

MEET TOM RAYFIEL, THE OBITUARY WRITER FOR THE “GAZETTE”

August 26, 2025



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By Emmett Lindner

Tom Rayfiel, a Coop member who spent many a shift working in the dairy cooler, has been writing obituaries for the *Linewaiters' Gazette* for years. It may sound macabre to deal in death, but obituaries solidify recollections of loved ones that might otherwise fade over the years—in both memories and conversations. Through Rayfiel's writing, a Member remains a part of the Coop's collective memory and history for generations.

He aims to capture someone's life by speaking with their loved ones and acquaintances to boil down decades of experiences and find the core personality of the person who has passed.

Some of the members Rayfiel has written about include Tim Mohr, a food-processing squad leader, who was also a translator with accomplishments that "are almost too many to name"; Shelly Weiss, an early Member who was "a force of nature at whatever she set her mind to"; and Alison Rose Levy, a longtime writer for the *Gazette*.

"WE SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE WHEN ONE OF US DIES," SAYS RAYFIEL. "OTHERWISE, A PERSON JUST FAILS TO SHOW UP FOR THEIR SHIFT A FEW TIMES AND FADES FROM MEMORY."

"I never thought of writing them myself until I saw a makeshift memorial notice on the wall of the Coop's receiving area announcing the death of our (very young) beer buyer," said Rayfiel. "I felt, if we are a community, we should acknowledge when one of us dies. Otherwise, a person just fails to show up for their shift a few times and fades from memory."

Mr. Rayfiel is a writer by trade and has published novels including *Split-Levels* and *Colony Girl*. He has also worked with *VICE*, creating tongue-in-cheek "living obituaries."

In this interview, Rayfiel discussed how he writes obituaries, how he began his career and what writing about death has taught him. (Note: This interview has been edited and condensed.)

Can you tell readers a little about yourself?

I was born in Westchester and grew up in northern New Jersey and went to school in

Iowa, Grinnell College. Then, I lived in various other places, Saratoga Springs, and in Paris and London for a while, doing odd jobs and was always writing.

In Paris, I did screenwriting for a bit. I worked with French directors who were hoping to make it big in Hollywood by writing scripts and I helped them out.

I always wanted to be a prose writer. Screenwriting was more a way to make money. It's a very interesting craft, but I knew pretty early on that I wanted to be more in control of the final product than you are as a screenwriter. You're basically there to help the director achieve his vision, I suppose, and it's all subservient to that.

And you can be more independent as a novelist.

Yes, you can also be more poverty stricken.

I did write short stories first. I published short stories in various literary quarterlies and eventually, I published several novels. The novel as a form has always fascinated me.

When did you move to Brooklyn?

Maybe 34, 35 years ago. My wife is a potter, Claire Weissberg. She's Claire of Claireware, the pottery store down on Union and Nevins in Gowanus. We moved to Brooklyn because we wanted to be near a gas-fired kiln she had found on Third Avenue. It was not chasing after some trendiness at all. It was just one of the few gas-fired kilns she found that she could have access to.

Did you join the Coop when you first moved here?

Pretty soon after. At that time, it was very different. It was only open a few hours a day, and it was a much smaller space. Obviously, it hadn't expanded the way it is now.

At first there was no dairy cooler. It used to be just a refrigerated cabinet that you would haul everything out of and rotate one by one and put new stuff in. My first job was at the bottom of the conveyor belt. No one told me that you had to brace all the items because the conveyor belt was angled way too steeply.



Photograph by Michael Berman.

So, the first thing I sent up was a load of flour and a load of cucumbers. The flour tipped over and broke, and as I was staring up at the conveyor belt, this cascade of cucumbers and flour came out. Any other job, of course, I would have been fired on the first day, but it being the Coop, they just explained to me what I needed to know, and eventually I figured the rest out.

I enjoyed seeing how a coop works from the inside, instead of just seeing the finished product. It's kind of amazing to me how all the moving parts fit together as well as they do.

THERE IS—NOT TO GET TOO CORNY ABOUT IT—A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AT THE COOP THAT I CERTAINLY DON'T FEEL WHEN I GO TO WHOLE FOODS OR KEY FOOD.

At what point did you think about writing obituaries for the Coop?

I saw that flyer, which I still occasionally glimpse when they have the door to the receiving area open for our beer buyer. It was a little homemade announcement that he had died. And that really struck me as being insufficient. That's when I got the idea of going to Joe Holtz with this idea of being the obituary writer for the Coop.

What is your process for writing the obituaries?

I go where they lead me, but I keep them all about the same length. There's a sort of general underlying form, which is: I talk a little bit about the person's life outside the Coop, but then I also emphasize what they did in the Coop and what the Coop meant to them. I try to talk to people who worked with them at the Coop, people who knew them. Often I find the Coop had a real place in their lives. And that's the part I try to emphasize.

There is—not to get too corny about it—a sense of community there that I certainly don't feel when I go to Whole Foods or Key Food.

I don't have a template. I try to wing it each time. I'm sure that I am, in fact, asking very similar questions, but I never wanted to become so rote that I'm just reeling off questions from a boilerplate email I have. I try to make it a little more individual.

I'm very intent on not making it a literary performance in any sense of the word. I just want to stay out of the way as much as possible. I want to get the information out there, and I love getting quotes from people who knew the person. I don't want to

have some kind of flourish that's mine. So mostly it's a question of staying as invisible as possible.

WHAT STILL AMAZES ME IS THAT WE ARE INDIVIDUALS AND EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN STORY. IT'S A TRUISM, BUT IT'S GREAT TO FIND OUT AGAIN AND AGAIN.

Is it ever difficult to speak with family members or friends for the stories?

Yes, I always prefer email, because I think for both sides, they get to sort of gather themselves more than if you're on the phone. There have been times when people aren't comfortable writing it out, then I've talked to them. Sometimes it's been hard for them, and I certainly tread lightly. I'm not a muckraking obituary writer. All I want to do is memorialize these people, not find out some hidden truth about them.

What do you take away from writing about death so often?

What still amazes me is that we are individuals and everyone has their own story. It's a truism, but it's great to find out again and again. And it's very often very touching to see the impression people made on other people, even if it's just tangential. After they're gone, people still leave this sort of resonance with other people. And I pick up on that.

It does reinforce this sense I have that we've created—not to get too grandiose about it—but we have created this low-level sense of community, which, especially in these times, I feel is kind of rare and worth preserving. Now, luckily, we're all united in the fact that we're all going to die, so maybe that will keep us at least together in that sense.

Emmett Lindner works on the breaking and trending news desk at The New York Times.

JULY GENERAL MEETING REPORT

August 26, 2025



August 26, 2025

By William Doran

A boisterous crowd quickly filled the Atolye Venue and Bar on 6th Street in Gowanus for the Coop's July 2025 General Meeting (GM). General coordinator and committee reports followed a lively open forum, as did a full agenda that included committee elections and a vote to officially create the Plastics Reduction Committee.

OPEN FORUM

Nine members came up to share thoughts on a variety of issues, including hybrid meetings, the boycott of Israeli products and the Agenda Committee election to take place that evening.

Sentiments in favor of the boycott have grown significantly more pointed over the course of 2025. Six of the nine members who came up spoke very passionately about the war in Gaza. Member Gabriel Young quoted UN Secretary General António Guterres in calling it “the moral challenge of our century,” stating that “Palestinians are starving to death: 88 children as of yesterday.” He continued, “and yet we continue to stock food from Israel at our Coop.”

Member Damien Neva echoed the gravity of the situation: “Facing annihilation for the last 22 months, Palestinians in Gaza are now being subjected to a starvation campaign of an industrial scale by Israel.”

Member Noah Potter then came up to speak out against the candidacy of Adrien Weibgen for membership on the Agenda Committee. Chair Committee Member David Moss asked Potter to leave the stage and the venue after Potter accused Weibgen of expressing personal support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and highlighting her personal social media accounts on a flyer that was passed out on the sidewalk prior to the meeting.

NEW GENERAL MANAGER JOE SZLADEK ADDRESSED THE HIGH TENSIONS FELT DURING THE OPEN FORUM AND RECENTLY AT THE COOP SURROUNDING THE BOYCOTT OF ISRAELI PRODUCTS.

Lastly in the Open Forum, member Makrand Bhoot reminded us of the Coop’s 50-year commitment to supporting CHiPS (Community Help in Park Slope) with donations of food and member labor. Members can select a shift at CHiPS for their work slot. Bhoot asked why the CHiPS shift does not have an assigned coordinator.

GENERAL COORDINATOR REPORTS

Before providing a thorough treasury report, new General Manager Joe Szladek—who

succeeded Joe Holtz—addressed the high tensions felt during the open forum and recently at the Coop surrounding the boycott of Israeli products. He discouraged the publication of individuals' names, saying, "This does really feel like it crosses a line. Members are being publicly named, and there are flyers being passed out about them."

Szladek also mentioned Members' concerns about their physical safety on both sides of the boycott issue, stating that he felt compelled to seek help from Community Affairs and other mediation organizations to get advice on how to manage the tensions. After he rhetorically asked, "What do we do?" an audience member boldly shouted, "We vote!" This referred to a general membership vote on boycotting Israeli products—which lies at the heart of the current conflict.

COOP SALES THROUGH JUNE 2025 WERE AT ROUGHLY \$25,000,000—AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 10.1% OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

TREASURY REPORT

Coop sales through June 2025 were at roughly \$25,000,000—an increase of about 10.1% over the same period last year, due to a number of factors: The Coop is now open 7% more hours; the markup on goods increased by 1% as of February 2025 and membership is approximately 4 to 5% higher than it was last year. Inflation also impacts this number.

The Cost of Goods Sold (COGS) as of June also went up from \$18,000,000 to \$20,000,000 over the same period last year. Gross Margin Dollars to date—the money we keep—is sitting close to \$4,900,000, while operating expenses were \$120,000 higher than that. As of August 2025, the Coop is operating at a slight loss. The Coop does have non-operating income that helps make up the difference—which includes things like new member investments and interest earned on Coop investments—total-

ing \$160,000.

THE COOP'S GRAB-AND-GO REFRIGERATOR IS NOW BACK UP AND RUNNING. HIGH TARIFFS ON EQUIPMENT ADDED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE COST AND THE TIME IT TOOK TO REPLACE THAT CASE.

GENERAL COORDINATOR REPORT

General Coordinator Elinoar Astrinsky provided assorted updates on Coop operations and staff, along with a few announcements. The Coop's grab-and-go refrigerator, typically offering Court Street Grocers sandwiches and sushi (among other treats), is now back up and running. High tariffs on equipment added significantly to the cost and the time it took to replace that case.

The Coop is changing the way food processing shifts are structured by combining bulk and cheese shifts into more generic food processing shifts to make member labor more flexible addressing day-to-day workloads. Astrinsky also mentioned that Food Processing is looking for squad leaders in both bulk and cheese. Interested members should have worked shifts on the squad they're interested in leading and speak directly to food processing staff during their shift.

The Coop has also hired a new bookkeeper named Jacob Slaton. He is currently training under Kathy Hieatt, who will retire soon.

Astrinsky brought attention to author Sun Yu who wrote a book about the Coop called *Park Slope Food Coop: Fifty Years of Cooperation*, written solely based on archived editions of the *Gazette*.

Astrinsky added that the Coop is holding a special summer food drive to support the soup kitchen and pantry CHiPS. Donation boxes are located near the Coop exit

through the end of August, or you can donate via a QR code at each checkout.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Member Sarah Schenck made some announcements on behalf of Wordsprouts, the Coop's longstanding reading series that features published authors who are also Coop members. The next event is Wednesday, September 24, at 7 pm at the Old Stone House of Brooklyn, at 336 3rd Street. It will feature Carina Finn's book, *Feast and Famine*. RSVP to Wordsprouts events at Eventbrite. Members may also make suggestions for future events or nominate featured speakers via email at psfcwordsprouts@gmail.com. You can also follow the Wordsprouts squad on Instagram at [@foodcoopwordsprouts](https://www.instagram.com/foodcoopwordsprouts).

THE COOP COOKING SQUAD HOSTED ITS FIRST IN-PERSON COOKING CLASS SINCE THE PANDEMIC ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, AT THE COOP. THE CLASS FEATURED BREAKFAST TACOS.

The International Trade Education Squad (ITES) provided an update on tariffs. The Trump Administration continues to negotiate tariffs and extend deadlines for agreements, making for a very uncertain future. The squad also highlighted that the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) is coming up for its six-year review next year. ITES is seeking new members. If interested, contact the squad via its Bluesky Account at trade@psfc-trade.bsky.social.

The Coop Cooking squad hosted its first in-person cooking class since the pandemic on Wednesday, July 30, at the Coop. The class featured breakfast tacos, and it was also broadcast on Zoom. You can watch the classes, which are hosted monthly, here on the squad's YouTube page. Next class will feature an eggplant dish by *Gazette* reporter Leila Darabi on Wednesday, September 24, at 7:30 pm. Learn more at foodcoopcooks.org or on the squads Instagram page: [instagram.com/foodcoopcooks](https://www.instagram.com/foodcoopcooks).

AGENDA

The evening's agenda included two elections: Members approved Adrien Lorenzo Weibgen (190-21) and Leslie Schultz (185-10) to serve on the Agenda and Personnel Committees, respectively, following brief presentations of their experience and relevant qualifications.

THE PLASTICS REDUCTION COMMITTEE WILL NOW BECOME AN OFFICIAL WORKING COMMITTEE AT THE COOP TO WORK WITH STAFF TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO SHRINK OUR RELIANCE ON PLASTICS.

The Plastics Reduction Committee was also approved by the membership by a vote of 181-14. This new committee made a full presentation of their proposal to the GM in January 2025 and will now become an official working committee at the Coop to work with staff to develop strategies to shrink our reliance on plastics. Members may email the new committee at reduce.plastic.psfc@gmail.com to offer suggestions, ask questions or participate.

The agenda concluded with a beautiful presentation by Coop Membership Coordinator Jason Weiner titled "A Call for Cooperative Renewal," which guided members through a critical reconsideration of the general meeting format and how we make decisions. His presentation compared the Coop's somewhat antiquated form of governance to its sophisticated membership management and inventory systems.

He noted, "Despite increasing membership tenfold, the general meeting format hasn't meaningfully changed in decades." He continued, "Democratic Coop governance should involve all members, but our system doesn't come close." His proposal focused primarily on ways the Coop can use technology to push the meeting format and decision-making processes into a more equitable and inclusive future.

He noted the inconsistency of attendance at meetings and the fact that only roughly 1% of the Coop's entire membership are able to attend a single, in-person meeting (and vote). You can find Weiner's full presentation on You Tube as well as the full text of Weiner's presentation. Weiner also solicits questions and comments from membership via an online submission form.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Board President Brandon West came to the stage to lead the Board of Directors meeting. Directors Tim Hospodar and Lynn Husum were also present. The Board voted to officially accept the advice of the membership, as well as the items voted on during the meeting.

Board Member Husum presented the findings of a hybrid meeting referendum paper recount called by the Board at the June 2025 Annual Meeting. The recount took place at the Coop on Wednesday, June 23. Husum reported that 6,371 votes were cast online via Simply Voting and 133 paper ballots were cast, for a total of 6,504 votes. Of the 133 paper ballots, 79 were yes and 54 were no. No discrepancy was found between the initial count and the recount of the paper ballots. Two Coop members working a Flex shift on the shopping floor were tapped at random to conduct the recount in the presence of Board Members Husum, Keyian Vefai and Hospodar, along with the two members who were the original paper ballot counters, General Coordinator Matt Hoagland, IT Coordinator Gerald Barker and Coop General Manager Joe Szladek.

William Doran is a licensed architect, educator and food writer based in Brooklyn, NY. Though originally from New Orleans, LA, he has been a Coop member and New York City resident since 2022. He has taught cooking classes for the Coop (foodcoopcooks.org) and publishes a free quarterly newsletter at adventurouscooks.com.

CONCERT SERIES RETURNS FOR FALL

August 26, 2025



GET READY FOR SEASON 2!!

THE PSFC CONCERT SERIES

FEATURING

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BRITAIN ASHFORD
DEPARTMENT OF JAZZ AND HUMAN SERVICES
DOLLY TROLLEY**

**FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12TH
DOORS OPEN @ 6PM
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SHAPESHIFTER LAB
837 UNION ST, BROOKLYN, NY
11215

Get your
tickets here!



August 26, 2025

By Fortuna Sung

Join us for the ninth installment of the Park Slope Food Coop Concert Series—a vibrant

evening of live music performed by Coop members, celebrating the incredible depth of talent in our community.

Date: Friday, September 12, 2025

Doors: 6 p.m. **Show:** 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Location: ShapeShifter Lab, 837 Union Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215 (across from the Food Coop)

Cover: \$10

Concert Lineup:

Set 1: 6:30–6:50 p.m.

Brad Shepik Trio Peace Light

Brad Shepik (guitar), Chris Tordini (bass), Allan Mednard (drums)

About: New jazz compositions with a global music tinge

Set 2: 7–7:20 p.m.

Brittain Ashford

Brittain Ashford (acoustic guitar), TBA (piano/electric guitar)

About: “Delicate and defiant... the kind of husky ethereality that can stop you in your tracks.” —*The New York Times*

Set 3: 7:30–7:50 p.m.

Department of Jazz and Human Services

Andrew Brin-Spicer (saxophone), Pete Martin (trumpet), Aidan Scrimgeour (piano), Nathan Haselby (bass), Dan Sieber (drums)

About: Original jazz music celebrating the first birthday of Quinn Parker Brin-Spicer

Set 4: 8–8:20 p.m.

Dolly Trolly

Tara L. Mallon (guitar), Gerard Kouwenhoven (guitar), Walter Boppert (bass), Lyla Vander (drums)

About: A snow globe of swirling harmonies... Fleetwood Mac meets B-52s with a healthy dose of whimsy!

The Park Slope Food Coop Concert Series is one of our community's most joyful creative traditions. Initiated by longtime member Beverly Grant—artist, composer, and activist—the series celebrates the diverse talents within our Coop.

Thanks to the dedication of curators Alexis Cuadrado, Ludovica Burtone and Jay Rodriguez, the vision continues to grow as a platform for freedom of expression and shared artistic experience. Come share in an evening of music, connection and community.

[Buy tickets >](#)

NEW BOOK AND DIGITAL ARCHIVE OFFER GLIMPSES INTO COOP'S 50-YEAR HISTORY

August 26, 2025



August 26, 2025

By Leila Darabi

Park Slope Food Coop members, staff and curious Brooklynites gathered for an evening of eclectic history this June at the Center for Brooklyn History, exploring the rich and sometimes contentious history of the Coop. The event marked the debut of a newly digitized archive of the *Linewaiters' Gazette* and the launch of a new book, *Park Slope Food Coop: 50 Years of Cooperation*, written by Coop member Sun Yu. *New Yorker* staff writer and Coop member Alexandra Schwartz moderated a conversation between Yu and Coop co-founder Joe Holtz, all of which was recorded and is now viewable on the Center's YouTube channel.



Alexandra Schwartz, Joe Holtz and Sun Yu. Photograph by Rod Morrison.

Marcia Ely, Director of Programs at the Center, opened the event by announcing the archive's public launch. She called past issues of the *Gazette* "a mirror, not only to the Coop's 50-year history, but to Brooklyn's history and to our national story."

Despite dominating recent Coop General Meetings and the *Gazette* letters section, the words "Israel," "Palestine," "Gaza" and "boycott" did not come up once during discussions of historical disputes at the Coop.

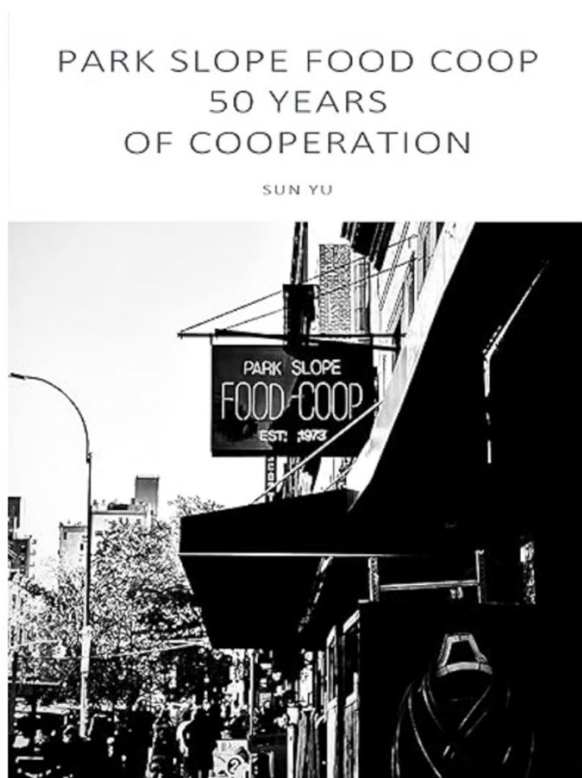
LETTERS BRING TO LIFE PAST CONTROVERSIES

"I just thought this was the most amazing, incredible organization that I had ever seen," Yu said when asked what inspired him to write his book. "The story deserved to be told," he added.

Sourced exclusively from past issues of the *Gazette*, Yu's book offers a lively recounting of the Coop's founding, early challenges, enduring debates and distinctive charm. He especially enjoyed reading the impassioned letters to the editors submitted by members over the years.

Yu began the project during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, when sifting through old issues became a kind of meditative routine. Friends in his native South Korea, stunned by his descriptions of a member-run supermarket in Brooklyn, encouraged him to write the book.

Park Slope Food Coop: 50 Years of Cooperation is now available for purchase at the Coop for \$9.



Sun Yu's book. Photograph by Caroline Mardok.

A STORY OF COEXISTENCE

In her widely read 2019 *New Yorker* article, “The Grocery Store Where Produce Meets Politics,” Schwartz captured the Coop’s singular blend of earnestness and discord.

Speaking to the *Gazette* following the book event, she noted:

I think what you see in the book—and this is the Coop story—is, first of all, people trying and failing and trying again to live together. The Coop is a huge success story about coexistence, and for that reason it is also about endless quarrels and squabbles, because that’s really what coexistence is. And you see people’s passion, which is both moving and enraging.

“I LOOK AROUND TODAY AND I SEE YOUNG PEOPLE, SO I FEEL LIKE WE’RE STILL ALIVE,” SAYS COOP CO-FOUNDER JOE HOLZ.

WORK MAKES IT WORK

Holtz, in addition to cofounding the Coop in 1973, became its first paid employee in 1975. He and the other founders were in their twenties when they launched this grand experiment in cooperative retail.

At one point during his decades of leadership, Holtz even organized a study group for staff, inviting them to analyze what caused other similar cooperatives to fail. One case study stuck with him: “They didn’t do a good job of bringing in younger people, and it just went away [when the founders retired],” he told the audience. “I look around today and I see young people, so I feel like we’re still alive.”

Holtz remains steadfast in his belief that the Coop’s work requirement is central to its success—and its fairness. “If you don’t make everybody work and start letting some people buy their way out of work, that sets up a class system,” he said.



Sun Yu, Joe Holtz and Alexandra Schwartz at the Center for Brooklyn History. Photographs by Rod Morrison.



Sun Yu, Joe Holtz and Alexandra Schwartz at the Center for Brooklyn History. Photographs by Rod Morrison.



Sun Yu, sharing his book after the talk with *Linewaiters' Gazette* artist and archivist, Deborah Tint. Photograph by Rod Morrison.

A CHEESE COUNTER DISAPPEARS

Yu recalled being amazed when a friend first brought him to the Coop in 2007. "I saw that it worked. That was the moment. I saw everyone working, stocking vegetables and fruit. And I just immediately wanted to be part of it," he said.

One detail from early years at the Coop that stuck with him was the old cheese counter. "It was this community touchpoint," he said. "You'd tell another member what you wanted, and they'd weigh it and have it ready by checkout."

THE DIGITIZED *LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE* ARCHIVE IS NOW ACCESSIBLE THROUGH THE CENTER'S DIGITAL COLLECTIONS PORTAL.

Holtz reminisced about the cheese counter as well: "There was a sense of connection, like the person behind the counter cared." Cheese slicing eventually moved to the basement when the Coop expanded because, as Holtz explained, the counter took up a lot of space and "every square foot mattered."

THE GAZETTE ARCHIVE GOES DIGITAL

The digitized *Linewaiters' Gazette* archive is now accessible through the Center's digital collections portal, where readers can access PDFs of past *Gazette* issues. Archivist Alice Griffin and Reference Librarian Liza Katz began digitizing the collection in 2013, and Deborah Tint, the Center's Special Collections Cataloger and a longtime *Gazette* illustrator, later joined the work. A grant from the Metropolitan New York Library Council funded the last mile of the project.

THE LINEWAITER'S GAZETTE

Official Newsletter of Park Slope Food Co-op/Bklyn, NY, Oct. 27, 1973

Dear Folks,

This may be the last "Line Waiter's Gazette" you will read. If there is continued lack of active participation* on all levels and continued financial losses, the Park Slope Food Co-op Store will be forced to close. The outcome will be decided at the General Meeting on Tuesday, October 30, 1973 at 7:30 PM.

The main responsibility for running the Co-op is still in the hands of a handful of committee members. The average committee member puts in 5 to 12 hours per week (!!) working for the Co-op compared to most people's 3 hours per month! These people are tired and overworked and the time period for which they have volunteered is over on October 30th. If other



If enough people volunteer there will be no need for people to put in excessive time and energy as is happening now.

The continued existence and efficient functioning of the Co-op can only be realized if there are VERY LARGE committees.

In this way, it will not be, as it is now, dependent on a few individuals expending abnormal amounts of energy. The future of the Co-op

Sample of the old *Linewaiters' Gazette*.

THE LINE WAITERS' GAZETTE

SEPT. 22 1973

In case you haven't noticed, the line at the coop is longer than ever. Everyone shows up early to get their share of the limited amount of food. If there was enough food, people could show up all throughout the day, not wait and still get food. There isn't enough food because there isn't enough money to buy what we need. In fact the coop is still losing money. Fund raising, loans, etc. have been suggested as possible solutions. A plan of action will be discussed at the next general meeting—so please think about this and come, TUESDAY SEPT. 25, 7:30 at the Mongoose.

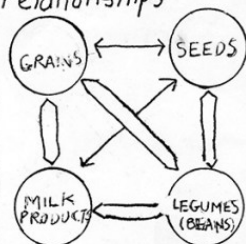
Don't forget to sign up for work requirement

CATS ARE UP FOR ADOPTION - SPEAK TO COORDINATOR

NEWSLETTER IDEAS? CONTACT JINI 638-7390 KATHY 788-1808

BALANCING PROTEINS WITHOUT MEAT

In order to get the full benefit of the proteins in your food, you need to eat foods which together supply you with all the essential amino acids. Proteins in one food, complement the proteins in another. This is especially important for those of us who eat little or no meat. The chart below shows complementary protein relationships



○ means groups are generally complementary
 ↔ means only some items in each group are complementary

For more information read DIET FOR A SMALL PLANET by Frances Moore LAPPÉ

Sample of the old *Linewaiters' Gazette*.

As of August 2025, issues from 1973 through 1987 are available online, with additional batches covering 1988 to 2006 expected this fall. The Coop's website also hosts past issues of the *Gazette*, through August 2021. That August the newsletter went fully digital at *LinewaitersGazette.com*. Both collections include some gaps. For example, no issues could be located from 1974 or 1980, and some issues from 1973 and 1975 are missing.

Tint and her colleagues are working with Coop staff to track down members who might have held on to missing editions (and have asked that anyone with physical copies from the missing years contact the *Gazette*). Holtz recalled the occasional surprise discovery while working with the archive team: "I would see another issue from [a missing] year just on my desk, brought by someone anonymously," he said. "It was

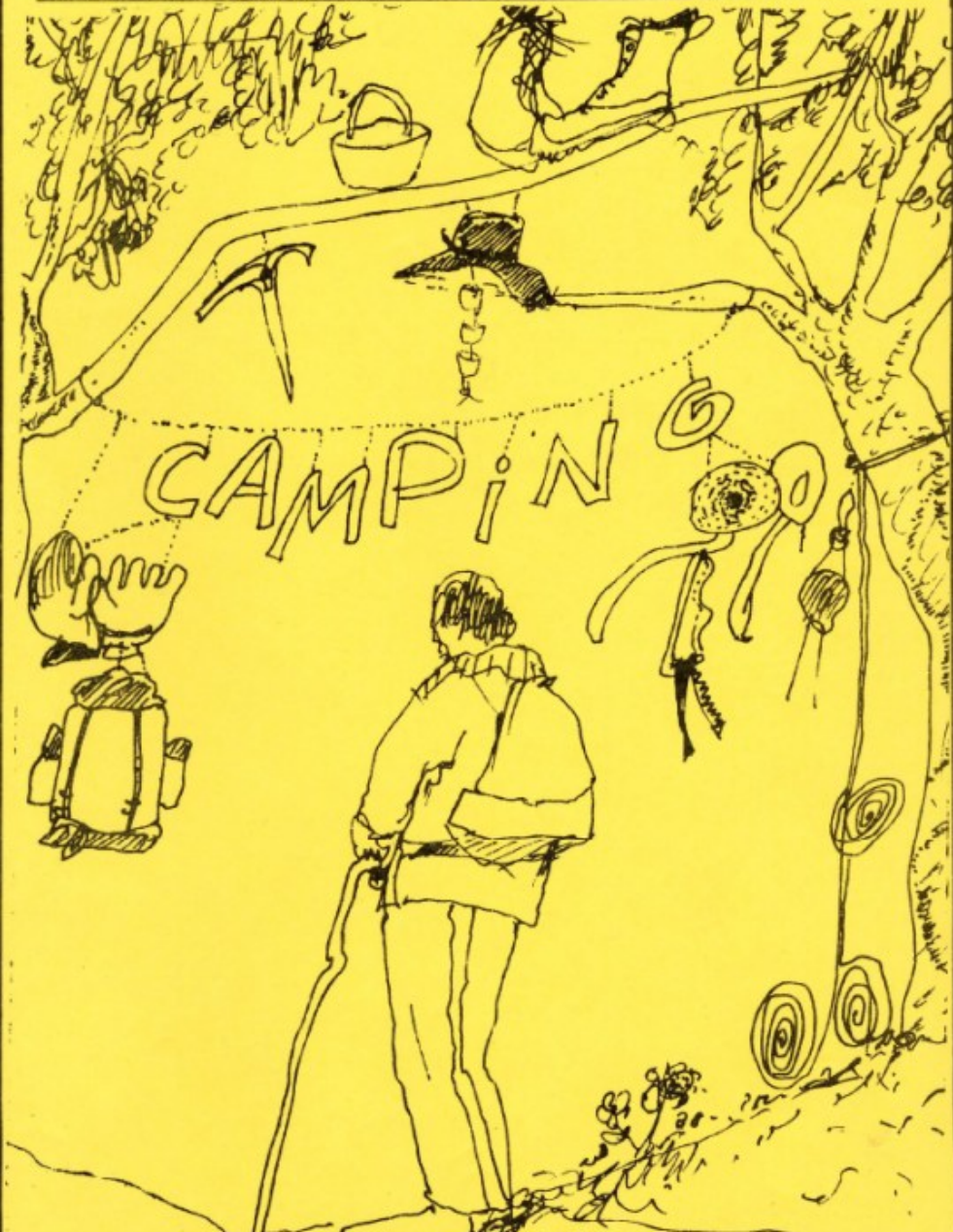
great.”

Linewaiters Gazette



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE PARK SLOPE FOOD CO-OP, INC.

June 15, 1978



111 - THE PARK SLOPE FOOD CO-OP, INC.
drawing by Irit Magnes

Gazette from 1978.

Linewaiters Gazette



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE PARK SLOPE FOOD CO-OP, INC.

March 8, 1979



Gazette from 1979.

ILLUSTRATING HISTORY

In a blog post for the Center, Tint wrote that poring over early issues offered a glimpse into the Coop's "pragmatic idealism" and revealed how "process and policy were developed on the fly" in the store's early days. In a call with the *Gazette*, she shared that one of the highlights of the endeavor had been rediscovering the expressive cartoons of *Gazette* illustrator Rod Morrison.

As part of the archive's public debut, Tint's own illustrations were on display the evening of the event.

THE COOP'S STORY LIVES ON

In his retirement letter to members earlier this year, Holtz summed up what kept him going for five decades:

I have stayed because of the overwhelmingly positive energy and thoughts so many of our members have about the Coop; I have stayed because of how much our members care for the Coop and feel connected to their Coop.

As Yu noted, the Coop's history isn't just worth preserving, it's worth participating in. "That's the thing that amazed me from the start," he said. "It's a supermarket. But it's also a story."

Leila Darabi joined the Gazette as a reporter in 2016. She posts photos of the food she makes with Coop ingredients on Instagram (@persian_ish). On September 24th, she will lead the next Coop cooking class, featuring techniques and recipes for cooking a seasonal favorite: eggplant.

CROSSWORD: FINALE

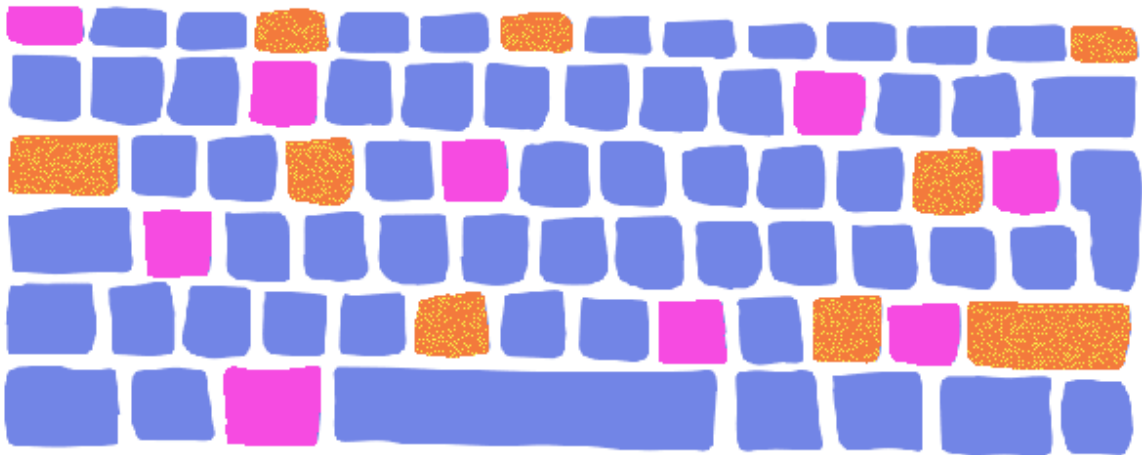
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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DISCLOSE ANY WRITING SHOWING THE LEGAL OPINION—NOW

Dear Coop members:

This letter responds in part to the voluntary article in the June 24 edition of the *Line-*

waiters' Gazette criticizing the General Coordinators' recourse to attorneys for a legal opinion on the validity of the purported action by the board on April 29. I have one criticism of the GC's conduct: it was entirely appropriate for the GCs to seek a legal opinion, but an epic fail not to disclose the opinion itself. The severity of the conduct of the leaders of the BDS faction and their ally—based on magical thinking that making the Coop declare its allegiance to a fusion of the failed Arab boycott and Bolshevik anti-zionism disguised as a human rights movement will do anything but build Omar Barghouti's brand while damaging the Coop—entirely justifies legal fees. They have normalized the practice of directors' votes on items that are not on the agenda. I have litigated corporate control disputes for over 21 years as a commercial litigator, and the proposition that the board can vote on agenda items that would amend the bylaws without prior notice to the membership is literally incredible. Anyone who is concerned about the future of the Coop must see whatever writing exists so the membership can evaluate it.

The GCs reliance on an oral opinion—with no writing that can be examined or even placed in the Coop's records—is irresponsible. Further, unless the firm considers malpractice an acceptable practice, there must be a writing in the law firm's files showing the legal reasoning—an email from an associate to a partner or a memo to the file. If the GCs relied on an oral opinion, then they need to obtain and disclose—now—whatever writing the attorneys generated.

Sincerely,
Noah Potter

General Manager Response to Noah Potter's Letter:

Dear Coop Members,

During the General Meeting and Board meeting on April 29, the Board voted 3-2 to instruct the General Coordinators to issue a referendum ballot to amend the Coop's bylaws to allow for hybrid meetings. This decision was made without first seeking advice

from the members through a vote at that evening's General Meeting.

The General Coordinators sought legal guidance, consulting with a law firm with deep experience in cooperative governance. The key conclusions of the General Coordinators were shared with all members in a message from then-General Manager Joe Holtz:

- The Board has the legal authority to take the actions it did on April 29.
- A bylaw amendment is not necessary to allow for hybrid General Meetings.

Our discussions with attorneys are confidential. This is standard practice for authorized representatives of cooperatives and similar organizations. We are committed to sharing our conclusions that directly impact Coop membership.

Respectfully,

Joe Szladek

General Manager

ANOTHER MEETING, ANOTHER RETURN TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Dear Coop members:

Another meeting where hybrid attendance as a way of back dooring an anti-Israel boycott is rearing its ugly head. What would-be boycotters do not realize is that there will be severe legal repercussions to the Coop for their actions if they choose BDS. Creating a hostile environment is absolutely not legal and this venal movement clearly does that.

There is a growing movement at the state and federal level to stop this kind of thing, and it may well end in the permanent closure of the Coop, destroying community access to low-cost food.

Sincerely,
David Sher

THE COOP REMAINS UNGOVERNABLE

Hello Coop,

The Coop remains ungovernable.

At the April GM, a member uttered their filthy Jew-hate (“Jew” was used as a slur, not “Zionist”) and they were neither removed from the meeting, nor reported by the *Gazette*, nor removed from the Coop. I am not even allowed to name them as per *Gazette* restrictions. The DRC, the Chair Committee and the *Gazette* are all complicit in this cover up.

This is an embarrassment to the Coop as a whole. Why is someone who would be expelled immediately from any other organization still allowed to walk through the front door and pretend innocence? It’s inexplicable because no one has the guts to explain it. Not honestly, not without dodging, deflecting or victim-shaming.

I call for their permanent expulsion, and every moment nothing happens only adds weight to our collective shame that no one is doing anything. Evil flourishes when good people like yourselves do exactly that: nothing.

Cooperation, right there in our name, is ignored. Our General Meetings are overrun by the most inhumane of participants. And our financial bottom line suffers for it, es-

pecially when members of conscience reflexively diminish their spending as protest. -
Tolerating Jew-hate is the tip of the spear buried deep in our heart and exemplifies
how we are failing to govern ourselves.

And people wonder why a Human Rights Commission complaint was filed against the
Coop.

Sincerely,

Jesse Rosenfeld