets exhausting." In an interview, Aaron Taylor-Waldman said he couldn't agree more. "Nobody knows what the hell is going on. It's not clear who the real workers are. It seems like a nebulous place to navigate. It was a terrible shopping experience. Cumbersome, claustrophobic, and slow," says Aaron who describes the Coop "like the airport minus the body scans."

"Doing a quick staples run was not possible. Buying bread and bananas could take 30 minutes or more."
—Aaron Taylor-Waldman

But for every member who has opted out, there are thousands of diehards like Rene Brinkley who couldn't fathom giving up their beloved PSFC. Brinkley regularly blogs to her non-member friends about the fresh produce and off-the-wall spices she manages to procure at the Coop. She's learned to cook Indian food and has gone from eating processed foods to living a totally organic lifestyle. She is obsessed with the Coop and just can't stop talking about how great it is. In fact, she's joined by countless former members who wrote in

to say, "I loved it (the Coop) and wouldn't change a thing," and "I really loved being a member of the Coop."

Like many Coop members, Rene is a busy marketing executive. She logs in 50 hours per week at the office, yet still manages to make her shift every time. In fact, she wouldn't dream of shopping anywhere else. When told about the thousands of people who leave the Coop each year, Rene had this to say: Good Riddance! "The Coop really has changed the way I eat. I have tried more vegetables than I have ever tried in my life. Foods I didn't like as a child—like beets—are now delicious. Gold beets are simply wonderful. Once you get used to the fresh produce from the Coop, you can immediately taste the subpar quality of supermarket food." As testament to her dedication, Rene fondly remembers the infamous snowstorm of 2011. "My shift was not cancelled, and I had to huff it and puff it to the Coop in miserable weather." Brinkley took a train to the Slope from Prospect Lefferts Gardens and then trudged through several feet of snow before finally reaching the Coop. She was determined not to spoil her perfect attendance record. "It is a small price to pay for what I get from the Coop—I love the fact that it never closes even if it means I have to work."

Furthermore, says Brinkley, "The Coop is so much more than a grocery store—it's an experience." It is Rene's dream to one day join the ranks of the Disciplinary Committee. ■

Earn FTOP Hours in Queens!



Help the Queens Harvest Food Co-op bring sustainable and affordable food options to Queens and earn FTOP hours at the same time.

The Queens Harvest Buying Club is looking for volunteers to help during our monthly distributions. If you love farmers, fresh foods, conversation, and arithmetic, then spend a couple hours with the crew and get to know us (and Queens!) a little better.

We especially need an accountant.

We are a monthly buying club and need volunteers each month.

Our next distribution will be in late January. E-mail qhbuyingclub@gmail.com for the date.

We need extra hands for:

- Morning Shifts—Setup, Data Entry, Receiving, Inventory
- Afternoon Shifts—Receiving, Data Entry, Kitchen Prep, Packing
- Evening Shifts—Packing, Data Entry, Cleaning, Breakdown

Our distribution site is St. Jacobus Lutheran Church, in Woodside, which is just three blocks from the Roosevelt Ave. stop (E/F/R/M/7 trains) in the heart of Jackson Heights.

Interested in volunteering? E-mail us: qhbuyingclub@gmail.com

Members Organize Against Gun Violence

By Hayley Gorenberg

From newly published author to educator to nurse, Coop members confronting gun violence have jumped to action, seeking to make an impact and to draw others to join them.

Author Petra Lewis' writing on urban gun violence, in the pre-order phase on Amazon.com, seems synchronized with a national wave of attention focused on guns. "I can't quite use the word 'pleased,' given the subject," Lewis said, noting that sustained attention to gun violence poses a personal challenge for many people. "It's not an easy topic; it's very unpleasant. People would rather do something else. They look at the newspaper, shake their head and are like, 'Oh, time for a Starbucks run!'"

Lewis' *Ham Novel Trilogy* sprang from "three acts of violence in my personal life," she said. In particular, she recalled a Trinidadian friend who spoke often with her mother about her son and his education and achievements. "When we finally did get around to seeing [him], he was in a casket with a bullet hole in his head. [Gun violence] went from being in the paper to being in my personal life."

Lewis calls her work "a protest novel" specifically confronting urban gun violence. "It's about violence, choice and destiny. I would like to believe it is entertaining and humbling, with some very iconic characters."

"It's very much an activist piece," she said. She wants to use the book "to save lives, literally, by giving money away." To that end, through the end of 2013, Lewis plans to donate \$3 from every print order and \$1.50 from every e-book order of her work to Street Corner Resources, the Crown Heights Community Mediation Cen-

ter's Save Our Streets Crown Heights (SOS) program and Families of Victims Against Violence. All of the organizations have addressed urban gun violence, and Lewis was allowed to attend meetings of the third group. She later interviewed mothers from the group, whose children had been shot and killed.

*"Why is it so easy
for these young people
to blow each other away?
Why is this becoming
the first go-to
rather than the last resort?"*

—Petra Lewis

Of the three organizations she says, "The key thing is, they've been very effective. I'm not looking to reinvent the wheel."

In her initial media release, Lewis said she always wanted her *Trilogy* to inspire change regarding the state of American gun control. "Of course I had no idea that the massacre at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown would coincide... When we finally did launch on Christmas Eve, it was in an altered landscape—one in which America seems to have genuinely reached a tipping point on gun violence... I pray and hope this watershed moment on gun control is finally real—not simply a moment of outrage."

At the heart of Lewis' writing are her personal questions: "Why is it so easy for these young people to blow each other away? There are guns on the street: Why are they so plentiful and accessible?" And as for the gun itself, often in a young man's hand, "Why pick it up and use it? Why is it that they think this can't be resolved in some other way? Why is this becoming the first go-to rather than the last resort?"

Organizing at CBE

The Newtown shootings spurred Gail Bernstein-Gold, a Coop member since 1995, to join with fellow members of Congregation Beth Elohim in recent weeks, seeking to support gun control legislation. "We're trying to put our heads together on how we can do something meaningful and impactful to control the spread of guns," she said.

The group, of which this reporter is a member, is working to pull together a town hall community meeting this spring. "Hopefully the panelists at the event will help us figure out how to be impactful," said Bernstein-Gold. "Here in the

local community we're preaching to the choir."

Of the Sandy Hook killings, Bernstein-Gold said, "It just slapped me in the face this time around. Not to say that any one incident is more compelling or more horrible than another, but there was just something about the timing of this, and the nearness, in Connecticut, and I started reading more and looking things up on the internet and trying to separate fact from fiction and I just found out more and more that was really frightening. It just all came together to say, 'Enough is enough.'"

Once she reached that conclusion, Bernstein-Gold went on to develop ideas about what ought to change. "Certainly I think that banning the assault-style weapons at the federal level is an absolute must," she said.

"I know there will be people who say that's not the majority of incidents and it won't make a big difference, but there's no reasonable use for such a weapon, in my mind." Second, she prioritized "more extensive registration."

But if it were up to Bernstein-Gold, the changes would not end there: "Personally I would go further. I think about and read about the way guns are used and how in such a large percentage of cases the ability of people to keep guns in their homes leads to really bad stuff. I'm really concerned about the suicides and the accidents and the moment of anger in domestic violence cases—places where people don't necessarily have to have a diagnosed mental illness to be someone who I don't think should have a gun."

Member Jonathan Natov, a CUNY professor of mathematics at City Tech who works in the Coop office, has joined Bernstein-Gold to plan the forum at CBE. The shootings at Sandy Hill Elementary School impelled Natov and his wife, parents of a six-year-old daughter and three-year-old son to step forward. "The tragedy was so horrendous we felt compelled to take action," he said. "There was the day we received word from our daughter's public school that it would be a good idea if we explained what had happened. It's a very terrible moment," he said. "It just brought home that I really have to do something. This is our future."

Natov continued, "It strikes me as completely crazy that someone has the right to legally buy a military weapon capable of killing massive numbers of people."

He concluded, "News tends to fade from the front pages, but I think



PHOTOS BY KEVIN RYAN

Coop member and author Petra Lewis wrote a protest novel dealing with urban gun violence.

there's still a lot of momentum. I think a lot of people are looking to use their energy to try to bring about some positive change. I think a lot of people feel it's really time. Past time."

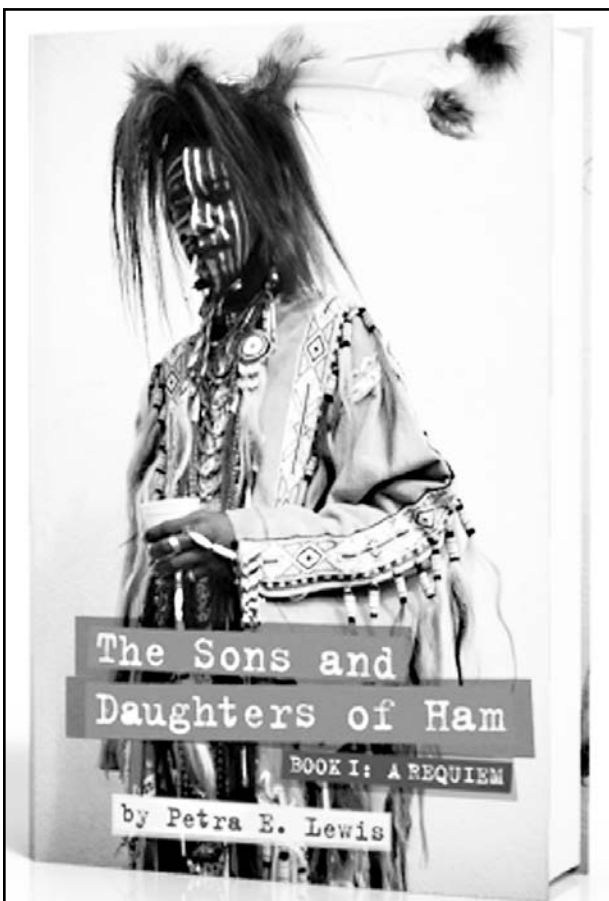
Nurses Witness and Activate

Diane Greenfeld, a Coop squad leader (and member since "forever!") works as office manager and staff representative for the New York Professional Nurses' Union, which represents nurses at Manhattan's Lenox Hill Hospital and The Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Institute.

She described a fledgling organization, Nurses Against Guns, welling up from the concern of "nurses who were so disturbed here about that horrible killing of school-age kids that it prompted us to start a new effort."

"I believe we're all on the same page that gun control has to be an issue taken up by nurses," said Greenfeld. "Nurses care for people who come into hospitals. They see it first-hand: How just having a gun in somebody's home increases the chances of ending up in the ER. Having a gun in the home is responsible for a vast majority of children being killed by firearms. They even see that having a gun in the home increases the chance of suicides. They see it first-hand, and they have compassion for it."

Nurses Against Guns "is still relatively new and in its infancy," but Greenfeld thinks more such groups must form. "There should be clergy against guns. There should be teachers against guns. There should be a movement that enough is enough. Fight the gun lobby." ■



Sales of Petra Lewis' book will benefit local organizations combatting urban gun violence.

FUN COMMITTEE

Seventh Annual Coop Kids' Variety Show

Saturday, March 9 at 7 p.m.
Old First Reformed Church
Carroll St. & Seventh Ave.



Sounds of cello, drums, flute, guitar, hip-hop, magic tricks, tap shoes, skits, trumpet, and young voices singing popular songs filled the PSFC meeting room two weekend days in January as 38 children ages 6-13 auditioned 24 acts for the Seventh Annual Coop Kids' Variety Show produced by the PSFC Fun Committee. Five members of the committee reviewed the auditions with show coordinator Martha Siegel and determined that this year's variety show will be spectacular.

This year's edition of the Variety Show features skits, solo instrumental and vocal performances, modern, hip-hop, gymnastic and tap dances, rock groups, and even a magic show.

The Coop Kids' Variety Show will be videotaped and broadcast on BCAT, the public service station in Brooklyn.

Admission is \$10 adults, \$5 kids 12-18, free for kids under 12.

MEMBER SUBMISSION

Highlighting the Exit

By Glenn Cain

There's a *Seinfeld* episode where Jerry doubts a car rental agent's grasp of the very essence of her job:

Rental agent: "I know why we have reservations."

Jerry: "I don't think you do. If you did, I'd have a car. See, you know how to take the reservation, you just don't know how to hold the reservation and that's really the most important part of the reservation, the holding."

The exit worker is a Coop job I've come to believe many people don't truly understand. And this includes the people who do it. I have no scientific evidence to back up this bold assertion. It's based purely on observation. The purpose of the exit worker's job is to prevent theft. The task is to match the number of bags or boxes I carried out of the store with the number the checkout worker has written on the receipt. The tool for the job is the highlighter.

I suspect the tool might be getting confused with the task. From observation, many exit workers appear to focus more on finding and highlighting the

words "Paid in full" than they do on my bags. And it doesn't seem to matter that my wife carrying one bag hands over the receipt marked "bags: 4," as I come trudging behind with three heavy bags (just illustrating a point, sweetie). Rarely does the "highlight worker" seem to notice me, even on occasions when the bustle of people at the exit would make it hard to associate my three bags with my wife's receipt.

We don't want to suspect our fellow members. And I know confrontation is uncomfortable for many people; I don't like it myself. A longtime member recounted how it used to be store policy to make shoppers show their emptied tote bags at the checkout once all items were loaded on the belt. Recently, she just about came to blows with a shopper by asking her to show her empty tote bags. The shopper didn't know the policy and was sure she was being singled out.

I bet the rate of theft is higher at the Food Coop than the average supermarket. OK, again, no science here. I just

figure some of us are farther down the slippery slope of blurring the notion between cooperative and "I already kind of own those yogurt raisins I started eating while shopping and are now in my pocket." Of course that could just be my criminal mind talking, but we definitely have more opportunities to handle unpaid-for food, unobserved (as receivers, food preppers, stockers, etc.) than we do in an ordinary supermarket. So logically you'd want the only people actually assigned to thwart shoplifting to have a handle on their job.

Of course the exit worker can't stop all of this theft. An item stolen and consumed within the store comes under a different jurisdiction, for example. But they should at least know what they're looking for. Perhaps a quick run-down of the job description would help. Or how about a far more radical idea? I propose we take their highlighter away. There, I said it. Just take it away. Sure, it might cause a stir at first, but it will make the point that the most important part of the job is not the highlighting. It's the counting. ■

FROM THE ARCHIVES

And the Bottle Went Dry

Less than five years ago, Coop members were able to fill up their shopping carts with bottled water. You won't find bottled noncarbonated water on the Coop shelves anymore, since it was voted out of the Coop in April 2008. Like other product bans, passing the bottled-water moratorium wasn't exactly smooth sailing, taking two years from when it was first suggested in a *Linewaiters' Gazette* Letter to the Editor to eventually banning bottled water from the shelves. One of the proposal's authors said the issue first came to her attention when a member asked for bottled water for workers and children in the Coop's childcare room. After many letters and articles from both sides of the issue were published in the *Gazette*, the issue was brought to a General Meeting (GM) in November 2007, where "discussions became emotionally charged on both sides of the debate" (*Gazette* 12/20/2007). The issue came to a vote at the April 2008 GM, where the proposal authors argued that selling bottled water violated the Coop's mission. The motion passed by an overwhelming majority of the members in attendance, and the shelves ran dry of bottled water.

Do you remember the bubbling debate over bottled water? Share your stories and memories with the PSFC Archives Committee by e-mailing archivecommittee@psfc.coop.

—Archives Committee



PHOTO BY STEVEN DEPOLO

WORDSPROUTS

The Park Slope Food Coop's Reading Series

Attention Writers: Wordsprouts Wants You!

Are you a novelist, poet, playwright,
songwriter, essayist, journalist, or blogger?

Are you looking for a forum where you can
promote your work or get feedback?

Do you want to moderate a panel or
teach a writers' workshop?

Do you want to meet fellow Coop writers?

Wordsprouts, the Park Slope Food Coop's reading series, is looking for writers who are members of the Coop. Even if you're not ready to commit to an upcoming event, drop us a line and let us know you're out there!

E-mail paulabernstein@gmail.com.

MEMBER SUBMISSION

Democracy at the Coop

By Sylvia Lowenthal

The January General Meeting evolved into a discussion about democracy at the Coop. Below are some further thoughts on this subject:

The Board of Directors

The only representative body duly elected by the full membership, the Board of Directors has responsibilities beyond those of the General Meeting (GM) and directors are not obliged to vote with the GM majority, which acts in an advisory, not a deciding capacity. The belief by some that democracy requires directors to always comply with the GM decision weakens their ability to exercise their responsibilities. Their authority is further undermined by the bylaw requirement that only one-third of the six Directors—a mere two—constitute a quorum, an absurd number for serious deliberation and authority (which also cannot be accomplished for complex issues in the few minutes allotted following a General Meeting). One improvement would be a bylaw amendment requiring seven, not six, directors, with a quorum requirement of five, an odd number and more than fifty percent of the Directors.

The Chair Committee

In the interest of fairness the Chair Committee should assure, as they did at the March referendum discussion, that both sides of issues receive equal time to the extent possible by alternating speakers pro and con rather than choosing randomly. This provides some protection against the packing of

meetings by partisans. Nor should those not chosen to speak have their views denied a hearing by the directors, again, the ultimate deciders. A procedure should be instituted to provide for advance submission to the directors of written statements with arguments that go beyond the two or three minutes allotted per speaker and to compensate for the fact that, given time constraints, not all members have an opportunity to express their views.

The Agenda Committee

At a recent GM, a volunteer for the Agenda Committee was denied a candidacy because of “bias”, the nature of which was not revealed. At a subsequent meeting another candidate was declared “free of bias” and her candidacy went to a vote. If there is a litmus test for membership on the Agenda Committee, then in furtherance of the democracy passionately defended by a member of that committee at the most recent GM, and in the interests of transparency, the requirements for membership should be made available to all in written form, and the basis for any particular judgment of inclusion and especially exclusion should be made explicit.

Furthermore, as has been suggested in the past, this and all Coop committees should entertain the democratic safeguard that application to a committee not be controlled by that committee itself, but rather through open candidacy and voting at a GM whenever openings occur, to avoid insularity and the perpetuation of bias within committee memberships. And note that while the Coop’s website has a page for “Committees”, it contains only the following statement: “This section is a

work in progress and will soon contain details about some of the Coop’s issue-oriented committees”. This web page should finally be implemented and include not only issue-oriented committees but all committees. It is high time the Coop move toward full transparency and accountability concerning requirements for committee membership and internal procedures and policies in order to remedy the fact that committees now largely operate in the shadows.

Simple Majorities vs. Supermajorities

In the context of a pending proposal to require an 80% majority for boycott approval, it should be noted that supermajorities are not foreign to the Coop, which like most corporations, requires a two-thirds majority to amend the bylaws. And the United States Constitution itself requires a two-thirds majority for certain decisions and three-quarters of state legislatures to ratify a constitutional amendment. Given the importance of respect for—and sensitivity to—diversity at the Coop and the universal desirability of protecting minority interests, the potential divisiveness of political boycotts that go to the heart of members’ ethnic, racial, gender or religious identities would seem to warrant a supermajority, which does not in principle degrade the concept of democracy. There is simply no credible argument that a supermajority for boycott decisions is undemocratic, whether two-thirds, three-quarters, or eighty percent, as supermajorities are, for potentially divisive issues, more reflective than a narrow majority of the clear will of the membership. ■

Coop Job Opening:

Receiving/Stocking Coordinator

The Coop is hiring a Receiving/Stocking Coordinator to work evenings and weekends.

The evening and weekend Receiving/Stocking Coordinators oversee the smooth functioning of the Coop. They work with squads to ensure that the Coop is well-stocked, and that produce quality is maintained.

The ideal candidate will be a reliable, responsible self-starter who enjoys working with our diverse member-workers. Applicants must be excellent team players, as they will be sharing the work with several other Receiving Coordinators.

Applicants must have excellent people skills, excellent communication and organizational skills as well as patience. Applicants should be able to remain calm in hectic surroundings, have the ability to prioritize tasks, teach and explain procedures, delegate work, give feedback, and pay attention to several things at once. Comfort with computers is preferred.

We are looking for a candidate who wants an evening/weekend schedule. This is a high-energy job for a fit candidate. You must be able to lift and work for hours on your feet including in the walk-in coolers and freezer. Grocery-store experience is a plus.

As a retail business, the Coop’s busiest times are during traditional holiday seasons. Applicants must be prepared to work during many of the holiday periods, particularly in the winter.

- Hours:** Approx. 39 hours in 5 days/week: Thursday–Monday some shifts until 11:00 p.m.
Wages: \$25.29/hour
Benefits: —Health insurance
 —Pension plan/401(k) plans
 —Vacation—three weeks/year increasing in the 4th, 7th & 10th years
 —Health and Personal time

Probation Period:

There will be a six-month probation period.

How to Apply:

Please provide your résumé along with a cover letter explaining your relevant qualifications, skills and experience. Materials will only be accepted electronically. E-mail résumé and cover letter to hc-receivingcoordinator@psfc.coop. Please put “Receiving Coordinator” in the subject field. Applicants will receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt of their materials. Please do not call the Office to check on the status of your application. Applications will be reviewed and interviews scheduled on a rolling basis until the position has been filled. If you applied to a previous Coop job offering, please re-submit your materials.

Prerequisite:

Must be a current member of the Park Slope Food Coop for at least six months immediately prior to application.

No Receiving/Stocking experience necessary to submit application materials. However, in order to be considered for an interview applicants must have worked at least four Receiving shifts. After submitting your materials, if you wish to schedule shifts please contact the Coop at hc-receivingcoordinator@psfc.coop. Please put “Schedule Shifts” in the subject field.

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

GMO ROUND UP!

Transgenics, the Coop, and You

Did you know?

A recent French study connects GMO corn and cancer in lab rats

sacré bleu!



read whole article at our blog

www.gmodanger.wordpress.com

Visit www.nongmoproject.com
or email sayno2GMO@gmail.com

This notice is brought to you by the GMO Shelf Labeling Committee of the PSFC: www.gmodanger.wordpress.com

COOP HOURS

Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Shopping Hours:

Monday–Friday
8:00 a.m. to 10:00* p.m.
Saturday
6:00 a.m. to 10:00* p.m.
Sunday
6:00 a.m. to 7:30* p.m.

*Shoppers must be on a checkout line 15 minutes after closing time.

Childcare Hours:

Monday through Sunday
8:00 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Telephone:

718-622-0560

Web address:

www.foodcoop.com

LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

The *Linewaiters' Gazette* is published biweekly by the Park Slope Food Coop, Inc., 782 Union Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215.

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

All submissions must include author's name and phone number and conform to the following guidelines. Editors will reject letters and articles that are illegible or too long. Submission deadlines appear in the Coop Calendar opposite.

Letters: Maximum 500 words. All letters will be printed if they conform to the guidelines above. The Anonymity and Fairness policies appear on the letters page in most issues.

Voluntary Articles: Maximum 750 words. Editors will reject articles that are essentially just advertisements for member businesses and services.

Committee Reports: Maximum 1,000 words.

Editor-Writer Guidelines: Except for letters to the editor, which are published without editing but are subject to the *Gazette* letters policy regarding length, anonymity, respect, and fairness, all submissions to the *Linewaiters' Gazette* will be reviewed and if necessary edited by the editor. In their review, editors are guided by the *Gazette's* Fairness and Anonymity policies as well as standard editorial practices of grammatical review, separation of fact from opinion, attribution of factual statements, and rudimentary fact checking. Writers are responsible for the factual content of their stories. Editors must make a reasonable effort to contact and communicate with writers regarding any proposed editorial changes. Writers must make a reasonable effort to respond to and be available to editors to confer about their articles. If there is no response after a reasonable effort to contact the writer, an editor, at her or his discretion, may make editorial changes to a submission without conferring with the writer.

Submissions on Paper: Typed or very legibly handwritten and placed in the wallpocket labeled "Editor" on the second floor at the base of the ramp.

Digital Submissions: We welcome digital submissions. Drop disks in the wallpocket described above. The email address for submissions is GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop. Receipt of your submissions will be acknowledged on the deadline day.

Classified & Display Ads: Ads may only be placed by and on behalf of Coop members. Classified ads are prepaid at \$15 per insertion, business card ads at \$30. (Ads in the "Merchandise–Non-commercial" category are free.) All ads must be written on a submission form (available in a wallpocket on the first floor near the elevator). Classified ads may be up to 315 characters and spaces. Display ads must be camera-ready and business card size (2"x3.5").

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

Friday, Mar 15, 8:00 p.m.

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



PROSPECT CONCERTS



Axel's Axiom is a group of Brooklyn-based jazz musicians with varying members. Led by German-born pianist Axel Schwintzer, the band plays mostly original instrumental music that stylistically ranges from samba-influenced grooves to funk- and pop-oriented tunes, to swinging jazzy themes and ballads. Traditional jazz standards are also part of the repertoire. The styles cross over into one another to create a blend that stays interesting for the casual as well as the experienced listener.

Pyeng Threadgill—Ode to the Songstress—Pyeng's vibrant, caressing vocals and her band's rolling rhythms envelope listeners in the clouds and put them under a spell. The Pyeng Threadgill/Songlines Project is based on the aboriginal notion of locating place according to our ability to sing and dance our way there. This music speaks to conditions of the environment and the heart through improvisation, storytelling and a collective groove. Pyeng has appeared at the Montreal Jazz Festival, Joe's Pub, Nublu and more.



www.ProspectConcerts.tumblr.com

**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**

Monthly on the...

Third Thursday
FEBRUARY 21
7:00 P.M.–9:00 P.M.

Last Sunday
FEBRUARY 24
10:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.

Second Saturday
MARCH 9
10:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.

On the sidewalk in front of the receiving area at the Coop.

PLASTICS

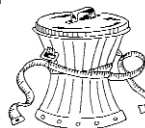
**What plastics do we accept?
Until further notice:**

- #1 and #6 type non-bottle shaped containers, transparent only, labels ok
- Plastic film and bubble wrap, transparent only, no colored or opaque, no labels
- #5 plastic cups, tubs, and specifically marked caps and lids, very clean and dry (discard any with paper labels, or cut off)

NOTE: We are no longer accepting #2 or #4 type plastics.

PLASTIC MUST BE COMPLETELY CLEAN & DRY

We close up promptly. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the collection end time to allow for inspection and sorting of your plastic.



**R
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WELCOME!

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

Katherine Arathoon	Connor Essick	Rachel Karliner	Brandon Masterman	Patricia Pfitsch	Keith Snider
Jason Arthur	John Fisher	Christopher Karonski	Carmen McLeod	Rebecca Pinard	Vassa Snider
Kattia Bossola Marquez	Chris Foster	Emily Kay	Alex Mizrahi	Petar Pupic	Phebe Szatmari
Owen Bossola	Christina Foti	Galiya Khabibullina	John Monaco	Max Resnik	Genna Terranova
Camille Bromley	Laura Fuller	Farah Khimji	B. Wade Moody	Marcos Reyes	Rui Totani
Sarah Charlop-Powers	Gita Goldstein	Isabel Klein	H. Merete Mueller	Cody Rogowski	Amelia Tovey
Tariq Chaudhry	Joseph Goldstein	Brian Knauer	Jessica Myers	Jessie Rogowski	Matthew Tyler
Kurt Clay	Amelia Greene	Elizabeth Knauer	Mara Nelson-Greenberg	Lauren Ross	Dustin Van Schouwen
Daniel Clevenger	Kris Grey	Layla Kraus	Thebao Nguyenba	Stephanie Rutkowski	Konstantin Vatrengo
Catherine Crowley	Nyasha Gutsa	Dorota Krutul	Daniel Ortiz	Talia Shalev	Maude Veyret-Picot
Eli Dardis	Rita Heydenburg	Margo Kulkarni	Lisa Ouintela	Halyna Shevchuk	Eleonore Weill
Aaron Davidson	James Bradley Holland	Esther Lowenbein	Marie Palmquist	Fatima Shibli	Juliana Weissbein
Doug Eacho	Meghan Hanlon Holland	Yosef Lowenbein	Maxine Payne	Joseph C. Shipley	Emily Wells
Philine Eisbein	Mark Jaffe	Anthony Lydgate	Nathan Perkins	Valerio Sibona	Chiara Zaccheo
Melissa Esmundo	Deirdre Kane	Kathryn Martini	John Pfitsch	Jennifer Sims	Ellie Zeitlin

**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 or contact the Membership Office. Visit in person or call 718-622-0560 during office hours.

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**

FRIDAYS 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, FEBRUARY 26**

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

TUE, MARCH 5

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m.

Submissions will be considered for the Mar 19 General Meeting.

Gazette Deadlines**LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:**

Mar 7 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Feb 25

Mar 21 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Mar 11

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:

Mar 7 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Feb 27

Mar 21 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Mar 13

ALL ABOUT THE GENERAL MEETING**Our Governing Structure**

From our inception in 1973 to the present, the open monthly General Meetings, to which all members are invited, 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 the Coop Web site, foodcoop.com, at the Coop Community Corner and at every General Meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.

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

Location

MS 51, 350 Fifth Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts. Enter on Fourth St. cul-de-sac. Fourth St. entrance is handicap-accessible.

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

Meeting Format

Warm Up (7:00 p.m.) • Meet the Coordinators

• 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 the Coop Web site, foodcoop.com, the Coop Community Corner and may also appear elsewhere in this issue.

Wrap Up (9:30-9:45) (unless there is a vote to extend the meeting) • Board of Directors' vote • Meeting evaluation • 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. For full details, see the instruction sheets by the sign-up board.

• Advance Sign-up required:

To be eligible for workslot credit, you must add your name to the sign-up sheet in the elevator lobby. The sign-ups sheet is available all month long, except for the day of the meeting when you have until 5 p.m. to sign up. On the day of the meeting, the sign-up sheet is kept in the Membership Office.

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.

• Certain Squads not eligible:

Eligible: Shopping, Receiving/ Stocking, Food Processing, Office, Maintenance, Inventory, Construction, and FTOP committees. (Some Committees are omitted because covering absent members is too difficult.)

• Attend the entire GM:

In order to earn workslot credit you must be present for the entire meeting.

• Signing in at the Meeting:

1. After the meeting the Chair will provide the Workslot Credit Attendance Sheet.

2. Please also sign in the attendance book that is passed around during the meeting.

• Being Absent from the GM:

It is possible to cancel without penalty. We do ask that you remove your name if you know cannot attend. Please do not call the Membership Office with GM cancellations.

Park Slope Food Coop Mission Statement

The Park Slope Food Coop is a member-owned and operated food store—an alternative to commercial profit-oriented business. As members, we contribute our labor: working together builds trust through cooperation and teamwork and enables us to keep prices as low as possible within the context of our values and principles. Only members may shop, and we share responsibilities and benefits equally. We strive to be a responsible and ethical employer and neighbor. We are a buying agent for our members and not a selling agent for any industry. We are a part of and support the cooperative movement. **We offer a diversity of products with an emphasis on organic, minimally processed and healthful foods.** We seek to avoid products that depend on the exploitation of others. We support non-toxic, sustainable agriculture. **We respect the environment.** We strive to reduce the impact of our lifestyles on the world we share with other species and future generations. We prefer to buy from local, earth-friendly producers. We recycle. We try to lead by example, educating ourselves and others about health and nutrition, cooperation and the environment. **We are committed to diversity and equality.** We oppose discrimination in any form. We strive to make the Coop welcoming and accessible to all and to respect the opinions, needs and concerns of every member.

park slope
FOOD COOP

calendar of events

feb 23
sat 12–4 pm

Reclaiming Legal Standing To Ban Fracking

Concerned about fracking and the future viability of New York State's food shed and eco-systems? Heard reports that fracking contaminates water and pollutes air? Worried about effects another Hurricane Sandy could have on the Rockaway Pipeline? Concerned that Spectra, whose pipeline was prematurely installed in the densely populated West Village, has a dismal safety record? Want to learn how to protect your borough and the rest of NYC? The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund has guided numerous communities through the process of banning corporate practices by stripping corporate personhood from corporations and returning legal standing to the people where it belongs. The aim of this workshop is to place a Citizens' Initiative based on the work of CELDF on the ballot for the November 2013 election. Coop member **Alice Joyce** has been working to ban fracking since 2013.

feb 26
tue 7 pm

It's Your Funeral

Planning for your own death now (as opposed to later) is a practice that can enable you to live in the moment, face your own mortality with courage—and create an end-of-life service that reflects your values. Join Coop member **Amy Cunningham**, former journalist and graduate of the American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service, in a conversation about advancements within the funeral business. Learn how to plan a low-cost, back-to-basics funeral or memorial service. Get information on green cemeteries near New York City, cremation pros and cons, caskets with urns, biodegradable urns, and blended-faith/alternative ceremonies.

feb 26
tue 7 pm

PSFC FEB 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: MS 51, 350 Fifth Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts.

Enter on Fourth St. cul-de-sac. Fourth St. entrance is handicap-accessible.

I. Member Arrival and Meeting Warm-Up

II. Open Forum

III. Coordinator and Committee Reports

IV. Meeting Agenda

Item #1: Proposal to create a "Union Street Green Squad" (30 min)

Proposal: Create a Union Street Green Squad to care for the south side of the Coop block's street trees and cultivate tree bed gardens. —submitted by *Talia (Toby) Willner*

Item #2: Gift and Entertainment Policy (30 min)

Discussion: Should the Coop adopt a Gift and Entertainment Policy that would require staff members to report certain gifts or entertainment from vendors?
—submitted by *David Moss*

Item #3: Presentation of Plastic Roll Bag Research (30 min)

Discussion: The General Coordinators will present research on the use of plastic roll bags at the Coop.
—submitted by *the General Coordinators*

V. Board of Directors Meeting

VI. Wrap-Up. Includes member sign-in for workslot credit.

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

mar 1
fri 7 pm

Film Night: Give Up Tomorrow



As a tropical storm beats down on the Philippine island of Cebu, two sisters leave work and never make it home. That same night, hundreds of miles away in Manila on a different island, Paco Larrañaga attends a party, surrounded by dozens of reliable witnesses. The missing women, Marijoy and Jacqueline Chiong, are Chinese-Filipinos. Paco, accused of their rapes and murders, is a Spanish mestizo who belongs to a political

clan that includes a former president. A frenzied media circus casts him as a privileged thug and cheers his eventual sentence to death by lethal injection. Reflecting schisms of race, class, and political power at the core of the Philippines' tumultuous democracy, clashing families, institutions, and individuals face off to convict or free Paco. Their irreconcilable versions of reality and justice play out in a case that ends a country's use of capital punishment, yet fails to free an innocent man. Editor and executive producer **Eric Metzgar** is a Brooklyn-based filmmaker who owns and operates Merigold Moving Pictures. His third and latest film, *Reporter*, premiered in competition at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival and aired on HBO in February 2010.

To book a Film Night, contact Faye Lederman, squeeze@hotm.com.

mar 2
sat 11 am

Let's Talk Green Cleaning

Green cleaning how-to/Q&A chat with Coop member and green-cleaning business owner **Candace Mills**. Mills moved to New York almost five years ago from Memphis, TN. She founded Memphis' first green-cleaning business and sold it in 2008 to pursue art in New York. She happily lives in Brooklyn, painting, playing music and running a nontoxic, biodegradable, residential and commercial cleaning business. The business is almost three years old and going strong. She'll run you through the basics of keeping a clean and green home and gladly answer your queries.

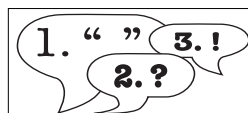
mar 3
sun 12 pm

Detoxification

A time-honored tradition, internal cleansing is an intrinsic part of getting and staying healthy. And with estimates of more than 500,000 toxic chemicals and substances in our environment these days, who isn't concerned with the possibility of toxic overload? Whether you want to lose weight, clear your skin, reduce bloat, ease pain—just about any symptom can benefit from a cleansing program. Join **Diane Paxton**, MS, LAc, of Inner Fire Integrative Health Services, as we share information on vital detoxification protocols for everyone, such as colon cleansing, ion-detox foot spa, 21-day purification program, and elimination diets. Coop member Diane Paxton is a licensed acupuncturist, nutritionist, and colon hydrotherapist with more than 20 years of experience detoxifying people in New York City.

mar 5
tue 8 pm

Agenda Committee Meeting



The Committee reviews pending agenda items and creates the agenda for this month's General Meeting. Drop by and talk with committee members face-to-face between 8 and 8:15 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 next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 7 p.m., at MS 51, 350 Fifth Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Sts.**

mar 7
thu 7:30 pm

Food Class: Super Fresh Spring Cleaning with Raw Foods



There will be a demo and discussion showcasing raw food with an emphasis on cleansing. Chef **Kristen Johnson** is a certified raw chef and holistic health coach. She received her raw-food certification at Living Light Culinary Institute. Kristen's health-coach training came from the Institute for Integrative Nutrition. As a health coach, she helps people create a personalized "road map to health" that suits their unique body, lifestyle, preferences and goals. *Menu includes: good morning antioxidant smoothie; fresh almond milk/plain and chocolate; vanilla-chia pudding; caesar salad with a sunflower-seed, miso and celery dressing; raw black-forest cherry brownies.*

Materials fee: \$4. Food classes are coordinated by Coop member Susan Baldassano.

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.

feb 23–apr 2 2013

mar 8
fri 7 pm

Wordsprouts: Group Reading: Stories from the City & Beyond



The Park Slope Food Coop's Reading Series

Michele Carlo has lived in four of the five boroughs of NYC and remembers when a slice of pizza cost fifty cents. She is the author of the memoir *Fish Out of Agua: My Life on Neither Side of the (Subway) Tracks* (Citadel 2010) and has contributed to *Mr. Beller's Lost & Found: Stories From New York*, SMITH magazine's *Next Door Neighbor* and *F***ed In Park Slope*, among others. Michele has told stories almost everywhere a person can tell stories in (and away from) NYC, including the MOTH's GrandSlams and Mainstage. **Steve Monroe** is a playwright and member of The Actors Studio Playwrights Unit. His plays have been performed in New York, Los Angeles and various stops in between. His recently completed novel, *The Summer Before the Storm*, is with an agent searching for a publisher. His recently completed screenplay, *The Hollywood Sign*, is simply searching. **Suzan Sherman's** short stories have appeared in *American Short Fiction*, *BOMB*, *The Mississippi Review*, and the anthology *Lost Tribe: Jewish Writers on the Edge* (HarperCollins) among others, and has received grants for her fiction from the New York Foundation for the Arts and the Jerome Foundation. She's been awarded residencies from Ledig House, the Edward Albee Foundation, and the Ucross Foundation, among others, and is just completing her first novel, *Pearl O'Shea*, which takes place in New York City and Nebraska in 1873.

To book a Wordsprouts, contact Paula Bernstein, wordspoutspfc@gmail.com.

mar 15
fri 8 pm

Axel's Axiom, Pyeng Threadgill



Axel's Axiom is a group of Brooklyn-based jazz musicians with varying members. Led by German-born pianist Axel Schwintzer, the band plays mostly original instrumental music that stylistically ranges from samba-influenced grooves to funk- and pop-oriented tunes, to swinging jazzy themes and ballads. Traditional jazz standards are also part of the repertoire. The styles cross over into one another to create a blend that stays interesting for the casual as well as the experienced listener.

Pyeng Threadgill—*Ode to the Songstress*—Pyeng's vibrant, caressing vocals and her band's rolling rhythms envelope listeners in the clouds and put them under a spell. The Pyeng Threadgill/Songlines Project is based on the aboriginal notion of locating place according to our ability to sing and dance our way there. This music speaks to conditions of the environment and the heart through improvisation, storytelling and a collective groove. Pyeng has appeared at the Montreal Jazz Festival, Joe's Pub, Nublu and more.

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. To book a Prospect Concert event, contact Bev Grant, 718-788-3741.



mar 9
sat 7 pm

Coop Kids' Variety Show



Types of acts include: piano, singing, guitar, drums, cello, hip-hop, tap, trumpet, a skit, flute, magic tricks, modern dance, and rock 'n roll.

Performers in alphabetical order: Meaghan Accarino, Nadia and Sabine Benjamin, Lochlan Brooks, Vaughn Burgess, Tazha Chen, Cloe Amelia Dean, Ikhari Hinds, Skye James, Ruby Kahn, Mazal and Raven Karlick,

Mikayla and Lukas Kennedy, William Lach, Lola and Roman Lafia, Zev Lane, Vaishali Lerner, Naomi Levy, Manuela Mares, Haley McAlpin, Luc and Leila Mieville, Ella Moriber, Jonah Murphy, Jordan Nass-deMause, Ellie Pike, Julian Raheb, Lara Saddique, Zoe Sloan, Eric and Margareta Stern, Lola and Emil Verhulst, Clementine and Graham Vonnegut, and Mia Weiss.

Event takes place at Old First Church, Carroll St. & Seventh Ave. Admission: \$10 adults; \$5 kids 12-18; free kids under 12. Refreshments for sale.

mar 10
sun 12 pm

Qi Gong to Protect the Joints and Bones

Get in touch with your inner dragon at this fun and relaxing Qi Gong workshop. We will practice stretches that benefit the whole musculo-skeletal system and learn a simple massage to reduce pain in the limbs. No experience necessary. **Ann Reibel-Coyne** is a NYS-licensed acupuncturist and a Coop member. She is currently teaching Qi Gong at Shambhala Yoga & Dance in Prospect Heights.

mar 12
tue 7 pm

Safe Food Committee Film Night: World According to Monsanto



Monsanto is the world leader in genetically modified organisms (GMOs), as well as one of the most controversial corporations in industrial history. This century-old empire has created some of the most toxic products ever sold, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and the herbicide Agent Orange. Based on a painstaking investigation, *The World According to Monsanto* puts together the pieces of the company's history, calling on hitherto unpublished documents and numerous first-hand accounts. Today, Monsanto likes to style itself as a "life sciences" company. The leader in genetically modified seeds, engineered to resist its herbicide Roundup, claims it wants to solve world hunger while protecting the environment. In the light of its troubling past, can we really believe these noble intentions?

mar 16
sat 2 pm

Intro to Infant Massage

If you're a parent with a newborn to year-old infant, here's a perfect way to spend an hour that will benefit you and your child for a lifetime. Infant massages are a proven method for parents to bond with and contribute to the health and happiness of their newborn or infant child. Learn to speak infant, express through touch, soothe and calm the baby and give the loving, nurturing attention that accelerates neural and tactile development. Coop member **Deirdre Lovell** is a licensed massage therapist and massage therapy instructor, former performing artist and mother.

mar 17
sun 7 pm

Creating Health with the Foods of the Seasons

Following the ancient wisdom that Spring offers us a new beginning—a renewal of our creative energy, strength, and vitality, along with flexibility (like wood) we can ensure our smooth transition from the dormant Winter months toward an active and productive year by nourishing with Spring's signature foods and adapting our food preparations and cooking styles and techniques. This class will inform and demonstrate the importance of making these choices and special emphasis will be given to foods available at the Coop for Spring—the Wood Element. Sample recipes will be provided. Coop member **Dan Becker** is a dietary health counselor and holistic chef.

mar 23
sat 12 pm

Autism: Helpful Hints to Heal

An opportunity to ask experienced professionals questions about your child or student who is on the autism spectrum. **Jennifer Richman** will share ways to help nonverbal children speak, explain sensory integration, and demonstrate how meaningful activity and social skills modeling can help your child be more successful in life. **Rebecca** will share her knowledge as a nutritional consultant who has reversed numerous ailments through nutrition. **Jennifer Richman**, OTR/L, is a senior occupational therapist at New York State Psychiatric Institute and has 12 years experience servicing children with disabilities including autism.

still to come

mar 24 Healthy Thyroid

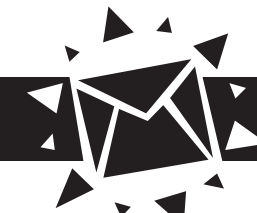
mar 31 New Paradigm Multidimensional Transformation

mar 30 What the Tooth Fairy Never Knew!

apr 2 Agenda Committee Meeting



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



THINK, LISTEN, VOTE AND ACT

TO THE GAZETTE

The January GM discussed three ideas: 1) requiring a super majority of 80% to pass any boycott; 2) a five year moratorium on discussion of the Coop joining the movement for boycott, divestment and sanctions of Israel (BDS); 3) the Coordinators approve each boycott before it can be brought to the members.

No votes were taken. The Agenda Committee put these items for discussion. The proposal may come up for a vote at a later GM.

Points that have gotten mixed up and confusing:

- governance and members' participation in decision making;
- our feelings and individual ability to tolerate passionate dissent;
- Coop policy concerning boycotts;
- our collective involvement with Israeli government's military occupation of Palestine.

The auditorium at MS 51 was full. Maybe one third of those present were not paying attention. In back rows folks were reading. Many laptops were open. The speakers were overwhelmingly old-timers.

Repeatedly mentioned as motivating the presenters: Hurt feelings; Fear that the institution would be torn apart and Anxiety over whether one would be branded and required to defend a particular decision.

The proposal for the Coop to institute a referendum on BDS was defeated last March.

Coop policy is to review each boycott every October. Articles and letters documenting, defending and

denouncing the many perspectives on the I-P debate are available in the archives of the *Gazette*.

A boycott is a public collective action that mobilizes our economic power as consumers in accordance with the values of the organization. We codified the values that can guide such action into the Mission Statement. The PS Food Coop earned influence over 40 years for integrity, consistency and loyalty to those values. We are responsible as a group, as a collective, as a community to debate whether a supplier violates our values and then act. Our most effective action is a boycott.

The ideas discussed at the GM are frightening because each is an effort to limit participation, meant to alleviate the tension of controversy by shutting it down. 80% to pass means 21% can block. That is minority rule. Forbidding opinions for a time is shutting down free speech. A screening committee asks for establishing authority to control the members.

Asking for an authority or a mechanism to protect us from controversy is asking for trouble. We cannot avoid conflict. Fanatics try and fail. Participation is not evaluated by high-stakes testing nor encouraged by commercial culture. Corporate elites assure us experts have answers. That is why we are in deep trouble when it comes to global warming and guns. Each can and must think, contribute to the discussion and then to implementation. Perhaps those who facilitate non-violent communication and restorative justice can offer open workshops and even form a new committee.

We are shoppers and workers and also owners. The right and the

responsibility of membership includes listening to each other. Our Coop, our country and our lives depend upon our ability to do so.

Susan Metz

SUPPORT FOR THE 80% BOYCOTT POLICY

TO THE EDITOR

I want to express my full agreement with Jesse Rosenfeld's 80% rule. It is clear that the current boycott policy is divisive and unnecessarily puts stress on the PSFC community. If a boycott proposal is supported by at least 80% of the Coop membership, then it is clearly something that affects the organization as a whole. If it is controversial and therefore divisive, it is not worthy of consideration in our organization. There may be other fora in which a given boycott proposal IS appropriate but not at the Coop. We stress in our mission statement that "we are committed to diversity and equality. We oppose discrimination in any form." This should apply to our own membership above all. Therefore we need a boycott policy that does not discriminate against people who hold differing views of controversial topics. Take your boycott proposals elsewhere.

Marion M. Stein

THREE CHEERS FOR DEMOCRACY!

TO THE GAZETTE

I was thrilled to be at our last General Meeting and to hear all points of view, pro and con, on the proposed agenda items. (Almost!) all members who chose to speak did so with civility and mutual respect. Thank you all, and thanks to the moderator who kept us all on track. It was especially gratifying to hear so many speak about the need for more democratic process at the Coop, not less—an issue that goes far beyond pro- or anti-BDS sentiments and is the bedrock, really, of all progressive institutions. Several spoke about how important it is to have input from all members on the tough issues with which we're sometimes confronted. I agree. We need MORE members participating on the tough issues, not less! Having attendance at two GM's per year count as work slots is definitely moving in the right direction but I would love to see proposals up for discussion at future GM's which would allow more than the 5% (give or take) who are able to be in attendance at any given meeting to have a voice. A representative from each of the squads as proposed in the last *Gazette* by Naomi Brussel? A petition system? Let's work together on fashioning a truly democratic Coop, let's fill the *Gazette's* letters section with some brainstorming on this!! See you at the next General Meeting!!

Carol Wald

KITCHEN SPITE

*Kitchen staffs no matter where
Have one thing that they all share.
Hypersensitive they are,
Carrying spite a bit too far,
Demonstrating lots of testiness
Getting vexations off their chestiness.
Say you order filet mignon,
A dish you've always doted on,
Asking for a personal touch
Something you're fond of very much.
Steak arrives, but where's your request,
Where the extra you love best?
Redhot pepper's what it was;
Does the kitchen nix it? It does.
So you send it hopefully back,
Never expecting an attack,
Unmistakable evidence
Sure to adhere both here and hence
That the cook and co-conspirators,
Maybe even passing visitors,
Went ahead and tried to hurt
You by doing you restaurant dirt—
The redhot you wanted, just a bit in it,
Arrived with great big gobs of spit in it!
This happens, pal, to him and her,
Whether McDonald's or cordon bleu.*

Leon Freilich

LINES

TO THE GAZETTE

Today is Friday, normally a very busy day. Today is a pre-blizzard day. Added together this made for a very crowded Coop. While waiting on the endless express line, I told the line monitor that he should tell people to start unloading when the previous shopper was through being checked out and was packing their groceries. He told me it's too crowded, it wouldn't work. I then suggested to the shopper ahead of me that he could start unloading to an empty checkout area (the right unload side.) He told me I was harassing him! There were probably 5,000 members shopping today. I have timed the wasted period when the checkout person sits holding the shopper's receipt like the Statue of Liberty lighting our way. It is anywhere from two minutes to three minutes. If you multiply that by 5,000, it comes to 15,000 minutes or 250 hours. No, I am not an efficiency expert. It's just common sense. We are all polite to an absurd point. You don't wait to be called by a checkout person at a supermarket. I have written about this several times. Why doesn't management make it a policy for customers to start unloading in this situation? Maybe other members are not getting older, but I am. Time is valuable. This should be policy, especially when the Coop is overly crowded.

M. A. Ettlinger



LETTERS POLICY

We welcome letters from members. Submission deadlines appear in the Coop Calendar. All letters will be printed if they conform to the published guidelines. We will not knowingly publish articles which are racist, sexist or otherwise discriminatory

The maximum length for letters is 500 words. Letters must include your name and phone number and be typed or very legibly handwritten. Editors will reject letters that are illegible or too long.

You may submit on paper, typed or very legibly handwritten, or via email to GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop or on disk.

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.

Fairness

In order to provide fair, comprehensive, fac-

tual coverage:

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

2. Nor will we publish accusations that are not specific or are not substantiated by factual assertions.

3. Copies of submissions that make substantive accusations against specific individuals 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.

The above applies to both articles and letters. The only exceptions will be articles by *Gazette* reporters which will be required to include the response within the article itself.

Respect

Letters must not be personally derogatory or insulting, even when strongly criticizing an individual member's actions. Letter writers must refer to other people with respect, refrain from calling someone by a nickname that the person never uses himself or herself, and refrain from comparing other people to odious figures like Hitler or Idi Amin.



BDS TOPICS:**CLOSE THE BOOK ON BDS****TO THE EDITOR:**

I am disappointed the *Linewaiters' Gazette* continues to feature "BDS Topics" in the letters to the editor section of the paper. The shrill tone of the BDS propaganda machine does not so much turn out letters, as it does a harsh naive monotone vilifying Israel.

Perhaps the most glaring arrogance of BDS is its insistence that it represents the "Palestinian People." How a progressive left organization can claim to represent anyone who is part of the Hamas terror organization with its Fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood and al-Qaida connections is beyond me. And to say that it speaks for the people under the boot of Hamas is equally absurd.

The Palestinian Authority has tried to distance itself from its terrorist past but still names streets after suicide bombers and sings a dressed up version of the same genocidal anti-Jewish song as Hamas. It's like a rock group with the lead singer braying out hate (Hamas) while the back-up singer (Palestinian Authority) trills a pseudo cautious coda. Is it such a surprise that the two organizations don't get along?

There are many forums that take up the cause of hating Israel, a publication of the Coop should not be one of them. BDS and its allies have ample Internet resources where they can preach to the self appointed choirs that claim to know even more than the people they allege to represent.

Please explain why the editors of the *Gazette* continue to permit a tiny minority to rant in a publication that is supposed to represent the interests of the Food Coop and its membership.

Rodger Parsons

TO THE GAZETTE**COOP MEMBERS:**

I'm on the Diversity and Equality committee that deals with bias and

discrimination complaints from Coop members who feel they've been disrespected by other individual members. (In this letter I speak solely for myself as a Coop member, not as a committee member. The DEC has not taken a position on the matter discussed here.) It isn't currently in the purview of the DEC to handle bias complaints from groups of individuals about the forms practiced, in my view, by BDS, and experienced by Coop members not as individuals, but as members of certain national, ethnic and religious groups: Israelis and Jews.

BDS is not just a local phenomenon. It's an international movement singling out, maligning and vilifying Israel obsessively. That this goes on in the Coop—now mainly in *Gazette* letters—feels disrespectful, insensitive, offensive, and hurtful to those of us for whom the safety and security of Israel is a major concern. And, of course, as long as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict goes on, Israel's safety and security are at stake.

BDS ignores a lot. It ignores the fact that historically Palestinian leaders have consistently obstructed peace efforts. It ignores the fact that the popular Hamas party consistently encourages violence. It ignores the many countries committing injustice toward Palestinians. It ignores the countries perpetrating horrendous suffering on its ethnic, racial, religious or gay minorities as it targets and demonizes Israel.

Some BDS *Gazette* letters (many of which are simply copied from international anti-Israel blogs) use false and distorted information along with inflammatory rhetoric. Facts, context and background are irrelevant. This has been documented repeatedly in *Gazette* letters by Coop members trying to expose BDS' misinformation.

Gazette editors can't be expected to be authorities on Middle Eastern affairs. We certainly can't expect them to carry out extensive fact checking. And so the false statements and the BDS propaganda go on and on.

Here in the Coop BDS is at the very least divisive. Some of us are deeply troubled that the Coop is now into its fifth year of offering BDS a platform, even after the referendum

proposal failed. I know of people who won't join the Coop because it continues to allow BDS a platform. I know of members who say they can't recommend joining the Coop to anyone because they are embarrassed by this. And, because many of us identify with the importance of Israel's survival, we experience BDS as a personal and disrespectful attack on us.

There is nothing wrong with criticizing Israel. (The Israeli parliament does it all the time.) Criticizing Israel is not anti-Semitic. But singling out and vilifying Israel out of all proportion to all other countries is at least bias. There is a big difference between free speech and slander.

The January GM included a discussion of a "Five-Year Moratorium on PSFC Israel Boycott Discussions and Actions." I would fully support such a moratorium. BDS is counter-productive, even antithetical to the spirit of respect for diversity that we want in this Coop.

Ruth Bolletino

THOSE NOT BUSY BEING BORN ARE BUSY DYING**DEAR COOP MEMBERS,**

Just when we thought the dust had settled, three proposals were presented to the General Membership meeting Tuesday night that stirred it all up again.

Each of the proposals, spurred by last year's debate over whether the Coop should stop selling products made in Israel, sought to change the Coop's procedures for how to address such matters in the future.

The discussion at the 300-person General Membership meeting was civil and engaging. It focused on questions of process—that is, until Barbara Mazur spoke. Mazur launched into a venomous attack. "You all lost, get over it," she said, and called those who'd wanted a vote by the entire membership "Anti Semites." The Chair had to intercede four times, warning Barbara to stick to the topic and stop her condemnations.

Many pointed out how important it is that the general membership decide such significant matters. Even

some Coop members who opposed the BDS proposal felt that the full membership should be the ones to decide.

But it became clear that some of those who voted to deprive the membership of that right feared that the 16,000 members might vote to uphold a boycott of Israeli goods, whereas at a meeting of 10 percent of the membership BDS opponents could muscle their way into the majority. (I interviewed members—mostly immigrants—who said they were afraid to show up to the meeting last year because of the hostility on display, the potential for physical violence and the consequent presence of the police).

Jesse Rosenfeld proposed that any vote to boycott must achieve a supermajority of 80 percent at a general meeting or via referendum of the membership. But strangely, Jesse stated that he had voted against sending the BDS proposal to a referendum of the membership. He contradicted his own proposal by voting to prevent the members from deciding the stance to be taken by their own Coop.

Another proposal attempted to remove that decision from even the General Membership meeting. It put that power into the hands of the coordinators of the Coop! [Note: the Coordinators didn't ask for that authority; they'd be wise to publicly reject it.]

Opposing BDS is a legitimate position to take—one I disagree with, but I respect it. But those who manipulate sentiment and try to prevent the full membership from voting via referendum undermine the Coop. They are the ones sewing division because they fear the democratic decision of the members, whatever it may turn out to be.

I thank all of the members present at the General Membership meeting for their thoughtful civility in discussing these issues. I have no doubt that whatever the membership decides—whether I agree or not with the final decision—will be done in the best radically democratic traditions on which this Coop was founded, which is why it continues to shine.

Mitchel Cohen





MEMBER SUBMISSION

Guide to Whole Grains & Veggie Diet: eat2thrive.blogspot.com

By Sarah Meredith

A month or so ago, my husband and I saw the movie, *Forks Over Knives* (forksoverknives.com), and by the next morning we had taken the plunge into a whole grains-vegetable-based diet that includes fruits and excludes all cooked oils—in fact all oil! We'd been leading up to this slowly for years, but it was fairly dramatic to clean out the fridge and shelves from all the processed grains (breads and pastas, crackers and cookies), cheeses and dairy products (yogurts too), and condiments like mayonnaise (no eggs!) and salad dressings. Luckily our kids have left home (we deposited some of these cast offs to one of them, whose roommates surely appreciated those

English muffins!)

The first few days I experimented with all kinds of things that we normally eat, for example making black bean enchiladas without oil or cheese ... They were great! What kind of lunch could we eat that wasn't too big a production number? Well, how about cabbage rolls instead of wraps? And so it went on. I posted a few images on Facebook and friends kept asking for recipes. That's how eat2thrive.blogspot.com was born. I waited through the first month, posting the ingredients for the mushroom soup and this and that. Then I began the blog in earnest.

It is not hard to cook and eat this way if you have the right stuff in the house, and the Coop makes that part



ILLUSTRATION BY CATHY WASSYLENKO

wonderfully easy. Need enoki? We got 'em. Want marmite? We have it! How about farro, or teff flour, or flax

seeds? Yup, we got all that. Plus the array of fresh vegetables and fruits are tremendously inspiring. Tomatillo sauce? No problem. Pomegranate seeds for your salad? Yes, indeed. Kiwi for your smoothie and a whole range of soy proteins, legumes, and even an array of vegetable based protein powders if you're into that.

One of the first steps I took was to use a calculator on line to see generally how much protein and other specific nutrients I ought to be eating in a day, just based on my age, gender, weight/height ratio etc. There are several places you can find this kind of thing, I happened upon www.nutritiondata.self.com and used that. Then, I wanted to get some estimate of how much of these nutrients were showing up on our plates, so I started using www.cronometer.com to enter in the foods, even adding my own ingredients (they didn't have things like farro or Chinese Black

Vinegar), and computing my own recipes by serving size! One great thing about the cronometer.com site is that I could see that I really didn't need some of the supplements I've been taking, and I very much did need some of them! Now I can more fully inform my doctor too.

I used to bake a lot of quick breakfast muffins and scones, and a whole-grain, low-gluten, no-oil, no-egg, no-milk kind of baking was foreign to me. Checking out blogs, I found that there were "vegan" and there were "gluten-free" and very rarely the both combined, and really never without oil at all ... except for the recipes connected to the *Forks Over Knives* site. So, I began experimenting and made a morning muffin and a scone, so far. Both were delicious.

If you are trying to eat a whole grain-vegetable-based diet and you need a little company on the road, check out my blog. Please leave your comments if you actually make any of the recipes, as others can add your innovations and adjustments, and we can all share in the adventure. I'm not trying to be exhaustive, nor to post daily, but I do expect to keep sharing the fun. My next project is to find a way to make hot and sour soup that does all the right things to me when I eat it. I'll surely post it when I find that out. Meanwhile you can expect to see the double-mushroom spinach tofu lasagna coming soon, and don't miss out on those amazing "chard bundles"—and do let me know what you stuff in them! ■

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. An asterisk (*) denotes a Coop member.

FRI, FEB 22

7-9 p.m. Book Sale - Evening Preview Sale: \$20 admission. Tens of thousands of new & used books, DVDs, CDs & records. Most books priced at \$1 or \$2. Park Slope United Methodist Church, Sixth Ave. at Eighth St. (Book donations welcome; details at www.parkslopeumc.org).

SAT, FEB 23

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Book Sale: Free admission. Tens of thousands of new & used books, DVDs, CDs & records. Most books priced at \$1 or \$2. Incredible bargains! Terrific Children's Room! Park Slope United Methodist Church, Sixth Ave. at Eighth St. (Book donations welcome; details at www.parkslopeumc.org).

8 p.m. Hawaiian Music and Dance Night at the Peoples' Voice Cafe; Tickets are \$18, \$10 for members. Nobody will be turned away. Peoples' Voice Cafe at the Community Church of NYUU, 40 E. 35th St., NY. www.peoplesvoicecafe.org See website for more listings.

SUN, FEB 24

4 p.m. BPL Chamber Players The Apollo Trio; Curtis Macomber, violin Michael Kannen, cello

Marija Stroke, piano Ah Ling Neu, viola Peter Weitzner, double bass Admission is free; Dr. S. Stevan Dweck Center for Contemporary Culture at the Central Library 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn.

12:30-5 p.m. Book Sale Free admission. Tens of thousands of new & used books, DVDs, CDs & records. Most books priced at \$1 or \$2. Incredible bargains! Terrific Children's Room! Park Slope United Methodist Church, Sixth Ave. at Eighth St. Info at www.parkslopeumc.org.

11 a.m. "Re-imagining Vacant Space." Join the founders of loby.org to discuss the exciting movement of community-led environmental change in the aftermath of hurricane Sandy, and how we can all work towards a greener Brooklyn. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 PPW @ Second St. www.bsec.org.

SAT, MAR 2

8 p.m. Ruth Pelham; Magpie at the Peoples' Voice Cafe; Tickets are \$18, \$10 for members. Nobody will be turned away. Peoples' Voice Cafe at the Community Church of NYUU, 40 E. 35th St., NY. www.peoplesvoicecafe.org See website for more listings.

SUN, MAR 3

11 a.m. "Women without Superstition: No Gods, No Masters". Most often, women's work to liberate minds from religious dogma has been relegated to footnotes or long forgotten. This talk will revive the work of some of those thinkers by (re)acquainting us with their thought. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 PPW @ Second St. www.bsec.org.

SUN, MAR 10

4 p.m. BPL Chamber Players: The Chiara Quartet Rebecca Fischer and Julie Hye-Yung Yoon, violins Jonah Sirota, viola Gregory Beaver, cello. Admission is free; Dr. S. Stevan Dweck Center for Contemporary Culture at the Central Library 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn.



Textonyms Answer

ACHE - ACID, CAGE
ALOE - CLOD
ANEW - BODY
BASS - CARP
KNACK - LOCAL
QUART - START
STONY - SUNNY
RECUSE - SECURE
SELECT - REJECT
QUENCH - STENCH
PUCKISH - PUBLISH
COMPRISE - CONSPIRE

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



CLASSIFIEDS

BED & BREAKFAST

THE HOUSE ON 3rd ST. B&B-serving the Slope for over 20 yrs. Parlor floor-thru apt. sleeps 5 in comfort & privacy, queen bed, bath, double living room, kitchenette, outdoor deck. Visit our website at house-on3st.com. Click our FB link or call Jane at 718-788-7171. Ask about bargains for last minute bookings. Let us host you!



HOUSING AVAILABLE

STUDIO APT. FOR SALE. Prime Park Slope, Union Street between 8th Ave. and PPW, 4th Floor Elevator Coop Building with live-in Super. Laundry and bike room in the basement. Renovated kitchen and full bathroom. Asking \$285,000. Call 718-622-0377.

CLASSES/GROUPS

TUTORING - MATH, READING, ESL, writing, test prep (including SAT), homework help, conflict resolution. Pre-K through adult. Outstanding results. Park Slope-based tutor, curriculum designer, and writer builds on your strengths. "Learn or pay nothing" guarantee. Amy 718-965-0265 amyrowetutoring@gmail.com.



COMMERCIAL SPACE

OFFICE FOR RENT, suitable for therapist, writer, etc. in center Slope. Small, quiet room w/ small waiting area and restroom. Access to kitchen and back yard. WiFi. Share suite w/psychotherapist. \$900/month or \$200/weekday. Linda Nagel 718-788-9243 or lnagelphd@earthlink.net.

MERCHANDISE WANTED

SELL IRIS RECORDS your CDs/LPs/DVDs! Appointments day/night at your home. We pay cash and do the heavy lifting. We also appraise collections for estates/divorces. Email Stephen at recordriots@gmail.com or call 609-468-0885 for more information.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

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 \$60.00.

ATTORNEY—Personal Injury Emphasis—34 years experience in all aspects of injury law. Individual attention provided for entire case. Free phone or office consultations. Prompt, courteous communications. 23-year Park Slope Food Coop member; Park Slope resi-

dent; downtown Brooklyn office. Tom Guccione, 718-596-4184, also at www.tguccionelaw.com.

HAIRCUTS HAIRCUTS HAIRCUTS. Color, high light, low lights in the convenience of your home or mine. Kids cuts \$15.00, Adults \$35.00-\$40.00. Call Leonora 718-857-2215.

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.

PAINTING & WALLPAPERING - Mesh & Plaster those cracked walls & ceilings. Over 20 yrs experience doing the finest prep & finish work. One room or an entire house. Free estimates. Fred Becker 718-853-0750.

SERVICES HEALTH

MIDWIFE, former director, B'klyn Birthing Center providing customized, affordable, individual and/or group childbirth education email: kathabelson@gmail.com or call 347-413-8935.



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.

*Home Health Care Provider
Brenda took care of my mother. She's superb, competent, compassionate, a medical intuitive. Many references.
Richard - 718-282-6175*

Need Gary Null Products that you Don't see at the Coop?

Get 15% Off prices listed on Gary's Website: garynull.com

Free Delivery in Brooklyn COD
Call Joanne 646 932-2808

Email: garynullproducts@gmail.com

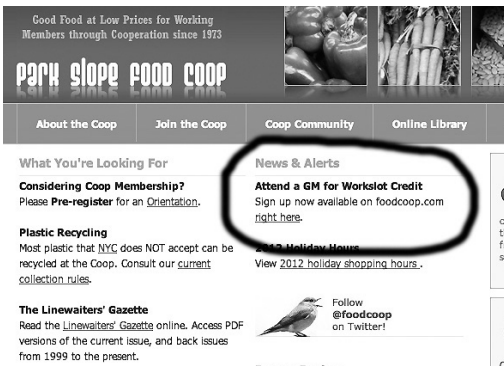
Coupon code PSFC

BROOKLYN FREE SCHOOL
Engaging students in democratic decision making and problem solving
Daytime tours every Wednesday and Thursday at 10am
E-mail bfsadmissions@gmail.com to reserve a spot
www.brooklynfreeschool.org • 718-499-2707

ADVERTISE ON THE WEB

If your ad would benefit from broader exposure, try the Coop's web page, www.foodcoop.com. The ads are FREE.

To receive workslot credit for attending the monthly General Meeting, members must sign up in advance in one of the following three ways:



◆ On the Coop's website (www.foodcoop.com)



◆ Add your name to the sign-up sheet in the ground-floor elevator lobby



◆ Call the Membership Office

**What Is That? How Do I Use It?
Ask Me Questions About Coop Foods**

Monday, March 4, 12 to 2:45 p.m.
Monday, March 11, 12 to 2:45 p.m.
Monday, March 18, 12 to 2:45 p.m.

You can join in any time during a question-and-answer session on the shopping floor.

Look for tour leaders in produce aisle.



MEMBER SUBMISSION

Eighty Percent

By Jesse Rosenfeld

Dear fellow members, Our Coop has a structural weakness, one that we couldn't have predicted would turn around to hurt us when we created it. That weakness is our boycott policy. Please, go read it: absent of specific voting guidelines, only a bare 51% majority is necessary to pass a boycott. This potential 51/49 split is coercion by bare majority because, since boycotts are broadcasted for public consumption, nearly half of us would be forced to represent what we don't want to represent and protest what we don't want to protest. And that is reprehensible. So at January's GM, I called for drawing the

line officially at a minimum 80% vote to support any new or renewed boycott.

51/49 has created so much public hostility between members it has really done the Coop some spiritual, political and financial harm. 80% creates space for constructive talk.

Odious ideas should be protected and fought with more speech. Period. Partly because it's so fun nailing obvious falsehoods in print, and partly because clear disagreement is nothing serious. That is, until we get into a potential 51/49 boycott situation which cuts a valley through our collective harmony. 51/49 has only created, not uncovered, a divisive situation

that encourages some people around here to openly call for polarization, to flat-out lie, and organize to smother political dialogue that they themselves claim to want by tarring all who disagree as racists. 80/20 tempts the fewest possible members into slicing battle-lines down the middle of our wonderfully unique organization. 80/20 means the fewest possible members feel alienated by a referendum. 80/20 means obliging oneself to think responsibly about how to sway membership, not just divide and conquer. My community here is more important to me than anything. I don't want to risk its future over symbolic gestures, and I really don't understand why some people would.

So let's take this in a different direction. To the young Palestinian-American woman who spoke at the GM of her own alienation: I completely believe you. But is it a couple of products only, or is it 51/49's hostile climate and those who exploit your situation that creates such alienation? To clear 80% takes real responsibility, real understanding of what our community believes, real thoughtfulness. That's our First Principle—don't discriminate against political views. With 80%, everyone can feel open to say what they want without hysteria infecting dialogue. So in that spirit of cooperation, (any) fellow Palestinian-American member: join me to get more Palestinian products on the shelves.

lyn Tech. And that, not a boycott itself, is the point. Our default 51/49 policy has revealed its inherently irresponsible nature, encouraging some people to utilize all distortions and rhetoric necessary to get the ball over the 51-yard line, and later make bizarre accusations of 'rigging' and 'disfranchisement' out of plain loser's remorse. This tears both at our 1st Principle of Cooperation, which stands far above the mere guidelines of a boycott policy, and at the Coop's integrity. 80% creates space for people to think more clearly about how to convince others, and who their audience really is.

As a last note to all readers: selling meat and beer were touchy issues, not boycotts. They were not outside movements seeking validity from the geopolitical world, and therefore not likely to alienate many members. Such analogous comparisons to our present situation are sloppy at best. So enough already.

Everyone, please join us at eightypersentmajority@gmail.com. Our boycott policy isn't only about addressing the world's injustices anymore. That ship has sailed. It's also about how it simultaneously creates a climate for further injustice here in the Coop. The two outcomes are now linked, forever. If someone can't see that, they are simply ducking responsibility.

It's time to change the conversation. Finally. ■

★ EXCITING WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITIES ★

Plastics Recycling

Thursday, Saturday, Sunday

Join in the Coop's effort to be a better environmental citizen. Work outside in front of the Coop with other members of the Recycling Squad accepting returned plastic containers, making sure they are clean and meet the Recycling Squad criteria. Stack and pack plastic for recycling. Must be reliable and willing to work outdoors in all kinds of weather.

Office Data Entry

Thursday, 4 to 6:45 p.m.

Must have been a member for at least one year with excellent attendance. Are you a stickler for details and accurate on the computer? Do you like working independently? If this sounds like you, then Office Data Entry will be your perfect shift. Please speak to Ginger Jung in the Membership Office (or put a note in her mailbox) prior to the first shift for more information and schedule training. Must make a six-month commitment to the workslot.

Vitamin Worker

Friday, 12 to 2:45 p.m.

On this special shift, you will be working with the Receiving Coordinator to check-in vitamin orders and organize the vitamin

area in the basement and on the shopping floor. You will label products and shelves, and related tasks. If interested, contact the Membership Office.

Receiving Produce

Monday through Friday, 5 to 7:30 a.m.

The Coop is looking for members to work in the produce area. Responsibilities include: lifting boxes, unloading deliveries, stacking boxes in the basement. You should be willing to get or have wet hands while you are working. Boxes usually weigh between 2-20 lbs., a few may weigh up to 50 lbs.

Office Set-up

Tuesday or Thursday, 6 to 8:30 a.m.

Need an early-riser with lots of energy to do a variety of physical tasks, including: setting up tables and chairs, buying food and supplies, labeling and putting away food and supplies, recycling, washing dishes and making coffee. Sound like your dream come true? This job might be for you. Please speak to Adriana in the Membership Office for more information.

Hearing Administration Committee is seeking new members

The HAC performs administrative functions necessary to arrange and facilitate disciplinary hearings, coordinating with the Coop's Disciplinary 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 telephone Rachel Garber at 718-218-3925.

