

# LINWAITERS' GAZETTE

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## Pension Fund in the Spotlight

By Ed Levy

The Coop's once rarely discussed pension plan has now come front and center since the issue was first raised by member Jonathan Hessney, a business management consultant, as a discussion item in the August General Meeting. Jonathan noted a steep decline in the value of the fund last year, asserted that it is following a risky investment strategy (the bulk of the pension fund is currently invested in just seven stocks), and proposed several reforms to its management.

General Coordinator Joe Holtz, one of the fund's two co-trustees, disputes claims that the fund is in trouble and has defended the strategy. He's stated that despite its occasional ups and downs the pension fund is basically healthy, and its viability, as with any investment, must be viewed over the long term. In a recent email to the *Linewaiters' Gazette*, Joe wrote that "George [pension fund co-trustee George Haywood] and I are both very pleased that the pension plan assets as of the close of business today September 30 stand at over \$8 million up over \$3.2 million since February 1."

The timing of Jonathan's August presentation, when Joe was on vacation, was unpopular with some members, who feel the issue would not have grown into the hot-button item it has become if Joe had

been there to counter Jonathan's analysis at the outset. Nonetheless, that analysis has since aroused a lot of interest in and concern about what some regard as a lack of transparency and accountability in the fund's management, which they see as conflicting with the Coop's culture of openness.

Discussion of the pension issue has been ongoing since late summer, generating numerous comments in the September General Meeting as well as articles and letters in the *Gazette*.

### Proposed Reforms

The reforms Jonathan is proposing include creation of a finance committee to oversee the fund's

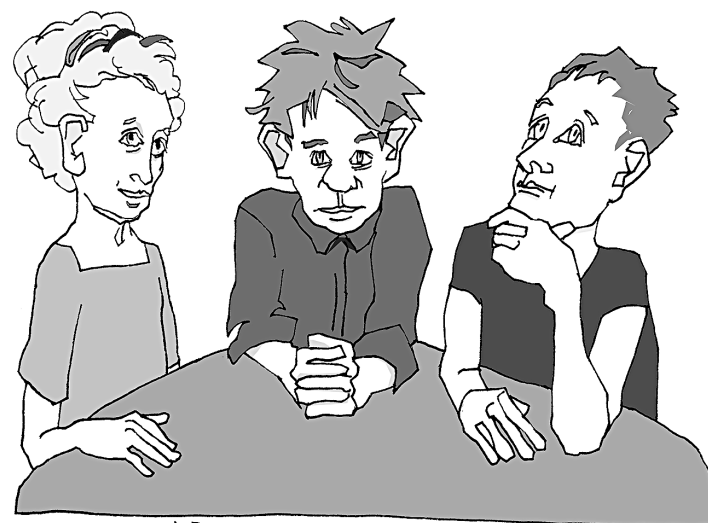
management and mandating transparency in the fund's operations. The committee would recommend investment policies, communicate the fund's performance and strategy to the membership in a clear manner, select trustees to administer the fund, and approve outside advisers such as actuaries, accountants and investment managers. All Coop members would have the right to review documents showing the fund's positions, trading history, investment and risk strategies, anticipated payouts and a summary of how benefits are accrued. These reforms, Jonathan believes, "would bring the operation of the pension fund

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ILLUSTRATION BY DEBORAH TINT

## September GM: All About Committees



HEARING COMMITTEE

ILLUSTRATION BY LYNN BERRINS IJIN

By Pat Smith

Members packed the house for the September 27 General Meeting despite the deliciously cool fall evening, perfect for enjoying a beverage outside on the terrace or garden of your favorite Slope tavern. But there we were, hearts and minds in the right place, the St. Francis Xavier School auditorium, electing members to the Hearing Officers Committee and the Agenda Committee, and discussing a wide range of topics important to Coop members. While

the talk was often spirited and sincere, to tell from the animated facial expressions of those who stepped up to the microphone, it must be noted that a technical problem with the public address system, compounded by the echoing acoustics of the hall, made much of what was said nearly incomprehensible to even the most diligent listener. Apparently nothing could be done about the poor sound, ears were duly cupped, and we forged ahead. Lip readers had an advantage.

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### Next General Meeting on October 25

The General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The September General Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 25, at 7:00 p.m. at **St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.**

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.

## Coop Event Highlights

Fri, Oct 14 • **Wordsprouts: A Night of Poetry** 7:00 p.m.

Sat, Oct 29 • **FUN Committee: Game Nite** 7:00–10:00 p.m.

Thu, Nov 3 • **Food Class: The Sustainable Korean Table** 7:30 p.m.

Tue, Nov 8 • **Plow-to-Plate Film: Kombat** 7:00 p.m.

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

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# Pension Fund

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for our employees into line with standard practices for fund management and open up its operations to the kind of transparency one would expect at a cooperative.”

Jonathan’s original analysis and reform proposals are available on Google Drive at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B46LFU9DHP-JuQkdtbmZNc3BCaUU>. Readers can communicate with him directly about this issue at [psfcPensionGovernance@gmail.com](mailto:psfcPensionGovernance@gmail.com).

## Who Is George Haywood?

In a letter to the *Gazette* (September 29, 2016), Joe Holtz wrote that “the investments of the pension plan are initially researched and suggested by George and then if I agree we proceed to invest.” Financial expert and adviser George Haywood has been a Coop member since 1992 and manages the pension plan as his workslot. The *Gazette* has made many attempts to reach him in order to get his reactions to the current controversy. In mid-September, we requested his contact information from Joe, who responded by email that an interview article with George “seems premature at this time.” After a second request, Joe responded that George is “extremely busy right now and that he intends to talk to you.” On the 26th, after another reminder, George was given this reporter’s phone number and our hopes rose again that we could speak to him. But four days later, Joe stated in an email that “George got some very frightening personal health news early in the



ILLUSTRATION BY DEBORAH TINT

week and he will not be able to talk with you before your deadline.” The email concluded with, “We are both open to the idea of converting a higher percentage of the plan’s assets to more diversified investing.”

We are posing some of the questions we would have asked George here, in the hope he will take the opportunity to respond to them in writing as soon as he is able to.

*“We are both open to the idea of converting a higher percentage of the plan’s assets to more diversified investing.”*

1. George, please tell us about yourself and how you came to be co-trustee of the Park Slope Food Coop pension fund.
2. In a letter to the *Gazette*, a Coop member expresses concern that a highly concentrated investment strategy like the one you are following requires very close, full-time monitoring. What happens if you are unavailable to do that—for

example, if there is some urgent personal matter or illness?

3. Currently, the plan is primarily invested in just seven stocks. Could you list or describe them?
4. Please describe in layman’s terms the investment strategy you are currently following.
5. Two other members have written to the *Gazette* suggesting that a “small basket strategy” is most effective when engaged in by a very large investor, such as Berkshire Hathaway, that takes very large positions. This in turn gives them leverage to pressure the boards of those companies to make changes that improve the stock value. How would you respond to that?
6. Joe has written to the *Gazette* that you and he “are both open to the idea of converting a higher percentage of the plans assets to more diversified investing.” Why do you now wish to diversify?
7. What do you think about proposals that have been

put forth to the Coop membership to increase transparency and accountability in the pension fund’s management?

## Comments of the Board of Directors

The *Gazette* also reached out to the Coop’s board of directors to see if they wanted to weigh in on the pension issue. Retired General Coordinator and Board Member Allen Zimmerman, speaking, he said, primarily as a Coop member and pension recipient—was sharply critical of the Agenda Committee for allowing Jonathan Hessney to bring up the topic in Joe’s absence, and for failing during the meeting to call in a timely way upon staff members, such as General Coordinator Tricia Leith, who could shed light on the issue. “When Tricia finally spoke near the end of the agenda item,” Allen said, “she pointed out that some of the data was flawed. This came very near the end of the presentation. Jonathan’s report, delivered as an exposé, might have been very different had his data been accurate and his assumptions been shaped

Providing a secure pension plan to the Coop’s eligible employees is an appropriate business decision and consistent with the Coop’s Mission Statement. Because the Coop is responsible for funding the pension plan, the management of the pension plan, within the context of the plan’s long-term goals is an important issue for both employees and members.

The presentation at the August General Meeting provided one interpretation of the current state of the pension plan. In some ways, I see the presentation at the August GM as a response to a period where perhaps we have not had enough communication about the status of the plan and the plan’s fundamental investment strategy. I do feel that now is a good moment to have a sustained discussion of the pension plan and for interested members to participate in this dialogue.

I would caution against rash decisions and conclusions based solely on the information presented in August. The life span of the pension is over many years, the Coop is a well-managed business, and it is in our combined interest to have a measured and thoughtful period of comments and discussion.

*I would caution against rash decisions and conclusions based solely on the information presented in August.*



in collaboration and cooperation with the Coop staff.”

Board member Bill Penner sent the following statement to *Gazette*:

It now appears that we will get the sustained discussion Bill advocates. Jonathan’s pension reforms will once again be proposed as a discussion item at the October General Meeting, along with a competing motion by Joe Holtz. ■

# BIKE VALET PARKING

Saturday and Sunday through November 20  
1:00 - 7:45 pm



Leave your **bike, stroller, scooter,** or **cart** while you work or shop.  
No locks, no worries, no theft!  
Operates rain or shine.  
Look for us by the yellow wall under the green tent.



## New York World’s Fair

If you remove the letters S and L from word ABSOLVE, you are left with ABOVE, another word. Each line below has two clues. The answer to the first clue should be entered into all the spaces given. The answer to the second clue will go in the uncircled spaces. The earlier example would be filled in like this:

Acquit; On top of      A B S O L V E

When you are finished, the circled letters will spell out what made its first appearance in the U.S. at the 1939 New York World’s Fair.

CLUES	ANSWERS
Spoil; News material	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Deal; Mind	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Called; Carpet	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Future husband; OK	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Depict; 2 cups	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Squat; Sofa	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Fine-tune; Frail	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Start; Midday meal	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

Puzzle author: Lars Roe. For answers, see page 14.



## September GM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### Annual Hearing Officers Committee Election

Three current Hearing Officers Committee members, Marian Hertz, Andrea Hirshman and Liam Malanaphy, having completed their current three-year terms, stood for reelection. Hertz and Malanaphy cheerfully spoke about their dedication to the procedural work of the committee, and endorsed the reelection of Hirshman, who was unable to be present. Hearing Officers work on an FTOP basis when needed. The work involves presiding over hearings when there are disputes between the Coop and members accused of rule violations. Committee members are responsible for ensuring the hearing proceeds in a fair manner. By a show of hands, all were overwhelmingly voted back in.

Hertz said the committee is looking for new members. While all current members are lawyers, that isn't a requirement. For information, email [foodcoopdc@gmail.com](mailto:foodcoopdc@gmail.com).

### Annual Agenda Committee Election

One current Agenda Committee member, Michael Katzenellenbogen, having completed his two-year term, stood for reelection. Katzenellenbogen said the job is to take proposals for General Meeting agenda items, sort through the topics and issues, and make sure the proposal is something that can be acted upon. He was heartily endorsed by another member of the committee, Fran Hawthorne, who cited Katzenellenbogen's enthusiasm for the work and all around good-guyness. By a show of hands, he was reelected.

### Proposed Labor Committee

Richard Mandelbaum and Eric Frumin urged the creation of a Labor Committee that would systematize the way information on food workers' struggles is communicated to Coop members. The committee would keep members and the Coop leadership abreast of ways in which the Coop might engage with the issues related to worker exploitation.

Mandelbaum said the Labor Committee would not organize food workers but rather support established groups that do the organizing and documentation. The committee's role would be to communicate with food-work-



ILLUSTRATION BY LYNN BERNSTEIN

er organizing efforts and find out how and if the Coop can be supportive.

Mandelbaum suggested the committee would prepare reports for the *Gazette* and General Meetings and consult with the buyers of specific categories of foods in order to keep informed. He said information would be collected from sources as diverse as courthouse records and Google News. The committee would have seven regular members who would participate in the committee activity as their workslot.

A member questioned the appropriateness of shift credit for "intellectual work," given the not infrequent shortage of workers on the store shopping floor. Allen Zimmerman responded that a lot of the work slots at the Coop do not put food on the shelf, nor are they somehow "intellectual"—child care, for instance. He said the appropriate allocation of members and work slots is a separate issue from the proposal to create a Labor Committee.

Another member asked if workers at McDonald's would be counted as "food workers" for the purposes of the committee. Mandelbaum said issues involving fast-food workers would be monitored, as well as those of workers at food-processing plants, like Murray's Chicken, where safety violations resulting in severe injuries have been reported in the past. (Note: Murray's workers have since unionized.)

Joe Holtz said the Coop has a proud tradition of supporting workers' rights, going back to the 1970s and the United Farm Workers lettuce and grape boycott.

David Moss of the Chair Committee proposed an agenda item to schedule a vote on the proposed Labor Committee and the TPP Committee on the same night.

### Financial Report

Coordinator Mike Eakin reported that the Coop's

finances continue to be sound (though the public address system was not). The gross margin as of September 11 was 17.12%, meaning that we retained about 17 cents on every dollar sold, which did not fully cover our expenses. Net sales for the previous 32 weeks were \$32,924,991, compared to \$31,041,529 this time last year. Average sales per week were \$1,028,906, up \$58,858, an increase of 6.07%, owing partly to a 3% increase in average membership, at 16,705 members for the period. Eakin noted that the Coop's total assets are \$8,728,502, up from \$7,869,910 last September. The store's inventory turns over a very impressive 65 times per year, slightly down from 68 times per week last September.

### Coordinator's Report

In response to requests for more freshly prepared, ready-to-eat foods, General Coordinator Joe Szladek said the Coop is selling even more sandwiches from Court Street Grocers. We have also begun selling babka, though it may be hard to locate. It's in the aisle behind the bagels.

Szladek commented that some providers of foods insist on a certain retail price for their items, which would necessitate a much higher mark-up than the Coop's standard 21% over wholesale. That's a deal breaker, and those producers are turned away.

Berry prices continue to be high, but winter squashes are now coming in. Honey Nut squash from Hepworth is highly regarded, as are golden kiwis. Szladek said the golden kiwis are worth the higher price.

Szladek said that now that the Coop has joined the National Cooperative Grocers, we are getting really amazing prices on staple items, running the gamut from peanut butter to maple syrup to paper towels. Cer-

tain new products will be highlighted for 90 days to introduce them to the membership. Look for a sign in the aisle that says "Coop Basics." Szladek wrote more about this in the September 29 issue of the *Gazette*.

### Open Forum

Baruch Weisman noted that there is currently no official Coop policy for helping members who are shut-in and unable to shop. Weisman proposed the creation of a new volunteer committee for the purpose.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX GROSS

Joe Holtz offered that an informal system for providing assistance to such members is in place.

Jonathan Hessney asked for more transparency in the management of the Coop's pension plan, citing the

plan's investment in undisclosed stocks that have been underperforming and creating losses in recent years. Hessney provided an email address, [psfcensiongovernance@gmail.com](mailto:psfcensiongovernance@gmail.com), for those who would like join in the effort to learn more about the pension plan finances.

Joe Holtz said he would provide information on the stocks in the plan, but noted that while the value of the stocks has gone up and down as of the August General Meeting, this year the plan is up \$150,000 per month. Holtz said the Coop's outside CPA auditor sees no cause for undue concern, but advised that it is "something that needs watching."

Susan Metz of the International Trade Education Squad reminded members of the importance of continuing to organize to defeat the U.S. administration's efforts to pass the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement. Metz said members should see the link on the Coop website to the International Trade Education Squad's blog for more information.

The Board approved all minutes and election results. ■

# Hearing Officer Committee SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Hearing Officer Committee is seeking two new members. The committee conducts and presides over disciplinary hearings, ensures that hearings proceed in an efficient and unbiased manner and, after a randomly selected Deciding Group has decided whether an accused member violated a Coop rule, determines what disciplinary action should be taken against the member. Applicants should be Coop members in good standing for at least two years and have good attendance records. Judicial, arbitration, mediation or legal backgrounds a plus, but not required. Experience running meetings is desirable.

Members of the committee meet and earn workslot credit on an as-needed basis only, that is, when hearings are required. Therefore these members must maintain regular Coop workslots in good standing or be FTOP members in good standing.

The nature of the committee's work requires that all members maintain strict confidentiality with respect to all matters on which they work. The committee seeks an applicant pool that reflects the diversity of the Coop membership at large.

Those interested, please telephone  
Marian Hertz of the Hearing Officer Committee  
at 212-440-2743.



# Participatory Budgeting Going Strong



**The Park Slope Library's south lawn will be an edible garden with raised beds and benches.**

By Frank Haberle

Now in its sixth annual cycle, the Participatory Budgeting (PB) program continues to build momentum in New York City, providing increased numbers of city residents with the power to work together, plan and implement capital projects that improve their communities. City Council 39 (Councilmember Brad Lander) was one of four original PB sites in the City in 2011; today 32 City Council Districts are participating. This rapid rate of growth mirrors the Participatory Budgeting program's expansion to cities across the United States and beyond. Based on an original model that has been in operation in Sao Paulo, Brazil since 1989, there are now more than 1,500 participatory budgets around the world.

The PBNYC process gives residents of City Council District 39 and other surrounding Brooklyn communities the power to decide how to spend tax dollars in our neighborhood. The model is simple: community members are invited to come up with ideas for projects that will help our schools, libraries, parks, streets and other shared spaces. Next, community members work together to research the feasibility and need for each project, and finalize a list of projects to put on a ballot. Finally, a public vote is held on the ideas and the community, together, decides which of the great ideas will get funded.

Participatory Budgeting is a yearlong process. The first step each year is a series of "neighborhood assemblies" where residents come together to brainstorm and share ideas for needed projects. After ideas are presented, volunteers research each

idea, including costs and specifics of every proposed project. Details of the suggested projects are reviewed, finalized and presented at a Participatory Budgeting Expo in the weeks before the vote. Finally, residents from across the district come out to vote for their favorite projects, and together we collectively decide which of the proposed projects will get funded. For Cycle 6, Assemblies were conducted through the month of September and proposals have been submitted. The Expo and then the vote will be held in early 2017.

## Powered by Volunteers, Reaching Whole Communities

Caron Atlas, a longtime Park Slope Food Coop member and Director of two non-profit organizations (Arts & Democracy, which connects arts, culture, social justice, and civic participation; and Naturally Occurring Cultural Districts NY, a citywide alliance using creativity to revitalize New York City from the neighborhood up), has been a PB volunteer from the outset. "I originally got involved when Councilmember Lander asked me to be on the District 39 district committee. Brad was one of the first four to pilot PB so it was all new then. But I had read about the process in Brazil and Chicago and even assigned some readings to students in a class about arts and participatory democracy. So I was excited to get involved."

According to Caron, one of the great strengths of the PB process is "people getting to have a direct say in improving their neighborhoods, with concrete outcomes. And just as important as what gets funded, is the process where people come get to know

their neighbors, talk about their community, have hard conversations about equity, and learn how city government and budgeting work."

"I also think it's very important," Caron adds, "that in PB, all people living in the community who are over 14 can vote. It is very moving to work the polls and talk with people where this is their first opportunity to vote, who may not have formal citizen status but care very much about their community and city. I also think it's very powerful when people come as a family to vote and discuss their choices with their children—reinforcing the importance of being engaged in your community at an early age. I am very impressed with the diversity of people across the city who participate in PB—who speak multiple languages, live in public housing, and are youth."



**Coop member Caron Atlas looking for votes at PB event.**

As for working as a volunteer with the City Council, Caron says, "It's been great to work with Brad's office—which has been very open to creative approaches to doing PB, recognizing that PB needs to keep developing as an experiment in participatory democracy and not become ossified in one limited model. I also appreciate

the fact that Brad has funded ideas that have come up that weren't eligible for PB—that he listened to the concerns of the community and supported the projects or was able to find support from city agencies.

## Capital Improvements Across Our Neighborhoods

Some of the PB projects that have been proposed and selected by the community are highly visible in our neighborhood; others are more subtle. One bright example now under construction is the Park Slope Library Storytelling Garden (at 9th Street and 6th Avenue), where the City is converting the library's south lawn into an edible garden with raised beds and benches. In the sheltered hallow behind the building, they are constructing a child-friendly micro-amphitheater for outdoor storytelling.

Other improvements that have come about through the PB process include dramatic improvements to the Metrocard entrance to the 7th Avenue subway stop and bus clocks on the B67 and B69 bus lines letting passengers know how long their wait will be for the next bus. In local schools there are new state-of-the-art translation equipment and computer labs. In senior centers, there are musical instruments. And many street crossings have been improved to slow traffic and increase pedestrian safety.

When asked about her favorite projects, Caron says, "Of course the ones that meet basic needs like school bathroom renovations, AC, and fixing dangerous streets are much needed. But I hope that the city increasingly takes these on directly. I get excited about PB projects that are creative and further equity.



**At the Park Slope Library (at Ninth St. and Sixth Ave.), the City is constructing a child-friendly amphitheater for outdoor storytelling.**

In the last round I was excited about the expense money supporting translation equipment for the schools and for the support of a mobile studio that will be a space where the community can come together and participate in arts and culture, environmental and other programs."

## The Coop-PB Connection

Caron is one of dozens of Coop members who are involved in PB, as volunteers and as participants in the PB proposal and voting process. In comparing the Coop and PB experience, Caron says, "they have in common working towards a greater goal, being engaged in my community and meeting and working with my neighbors. I'd love to see more cross over between them—where Coop members are PB delegates and volunteers (with work credit?!).

"In a time when our national democracy is a painful experience," Caron adds, "PB and the Coop are both rewarding experiences."

To find out more about Participatory Budgeting and how you can get involved, please visit your local City Council Representative's website. ■



**PB process includes dramatic improvements to the Seventh Ave. subway entrance.**



## INTERNATIONAL TRADE EDUCATION SQUAD REPORT

## An Explanation and Summary of FTA, TPP, and ISDS

By Susan Metz, International Trade Education Squad

To take effect, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) will need to be passed by one up-or-down vote in the U.S. Senate and by one vote in the House of Representatives—only one vote in each chamber on the entire 30 chapters of policy proposals in 5,000 pages of legalese. Legislation that passed Congress by a few votes last June, called Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) aka Fast Track, mandates the process of how the TPP will be treated in Congress. TPA prohibits any changes to the text by Congress members and limits the time permitted for debate.

President Obama prepared enabling legislation that conforms to TPA requirements and is expected to present the TPP package to Congress during the lame-duck session after the election.

The TPP is a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) although the compact enters the U.S. legal system as though it were an international treaty. Proposals passed in a treaty override domestic laws that are made by elected representatives through legislative process. In addition, a new and growing aspect of international law is built into FTAs.

Were the TPP to pass in Congress, a variety of U.S. laws would be changed to conform to the policy proposals written into the TPP/FTA treaty. Some of these policies would affect issues that members of the Coop and the Coop as a community have long been concerned about—food safety, buy local, GMO and country of origin labeling and, in a most alarming way, climate change/global warming. TPP protects the fossil fuel industry, notably fracking, rather than systematically favoring sustainable energy development.

Investments in corporations registered in TPP countries that explore for and extract oil and gas in the U.S. as well as those involved in building the infrastructure (pipelines, compression stations and export facilities) would be explicitly protected under TPP. And there is an enforcement mechanism built into all FTAs that is built into the TPP.

The Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) procedure built into FTAs is becoming a

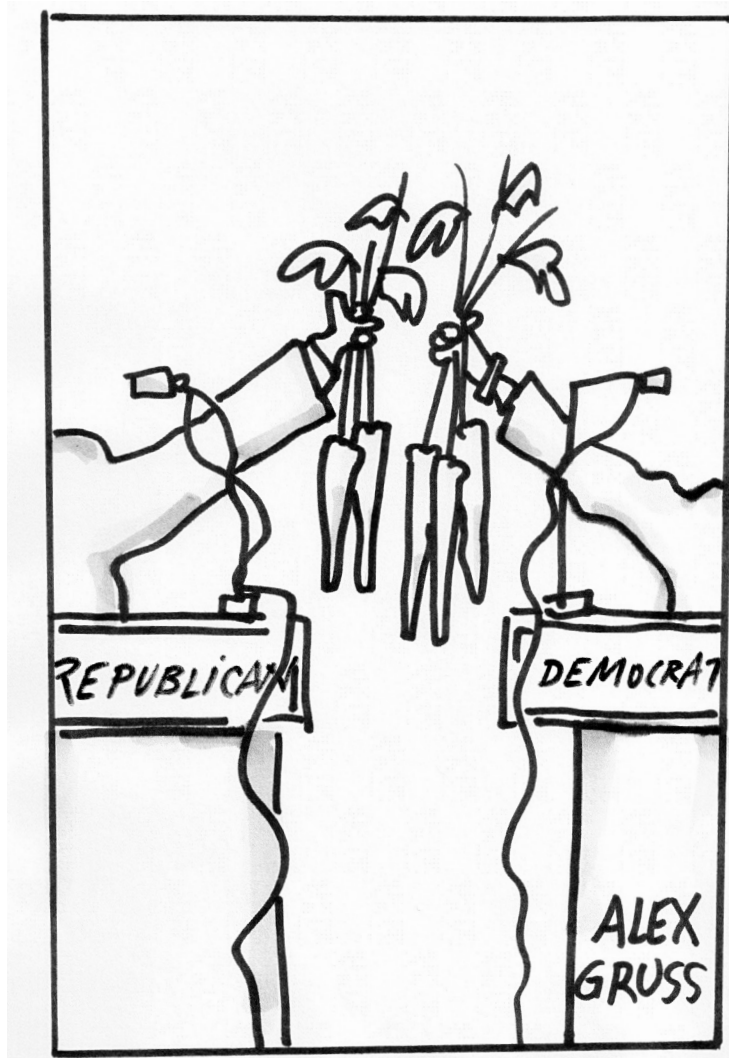


ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX GROSS

new branch of international law. Policy written into FTAs is enforced in private tribunals. Access to gas fracked within the U.S. would be guaranteed by a chapter in the TPP to consumers within the 11 TPP signatory countries. No environmental review nor intervention by any agency nor branch of the U.S. government would be permitted. TPP is the largest FTA ever. The policies that would be subject to ISDS adjudication cover issues that could never pass through U.S. legislative procedures like pharmaceutical prices and internet access, among others.

A corporation registered in any TPP country involved in exploring for, extracting, compressing, transporting or exporting liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the U.S. to any TPP signatory nation could sue, in a private ISDS tribunal, any branch of the U.S. government that might legislate to protect territory and/or population or that writes regulations to implement legislation already passed. This legal structure written into FTAs protects investors' "right" to make money. No such mechanism protects the environment, labor or human rights. An ISDS case can be initiated only by corporate investors against a government.

An IS suit can be brought by corporate investors before a private ISDS court solely on purported violations of the policy proposals in the FTA. In the case of the TPP, ISDS enforces the policy proposals in 30 chapters, over 5,000 pages of legalese written in secret over more than five years by trade ministers from 12 Pacific-rim nations and hundreds of advisors from multi-national corporations. Corporate lawyers rotate through as judges.

According to each FTA, the private trade tribunal is granted the authority to award penalties of taxpayer money if the suit brought by investors against a government is judged by the three corporate lawyers to be based on applicable evidence. No appeal is permitted.

The language is that government regulation is "in restraint of trade."

The TPP protects foreign investment. However, an office of a multi-national registered in whatever country makes any corporation a native there. Investment capital moves easily around the globe.

Trans-Canada is now suing the U.S. government in an ISDS tribunal created under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Investors in Trans-Canada claim they lost \$15 billion in profit they expected to earn when President Obama cancelled the Keystone XL pipeline. Any foreign investment already made in infrastructure is an invitation to more suits against our attempts to eliminate fracking and turn to creating sustainable energy. The NY State ban on fracking could be a target of an ISDS suit should the TPP pass in Congress.

Several additional Free Trade Agreements are under construction. The largest and most publicized, the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), is being negotiated in secret between the U.S. and the European Union. France opposes, and the German administration is split. Protests occur regularly throughout the continent.

A strong, extensive and growing network of organizations and individuals in the U.S. and worldwide is working to defeat the TPP. Should the TPP go down, the domino effect would disable Free Trade initiatives for the moment.

Once the TPP is defeated, progressive forces will concentrate on putting forward a globalized procedure for

exchanging goods and services among nations that is based on protecting all living beings, the planet and the future. First we must defeat the TPP. Each of us has a voice to raise and a role to play.

Google the Congressional Switchboard. Call all elected officials now and frequently with the simple message: No TPP. Fair Trade not Free Trade.

This article is based on three years of research and innumerable hours of struggle to explain these complex concepts in accessible language. Complete supporting documentation by widely accepted authorities in multiple disciplines and from a wide variety of sources is available on the blog, [coopites.wordpress.com](http://coopites.wordpress.com).

At regularly scheduled open public forums, Coop members and non-members are invited to ask questions and share concerns and suggestions. ■

Note: Documentation is on the blog [coopites.wordpress.org](http://coopites.wordpress.org).



### Interested in Engaging Coop Work? Disciplinary Committee Seeks NEW Members

#### SKILLS NEEDED

Communication • Problem solving • Conflict resolution  
Dealing with difficult situations and people  
Investigation • Writing • Research

#### OUR WORK INCLUDES

- Applying Coop rules and regulations
- Discussing policy issues related to the Committee's work
- Investigating allegations of uncooperative behavior by members and engaging in problem solving
- Daily email contact with the committee members to discuss cases
- Participating in mediation, disciplinary hearings, and other conflict resolution methods

#### REQUIREMENTS

In order to be considered for this position, any candidate must:

- Be a member for **at least a year**
- Have a **good attendance record**
- Possess the ability to work on a team
- Have good writing skills
- Have computer proficiency (excel, word, email)—this is essential
- Attend evening meetings every six weeks

We work on average **six hours per month**, more than the required work shift hours. You will be credited and your hours will be banked for future use.

We recognize the importance of various points of view when considering cases brought to us. **We are seeking a candidate pool that reflects the diversity of the Coop's membership.**

#### CONTACT

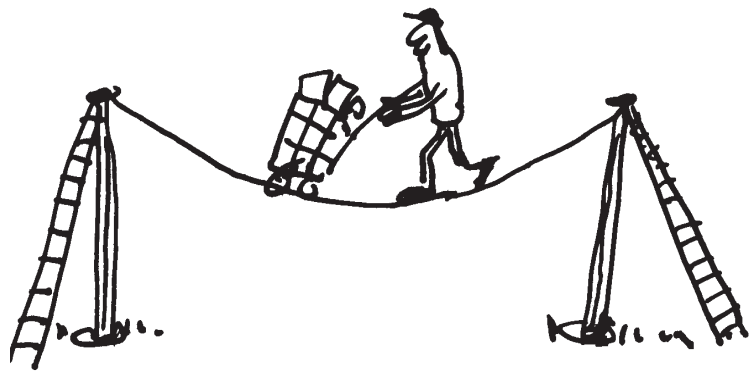
Karen: 718.208.7897 or [foodcoopdc@gmail.com](mailto:foodcoopdc@gmail.com)

**Join us to make the Coop the best place it can be for everyone.**



## MEMBER SUBMISSION

## Transforming Capitalist Social Relations at the Coop



By Nikolas Kozloff

To be sure, the “walking” work shift outside the Coop is very beneficial for local residents or for those who may be infirm or find it difficult to carry their groceries. And yet, after performing several “make-ups” as a walker, I wonder whether the Coop has fully considered all the potential downsides of this shift.

A couple of months ago, I wrote a letter to the *Gazette* about “walking” and some pitfalls I had observed on the shift. As I noted in my earlier column, one woman audaciously asked me to walk her outside the usual geographic zone. “It’s alright if you can’t,” she remarked brazenly, “I can get someone else to do it if you have a problem with this.” To make matters worse, this woman told me that “walking” was her normal shift, so she was certainly aware that she was violating the rules.

On my last “makeup,” I started to reflect upon yet another pitfall with the walking shift. That is to say, how do you ensure that people simply don’t walk off in the middle of the job? To be sure, this is a problem on all Coop shifts but particularly on the walking shift which isn’t so closely monitored. I note with approval how squad leaders are trying to crack down on slackers by telling people at the beginning that they cannot sign in until halfway through the shift. This isn’t a complete and total solution to the problem, because people can still walk off after signing in halfway through the shift, but it’s a start.

However, on my last makeup the squad leader didn’t even insist on workers signing in halfway through. Moreover, at the beginning of my shift I saw one or two workers on our shift but later lost track of them and didn’t see the workers towards the end. I was

doing quite a bit of walking and getting tired, and wondered what had happened to everyone else. A fellow worker remarked that he, too, had not seen the other workers since the beginning of the shift. Did these people walk off? It’s difficult to verify the truth with these matters, since it’s entirely possible that certain workers were summoned to the limits of the geographic boundary on long walks.

Certainly, about 90% of shoppers are very respectful and observe the regulations on our walking shift. Every once in a while, however, you get someone who seems to have an air of entitlement about them. On my last makeup, after walking quite a bit around Park Slope, I sat down on the bench in front of the Coop. One shopper came out of the Coop with her bags but without a cart. She asked me if I could walk her and I said yes as a matter of course.

She then remarked how it didn’t seem like I really wanted to do it in light of my supposedly downbeat facial expression. I replied that I wasn’t really aware of that, but fetched a cart for her anyway. She then added, “At this point, isn’t it customary for people on this shift to offer to push my cart?” I answered no, but added that if she would frame her question nicely I would be more than willing to push her cart.

Technically, walkers aren’t obligated to push carts. It’s not such a big deal, and to be sure this particular shopper was a little on the elderly side so I was happy to help. It’s just that this type of mindset gets us into the psychology of the capitalist service sector, and we’re going from actually “serving” people to becoming slightly *SERVILE* ourselves. Isn’t the Coop supposed to transform this type of social relations so

that people become more egalitarian and less “hierarchical”? It’s almost as if a tiny minority is more or less saying “HOP TO IT DELIVERY BOY!”

If others agree with my assessment, then the question is really what to do about the problem. Perhaps, without getting too preachy about it, we could make more of an effort in the initial orientation to talk to members about how we’re building a different kind of community at the Coop. Or maybe the Coop could try to educate shoppers about proper etiquette and the parameters of the walking shift. Ultimately, however, I would argue that it might make sense to phase out the walking shift altogether as well as the bike valet service

(I’m less familiar with this shift but I would imagine it is prone to some of the same issues). Despite its benefits, the walking shift is prone to abuse and can get us into a different and undesirable set of social relations.

I recognize that we have an excess pool of labor, and that is what gave rise to these unusual shifts in the first place. But wouldn’t it make more sense to re-deploy walkers and valets to other less problematic tasks? For a few months, I have been attending meetings of something called Democracy at Work, which is headed up by economics professor and WBAI commentator Richard Wolff. Within the group, we have been exploring ways to





expand the pool of worker-owned coops throughout our area.

Perhaps, we could join forces with Democracy at Work and lend our expertise to such efforts, which I am sure would be widely appreciated. I know some people may say my proposal doesn’t have much to do with our original Coop mandate and gets us a bit far afield. And yet, once we decided to create walking shifts in the first place this shifted our emphasis into community service anyway. At any rate, I hope this note may spur further discussion on these matters and some lively debate. ■

*Editor’s Note: Walking shifts were created to prevent vehicles from blocking the fire department’s curb cut, allowing drivers to be escorted to their cars instead.*

## ARE YOU A CABINET MAKER/CARPENTER interested in FTOP credit working your trade?

The Coop is looking for a few qualified members to do basic carpentry/cabinet installation and other small projects for work slot credit.

-  Professional trades persons preferred
-  Must have your own tools
-  Ability to do fabrication/assembly in your own shop a plus
-  Hour for hour workslot credit



Please send credentials and contact information to [reply@psfc.coop](mailto:reply@psfc.coop) with "Carpenter" in subject line.

## Looking to help new coops form in Brooklyn while getting a tax deduction?

Support the Fund for New Coops—a project of the Park Slope Food Coop.

THE FUND FOR  
**NEW FOOD COOPS**  
a Project of the Park Slope Food Coop

The Fund for New Coops will make low-interest loans to start-up coops that use the full-member labor model like ours. Loans will be extended to qualified start-ups to address problems and maximize the chances that start-ups will flourish.

### How can you donate?

- Use the scannable Fund for New Coops donation cards available on the shopping floor
- Donate directly from the Coop’s website, [foodcoop.com](http://foodcoop.com). Follow the link for the Fund for New Coops and select the DONATE button
- Mail a check—made out to the Fund for New Food Coops—to:  
FJC, 520 Eighth Ave., 20th Fl., New York, NY 10018

Help nascent coops that want to use our model: Contribute today!



## COORDINATOR'S CORNER

## Facts and Perspectives About the Coop's Defined Benefit Pension Plan and the Discussions at the June and August Coop Meetings

By Joe Holtz, General Manager & Pension Plan Trustee

**B**ackground: the General Meeting (GM) approved the Coop's Defined Benefit Pension Plan for the employees after debates about the merits of establishing a defined benefit plan instead of a 401K. The Actuary and Coop member who drafted the Plan estimated that the contribution to the Plan by the Coop would average annually 1% of sales. Had we not established the plan we would have instead put 1% of sales into a 401K. As of January 31 this year the Coop has saved \$335,000 during the last 23 years by choosing the Defined Benefit Plan rather than contributing 1% of sales to a 401K. Knowing the average expected cost of the Pension Plan has been important for financial planning these 23 years.

Protecting the pensions of our employees: George Haywood and I were elected as Pension Plan Trustees at GM's in the 1990's. We make and execute the investment decisions. The first obligation of plan trustees is to ensure that the employee pensions are protected. Our plan is insured by a federal agency, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).

Underfunded status of the plan as of 1/31/2016: It is not unusual for pension plans to move back and forth between over and underfunded status. For the fiscal year ending on 2/2/2014, the Plan was by all measures overfunded due to good investment performance. Being overfunded means the assets of the plan at year-end were greater than the actuarial estimate of future liabilities of the Plan. But on 1/31/2016, the Plan was underfunded due to two years of poor investment performance. Just how underfunded the plan was on that day depends on which of many estimates are used. The Coop is required to use the most conservative estimate, calculated by a formula determined by the FASB, for our 1/31/2016 financial statements. Here are three ways to calculate the funding status of any insured defined pension plan. At 1/31/2016:

1. According to the Financial Accounting Standards

Board's (FASB) rules we were \$3,142,000 underfunded.

2. According to the PBGC the Plan was \$2,063,000 underfunded. If the Coop were to go out of business the PBGC would pay our employees' pensions.

3. The funding measure, mandated by the Pension Plan Protection Act of 2006, for the Plan actuaries to use in figuring out employer contributions determined that the Coop's Plan was 80% funded or about \$1,200,000 underfunded.

The Coop's Defined Benefit Pension Plan was discussed at length at both the June and August GMs. In June, at our Annual Meeting, our Certified Public Accountant auditor, Robert Reitman, stated the following in response to questions from members about the underfunded status of the plan as reported on the financial statements:

"not an actual loss yet realized but its something that has, that there is a potential that there could be a shortfall in the Defined Plan and then that might have to be made up if the market performance doesn't improve" and Reitman continued "its not like its all going to come due now and the Coop has to come up with the cash but there is an issue that its underfunded like so many other pension plans—needs to be watched, not all doom, something that needs watching."

*"...it is important that members be presented with accurate and complete information"*

In many ways the solvency, stability, and sustainability of the Coop is important to all of us, including obviously to our employees. But as pointed out by the Coop's auditor, employer contributions to pension plans are paid out over time based on years of investment performance results and actuarial estimates.

Despite the underfunded amounts discussed above, the legal requirements, as promulgated by the bodies that regulate insured defined benefit pension plans, for addressing under-

funding are very patient and forgiving. At most the Coop would have been required to contribute \$616,000 to the Plan this current fiscal year. However, because the Coop is permitted to credit earlier contributions made in excess of required payments, the contribution for the current fiscal year will only be \$108,000. In addition, payments to the Plan due this year can be delayed until October 15, 2017 of the following fiscal year. These numbers demonstrate a specific absence of urgency or panic as does the accommodative due date for the payment to the Pension Plan by the Coop. The reason is that any underfunded amount is expected to be made up over a time horizon of years.

*"As of September 30, the assets have increased further in value and are up by 3.2 million dollars."*

I stated at the June Annual Meeting that I had some concerns about the performance of the assets, but that I believed the assets would turn around and that the turnaround had already begun. Since June the assets have gained significantly in value. Frank Haberle, in his August 18 *Gazette* article quotes me as saying that the Plan's assets were up 1.1 million dollars since 2/1/2016. As of September 30, the assets have increased further in value and are up by 3.2 million dollars. I hope I will be able report that this good news continues all the way to the year-end on 1/29/2017.

Last year the Coop was required to contribute no money to the Plan but chose to pay in \$1,400,000 to assure an 80% funding level for Adjusted Funding Target Attainment Percentage (AFTAP) which is the funding measure mandated by The Pension Protection Act of 2006. The prior two years we paid in zero dollars each year. Coop sales were about \$150 million for those three years combined. One percent of those three year of sales works out to \$1,500,000. In other words, for those three years we paid the Plan \$100,000 less than

the cost that we anticipated. Prudent management of the Coop's finances resulted in making sure that the money was in the Coop's bank account when we needed it.

It is reasonable to have members propose a different strategy for the management of the employees' pension fund. It is reasonable to discuss why our trustees' chose a concentrated investing strategy where about 70% of the Plan's assets are invested in a handful or two of individual stocks. However, it is important that members be presented with accurate and complete information in order to have a well-informed discussion. This did not happen in August because neither trustee could be present at the meeting.

I have submitted the following GM proposal to the Agenda Committee. Proposal: At the Annual Meeting each year the Pension Plan

Trustees will supplement the information about the Coop's Defined Benefit Pension Plan that is provided each year with the following additional information:

1. Provide a list of every Pension Plan investment including a description of each investment and explanation of why the Pension Plan Trustees have decided to invest in it.

2. Provide reports on the over or underfunded status of the Pension Plan according to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and according to the legally required certification that complies with Pension Plan Protection Act of 2006 known as AFTAP.

3. Report on the Coop's actual payments of money paid to the Defined Benefit Pension Plan since inception of the plan as compared to the original estimate of what we expected to pay over the life of the plan. ■



### STATEMENT ON THE COOPERATIVE IDENTITY

#### DEFINITION

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

#### VALUES

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

#### PRINCIPLES

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

They are as follows:

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

REFERENCE: ICA.COOP



# LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE

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

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

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

You may submit on paper, typed or very legibly handwritten, or via e-mail to [GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop](mailto:GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop) or on disk.

**Letters:** Maximum 500 words.

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

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

## LETTERS, ARTICLES AND REPORTS SUBMISSION POLICIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## FAIRNESS, ANONYMITY AND RESPECT POLICIES

In order to provide fair, comprehensive, factual coverage:

### Fairness

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

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

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

### Anonymity

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

### Respect

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

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

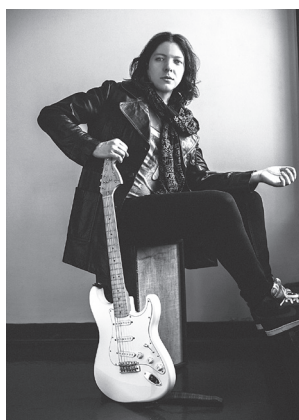
Printed by: Tri-Star Offset, Maspeth, NY.

## Friday, October 21, 8:00 p.m.

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



# PROSPECT CONCERTS



**BT3** - Guitarist Ben Tyree is a performer and composer of virtuosic ability, infectious groove, and eclectic tastes. All of those elements are placed on stunning display on his latest release, *Burn It! LIVE*, a blistering live set from the Brooklyn Academy of Music's prestigious BAMcafé Live series. That versatility has led to work with artists as diverse as Vernon Reid, Kyp Malone (TV On The Radio), Valerie June, Elliott Sharp, and Burnt Sugar: The Arkestra Chamber. Ben Tyree: Guitar, Michael Gam: Bass, Sameer Gupta: Tabla/Drumset.



**Natural Feelings** draws from the sounds and rhythms of nature, the psychedelic '70s and the alternate reality of our dream worlds. The group is inspired by Brazilian

composer and multi-instrumentalist Hermeto Pascoal and percussionist Airtó Moreira's collaboration and reinterprets their music in a strangely fun, danceable manner. Featuring Karlie Bruce, vocals; Sean Moran, guitar; Rene Hart, bass; Brian Adler, percussion, and perhaps a special guest or two...

[www.facebook.com/ProspectConcerts](http://www.facebook.com/ProspectConcerts)

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

## RETURN POLICY



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

### REQUIRED FOR ANY RETURN

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

### CAN I EXCHANGE MY ITEM?

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

## CAN I RETURN MY ITEM?

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

**NEVER RETURNABLE**

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

**RETURNABLE ONLY IF SPOILED BEFORE EXPIRATION DATE**  
Packaging/label must be 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.

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## WELCOME!

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

Caroline Abid	Chloe Campos	Andrey Drayling	Inna Gorelik	Molly Kammen	Sophie Maher	James Peters Sr.	Catherine Stolove
Mickael Abid	Yorel Campos	Victoria Drayling	Bahjii Green	Arabella Kauffmann	Kaitlyn Margeson	Nathaniel Preus	Emily Sussell
Alex Anderson	Corinne Cappelletti	Vibeke Egelund	June R. Greene	Lisa Keskitalo	Eliza Martin	Ana Ratner	Jules Tardy
Ilana Anger	Sharon Carby	Kimberly Eng	Valentin Guerin	Svetlana Khosh	Valentina Medda	Bertrand Rivallin	Kia Turner
Andres Arnold	Jenny Carchman	Lisa Enxing	Evan Gunter	Sophie Kinkead	Olivier Meersman	Jehan Roberson	Philip Ugelow
Savanna Arral	Kalliopi Charalampous	Natalie Faye	Heidi Gunter	Jennifer Kitson	Faith Meixell	Leah Roberts	Anne-Marie Van
Nathan Avakian	Genna Cherichello	Emily Feinberg	Raffaella Hanley	Lukas Knott	Amy Miller	Libby Rosa	Asbroeck
Tatiana Baccari	Y-Ching Chi	Monica Finc	Kim Harmon	Guy Krief	Michael Milov-Cordoba	Daniel Ross	Swetlana Vanderpool
Tomasz Bacewicz	Sionia Collavizza	Alex Fine	Lindsay Harrison	Rina Kushnir	Amy Mullen	Alex Sagastume	Rosa Viterbo
Ipek Bakir	David Cook	Vivienne Fleischer	Corinna Heinz	Caroline Lange	Matthew Murphy	Jade Sank	Story von Holzhausen
Nicholas Bauer	Isobel Davies	Erica Freeman	Noel Henderson-James	Rony Lipovetzky	Selina Murphy	Chad Schepp	Katherine Waggoner
Omar Benjelloun	R Justin Davila	Mark Freeman	Carolina Hernandez	Nicholas Lira	Naoma Nagahawatte	Sarah Schepp	Jordan Weitz
Mandy Berman	Sophia Dawkins	Geena Gao	Christine Holley	Ching Wai Lo	Lisa Neumann	Michael Sedillo	Neela Wickremesinghe
Ben Blackshear	Jeremy Deaton	Tasha Garcia-Gibson	Graham Holley	Anna Lyle	Nadia Nguyen	Stephen Sheffer	Lily Wiggins
Noah Block-Harley	Nicole Dewey	Samuel Garigliano	Leon Ivangorodsky	Tyler Lyle	Dalila Ouelhadj	Sadia Shirazi	Emily Wolfe-Roubatis
Andrew Brady	Stephanie Diment	Jaimie Gibriano	Migle Jonel	Jason Maas	Leandro Pellegrino	Abdalbasit Shittu	Chloe Zimmerman
Ludovica Burtone	Zephyr Doles	Sarah Goldfeather	Celestina Kamen	Jane MacDonald	James Peters Jr.	Bart Smit Duijzentkunst	Nitzan Zohar

## COOP CALENDAR

## New Member Orientations

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

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

## General Meeting Info

**TUE, OCTOBER 25**  
GENERAL MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

**TUE, NOVEMBER 1**  
AGENDA SUBMISSIONS: 7:30 p.m.  
Submissions will be considered for the November 29 General Meeting.

## Gazette Deadlines

**LETTERS & VOLUNTARY ARTICLES:**  
October 27 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, October 17  
November 10 issue: 12:00 p.m., Mon, October 31

**CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:**  
October 27 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, October 19  
November 10 issue: 7:00 p.m., Wed, November 2

## ALL ABOUT THE GENERAL MEETING

## Our Governing Structure

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

## Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 25, 7:00 p.m.

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

## Location

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

## How to Place an Item on the Agenda

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

## Meeting Format

**Warm Up (7:00 p.m.)** • Submit Open Forum items  
• Explore meeting literature

**Open Forum (7:15 p.m.)** Open Forum is a time for members to bring brief items to the General Meeting. If an item is more than brief, it can be submitted to the Agenda Committee as an item for a future GM.

**Reports (7:30 p.m.)** • Financial Report • Coordinators' Report • Committee Reports

**Agenda (8:00 p.m.)** The agenda is posted on [foodcoop.com](http://foodcoop.com) and may also appear elsewhere in this issue.

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

## Attend a GM and Receive Work Credit

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

Following is an outline of the program. 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 or sign-up at [foodcoop.com](http://foodcoop.com). The sign-ups sheet is available all month long, except for the day of the meeting when you have until 5 p.m. to sign up. On the day of the meeting, the sign-up sheet is kept in the Membership Office.

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

## • Two GM attendance credits per year:

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

## • Squads eligible for credit:

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:

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

## • 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. We seek to maximize participation at every level, from policy making to running the store.

**We welcome all who respect these values.**



park slope  
FOOD COOP

## calendar of events

oct 14  
fri 7 pm

## Wordsprouts: A Night of Poetry



We welcome three accomplished poets for a night of readings and discussion. All three will be presenting new verse, then talking about their work. It will be an inspiring and exciting night sure to delight all lovers of language, art, and life. **Priscilla Becker's** first book of poems, *Internal West*,

was the winner of The Paris Review book prize. Her second collection, *Stories That Listen*, was released from Four Way Books. Her poems have appeared in the following literary journals, among others: *Fence*, *Open City*, *Boston Review*, *The Paris Review*; her fiction in *The Literary Review*, winner of The Charles Angoff prize. Her collection of essays: *Morbid Dyslexia [and other word disorders]* was selected as the finalist in the GrayWolf Press Nonfiction contest; her music reviews have been published in *The Nation* and *Filter* magazine; her essays in *Cabinet* magazine and *Open City*. Her non-fiction has been anthologized by Soft Skull Press, Anchor Books, and Sarabande. She has completed her third book, *Pure Brown*, and a chapbook, *Death Certificate*, which will be published by Ugly Duckling Presse. Writer and performer **Toni Blackman** is the first Hip Hop artist invited to work as a Cultural Ambassador with the U.S. Department of State. She is currently a teaching artist at Carnegie Hall and recently performed for Lincoln Center. Toni speaks, teaches workshops, coaches in performance and public speaking and releases her new book *Wisdom of the Cypher* along with her hip hop meditation album this fall. **Abigail Welhouse** is the author of *Bad Baby* (dancing girl press), *Too Many Humans of New York* (Bottlecap Press), and *Memento Mori* (a poem/comic collaboration with Evan Johnston). Her writing has been published in *The Toast*, *The Billfold*, *Ghost Ocean Magazine*, *Yes Poetry*, and elsewhere.

**Bookings:** John Donohue, [wordsproutspfc@gmail.com](mailto:wordsproutspfc@gmail.com).

oct 16  
sun 12 pm

## Everyday Posture

Posture both contributes to our health and expresses something fundamental about us to the world. But for many of us, after years of huddling around a computer, carrying kids, and managing pain, we often find that our body doesn't feel or look as we hoped it would at this point. And worse, most conventional wisdom about posture urges leaves us stiff, stressed, and ultimately slumping with exhaustion. In this workshop, taught by a certified Alexander Technique teacher, you'll learn simple strategies for improving your posture and raising your overall well-being. The Alexander Technique is particularly useful for individuals dealing with RSI, back or joint pain, and performing artists. This gentle mind-body method helps you both find your true stature and feel at ease in your body. Repeat attendees welcome! Coop member **Dan Cayer** is a teacher and writer committed to helping others change habitual patterns, find freedom from pain, and create a sane relationship with their own body.

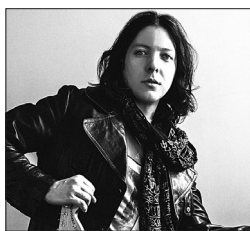
oct 21  
fri 8 pm

## BT3; Natural Feelings



**BT3**—Guitarist Ben Tyree is a performer and composer of virtuosic ability, infectious groove, and eclectic tastes. All of those elements are placed on stunning display on his latest release, *Burn It! LIVE*, a blistering live set from the Brooklyn Academy of Music's prestigious BAMcafé Live series. That versatility has led to work with artists as diverse as Vernon Reid, Kyp Malone (TV On The Radio), Valerie June, Elliott Sharp, and Burnt Sugar: The Arkestra Chamber. Ben Tyree: Guitar, Michael Gam: Bass, Sameer Gupta: Tabla/Drumset. **Natural Feelings** draws from the sounds and rhythms of nature, the psychedelic

'70s and the alternate reality of our dream worlds. The group is inspired by Brazilian composer and multi-instrumentalist Hermeto Pascoal and percussionist Aírto Moreira's collaboration and reinterprets their music in a strangely fun, danceable manner. Featuring Karlie Bruce, vocals; Sean Moran, guitar; Rene Hart, bass; Brian Adler, percussion, and perhaps a special guest or two...



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

oct 22  
sat 2 pm

## Learn About Cheese At the Coop

Cheese education at the Coop continues with another tasting session led by Coop member and American Cheese Society Certified Cheese Professional **Elena Santogade**. Join us as we taste through a different regional selection this month; learn about the history, geography and cheesemaking practices from around the world. Santogade will lead the tasting and offer guidelines for pairings and for designing cheese tastings of your own.

oct 25  
tue 7 pm

## PSFC OCT General Meeting



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

between 7 and 7:15 p.m.

**Meeting location:** St. Francis Xavier School, 763 President St., between Sixth and Seventh Aves.

**I. Member Arrival and Meeting Warm-Up**

**II. Open Forum**

**III. Coordinator and Committee Reports**

**IV. Meeting Agenda**

**Item 1: Coca-Cola Boycott Renewal** (10 minutes)

**Proposal:** To continue boycotting all Coca-Cola products.—*submitted by Lew Friedman*

**Item 2: Pension Plan Proposal** (40 minutes)

**Discussion:** At the Annual Meeting each year the Pension Plan Trustees will supplement the information about the Coop's Defined Benefit Pension Plan that is already each year provided with the following additional information:

1. Provide a list of every pension plan investment including a description of each investment and explanation of why the Pension Plan Trustees have decided to invest in it

2. Provide reports on the over or underfunded status of the pension plan according to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and according to the legally required certification that complies with Pension Plan Protection Act of 2006 known as Adjusted Funding Target Attainment Percentage (AFTAP)

3. Report on the Coop's actual payments of money paid to the Defined Benefit Pension Plan since inception of the Plan as compared to the original estimate of what we expected to pay the Plan over the life of the Plan

—*submitted by Joe Holtz, Pension Plan Trustee*

**Item 3: Pension Fund Governance Reform** (40 minutes)

**Discussion:** The membership is being asked to vote on 2 separate motions to increase member participation and oversight of the pension fund through increased transparency and improved governance.

1. To create a finance committee of members to oversee the management of the pension fund

2. To increase transparency in the management of the pension fund and enable open access to pension fund records

If the General Meeting believes that an additional month is necessary to consider the motions, a motion to table the motions until the next General Meeting will be offered at the conclusion of the discussion and prior to the vote on the motions.

**Details of Motions:**

1. To create a finance committee of members to oversee the management of the pension fund.

a. Purpose

i. The committee will be charged with representing the membership in oversight of the pension fund.

ii. The finance committee will not have the authority to modify benefits paid under the pension plan.

iii. The board may delegate additional finance related matters to the finance

**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.



# oct 14–nov 6 2016

committee as necessary.

## b. Key Responsibilities

- i. The committee will recommend one or multiple trustees for the pension fund. The trustee(s) may be a member of the committee, but the chair of the committee cannot be a trustee.
- ii. The committee may recommend the removal of one or more trustees to the board.
- iii. The committee will draft an investment policy detailing the objectives of the investment portfolio, guidelines on the asset allocation of the portfolio based on a predetermined level of risk tolerance, and will report the investment policy to the General Meeting.
- iv. The investment policy will be formulated solely in the interest of the participants and their beneficiaries, and may not sacrifice the economic interests of plan participants in order to promote collateral goals.
- v. The committee will report to the General Meeting annually on the pension fund's performance, any deviations from the stated investment policy and comparisons to benchmark portfolios.
- vi. The committee will select and approve advisors to the pension fund, including but not limited to investment advisors, auditors, legal counsel, pension consultants and actuaries.
- vii. The committee will have full access to all reports and documents related to the pension fund, except where prohibited by law.
- viii. The committee in cooperation with the General Coordinators and plan trustee(s) will establish procedures to enact any transparency or open records motions adopted by the board.

## c. Meetings and Logistics

- i. Members will work a minimum of 2.75 hours per four weeks and will meet at least once per quarter. Committee meetings will count for work slot credit.
- ii. The quorum of Committee members for a vote on recommendations or reports to the General Meeting will be 1/2 of the committee members.
- iii. At least once a year, the first 30 minutes of the committee meeting will be open to all members. Questions, comments and insights will be welcomed from members. After that first 30 minutes, the committee will conduct its work meeting without other members present.

iv. This committee can only be dissolved by a vote of the membership.

v. The Park Slope Food Coop Inc will extend the same indemnifications to members of the committee as are extended to the officers and board members.

## d. Membership and Elections

- i. The committee will be composed of five members. Best efforts will be made to include one staff member as a member of the committee.
- ii. Members will be elected at the GM for staggered 2-year terms. The chair and 1 member will be elected in odd numbered years. The 3 remaining members will be elected in even numbered years.
- iii. The chair's role will be to set the committee's meeting agenda in consultation with members of the committee, chairs meetings and acts as the primary liaison to the board and membership.
- iv. All nominated committee members will be Coop members in good standing for at least 1 year.
- v. Members with relevant professional or educational experience in investment management, corporate finance or pension management will express their interest and experience in writing to the committee. Experience requirements will be waived for one staff member to be a member of the committee.
- vi. The committee will interview the candidates and recommend candidates for election at the GM.
- vii. The initial slate of candidates for the finance committee will be interviewed by member Jonathan Hessney and member Benjamin Millard CFA, in place of the committee.
- viii. No terms will expire within the first year of the formation of the committee (ex. If the initial chair is elected in Dec. 2016, their term will expire in 2019, rather than in 2017).
- ix. In the event of a vacancy, the committee will recommend a new member to the General Meeting for election to serve out the remainder of the vacant seat's term.

x. The committee chair cannot be a trustee of the pension fund.

xi. The committee may invite additional Coop members to join the committee in a non-voting capacity.

2. To increase transparency in the management of the pension fund and enable open access to pension fund records

a. The pension fund trustee(s) will make available to any member of the Coop the following documents from the past 5 years:

i. Monthly account statements for the pension fund's accounts (including positions and trading history)

ii. Documentation of the pension fund's investment and risk management strategies

iii. A summary of any actuarial reports commissioned by the pension fund. The summary is meant to make the benefits owed by the pension fund understandable to any Coop member and could include: estimates of benefits to be paid each year for the next 5 years, the maximum potential benefit payout in the coming year, estimated contribution levels for the next 5 years and the total pension liability under each required valuation standard with an explanation of each standard.

iv. The pension fund's summary plan description.

b. This requirement can be met by posting the required documents to the Coop's website or by the finance committee establishing a method for any Coop member to request the documents.

c. The finance committee will annually present the pension fund's investment strategy, risk management strategy and target asset allocation to the General Meeting for approval.

d. If there is no finance committee, the duties of this motion will be the responsibility of the pension plan trustee(s)

—submitted by Jonathan Hessney

## V. Board of Directors Meeting

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

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

oct 28  
fri 7 pm

## Move Better, Feel Better

Includes personalized hands-on mini sessions. The Feldenkrais Method is an approach rooted in respecting the integrity of the person and supporting innate human ability to learn. Through gentle movement, Feldenkrais lessons help facilitate profound shifts in how a person moves and feels. It can help improve balance, posture and coordination, prevent injuries, speed up injury recovery, reduce stress and anxiety, increase overall sense of health and well-being. Uniqueness of the method is that it is designed to produce lasting improvements which become an integral part of the way a person feels in daily life without having to force changes. **Igor Shteynberg**, Feldenkrais Practitioner, has worked with clients ranging from children with motor difficulties to professional dancers and musicians. His clients appreciate his ability to relate to their concerns, as well as his patience and care in gently helping them bring about the changes they are looking for.

oct 29  
sat 7–10 pm

## FUN Committee: Game Nite



Free and open to Coop members of all ages. Non-members welcome. Refreshments available. Board Games, Cards and new games led by **Lynn Levy**. Bring your own games too. Children under 10 please bring an adult.

## still to come

oct 30 Nutrition Response Testing

nov 1 Agenda Committee Meeting

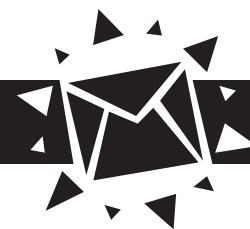
nov 2 Learn About Cheese at the Coop

nov 3 Food Class: Sustainable Korean

nov 5 Service Matters

nov 6 Travel to Unravel for Less





## REAUTHORIZE ITES

### DEAR EDITOR,

Regarding the International Trade Education Squad's reauthorization.

I first came upon ITES when I saw its members speaking very passionately at the general meeting about the damage that the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) would do to our climate, our food safety, our jobs, and many other things. Much of the information about the secretive TPP is never revealed in the mainstream media, and what is, can be tricky to understand. The work of the ITES squad has been to educate ourselves and PSFC members with forums, Facebook, Twitter and our blog, [coopites.wordpress.com](http://coopites.wordpress.com)

One of the scariest aspects of the TPP as far as I can see is ISDS or Investor-State Dispute Settlements. These have been included in 'Free' Trade agreements already over several decades, so we know well how they work. The TPP will hand even more power to multinational corporations, allowing them to sue the governments of countries in which they invest for violating their 'property rights.' They can literally sue the government because they didn't make the profits they expected. (And where will the money to pay this corporations come from? You guessed it, our tax dollars.)

Do we really want a world where energy companies have sued governments for decisions to phase out nuclear power? Where a country has paid out \$122 million over water and timber rights? Where tobacco giants have sued governments because of public health policy that makes cigarettes be sold in plain packaging?

There are literally hundreds of examples of this already from previous trade agreements, and the TPP is just like them, only on crack. This is just one of the many aspects of the TPP that the ITES squad educates itself and others about. It is imperative that the squad is reauthorized at the next General Meeting so that we can continue to dig up and share information on issues of vital interest to Coop members.

Sarah Westlake  
(Writing as a member of the Coop—not a member of ITES)

## THE LESSER EVIL AND THE SPOILER

### TO THE EDITOR:

No law bars independent or alternative party candidates from standing for elections. But it angers operatives and partisans of the Democrats and Republicans, who object to "spoilers" "intruding" and "splitting" the vote "claimed" by their own "lesser evil" candidate versus the other party's "greater evil." Run-off elections, or better still, rank-choice voting (actually employed in some localities) would easily fix that. But the duopoly, along with the highly consolidated corporate media, have colluded to resist such reforms.

The reason is money—lots of money; two-party politicians, corporate executives, and lobbyists become wealthy through "pay-to-play" politics. Media corporations make boatloads of money during elections through heightened interest and political ads that only corporate-funded (thus corporate-controlled) candidates can afford. Media's selective coverage insures success for these candidates, and maintains this circle of venality. To expect operatives within the two corporate parties to reform this system is fantasy.

In 2000, Green Party presidential candidate and political activist extraordinaire Ralph Nader, despite his iconic status, received little actual campaign coverage—but endured blistering media attacks (and has been vilified ever since) for "siphoning"—"stealing"—votes from Democrat Al Gore—an absurd claim because nobody who preferred Gore voted for Nader instead, but perhaps countless millions who preferred Nader voted for Gore instead! Actually, Gore stole votes from Nader, who saw his support erode from 10% to the final 2.7%.

Nader was even vilified for causing the Iraq invasion, which Gore allegedly would have prevented—another absurd claim: the evidence from Gore's public speeches in the months before and after the invasion—let alone his hawkish history in government—indicate he supported the invasion and had every intention of invading Iraq himself had he won. (<http://www.counterpunch.org/2016/08/19/liberal-myths-would-al-gore-have-invaded-iraq/>). The irony is that had Nader been elected, we surely would not have had that war nor the myriad others we see today.

The current election puts in

stark relief the long-simmering two-party conundrum facing Americans. In Trump and Clinton we have two supremely distrusted and despised candidates, and yet the alternatives, Dr. Jill Stein of the Greens and Gary Johnson of the Libertarians, are effectively shut out of corporate media coverage, or demeaned as spoilers and slandered with disingenuous or trivial reporting.

*The Donald* is certainly more objectionable, but the super-hawkish Hillary is more dangerous: she's corrupt, Wall Street and armaments-friendly, and has pushed for a "no-fly zone" over Syria—pitting US jets against nuclear-armed Russia. This flirtation with nuclear war augurs far worse than the obnoxious Trump's adolescence.

No good can come from either of them—just more war, corporate control, ecocide, and inequality. They serve a criminally plutocratic constituency. Deciding who's the "lesser evil" is self-defeating guesswork, a flawed rationale that only further entrenches the toxic power structure and forecloses on any hope of a new direction. It's simply unrealistic, given this self-enriching hothouse of corruption—this Kleptocracy—to expect reform of this two-party stranglehold from within. We as citizens must fight this deadly status quo by rejecting the duopoly. The simplest, most direct strategy is *not* to vote for their candidates—to vote for alternatives instead.

David Barouh

## WE NEED ITES

### DEAR MEMBERS,

I write to support permanent status for the Coop's International Trade Education Squad. Over the past two years, I've become a big fan of the squad's educational efforts including forums and other public events; in addition, the squad performs an enormous service by making available a rich range of resources for self-education and citizen action on these issues (at <https://coopites.wordpress.com/>).

In my view, local activism represents one of our best hopes to address climate change and push back against the schemes of corporate fossil fuel interests. The ITES has been tireless in helping us to decipher the fine print that means trade agreements like the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) threaten to hobble citi-

zen activism, using provisions that allow corporate actors to flout the will of local and even national constituencies. The work of this squad highlights the fact that so many of the fundamental goals spelled out in our Coop's Mission Statement, from upholding food safety to avoiding products that depend on the exploitation of others, implicate questions of international trade.

It appears that the fate of the TPP, which the ITES was initially formed to address, may be decided soon. In any event, the looming threat of similar draconian agreements such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP),\* plus the importance of all kinds of trade regulations and covenants to our "globalized" society, means that the Coop will continue to need the vital services offered by this squad.

For Fair Trade, not "Free" [sic] Trade!

\*From *The Guardian* (UK) on September 30, 2016, in an article entitled "EU and US Trade Negotiators Seek to Get TTIP Talks Back on Track": "Trade negotiators will meet in New York next week to search for common ground on the controversial EU-US trade deal, which has been buffeted by strong opposition on both sides of the Atlantic... Hopes of a deal before US President Barack Obama leaves the

White House in mid-January have evaporated, raising doubts about whether TTIP can ever be agreed amid widespread hostility and regular street protests."

Jan Clausen

## COMMITMENT OF AN ITES MEMBER

### DEAR EDITOR,

I work on the International Trade and Education Squad (ITES) because I believe the topic of trade agreements touches on a wide number of topics relevant to the Coop including food safety, buying local, country of origin, GMO labeling, and consumer rights. I wanted to be a part of the group because it brings Coop members information about how trade agreements affect these issues relevant to the Coop, support constructive engagement, and promote wise policy choices.

All the evidence suggests that in order to limit global warming to the two degrees Celsius that scientists see as critical to avert the worst effects of climate change, we must retrofit global economic structures for production, investment, and trade.

However the TPP is actually doing the exact opposite, and not only would cement in place a system that treats the environmental impact of

# THANK YOU

members for helping to make the  
Fall CHIPS Food Drive a BIG success!

Coop members donated  
a record 64 full banana boxes of groceries  
and personal-care items AND \$583.18  
in monetary donations!



Thanks also to the Coop staff who work with CHIPS all year long to organize the Food Drives and to Staff who order extra products for the members to donate.



large corporations as subordinate to international trade and investment, it violates the rights of communities, and state and federal laws, by creating a system where international corporations can supersede state and federal law in pursuit of profit. The few hard-won laws that have been put in place to try to ensure food safety will be nullified by this agreement.

For example:

1. The TPP would require us to limit food labeling and to import meat and poultry that do not meet U.S. food safety standards.

2. The TPP would require us to allow food imports if the exporting country claims that their safety regime is "equivalent" to our own, effectively outsource domestic food inspection to other countries.

3. Under the TPP, U.S. safety rules on pesticides, labeling or additives that is higher than international standards would be subject to challenge as "illegal trade barriers." The U.S. could be required to eliminate these rules and allow in the unsafe food under threat of trade sanctions. It has been documented that some TPP countries are known for high levels of contaminants in seafood, but under the TPP none of these imports would be inspected or labeled according to US safety rules.

Though trade negotiators may treat commerce and climate as separate problems, the emissions giving rise to climate change are in fact an unaccounted cost of the goods and services exchanged in our increasingly complex and globally integrated production and consumption chains. Not paying for these large social costs of pollution in production and global shipping delivers a hidden subsidy to the corporations polluting our global atmosphere.

One cannot have fair trade if firms are not required to pay the environmental costs they impose on society, which also present an existent threat to life on this planet. TPP does nothing to prohibit these typically hidden subsidies or others, such as subsidies for fossil fuels, buried within the tax system.

The ITES is bringing this vitally important information to Coop members through education forums and articles, expanding members' understanding of this complex issue. I urge you to support the reauthorization for the permanent status of ITES.

Sincerely,  
Molly Ornati



**ecokvetch**  
the environmental  
committee blog

## Tip of the MONTH!

## Purchase Renewable Energy

**As Coop members we all support renewable energy because the Coop buys wind power for electricity.**

**It's easy to switch at home. Just contact your utility company or search online.**

Learn more at:  
[ecokvetch.blogspot.com](http://ecokvetch.blogspot.com)



## THE GAZETTE INDEXES

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

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

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

**Many of the Gazette issues referenced in these indexes are available as PDFs on the Coop's website. (Copies of these and additional issues are also available at Brooklyn's Central Library, located at Flatbush Ave. and Eastern Pkwy. on Grand Army Plaza.)**

## EXPERIENCED REPORTERS Please Apply



### Workslot Description

We have four distinct *Linewaiters' Gazette* teams—each producing an issue every eight weeks. You will develop and produce an article about the Coop in cooperation with your team's editor every eight weeks.

### For More Information

If you would like to speak to an editor or another reporter to learn more about the job, please contact Annette Laskaris in the Membership Office or e-mail her at [annette\\_laskaris@psfc.coop](mailto:annette_laskaris@psfc.coop).

### To Apply

Please send a letter of application and two writing samples at least 800 words long (one sample must be a reported interview, *not* a Q&A) to [annette\\_laskaris@psfc.coop](mailto:annette_laskaris@psfc.coop). Your letter should state your qualifications, your Coop history, relevant experience and why you would like to report for the Coop. Your application will be acknowledged and forwarded to the coordinating editors, Joan Minieri and Erik Lewis.

### Seeking Diversity on the Gazette Staff

The *Gazette* is looking for qualified reporters. We are interested in using this opportunity to diversify our staff. We believe that we can enrich the quality of the *Gazette* and serve the membership better with a reporting and editing staff that more closely resembles the mix of Coop members.



ILLUSTRATION BY ETHAN PETTIT

## EXPERIENCED ILLUSTRATORS

## PLEASE APPLY

The *Linewaiters' Gazette* is looking for an illustrator. You will work with a team of three other artists, under the guidance of an art director, to illustrate the articles. This is a regular work slot that has strict deadlines. The *Gazette* is always printed in grayscale (no color illustrations) and the illustrations are preferably hand-drawn, not digital. The illustrators work on an eight-week rotation.



If interested, please submit illustrations and a resume to:

e-mail address: [annette\\_laskaris@psfc.coop](mailto:annette_laskaris@psfc.coop).

Or call the Membership Office at 718-622-0560

ask for Annette Laskaris.



## PLASTIC PACKAGING COLLECTIONS

2nd Wednesday of every month 3:45-6 p.m.

4th Saturday of every month 1:45-4 p.m.

### Expanded Plastic Collection for Coop members

Please be prepared to show your Coop membership card.

**Plastic bags/wrap/packaging from most products sold at the Coop**—food and non-food.

**Thin plastic film wrap**—from notecards, tea boxes, pre-packaged cheese, household items, pet food, juice packs, etc.

**Plastic roll bags distributed by the Coop**—please use roll bags only as necessary, reduce usage whenever possible, and re-use any bags you do take before recycling.

NO food residue, rinse as needed.  
Only soft plastic from Coop purchases.

### We continue to accept the following from all community members:

Pre-sort and separate according to the categories below.

Toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes (any brand/size)

Baby food pouches and caps (any brand)

Energy bar wrappers (any brand)

Water filters (Brita and other brands) and other Brita branded filter products

Plastic re-sealable food storage bags, small Coop bulk bags, cling wrap

Cereal and cracker box liners (any brand)

Food residue and paper labels OK.  
No shopping bags.



Donations in any amount are welcomed to help offset the cost to the Coop of this collection.

Interested in joining the squads that run the Wednesday/Saturday collection, or in starting a third collection time as your workslot? Contact Cynthia Pennycooke in the Membership Office.

For more information about Terracycle, visit terracycle.com

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



## PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO SHOP AT GREENE HILL FOOD CO-OP.

GREENE HILL FOOD CO-OP IS OPENING ITS DOORS TO PSFC MEMBERS. JUST SHOW YOUR PSFC MEMBERSHIP CARD AT THE DOOR.



Greene Hill Food Co-op is open for shoppers:  
Mon & Wed 3pm - 9pm

Sat & Sun 10am - 6pm

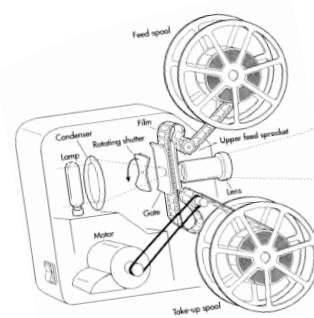
18 Putnam Ave., Brooklyn (bet. Grand Ave. & Downing St.)  
[greenehillfood.coop](http://greenehillfood.coop)

## NY World's Fair Answer

P	A	M	P	E	R	
B	A	R	G	A	I	N
R	U	N	G			
F	I	A	N	C	E	
P	A	I	N	T		
C	R	O	U	C	H	
T	W	E	A	K		
L	A	U	N	C	H	

## ARE YOU A BROOKLYN-BASED FILMMAKER?

Would you like to screen your work at the Coop?



Then submit your film for possible inclusion in the Coop's Friday Film Night Screening Series.

If you're a Coop member you'll receive one FTOP credit for screening and offering a Q+A with your film. If you're not a member, it's still a chance to spread the word about your work and build your fan base by screening for a local audience.

We accept documentary and fiction, both features and shorts (we program shorts as a group).

**Please e-mail Gabriel Rhodes for details at [gabrielrhodes@me.com](mailto:gabrielrhodes@me.com).**

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

### SAT, OCT 15

10 a.m. Permaculture Festival and Skill Share. A full day of workshops, discussions, vendors and entertainment. Skill shares on compost, sheet mulch, dying with plants, herbal medicine, mushrooms, children's activities, garden walks including food, native plants, and flowers. A pancake breakfast and pizza in our woodfired outdoor oven. Native plants for sale. At the Old Stone House, in Brooklyn.

8 p.m. Benefit Concert for People's Music Network and Peoples' Voice Cafe: Jeremy Aaron,

Joshua Garcia, Kirsten Maxwell, Bev Grant, Anne Price, Professor Louie. at the Peoples' Voice Cafe; Community Church 40 E. 35th St. NY. Wheelchair accessible. Suggested donation \$20/12 for subscribers.

### WED, OCT 19

6:30 p.m. Wild Fermentation: An Evening with Sandor Katz and Just Food, Tisch Food Center, Teachers College, Columbia University, 525 W 120th Street, NYC, \$25. Join us to celebrate the release of revised and updated edition of Wild Fermentation

with Sandor Katz. More info and tickets at: <http://www.justfood.org/events>.

### SAT, NOV 5

2 p.m. Open House for the CUNY SPS MA in Applied Theatre program. It's theatre for social justice in spaces other than stages in front of audiences. For instance, Applied Theatre could be drama with incarcerated youth, Theatre of the Oppressed with domestic workers etc. 101 W. 31st St. NY NY 10001 RSVP Michael.Wilson@cuny.edu or Arsenia.Reilly@gmail.com.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**BED & BREAKFAST**

THE HOUSE ON 3RD ST, serving Park Slope for over 20 yrs. Large floor-thru, located between 5th and 6th Ave. Parlor floor, sleeps 4-5, private bath, deck, AC, wifi, kitchenette, 12' ceilings! houseon3st.com, or call Jane, 718-788-7171. Grandparents are our specialty.

**MERCHANDISE-NONCOMMERCIAL**

FOR SALE: Sears Kenmore HEPA vacuum cleaner model #116-21514 purchased 03/20/16, little-used. All usual tools plus lighted, motorized carpet/floor brush and small motorized stair brush. High CR rating (G-VG) Best Buy. \$240 new; asking \$175. Margaret 718-622-2897 (ln.)

Free Piano—Yamaha upright Clavinova electric. Lightly used—you pick it up. Call Glenn 917-881-6045.

**SERVICES AVAILABLE**

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

MADISON AVENUE HAIRCUTTER is right around the corner from the Food Coop, so if you would like a really good haircut at a decent price, please call Maggie at 718-783-2154. I charge \$60 and I work from Wednesdays through Sundays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

HAIRCUTS HAIRCUTS HAIRCUTS. Color, low lights, hot oil treatments in the convenience of your home or mine. Kids \$20-25. Adults \$35-40. Leonora, 718-857-2215.

**SERVICES WANTED**

\$20 PER HOUR. Seeking female companion to assist me with daily activities and errands. Up to 30 hours per week. Can be shared. Contact kilietb@mindspring.com.

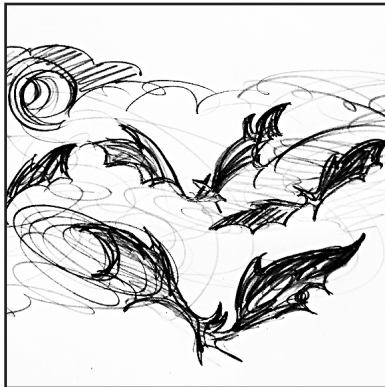


ILLUSTRATION BY ETHAN PETIT

**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.

**What does being part of the PSFC mean to you?**

New PSFC member Laura Robson is looking for fellow PSFC members willing to share their experiences!

Please email [psfc.research@gmail.com](mailto:psfc.research@gmail.com) if you're interested in finding out more about participating in an informal interview for Laura's Masters thesis. Thank you!

**FOLLOW!**  
the Food Coop on



**Pinterest @foodcoop**

**The Agenda Committee is seeking new members! Join the Committee and help set the monthly General Meeting agenda.**

**Requirements:**

- ◆ Attend monthly Committee meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 8:00 p.m.
- ◆ Attend at least five General Meetings per year
- ◆ Have a cooperative spirit and willingness to work in a collaborative committee environment
- ◆ Be interested in the ongoing business of the Coop
- ◆ Have a good attendance record

If interested, contact Ann Herpel at 718-622-0560 or [ann\\_herpel@psfc.coop](mailto:ann_herpel@psfc.coop). The Committee will interview applicants before submitting candidates to the GM for election. We are seeking an applicant pool that reflects the diversity of the Coop's membership.

**WORD SPROUTS**  
THE PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP'S READING SERIES

**Are you a writer? Do you want FTOP credit?**

Wordsprouts, the Food Coop's reading series, is looking for you, for its monthly events in the second-floor meeting room.

Please contact the organizers at [wordsproutspfc@gmail.com](mailto:wordsproutspfc@gmail.com).





## EXCITING WORKSLOT OPPORTUNITIES



### RECEIVING PRODUCE

**Monday–Friday, 5 to 7:30 a.m.**

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

### PARM SQUAD

**Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Various times**

This shift requires extensive training with a member of the paid staff, and therefore requires a six-month commitment. You must have good attendance to join this squad and must be a member for at least six months. As a member of the PARM Squad, you'll prepare designated cheeses for sale. You should be fit enough to cooperate with other members to lift 90 lbs. (a wheel of parmesan). Involves also cutting hard cheese, moving in and out of the cooler. All members of the squad must follow the hygiene and safety guidelines as stipulated in the Food Processing manual. Interested members must speak to Britt before joining this squad: britt\_henriksson@psfc.coop.

### OFFICE SET-UP

**Tuesday, Wednesday, 6 to 8:30 a.m.**

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

### ATTENDANCE RECORDERS

**Monday, 6 to 8:30 p.m.**

The Coop needs detail-oriented members to help maintain attendance records for Coop workers. You will need to work independently, be self-motivated and reliable. Good attendance is a requirement. Members will be trained for this position, and staff members are available for further assistance. Workslot requires a six-month commitment. Please contact Lewanika in the Membership Office at 718-622-0560 if you would like more information.

### BATHROOM CLEANING

**Friday, 12 to 2 p.m.**

Work with a partner to deep clean the Coop's bathrooms. Tasks include scrubbing floor tiles, cleaning toilets, mopping floors and stocking the bathrooms. You will work with only natural cleaning products. This job is perfect for members who like to clean and are conscientious about doing a thorough job.

### TERRACYCLE COLLECTION

**Second Wednesday of the month, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

**Fourth Saturday of the month, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

The TerraCycle Collection is expanding, and we need your help! If these shift times do not work for you to become a squad member, we still want to hear from you, as we are very interested in adding new collection times. Dedicated FTOP workers are also welcome—if you can be on a shift more times than not, we would definitely welcome you on shifts as much as you can schedule with us. Shifts are very stable, 12 shifts per year, no moving around the calendar based on work week A, B, C. or D. Shifts are

set for a particular day/time of the month and do not change. Enjoy working your shift with like-minded environmentally conscious Coop members, members you work with and members who drop off their recyclables. This shift is a very feel-good shift knowing you are making a difference and helping members to make a difference in improving our environment. The shift tends to go quickly as the collection is well-received by members and we tend to be busy throughout the shift. For most of the year, the collections are held outside and shift workers enjoy fresh air. You will get your hands dirty—not unlike work on other shifts. We have gloves available and you can go in periodically to wash your hands in the bathroom. There will be a few shifts where weather may be of concern. We have a policy to address hot, rainy, or frigid weather with consideration to workers' comfort. More details are available if interested. The work of the shift does require a fair amount of standing and some light lifting. At the end of each shift we carry or cart the boxes to the UPS store on Flatbush and Seventh Aves. If interested, contact Cynthia Pennycooke in the Membership Office: 718-622-0560. Inquiries can be sent to rosenyny@gmail.com. For more information about TerraCycle, visit terracycle.com.

### GENERAL MEETING SET-UP

**Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.**

Adaptable, physically energetic, team workers with excellent attendance needed to help set up and break down the space where the General Meeting is held. Contact Adriana Becerra, Membership Coordinator, adriana\_becerra@psfc.coop.

## THANK YOU!

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

Lashon Allen  
Amy Antina  
Reba Ashby  
Hagar Aviram  
Michele B.  
Tatiana Bacigalupe  
Jonathan Baylis  
Sam Berliner  
Noga Bernstein  
Jessica Bonilla  
Julia Bosson  
Allison Bowles  
Sarah Brafman  
Christina Brown  
Margaret Cain  
Laurie Callahan  
Yandra Cano  
Corinne Cashin  
Griet Cattaert  
Benedicte Charpentier  
Hirondelle Chatelard  
Amy Cohen  
Gregory Corbino  
Fabien Coupez  
Brooke D.  
Kim Davis  
Olivia De Prato  
Erika Degress  
Aaron DiPiazza

Robert Dow  
Sharan Elran  
Shanee Epstein  
Noah Finkelstein  
Jennifer Flynn  
Mark French  
Lindsay Funston  
Fiona Gardner  
Sara Garner  
Ann Garvin  
Mackenzie Gibson  
Isabel Gil-Everaert  
Paige Gottheim  
Casey Griffin  
Talia Groom  
Beryl Hagenburg  
Matthew Hall  
Dayna Hamann  
Alexander Heilner  
Brian Hills  
Tuesday Hoffman  
John Hoobay  
Grant Huang  
Margot Hutchings  
Matthew Imberman  
Norma Jackson  
Karen Jang  
Stephanie Jenkins  
Jin

Melvina Johnson  
Dennison Jotyce  
Barbara Kaminsky  
Alena Kastin  
John Kelly  
Tricia Kissinger  
Stergios Kolokotronis  
Morris Kornbluth  
Alicia Lanzieri  
Celine Lapouge  
Jacob Lasser  
Anne Le Guern  
Chris Lee  
Iain Levine  
Tea Lindeburg  
Jamila Lyndon  
Anthony M.  
Alice MacDonald  
Nechama Marcus  
Markus Mayr  
Camila Meza  
Phil Miller  
Caroline Mills  
Kathleen  
Mosher-Smith  
Amelia Muller  
Holly N.  
Grace Nam  
Erin Nelson

Vicki Nevins  
Kate Nicholson  
Nisrin O.  
Lisa Ochs  
Charles Olbert  
Alice Oshima  
Erik Osmond  
Roberto Palomba  
Nicolas Panken  
Yonathan Peled  
Adriana Perez  
Margot Protzel  
Jerry Pura  
Christine Reuland  
Emma Reuland  
Svetlana Riven  
Alison Rona  
Mimi Rosenberg  
Yaakov Yitzchak  
Rosenthal  
Stephanie  
Russell-Kraft  
Anna Ruzhnikov  
Yohimbe Sampson  
Rafi Santo  
Valerie Schenkman  
Tom Schloegel  
Jennifer Sgobbo  
Sarah Sher

Evening Shinerock  
Kahil Shkymba  
Ben Silver  
Leah Silver  
Hillela Simpson  
Samuel Sittenfield  
Aaron Spencer  
Theresa Stanley  
Erin Stark  
Rebecca Stronger  
Anna Tempte  
Alida Torres  
Bradley Valentin  
Debbie Van Ryn  
Maria Viterbo  
Bela Walker  
Jane Wang  
Cheyenna Weber  
Moshe Weidenfeld  
David Wong  
Evelina Yagudaev  
Tamara Zahaykevich  
Iliana Zamorska

