

JOIN THE LINEWAITERS' GAZETTE: REPORTER POSITIONS OPEN NOW

October 7, 2025



October 7, 2025

BRING THE STORIES OF THE COOP TO LIFE.

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.

POSITION OVERVIEW

The *Linewaiters' Gazette* is produced by four rotating teams, each responsible for creating a new issue every three weeks. As a reporter, you'll contribute one article every 12 weeks in collaboration with your team's editor. Reporters earn two work credits per published article.

Occasional attendance at General Meetings—and writing about them—is also part of the role.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We're seeking experienced journalists who can craft clear, engaging and deadline-driven stories. Ideal candidates are curious, community-minded and genuinely interested in the Coop's members, operations, products and history.

REQUIREMENTS

- Professional journalism or writing experience
- Strong editing and research skills
- Ability to meet deadlines and work collaboratively
- Membership in the Coop for at least six months

HOW TO APPLY

Please email your cover letter, résumé, and writing samples to:

✉ GazetteSubmissions@psfc.coop

OCTOBER CONCERT SERIES

October 7, 2025

SEASON 2 SECOND CONCERT!!

THE PSFC CONCERT SERIES

FEATURING

**JAMEH DARAN ENSEMBLE
STODDARD BLACKALL
MAGGIE CARSON
PAULA T**

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 17
DOORS OPEN
@ 6PM; \$10**

SHAPESHIFTER LAB
837 UNION ST, BROOKLYN, NY
11215

Get your
tickets here!



October 7, 2025

By Fortuna Sung

The Coop's October Concert Series is happening Friday, October 17, at Shapeshifter Lab, 837 Union Street. Doors are at 6 p.m., and you can buy tickets online.

JAMEH DARAN ENSEMBLE

Set 1 - 6:30 to 6:50 p.m.

Performing Artist / Band: Jameh Daran Ensemble

Personnel:

- Mahnaz Kalani (Santur)
- Kaveh Haghtalab (Kamancheh)
- Siavash Haghtalab (Tar)
- Nima Torabkhani (Tombak)

About: Jameh Daran is an Iranian classical ensemble led by brothers Kaveh Haghtalab and Siavash Haghtalab. For this program, they are honored to be joined on Santur by their mother, Mahnaz Kalani, whose musicality and presence have deeply shaped their artistic journey. Also joining them is guest percussionist Nima Torabkhani on Tombak. The group has appeared at the Rubin Museum of Art, Columbia University's WKCR and the Emrooz Music Festival, presenting nuanced performances alongside research-driven talks on the history of Persian classical and folk music.

STODDARD BLACKALL

Set 2 - 7 to 7:20 p.m.

Performing Artist / Band: Stoddard Blackall

Personnel:

- Stoddard Blackall (Piano, Vocals)

About: New York-based songwriter Stoddard Blackall, a proud Berklee and BMI Musical Theater Workshop alumnus, will grace the stage with an eclectic set of his original songs—many of which are available on Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon Music—delivering a raw performance with his crooning voice and lightning-smooth touch on the baby grand.

MAGGIE CARSON

Set 3 - 7:30 to 7:50 p.m.

Performing Artist / Band: Maggie Carson

Personnel:

- Maggie Carson (Banjo, Guitar, Vocals)
- Or Zubalsky (Guitar, Keys)

About: A banjo-centric Americana set blending rootsy storytelling with warm, acoustic textures.

PAULA T

Set 4 - 8 to 8:20 p.m.

Performing Artist / Band: PAULA T

Personnel:

- Paula Tartell (Vocals, Synth)
- Benny Woodard (Drums)
- Leah Greene (Bass Guitar)
- Sean Saville (Electric Guitar)

About: "Get On My Lawn!" Join Brooklyn-based songwriter, producer and singer Paula Tartell and her powerhouse band (Sean Saville, Benny Woodard, Leah Greene) on PAULA'S LAWN—where feeling and expression are celebrated, and the music always hits hard.

FOOD CLASS: WINTER COMFORT FOOD FROM PAKISTAN

October 7, 2025



October 7, 2025

By William Doran

Join us with Guest Chef **Hamza Iqbal** to make **Home-Style Haleem** and **Kashmiri Chai** on **Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 7:30 p.m. EDT** as part of the Coop's monthly cooking series. The class will be streamed online via Zoom. Haleem is a warming dish with three kinds of lentils and Kashmiri Chai is made with green tea. Hamza will teach us why it turns pink!



ABOUT THE CHEF

Hamza Iqbal is excited to share two favorite winter recipes from childhood in Pakistan. Both of them are reminiscent of foggy, misty winters in Lahore that are rather mild and allow for cozy community gatherings over food and drink.

RSVP, Participate and Follow

Sign up for classes, download recipes and find shopping lists to cook along from home at **foodcoopcooks.org**. As classes are added, they will show up on the Squad's home page. Check back regularly for updates! Follow the Cooking Squad on Instagram at **instagram.com/foodcoopcooks** for more content including shopping sessions with guest chefs!

TEACH A CLASS

Though cooperation is at the heart of the Coop's mission, so is food! The Cooking Committee is looking for guest chefs to share their food expertise, traditions, and special treats. Members receive FTOP credit for preparing and delivering classes. Tell us what you want to teach at **foodcoopcooks.org/contact**.

WORDSPROUTS: PETER SCHNEIDER

October 7, 2025



October 7, 2025

By Susan Horwich

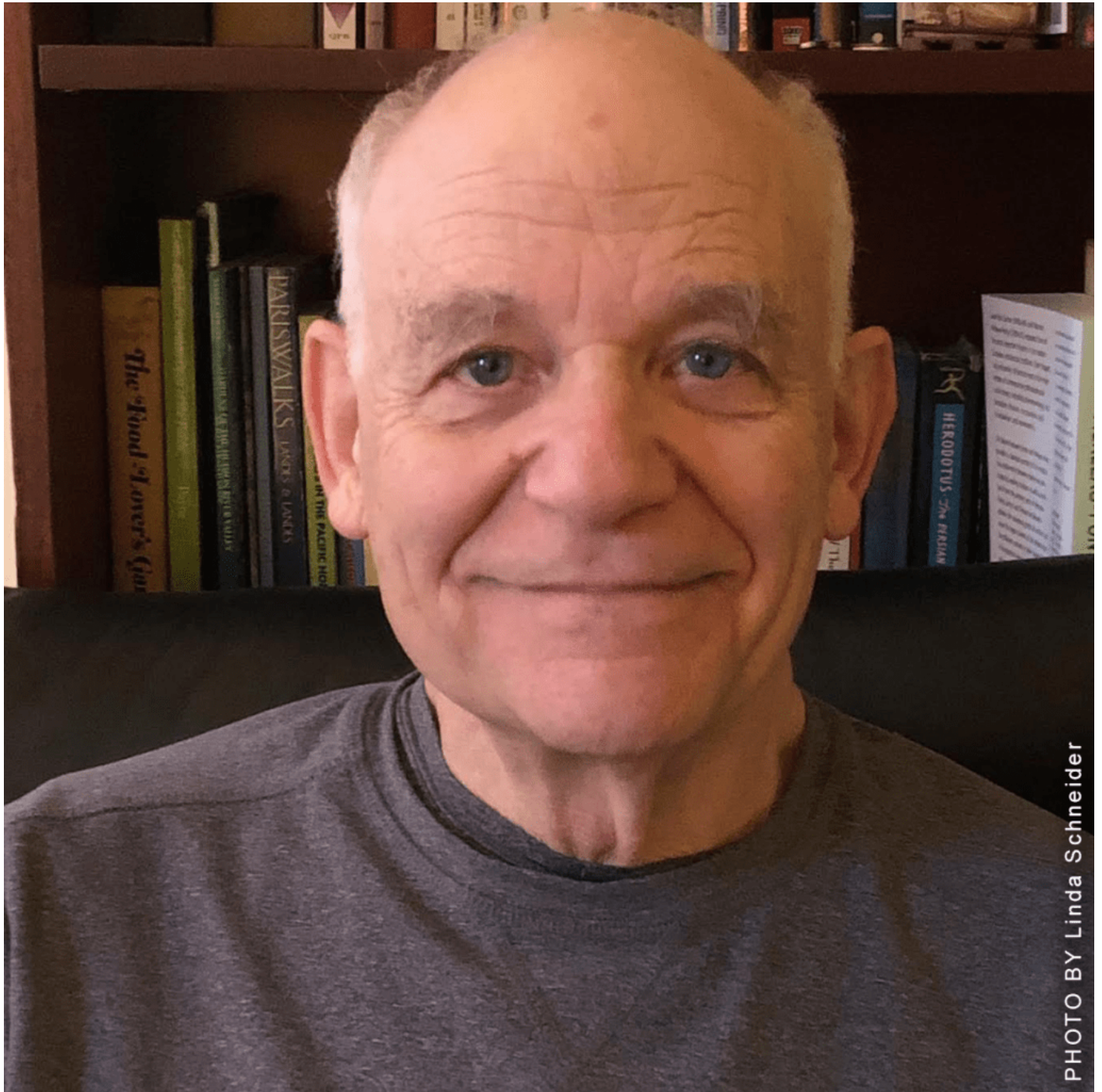
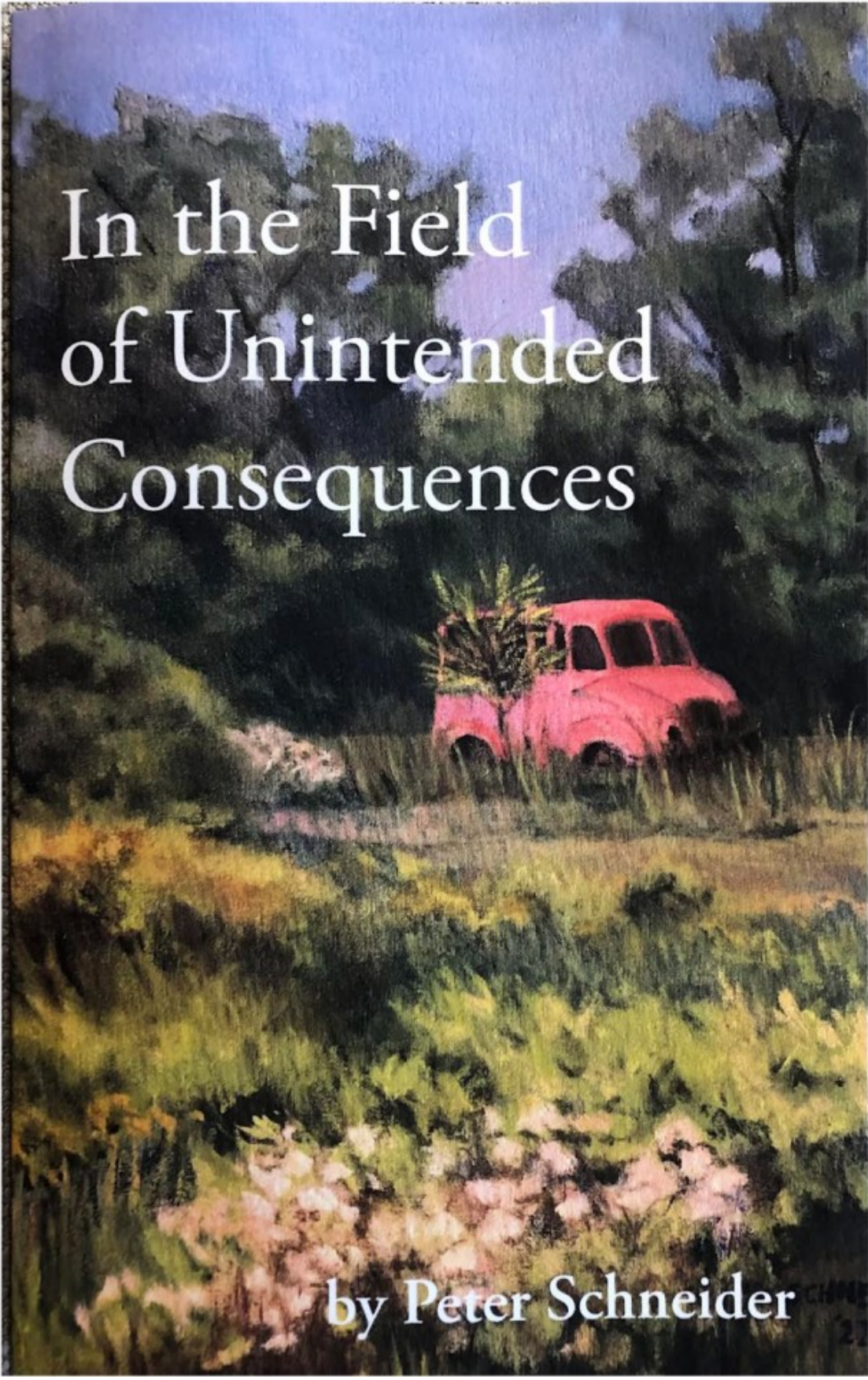


PHOTO BY Linda Schneider

Come join us for our next WordSprouts' event in partnership with the Old Stone House, featuring poet Peter Schneider.

Peter will read from his debut collection, *The Map is Not the Territory* (Anaphora Press, 2018), and his most recent publication, *In the Field of Unintended Consequences* (Pb&j Books, 2023). In addition, Peter will share new work.

An oil painting of a red car, possibly a Volkswagen Beetle, parked in a field of tall grass and wildflowers. The car is partially obscured by a small tree in the foreground. The background is a dense forest of green trees under a blue sky. The painting has a soft, painterly texture.

In the Field of Unintended Consequences

by Peter Schneider

Anaphora Literary Press

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

Our next event:

Author: Peter Schneider (PSFC member)

Literary Genre: Poetry

When: Wednesday, October 29, 2025—doors open at 6:45 p.m., event begins at 7 p.m.

Where: Old Stone House, 336 3rd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215

Format: In-person only (no recording)

RSVP:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wordsprouts-the-park-slope-food-coop-reading-series-tickets-1413999042199?aff=oddtcreator>

The American poet, scholar and artist Maya Pindyck reviewed Peter's poetry for Anaphora Press, saying:

"The poems explore states of consciousness triggered by the author's connections to the land where he resides in Central Vermont and the cityscapes that he is intimate with in Brooklyn, New York. They are also informed by his long-time practices of zazen meditation and t'ai chi and his ongoing study of Western and Eastern philosophy and psychology."

"Awake and in love with the natural world, these poems merge psychological and spiritual landscapes with rivers, trees, and seasons in vital ways. Schneider's poems are rooted and moving, lingering in and traveling through American towns, flowers, hu-

man bodies, and philosophies. With exactitude and vastness, the poems speak to the beautiful strangeness of ordinary things while keeping a sly grin: 'Refuge is swaying / side to side leaning over / on one's black cushion / to cut a loud fart.' We need these grounded, funny, wise and open poems in the world. They show us the vibrancy of a 'gray winter morning' for the first time all over again."

Peter Schneider has been a Coop member since 2009. He is a poet, recovering philosopher and psychotherapist. Retired from his therapy practice, he splits his time between Brooklyn, NY, and Rochester, VT. His poems have appeared in a number of literary journals. His MFA is from Columbia University and his PhD is in clinical psychology from New York University. His favorite snack from the Coop is Humboldt Fog cheese. Now retired from the Coop, he misses the raucous camaraderie of the cheese squad in the basement.

Peter's presentation will be followed by questions from the audience and drinks and snacks (including Humboldt Fog cheese) courtesy of the Coop.

Peter will be available to sign copies of both *The Map is Not the Territory* (Anaphora Press, 2018), and *In the Field of Unintended Consequences* (Pb&j Books, 2023), and will have copies available to sell.

Both books can be ordered from several online booksellers, including amazon.com and walmart.com.

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 @food-coopwordsprouts.

WordSprouts' committee includes committee leader Sarah Schenck and committee members Susan Horwich and Ruthy Nachmany.

CROSSWORD: LIE DOWN

October 7, 2025



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Letters to the Editor



HYBRID MEETINGS ARE COOPERATIVE JUSTICE

Dear Coop community,

As someone who works to make technology more accessible for people with disabilities—many of whom are too often excluded from participating fully in daily life—I've been heartened to see the Board move forward with establishing hybrid meetings.

The truth is, much of our world is designed with the assumption that everyone can participate in the same way. But we know that's not the case. Hybrid access gives us the chance, right here in our Coop, to help level that playing field. It's a concrete step toward inclusion, making sure that more members are able to join in one of the best parts of living in our great city: the democratic process of cooperative governance.

In a time when disability rights are being challenged across the country, it is especially meaningful to see our Coop taking a different path—one that centers equity, care, and community. Hybrid meetings are not just about technology; they're about affirming our cooperative values and ensuring that no one is left out.

I encourage the Board to continue leading in this direction. It's an opportunity to live out the spirit of cooperation we all value and to strengthen our community by making it more welcoming to everyone.

In solidarity,

Matthew Bambach

PEACHES

Dear Coop members:

In the Sept. 16, 2025, letters to the editor, there is a letter by a member who had peaches that "were not very good." I would like to reply that this season, I had amazing, delicious, juicy local IPM yellow peaches almost every time. I let the peaches sit out a day or two to soften and ripen. I was sorry when I shopped last week that there were no longer any local IPM yellow peaches. I look forward to them next season.

Sincerely,

Julie Gabriel

IN SUPPORT OF HYBRID MEETINGS

Dear Coop community:

I've heard that the Coop Board is considering hybrid meetings. I'm writing to fully support hybrid meetings so those members who wish to attend in person may do so, and those many more (busy parents, disabled, crowd-avoidant folks) who may wish to attend online may also do so.

Approving hybrid meetings and hybrid voting strikes me as a logical, rational move to include as many members as possible.

Kind regards,

Daniel Millman

Member since 2014

YES TO HYBRID MEETINGS

To the editor,

I have been a Coop member for the last 11 years, since moving back to New York City from California. As much as I would like to attend every meeting, it is just not possible for me. I am very interested in what happens at the Coop and am completely in favor of hybrid meetings. As the saying goes, no one is smarter than all of us—hybrid meetings give all members an opportunity to be part of the discussion and to vote on the

many important issues that are discussed. I urge the Board to approve hybrid meetings so we can move on and start working together for the benefit of all members.

In Cooperation,

Joy Millman

IN SUPPORT OF HYBRID MEETINGS

Dear Gazette:

I am writing to support the PSFC Board in implementing hybrid general membership meetings for our beloved Coop. Participating in our Coop's democracy should not be hindered by an inability to show up to a physical space (because of Covid concern, childcare needs, or myriad other reasons). The recent vote showed that a large majority of the members who voted support hybrid meetings. Thank you in advance, PSFC Board, for making this a reality.

Sincerely,

Steve Quester

BOARD VOTE TO ENACT HYBRID MEETINGS

To the editor,

I'm relieved to hear that the Coop board will likely hold a vote on hybrid meetings soon and that it is expected to pass. Those members who voted have already made it

clear that the majority prefers more accessibility to decision making. We want the wider membership to be able to participate fully, only fair given that we're all owners.

I'm confident that the Coop can (in this instance anyway) show the world what democracy, inclusiveness and tolerance look like in an intolerant time.

Best regards,

Sierra Smigelsky

PRESERVING A COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY

Dear Coop community:

Did a lack of decorum at August's Food Coop General Meeting signal tacit approval to blacklist members? A member was allowed to belittle and vilify fellow members who signed the petition opposing the Israeli government's escalating mistreatment of the Palestinian populations.

Singling out a member by name and publicly accusing them of being unfit for participation in Coop activities because they signed a petition smells a bit like McCarthyism, no?

What cold wind is blowing through what was formed as a socially democratic institution?

We, all members, are responsible for preserving this very special cooperative community.

Sincerely,

Pam Thomas

HYBRID MEETING FORMAT!

Hello Coop Members!

I am soooooo excited and in complete support of our Board for passing this crucial ability for all of us to be able to attend and make important decisions about our beloved Coop. Thank you to all who made this happen! It is so hard to attend monthly meetings and now we can all do this from the comfort and ease of our electronic devices from anywhere in the world! I am currently overseas tending to sick elderly parents and do not know when I'll be able to return. And being able to attend a meeting virtually is the only way I can be a vital part of our community. So another big thanks!

Sincerely,

Una Weiss

EVERYBODY GETS A VOTE!

Dear Coop members:

Having been away for some months, I am now gratified to learn that there will, in fact, be a way for ALL of us to vote on Coop matters after all! The Board will meet and discuss the matter of hybrid voting, that is to say, voting both in person and from home, in the near future. Moms and/or dads in need of child care or elder care, those

who are disabled and can't get to the park, those who are immunocompromised and risk illness and even death as did my own (and only) brother last June from exposure to Covid, those for whom a walk at night through a City park is a little too daunting... we ALL will get to vote on all Coop matters from the comfort of home or office if we prefer not going to meet in person. Our Board will take the information gained by previous discussions, forums and votes and will make it happen!! Finally!!

The crisis of governance with which we've been confronted will be resolved democratically, and by all Coop members, in the near future. What a relief! The Coop gets more democratic while the rest of the country gives in to bullies. That's why I love our Coop. We can undergo difficult change and the bullies don't win. This gives me hope for us all.

Sincerely,

Carol Wald

SALUTING JOE HOLTZ, AN ICONIC FIGURE IN THE COOP'S HISTORY

October 7, 2025



PHOTO BY STEFAN RUIZ

July 15, 2025

By Zach Schiffman

How do you honor the 50-year legacy of the Coop's longtime General Coordinator, Joe Holtz? On June 1 at the Prospect Park Picnic House, the Coop community saluted Holtz, an iconic figure in the Coop's history, with three waves of guests, over multiple snack stations, musical performances, interactive exhibits, pre-recorded tributes and painted portraits.



The event was organized by three Coop staff members, with food and drinks almost exclusively sourced from the Coop. Catering support was provided by Winner, which was founded by a former Coop member.

The celebration was structured into three sections, each lasting around 90 minutes. The first 50 minutes allowed attendees to mingle, enjoy snacks and refreshments, explore a multimedia showcase and photo archive, sign Holtz's guestbook and have portraits taken.

Each wave then concluded with a speaker, a video featuring Holtz's pre-recorded speech touching on his history at the Coop and a personal appearance and remarks from Holtz himself, most of which involved anecdotes about scrubbing the Coop floors and stocking the milk fridge. The finale was a group portrait on the lawn orchestrated by a documentary team that captured the event.



PHOTO BY STEFAN RUIZ



PHOTO BY STEFAN RUIZ

A celebration of
JOSEPH HOLTZ
JUNE 1ST, 2025



PHOTO BY STEFAN RUIZ



PHOTO BY STEFAN RUIZ



The first wave featured Gillian Chi, a longtime staff member who served as the event's MC despite initial nervousness. "I've never emceed anything before, maybe spoken into a microphone twice in my life," she confessed.

Chi, like everyone at the event, said, "It's hard to imagine the Coop without him." Musical entertainment during this wave was provided by the James Shipp Band, which is made of entirely of Coop members. Member John Webber presented a portrait of Holtz made with MetroCards by artist Juan Carlos Pinto, along with a painting of the iconic PSFC Neon sign by member Erik Schurink.

The second wave featured Jess Robinson, a member and former staffer, as the speaker. Musical entertainment was provided by Coop member band Krissie & the Kranks. Staff member Yuri Weber performed "Hey Mr. Tangerine Man," an adaptation by

former staffer Allen Zimmerman, adding a playful, nostalgic element.

The final wave featured staff member Jana Cunningham as the speaker. “The On-Alert String Band,” also composed of Coop members, provided entertainment. A highlight of this wave was the presentation of a custom event T-shirt to Holtz—an original design reading “Holtz 73”—which staff and members proudly wore throughout the event.

Throughout the day, attendees shared heartfelt reflections.





PHOTO BY STEFAN RUIZ





PHOTO BY STEFAN RUIZ



Sherry Showell and John Decker, members since 1996, described Holtz's support for the compost squad. Showell noted Holtz's unwavering support helped their group grow significantly.

Reflecting on his retirement, Sherry admitted feeling overwhelmed, asking, "Who do I go to now?" Newer members Meredith and Lucy, who assisted with food and drinks, shared their impressions. Lucy remarked, "It's amazing to see all the history—different generations coming together to celebrate."

Meredith, reflecting on the Coop's enduring values, added, "So many of the themes that spurred them to start it are the same things that we're experiencing today. It's a really kind of reassuring feeling in this time, just to know that we have an institution that has lasted longer than me."

Kathy, Holtz's wife, sat quietly off to the side and described the celebration as "very moving," expressing how great it was to see how much people love him and respect him. She warmly shared her belief that Holtz, being "a gregarious person," was truly enjoying the recognition and interaction, adding, "I think he's really liking it a lot."

Longtime member Scott Klein characterized the moment as "the end of an era," while emphasizing the Coop's enduring strength. He said he enjoyed reconnecting with other members, noting simply that "just seeing people" was his favorite aspect.



PHOTO BY STEFAN RUIZ



Coop Exterior Through the Decades



Park Slope Food Coop 1990's



Coop's Rug Cleaners prior to the Coop's expansion in 2001



Delivery of rooftop equipment in 1990's



2001 January-June Removal of Old in 1994 Union to build with other buildings



PHOTO BY STEFAN RUIZ



PHOTO BY STEFAN RUIZ



PHOTO BY STEFAN RUIZ



Abigail Dunn, who received work credit to staff the event, described it as “vintage Coop,” and appreciated the chance to meet both new and longtime members. She complimented organizer Silvia Ennes Cabrera for the event logistics.

Cabrera brought her 15 years of event-planning experience prior to working full-time at the Coop to the celebration.

“My mind always goes to food,” she said. “What is the Coop known for? What do you think about when you think of the Coop? And I think about the cheese, bulk, produce and bagels.”

Each table had creative combinations of cheese, dried fruit and crudit . Ultimately, she had to skip the bagels—“We eighty-sixed the bagels because it was just too

hard.” Not only were the snacks a hit, but they were elegantly displayed. “I had a lot of fun getting together stuff to build a little display in the center of each of the tables.” Her earliest memory of Holtz? “He had a belly and a red beard, if you can believe that.”

Elly Dittmar, one of the membership coordinators who helped organize the event, took on the task of curating the photo archive.

“I basically just combed through our archival folders, which, none of them are named—just a massive file of all these random photos,” she said. “Surprisingly enough, it’s extremely hard to find pictures of Joe. In all of these 50 years of archives, there were very few pictures of Joe.”

She eventually had Holtz look through the selections and add his own blurbs. What stood out most to her about the event was how many members were involved: “All the band members, all of the people working today are members. One of the people who helped us prep the food is a member, and the person who owns [the restaurant] is actually a former Coop member. It just feels really nice to be able to pull this all off entirely with people that are part of the Coop.”

Staff member Jason Weiner, handling multimedia presentations, which were displayed on iPads hung in the back of the Picnic House, found joy assembling tributes from international coops, especially from France. “It was really, really endearing,” he said, emphasizing Holtz’s global impact. “The evolution of this place...couldn’t have happened without the work of Joe and other people. It’s nice to celebrate that.”

When the guest of honor was asked how he felt at the expansive event, Holtz told me, “I’m feeling great.”

Zach Schiffman is a social editor and writer at New York magazine, comedian, and Park Slope local.