

IN MEMORY OF MALIKA OWUSU-HASSAN

May 26, 2026





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By Thomas Rayfiel

Malika Owusu-Hassan, for many years a familiar face at the Membership Office, died on January 22 of kidney disease. She was 75. Malika joined the Coop in 2004 and

retired in 2021. In pre-pandemic times, when FTOP (the Future Time Off Program) still existed, Malika “banked” many extra shifts upstairs, answering phones and dealing with members’ queries. Her daughter, Aziza, says, “Working weekly was something that filled the void of not going to work every day. She loved being a part of the Park Slope Food Coop! It was her own special place (where she could get away from the world for a little bit). The Coop made her feel like she was involved in something very important. Plus, she just loved shopping there and bringing home all the healthy and delicious food!”

Jana Cunningham, Membership Coordinator, says Malika worked “as often as she could.” When asked why, Malika replied that she enjoyed helping people. Jana remembers Malika as being, “kind, inquisitive and funny.”

Malika worked for many years as an educator in the public school system, eventually becoming a New York City Board of Education School Psychologist. One of her colleagues at Canarsie High School, Pastor Varrett John Kennedy, was a longtime friend. Regarding her professional career, he recalls:

“Malika had a unique ability to see potential in young people and to nurture their confidence, identity and voice. She served as a faculty advisor to the African American Club and was instrumental in creating a space where students could engage their heritage with pride and purpose. She was both firm and compassionate, holding high expectations while offering genuine care and support. Her presence in the school community was one of strength, authenticity and quiet leadership. She created joy, camaraderie and connection among students. That was Malika: always building community, always bringing people together.”

Aziza underscores this, calling her “a quiet activist,” working for local causes that she hoped would eventually lead to greater change. On a more personal note, when Aziza was young, Malika strongly encouraged her to get involved in the sport of fencing, feeling it would grow to become an important influence on her life. Aziza recently won the Women’s Vet-40 Saber gold medal at the North American Cup championship.

Malika is survived by her youngest brother, Darrall Lafayette; her five children, Mark, Khalil, Sabriyah, Aziza and Queen-Sheba; her nine grandchildren and her eight great-grandchildren.

Aziza adds: “The only thing my mother loved more than making the community a better place was being with her family.”

Thomas Rayfiel is the author of eight novels. He has also written “living obituaries” for VICE TV.

IN MEMORY OF LINDA FAUST

May 26, 2026



May 5, 2026

By Thomas Rayfiel



Courtesy of Juliette Kennedy

Linda Faust, a longtime Park Slope resident and Coop member, died of mesothelioma on February 25. She was 77 years old. Linda taught Biology and Earth Science at nearby Clara Barton High School for 30 years at a time when few women taught science in the public school system. She waited to join the Coop until she retired, fearing she would not have enough spare time to fulfill the work requirement. This reflected her all-in commitment to being a teacher. Dr. Brigitte Holder, a former student who became a lifelong friend, recalled:

“The way to describe her was independent, stern and demanding of respect in her classroom. She genuinely wanted to mold you into the best version of you. Her classroom was a learning arena. I couldn’t wait to attend Health Occupation Science because I knew every day I would emerge with a new wealth of knowledge, bringing me

closer to becoming a physician.”

When Linda did finally join the Coop, she was on a Receiving Squad, stocking produce in the early morning, before the store opened. The Coop gave her another way to participate in the community she loved. Her friend Judith Foster remembered:

“Linda and I would always ask each other, ‘Need anything from the Coop? I’m going to walk over there soon.’ She really liked the coffee, SodaStream, the lox, and the maple yogurt. She saw the Coop as part of communal Park Slope life and felt strongly that it belonged to everyone who worked there, not just those with a particular point of view.”

Linda and her husband Steve were instrumental in improving bike access to the Coop. The bike valet system was largely the result of their efforts. After Steve’s death in 2014, she continued to advocate for easier and safer bike access, feeling that bicycles were integral to the fabric of the city. In her retirement, she frequented the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and museums all over the city. She also took great pride in the achievements of her three grandsons.

Dr. Holder emphasized how Linda’s instruction extended far beyond the classroom, even during her final illness:

“Until the last minute of her life, she remained the consummate teacher, now teaching me a life lesson. I watched her while she lay in hospice, gracefully making all decisions along with her family on how she would pass on her own terms, without tubes and medical devices.”

Linda is survived by her daughter Juliette Faust Kennedy, son Nathan Faust, son-in-law Terence Kennedy, daughter-in-law Tamarah Faust, grandsons Eli, Miles and Seamus and sister Estelle Roca.

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for VICE TV.

IN MEMORY: TIM THOMAS

May 26, 2026



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARKER LUTZ

April 14, 2026

By Thomas Rayfiel

Tim Thomas, musician, former Development Director for Bang on a Can, devoted husband and father and longtime Coop member, died unexpectedly on January 24. He was 59 years old. Tim joined the Coop in 2004. For many years, he was co-Squad Leader on Wednesday mornings along with Grace Freedman, who recalls:

“Tim was the kind of guy where multiple people during the shift would yell out, ‘Tim!’ and get a bear hug or an enthusiastic high-five as a greeting. When it was slow, they would gather around the front desk to hear Tim’s funny stories about music, family, the neighborhood or NYC in the ‘90s. Of course, he always had ‘aux’ and we would all enjoy the greatest tunes during the shift, wide-ranging fare from ska to jazz to old-time country. I miss him and remember and appreciate all the positive energy he brought to the Coop and to the world.”

Music was Tim’s life. He was a member of many musical groups, as well as a mainstay at Bang on a Can, which promotes innovative concerts, commissions original compositions and sponsors an annual summer festival. After 18 years as Development Director at Bang on a Can, for the past three years Tim served as the Executive Director of So Percussion, a leading percussion quartet and non profit music organization. With Tim, music was never an ivory-tower pursuit. Eddie Gormley, one of his bandmates, emphasizes:

“Tim was always interested in community involvement...primarily leading to some music project. The longest collaboration he had was with Rose Thomson, which evolved into Babe the Blue Ox, that included Hanna Fox, and then me. But Tim had so much musical energy that he created many other projects along the way involving his many other musical friends. He often created the events to showcase them, including the local Greenwood Baptist Church Soul Patrol, which performed at services. That community involvement energy extended to his blog ‘the Q at Parkside,’ participating with lo-

cal community boards, marching in art parades, participating in protest marches and being there for a lot of people who needed him.”

Mark Stewart, another frequent collaborator, says of Tim:

“He made every room warmer. He was masterful in the most generous way imaginable. You knew that you would accomplish whatever the challenge was, such was his smiling, confident creative leadership. Mirth was his constant companion and he shared it freely. Big, strong, gentle and a fantastic musician to boot.”

Tim is survived by his wife, Parker Lutz; his daughters, Wrenn and Poppy; his mother, Jean; his sister, Sarah; his bandmates, Hanna Fox, Eddie Gormley, and Rose Thomson; and, as his wife puts it, “the countless dear friends who kept him going all these years.” She continues, “He adored his daughters more than anything and he never once said no to his adoring wife when asked to stop by the Coop on the way home to pick up a few things.”

Thomas Rayfiel is the author of eight novels. He has also written “living obituaries” for VICE TV.

IN MEMORY OF ANDREA “TRACI” O’KELLY

May 26, 2026



September 16, 2025



By Thomas Rayfiel

Andrea “Traci” O’Kelly, who joined the Coop in 1985, died on April 1 at her home in Brooklyn. She was 74 years old. Traci studied acting at the Afro-American Studio for Acting and Speech in Harlem. She performed a musical tribute to Billie Holiday at Danny’s Skylight Room and Don’t Tell Mama. Later, she settled in Park Slope and worked at several businesses, including Jumpin’ Julia, Tarzian West for Housewares and the Plaza Center for the Healing Arts.

At the Coop, Traci worked checkout and had a near-perfect attendance record. Her daughter Raine recalls that “the Coop was an essential space for my mother. She was very proud to be a member. She primarily worked at checkout because she loved talking to people and learning about all the items the Coop carried. She appreciated its affordability and organic food. My mother raised four young children as a single mother. Being able to provide us with artisanal, organic high-quality products was the reason she was grateful to be a member.”

Some of Traci’s favorite Coop items were chicken for roast chicken Sundays, kombucha, fresh corn, ramps, cantaloupe, and essential oils such as lemon, peppermint and lavender for sleep and meditation.

Membership Coordinator Jana Cunningham, who was often in charge of Traci’s shift, remembers: “Traci was always wearing a smile. She was one of those people who made the room brighter by just being present. Traci worked on the Shopping Squad, which could at times be very hectic and stressful, yet she remained pleasant, helpful, kind and...smiling.”

A great animal lover, Traci always had dogs and cats in her house. She was particularly fond of Irish setters, cocker spaniels and Maine coon cats.

“THE COOP WAS AN ESSENTIAL SPACE FOR MY MOTHER. SHE WAS VERY PROUD

TO BE A MEMBER.”

RAINE, DAUGHTER

Traci is survived by her daughters, Lani, Toi, Raine and Jurnee; her sisters, Donna and Frances, and her dog, Joey. Her mother, Helen, predeceased her in 2006. Her brother, Arnold, predeceased her in 2015. Her only son, Hunter, predeceased her in 2020.

Coop member Thomas Rayfiel is the author of eight novels. He has also written “living obituaries” for VICE TV.

IN MEMORY OF DAN CLEARWATER GROSS

May 26, 2026



September 16, 2025



By Thomas Rayfiel

Dan Clearwater Gross, a Coop member who was heavily involved in composting, both in Park Slope and other parts of Brooklyn, died unexpectedly on July 14. He was 40 years old. Dan joined the Coop in 2010, left in 2013 then rejoined in 2022. Dan's partner, Alexia Cohen, describes how "for the past two-plus years we did the composting shift together on Saturdays at the Old Stone House community garden. We hauled and processed the compost in the garden. We loved our composting shift so much. We often did it while playing music on our speaker, chopping the compost to the rhythm of the music. Little kids would stop by and ask what we were doing. They loved participating in the process for a couple of minutes. We had nice interactions with all sorts of folks in the park. Dan was a socialist, and the Coop aligned with his values."

Sherry Showell, squad leader of the Composting Squad, remembers Dan as “a fascinating and enthusiastic person. I filed it in the back of my brain to try and introduce him to my son. I thought they had a lot of things in common—hands-on building, inventing, physics. This just is too sad. He really impressed me.”

Dan was also on the board of BK Rot, a bike-powered, fossil fuel-free food waste hauling and compost service that operates at the local level, enlisting community members. In the photo accompanying this obituary, he is standing in front of a compost sifter he and Alexia designed and fabricated.

During his previous time as a member, Dan was on the Commando Squad, an elite cleaning unit that met once every 12 weeks and gave the Coop a deep cleaning on Sunday nights from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Dan’s professional life was varied. At the time of his death, he was Senior Director of Membership for the Newlab Brooklyn in the Navy Yards, a company devoted to helping startup technologies gain a foothold in the commercial world. Previously, he was a scientific instrument maker. He also collaborated with artists to create various art pieces and installations.

He is survived by Alexia Cohen, his life partner, his parents Penni Harmon and Alan Gross, his brothers Eliot Harmon and Mowgli Holmes, and his sisters Crystal Clearwater Gross and Lily Harmon.

Coop member Thomas Rayfiel is the author of eight novels. He has also written “living obituaries” for VICE TV.

IN MEMORIAM: TIM MOHR

May 26, 2026



June 3, 2025

By Thomas Rayfiel

Tim Mohr, acclaimed translator, editor and author, died on March 31, 2025. He was 55. Tim joined the Coop in 2010. For many years, he worked in the basement, bagging bulk fruit, nuts and spices for sale upstairs.

Michelle Bosch, a friend and fellow member, recalls how he “fluffed up like a peacock when he told me he was a food processing squad leader.” She continued, “When I had a note about olive- and cheese-packing, he listened and tried to implement change. We also liked to talk about how the spice bags were the best deal in Brooklyn and how weighing the dried fruit was fun. Tim loved the Coop.”

TIM’S MOST SIGNIFICANT WORK WAS *BURNING DOWN THE HAUS*, A CORRECTIVE TAKE ON THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL.

Tim’s professional accomplishments are almost too many to name. He was a club DJ in Berlin, which led to his becoming a foremost American translator of contemporary German fiction. (He deliberately pushed for the inclusion of more women, feeling they had been unfairly overlooked when it came to foreign acquisition.)

Returning to America, he became an editor, working with, among other journalists, Hunter S. Thompson. He also ghostwrote autobiographies of such notable rock musicians as Duff McKagan of Guns N’ Roses and Paul Stanley of KISS. But his most significant work was *Burning Down the Haus* (longlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction and the Historical Writers’ Association Crown for Nonfiction), a corrective take on the fall of the Berlin Wall.

In the book, he credited East Berlin’s punk culture with having far more of an impact

than such facile staged news events as Ronald Reagan's "Tear Down This Wall" speech. *Publishers Weekly* praised the work, saying:

"... he chronicles the ongoing clashes between the East German authorities and several microgenerations of punks, describing a compelling war of subversion, persistence, attrition, and defiance, where every act meant to crush spirits and enforce conformity only helped to fan the rebellious flames."

"TIM WAS UNABASHEDLY PROUD TO BE A FOOD COOP MEMBER," SAID FRIEND KRISTEN KUSAMA-HINTE.

Tim's wife Erin recalls how her husband loved "the salted onion cashews, the produce, THE CHEESE, the beer specials (we still have cans of West Kill Brewing Brookies from when they were on sale for 25 cents a pop), and, most of all, the people." During the pandemic, Tim and Erin lived in a fourth-floor apartment with a view of the line that, at times, snaked up Union Street, along 7th Avenue, and down President Street. Tim would often monitor the line from his window, texting friends when it was short enough for them to run out and buy food.

His friend, Coop member Kristen Kusama-Hinte, remembers of Tim: "He was unabashedly proud to be a member." She elaborated, "With others, I would potentially have interactions about the Coop that involved a comment about rules, or an eye roll. But never with Tim. Honestly, he made me love and appreciate the Coop even more than I already did."

Tim is survived by his wife, Erin Clarke; his parents, James and Elizabeth; his children, Greta and August; and his sister, Stephanie Mohr.

Michael Reynolds, publisher of Europa Editions, which issued many of Tim's translations, wrote: "I loved and admired Tim for his eloquence, his moral compass, his

large, rebel heart, his consummate cool.”