# POTLUCK PICNIC!

May 5, 2026


Join the
Park Slope Food Coop
POTLUCK
MORE INFO.& RSVP
BIT.LY/ COOP POTLUCK
PICNIC!
&
Cookbook Club
MAY 17, 1-4 PM
Prospect Park
In front of the picnic house
Hosted by the Fun Committee

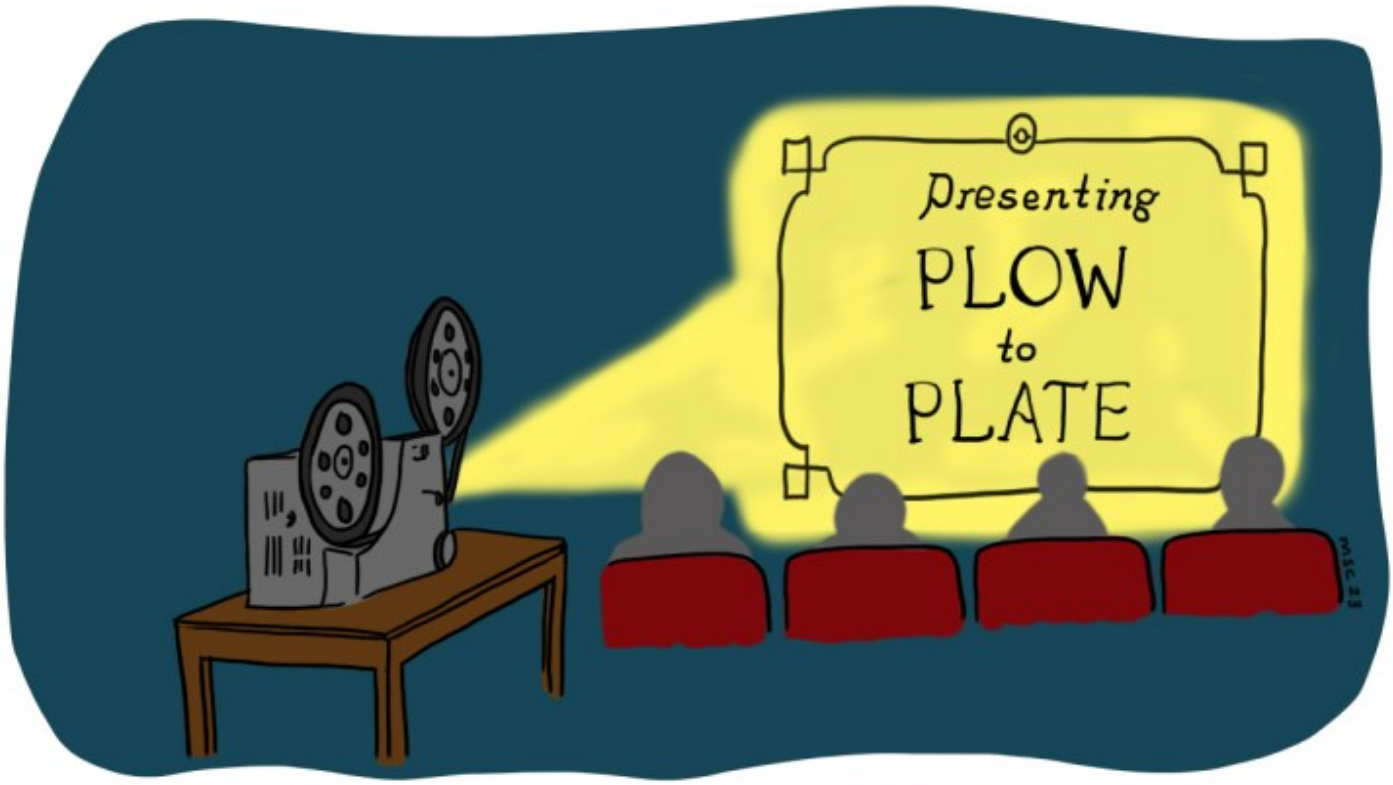
The Park Slope Food Coop Fun Committee is throwing a Potluck and Cookbook Club on May 17 outside the Picnic House in Prospect Park. We will get together to discuss and eat selected recipes from *Start Here* by Sohla El-Waylly.

RSVP and more information >

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## PLOW TO PLATE PRESENTS: “FEEDING THE SUPER RICH”

May 5, 2026




*By Adam Rabiner*

Those of a certain age might mistake *Feeding the Super Rich* for a long-lost episode of *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*. It’s a television documentary series filmed 30 years later for a new generation. While the rich have only grown more opulent in that span, Robin Leach’s signature sign-off, “champagne riches and caviar dreams!” still holds true.

Unlike the former show, which aired from 1984 to 1995 and featured all manner of decadence, this newer reality television series (2015 to 2019) fixates exclusively on what, how and to some extent why the billionaire class eats the way it does. The answer to that is often: simply to impress. Here, precious metals won't adorn a sink, but 24-karat gold leaf may top the $1,000 Golden Opulence Sundae, wrap macarons or dark chocolate tortes, or even encase a steak.

Of course, food is more than just sustenance for the non-super-rich. It delivers pleasure and can represent family or community.  A Facebook post of an exquisite dish on an indulgent night out at an expensive restaurant might also signal privilege. But for the super-rich, food is often used as entertainment and spectacle to impress fellow billionaires, show off and convey status. These rich folk live in a different world entirely. Episode one features Bubble Food, a catering company that exclusively serves these folks, and boy, oh boy, do these people live in their own bubbles.

> DESPITE THE TRAPPINGS, EXTRAORDINARY LUXURIOUS SETTINGS AND FANCIFULNESS, IN THE END, IT IS ALL JUST FOOD.

It might seem too insufferable to immerse oneself needlessly in the lives of the uberwealthy. But, fortunately, the yacht owners summering on the Côte d'Azur, the private jet owners and the mansion dwellers are peripheral. They issue silent commands for $3,000 bottles of Rémy Martin, which send their underlings scattering to fulfill their every culinary desire. But they are mercifully offstage, at most referenced hilariously by those who satisfy their whims. Chef Jeremy Kelly relays a story about his boss, a Russian oligarch, who overloads a blini with way too much Beluga Caviar and joyfully forces him to eat the disgusting concoction. It is a funny story that illustrates the contrast between the expensive ingredients and the actual culinary experience.

Instead, *Feeding the Super Rich* typically focuses on the entrepreneurs who make a living in this exclusive, rarefied world. There is a modest, middle-class husband and

wife who are attempting to create a new food fashion trend by producing, marketing and selling snail eggs, which they are branding as “Escargot Pearls.” Another businessman brainstorms how to keep his small catering company alive and profitable, and stumbles upon the idea of expanding his catering from just private planes to people’s homes.

One delightful, humorous and eccentric character is William Hanson, a young English gentleman who teaches high table manners and etiquette to Dalia, an heiress from Uzbekistan who loves everything English and wants to comport herself properly among her friends in the British aristocracy.

Despite the trappings, extraordinary luxurious settings and fancifulness, in the end, it is all just food. The super-rich still eat the same trendy things that everyone else does, be that kale, wheat germ powder, goji berries, hemp protein seeds or Mānuka honey. Hell, some of them even have a penchant for Marmite, though by the time it makes its way from England to a grocery store in Nice, to the loading area of a middleman like Bubble Company, or to the galley of a billionaire’s yacht, the original price of €2.5 become a final delivered price of £80.

The true revelation is not that the super-rich eat that much differently from the rest of us. We’ve probably had a dish presented with culinary flair and a puff of smoke. Rather, it’s these folks do not care about price. They blithely throw parties at £1,000 a head. They’ll order a kilo of king crab at that price with the same insouciance as you or I will order an egg roll at a Chinese take-out joint.

Though we may feel a pang of envy as they unthinkingly order their Japanese Wagyu beef from cows indulged with beer and personal massages, or oysters and sea urchins shipped in from the cold waters of the Arctic Ocean, most of us don’t feel the need to be so showy and ostentatious. Give us a cold craft beer and a decently made medium-rare cheeseburger and we are just as happy.

*Feeding the Super Rich* Tuesday, May 12, 2026

To receive a screening link, visit our website.

*Adam Rabiner lives in Ditmas Park with his wife, Dina.*

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## MEMBER-SUBMITTED ARTICLE: EXPANDING THE DIALOGUE AT GENERAL MEETINGS—BUT ONLY ON TUESDAYS?

May 5, 2026




May 5, 2026

*By Tim Hospodar*

Hybrid meeting formats have enabled a larger fraction of the membership to join General Meetings on Tuesdays. The resulting attendance, however, cannot always speak

freely due to time constraints. And members who are conflicted on Tuesday nights are not meaningfully accommodated simply through virtual connectivity. Hybrid solves for some accessibility issues, but it does not tackle the concern of members who have Tuesday conflicts or the compression of discussion that comes with growing participation.

At the February GM, during the agenda discussion about boycotts, someone noted that all members of the Board of Directors had their hands raised at the same time. I'll try not to take it personally, having deferred my allotted minutes during the Board Candidates presentation in favor of the boycott discussion, but the fact remains: The majority of the Board, if not *all but one member*, did not have a chance to speak. This moment demonstrated the difficulty our meetings face under real time limitations, especially when agenda items generate deep and sincere engagement.

To be clear, this is not a critique of how meetings are chaired. The logistics of the GM have changed and the participant count has changed as well. When historians reference our Coop's earliest days, we recall that town hall–style meetings were proportionately smaller—much smaller—than the in-person attendance we can expect at Prospect Park's Picnic House. I'd also like to positively shout out prior GM discussions (July and October 2025), where members presented ideas around digital tools supporting asynchronous conversation. I am a huge fan of digital knowledge sharing and of those proposals. Still, I believe that approach only provides so much support for membership voice, whereas longer meetings enable greater face time.

What would a singular GM look like if it stretched beyond just one Tuesday night? I am not asking for different topics on different nights. I am suggesting that the Agenda Committee size and weigh agenda items in a way that ensures robust discussion is never truncated. This could mean that a meeting is continued across multiple weeknights. To avoid burdening the Agenda Committee, the necessary size of a meeting could also be informed by registration count. When an agenda item triggers a massive number of registrations (including both on-site and virtual preferences) it follows that a massive discussion should be expected and prepared for.

This is also why rotating or adding weeknights other than Tuesday matters. Again, hybrid addresses some accessibility concerns, but it does not resolve conflicts for members who simply cannot attend on Tuesday evenings. A cooperative meeting reveals consensus only after a diversity of voices are shared, and those voices can only be heard when time allows.

If this resonates with you, I invite members to continue discussion around digital communication tools (knowledge bases, discussion platforms, electronic voting and more), and to begin consideration of a redesigned General Meeting format that enables greater participation—even experimentally.

*Tim Hospodar is a member of the Coop's Board of Directors—as such he needs to hear as many voices of the membership as possible.*

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## MEMBER-SUBMITTED ARTICLE: RESTORING SIMPLE MAJORITY FOR BOYCOTTS

May 5, 2026




May 5, 2026

*By John Caramichael and Abdi-Hakin Dirie*

We are now approaching a long-delayed vote on our proposal to restore simple majority voting (50%+1) for boycotts.

Currently, boycotts require a 75% supermajority to pass, making them the only Coop decision with special rules. All other decisions, including financial investments, are decided by simple majority. This includes past votes to spend millions to buy our building and contentious decisions on stocking meat and beer and opening a second location. (Note: Bylaws amendments require a 2/3 supermajority, but virtually all decisions on Coop operations, including boycotts, do not amend the bylaws).

From 1973 to 2016, boycotts were also decided by simple majority, including those targeting apartheid South Africa and Chile under Pinochet. The idea of a supermajori-

ty requirement only emerged in 2009, just two months after Israel bombed Gaza, killing 1,417 Palestinians, including 313 children. Calls to boycott Israel prompted some members to push for a higher threshold, effectively moving the goalposts.

Further discussion in 2010, 2013 and 2015 brought more attention to the supermajority proposal. Members at the time commented that the policy was “an attempt to rig future votes” and likened it to Republican voter fraud laws meant to influence elections.

The 75% rule was eventually adopted in 2016 through a procedurally flawed vote. (Ironically, it only passed with 60% support and can be repealed by simple majority). The proposal was brought to the floor by a member who is a well-documented supporter of Israel in the *Gazette*, most recently calling for our Coop to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism, which falsely conflates criticism of Israel with antisemitism.

Like gerrymandering, the 75% threshold erodes democracy by giving disproportionate power to members opposing boycotts. While not explicitly naming Israel, the policy reflects a broader “Palestine Exception,” where advocacy for Palestinians faces institutional barriers.

In our Coop, the Palestine Exception threatens other solidarity work by making all boycotts much harder to pass. In 2017, 59% of members voted to boycott Tom Cat Bakery in Queens, in solidarity with workers seeking severance and basic protections from ICE. Despite majority support, the boycott failed under the 75% rule. The workers ultimately lost their fight, and our Coop shares responsibility.

In our time of rising fascism, war, genocide and exploitation, boycotts remain an essential tool of nonviolent resistance. Restoring simple majority voting will renew our tradition of solidarity by removing a recently established barrier.

To address two common criticisms: First, some argue boycotts are “divisive” and require special rules. But our Coop has made many big decisions using simple majority.

Disagreement is part of democracy. Manipulating the rules to advantage one side does not reduce disagreement; it merely undermines faith in the process. As seen with last year's vote on hybrid General Meetings (in that case, needlessly requiring a bylaws amendment), applying special rules to block a popular policy created greater frustration.

Second, some claim supermajority reflects Coop "tradition," referring to our past voting record on boycotts. It is true that past boycott votes often had high percentage levels of support, but the actual requirement was a simple majority until 2016.

Consider an analogy: the Coop's city council district votes overwhelmingly blue each cycle. Should we require Democrats to win 75% to be elected because of that "tradition"? Such a rule would clearly be unfair. High percentage votes are welcome, but requiring a supermajority is different, because it grants unequal power to opponents of boycotts and distorts the democratic process.

More broadly, these criticisms omit how and why the rule was introduced: in reaction to a proposed boycott of Israel. The seemingly neutral rhetoric belies the reality of a Palestine Exception.

Restoring simple majority voting is a step toward a more democratic and accessible Coop, in the spirit of reforms like hybrid meetings. Thank you for your consideration, and we hope to earn your "yes" vote at an upcoming General Meeting.

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## WORDSPROUTS: DAVID FORBES

May 5, 2026

# BROKEN LAND DREAMS

DAVID FORBES



*By Susan Horwich*

Come join us for our next WordSprouts event in partnership with the Old Stone House, featuring novelist David Forbes, Ph.D., Associate Professor Emeritus in the Urban Education Doctoral Program, CUNY Graduate Center.

David will read from his newly published novel, *Broken Land Dreams* (Brooklyn Codgers-Amazon KDP, January 19, 2026). Following the reading, David will be in discussion with attendees and be available for Q&A.

WordSprouts is a long-running PSFC author series featuring Coop authors sharing their work and their creative process.

## OUR NEXT EVENT

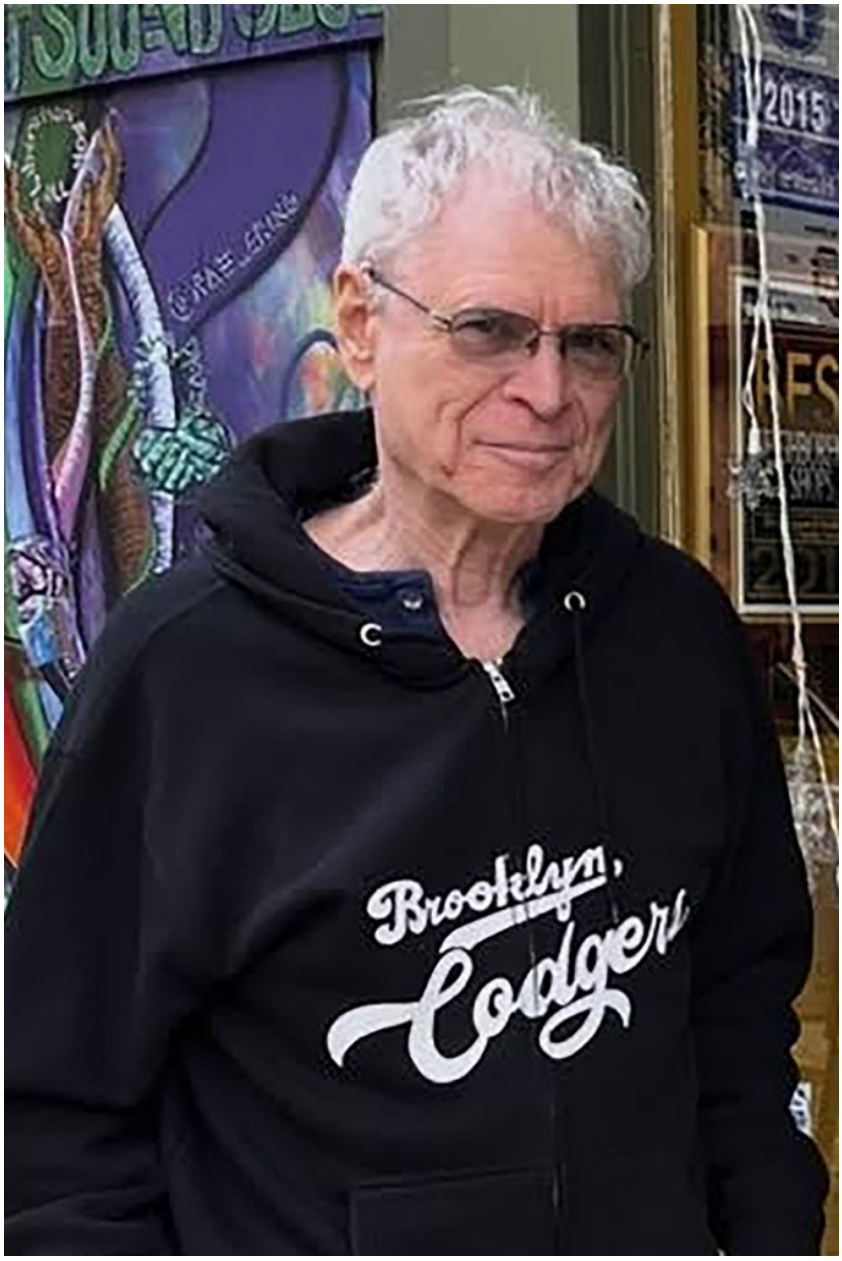
**Author:** David Forbes (PSFC member)
**Genre:** Novel – magical realism, literary fiction
**When:** Wednesday May 27, 2026 – doors open at 6:45 p.m.; the event begins at 7:00 p.m.
**Where:** Old Stone House, 336 3rd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215
**Format:** In-person only
**RSVP here >**

## REVIEWS OF *BROKEN LAND DREAMS*

The journalist Eleanor J. Bader wrote for *The Indypendent*, a review (February 25, 2026) titled, "'Broken Land Dreams' Combines Magical Realism with Satire," with the lede, "A retired high school social worker and disillusioned Brooklynite joins forces with former students and peers to resist the Right in David Forbes' piece of speculative fiction."

The journalist Ava Sharahy wrote for *BK Reader,* a review (February 23, 2026) titled, *A Surreal Brooklyn Story That Covers Politics, Loneliness And Superheroes*: "In his indie

fiction debut, David Forbes delves into today's political turmoil through the lens of magical realism through his book *Broken Land Dreams*."




Courtesy of David Forbes

David Forbes is an Associate Professor Emeritus in the Urban Education Doctoral Program at the CUNY Graduate Center. He taught school counseling in the School of Education at Brooklyn College/CUNY for 19 years. He studied psychology and counseling at the University of Chicago, the New School, and University of California, Berkeley. David teaches and writes on critical and integral approaches to mindfulness within neoliberal society and education and has consulted with the New York City Public

Schools on developing social mindfulness programs. He wrote *Mindfulness and Its Discontents: Education, Self, and Social Transformation* (2019), *Boyz 2 Buddhas: Counseling Urban High School Male Athletes in the Zone* (2004), and *False Fixes: The Cultural Politics of Drugs, Alcohol, and Addictive Relations* (1994). He and Ron Purser co-edited the *Handbook of Mindfulness: Culture, Context, and Social Engagement* (2016).

David's favorite Coop item is aged gouda. David says, "especially when it's cut with just two sides of the rind—ahh."

David has been a Coop member since the early 1980s. Now retired, he recalls his favorite work shift, "I best liked being down in the basement, bagging raisins, nuts et al. We got to play our own CDs—remember them?" David played mandolin with a bluegrass group at a Coop event back in the '80s. David imagines, "My yet to be designed PSFC tee shirt: *Shifts happen."*

David's presentation will be followed by drinks and snacks, courtesy of the Coop. David will be available to sign copies of *Broken Land Dreams*, and he will have copies available to sell. The book can be ordered from any bookstore (distributed by IngramSparks), and online booksellers including amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, and strandbooks.com.

WordSprouts Mission Statement: to showcase local published writers who are members of the Coop and cultivate friendships between Coop members and our larger community.

To get updates about WordSprouts events, check the Linewaiters' Gazette, sign up for the mailing list at psfcwordsprouts@gmail.com and follow us on Instagram at @foodcoopwordsprouts.

*The WordSprouts committee includes committee leader Sarah Schenck and committee members Peter Brosius, Susan Horwich, Ruthie Nachmany, Tamar Nachmany and Rosanna Staffa.*

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE SEEKS EXPERIENCED NEW MEMBERS

May 5, 2026




May 5, 2026

The mission of the committee is to provide education, research and advisement to ensure the Food Coop is aligned with its environmental policy to support “the best products and practices with regard to the health, safety and preservation of humans, animals and the overall biosphere.” Learn more about the Environmental Committee’s history and activities.

We are looking for members with relevant education and/or professional experience in environmental topics. Your work with the committee constitutes your Coop work-

shift requirement. To apply, fill out our web form.