

# LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

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## Funky Fruit: How to Make the Most of the Coop's Strange-Sounding, But Super Sweet, Offerings

By Liz Welch

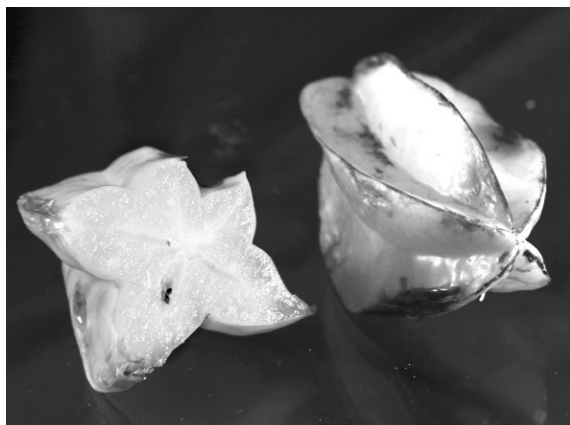
One of the many big bonuses of being a Coop member is summed up in one word: produce. And I'm not just talking about boring old broccoli or Romaine lettuce. We have not one but several types of tangerines to choose from, as well as a rainbow assortment of beets. There is more than one kind of kale, and a veritable forest of mushrooms, from a basic button to the more exotic oyster and Maitake. And don't even get me started on squash: Delicata? Kabocha? Suddenly acorn squash seems pedestrian.

There is also a host of funky fruits, some that I have never seen before, nor even heard of. Sapote? Say what? And others that are intimidating: Yes, I love pomegranates, but I am scared to break them open for fear of staining everything in sight. I cry uncle on kumquats, persimmons and passion fruit, too. Sure, they're pretty. But how on earth do you eat them? Or even know when they are ripe?

And so I turned to the pros for advice. This is what I learned:

### Kumquats

Greg Gude is the co-owner of Kumquat Growers Inc.,



Starfruit (carambola) on sale in February in the Coop produce aisle.

PHOTO BY WILLIAM FARRINGTON

based in Dade, Florida, where his family has grown this fruit, which resembles grape-sized oranges, since the turn of last century. Though you can simply pop these in your mouth for a satisfying snack, Gude suggests rolling them between the fingers first. "That releases the essential oils in the rind," he says. Then, once you start chewing, don't stop. "The sweetness is in the skin and the tartness is in the bite," explains Oliver Strand, a food writer whose work has been published in *The New York Times*, *Bon Appetit* and *GQ* among many others. "It may be shocking at first, but if you keep chewing, then it becomes sweet and tingly and great."

Kumquats can be simply eaten like grapes, skin and all, but there are lots of fun ways to prepare them. For instance, Strand suggests candying them. "Make a sim-

ple syrup using one part water, one part sugar and then pour that over sliced kumquats," he says. "Let them sit for a few days and then serve with roast pork or a heavy meat, or sprinkled on ice cream or cakes for dessert."

They're also delicious sliced fresh—not candied—and tossed in a salad, such as this one from the Kumquat Growers website, reprinted with permission:

Toss together:  
5 kumquats, sliced thin, seeds removed  
4 handfuls baby arugula  
½ cup flat leaf parsley leaves  
2 Medjool dates, pitted and sliced

Whisk together:  
2 tsp. lemon juice  
2 tbs. olive oil  
salt and pepper

Drizzle the dressing over the salad and then top with:

½ cup Parmesan shavings (made with a vegetable peeler)

Enjoy!

### Persimmons

There are two types of persimmon: Fuyu and Hachiyas. The Fuyu, often available at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## Should the Coop Really Ditch Plastic Bags?

Green Team Targets 2.5 Million Produce Bags Used Annually; Discussion on Agenda for Feb. 28th General Meeting

By Willow Lawson



ILLUSTRATION BY DIANE MILLER

The staccato zip of plastic-roll bags pulled off spindles is something of a soundtrack in the produce aisle at the Park Slope Food Coop. Shoppers use nearly 400 of the bags per hour, or about 2.5 million per year, to round up green beans, flour and bulk kidney beans. For Jenna Spevack, a member of the Coop's Environmental Committee, it's not just the expense—the bags cost the Coop some \$23,000 per year—but the wanton use of plastic that is exasperating. She says members would find greener ways to shop if the Coop simply didn't offer the bags any-

more, much in the same way shoppers adjusted four years ago when the Coop stopped supplying plastic shopping bags for carrying groceries home.

"You would know what to do if the bags weren't there; your grandparents shopped without them," argues Spevack, who is urging Coop staffers to stock a larger variety of reusable fabric bags to carry produce and bulk items like oatmeal. "We live in a society that has no connection to its waste, and in an urban environment, no connection to the natural cycle of life. Where does all that plastic go? You put it in another

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

### Next General Meeting on February 28

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, February 28, at 7:00 p.m. at the Congregation Beth Elohim Temple House (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place.

The agenda is in this Gazette, on the Coop website at [www.foodcoop.com](http://www.foodcoop.com), and available as a flier in the entryway of the Coop. For more information about the GM and about Coop governance, please see the center of this issue.

\* Exceptions will be posted.

## Coop Event Highlights

Thu, Mar 1 • Food Class: Taste of China 7:30 p.m.

Fri, Mar 2 • Film Night: Alice Neel 7:00 p.m.

Tue, Mar 6 • Bicycle Commuting, Grocery Shopping by Bicycle 6:30 p.m.

Tue, Mar 13 • Safe Food Committee Film Night: Queen of the Sun 7:00 p.m.

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

January 2012 General Meeting	2
Coordinators' Corner: Banning Plastic-Roll Bags	5
Safe Food Committee Report, Puzzle	6
Coop Hours, Coffeehouse	8
Coop Calendar, Workslot Needs, Governance Information, Mission Statement	9
Letters to the Editor	12
Community Calendar, Classifieds	14



## January 2012 General Meeting

By Diane Aronson

Attended by a standing-room crowd of more than 300 and chaired by Ann Monroe, the January GM explored PSFC philosophy and procedures even before discussion started about the meeting's two agenda items.

The GM's Open Forum, an opportunity for members to ask a question or make a brief statement prior to agenda discussions, yielded a comment from Barbara Mazor, who said that "the Coop is hosting workshop speakers who have made their reputations by expressing animus toward Judaism and affiliated Jews." Mazor questioned if these workshops were acceptable "given Coop workshop guideline five," which stipulates that "No one should be made to feel unwelcome at a workshop due to religion." Chair Ann Monroe asked the PSFC staff attending the GM if they wanted to respond to Mazor's questioning; there were no takers.

Following Open Forum was General Coordinator Tricia Leith's financial presentation. Our financials are good. But we are still paying 34 cents per debit-



PHOTOS BY TRAVIS HARTMAN

**Park Slope Food Coop members vote in overwhelming support of the creation of a cooperative loan fund to help support start-up food coops.**

card transaction, in spite of U.S. financial reform. According to Leith, debit transactions make up 84% of the Coop's sales. In response to a member question, Leith announced that the Coop will research lower-cost debit alternatives.

After a few additional committee presentations and questions and comments, the GM tackled the first agenda item of the night. Presented by the General Coordinators and member Rachel Porter, the item was a plan that would authorize the Coop to give money to help fledgling food cooperatives.

Along with a lengthy agenda item to parse, debate and vote on, the January GM was presented with three multi-page handouts about the plan to review. One handout in particular detailed the purpose and scope of the Coop revolving-

loan project proposal. Loans, awarded through a fund, would be issued to "start-up coops that meet criteria demonstrating viability" and "would be provided in favorable terms to borrowers and would be designed to provide critical support."

The PSFC and individual Coop members would fund the initiative through, according to the handout, "tax-deductible contributions to the fund," a fund "managed by a third party non-profit foundation that would take a fee for its services" and "agrees to use the fee to support other programs that are consistent with the cooperative principle of concern for community."

In terms of dollar amounts, the handout described the loans as significant, "probably between \$10,000 and \$20,000 initially." Regarding oversight, the Revolving Loan Fund, according to the handout, "would be overseen by members of the PSFC who would work with the foundation managing the fund," and a future GM would elect the committee members.

According to Porter, one fund interested in managing the donations is the Brooklyn Community Foundation. Porter stressed that the loan committee "would make the final decision about which donor-advised fund" would work on the Coop's behalf. Additionally, she advised the GM that the committee would be "charged with working with the donor-advised fund in determining all the specifics that we haven't already determined about this revolving-loan fund, reporting back to this meeting."

Regarding the motivation to establish the fund, Porter referred back to the Coop's financial statement and described the Coop as "in good financial health." Porter continued, observing, "We have this additional money, and occasionally as a coop we decide to

spend it in ways we think are consistent with our values."

Porter cited local coops as taking precedence, commenting, "At least initially, we would be looking at coops in Brooklyn—start-up coops like in Bushwick, Fort Greene or Bay Ridge."

During his part of the agenda item presentation, Joe Holtz highlighted the importance of a loan program fostering cooperation among cooperatives. As Holtz summed it up, "We think we should not just talk the talk and walk the walk, we should fund the walk."

Keith Getter kicked off a lengthy question and discussion session by commenting, "I think the concept is very laudable," but he wondered if monies already set aside for small businesses could be tapped instead of the Coop becoming involved. Joe Holtz explained that traditional small-business lending policies often don't jibe with a coop's members-only shopping policy.

*Attended by a standing-room crowd of more than 300 and chaired by Ann Monroe, the January GM explored PSFC philosophy and procedures... [through the evening's] two agenda items.*

David Moss, a Chair Committee member, was worried about not seeing anything that would restrict loan recipients to coops who follow our members-only model. He was concerned, too, about oversight regarding whether a starter coop that financially healthy enough to receive a potentially sizable loan.

Porter assured Moss that just members-only coops would receive loans. In terms of financial viability, Porter replied, "The loan committee would make that decision but in consultation with the General Coordinators and reporting back [to the GM] semiannually the first year and annually after that."

Member Sat Jagat Khalsa thought "in principle, it's an excellent idea," but "there's a lot to read, and to expect to vote on this today seems a little much." He continued, "I would think this is one of the most significant things the Coop has ever done" and said that "it should be something that all the members vote on in a referendum."

Mike Esterowitz was "a little confused about how this is a loan program that gets paid back with interest, but you accept tax-deductible dona-

tions." Joe Holtz answered, "The money that goes into the donor-advised fund that sits in a foundation somewhere is gone; the donors don't have access to it."

Sam Natov, a member of the Chair Committee, queried, "I was wondering if you considered extending this loan not just to start-up coops but perhaps to coops going through transition." Rachel Porter replied, "We haven't fully considered that; that would probably be something the loan committee would specifically look to address."

After an additional question or two, the agenda item advanced to the discussion stage. Robin Campbell commented, "I think this is a super-cool proposal." He felt there were some "kinks" to be "worked out." But he thought the plan was one "we can support in a very generous spirit without putting the Coop at risk."

Kandace Simmons observed, "I think it's a wonderful and fabulous idea," but she was worried because "we're expected to vote on it the same night it was proposed." She was concerned that "we haven't had a chance to look at the guiding principles." Joe Holtz spoke, stating that the first GM to consider the proposal designated it a discussion-only item. Simmons reminded the January GM that the discussion-only meeting happened 13 months ago.

Aaron Beebe felt the idea was "incredibly cooperative and smart," one that would allow the Coop to "help other things happen in other parts of Brooklyn."

Martin Tornberg believed the proposal "was a great idea." He noted that proposed figure, based on the financial statement presented at the January meeting, came to "one penny of every \$20 that you spend at the Coop."

Edwin Dominguez had some concerns, commenting, "We have 16,000 members—I think this is something that should be put to an open vote of all the membership." He complimented the work, but said, "I'd like to hear from the coordinators that we have a proposal to lower the markup."

Next came the agenda item vote. A large show of hands voting "yes" ensued. After an official "no" vote, the GM passed agenda item one.

Submitted by Eric Kratzer, the second agenda item, overhauling the work-credit sign-up process for GMs, was for discussion only.

Kratzer opened by describing the process of having to visit the Coop to sign up for a GM: "You have to go to the

### RETURN POLICY



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

#### REQUIRED FOR ANY RETURN

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

#### CAN I EXCHANGE MY ITEM?

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

#### CAN I RETURN MY ITEM?

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

NEVER RETURNABLE

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

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

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

RETURNABLE

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



Coop and locate a magical book and sign your name." He was critical about the cutoff time: "You have to do it by 5:00 p.m. of the day of the meeting."

Kratzer proposed an online option to supplement the sign-up book: "An electronic process where every member at any time during the month" can log on and "be counted and turn up at the last minute."



Barbara Mazor addresses at the General Meeting, during the open forum.

Speaking for the General Coordinators, Jessica Robinson observed, "There's no technical reason why we could not do this." She did qualify, continuing, "We're always somewhat behind the curve as far as development goes with things because our staff is very small relative to the number of members, so we have to prioritize, prioritize, prioritize."

Robinson was concerned about a sign-up cutoff time that pushed beyond 5:00 the day of a GM because of some critical tasks: generating the lists members sign at meetings to receive work-slot credit, coordinating the head count with Congregation Beth Elohim and printing enough GM handout literature. She stressed she didn't think it was impossible to extend the deadline, just that it would take some work to develop procedures.

Most GM attendees who spoke during the agenda discussion were in favor of online GM-credit sign-up. Mihoby Rabeharison summed up the comments of many when she said, "I'm all for the electronic system, so long as it doesn't exclude or marginalize people who don't have access."

But some had nuts-and-bolts reservations. Steve Faust commented, "I think adding an

e-mail sign-up would be a really good idea," along with keeping the paper sign-up. But he felt, "Realistically, there probably should be a cutoff time in the evening before the meeting. I don't think it's reasonable for the staff setting up to have to guess as to what's happening at the last minute."

Joshua Bauchner observed, "As somebody who works doing IT at a very small organization, a lot of these proposals seem very short-sighted; they seem to have no conception of the way technological progress works. The Coop has three people employed to do IT, and I feel for them."

Eric Kratzer conceded that an online GM workslot sign-up program could indeed contain caveats, commenting, "I agree; that could be a lot of work. I'm an IT professional myself." But he went on to say, "Basically, what I'm proposing here is

Google Docs." He concluded that a system would be "super-easy to set up."

During the course of discussion, GM attendees expressed just as much dissatisfaction about the inevitable crowd that forms when members sign out at the end of a meeting to ensure their work-slot credit. Adriane Gerstel found the "sign-out sheets overwhelming." Martin Tornberg wondered if an efficiency committee couldn't form to study GM attendance sign-up, sign-out and like matters.

Eventually, the conversation drew to a close for this discussion-only agenda item. The Coop Board voted in support of the January GM's action to pass agenda item one. As the meeting drew to a close, members started to queue to sign for workslot credit. The process seemed orderly, the linewaiters patient. ■

## Funky Fruit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Coop, resemble bright orange tomatoes with flat bottoms. They can be eaten raw, and are delicious in salads. "Just slice them as you would a tomato," Strand says.

For both types, look for fruit pieces that are brightly colored—ranging from a peachy to a dark orangey red—plump and feel heavy for their size. "They should have glossy-looking skin without any cracks or bruises," Strand says.

The Hachiyas are shaped more like acorns, with pointy ends. They are mouth-puckeringly astringent—and unpleasant—if eaten before completely ripe. "Wait until they are soft to the touch before eating," Strand warns. Once ripe, the fruit's flesh, which is almost jelly-like, can be scooped out of its skin, pureed and then added to yogurt for a delicious smoothie, or into a variety of delicious cake and pudding recipes. "In terms of use and texture, it is a cross between a banana and pumpkin," Strand says.

Christine Muhlke, executive editor at *Bon Appetit*, is a big fan of both types. "I love Hachiya persimmons pureed and steamed in the Chez Panisse fashion," she relayed in an email. A quick Google search and I discovered that indeed a "Hachiya persimmon pudding with bourbon cream" was offered for dessert on the 2012 Chez Panisse Valentine menu. I

also found more than 12,000 hits for recipes adapted from Chez Panisse, which can easily be found online. As for the Fuyus? Muhlke enjoys them in salads to brighten up the winter blues. "My favorite is sliced Fuyu persimmons with blue cheese, pomegranates and walnuts."

Try it for yourself!

### Winter Salad

2 Fuyu persimmons, sliced thinly  
4 heads of endive  
Seeds from one pomegranate  
½ lb. crumbled high quality blue cheese, such as Stilton  
½ cup walnuts, lightly toasted on the stovetop

Place all ingredients in a bowl.

Mix juice and zest from one lemon with ½ cup high-quality olive oil, salt and pepper to taste and a teaspoon of Champagne vinegar. Whisk together and then pour over salad. Toss and enjoy!

### Pomegranate

Thanks to Pom, the makers of pomegranate juice, this fruit is no longer considered exotic. We now know that these bright red softball-shaped and -sized fruits are teeming with antioxidants and vitamin C, and therefore incredibly healthy. But they are also intimidating to work with! I ruined a shirt the first time I tried to peel and de-pip a pomegranate, as the ruby-red, jewel-like seeds stain like crazy. Oliver Strand offers his no-mess way to de-seed this wonder fruit. I still suggest wearing an apron!

"Cut the fruit in half like an onion," Strand says. "Then turn it skin side up so the flesh is pointing down over a metal bowl. Slowly work your way around the rim of the fruit, turning the skin inside out and raking the pips out with your finger so they fall into the bowl along with any juice." It takes practice but is well worth it. "Once you figure out how easy it is to take apart a pomegranate," Strand adds, "there is no reason to ever spend money on the pips alone." And once you get the hang of it, this fruit really can liven up any winter salad, work wonders in cocktails and is delicious on a tartine. The simple recipe that follows is courtesy of Oliver Strand:

"Remove the pips as described, sprinkle over lightly toasted bread topped with fresh ricotta, and drizzle with honey," he says. "Simple, gorgeous." His

favorite salad to surprise guests is just as simple:

### Arugula with Pomegranate Balsamic Dressing

One box baby arugula, or two small bunches, washed thoroughly  
One pomegranate, de-pipped

Place the pips in a small bowl. Add one tablespoon high-quality balsamic vinegar, ¼ cup high-quality olive oil, ½ smashed garlic clove, salt and pepper to taste. Whisk together and pour over baby arugula.

### Passion Fruit

These small purple globes, the size of plums, are not particularly pretty, inside or out. "You want them wrinkly, almost leathery," Strand says. "If the skin is taut, they're not ripe." Cut the fruit open to reveal a strange middle: a vibrant orange slimy substance dotted with glistening black seeds. I know what you

are thinking—where is the passion? Just wait! It is in the taste: sweet-tart that is almost effervescent. Stirred into yogurt, sprinkled on ice cream or folded into whipped cream, this fruit adds tang to any creamy dessert. Its juice is also used in cocktails, such as this delectable one Christine Muhlke shared with me. It's one of her favorites and was prepared for *The New York Times* by Frederick Grasser-Hermé.

### It's Aptly Called Liquid Cake

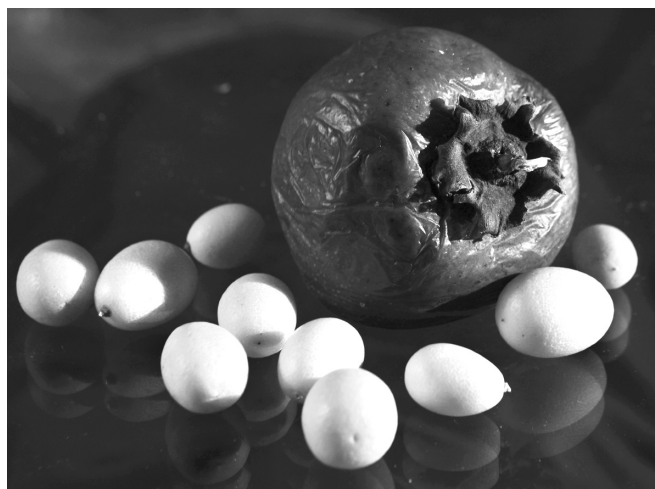
1 passion fruit, skinned and seeded  
¼ cup vanilla ice cream, softened  
¼ cup mango sorbet, softened  
¼ cup vodka  
1 cup brut Champagne  
2 butter cookies, crumbled

1. Halve the passion fruit and, using a wooden spoon or rubber spatula, scrape the pulp through a fine-mesh sieve set over a bowl. Discard the remaining seeds and pulp.

2. In a medium bowl, combine the ice cream and sorbet. Pour in the vodka and whisk lightly. Stir in the passion fruit purée, then fold in the Champagne.

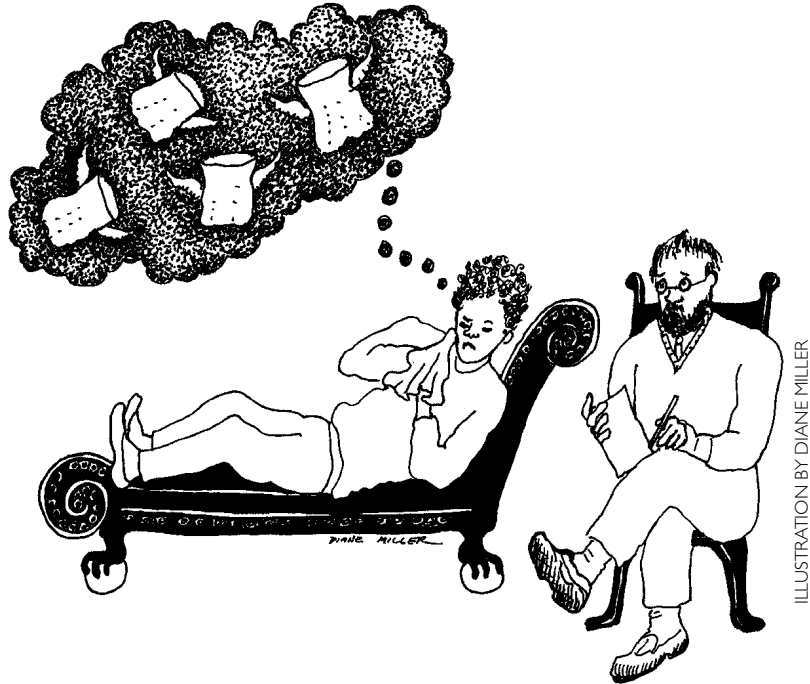
3. Sprinkle the cookies evenly among 4 martini glasses. Top each with the vodka mixture and serve immediately. Serves 4. All recipes adapted from Frédéric Grasser-Hermé.

The Coop also offers sapotes, starfruit, lychee nuts, pomelos and much more! Stay tuned for the next installment of Funky Fruits. ■



Kumquats and a black sapote, exotic fruits for sale at the Coop.

PHOTO BY WILLIAM FARRINGTON



## Plastic Bags

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

big plastic bag on the curb and it goes 'away'".

At the February 28<sup>th</sup> General Meeting, Spevack and other members of the Environmental Committee will present their case, detailed at [ecovetch.blogspot.com](http://ecovetch.blogspot.com), but the issue will not yet be up for a vote. "We have an obligation to change our behavior from one of convenience to good stewardship of this planet and its inhabitants. It's unethical not to," Spevack wrote in an email. "Those ethics are what the Food Coop was founded on. It's what's stated in our Environmental Policy."

Mike Eakin, a General Coordinator, said the Coop has gone down this road before—plastic bag usage was hotly contested in the 1980s and 90s—and the Coop staunchly opposed eliminating the roll bags outright. He made several points: First, although he admitted the number of bags used annually is staggering, the overall amount of plastic used in them is not. Per member, annual roll bag usage adds up to about the same amount of plastic as six or seven large yogurt tubs, or about 13 ounces, or 160 bags, by his estimates.

Then there's the issue of checkout time and "shrinkage": If checkout workers need to pause and open fabric bags to see the contents, checkout times will increase, argued Eakin. And if checkout workers don't check what's in those fabric bags, shoppers will probably steal more than they already do, he said.

Coop leadership is reticent to talk about "shrink," the amount of goods lost because of theft. Compared to other stores, the Coop's shrink is quite low—about

.90% of annual sales, or approximately \$400,000. "But this isn't all any one thing, and it is impossible to come up with much detail about shrink, because it includes so many things—spoilage, breakage, unintentional undercharges, etc., as well as theft," said Eakin. Coop shoplifting takes a number of forms as well. For example, according to inventory records, said Eakin, "We apparently sell more of the cheapest coffee than we purchase."

*[M]embers would find greener ways to shop if the Coop simply didn't offer the bags anymore, much in the same way shoppers adjusted four years ago when the Coop stopped supplying plastic shopping bags for...groceries.*

Eakin has one last argument against eliminating roll bags: they are reusable. Years ago, the Coop used bags that came 2,000 to a roll. "They were very flimsy," says Eakin, and usually tore after one use. Today's bags—the small ones—come 690 to a roll and hold up to repeated usage. During our interview, he dug through his backpack to present several rumpled roll bags tucked into his nylon shopping bags. "Thanks to Jenna, I have learned to change my behavior."

Views from members are, of course, mixed. A local chef said the Coop should charge for the bags if they cost so much money. "I need those bags for poop diapers!" joked another member when informed of the movement. One member said she generally made environmentally

friendly consumer decisions, but didn't want to be forced to make the change. Another said she already eschewed plastic bags at the Coop and elsewhere, and didn't buy the Coop's frozen foods, many of which come in several layers of packaging.

Spevack says roll bags are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the Coop's plastic usage. If the Coop devoted less of its shelf space to packaged food, and more space to bulk—and deployed reusable bags to carry food home—thousands of members would consume much less cardboard and non-recyclable plastic. Offering the bags is like enabling an addiction, says Spevack. "If the t-shirt bags were still available at checkout, guaranteed people would still be using them. Most members will tell you that if the plastic bags are available, they will use them. If they are not, they will find other means." ■

## THE GAZETTE INDEXES

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

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

- ◆ An alphabetized list of the titles of all articles published in the Gazette from 1995 to the present, with issue dates.
- ◆ An alphabetized list of all subjects (including people's names) discussed in Gazette articles from 1995–98 and 2001 to the present, with article titles, issue dates, and page numbers (subjects for the years 1999 and 2000 are being added).

Many of the Gazette issues referenced in these indexes are available as PDFs on the Coop's website. (The currently available issues cover the years 2006 to the present, plus selected issues from 1999, 2000, and 2005.)

## Filmmaker(s) Needed ASAP!

BROOKLYN  
FOOD  
CONFERENCE

The Brooklyn Food Conference is seeking a filmmaker(s) to make a promotional, two-minute film for the Brooklyn Food Conference on May 12, 2012.

We are looking for candidates able to recreate a short film—partially using some past footage and photographs—and willing to shoot new footage including interviews with food activists in New York City. The film will be advertised on Kickstarter and YouTube.

Please send resume(s) and a brief letter of interest (300-word limit) describing your qualifications and ideas to [conference@brooklynfoodcoalition.org](mailto:conference@brooklynfoodcoalition.org).

**Deadline for submission of film is March 15.**

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MAY 2012 BROOKLYN FOOD CONFERENCE

Brooklyn Food Coalition is planning a conference for May 12, 2012.

Please join BFC as a member and help make this conference happen.



Copywriting  
Graphic Design  
Social Networking  
Web Development  
Outreach  
Research  
Fundraising

To learn more and to volunteer please contact:  
[conference@brooklynfoodcoalition.org](mailto:conference@brooklynfoodcoalition.org)  
You will receive FTOP credit for your work.

## COORDINATOR'S CORNER

## Banning Plastic-Roll Bags = Environment. Time. Money.

By Ann Herpel on behalf of the General Coordinators

At the February 28<sup>th</sup> General Meeting, the Environmental Committee will present a discussion item that proposes to ban the plastic-roll bags (the ones provided in produce, bulk and bread aisles). The Coop has a long history of deciding to implement policies and practices that reduce our environmental footprint. But we balance any decision with an understanding of the cost (not simply financial) to the Coop. Two large areas of concern for the General Coordinators in considering an outright ban of plastic-roll bags are the effect on Coop operations, and financial consequences for individual members and the Coop as a whole.

### Operations

How will the ban impact the shopping and checkout processes? One way will involve increased use of muslin bags. Muslin bags are not transparent. In order to

verify the contents, checkout workers will need to open each bag, or ask the member what is inside the bag—and most likely the member will need to open the bag, since she too won't be able to identify its contents through the muslin. The yellow stickers used to label bulk items do not adhere well to the muslin. If the item in question is sold by each, the bag will have to be partially emptied in order to get an accurate count. Repeat this process many times on a busy shopping day, and the time each member spends at checkout will inevitably increase.

Just the other day this very thing happened to me with a small shop. I put produce in three separate bags. The checkout worker then opened each bag to verify its contents. I saw her try to feel the items through the bag, but that method wasn't successful. Sure, she could have asked me, but since two bags looked quite similar, I would have

had to open them up too. Loose creminis in one and loose white mushrooms in another will throw off the skills of even the best checkout worker!

And this was with my under-\$35 shop. When I see



ILLUSTRATION BY DIANE MILLER

the overloaded carts on Saturdays and Sundays filled with glorious produce, bulk grains and flours, bagels, muffins and croissants, I worry about how much longer it would take to check out if all those products were in opaque bags. Are we complicating the checkout process if the bags members use make the product invisible to the checkout worker? Could members use fewer plastic

bags? Sure, but using substitutes or no bag at all will have an impact on shopping operations. How much of an impact? I don't know. This is one question we need to answer as we deliberate this ban. Think about how many muslin bags you could conceivably use during a typical shop, and ask how the checkout process will change for you as you use more and more muslin bags.

As the process slows at each checkout, the wait time for members in line increases. The most frequent complaints I hear from members concern the length of the lines and over-crowdedness. Several years ago the Coop introduced line management and checkout assistants to facilitate checkout. A study conducted by members demonstrated that line management and checkout assistants helped to move the line more quickly, reducing wait times for shoppers. When the line moves more quickly, the Coop becomes less crowded. Improvements at checkout that increase the efficiency of the process save time for all members. How do we weigh the value of improved operations against the environmental cost of plastic bags? Is there a solution that doesn't sacrifice one for the other?

chasing another reusable bag to scoop it in? Will you buy the pre-packaged sugar at a higher per pound cost instead of the bulk? What are you willing to pay for bags? And what seems intolerable?

And then there is the cost to the Coop—all members. Of course it is unpleasant to consider, but we must admit there will be theft of the reusable bags. Unintended theft by omission—you grab a bag hanging over the bulk aisle and scoop some flour into it. At the checkout lane you forget to tell the checkout worker to scan the bag barcode when he weighs the product. How many times will this unintended theft occur per day? And then there is intentional shoplifting. Deliberate stealing of Coop products happens each and every day. We already know that reusable shopping bags (totes, Chinese plastic plaid bags, Chico bags) are stolen. How will theft erode the Coop's bottom line?

Another cost is the tare weight (the weight of the empty bag). Our POS system only allows for one tare weight. Do we use a lower tare (like the current .01/lb) and have members who use a higher tare weight bag end up paying the difference each time they shop? Or do we raise the tare (some reusable bags have a tare weight of .09/lb) and have the Coop lose money each time members use no bag or a lighter bag? Either way, these pennies add up to the members and the Coop.

These are just some of the questions and concerns that come to mind as I contemplate a total ban. The GCs support members' efforts to push the Coop to be a better environmental citizen. But the Coop must take all factors into consideration when making decisions that have broad-reaching impact on Coop operations and finances.

In the interim, I suggest members practice reusing whatever bags they choose to use at the Coop. The plastic-roll bags provided by the Coop are not single use—they are sturdy and washable. You can use them time and time again. With each reuse, you are choosing not to take a new roll bag. Let's try consciously practicing the discipline of reuse before instituting an outright ban. Maybe we will surprise ourselves and the number of new bags used per week will diminish, and we will not need to adopt a total ban. ■

## Board of Directors Election

### The General Meeting & The Board of Directors

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

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

### Duties of the Directors

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

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

### Openings

There are three openings on the Board. We have two three-year terms open this year and one one-year term.

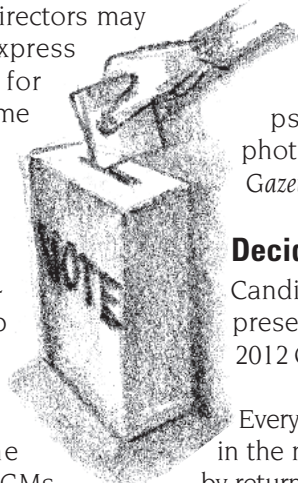
### Candidate Deadline

If you wish to place your name into nomination, you must declare your candidacy by Thursday, March 1, 2012. Please submit a statement of up to 750 words to GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop. Please include a small photo for publication in the *Linewaiters' Gazette* and the member proxy mailing.

### Deciding and Voting

Candidates will have the opportunity to present their platform at the March 27, 2012 General Meeting.

Every member will receive a proxy package in the mail in late May. Members may vote by returning their ballots by mail or by bringing them to the Coop. Members may also vote at the Annual Meeting on June 26, 2012.



## SAFE FOOD COMMITTEE REPORT

## Greetings from the North Country—How Fracking Is Affecting Those Who Don't Live in NYC

By Jerry Wintrob

A little more than three years ago, my family and I decided to take the plunge and move to the bucolic Hudson Valley. As long-time Coop members, giving up our membership was out of the question. We continue to shop at the Coop when we are in the city.

As someone who had lived his entire life in New York City, living here is different, to say the least. More people lived on my block in Park Slope than live in my entire town now. While the issue of fracking was something that I was always concerned about in terms of how it would affect my drinking water when I lived in Brooklyn, living here has given me an entirely different perspective. Besides its effect on our water, it will pollute the air, and destroy the land where the drilling occurs, as well as crush property values in an already economically depressed area. The Hudson Valley has been a vacation spot for New Yorkers for many years. There are many New York City residents who

own second homes in the area. The opportunity to escape the city to a destination only two hours away will be gone forever.

As Governor Cuomo continues his "research" into the possible merits of fracking, and how to allow it to occur, concerned citizens in our town have decided to take matters into our own hands.

There is a movement in New York State regarding the concept of home rule. This has to do with the rights of a town or municipality to pass laws within their township that directly have an impact on them. So, if an oil/gas company wants to convince people who live in your town to lease their land to be used for hydrofracking, the town can pass laws that will prohibit this. This is a powerful movement up here, and it is spreading. As of today, there are over 100 towns and municipalities in New York State that have passed laws to ban fracking-related activities in their areas. Not only is this an effective tool, but it is an empowering one as well.

The idea that you can organize your community to pass regulations that so directly affect you is really very exciting. As someone who has been politically active for his entire life, I must admit working this way on a smaller, more personal scale is very different from the type of organizing I am used to in a sprawling metropolis like New York City.

Besides home rule, there is another type of mandate that is catching on. It is called a civil rights ordinance. In other words, as citizens of this country/state, we have a right to clean air and clean water. It is a violation of our rights as citizens if a process is used that infringes on those civil rights. Fracking is a process that will cause our air and water to become polluted. Therefore, it is an encroachment upon our civil rights for hydrofracking to be performed on our land. This is a way to promote an ordinance banning fracking, based on inherent civil rights.

Governor Cuomo has already banned fracking in

the New York City and Syracuse watersheds. Interesting that he doesn't view the rest of the state as worthy of this level of protection. If he is so concerned about not polluting water for people in these cities, what about everyone else? Are rural lives less important than the urban population? (Just a point of information, due to the way the gas companies are drilling, i.e., horizontally, not just vertically, it is more than likely that these "protected" watersheds will end up with polluted water, as the process will cause contaminants to flow into the reservoirs.)

The deadline for comments on fracking has just passed. I hope that the people of New York City don't become complacent regarding this issue, under the misinformed idea that it really isn't going to affect you. Please look for ongoing articles and comments in the *Linewaiters' Gazette*. If you want to get more involved, or want more information on hydro-fracking in NYS and its effect on the Hudson Valley, look on the web: at [frackaction.com](http://frackaction.com) and [catskillmountainkeeper.com](http://catskillmountainkeeper.com). If you would like to contact me directly, my e-mail is [alteyedr1@aol.com](mailto:alteyedr1@aol.com). ■

## What's a Name in?

Below is a list of popular boys' names, embedded within common English words. The remaining letters have been removed, and need to be filled in.

For example, if the clue was "\_\_\_ \_ BILL \_" the blanks could be filled in to make the word "HILLBILLY."

Can you find all the words? Alternative solutions are possible for some clues.

\_\_ I A N \_\_  
 \_\_ R O N \_\_  
 \_\_ R I C K \_\_  
 \_\_ S A M \_\_  
 \_\_\_ K E N \_\_  
 \_\_ D A V E \_\_  
 \_\_ A N D Y \_\_\_  
 \_\_ R O S S \_\_\_  
 \_\_ A L L E N \_\_  
 \_\_\_ B E N \_\_  
 \_\_\_ I V A N \_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ L E S T E R \_\_\_

Puzzle author: Stuart Marquis.  
 For answers, see page 15.



LEND TO US  
 BRING QUALITY  
 AFFORDABLE FOOD  
 TO OUR COMMUNITY!

Our loan program is a great way to make a socially conscious investment in the future of our 625 (and rising!) member co-op serving Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Bed-Stuy and Prospect Heights.

If you are a resident of New York State and would like more information, please visit our website: [www.greenehillfood.coop/loans](http://www.greenehillfood.coop/loans), or contact Doug Warren at [finance@greenehillfood.coop](mailto:finance@greenehillfood.coop).

## What Is That? How Do I Use It?

## Ask Me Questions About Coop Foods

Monday, March 5, 12 to 12:45 p.m.

Friday, March 9, 8 to 10:45 a.m.

Monday, March 12, 12 to 12:45 p.m.

Tuesday, March 13, 9:15 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

Look for tour leaders in produce aisle.

The Park Slope Food Coop  
 Agenda Committee ("AG") is seeking  
 qualified nominees to stand for election and  
 serve on the committee.

The AG was established by the General Meeting ("GM") to help facilitate the timely presentation of Coop business to the members attending the monthly meeting.

In addition to assembling the monthly agenda and maintaining records of items submitted, the AG works with members who submit items for consideration by the GM and may need assistance formulating proposals and discussion points.

The AG meets the first Tuesday of every month at 8pm at the Coop. Committee members are also required to attend five (5) GMs per year.

In addition, committee members caucus by telephone and via e-mail as needed to facilitate committee business.

Qualifications include a cooperative spirit, experience working in a committee environment, and an ongoing interest in the business of the Coop. Interested members contact Ann Herpel in the Membership Office.

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

## MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

## AN INVITATION TO A CONFERENCE

## The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict Today: Obstacles and Opportunities

By Sylvia Lowenthal

In a speech to the United Nations General Assembly last September, President Obama made the following remarks:

"Let us be honest with ourselves: Israel is surrounded by neighbors that have waged repeated wars against it. Israel's citizens have been killed by rockets fired at their houses and suicide bombs on their buses. Israel's children come of age knowing that throughout the region, other children are taught to hate them. Israel, a small country of less than eight million people, looks out at a world where leaders of much larger nations threaten to wipe it off of the map. The Jewish people carry the burden of centuries of exile and persecution, and fresh memories of knowing that six million people were killed simply because of who they are. Those are facts. They cannot be denied.

"The Jewish people have forged a successful state in their historic homeland. Israel deserves recognition. It deserves normal relations with its neighbors. And friends of the Palestinians do them no favors by ignoring this truth, just as friends of Israel must recognize the need to pursue a two-state solution with a secure Israel next to an independent Palestine."

Please join those of us who support this vision so eloquently expressed by President Obama, as we listen to the voices of four distinguished speakers. Q&A to follow.

**The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict: Obstacles and**

**When and Where:** Sunday, March 4th, at 2:00 PM, at the Old First Reformed Church (enter at 729 Carroll Street near 7th Avenue) Lower Hall.

**Admission:** Free; voluntary contributions of \$5 at the door appreciated to defray costs.

**Speakers**

**Michael Walzer**, one of the foremost political thinkers of our time, writes within the arena of political and moral philosophy on themes of political obligation, the morality of war, nationalism and ethnicity, and toleration, and is author of the book *Just and Unjust Wars*, among many others. He serves on the Board of Directors of Americans for Peace Now (APN), a progressive non-partisan organization working to achieve a comprehensive political settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

**Brooke Goldstein** is Director of The Lawfare Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness about, and facilitating a response to, the abuse of

Western legal systems and human rights law. She is a New York City-based human rights attorney, author and award-winning filmmaker, and founder and director of the Children's Rights Institute (CRI), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to track, spotlight and legally combat violations of children's basic human rights occurring throughout the globe.

**Zuhdi Jasser, M.D.**, is Founder and President of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy (AIFD), the most prominent American Muslim organization directly confronting the ideologies of political Islam. A devout Muslim, Dr. Jasser founded AIFD in the wake of the 9/11 attacks on the United States as an effort to provide an American Muslim voice toward a moderate Islam, and the separation of mosque and state.

**Yona Shem-Tov**, a noted multi-faith educator, has long

been guiding and inspiring communities to extend themselves across lines of difference and division. She is Executive Director of Encounter, which seeks to transform conflict between Israelis and Palestinians through face-to-face understanding, engagement and negotiation, and is a widely noted public speaker, having presented on Israel and intercultural education before The Congress of Imams & Rabbis in Seville, the German Consul General and members of German Parliament in Berlin.

This event is sponsored by **Progressive Voices for Peace in the Middle East (PVPME)**, a group of PSFC members working toward an honest and equitable discourse for peace in the Middle East.

More details at [middleeast.evidencewatch.com](http://middleeast.evidencewatch.com). ■

## GAZETTE COMMITTEE REPORT

## Gazette Editorial Policies

By Stephanie Golden and Erik Lewis,  
Gazette Coordinating Editors

The *Gazette* editorial staff is working to be as consistent and transparent as possible. To this end, here is a summary of our editorial policies.

Please also be sure to review the editorial policies that are printed in every issue of the *Gazette*. Submission guidelines appear with the masthead, and the Anonymity, Respect, and Fairness Policies appear with the Letters.

Editors are the final authority on edited content: Reporters' articles, Committee Reports, Member Submitted Articles.

**Member Submitted Articles (MSAs)** are reviewed and edited by editors using standard editorial criteria. MSAs can be on any topic the writer chooses, except they cannot be blatant advertisements or promotions of businesses. Editors are not required to do

extensive line editing on MSAs. Articles that are very poorly written and/or incoherent will be rejected. MSAs must adhere to the Fairness, Respect and Anonymity Policies that also apply to letters. If an MSA is rejected, the writer may re-write and re-submit for the same issue (deadline permitting) or a subsequent issue.

- The difference between an article and a letter is that the article can be longer, but is subject to editorial scrutiny and possible rejection; the letter isn't, as long as it adheres to the guidelines. The choice between letter and article is the writer's choice. It has nothing to do with the topic of the piece, but only with its length.

- If an editor determines that a substantive change is needed to an MSA, the edi-

tor must make a reasonable effort to contact the writer of the article, and the writer must respond within a reasonable length of time. The editor will discuss the change with the writer, and, within the context of that discussion, decide what the editorial change will be. Bottom line—the editor has the final word on what goes into the article and what goes into the *Gazette*.

**Letters** are not edited. If a letter has no title, the editor can provide one. If it has a title, that title is generally used. We print every letter that meets the word count and the Respect, Fairness and Anonymity Policies' criteria.

Only one letter or MSA is allowed per member per issue. During times of intense dialogue in the *Gazette*, letters signed by five or more persons will be considered "petition" letters or "collective" letters, and their signers will be allowed to publish another letter in the same issue. Letters signed by four or

fewer signers will be considered to come from each signer, and the signers may not submit another letter or MSA in the same issue.

A Committee Report must report on the policies/activities of the committee. If not, the *Gazette*/the editor can reject it, and suggest that the writer submit a Member Article (subject to editorial review) with a smaller word allotment, or a letter (not subject to editorial review).

Political endorsements are confined to Letters, and prohibited in Member Sub-

mitted Articles.

Reporter articles will steer clear of political candidates during campaigns.

If a letter criticizing a *Gazette* article or decision requests a response, the editor or reporter concerned must respond in the same issue, in some form. That is, the editor or reporter has the right to say, "I decline to comment," or to write a fuller editorial note. If the critical letter does not call for a response, the reporter or editor may respond in the next issue by writing a letter. ■

**Length of Editorial Items:**

Letters—no more than 500 words

Reporter articles—1200 words—extended in some cases at discretion of Editor.

Committee Reports—1000 words

Coordinators' Reports—1200 words

Member Submitted Article—750 words



## COOP HOURS

### Office Hours:

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

### Shopping Hours:

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

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

### Childcare Hours:

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

### Telephone:

718-622-0560

### Web address:

www.foodcoop.com

# LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

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

Opinions expressed here may be solely the views of the writer. The *Gazette* will not knowingly publish articles that are racist, sexist, or otherwise discriminatory.

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

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

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

**Committee Reports:** Maximum 1,000 words.

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

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

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

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

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

Friday  
Mar 16

8:00 p.m.

# very The Good Coffeehouse

COOP CONCERT SERIES

A monthly musical fundraising partnership of the Park Slope Food Coop and the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture



## Alexis Cuadrado and the Miles Away Band

Alexis is an award-winning jazz bassist and composer originally from Barcelona who has been a Brooklyn resident for the last 12 years (and a PSFC member for 10!). For this special occasion, and with the support of a fabulous 10-piece band made of PSFC member-musicians, he'll present a selection of pieces from the electric Miles Davis repertoire, bringing the jazz-funk to the Good Coffeehouse. Not to be missed!

## Janine Nichols and SEMI-FREE

Opening up straight-ahead songwriting forms to make room for the emotional power of free jazz, SEMI-FREE is the loose-limbed trio of guitarist Brandon Ross (Harriet Tubman: the band, Cassandra Wilson, Henry Threadgill, Lizz Wright), violinist Charlie Burnham (Steven Bernstein's MTO, James Blood Ulmer, Cassandra Wilson, Medeski Martin & Wood) and singer/writer/rhythm guitarist Janine Nichols, whose "idiosyncratic sense of space and time elevates everything she sings" (David Greenberger, *Metroland*).



**53 Prospect Park West [at 2nd Street] • \$10 • 8:00 p.m.** [doors open at 7:45]

Performers are Park Slope Food Coop members and receive Coop workslot credit.

Booking: Bev Grant, 718-788-3741

### Monthly on the...

Last Sunday  
FEBRUARY 26  
10:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.

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

Third Thursday  
MARCH 15  
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:

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Puzzle Master: Stuart Marquis  
Final Proofreader: Teresa Theophano  
Advertising: Andrew Rathbun





**Vitamin Worker****Wednesday, 12 to 2:45 p.m.**

On this special shift, you will be working with the Receiving Coordinator to check in vitamin orders and organize vitamin area in the basement and on the shopping floor. You will label products and shelves and perform related tasks. If interested, contact the Membership Office.

**Beer Enthusiast Squad****Monday-Friday, 3:30 to 6:15 p.m.****Saturday & Sunday, 8 to 10:45 a.m.**

The Coop is seeking members to stock and organize the beer shelf in the afternoons and on the weekends. The arrival times for these shifts can be made a little flexible. We are look-

ing for folks who are knowledgeable about and/or interested in beer, a bit meticulous, able to lift cases of beer and willing to be responsive to member requests. It is very important that Beer Squad members be what are referred to as "self-starters" and can work without direct supervision. The squads will be comprised of one or two members and will be trained by and work with the Coop's beer buyer. Please e-mail [anngel\\_delaney@psfc.coop](mailto:anngel_delaney@psfc.coop) directly to sign up.

**Wall Chart Updating****Sunday, 8 to 10:45 a.m.**

This is the perfect job for a detail-oriented person who likes a quiet and pleasant work environment. You will be trained by a staff person who will always be available to answer questions.

You are part of a team of two to three people, but you will work on your own. Please speak to Camille Scuria if you would like more information. She can be reached at [camille\\_scuria@psfc.coop](mailto:camille_scuria@psfc.coop). Or call the Membership Office Saturday through Wednesday to speak to her.

**Store Equipment Cleaning****Monday, 6 to 8 a.m.**

The Coop is looking for members to clean the checkout area of the store. It entails cleaning the scales at each checkout and vacuuming around the base of the checkout station, as well as sweeping and occasionally mopping. You will work under the supervision of a staff person.

**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](http://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](http://www.foodcoop.com) and look at the "Join the Coop" page for answers to frequently asked questions.

**The Coop on the Internet**[www.foodcoop.com](http://www.foodcoop.com)**The Coop on Cable TV***Inside the Park Slope Food Coop*

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

**General Meeting Info****TUE, FEB 28**

GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

**TUE, MAR 6**

AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 8:00 p.m.

Submissions will be considered for the Mar 27 General Meeting.

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

Mar 8 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Feb 27

Mar 22 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, Mar 12

**CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:**

Mar 8 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Feb 29

Mar 22 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, Mar 14

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

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

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 28, 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 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 at 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) • Meeting evaluation • Board of Directors vote • Announcements, etc.

**Attend a GM and Receive Work Credit**

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

Following is an outline of the program. 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

feb 25  
sat 2 pm

## EFT Workshop

A sick person said it was too painful to get up after sitting in a chair for two hours. I said, "Do this EFT" (Emotional Freedom Techniques). She mimicked my fingers and tapped herself on the same eight places of her upper body. In less than a minute and before she finished, she stood up and was pain-free and amazed. Another person who had a phobia about elevators for 17 years was cured in four sessions. Another was worried and had fears about his fatherhood. He left courageous and confident after a single session. Another said she got her sister back after one tapping session, and said that she owed it all to me. Bring your anger, depression, fears, blocks and worries to the EFT Workshop. See the miracles. Presented by Coop member **Carolyn Meiselbach**.

feb 26  
sun 12 pm

## Staying Healthy at Your Desk

Is your time being sedentary harming your health? Whether for personal or professional reasons, most of us spend extended time at our computers or sitting at a desk. Learn to deal with extended time at your desk in a healthy and efficient way. Learn simple desk stretches and a correct desk set-up. Manage daily stress with quick and easy relaxation techniques. Maintain a healthy diet and daily exercise with some savvy preparation and planning ideas. Coop member **Shannon Sodano** is a nutritionist, yoga teacher and fitness instructor who leads health classes, seminars and retreats for individuals as well as companies.

feb 28  
tue 7 pm

## Film Screening: *Until When*

Set during the current Intifada, this 2004 documentary follows four Palestinian families living in Dheisheh Refugee Camp near Bethlehem. Fadi is 13 and cares for his four younger brothers. The Hammashes are a close-knit family who pass on the lessons of life with humor and passion. Sana is a single woman who endures long commutes to do community work, and Emad and Hanan are a young couple trying to shield their daughter from the harsh realities of the occupation. They talk about their past and discuss the future with humor, sorrow, frustration, and hope. *Until When* paints an intimate in-depth portrait of Palestinian lives today. Coop member **Suzu Salamy** is the co-producer/co-videographer of this film. She will be present at this screening.

feb 28  
tue 7 pm

## PSFC FEB General Meeting



Items will be taken up in the order given. Times in parentheses are suggestions. More information on each item may be available on the entrance table at the meeting. We ask members to please read the materials available between 7 and 7:15 p.m.

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

**Item #1:** Adjourn One Mandatory Item for March 2012 (15 minutes)

**Proposal:** "Mandatory item for March GM—Presentation by Candidates for the Board of Directors with Question and Answer—will be adjourned to April."

**Explanation:** In March, the GM will be considering a proposal to hold a referendum to join the BDS movement. This item, which must be held at an alternative location, will require the entire meeting. To facilitate this meeting, we propose to adjourn one mandatory item, Board of Directors presentation, to April.

—submitted by the Agenda Committee

**Item #2:** Phasing Out Plastic Roll Bag Distribution on the Shopping Floor (40 minutes)

**Discussion:** "Environmental Committee and concerned members recommend phasing out distribution of plastic roll bags on the shopping floor. They will present alternatives, which will help us comply with the Coop's Environmental Policy, and address our role in the financial, environmental, health, and social injustice of plastic production, recycling, and pollution."

—submitted by Environmental Committee

**Item #3:** Requiring the Use of Coop Carts & Baskets While Shopping (35 minutes)

**Discussion:** "Creating a new policy requiring members to shop into Coop-provided carts and baskets only, rather than into their own bags, backpacks, carts, boxes, and strollers."

—submitted by General Coordinators

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

mar 1  
thu 7:30 pm

## Food Class: Taste of China



In this vegetarian class, we will introduce students to Chinese ingredients and cooking techniques. Japanese-born chef and Coop member **Asami Mondrone** will demonstrate and discuss healthy substitutions for some traditional ingredients that are not health-supportive. She will discuss quality cooking oils, sweeteners, and thickeners. She will also demonstrate healthy cooking techniques. Asami has studied homeopathic cures, kinesiology, detox/cleansing, and whole-food nutrition. *Menu includes Szechuan-style tofu; steamed eggplant with ginger and garlic sauce or Chinese-style cucumber pickles; mango chia-seed coconut milk. Materials fee: \$4.*

Food classes are coordinated by Coop member **Susan Baldassano**.

mar 2  
fri 7 pm

## Film Night: Alice Neel



Portrait painter Alice Neel (1900–84) was a self-described collector of souls who recorded her sitters on canvas through six decades of the 20th century, among them Andy Warhol, Bella Abzug, Allen Ginsberg, and Annie Sprinkle. She sacrificed almost everything for her art, delving so far into the psyches of her sitters she would almost lose herself. Yet Neel was

also a dedicated mother, raising two sons in the bohemian world she inhabited.

Filmmaker Andrew Neel, Alice Neel's grandson, puts together the pieces of the painter's life using intimate one-on-one interviews with Neel's surviving family and personal archival video. Editor Luke Meyer and producers Ethan Palmer and Tom Davis will be in attendance for a Q&A after the screening.

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

mar 3  
sat 11 am

## Healthy Thyroid

Learn how to heal your own thyroid and free yourself of weight gains, depression, indigestion, hair loss and possibly medication. Topics of this talk will include 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; and how to interpret thyroid blood test results. Coop member **Magdalena** cured herself from years of Hashimoto's Disease, which is an autoimmune disease causing hypothyroid. She was told it was incurable. Today she teaches how to self-heal with food, supplements, water and stress management.

mar 4  
sun 12–1 pm

## Young Children in a Wired World: Technology & Your Kids

Join us for a workshop on technology and young children to discuss what we know about technology and literacy, attention, and health; how to choose the best from the rest; and the role you want tech to play in your family. Space is limited, so please RSVP via e-mail: [info@playdatesforparents.org](mailto:info@playdatesforparents.org). Coop member **Becky Plattus** is a social worker and early-childhood and parent educator. She has worked in various preschool, daycare, and early-childhood settings, providing consultation, counseling and education to children, parents, and educators.

**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.

# feb 25–mar 27 2012

mar 6  
tue 6:30 pm

## Bicycle Commuting, Grocery Shopping by Bicycle



Would you like to use your bicycle to commute to work or haul your groceries, but don't know how to get started? Worried about locking your bike on the street? Wondering how that bicyclist in the checkout line manages to carry a full shopping wagon of groceries on a bike? Seasoned volunteers from the Five Borough Bicycle Club will explain how to get two-wheeled transportation into your life. Presented by the PSFC Shop and Cycle Committee. Coop member **Ed Ravin** has been volunteering for bicycling organizations for the past 25 years. He is a current board member of the Five Borough Bicycle Club and a past board member of Transportation Alternatives.

mar 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 or at foodcoop.com. **The next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 7 p.m., at Congregation Beth Elohim Social Hall (Garfield Temple), 274 Garfield Place at Eighth Avenue.**

mar 7-8  
wed-thu 4-6 pm

## See What the PAFCU Offers

Representatives from People's Alliance Federal Credit Union will be at the Park Slope Food Coop in the Meeting Room to sign up members for credit union membership. Learn about: \$5 minimum savings balance; loans starting at 2.99%; holiday club account; debit/Visa cards; mobile/text message banking; no-fee checking; Internet banking; kids' accounts; vacation club accounts. Any new member to open an account, any existing member to add a PAFCU product, or any member to refer a new member to the credit union will be entered to win a Drive Away Vacation Package. Stop by for a chance to win a surprise gift.

mar 10  
sat 10 am–12:30 pm

## See What the PAFCU Offers

Representatives from People's Alliance Federal Credit Union will be at the Park Slope Food Coop in the Meeting Room to sign up members for credit union membership. Learn about: \$5 minimum savings balance; loans starting at 2.99%; holiday club account; debit/Visa cards; mobile/text message banking; no-fee checking; Internet banking; kids' accounts; vacation club accounts. Any new member to open an account, any existing member to add a PAFCU product, or any member to refer a new member to the credit union will be entered to win a Drive Away Vacation Package. Stop by for a chance to win a surprise gift.

mar 10  
sat 7 pm

## Coop Kids' Variety Show



Performers in alphabetical order: Lochlan Brooks, Sadie Carroll, Zabi and Amaru Davila-Lomas, Cloe Amelia Dean, Johnny Ali Garcia, Silas Gaughran, Skye James, Eli Jort, Ruby Kahn, Raven Karlick, William Lach, Lola Lafia, Zev Lane, Jonah Murphy, Jordan Nass-deMause, Leah Perkel, Leela and Maya Phillips, Ellie Pike, Elijah Pluchino, Marlen Popkin, Tallulah Pratt, Lara Saddique, Emma Scholl,

Lara Schuman, Emmanuel Ball Storrow, Clementine and Graham Vonnegut, Mia Weiss, Deasian Williams, and the PS 321 PAC (Performing Arts Company). Types of acts include: piano, singing, guitar, drums, cello, hip-hop, tap, stilts, hula hoop, trumpet, Tae Kwan Do, dramatic monologue, flute, and rock'n roll. Admission: \$10 adults, \$5 kids 12-18, free kids under 12. Refreshments for sale.

**Event takes place at Old First Church, Carroll St. and Seventh Ave.**

mar 13  
tue 7 pm

## Safe Food Committee Film Night: Queen of the Sun



*Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?* is a profound, alternative look at the global bee crisis from Taggart Siegel, director of *The Real Dirt on Farmer John*. Taking us on a journey through the catastrophic disappearance of bees and the mysterious world of the beehive, this engaging and ultimately uplifting film weaves an unusual and dramatic story of the heartfelt struggles of beekeepers, scientists, and philosophers from around the world, including Michael Pollan, Gunther Hauk, and Vandana Shiva. Together, they reveal both the problems and the solutions in renewing a culture in balance with nature.

mar 16  
fri 8 pm

## Alexis Cuadrado and Janine Nichols



**Alexis Cuadrado** is an award-winning jazz bassist and composer originally from Barcelona who has been a Brooklyn resident for the last 12 years.

For this special occasion, and with the support of the fabulous 10-piece **Miles Away Band**, he'll present a selection of pieces from the electric Miles Davis repertoire, bringing the jazz-funk to the Good Coffeehouse. Not to be missed! Opening up straight-ahead songwriting forms to make room for the emotional power of free jazz, **SEMI-FREE** is the loose-limbed trio of guitarist Brandon Ross (Harriet Tubman: the band, Cassandra Wilson, Henry Threadgill, Lizz Wright), violinist Charlie Burnham (Steven Bernstein's MTO, James Blood Ulmer, Cassandra Wilson, Medeski Martin & Wood) and singer/writer/rhythm guitarist **Janine Nichols**, whose "idiosyncratic sense of space and time elevates everything she sings" (David Greenberger, *Metroland*). **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.**



mar 17  
sat 7 pm

## Food Justice & Ecological Damage in Palestine/Israel

Joel Kovel, an anti-Zionist, anti-capitalist Jew and pro-peace activist who is editor-in-chief of the academic quarterly *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, will speak on how Zionist ideology and policy have created an environmental crisis in Palestine/Israel. While this crisis mainly impacts Palestinians, it affects food production and the quality of life of all humans in this region. Water usage and water, air and ground pollution by Israeli settlers, industrialists, weapons manufacturers, and the Israeli military will be addressed. A discussion will follow. Due to space limitations, RSVPs are required: psfc.BDS@gmail.com. Moderator **Dennis James** is a Coop member and retired attorney, active in Palestinian issues in Detroit and New York.

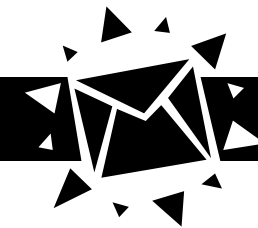
## still to come

mar 18 Fitness for Moms

mar 24 Esperanto

mar 27 Putting Your Passion Into Action

mar 27 PSFC MARCH General Meeting



## IN SUPPORT OF THE COOP JOINING THE BDS MOVEMENT AGAINST ISRAEL

### COOP MEMBERS:

The language of a movement for “boycotts, divestment, and sanctions” (BDS) is framed as being “against” a country or entity. It’s easy then to presume that the BDS movement against Israel is intended as some sort of violence or threat to Israel itself. Not only is this untrue, but it’s slightly absurd. Surely the Coop buying paprika and red peppers from some other country isn’t going to bring Israel crumbling to its foundation—nor is that the desired outcome. I want Israel to crumble no more than I want Palestinian homes, schools, and hospitals to crumble. What the BDS movement is about is removing our tacit consent for Israel’s actions against the occupied peoples of Palestine, and stating that we, the Park Slope Food Coop, do not want to support violators of human rights and international law. This is a stance we’ve taken before against other countries and entities, and a pattern we should continue, lest we become just another grocery store. Should the Israeli government change its patterns and policy to one of respect and cooperation, I’d be glad to see Israeli products brought back into the Coop.

*In Peace,*

*Najati Imam*

*A Palestinian Coop Member*

## BDS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### COOP MEMBERS:

What is BDS? An international movement, a coalition of mainly Palestinian non-governmental organizations, launched at the 2001 Durban World Conference Against Racism as a declaration of purpose, “The Durban Strategy.”

Its professed purpose is to isolate Israel, interrupting its economic and cultural ties to inflict damage on it as

an alleged violator of Palestinians’ rights.

BDS opposes cultural, commercial and educational exchanges between Israelis and Palestinians, calling them “collaborations.” It opposes any efforts, including peace talks, to bring Israelis and Palestinians together

Claiming to be a civil rights group for Palestinians, it does little to advance their cause.

Who heads the movement? The BDS Campaign National Committee, co-founded by Omar Barghouti. Born in Qatar, raised in the West Bank, he moved to Israel. A graduate student at Tel Aviv University, he demonizes that country. While he talks about Israeli “apartheid” his presence there demonstrates Israel’s support of Palestinian education and acceptance of Palestinian students.

Since the Coop carries few Israeli products, what effects would a boycott have? None whatever on Israelis or Palestinians. (However, a large-scale boycott of farm products could hurt Palestinian farm workers in Israel and Palestinian farmers working with Israeli exporters.)

Plenty on the Coop. The issue has become contentious and divisive. Some members say they no longer feel comfortable in the Coop, or that they will leave if a boycott is adopted. Many potential members would stay away. PSFC would be known for its BDS affiliation, and regarded as anti-Semitic.

Should we single out Israel for criticism and economic pressure? Numerous countries commit egregious civil rights violations. (The Coop carries products from China, which no one advocates boycotting.) That BDS employs a double standard aimed only at Israel suggests that it is not open about its real agenda.

How can we learn the real aims of BDS? Not from the group promoting a Coop boycott. They don’t speak about this, even on their web site. The global BDS website [www.BDSmovement.net](http://www.BDSmovement.net) shows that BDS aims at delegitimizing and destroying Israel.

What if we disagree with the policies of the Israeli government? Many

Israelis do, too. Consider whether this is a reason to support a movement trying to extinguish the only Jewish state, the only democratic multi-cultural society in the Middle East. (Arab countries are defined by exclusive nationalist identity, as in Saudi Arabia, where neither Christians nor Jews can be citizens).

Should the Coop officially join BDS? BDS is a hate movement, not a human rights movement. Concealing anti-Israel venom behind a mask of human rights, it distorts facts, inverts and invents history, and violates reason, smearing Israel’s reputation, to choke off its international ties. Its purpose is not to end some of Israel’s policies, but to deny its right to exist as a Jewish state, and purge it from the Middle East.

Our affiliation can only harm the Coop and its membership.

If you support the Coop, if you support two states for two people living side by side in cultural, social, and economic harmony, boycott BDS.

*Ruth Bolletino*

## NEGEV BEDOUINS

### COOP MEMBERS:

#### ISRAELI APARTHEID WEEK, FEBRUARY 26–MARCH 3

Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW), in its 8th year, is an annual international series of events held in cities and on campuses across the globe. The aim of IAW is to educate people about the nature of Israel as an apartheid state, and to build BDS campaigns as part of a growing global BDS movement. Last year there were 97 U.S. cities participating in IAW.

#### INTERNATIONAL LAW: THE CRIME OF APARTHEID

International law defines the crime of apartheid as “inhuman acts committed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination by one racial group of persons over any other racial group of persons and systematically oppressing them.”

Previous letters described: (1) Israel’s water “apartheid” policies in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; (2) Israel’s “apartheid” marriage laws; (3) Israel’s illegal occupation policies: surrounding Bethlehem with illegal settlements and the Separation Wall. This letter focuses on Israel’s discriminatory policies toward the Negev Bedouins, citizens of Israel.

#### LEGISLATION TO FORCEFULLY REMOVE 40,000 BEDOUIN

A proposed law (1/3/2012) called ‘Regulation of Bedouin settlement in the Negev’ will “implement a scheme to evict some 40,000 Bedouin from their homes in the Negev in a program of forced urbanization.” Based on the Praver Plan, it will “strip the Bedouin of most of their ancestral

lands.” Geography Professor Abu Ras, at Ben Gurion University in the Negev stated: “the Bedouin’s outstanding claim on ancestral lands in the Negev is one of the major territorial issues left unresolved since Israel’s founders sought to implement the Zionist goal of concentrating Palestinian Arabs in the smallest possible area while allowing Jews to take control of the maximum amount of land.”

#### BEDOUIN HISTORY: 1948—PRESENT: ISRAEL’S INHUMANE TREATMENT

After 1948, Israel forcibly relocated 11 of the 19 Bedouin tribes to a small enclosure, Siyaq. Following harsh military rule until 1966, half of the Bedouins agreed to relocate to 7 state-planned townships rated today as the poorest municipalities in Israel. The remaining Bedouin live in 45 villages that Israel refused to recognize. As a result, there have been no roads, no connection to the electric grid, no running water or sewer system, minimal health and education systems and no administrative system to request building permits.

#### “UNRECOGNIZED VILLAGES”: STRUGGLE FOR RECOGNITION

Negev Bedouin requested recognition as agricultural communities, with access to public services; submitted 3,200 land claims through the courts; and, in 1997, created the Regional Council of Unrecognized Villages. In response to the Praver Plan, RCUV submitted an alternative plan proposing ‘rational’ legalization of the villages. Protesters of the law include Arab Israeli MPs, Israeli activists, and civil rights groups. The legislation also disregards the recognition by the U.N. that the Bedouin is an indigenous people, “deserving of land ... not land confiscation.”

#### NEGEV BEDOUIN AND BDS

BDS is an appropriate response to Israel’s treatment of the Bedouin. They suffer from the same discriminatory “apartheid” policies that plague Palestinians.

References: Authors: Mya Guarnieri, Dr. Yeela Raanan, Jonathan Cook, Wikipedia, YouTube.

*Mary Buchwald  
Brooklyn For Peace*

## THE ETERNAL CERTAINTY OF THE HUMAN CONDITION

### COOP MEMBERS:

In the vein of J. Swift’s “A Modest Proposal,” I would like to point out that the only 100% certain way to achieve “peace” in the area commonly known as the “Middle-East” (M-E) would be the 100% removal of all members of H. Sapiens from this area. However I am certain that we can agree or stipulate that this is

## GAZETTE COMMITTEE REPORT

### New Letters Policy

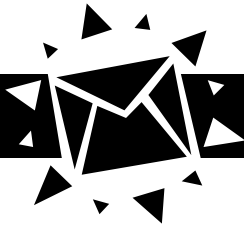
*By Stephanie Golden and Erik Lewis, Gazette Coordinating Editors*

In response to member comments regarding the number of letters in the *Gazette* about the BDS issue, our Editorial Board has set a new policy.

A letter signed by five or more people will be considered a “collective” letter, and the signers can publish an additional letter in the same issue. A letter signed by fewer than five people will be considered a letter from each of the signers, and our long-standing policy of one letter or member article per person per issue policy will apply: the signers cannot publish another letter in the same issue.

At least at this point, we are reluctant to limit these letters any further, since our mandate is to keep the *Gazette* open to all points of view.





beyond even the power of Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting (PSFC-GM). And further, with a lesser degree of certainty, we can probably agree that the main effects of any PSFC-GM boycott of any products from any area in M-E, on the entire area of the M-E would be on blocking sales of those products to PSFC (after all PSFC is not the only retail food operation in the world so theoretically those lost sales could be made up elsewhere). In other words, the actors in M-E conflicts are (regrettably) not looking to PSFC-GM for Political/Military/Cultural/Religious guidance, only for business opportunities. Therefore, for maximum efficiency, PSFC-GM should be working toward the elimination of all business activities with the entire conflict zone commonly known as the "Middle East." In addition, given the reality that many, many areas on Earth could be termed conflict zones by somebody, somewhere, and that PSFC intends to continue operations in the general fashion it has for over 30 years, the M-E conflict zone should be deemed of special interest to PSFC-GM, exceptional in Earth's history in its conflictness, and PSFC-GM should also deem that no other conflict zone on Earth (past, current or future) can ever be of such special interest to PSFC-GM. Thus PSFC-GM has a legitimate way forward to impose its will on its special-interest conflict zone, while ensuring the ongoing operations and continuation of PSFC, by allowing it to do business with the non-special-interest conflict zones (past, current or future), in addition to the insignificant balance of Earth without conflict. Thank you for your attention.

Marc Horowitz

### SAY YES TO DEMOCRACY ON MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>

#### COOP MEMBERS:

Coop members get to decide whether to embrace democracy, or stifle it, at the March 27<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. That's when we will vote on holding a referendum on joining the call to boycott Israeli goods.

Many have claimed that this effort sows division. Surely the division is already there. It will only fester if we deny ourselves the chance to finally vote.

I hope we who come out on March 27<sup>th</sup> agree that this matter deserves a membership referendum. As a Coop member for 22 years, I urge us all to live up to the Coop's long tradition of supporting human rights, and join the boycott. Our government spends billions of our tax dollars to support Israel's occupation of Palestinians' farms and villages. The least we can do is to publicly refuse to add our grocery dollars to that tally.

Chris Seymour

### FISH IN THE BARREL

#### COOP MEMBERS:

My previous letter was denied for saying the Israeli treatment of the captive, oppressed, and entirely subjugated Palestinians is apartheid, it's fascism, it's oppression, it's dictatorship, it's depravity. Maybe this is the way of everyone who is wedded to a cause or a nation, I don't know. I'm not naming names, I'm not singling out any person or organization. Still, it's the way it looks to me and I think I should have the right to say it.

You the Israeli government are holding these people in a deadly ter-

rorized hopeless captivity in a country armed with nuclear weapons and telling them you won't let them go unless they stop denying Israel's right to exist, and they refuse. *I applaud their courage!* And in saying so I am not defending any individual Palestinian or condemning any individual Israeli or American. I'm just saying that, personally, as an American and a Jew and a patriot I oppose this vicious and inhuman program with all my heart. I cannot write as movingly as Susan Metz or with such detachment as David Barouh. It's very personal with me. It prevents me from discharging my duty as a Jewish man at temple. It prevents me from living in solidarity with my own people. If, as it seems, it would take the dissolution of The Jewish State to restore us to the sanity and humanity of our forebears, I'm all for it.

Hey, give me a shout-out! Should I run for the BOD again this year?—not the BDS!! Pls answer on my phone or EMail, just a Yes or No will be sufficient—I'll know what it's about. If an EMail just put the Yes or No in the Subject line.

And now we find a rump organization, the PVPMF, sponsoring a meeting at Old First Church. Is a boycott now not rational? Was Constructive Engagement with South Africa not rational? Couched in fine *language—more of the same!*

Did anyone attack South Africa? A boycott is a peaceful, civilized action compared to what Israel and Syria and the US are *doing*—HHhheeeLLL-Loooo! If we attacked Israel, they would nuke us!

If you were against boycotts at the Co-Op, would you vote against BDS for that reason or would you vote on the merits of the issue?

People who shoot fish in a barrel shouldn't live in glass houses . . .

*Serving you as always, I remain—*

albert solomon

718-768-9079

hobces@yahoo.com

### LIGHT BULBS IN THE BATHROOMS

#### HELLO:

I've been meaning to write to the Coop about this for the longest time. Whenever I use the restrooms at the Coop, I cannot help but notice four light bulbs installed in an area (~20 square feet) sufficiently lighted with one light bulb. On top of that, often those light bulbs are compact fluorescents (CFLs). Since most people using the facility turn on the light and promptly off when done, the lights are rarely on for more than five minutes. FACT: CFLs should not be used in areas unless they are on for at least 15 minutes at a time. Turning them on and off repeatedly for only a few minutes at a time burns out the starter mechanism prematurely. Two issues: (1) Only ONE light bulb should be used in each of the Coop's bathrooms and a standard incandescent should be used since it will be turned on and off dozens of times throughout the day. (2) If the Coop truly wants to go green, then light emitting diodes (LEDs) light bulbs should be sourced and used AND sold at the Coop. LEDs are mercury-free (unlike CFLs which contain a small amount of mercury per bulb that help light the bulb). LEDs use almost 50% less energy than CFLs and they are MERCURY-FREE. ALL those CFLs thrown out prematurely are extra toxic waste to handle (I know the Coop recycles CFLs because I brought a bag of them to Home Depot for recycling as an FTOP shift recently). So hopefully one light bulb per bathroom (the Coop will be environmentally responsible doing this AND save money in energy costs and the expense of light bulbs), and, ideally, LEDs for the future and to sell as well. It would be nice to buy LEDs at a reasonable cost at the Coop to light my home.

Albert Guitjens

### NEW YORK GOES NEGATIVE

*Under pressure from the DMV  
Went to apply for a "non-driver license."  
Must've impressed the motor folks—  
Waived past test (at least that's my sense).  
More than 19 or 20 weeks later,  
In came my topsy-turvy card,  
But how do authorities know for certain  
My non-driving skills have not been marred?  
Next requirement, I'm guessing:  
A non-drinker document  
Proving no bar will let me in, ha!  
May push me into alco-torment!*

Leon Freilich

## Rally to Ban Fracking Saturday, February 25 1 – 3 p.m. Cathedral of St. John the Divine 1047 Amsterdam Ave., Manhattan (the rally is *INSIDE* the Cathedral)

The largest cathedral in the world, St. John the Divine, is a powerful location for the anti-fracking movement to gather, get inspired, and galvanize our forces.

To register to attend, visit  
<http://bit.ly/FrackingRallyatStJohntheDivine>

Event is co-sponsored by the Park Slope Food Coop.



## MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

## Who Is Joel Kovel, and Why Is He Speaking in Our Coop?

By Barbara Mazor

According to Joel Kovel's book, *Overcoming Zionism*: Jews "are the splinters under the skin of humanity." (p. 19). Zionism is an aggressive nationalism dependent on a hated Other (p. 43). "AIPAC has bought itself a Congress and hence can get them to dance to its tune." (p. 138), Yom Kippur "gives the Jewish bourgeoisie a once-a-year opportunity to wipe the slate clean before they begin transgressing anew" (p. 144). Israel set off bombs in Iraq in the early 1950s to frighten the Jews of Iraq into emigrating (p. 99). Israeli spies were involved in the September 11 attacks (pp. 145 and 233). And, of course, "Israel, as a Jewish state, is a racist state," (p. 205); therefore, "Israel does not have the right to exist" (p. 207).

Dr. Kovel admits his disdain for Judaism began with childhood boredom in synagogue; he resented attending Hebrew school. Judaism and all Jewishness, Kovel surmises, can only lead to racism and fascism. The only hope for the salvation of the Jew is for him to abandon his Jewishness, whether it be religious or cultural. Only the "non-Jewish Jew," defined by bloodline, is worthy of redemption.

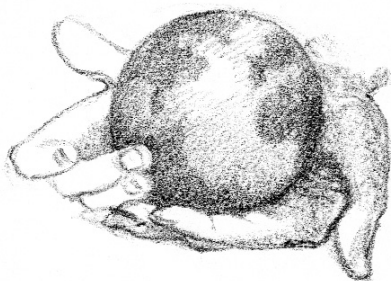
The book is replete with anti-Semitic tropes: Jews control the media, Jews control the government, Jews control capital, Jews are usurers, Jews view themselves as superior. Kovel repeats the same lies, half-truths, discredited claims and misrepresentations typically found in the writings of Israel's detractors—even including the easily disproved "Gaza is one of the most densely populated places on the planet" (p. 123). (Brooklyn is three times as dense as Gaza.)

Kovel promotes a secular universal democracy for Israel/Palestine as the resolution of the conflict. Echoing George W. Bush on Iraq and Afghanistan, Kovel

writes, "I do not believe that people given a real choice for freedom with justice will continue on the path of delusion signified by theocracy and fundamentalism. Indeed, the power of the universal is so great as to catalyze a diminution and even cessation of hostility...Open for them the hope of self-determination and violence will wither away of itself" (p. 239). Of course the reality today in Iraq, Afghanistan, Tunisia, Egypt and Libya appears to contradict Kovel's belief.

Nowhere in Kovel's book does he acknowledge the contribution of the Arabs to the conflict. There is no mention of dhimmi laws under the Ottoman government. No mention of Arab rejectionism. No mention of the Arab collaboration with the Nazis during World War II and the influence of Nazi propaganda on the Arab world. There is no reciprocal demand for the Arabs to recognize the humanity of the Jews. No demand for an end to Arab nationalism or Islamism. Only the dissolution of Zionism and the Jewish State are required to magically bring peace and equality to the region.

Dr. Kovel is entitled to think whatever he thinks. But is the Coop obligated to provide a platform for him? What does it say about the people who would bring such a speaker here? Is there now any doubt about what motivates the BDS movement? It is indefensible that this should be permitted in the Coop. ■



## COMMERCIAL SPACE

PROFESSIONAL OFFICES available for Health Practitioners; e.g. Nutritionist, Medical Doctor, Psychotherapist, Massage Therapist, Podiatrist, Dentist, Reiki, Shiatsu, etc. Be part of an Holistic center in SOHO. Doctor will introduce all patients. Non-medical spaces also available. For information, please call 212-505-5055.

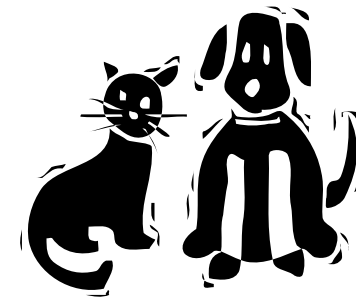
LARGE LOVELY UNION SQUARE THERAPY OFFICE in 2 room suite w/waiting area & storage room. Has big windows, massage table. Good for all kinds of bodywork & acupuncture. Available Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon & Tue or Thur mornings. \$350 for 1 day, \$675 for 2, \$950 for 3. (Neg) Please contact Karen Ginsburg, LCSW at 917-349-1671, kginsburg.LCSW@gmail.com

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## CLASSIFIEDS

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MADISON AVENUE HAIR STYLIST is right around the corner from the food coop — so if you would like a really good haircut at a decent price, call Maggie at 718-783-2154. I charge \$60.00.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## FRI, FEB 24

BOOK SALE - EVENING PREVIEW SALE: 6:00pm - 9:00pm. \$20 admission. Tens of thousands of new & used books, DVDs, CDs & records. Most books priced at \$1 or \$2. Park Slope United Methodist Church, 6th Avenue at 8th Street. (Book donations needed! Details at www.parkslopeumc.org). Additional days are Saturday 2/25 from 8:00am to 4:30pm and Sunday 2/26 from 12:30 to 4:30 pm. Sat and Sun free admission

## SAT, FEB 25

8pm-10:30pm Peoples' Voice Cafe Pearls of Wisdom — Elders Who Tell Personal Stories; James Cannings with the NYC Streetsingers. At The Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 East 35th St. (betw. Madison & Park) For info call 212-787-3903 www.peoplesvoicecafe.org. Suggested donation: \$15-18 general/\$10 members

1pm; Circuit Productions, Susan Goldbetter\*, producer presents Feraba: African Rhythm Tap Duet featuring Irene Koloseus and Kolipe Camara at the Stevan S. Dweck Center at Brooklyn's Central Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza, BK, NY. 11238 Info/Directions: (718) 230-2487.

## SUN, FEB 26

4pm at the Central Library Dr. S. Stevan Dweck Center for Contemporary Culture; BPL Chamber Players: The Brooklyn Rider String Quartet, Johnny Gandelsman and Colin Jacobsen violins, Nicholas Cords viola, Eric Jacobsen violoncello. Free Admission.

1pm The companion paths of Ethical Humanism & Buddhism with Anne Klaysen Leader of the NY Society for Ethical Culture. Anne will explore the similarities and differences between the two religions and how they can be integrated. BSEC, 53 PPW and 2nd. www.BSEC.org

## SAT, MAR 3

8pm-10:30pm People's Voice Cafe Carolyn Hester At The Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 East 35th St. (betw. Madison & Park) For info call 212-787-3903 www.peoplesvoicecafe.org. Suggested donation: \$15-18 general/\$10 members

## SUN, MAR 4

2 p.m. THE ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN CONFLICT: OBSTACLES + OPPORTUNITIES. Speakers: Michael Walzer, Americans for Peace Now; Brooke Goldstein,

The Lawfare Project; Zuhdi Jasser, American Islamic Forum for Democracy; Yona Shem-Tov, Encounter. Old First Reformed Church, 729 Carroll near 7th Ave. Hosted by Progressive Voices for Peace in the Middle East. pvpforum.evidencewatch.com. Suggested donation \$5.

3 pm Paul Friedman\*, fiddle, and Jody Kruskal\*, Anglo concertina perform traditional American tunes and songs at the John Street Methodist Church, 44 John Street between Nassau Street and William Street. \$5 adults, \$2 children. Subway to Fulton Street on the 2,3,4,5,A,C,J,Z.

## THU, MAR 29

7pm Busting the Self-Made Myth at the NY Society for Ethical Culture (2 West 64th Street, NY) Brian Miller (United for a Fair Economy) and Mike Lapham (Responsible Wealth Director) will discuss their book, *The Self-Made Myth: And the Truth About How Government Supports Individual and Business Success*. The event will include lively discussions.



Classified advertising in the *Linewriters' 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)

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**Puzzle Answers**

- gIANT
- fRONT
- tRICKy
- seSAmE
- weeKEND
- caDAVEr
- hANDYman
- cROSSword
- chALLENGe
- workBENch
- contrIVANce
- choLESTERol



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the environmental  
committee blog

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[ecokvetch.blogspot.com](http://ecokvetch.blogspot.com)



PHOTO BY KEVIN RYAN

Looking  
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Check out the Coop's  
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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)

**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.

**Thyroid Diet Coach**

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- free yourself off depression and anxiety attacks
- get off or reduce thyroid medication

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*I cured my thyroid. So can you.*

**Code Local, Act Global**

Your organization's website should grow organically, too.

Building websites that put you in control of your content. Brooklyn-based since 2007.

**social-ink.net**

**Progressive Voices for Peace in the Middle East**  
Sunday March 4 @ 2pm Old First Reformed Church  
729 Carroll Street

**The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict: Obstacles and Opportunities**

- Michael Walzer Americans for Peace Now
- Brooke Goldstein Lawfare Project
- Zuhdi Jasser American Islamic Forum for Democracy
- Yona Shem-Tov Encounter

[pvpforum.evidencewatch.com](http://pvpforum.evidencewatch.com)



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If your ad would benefit from broader exposure, try the Coop's web page, [www.foodcoop.com](http://www.foodcoop.com). The ads are FREE.



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

**WELCOME!**

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

Jennifer Akchin	Grace Frazier	Catherine Lee	Megan Robinson
Chaya Althaus	James Fry	Rae Leeper	Rachel Ross
Pinchas Althaus	Matthew Gaddis	Sophia Lerdahl	Eric Rubin
Sandy Arias	Nuala Gallagher	Geoff Lerer	Stefanie Rubin
Michelle Arroyo	Shogo Garcia	Marissa Lerer	Lionel Sacks-Monsky
Sarah Bartley	Sophia Glass	Elyssa Lewis	Aleksandra Samsonova
David Bassano	Seth Graves	Travis Libin	Adam Sansolo
Philip Bender	Mark Green	Donna Lichaw	Seth Sarika
Tobias Berkman	Monique Hazeur	Elanit Linder	Ella Sawtell
Matthew Bernardo	Rain Henderson	Michael Linder	Chris Sbaratta
Eric Bishop	Jessica Herstek	Oleg Lisitsyn	David Schoenholt
Katie Bishop	Mark Herstek	Cynthia Liverpool	Greg Sheppard
Sara Blask	John Hilmer	Maura Malloy	Marybeth Sheppard
Dominic Bradley	Evan Homolka	Lindsay McCune	Bridget Sumser
Emerson Brisbon	Kylie Hudgens	Alison Mclvrde	Jennifer Sun
Alisa Bruza	Daniel Infeld	Ariel Meilich	Priscilla Swan
Richard Bryson	Paul Jackson	Mike Mittenberg	Cathy Swatzell-Ng
Alden Burgess	Peggy Jean-Louis	Elvira Moran	Christopher Taylor
Ray Carannante	Danielle Kalan	Omar Moustafa	Noelia Tejada
Mathieu Chester	Elliott Kalan	Ada Muellner	David Timberlake
Molicia Crichton	Erica Kermani	Yukio Nakada	David Valentin
Zach Deegan	Sina Khasani	Yuko Nakada	Ernesto Vigoreaux
Ross Derrico	Christopher Koch	Ana Pais	Samuel Vinal
Jennifer Dev	Sarah Koshar	Jane Palmer	James Ward
Elise DeVroet	Phelim Kyne	Neelam Patil	Erica Weinstein
Homey Dilillo	Van Lancaster	Marvin Pique	Sue White
Sarah Dorsey	Cory Lawrence	Hannah Pitt	Nathan Whitney
Dana Eaves	Danielle Lawrence	Kristen Poppele	Doug Williams
Daniel Foreman-Mackey	David Layton	L. Reed	

**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)



**BAY RIDGE FOOD CO-OP**

We're one step closer to opening for business **NOW WE NEED YOU!**

The Bay Ridge Food Co-op is moving ever nearer to opening its doors, providing a valuable new resource for communities across South Brooklyn and beyond.

Response to the launch of our membership equity drive has already been amazing, but we still need your help to ensure we achieve all our goals. If you live in or close to Bay Ridge, do consider joining our co-op now -- we have set a goal of 2500 members to open our doors, ensuring a desirable product selection and service level.

We're looking for people to help our growing membership with the many tasks that go into establishing a new co-op. Whatever your skills, talent or experience, your support will truly help make a difference. And please visit our site to subscribe to our email newsletter to keep up on our progress.

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