

# LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

Established  
1973



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## Pulitzer Prize Winner *Jake Bernstein* Uncovers Players Behind the Mortgage Crisis

By Alison Rose Levy

When Jake Bernstein won the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting, there were no camera flashings, nor treks down red carpets. There was just a simple phone call to the *ProPublica* newsroom where Jake, a *ProPublica* reporter (and Coop member), and his colleague Jesse Eisinger were gathered with their colleagues, awaiting word as to whether they had won for their series of investigative reports, *The Wall Street Money Machine*, published from April 2011 with ongoing updates.

"We thought we had a good chance," Bernstein admits, because the Bernstein-Eisinger story penetrated the tight-lipped Wall Street community to reveal some of the hidden levers at work behind the 2008 financial crisis, in which certain Wall Street firms deployed unorthodox mechanisms to profit even at the expense of their own clients, in ways that "worsened the financial crisis."

Summarized on the *ProPublica* website, [www.propublica.org/series/the-wall-street-money-machine.com](http://www.propublica.org/series/the-wall-street-money-machine.com), the investigation revealed that, "Wall Street took advantage of complicated mortgage-based instruments to reap billions, only to exacerbate the eventual crash."

It further noted that as the housing market started to fade, bankers and hedge funds scrambled for ways to maintain the lavish bonuses and profits to which they had become so accustomed, repackaging mortgages in complex securities called collateralized debt obligations. The booming CDO market masked how weak the housing market was, and exacer-



PHOTO BY LARS KLOVE

**Jake Bernstein, reporter and Coop member, shared the Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting.**

bated its collapse.

The former Editor of the *Texas Observer*, a bi-weekly in Austin, and the author of a book on former Vice-President Dick Cheney, Bernstein, a New York native, returned to the city in August 2008 to work for *ProPublica*, a high caliber online journalistic website. *ProPublica* has investigated controversial issues ranging from fracking to the current scandal in the Rupert Murdoch empire.

Soon after their move back East, Bernstein and his wife, Eve, joined the Coop, where she does both of their shifts since investigation and news cycle reporting is no nine to five job. In fact, Bernstein told me that on the food-processing shift Eve does for him, her co-workers call her "Jake."

"The meatiest areas for investigation are those that uncover accountability and are positive," says Bernstein. "That naturally brings us to certain areas. While a Pulitzer looks fine in retrospect, getting started can be frustrating. As we learned more about the investments behind the mortgage crisis, we felt, 'My God, can you believe this is going on?' But first it's just a blank page."

The team worked on the story constantly; spending nights and weekends was routine. What led up to the prestigious award were the

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PHOTO BY RACHEL CLIFT

Kale growing at Rooftop Farms in Greenpoint.

## The Brooklyn Food Coalition Plans Ahead for the 2012 Brooklyn Food Conference

By Alison Rose Levy

The first Brooklyn Food Conference took place in Park Slope in May 2009. Three thousand-eight hundred people (including 500 children) attended. Following the conference, numerous participating groups and individuals expressed eagerness to build upon the working relationships that evolved over the Conference planning. So in response to these concerned Brooklyn citizens, Conference Director Nancy Romer con-

vened meetings, which ultimately led to the founding of the Brooklyn Food Coalition (BFC). This grassroots organization that, according to its website, is committed to building an inclusive, multi-racial, multi-cultural alliance of residents and community-based groups from all parts of Brooklyn, to promote food justice, food security and a sustainable food system in our borough.

In addition to planning the Second Brooklyn Food

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### Next General Meeting on August 30

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month.\* The next General Meeting will be on Tuesday, August 30, at 7:00 p.m. at the Congregation Beth Elohim Temple House (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place.

\* Exceptions for November and December will be posted.

## Coop Event Highlights

- Tue, Aug 9 • Safe Food Committee Film Night:**  
Chinatown 7:00 p.m.
- Fri, Aug 19 • Blood Drive** 11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
- Sat, Aug 20 • Blood Drive** 11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
- Thu, Sep 1 • Food Class:**  
Fermentation Basics 7:30 p.m.

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

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## New York's Next Generation of Organic Farmers: The NOFA-NY Farm Apprenticeship Program

By Frank Haberle

Where will the next generation of New York State's organic farmers get their start? A new statewide program of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (of which the Coop is a member), the NOFA-NY Farm Apprenticeship Program, connects experienced farmers with individuals interested in learning how to start and run a farm. For aspiring farmers, this is a new opportunity to start their farm-based learning; for experienced organic farmers, it's a chance to teach eager learners to farm. The *Linewaiters' Gazette* spoke with Rachel Schell-Lambert, the Beginning Farmer Coordinator of NOFA-NY in upstate Rochester, to learn more about the NOFA-NY Farm Apprenticeship Program.

### LWG: How many farms and farmers are involved?

**Rachel:** It's a new project for NOFA-NY, and it has been a gradually increasing number of participants since we

launched the web-based directory in February 2011. We have almost 70 apprenticeship-seekers listed on the web directory right now, and 20 farms. This is a number we will really increase for future seasons, since we launched after many farms were already through searching for apprentices.

### LWG: Is there a growing demand for new organic farms and farmers?

**Rachel:** Certainly. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, the average age of a farmer in the United States is 55. Farmers at this age are still quite capable, obviously, but it is concerning that the number is skewed towards retirement age. It raises the question of who will be growing and providing food in the next few decades. Another factor is the increased demand for locally grown produce, evidenced by new local farmers' markets, locally grown produce in stores and restaurants and a clearly heightened sense of awareness of seasonal and arti-



ILLUSTRATIONS BY DEBORAH TINT

sanal food consumption within the food-loving communities in the United States. There is a growing group of people, recent graduates, 20- and 30-somethings, as well as those seeking a second or third career, who are in training to become farmers for the long term. So there is demand, and there is a supply. NOFA-NY works on both ends of this spectrum, educating consumers about fresh, organic, local food but also to ensure that people who want to farm

have the resources and training to enter into farm business management and stay farming for a long time if they so desire.

**LWG: The program does not directly match farmers and apprentices; instead it offers an online directory, which the two parties use to connect with each other. How have these connections worked out? What are the positives/negatives of letting the matches happen independently?**

**Rachel:** We would not be able to tell an apprentice what farm would be the best match for them, and we would not be able to tell a farmer who his or her ideal apprentice would be. Either one can filter their search in our online directory to narrow their options—for example, to only see a specific type of farm, or a specific level of experience in an apprentice. The detailed profiles are important to this process—either party can get a really good sense of whether the personality and details of the profiled farm or apprentice would be a good match. From there, they can call or e-mail their top choices. I'd say that this freedom to search and not be committed by any third party's opinion is a positive—it should lead to much happier farmers and apprentices. A negative is that we don't always get word on who has matched themselves through us! I personally try to keep tabs on everyone's status, but it's not an exact method. I truly hope that the directory is serving its purpose, and I believe that over time people will report back to me or refer others to the NOFA-NY program.

**LWG: Each participating farmer needs to submit an educational plan for potential applicants; can you elaborate on that?**

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## VALET BIKE PARKING IS ON HERE SUNDAYS!



Every Sunday through November 20, from 3:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m., Coop members can leave their bikes with our valet parking service, which is like a coat check for bikes. Working members will check in and watch your bike for you.

Just drop off your bike, do your shopping or your shift, and hop back on. No locks, no worries, no theft. Service operates rain or shine. Look for us in front of the yellow wall. (Note: no bike check-in after 7:30 p.m.)

Valet bicycle parking at the Coop is brought to you by the PSFC Shop & Cycle Committee.



PSFC  
Shop & Cycle  
Committee

## What Is That? How Do I Use It? Food Tours in the Coop

Monday, September 12 & 26

Noon to 1:00 p.m. and 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

You can join in any time during a tour.

If the weather is hot  
find water

If you are late  
find the sky—it is never late

If you are pressured  
find your breath

If you are lonely  
find your smile

If you are in pain  
find the part of you that is well

If you are depressed  
find your heart and put a hand there

If loss grieves you  
find gratitude for what you have

Endless torments await

Find the good  
Focus there

The Park Slope Food Coop  
Finding you the goods

by Myra Klockenbrink

## Jake Bernstein

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hours, days, months, (over eighteen of them) in which the two reporters followed up on infinitesimal leads, which with persistence, hard work, and luck produced more leads, along with an enormous volume of data from which, under the reporters' painstaking scrutiny, a pattern of financial activity slowly emerged.

In their initial foray into the research, the team concentrated on activity during the 2006-2007 period. As they tracked down records, in an effort to "shake the tree," Bernstein admitted, "It was hard. None of this information is public. Among hedge fund managers, there is a code of silence. They don't talk, fearing investigations."

The people who do grunt work on the investment offering were young, in their mid-twenties to thirties, and according to Bernstein, "They were terrified that their involvement was going to define their career. They didn't trust that you could talk to a reporter confidentially."

The pair went from lead to lead, finding people and getting little pieces of information. But the deals were private transactions, buried in lengthy investment prospectuses written in dense legalese. Finally, some people in the know did open up to the reporters, perhaps, Bernstein surmises, because "they had a guilty conscience, they felt that bad things had happened and that people suffered. They wanted to get the information out so that people would learn and not repeat the same mistake."

As Bernstein and Eisinger persisted, they pieced together what finally culminated in a major story—the exposure of previously unidentified players in the mortgage scandal embedded in the 2008 financial meltdown, principally a hedge fund called Magnetar.

After the first installment came out, the team was still on a learning curve in grasping the complex story. "It wasn't until the second story that we really understood what



PHOTO BY DAN NGUYEN

**ProPublica staff celebrate winning the Pulitzer Prize. Jesse Eisinger, first from right, and Jake Bernstein, third from right, shared the prize.**

was going on." As it turned out, Magnetar played multiple roles, which, though not strictly illegal, were obscured from those who acquired their investments: it packaged investment instruments, and then filled them with its own high risk mortgages, while also serving as guarantor.

I asked Bernstein, in absence of the firm commitment to investigative journalism at a place like ProPublica, how likely it was that the double-handed dealings he and Eisinger uncovered would have come to light.

"Not very likely," he admitted, "without the time and resources we had to figure it out. But since we did have

them when we were assigned the project, we collaborated and just dove in."

What many people don't realize is that the decline of newspapers and the advent of the Internet has produced a higher volume of information, but quite often there's more sound than light. According to some analysts, the field of investigative journalism has shrunk, while the ranks of PR personnel have swelled. In an epoch of complex infrastructures and conflicting groups with diverse agendas, to make choices in a democracy, citizens need more in-depth information and analysis. But they're getting less. That's why when two philan-

thropists, Herb and Marion Sandler, decided they wanted to support journalism to fill an information gap, they got together with Paul E. Steiger, a former Managing Editor of the *Wall Street Journal*, and one-time Chairman of the Pulitzer Prize board, to fund ProPublica.

"The *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* still do good reporting—but there aren't that many others," Bernstein points out. "There is less time and less money devoted to high quality journalism." Without that support, coverage of key social issues and events remains superficial.

make it understandable. Putting in that kind of effort is not cost effective. Most metropolitan newspapers are no longer willing to make that kind of investment."

"Journalism, frankly, depends on being able to follow the life cycle to a story, along with the quality of editorial support a reporter gets," says Bernstein. "We were up at three in the morning debating over a sentence with our editor. But it's exhilarating because we're all there for the same reason, we want it to be good."

What effect did the publication of their story have?

"When the story came out, there was a huge reaction, and a lot of free-floating anger. People felt, 'We have been screwed, and we don't know how it was done.'

But after reading the story,



It took Bernstein and Eisinger over a year and a half to produce the series of articles telling the Magnetar story for which they won the Pulitzer. "It was really difficult to report, and really difficult to write," Bernstein says. "It was very complex, and our goal was to

there's a sense that 'I finally understand how this works,'" says Bernstein. "The value of this kind of journalism is that instead of people being shut out of knowing what happened as the world changes, it has been explained and made accessible." ■

## Vwllss

All the clues listed below consist entirely of consonants. Each clue can be reconstituted into at least three different common words by adding appropriate vowels.

For example, the clue dbl can be turned into "double," "edible" or "audible."

The number of missing vowels may vary from word to word. Some clues can be expanded to more than three words.

bgl \_\_\_\_\_  
 dck \_\_\_\_\_  
 flg \_\_\_\_\_  
 mtn \_\_\_\_\_  
 chrt \_\_\_\_\_  
 grbl \_\_\_\_\_  
 ntry \_\_\_\_\_  
 trts \_\_\_\_\_  
 frght \_\_\_\_\_  
 prmnnt \_\_\_\_\_

Puzzle author: Stuart Marquis. For answers, see page 5.

### The Diversity and Equality Committee Seeks New Members

#### Are you interested in Issues of Diversity, Equality and Inclusion?

The Diversity and Equality Committee is dedicated to improving human relations and communication in all policies and procedures in the Coop. Our goal is to work toward preventing and eliminating discrimination in the Coop. If you are interested in issues of diversity, equality and inclusion, you can help us to achieve our goals by becoming a member of the DEC.

We are currently seeking new members, with experience in conflict resolution and mediation, interviewing, and leading and organizing workshops, ideally around diversity. General computer skills and editing and writing skills are also helpful.

#### Requirements:

- Must be a member for at least one year
  - Have good attendance record
- Attend monthly committee meetings on Thursdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Participate in subcommittee work as needed

#### We seek members who are reflective of the diversity of the Coop membership.

If interested, please send an email with your name, PSFC member number, and details of your relevant experience to [reply@psfc.coop](mailto:reply@psfc.coop). Please put "Diversity and Equality" in the subject line.



**Please protect your feet and toes while working your shift at the Coop by not wearing sandals or other open-toed footwear.**

Thanks for your cooperation, The Park Slope Food Coop

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PHOTO BY KEVIN RYAN

## Looking for something new?

Check out the Coop's  
products blog.

The place to go for the latest  
information on our current  
product inventory.

You can connect to the blog  
via the Coop's website  
[www.foodcoop.com](http://www.foodcoop.com)

## NOFA-NY Farm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

**Rachel:** The term "apprenticeship" is used in many different ways and has occasionally become synonymous with farm labor with no added education or even inappropriate compensation under the guise of a learning experience. Many farms do indeed offer a training and experiential work opportunity, which is what NOFA-NY wants to highlight to potential farm apprentices. Since learning and teaching styles are dependent on individuals, the farm profile is a chance for the farmers to explain how an apprentice can expect to learn the farming skills, farm management practices, science and philosophies guiding that farm's day-to-day work. NOFA-NY has a mission to ensure that farmers are providing legal work opportunities through educating the farmers on those laws, pointing them to Department of Labor resources on recordkeeping, and offering training workshops at our annual winter conference in January. Our organization stands behind defining an apprenticeship as part of the professional development in a given field, working towards an individual's competency as an independent practitioner of that trade. So an apprenticeship in farming must be a chance for an inexperienced or semi-experi-

enced individual to build a skill set and work toward being and viewing themselves as a competent farmer.

**LWG: NOFA continues providing support to apprentices after the program ends. How does this work?**

**Rachel:** There is not a formal program for this, but we are proud of how active many of our members are, and of how many of them we are in touch with on a regular basis. We anticipate that we can continue to hear from and work with farmers as they "graduate" from apprenticeship to other responsibilities. We may be offering further programs in future years, but for now it is through strong community and relationships.

**LWG: It's clear what the apprentices gain from their experience, but what do the farmers gain?**

**Rachel:** Farmers appreciate having workers who have a philosophical bond with the farm work. These workers care more about the quality of their work, will engage farmers in discussion and be eager to learn how and why tasks are performed on that farm, and may be able to contribute and help solve problems with that farmer. This isn't to say the hourly workers who aren't apprentices do not also do these things, but farmers that offer apprentice-



ILLUSTRATION BY DEBORAH TINT

ships often do so to guarantee that they will have an enthusiastic and responsible crew of labor. Since farmers care so greatly about providing food and taking care of the land, many feel honored and called to train new farmers, to continue the legacy and maintain the honor of the profession.

**LWG: Is this a good opportunity for younger people or is it more geared for post-graduates/people ready to go immediately into farming?**

**Rachel:** Anyone who is interested in farming could consider an apprenticeship, whether it's during summer break or following a graduation, for a longer period of time. I personally know people who weren't ready for college, who ended up working on farms and becoming much more aware of their character, their aspirations, and then deciding that they wanted to go to college as a stronger, more directed person. An apprenticeship should give a person a sense about their desire to farm long-term, but the work itself is also amazing for building character and good habits.

**LWG: Are there urban organic farming education programs in New York City that our members should be aware of?**

**Rachel:** There are, indeed, such programs in New York City. Many have been in the news lately—long-term programs, school gardens, farming schools, apprenticeships for teens in botanical gardens. An internet search brings up many results—someone interested in farming should check those out, but know to ask lots of questions about whether there is a set curriculum, whether there is compensation, and the commitment expected. There is quite a range, and an apprentice should go into the search process with a general idea of what they are looking for. ■

For more information about NOFA-NY and the Farm Apprenticeship Program, please visit [www.nofany.org](http://www.nofany.org).

## LEFFERTS FARM FOOD COOPERATIVE

We are a newly-formed group made up of residents from Flatbush, Prospect-Lefferts Gardens and Crown Heights, working to develop a new medium-sized food cooperative in the area.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

There's no question Brooklyn needs more food cooperatives, but it's not simple. Food co-ops are businesses and development projects created for and by the community.

### JOIN OUR PLANNING GROUP

In order to make this happen, we need YOU! Why? Because as a member, you have experience with food co-ops. And as a worker/community member, you have experience we need—from organizational development, branding/messaging, finance/accounting, fundraising, to real estate development and community outreach. Even people you know or the groups you belong to are a valuable asset to the process!

### GET INVOLVED

PSFC members will receive FTOP credit in exchange for their participation. Join our MeetUp group at [www.meetup.com/plgfoodcoop](http://www.meetup.com/plgfoodcoop) or contact [leffertsfarm@gmail.com](mailto:leffertsfarm@gmail.com) for more information.

JOIN US: [www.meetup.com/plgfoodcoop](http://www.meetup.com/plgfoodcoop)



ILLUSTRATION BY LYNN BERNSTEIN

## Not a Board in the Usual Sense

By Ed Levy

Democratic processes are so deeply infused into the Coop's culture that the very existence of a board of directors may seem like a weird anomaly. But when the Coop became incorporated under New York State Cooperative Corporation Law in 1977, it took on some of the structures demanded by that law's provisions, and blended them with its own traditions.

One result of that blend is that our board of directors doesn't meet in executive session, that is, alone and in private. Ever. In fact, its main function is to receive the advice of the members as expressed in the General Membership Meeting, and vote to ratify that advice, a formality that takes place at the end of every GM. That is the board's entire *raison d'être*. As board member Bill Penner remarked "Even just getting together for a dinner party wouldn't seem right."

The board doesn't make policy, offer advice, initiate change, or play any kind of pro-active role whatsoever. Board President John Urda, like all the other board members we spoke to, was emphatic about this: "We are not on the board in order to make change. The meetings are for that."

The board, says John Urda, is as a legal necessity, based on New York State's Cooperative Corporation Law. That law states that every cooperative shall have a board with officers elected in staggered terms, along with a president and vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer.

By law, board members must be 18 years or older and members of the Coop.

There are five regularly elected Coop board members, plus a sixth. The Coop's bylaws state, "There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of five persons elected by the membership at the annual meeting, and one of the paid Coordinators, *ex officio*."

The board is not just a rubber stamp for the GM. John Urda signs legal documents for the Coop, and the board as a whole must watch out that nothing we do is illegal or financially reckless.

If, on a wild night, the GM voted to grant every member a monthly stipend of a hundred and fifty dollars, the board would prudently vote it down. On the other hand, if the meeting decided to end the bike valet program, it is almost certain the board would ratify its decision, even if all the board members were avid shopper-cyclists and totally bent out of shape by this decision. As John pointed out, a board member could speak out against a measure in the General Meeting, vote no on it as a member, and then, once it is passed, switch hats and vote to formally approve it

as a member of the board of directors.

The board is also the body that pro forma ratifies anything decided by referendum. The decision of the referendum to sell organic meat was confirmed by the board at the June 2001 GM. The referendum decision on selling beer was confirmed by the board at the January 2002 GM.

If you've seen the Stephen Frears film *The Queen*, with Helen Mirren, you may remember the scene in which the prime minister hands Queen Elizabeth the speech she is going to deliver to the nation about the death of Princess Diana. At the last moment, the prime minister asks if she wouldn't mind inserting an additional phrase into the speech. "What choice do I have?" replied the queen.

The board is like that. Except in very narrow circumstances, the board has no choice. If the board members actively opposed the will of the meeting, a firestorm would ensue (and on rare occasions, has).

In the 1990s, a group of 3 board members rejected the advice of the members at

the GM to form a committee to study buying the building adjacent to the Coop. This rejection was met with a highly charged and negative response.

Because of the unique form of direct democracy that the Coop has evolved over the years, which is singular even among coops, according to Urda, the General Meeting has become a kind of legislative body, town meeting, and board of directors meeting all rolled into one.

Should the board decide to assume more authority than granted to it by the bylaws, its members are sub-

ject to recall, according to the NYS Cooperative Corporation Law. Removal can be initiated by a petition signed by five percent of the members, and requires a vote of three fourths of a special meeting called to deal with the issue, "provided that at such meeting not less than ten per centum of the entire membership vote, personally or by mail."

### The Board Members

Board President John Urda, as an attorney for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, investigates oil

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### Vwllss Sltn

bgl - bagel, beguile, bugle  
 dck - deck, dock, duck  
 flg - flag, flog, foliage  
 mtn - emotion, matinee, motion  
 chrt - chariot, chart, cohort  
 grbl - agreeable, garble, gerbil  
 ntry - entry, notary, unitary  
 trts - tortoise, tortuous, treatise  
 frght - fraught, freight, fright  
 prmnt - permanent, preeminent, prominent



park slope  
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## Brooklyn Food

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Conference which will take place in May 2012, today, two years after the first conference, the BFC is well organized, offering an informative website and a whole range of activities.

Brought together by a shared vision of working toward a more sustainable food system, the BFC joined forces in February 2011 with the Open Space Institute (OSI.)

Coop member Nancy Romer serves as BFC's founder and General Coordinator, with Adriana Velez as BFC's Communications Coordinator. The Coalition has three main areas of activity: community organizing, public awareness and education, and research and advocacy. All of these efforts arose from the BFC's firm grass roots foundation; it's structured into ten neighborhood groups.

Romer points out that, "It's natural for people from a neighborhood to get together. They feel that they have both a borough and neighborhood identity. They know the same hangouts, the same difficulties, they have more in common to have a conversation, build a sense of community, and they can identify specifics that a neighborhood might need." For example, the Sunset Park BFC knows that to reach community members, it's good to offer publicity in three languages, Spanish, Chinese, and English.

With ten neighborhood groups in total (Sunset Park, Bed-Stuy, Bushwick / Williamsburg, and Park Slope, among others), the BFC reflects Brooklyn's diverse population, allowing BFC to encompass a full range of issues for transforming the food system, while prioritizing its initiatives effectively.

In each neighborhood, BFC members work together on projects that can change the food system on the local, and often national level. On average, most of the groups have at least twenty participants.

Each group defines its priorities and initiates two outreach projects. The Bed-Stuy group is compiling a comprehensive neighborhood good food guide, and supporting community school gardens. The Park Slope group is promoting food movement diversity by featuring an evening series of films related to food issues.

"We ask neighborhood groups to make alliances with four other neighborhood organizations," says Romer.

Being part of the larger organization allows the neighborhood groups to access structure, support and tools for their efforts, while also shaping BFC-wide initiatives. Plus, all neighborhood groups can work together to develop resources all organizers share, as well as build volunteer participation for a wide range of community projects, such as urban farms and community gardens, food pantries, farmers markets,



**Clockwise from right: Red Hook Community Farm; Children visiting Stone Barns; Key initiative of BFC is that everybody in Brooklyn has access to quality nutritious food.**



PHOTO BY JEFF HESS



PHOTO BY KIERSTEN CHOU



PHOTO BY ADRIANA VELEZ

special events, and, of course, the Food Conference.

"Whatever we do, we always get feedback and input from the neighborhood groups—and try to find out from the groups what do they want to pursue," notes Romer.

Key initiatives are improving school food nutrition, as well as raising awareness and addressing issues of food justice so that all people in all areas of Brooklyn have access to quality nutritious food. As part of an outreach effort to grow two school food gardens in Bed Stuy, the Bed-Stuy neighborhood group held parent workshops to give parents skills in how to organize to get better foods for their children. One hundred parents attended.

The BFC regularly offers skill-sharing events and materials to support its participants in building awareness in their communities. Currently a range of public policy outreach materials are in production, and the BFC website offers online information about food resources.

The mapping and research committee developed a mapping tool ([www.ebrelsford.com/survey/locations/map](http://www.ebrelsford.com/survey/locations/map)) that compares food access in different neighborhoods, dramatically revealing inequities in the food system. "When you collect data and then display it in this map format, you really see how the food options in some communities are terrible, and how impossible it is to shop for healthy food in those areas. You begin to see in a more fine-tuned way," says Romer.

In the website section "Find Food," there are many resources to help people find sources of affordable fresh food in their communities; farmer's markets, CSA's, community gardens, and nutrition friendly local businesses are listed with location and contact information in this section of the BFC website. At the first Brooklyn Food Conference, General Coordinator Joe Holtz met with community members working on startup coops. This session was so popular that, according to Romer,

the group continued to meet monthly to share ideas and strategies, ultimately forming the Food Coop Alliance NYC. Along with David Buckell, Romer wrote a proposal to New York City Council Speaker, Christine Quinn, requesting the allocation of a special fund for food coops. The 2011 City Council budget allocated \$50K for that purpose.

In addition to its neighborhood groups, BFC includes a number of active issue-oriented committees, including a policy committee, a conference committee, an anti-racism committee, and a mapping and research committee. The BFC also participates in research and advocacy efforts with partner organizations to aggregate information about food issues and trends, and to advocate for food policies that will improve food access and quality for Brooklyn citizens. The BFC actively organized to help pass the federal Child Nutrition Act. Along with the 2012 conference planning, the BFC's 2011 policy priorities

include the federal Food & Farm Bill, and ongoing work on children's nutrition.

The BFC policy committee has developed awareness-raising materials for the upcoming U.S. Food and Farm Bill, which will be used for education and outreach. "We are not in a position to write legislation but we can educate people about the importance of the U.S. Farm Bill for the current and future direction that the food system takes," says Romer. The materials will allow people to understand how the bill relates to them, so that they can, if they wish, contact Congress and advocate for specific goals.

Throughout this coming fall, BFC will be planning the Second Conference. People can write to [info@bfc.org](mailto:info@bfc.org) to volunteer, with more people needed in the time preceding the May 2012 Food Conference.

But, Romer emphasizes, "It's not just about going to meetings. If you want to work with us and are really excited about the project, you can get FTOP credit. As the time leading up to the Conference gets closer, we will need staff of every kind. Right now, we need everything from creative ideas and skills to people who can create leaflets. We need event planners as well as people with contacts with those who can speak and make financial contributions. Right now is the formative stage, and we welcome people to become involved." ■

## SAFE FOOD COMMITTEE REPORT

# Chinatown

By Adam Rabiner

Through documentaries such as *Thirst* and *Blue Gold*, the Safe Food Committee's film series *Plow to Plate* has examined the political, environmental, and economic tensions arising from the growing demand for a precious and endangered natural resource, namely water. In *Chinatown*, the film series lets its hair down a little while these same tensions play themselves out as the backdrop of this classic 1974 film noir crime drama directed by Roman Polanski and starring Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway, and John Houston. Set in Los Angeles in 1937, the film is loosely based on historical battles over land and water rights that took place in Southern California in the first two decades of the 20th century.

Los Angeles at this time was a desert community, and in the film, it's also suffering from a drought. The

City's Water and Power Department is proposing the controversial Alto Viejo Dam to help solve the city's water problems, but its chief engineer, Hollis Mulwray, publicly denounces the project at a City Hall meeting claiming it's a dangerous project. Angry farmers, yelling that their water is being stolen and their livestock starved, run their sheep through the public meeting, which ends in disarray. Other opponents leave pamphlets on car windows that state, "Save our city. L.A. is dying of thirst," and there are threats to blow up the city's reservoir as a water bond issue passes.

Water plays a prominent role in the film, not just thematically, but physically as well. Mulwray visits several water facilities operated by his department, tailed by Nicholson's character, private detective J.J. "Jake" Gittes who suspects him of cheating on his wife. He's also trailed to a pond in Echo Park where he's photographed rowing a boat with his suspected mistress. "He's got water on his brain" says the pho-

tographer. Soon Mulwray and a town drunk turn up drowned and Gittes narrowly escapes a similar fate in a deluge released from a large municipal Water and Power pipe, a suspicious if not illegal dumping activity given the scarcity of water. In one scene there's the distinct sound of dripping water. These wet scenes are contrasted with arid depictions of Los Angeles's dry river beds, muddied only by some small puddles.

*Chinatown* makes you realize that water and power (literally and figuratively) have always been inextricably intertwined and always will be. Huston's character, the villainous Noah Cross, explains why he, already a very, very rich man, schemed to make millions more, "Why, the future; the future." He could not have been more right. ■

Next Safe Food Committee meeting: Tuesday, August 9. Park Slope Food Coop, second floor, 7 p.m. Water and refreshments will be served.

## MEMBER SUBMISSION

## More Democracy, Please

By Noha Arafa, Hima B, Mary Buchwald, Thomas Cox, Emily Damron, Barbara Grossman, Gretchen Hildebran, Lisa M Hoff, Carol Horwitz, Dennis James, Tim Judson, Rebecca Manski, Bill Mazza, Nat Pinkerton, Sunita Prasad, Liz Roberts, Chris Seymour, Carol Wald, Ora Wise, and Ray Wofsy

For over two years, there's been discussion at the Coop regarding whether or not we should stop stocking Israeli goods. Members representing many opinions have written letters to the *Gazette* which have sparked debate among the membership.

To resolve the issue, a vote, clarifying the opinions of the entire membership, is necessary. The fairest way to take this vote is by referendum. Every member would have the opportunity to vote on whether the Coop should participate in the global nonviolent Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement in support of Palestinians' human rights. At the General Meeting on Tuesday, July 26, attendees discussed a proposal on conducting this referendum. The proposal does not decide the issue itself: it only determines the method used to make this decision. Voting by referendum is the most democratic method available to us, protecting individual privacy, allowing time for reflection, and ensuring that the result accurately represents the position of the majority. We hope that this proposal for referendum will be passed at a future GM.

Some, troubled by dissent or seeking to avoid conflict, have expressed the desire that the Coop "remain neutral" and "avoid being political." Unfortunately, it is impossible for the Coop to maintain a neutral stance in relation to Israel. Stocking goods made in this country, whose government systematically violates international law and human rights, carries the unintended consequence of providing its illegal actions with eco-

economic support. The same is true of any investments the Coop may hold in companies that profit from the Occupation. Such economic support makes all Coop members complicit in the commission of human rights abuses and the violation of international law. By ignoring the issue, the Coop currently is acting in support of Israel's actions without actually taking a vote from its membership. This contradicts growing opposition among the membership to Israel's inhumane and illegal activities.

The Coop has in fact always been a political institution, using our buying power to support food, social and environmental justice. We have endorsed a number of boycotts, including one against California grapes to support workers' rights, and a 20-year long boycott of South African goods that began the year the Coop opened. In 1987 we created a "Boycott Policy" to streamline our decision-making around proposed boycotts. We currently boycott Coca-Cola in solidarity with an international community of workers and women negatively impacted by these companies' products. In March, we enacted a boycott of Flaum's Appetizing Products. This proposal for a referendum on BDS is a continuation of our commitment to justice.

Many assume the issue of BDS could be decided at a General Meeting. However, it's unlikely that the result of a GM vote would be truly representative of the 15,000+-member Coop. Supposing 500 people—a high estimate—attended the GM to vote, this would still only represent 3%

of our membership. It's impossible to ensure that the views of this 3% represent the wider membership, particularly since supporters and opponents would "pack" the meeting to sway the vote. The meeting would invariably devolve into acrimonious, intractable and inconclusive debate, creating an uncomfortable space for those voting. The GM accommodates only a minority of members, provides inadequate time to discuss this issue in depth, as it warrants, and affords no opportunity for members to deliberate and research the issue.

A referendum provides each member with time for reflection, self-education, and privacy to vote their conscience, free from social and political pressures present at a GM. It grants each member a voice, ensuring that results of the vote are truly representative, and allows those invested in the outcome to organize and hold educational activities. There would be a period of months before members would fill out their ballots, giving them ample opportunity to learn about the issue.

Employing a vote via referendum is a unifying gesture indicating the Coop's respect for the opinions and feelings of every single member. Implementing a referendum to decide such an important issue is not only necessary; it is an excellent indicator of the health of the Coop as a democratic institution. If we conduct this process successfully, it will strengthen our community by replacing the mistrust and avoidance we currently use to deal with this issue with deeper respect and understanding. ■

## Not a Board

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

spills. He first became interested in Coop governance when the decision about whether or not to sell beer was being debated and put forth a successful proposal to make beer sales conditional on the store's expansion. That experience whetted his appetite for more participation. He's now been on the board for about ten years.

Imani Q'ryn, who also serves on the Chair Committee, was first elected to the board to fill a vacancy. She told the *Gazette*, "We take our mandate seriously. We value the democratic structure of the Coop and are pleased to have power in the hands of the membership." Imani is a real estate and telecom broker, and a former opera singer.

Elizabeth Tobier, a board member for nine years, is also Secretary of the Coop, responsible for keeping a record of the actions and decisions of the General Meeting. (According to the cooperative law, the president and vice president must be board members, but the treasurer (currently, General Coordinator Tricia Leith) and secretary do not have to be. Elizabeth has been a board member for nine years and secretary for ten. She said, "The Coop is a great organization. If it does have a shortcoming, it's in the area of communication. It's hard for people to get their heads around the management and decision making structure. And there are now so many committees, it's difficult to get in touch with them.")

Bill Penner, a Brooklyn architect, has been a board member for five years. His interest in Coop governance began when he became fascinated by the Coop's nonhierarchical, democratic structure. Bill also does his wife's shift as a member of the Receiving Committee.

Audrey Komaroff, a Coop member for 37 years, is the Parent Coordinator of Middle School 51 in Park Slope. She remembers when the Coop had 400 members. When her husband was a city bus operator and his hours changed constantly, she did the work requirements for both of them, and when her daughter was born, before the Coop had maternity leave, she did two FTOPs. Audrey became a board member in 2001 (when her daughter was old enough to be left alone on GM nights).

In sum, this is no ordinary board. There are no dinner parties, no expense account junkets, and no executive conference room. Joined at the hip to the General Meeting, the board "meets" when the GM does, and eats the same organic snacks as the rest of us. ■

**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.

# Important changes

**— that could affect your shopping privileges — are coming to the Coop on September 12!**

**Starting on September 12 the Checkout/Cashier stations will know your member status and your household status. A "suspension" could impact your ability to shop.**

**Contact the Membership Office or pick up a flier at the Entrance Desk to learn more.**

**Monthly on the...**

Last Sunday

JULY 31

10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Second Saturday

AUGUST 13

10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Third Thursday

AUGUST 18

7:00 P.M.—9:00 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.



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**This Issue Prepared By:**

Coordinating Editors: Stephanie Golden  
Erik Lewis

Editors (development): Erik Lewis  
Joan Minieri

Reporters: Frank Haberle  
Ed Levy  
Alison Rose Levy

Art Director (development): Eva Schicker

Illustrators: Lynn Bernstein  
Ethan Pettit  
Donna Evans

Photographers: Rod Morrison  
Traffic Manager: Barbara Knight  
Thumbnails: Kristin Lilley

Preproduction: Peter Benton  
Helena Boskovic

Photoshop: Terrance Carney

Art Director (production): Dilhan Kushan

Desktop Publishing: Kevin Cashman  
Midori Nakamura  
Oliver Yourke

Editor (production): Lynn Goodman

Puzzle Master: James Vasile

Final Proofreader: Nancy Rosenberg

Index: Len Neufeld

**Check Store Supplies****Monday, 9:00 to 11:45 a.m.**

This workslot is responsible for restocking supplies on the shopping floor, at checkout lanes, entrance desks and the cashier stations, and in the basement. This is a task- and detail-oriented job, ideal for someone who likes working independently and is pro-active. Please speak to Alex in the Membership Office or contact him at alex\_marquez@psfc.coop if you are interested.

**Bathroom Cleaning****12:00 to 2:00 p.m.**

Work with a partner to deep clean the Coop's bathrooms. Tasks include scrubbing floor tiles, cleaning toilets, mopping floors

and stocking the bathrooms. You will work with only natural cleaning products. This job is perfect for members who like to clean and are conscientious about doing a thorough job.

**Plastics Recycling****Saturday or Sunday, 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 11:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

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 out-

doors in all kinds of weather. You will need to contact Membership Coordinator Cynthia Pennycooke via phone, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., or via e-mail at cynthia\_pennycooke@psfc.coop, prior to being assigned to this shift.

**Cashier Subs Ledger****Thursday, 6:00 to 8:45 p.m.**

Do you like working with numbers, have good data-entry skills and can work independently? Attention to details (especially working with numbers) is a must. The position requires good attendance and a six-month commitment to the work slot. Please contact Kathy Hieatt through the Membership Office or at kathy\_hieatt@psfc.coop or if you are interested.

**COOP CALENDAR****New Member Orientations**

Attending an Orientation is the first step toward Coop membership. Pre-registration is required for all of the four 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](http://www.foodcoop.com)**The Coop on Cable TV***Inside the Park Slope Food Coop*

FRIDAYS 2:30 p.m. with a replay at 10:30 p.m.  
Channels: 56 (TimeWarner), 69 (CableVision).

**General Meeting Info****TUE, AUG 2**

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m.

Submissions will be considered for the Aug 30 General Meeting.

**TUE, AUG 30**

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

**Gazette Deadlines****LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:**

Aug 11 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Aug 1  
Aug 25 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Aug 15

**CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:**

Aug 11 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Aug 3  
Aug 25 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Aug 17

**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, August 30, 7:00 p.m.**

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

**Location**

The Temple House of Congregation Beth Elohim (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place.

**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

• Enjoy some Coop snacks • 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-up 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

jul 30  
sat 2 pm

## Joy! What Is It? Where Is It? How Can I Get It?

Come and learn specialized eastern and Mayan secrets to discovering what it is that may be blocking you from your own power, strength and joy. You will be introduced to Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT) and the Four Agreements, which show you how to reduce or eliminate your emotional blockages, past traumas, pain, anger, phobias, fears and trauma memories. **Carolyn Meiselbach** is a long-time member of the Coop. She has an advanced certification in both hypnosis and EFT, with a private practice in Carroll Gardens.

jul 30  
sat 5 pm

## The Gems of Excellence

A Geotran introduction. A brain-mind empowerment course for joyous-successful living. Want to love again, but feel isolated? Would like your creativity back, but lost your passion, focus and drive? Do worry, fear and fatigue steal your joy away? If you are to willing and open to transform your old patterns it can be done with ease and fun. The body is like a magnet, and when these experiences are in cellular memory, the body attracts the same experiences. Doctors and other professionals have used these techniques for daily stresses, eating disorders, robbery, rape and emotions such as anger, anxiety, fear and others. This unique technology will be demonstrated by **Marija Santo**.

jul 31  
sun 12 pm

## Peeling the Onion: A Workshop on Research

Are you frustrated by how long it takes to find useful information about a given topic? Overwhelmed by the Internet and all the data out there? Unsure when to trust a source? Unable to translate your information needs to concrete queries? Learn about the current information environment and how to navigate its layers for more fruitful searching sessions. Whether you're a student, a community activist, an independent journalist or just someone who wants to be more efficient, come for research tips and tricks (and bring your own to share)! **Melissa Morrone** is a public librarian in Brooklyn and a member of the librarians' collective Radical Reference.

aug 2  
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. **The next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 30, 7 p.m., at Congregation Beth Elohim Social Hall (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place at Eighth Avenue.**

aug 7  
sun 12 pm

## Nutrition Response Testing

Digestive Problems? Bad Skin? Overweight? Low Energy? These are just a few of the challenges that will respond to a custom-designed nutrition program. Nutrition response testing is a precise, analytical tool that enables us to identify the underlying reason your body is creating symptoms. Then we can test you for the most precise supplementation, the perfect diet and create a personalized program just for you! Coop member **Diane Paxton**, MS, LAc, is the owner and principal of Inner Fire Integrative Health Services, with offices in Manhattan and Park Slope.

aug 9  
tue 7 pm

## Safe Food Committee Film Night: Chinatown



Plow to Plate will be screening the 1974 psycho-mystery-noir classic film **Chinatown**, which was inspired by the historical disputes over land and water rights that raged in southern California during the 1910s and 1920s. Starring Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway and directed by Roman Polanski.

Special guests will be on hand for a post-screening discussion.

aug 14  
sun 12 pm

## Healthy Thyroid

Learn how to heal your own thyroid and free yourself of weight gains, depression, indigestion, hair loss and possibly medication. Some topics of the talk: food that sabotages and food that heals the thyroid; how water impacts the thyroid; vitamins and minerals that matter; emotions, stress and the thyroid; how to pick a good endocrinologist and what to ask him/her; how to interpret thyroid blood test results. Coop member **Magdalena** cured herself from years of Hashimoto's Disease, which is an auto-immune disease causing hypothyroid. She was told it was incurable. Today she teaches how to self-heal with food, supplements, water and stress management.

aug 19-20  
fri-sat 11 am-6 pm

## Blood Drive

Fact: Less than 3% of the population donates blood, and 90% will use blood some time in their life. Presented in cooperation with New York Methodist Hospital. For further information about blood donation, call 718-780-3644.

aug 28  
sun 12 pm

## Intro to Fertility Awareness

Learn how to chart your menstrual cycle events in order to achieve or avoid pregnancy. This workshop will describe the basic tools used to interpret the body's signals, indicating fertile and infertile days. By paying attention to these signs, a woman is able to prevent or achieve pregnancy depending on her wishes. Women with menstrual issues, irregular cycles or compromised fertility may also find charting helpful. Open to both women and men. Coop member **Kim Chinh** is currently in training to become certified as a Holistic Reproductive Healthcare Practitioner through a Canadian program: Justisse Healthworks for Women.

aug 30  
tue 7 pm

## PSFC AUG General Meeting



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

Coop office. **Meeting location: Congregation Beth Elohim Social Hall (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place at Eighth Avenue.**

aug 30  
tue 7-9 pm

## NOFA Locavore Cooking Challenge

Several experienced cooks—all Coop members—will demonstrate how to make delicious dishes using the great variety and abundance of foods the Coop carries within a 200-mile radius. Come to sample the delicious offerings and take home recipes that you may easily use at home. The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY) was founded in 1983, and has grown steadily along with the growth of organic farms in New York state. It is an organization of consumers, gardeners and farmers, working together to create a sustainable regional food system that is ecologically sound and economically viable. Through demonstration and educational opportunities, it promotes land stewardship, organic food production and local marketing.

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

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

# jul 30–oct 16 2011

sep 1  
thu 7:30 pm

## Food Class: Fermentation Basics



Susan Baldassano, Coordinator

Raw, vitamin-rich and full of probiotics, traditionally lacto-fermented foods such as sauerkraut, kimchi and half-sour pickles are both delicious and healthy. They are also easy to make. Chef **Michaela Hayes** will discuss fermentation basics and demonstrate how to prepare these foods. She developed the “pickling” position while at Gramercy Tavern, expanding her preservation repertoire to include fermented pickles such as kimchi and nuka-zuke (Japanese rice-bran pickles). She learned about the sauerkraut business and began co-packing and creating pickles and jam in Santa Cruz, CA. Based in Brooklyn, she teaches pickling, canning and fermentation through her company, Crock & Jar. *Menu includes classic sauerkraut; kimchi; half-sour pickles. Materials fee: \$4.*

sep 2  
fri 7 pm

## Film Night



Film to be announced.

To book a Film Night, contact Faye Lederman, [squeezestone@hotmail.com](mailto:squeezestone@hotmail.com).

sep 6  
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. **The next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 7 p.m., at Congregation Beth Elohim Social Hall (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place at Eighth Avenue.**

sep 10  
sat 12 pm

## Understanding Your Toddler

Toddlers can be delightful, confusing, frustrating and exhausting—all in the span of five minutes! Understanding the toddler's developmental changes can help parents navigate the often demanding toddler years with increased patience and skill. This workshop will explore the reasons for toddlers' behavior. We'll discuss balancing the needs of the child and the parents, and ideas for handling common challenging behaviors, such as tantrums and defiance. Pre-registration requested: to register, e-mail [info@playdatesforparents.org](mailto:info@playdatesforparents.org). Coop member **Becky Plattus** and Sharon Connor are social workers and early-childhood and parent educators.

sep 10  
sat 3 pm

## What Are Nutrient-Dense Foods

You trust that everything you and your family eat is nourishing, but in truth, most of it only adds unnecessary energy and not enough of the nutrients that make health soar. Come and learn about the nutrient-dense foods that we, just like our ancestors, need for flourishing health. You won't look at your grocery shopping cart the same way again. **Andrea Ramirez** is a health coach for women with chronic digestive, auto-immune and hormonal issues.

sep 11  
sun 12 pm

## Fibroids, Cysts and PMS

Participants will learn five effective, natural ways to eliminate fibroids, cysts and PMS. Learn the underlying causes of hormonal imbalance, how to resolve them and how to boost energy and clarity through beneficial diet, appropriate exercise and the use of natural supplements. Advanced registration suggested: call 646-483-4571. Coop member **Rebecca Curtis** is a licensed and registered health and fertility coach, through the New York State Department of Education and the American Association of Drugless Practitioners, specializing in women's issues and hormonal balance.

sep 13  
tue 7 pm

## Safe Food Committee Film Night



Film to be announced.

sep 16  
fri 8 pm

## The Very Good Coffeehouse Coop Concert Series



Performers to be announced.

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

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

sep 27  
tue 7 pm

## PSFC SEPT General Meeting



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

Coop office. **Meeting location: Congregation Beth Elohim Social Hall (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place at Eighth Avenue.**

## still to come

oct 4 Agenda Committee Meeting

oct 11 Safe Food Committee Film Night

oct 6 Food Class

oct 15 Naturally Overcome Candida & Yeast Overgrowth

oct 7 Film Night

oct 15–16 Food Drive to Benefit CHIPS Soup Kitchen

## REMEMBERING THE PSFC MISSION STATEMENT

### TO THE EDITOR:

I am sure that many Coop members who are in favor of boycotting products from Israel are against legalized abuse of human rights everywhere. However, I wonder if they have asked why BDS (boycott, divestment, sanctions) is concerned only with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with no mention of civil rights violations anywhere else.

Leaving aside the question of accuracy of BDS charges against Israel, my question is, why stop with that country? Why discriminate? PSFC's mission statement includes the commitments to diversity and equality, and opposition to discrimination in any form. So in view of those principles, how about boycotting EVERY country violating the civil rights of ANY group?

Such countries aren't hard to identify. On their web sites Amnesty International and the Human Rights Watch list many countries that legally sanction and practice civil rights abuses, ranging from discrimination to torture, based, among other things, on gender, race, national identity, political affiliation, or sexual preference. Predictably, the lists include Sudan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, China, Afghanistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Algeria and (yes!) the Palestine authority, among many others—including the United States.

A BDS referendum should go all the way, reflecting the Coop's principles of democracy and egalitarianism by proposing a boycott on products from every country on those lists.

So if it passes, instead of buying humus from New Jersey and Queens, maybe the Coop can arrange to get it from Iceland (named in the 2011 Global Peace Index as the most peaceful country), or just grow our own chickpeas so we'll be sure to have something to eat.

In other words, the BDS proposal has logical implications that are absurd. But logical absurdity is the least of the problems. A boycott would have destructive results, not for the Middle East, but for the Coop.

Boycotting products from Israel will have no effect whatever on the Middle East. It will have a profound effect on the PSFC by alienating a considerable number of members and dividing the community that has prided itself on harmony in diversity. Our Mission Statement ends with the words "We strive to make the Coop welcoming and accessible to all, and to respect the opinions, needs and concerns of every member."

We joined the Coop to buy food. Divisive global political movements have no place in its policies.

Ruth Bolletino

ILLUSTRATION BY ETHAN PETTIT



## OUT THERE

### DEAR EDITOR:

My family enjoys its shopping experience and the feelings of community at the Coop. We like seeing members of the surrounding neighborhoods and feeling like we are involved in a community that is committed to bringing a quality service to Brooklyn and helping other neighborhoods establish their own coops.

I feel that this enjoyment is being threatened by outside politics, namely the BDS movement's efforts to bring its agenda of delegitimizing Israel. This is not related to food quality but to something "out there." I do not come to the Coop to deal with the politics of "out there," especially when Israel seems to be constant focus of "out there." I am glad that there is not constant reference to other issues "out there," but it makes one wonder why this particular focus when it creates such divisiveness on something not related to food quality and the shopping experience.

I come to the Coop to shop and attend General Meetings to hear about food quality and service improvement issues. I want to continue to do so without feeling uncomfortable. There are products I do not buy because of the political situation from where they originate but I would never make anyone else feel uncomfortable because of my personal politics. I hope that the Coop will continue to be a place where every group can feel at ease shopping and make their own choices on whether or not to purchase an item.

Please keep the politics of "out there," outside. Let's maintain the goal of bringing the highest quality of food and service to the Coop and making everyone feel welcome.

Sincerely,

Gloria Blumenthal

## HOW DO I DEBATE THEE? LET ME COUNT THE WAYS

### TO THE EDITORS

It is hard to keep from diving into the discussion on whether or not the Coop should join the boycott of goods from Israel, as so many members are doing. Judging from the concerned (and often infuriating) letters on this matter, the proposal has provoked wide interest.

However, the issue before us at the moment is not the proposed boycott itself, but *the process* by which the Coop will use to resolve the matter. Should the decision be made: a) at a General Membership meeting? b) by referendum of all members? c) not at all (preventing the membership from voting on the proposal altogether)?

AFTER we make that decision as to "process" presumably at the upcoming General Meeting, then we can all decide the merits of the particular viewpoints.

There's another aspect of "process"

that I want to address as well—the way in which the discussion has already begun to take place. It's one thing to have conflicting opinions. It's quite another to be intentionally fed misinformation, or to mock, falsely characterize or disparage those who disagree with you. It's *not all right to do that*. Let's end the rhetorical slamming, now!

For example, we've been told—by people who know better—that while the Coop has indeed boycotted individual corporations we have never boycotted a geographical area. But that's not true. The Coop participated in the boycott of the entire state of Colorado, for one, to protest that state's anti-gay policies (even though it temporarily affected sales of Celestial Seasons and other companies located there). And we participated in the boycott of South Africa and the fight against apartheid. So whether one supports or opposes the proposal to boycott Israeli products, there is certainly precedent in the Coop's history for a "geographical" boycott of Israel.

One also has to be very careful not to ascribe motivation to those who disagree with you. While I have not yet been called a "self-hating Jew" on the pages of the *Gazette*, there have been clear intimations by some who oppose the boycott of Israel that I and others are anti-Jewish, or are supporting an effort that "is not about human rights after all," or "Do I hear 'Jews' from off-stage?"

I've been moved to my views opposing the Israeli government's actions through experiences that are just as vivid, powerful and heartbreaking as anyone else's. And I'm sure I could sling the rhetoric with the best of 'em, but is that really the way we want to conduct this discussion? I don't appreciate the snide attacks, quoted above, as to my motives in supporting the boycott. I'd hope that most Coop members, regardless of our positions on this particular issue, would agree with me on the need to conduct a fair discussion. Right?

Mitchel Cohen

Brooklyn Greens/Green Party

## ON HOLDING A REFERENDUM ABOUT JOINING THE INTERNATIONAL BDS MOVEMENT

### TO THE EDITOR:

We continued an important discussion at the July 26th GM—over whether We Of the Park Slope Food Coop will hold a referendum on whether We As the Park Slope Food Coop will join the international movement to Boycott, Divest and Sanction Israel because of Israel's treatment of the Palestinian people living under Israeli military occupation (BDS).

Participants in the BDS Caucus and the More Hummus Caucus and indi-



viduals expressed opinions over the past year. At the July GM we discussed whether to implement a referendum. We did not vote. The Agenda Committee will schedule for an upcoming meeting the vote on whether the referendum on BDS will happen at the Coop. If/When the resolution passes, each and every member will be encouraged to submit a ballot and to vote yes or no on joining BDS. The majority will rule. If a majority of members vote to join the international BDS campaign, the Coop will stop selling products made in Israel or that directly support the Israeli military occupation of Palestine.

We have an opportunity and a responsibility to hold a referendum about joining BDS.

As members of the strongest consumer cooperative we understand the difference between our acts as individuals and our actions as a collective. The economic power and influence of our cooperative is a very effective tool. We make decisions together about what we want to sell/buy in light of our common values. Some of those are (From the Mission Statement which took 11 of us 7 months to compose): trust, cooperation, teamwork, equality, ethics, respect, earth-friendliness.

We cannot and we will not avoid controversy. Our opportunity is to hold dissent within our community with all the mature, mutual respect that we can institutionalize into a fair and transparent procedure for making a decision as a group. Our relative safety in Brooklyn and the broad diversity of our membership provides us a unique opportunity to confront this critically important issue that has multiple implications for every one of us, at home and as we travel. Coop members include Arabs of all kinds, Israelis of all kinds, Muslims of all kinds, Jews of all kinds, and all kinds of all kinds who will be able to speak, listen and vote. The world will listen too.

We in the US have an unavoidable responsibility. Our government is the hegemonic world power in a chaotic and violent time.

A debate at a GM over holding a referendum, and then implementing an inclusive vote over BDS will prove that we can debate a profound issue of our time with seriousness, dignity and mutual respect.

Susan Metz

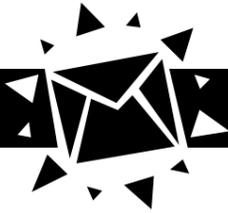
## HUMMUS

### TO THE EDITOR:

We, the undersigned 69 Coop members, continue to oppose the proposal to hold a referendum to join the Global Boycott, Divest, Sanctions (of Israel) Movement.

The Coop is a buying agent for its members. We keep prices low through the contribution of member labor.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



People join for the prices and the products. It is not the Coop's purpose to either promote or impose a partisan political position on any member. It is wrong to imply otherwise.

We are all free to choose our political positions. We can even choose to refrain from taking a position. The Coop's community has already been strained by one presentation of BDS. We cannot afford further identification with the blacklisting of Israel.

*More Hummus, Please*

|                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Rhudi Andreolli</i>   | <i>Maurice Appelbaum</i>  |
| <i>Rebecca Appelbaum</i> | <i>Shena Gitel Astrin</i> |
| <i>Connie Bell</i>       | <i>Greg Bell</i>          |
| <i>Steven Berke</i>      | <i>Gloria Blumenthal</i>  |
| <i>Robert Blumenthal</i> | <i>Ruth Bolletino</i>     |
| <i>Elisa Bonneau</i>     | <i>Rita Brookoff</i>      |
| <i>Matthew Brown</i>     | <i>Darrin Cabot</i>       |
| <i>Nathalie Cabot</i>    | <i>Chana Crayk</i>        |
| <i>Meir Craykt</i>       |                           |

## THE REAL DEAL

## TO THE COOP MEMBERSHIP:

Letters in the *Gazette* have described the global movement for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel (BDS) as a Palestinian-initiated project whose leaders have openly called for a one-state solution

to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

The right of return being a core issue of BDS, anyone considering support for the Coop's association with this project needs to be aware that the goals of BDS preclude the existence of the state of Israel in favor of a happy-ever-after scenario where Jews live safely and securely in peace and harmony amidst a Muslim majority. Helping to bring about this fanciful vision is regarded by BDS supporters as somehow in keeping with the Coop's mission.

As a Coop member since the mid 1970s, I don't recall any objections to boycotting Coca-Cola or supporting the United Farm Workers and the movement to end apartheid in South Africa. But proponents of Coop affiliation with this radical non-solution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict would have us believe that the extreme polarization this would create within our Coop community isn't a bad thing.

One last comment: It's been suggested that the Jewish ethnicity of some boycott supporters adds legitimacy to their claims. But the well-known fact of Jewish diversity of opinion about Israel (from BDS supporters, to the more liberal J-Street, to the more conservative AIPAC) doesn't add any moral authority to the BDS movement.

An upcoming General Meeting may include an agenda item to vote on whether or not to hold a referendum for the Coop to affiliate with the BDS movement by boycotting Israeli products. Those of you who recognize that this affiliation will cause extreme distress to many Coop members and those who even minimally support the mere existence of the state of Israel may wish to attend and vote "No" on this proposal.

(Meeting agendas are announced in the *Calendar of Events* in the *Gazette* edition preceding each meeting.)

*Sylvia Lowenthal*

## THE ILLOGIC OF BDS

## TO THE EDITOR:

I like many others oppose any proposal to have the Coop join the Boycott, Divest, and Sanction (BDS) movement against Israel.

The many recent letters favoring this proposal deflect rather than address the issues. One writer suggests that in the simple act of defending the anti-BDS position, the defenders are "passive aggressive". There is delicious irony in being offered a lesson in rhetorical civility from defenders of a movement that couches its position in the hyperbolic language of demonic ascription, Israel as "apartheid state". Argument by demonization is not argument about ideas. It is a distortive analogy, with no congruence with apartheid as defined by international law authorities (ICC (Rome Statute), ICERD, ICSPCA), ascribing diabolic intention to a nation that is multiethnic, multiracial, and religiously plural (with African, Yemenite, Georgian, and over a million Israelis who don't practice Judaism), and one in which religious coercion, racial segregation laws, indoctrination of racial ideology, media censorship, political party bans, are absent, and in which Arab citizens vote and serve in all strata of government from cabinet to Knesset, serving on and bringing successful suits before the Supreme Court. There are no saints in geopolitics—not Israel, not the United States, nor Arab regimes—but vilification, and selective delegitimization, is not argument, and so again fails to engage true issues.

This is not made any more cogent by the argument of another writer that, after all, the Coop did in the past take a stand on South Africa's apartheid, failing to note the critical difference: there was within the Coop no "pro-apartheid" faction. This present issue is not "manifest" but clearly exhibits a spectrum of views, pro and con, a proposal in fact that is deeply polarizing/disunifying.

Another writer objects to representing the BDS movement as "an opposition to the two state solution", but then goes on to clarify—apparently by argument from self-contradiction—that what it "openly call[s] for is

a one-state solution"; clearly, to advocate a one-state solution is to oppose a two-state solution, with a binational state a non-solution (the eclipse of Israel by demographics) in the guise of a solution (one now abandoned as hopeless even by one of its major original proponents, Noam Chomsky), again not truly engaging the real issues. This is also the case with the claim (not right) of return—no such "right," that changes the character and nature of a country, is recognized under international law—which ignores the equivalent number of Jews displaced from Arab lands. The "claim of return" is an argument made in bad faith: sincere solutions to the Israeli/Palestinian problem must necessarily include and be realistic also for Israel.

Nor is the claim that the very fact of a Jewish state (a multiethnic, multiracial, and religiously pluralistic state) is objectionable in any way persuasive, and certainly no more objectionable than Muslim, Catholic, Protestant or Eastern Orthodox states.

For these reasons, please oppose the divisive/politicizing BDS proposal.

|                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Zusha Dean</i>             | <i>Audrey Elias</i>           |
| <i>Mickey Elias</i>           | <i>Eli Eliav</i>              |
| <i>Shayna Eliav</i>           | <i>Arthur Finn</i>            |
| <i>Carol Freeman</i>          | <i>Riva Freeman</i>           |
| <i>Jordan Goldberg</i>        | <i>Felicia Glucksman</i>      |
| <i>Beth Halpern</i>           | <i>Devorah Hershkop</i>       |
| <i>Samuel Hertz</i>           | <i>Esther Hertz</i>           |
| <i>Sheldon Jacobson</i>       | <i>Constantine Kaniklidis</i> |
| <i>Eric Kim</i>               | <i>Maureen Kushner</i>        |
| <i>Chaya Lang</i>             | <i>Tzvi Lang</i>              |
| <i>David Leveson</i>          | <i>Margaret Leveson</i>       |
| <i>Chana Lew</i>              | <i>Sylvia Lowenthal</i>       |
| <i>Sandy Mandel</i>           | <i>Abie Mazor</i>             |
| <i>Avishay Mazor</i>          | <i>Barbara Mazor</i>          |
| <i>Jacob Milkens</i>          | <i>Juliet Milkens</i>         |
| <i>Paula Morrell</i>          | <i>Poppy O'Neill</i>          |
| <i>Jan Orzeck</i>             | <i>Rodger Parsons</i>         |
| <i>Rachel Ravitz</i>          | <i>Lila Rieman</i>            |
| <i>Michael Rieman</i>         | <i>Jill Robinson</i>          |
| <i>Mirele Rosenberger</i>     | <i>Jesse Rosenfeld</i>        |
| <i>Tzivia Chaya Rosenthal</i> |                               |
| <i>Yaacov Rosenthal</i>       | <i>Ruth Seliger</i>           |
| <i>Muskie Silberberg</i>      | <i>Naftali Silberberg</i>     |
| <i>Rivkah Siegel</i>          | <i>Nancy Spitalnick</i>       |
| <i>Marion Stein</i>           | <i>Ronald J. Stein</i>        |
| <i>Allen Tobias</i>           | <i>Baruch Weisman</i>         |

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

## 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](mailto: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, factual coverage:

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

2. Nor will we publish accusations that are 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.

ILLUSTRATION BY ETHAN PETTIT



**To Submit Classified or Display Ads:**

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

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

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Labor Day Weekend!**

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hazon.org/nyride



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for \$75 off

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Hazon New York Jewish Environmental Bike Ride & Retreat  
hazon.org/nyride



use code "coop"  
for \$75 off

**Stress free cycling and  
an environmentally  
conscious retreat.**

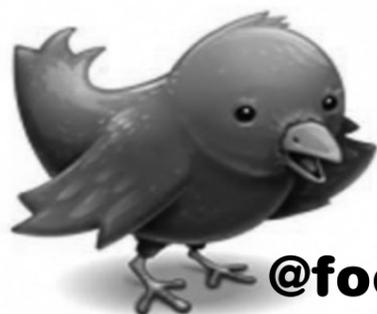
Hazon New York Jewish Environmental Bike Ride & Retreat  
hazon.org/nyride



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**THE HOUSE ON 3rd ST. B&B** - serving Park Slope for 20 yrs.! Beautiful parlor floor thru, sleeps 4-5 in comfort and privacy. Queen bed, bath, double living room, piano, AC, flatscreen, wi-fi, deck overlooking yard, kitchen. Visit our web site at Houseon3st.com or on FB at The House on Third St. B&B or call Jane at 718-788-7171.

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**HELP WANTED** - Local Licensed and Insured Moving Company needs Drivers and Helpers. Must have a clean driver's license. Call for interview. Position is part-time only. Robert 718-622-0377. Must be reliable, courteous and always on time.

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**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.

**ATTORNEY**—Experienced personal injury trial lawyer representing injured bicyclists and other accident victims. Limited caseload to ensure maximum compensation.

Member of NYSTLA and ATLA. No recovery, no fee. Free consult. Manhattan office. Park Slope resident. Long time PSFC member. Adam D. White. 212-577-9710.

**ATTORNEY**—Personal Injury Emphasis—33 years experience in all aspects of injury law. Individual attention provided for entire case. Free phone or office consultation. Prompt, courteous communications. 22-year Park Slope Food Coop member; Park Slope resident; downtown Brooklyn office. Tom Guccione, 718-596-4184, also at www.tguccionelaw.com.

**DO YOU** or a senior you love need to downsize & move? Or just get organized? We are a senior move manager here to help: create a floor plan of your new home, sell & donate possessions, pack & unpack and manage the move. Insured. 917-374-1525. Email: Katie@papermoonmoves.com or visit www.papermoonmoves.com.



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**HOLISTIC OPTOMETRY:** Most eye doctors treat patients symptomatically by prescribing ever-increasing prescriptions. We try to find the source of your vision problem. Some of the symptoms that can be treated include headaches, eye fatigue, computer discomfort, learning disabilities.

Convenient Park Slope location. Dr. Jerry Wintrob, 718-789-2020. holisticeyecare.com.

**HOLISTIC DOCTOR** in Naturopathy stimulates body's natural ability to heal chronic conditions, allergy, skin, muscle, cancer support with homeopathy, physical & chelation therapies, bioenergetic acupuncture, lab tests, hair analysis & more. Research Director. 20 years exp. As Featured in Allure magazine. Dr. Gilman 212-505-1010.

**HOLISTIC DENTISTRY** in Manhattan (SOHO). Dr. Stephen R. Goldberg provides comprehensive family dental care using non-mercury fillings, crowns, dentures, thorough cleanings, non-surgical gum treatments with minimal X-rays. For a free initial exam in a nutrition-oriented practice and for insurance information, please call 212-505-5055.

**NATURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATES** offering naturopathic & allopathic med-IV therapy - colonics - biopuncture for pain - allergy testing - massage. Call for our "Spring Into Health" special. Insurance Reimbursable. Call: 718-636-3880.

**CURE YOUR THYROID.** Learn from a thyroid nutrition expert who cured her own Hashimoto's. Learn how food, water, vitamins, minerals and thoughts impact the gland. Plus, how to pick the right endo, read blood test results. Magdalena Wszelaki (HHC) 646-580-0121. www.yatracoach.com.

**ZUMBA FOR PEOPLE OVER 60.** A slow dance & fitness routine that anyone can do. Come one come all! Have fun. Learn Latin dance just like regular Zumba! If you are over 60 you will be glad to pay the \$10 for an hour of dancing. Come to the basement at 53 Prospect Park West Fridays at 12:30 p.m. sharp.

**VACATION RENTALS**

**VACATION-PENNA.** country house rental: 4 BR, 2 bath, private pond and stream, large lawns, full kitchen and screened porch. 3 hours from NYC. Available various weeks in June, July, August or Sept. \$600/wk. Great for families and kids. Call 718-622-8175.

**HUDSON VALLEY COTTAGES.** Friendly, historic, 3-season community in Northern Wetchester. 1-hour train ride to NYC. Enjoy organic community garden, hiking, tennis, pool, wifi cafe, social activities. 1-3 BR cottages. \$35k-\$129k. www.reynoldshills.org/bungalow-shop. Contact: Mel: 347-307-4642 or melgarfinkel@yahoo.com.

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

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

**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.

**SUN, JUL 31**

Awakening to Awe: Tikkun contributor Dr. Kirk Schneider shows how we can draw on the power of awe to renew a sense of adventure in our work, family life and moral decision making. 11 a.m., Brooklyn Ethical Society, 53 PPW, www.bsec.org.



**TUE, AUG 2**

The Brooklyn Women's Chorus is having open rehearsals to invite new members. No auditions. Try it out for free, no commitment. Tuesday evenings at 7:30 (except Aug. 30.) at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture Prospect Park West at 2nd St. For information www.brooklynwomenschorus.com/ or call Bev Grant at 718-788-3741. We strive to represent the diversity of the women of Brooklyn; all women are welcome and encouraged to join.

**THANK YOU!**

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

|                    |                    |                     |                      |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Adam Abel          | Aditi Dhruv        | Aaron Kotler        | Sapna Shah           |
| Muriel Abeledo     | Jay Dixit          | E. Kramer           | Imtiaz Siddiqui      |
| Macrina Aivazian   | Maria Estrada      | Mahayana Landowne   | Tayo Simpson         |
| Amanda             | Elizabeth Foley    | Elizabeth London    | Kim Skadan           |
| Leonard Baldassano | Erin Frederick     | Jenifer Macartney   | Sharon Slaughter     |
| Amena Black        | Ken Garson         | Sharon Madanes      | Leah Spigelman       |
| Zealie Blyden      | Stephanie Goichman | Theresa Marchetta   | Kristina Strobel     |
| Leila Buck         | Sair Goldenberg    | Margo               | Daniel Sole          |
| Maria Cangiano     | Julie Goldsheid    | Christine McCarthy  | Sara Soudavar        |
| April Cantor       | Graham & Laurence  | Michael McGinnis    | Lisa Sposato         |
| Lindsay Caplan     | Rebecca Halleran   | Melanie McLaughlin  | Jacquelyn Stewart    |
| Adam Chasen        | Andrew Harmon      | Danae McLeod        | Tara Tabassi         |
| Barnett Cohen      | Tara Hart          | Meredith Mendelsohn | Marcy Perlman Tardio |
| Isil Celimli       | Jennifer Hayashida | Matthew Mills       | Michael Tumbarello   |
| Marna Chester      | Alana Heller       | Nancy               | Grit Vltavsky        |
| Ty Citerman        | Fryske Helms       | Daniel Packer       | Ashley Volz          |
| Hilda Cohen        | Clara Hungr        | Veronica Price      | Danika Votava        |
| Jason Covert       | Michael Ianello    | David Robinson      | Erica Weitzman       |
| Bridget Cross      | Elizabeth Jones    | Anya Rous           | Kathryn Winder       |
| Brett Crudgington  | Elsie Kagan        | Zach Samalin        | Helen Woo            |
| Evan Davies        | Jesse Kaminash     | Ted Sands           | Lisa Wood            |
| Cindy Day          | Mira Kaplan        | Geri Saxe           | Chi-Hui Yang         |
| Shea Dean          | John KixMiller     | Anthony Sepulveda   | Rye Yong             |

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**SUMMERTIME**



...and the living is easy.

But don't forget your coop shift!

If you plan on being away during one of your workslots, please make arrangements to have your shift covered. One way to do it is to use the Shift Swap at www.foodcoop.com! If you plan on being away for eight weeks or more, contact the Membership Office to take a leave of absence.

**Your co-workers will love you for it!**

**AUGUST 5TH, 6:30-9:30 P.M.**

TRS CONFERENCE CENTER • 44 EAST 32ND STREET, 11TH FLOOR  
 Pre-registration suggested: to register call (646) 483-4571  
 or e-mail GreenGemHealth@gmail.com.

**HERE'S WHY YOU'RE NOT PREGNANT**

**AUGUST 15TH, 6:30-9:30 P.M.**

THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE  
 53 PROSPECT PARK WEST (AT 2ND ST), BROOKLYN, NY  
 Pre-registration suggested: to register call (646) 483-4571  
 or e-mail GreenGemHealth@gmail.com.

**HERE'S WHY YOU'RE NOT PREGNANT**



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

**LET'S TOUR THE WORLD****BROTHERS AND SISTERS,**

Please, take my hand and let's tour the world, for it is a beautiful planet we live in. Let's see the beauty of Russia, where dissidents are thrown to jail for voicing the ecological concerns; from there we'll visit Afghanistan or perhaps India where women are silenced and married off before puberty. We continue farther to China, where personal freedom and expression of speech are quashed. Let's visit South America and to Africa, where some countries have corrupt regimes that abuse and defraud their own people.

But we're the Park Slope Food Coop! We must do something about it! And do something we shall...! How are we to do to fix all of this troubled world? My answer is: buy and sell food. That's because we know food: it's our special power and we'll use what we do best to fix the world.

But if we're so upset with say, Russia, China or India's abuses—would our Coop's boycott stop these countries from their bad behavior? Are we so important that these countries' rulers will amend their ways on account of the "mighty" Coop? The answer is "no" (but you knew that already...). However, when we boycott a country, it's the people of this country that we punish, not the state in which they live.

How about Israel? The same logic is applicable with the products of Israel: by proposing to stop buying products from Israel, the Coop will lose in three ways: first, the Coop will lose by not getting good products for our members, some products that have been selling for years; second, the Coop will lose by sanctioning the people who produce the food, not their country of residence (they may very well be the people whose political views is one that opposes oppression); thirdly, by avoiding food from a particular state—the Coop will be losing members.

However, there may be something to be gained by boycotting Israel: We will get a warm fuzzy, naïve, self-indulging sense of satisfaction: "there, we showed them!" (in fact we'll be doing more harm than good.)

To do good, the Coop should concentrate on what it does best: sell good food. And by "good" I mean it in

the wide definition of doing Good, including honestly and fairly produced food. If there's evidence that the food we sell is used to oppress or deny others their human rights, I say we stop buying that product from the people that make that particular product. We've already done so by deciding to buy for example, only "Fair Trade" coffee instead of boycotting the entire set of coffee producing countries. However, categorically avoiding a country's product will likely harm honest, fair-minded farmers and producers and not their countries.

In conclusion: say no to boycotting Israel and say yes to "good" food.

Cooperatively,  
Yigal Rechtman

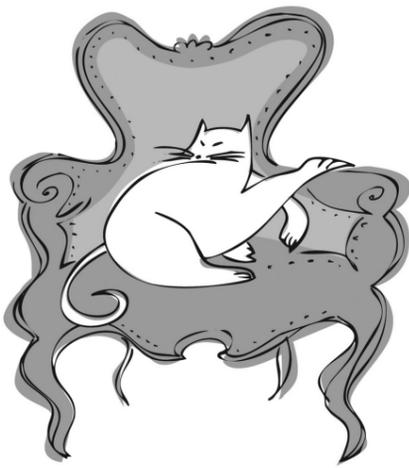


ILLUSTRATION BY ETHAN PETTIT

**UN-NATURAL NATURAL****DEAR APPLGATE:**

As a long-time consumer of both organic and "natural" Applegate products, such as your chicken, turkey and organic beef hot dogs, I learned with dismay in the July 2 *New York Times* (see: [www.nytimes.com/2011/07/02/business/02hotdog.com](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/02/business/02hotdog.com)) and then through a close reading of your Website, that these products may be chock full of carcinogenic nitrates and nitrites. As a science teacher, I can instantly see the obfuscation regarding the so-called natural sourcing of these preservatives as presented on your Website. It does not matter if the nitrates/nitrites are derived from celery juice or sea salt; if they are extracted and then concentrated by multiple orders of magnitude, it's still going to dangerous. Very dangerous! (Both coal and petroleum are 100% natural materials—pulled right from the bosom of mother earth herself—and by this

reckoning, so would be any compounds derived from them.)

I have been feeding your hot dogs to my son—as well as enjoying quite a few myself—believing they were *uncured*, i.e., no nitrites or nitrates of ANY derivation. I shop at the Park Slope Food Coop—along with around 15,000 other folks—and am going to make sure this information is prominently shared with fellow Coop members, in order that they will be able to make educated choices regarding this serious issue. (There is little scientific debate anymore about the carcinogenic hazards of nitrates/nitrites, and the nitrosamines that derive from them.)

Although I realize yours is not the only company which puts these preservatives in foods and then labels them "uncured," I am at the moment quite angry that your business practices would include obfuscation and deception, if you can get away with it. (I also realize that the USDA encourages or even *mandates* such labeling, but the USDA has always been more or less an industry puppet. I expect better from the manufacturers of organic products!)

The fact that there are potentially carcinogenic curing agents at levels similar to that of conventional products should be prominently displayed on your label. I really don't give a "hoot" about your (or anyone else's) "bottom line." For my family, the bottom line is our health, and our ability to take defensive measures against the increasing onslaught of dangerous chemicals in our foods and in our environment—curing agents included! Please reply!

Sincerely,  
Victor Jaroslaw

**"SHOPPING, NOT PROFITS?" CORRECTION AND REQUEST****TO THE EDITOR:**

In "Shopping, Not Profits?" (June 30, 2011), Danielle Uchitelle writes: "Unlike a charitable organization such as City Harvest, for example, we are expected to pay federal, state, and local taxes on our business income, and pay we do: the last audited [Coop] financial statement lists payments of around \$283,000 for payroll taxes...."

Actually, City Harvest and all other not-for-profit organizations that maintain regular employees are also responsible for payroll taxes, no less than the Coop.

Not specifically mentioned in Ms. Uchitelle's article is sales tax, which the Coop charges to our purchases and then pays to New York. Until recently we were not taxed on food purchases, but sales tax is now applied to certain prepared foods at the Coop.

It appears that not all prepared foods are taxed under the new regulations. I have tried to verify the scope of this tax change with Coop staff, but have not received a definitive answer to date. It would be helpful if a clarification of this issue were published in the *Gazette*.

Cooperatively yours,  
Regina Sandler-Phillips

[Editor's note: The PSFC is not a not-for-profit corporation. It is incorporated under the NYS Cooperative Corporation Law. The PSFC pays NYS Franchise Tax, whereas a not-for-profit does not pay this tax. All businesses employing employees must pay payroll taxes that include Medicare, Social Security, Federal, State and City withholding taxes, whether they are not-for-profit or not. Additionally, all retail businesses must collect NYS sales tax on taxable items. Recently, it was determined by the PSFC legal counsel that certain prepared sandwiches fell within the NYS sales tax category and sales tax has been collected on these items.]

**ON ALT. HOLIDAY**

Let others go climbing mountains  
While some seek Roman fountains  
Or take to exotic beaches  
And scuba among sea creaches.  
Highways are nearly buckling,  
Leading to white-knuckling,  
With the sun in punishment mode:  
Ready to explode?  
Travel broadens the mind  
But traffic makes for a grind.  
So many places to view—  
New Zealand, China, Peru.  
But think of the airport throng;  
Worth the hassle to Hong Kong?  
A requirement of such vacations  
Is rehabilitations  
Thanks but no thanks, folks—  
Rather cool off with Cokes.  
This summer I'm NYC-ing,  
Cozily websiteseeing.

Leon Freilich

**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.

|                      |                         |                |                  |                   |                 |                  |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Alejandra Alvarez    | Willie Brown            | Simon Day      | Andreas Karras   | Mayda Pezacka     | Monia Sayah     | Ashish Vyas      |
| Gabriela Alvarez     | Adriana Cabrera         | Eric Eisenberg | Lonnie Klein     | Krista Plano      | Erik Schmahl    | Eric Waltari     |
| Fraser Baldry        | Ryan "Ryler" Calabrese  | Yoni Gordon    | Amit Kumar       | Christina Poletto | Kerri Sharoni   | Ansley Watson    |
| Mathew Beale         | Ashley "Brooke" Clupper | Bhavi Hansoty  | Kristen Lombardi | Meg Radler        | Valerie Suter   | Joshua Weiss     |
| Jessica Berenblum    | Alexandra Collier       | David Holtz    | Helen Lowery     | Dana Raviv        | Raleigh Swinton | Janell Williams  |
| Candela Bonaccorso   | Teresa Cummins          | Julius Jordan  | Morgan Mentzer   | Julia Renedo      | Filip Szymczyk  | Richard Williams |
| Akeeta Brazier-Brown | Casey Davison           | Josh Kaminash  | Andrew Murphy    | Cristian Rossel   | Allison Talis   |                  |