BOARD ELECTION NOTICE

We are seeking nominations for candidates for the Weavers Way Board of Directors. Elections will be held at the

Weavers Way Co-op Spring General Membership Meeting

Sunday, May 23, 2010

See page 24 for more information.

NOTARY PUBLIC

Notary services are available:

10 am - 2 pm

Thursdays and Sundays

Located in the finance office, on the 2nd floor of Carpenter Lane.

Please call David Shechtman at 215-843-2350 x111 to verify before coming.

Cost is $5

(for the usual service of verifying a signature), with a discount for members.

weavers way co-op

The Shuttle

February 2010 Vol. 39 No. 2

Serving the Co-op and the Northwest Community since 1973

Expansion Update

by Kim Spelman Hall, Chestnut Hill Store Manager

Things are moving along at our new location in Chestnut Hill. You would be surprised at all the tasks that need to happen behind the scenes. Since I started I have mainly been focusing on the progress of construction and equipment selection. After addressing some structural issues we are now starting to see some significant changes.

Our projected opening has moved from last fall to late winter and now the spring. This has been disappointing, but

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PA Fresh Food Financing Initiative Inspires Imitators

Growing Pennsylvania's Fresh Food Financing Initiative

by Jacqueline Boulden

Lack of access to healthy foods in low-income areas has long been one of our most important public health issues. While much work remains to be done, in recent years, substantial progress has been made on that front, and much of it is due to Pennsylvania's Fresh Food Financing Initiative (FFFI). The product of an effort led by State Rep. Dwight Evans five years ago, FFFI has had significant success in Pennsylvania, and is now being held up as a model for other state programs across the country and also for a national initiative to combat obesity and to create jobs.

Last December, New York State Governor David Paterson announced the administrators for his state's Food Market Revolving Loan Fund, based on the PA FFFI grant and loan program, and hearings were held in Congress to determine the need for establishing a National Fresh Food Financing Initiative. The goal of all these ini-

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photo courtesy of The Reinvestment Fund

Representative Dwight Evans, Donna Gambrell, Director of the US Department of Treasury's CDFI Fund and Jeremy Nowak celebrate the opening of the Fresh Grocer at Progress Plaza, which was made possible in part by the Fresh Food financing Initiative.

Art Installation Features Hope Garden at Stenton Farm

by Rachel Milenback, WWCP Executive Director

On one of the coldest days in January, a group of artists from Washington D.C joined a few hearty Philadelphian's to work on the prototype for a two-foot by two-foot raised bed on wheels. The design is important as the 20 raised beds will serve double duty—as part of an installation in an art exhibit at the Painted Bride and for gardening at the Hope Garden, a collaborative urban garden tended by WWCP at Mt. Airy Stenton Family Manor.

Synda McCracken and Joe Hicks building prototype of raised garden beds for the Philadelphia Hunger Project installation

The creative force behind *The Hunger Project* is visual artist J.J. McCracken. J.J. spent the summer of 2009 as Guest Artist-In-Residence at The Clay Studio in the Old City neighborhood of Philadelphia, laying the foundation for this upcoming active installation. During that time she

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The Future of WWEC's #5 Plastics Collections

by Priscilla Becroft, Environment Committee

It's been almost a year since the Weavers Way Environment Committee (WWEC) began monthly collections of #5 plastics, and so far we've boxed and mailed more than 1,000 lbs. of #5s to the Preserve Gimme 5 program's collection site in Cortland, New York. Preserve will recycle these #5s into new products, thereby keeping them out of dumps and landfills. Heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who have come out to help with the collections and to the more than 400 of you who have participated, not only by bringing in your clean and dry #5s but also by making cash donations large and small to offset the mailing costs! (Thus far the Committee has spent just under $900 on mailing.)

Gimme 5 Plastics Recycling, at 542 Carpenter Lane

The Committee has also found a way to divert a large number of six-ounce and 32-ounce yogurt containers to a closer destination—TerraCycle in Trenton. Com-

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Weavers Way Cooperative Association
559 Carpenter Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19119
www.weaversway.coop

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Editor's Note

by Jonathan McGoran

While this month's *Shuttle* is a trim 24 pages, there's still plenty of fodder for the type of snarky and puerile humor you've come to expect, if not actually enjoy, in this column. There is "Local Beer 101" (*Following on last month's Parchment 101. Local Beer 101 was hugely popular when I was in college and it's great to see it available as continuing ed.*); expansion (*According to Norman Weiss, the delay has something to do with being stuck in "phase 2," which I think is denial, or maybe anger. Both probably. By now, the building is so gutted it's hard to imagine where any more surprises would come from, but if we saw them coming, they wouldn't be surprises, would they?*); and the future of our Gimme 5 program (*You might assume the next step would be Gimme 6, but you'd be wrong*).

But we did have to leave some stuff out, like how the USDA is seeking comments on deregulating a new strain of genetically engineered (GE) corn from Syngenta. Deregulated GE crops can be planted anywhere, and once the pollen gets out, there is no getting it back, meaning nearby farmers could no longer say their product is GMO-free. Maybe more troublesome is the development of "Superweeds" (which might sound like a new Judd Apatow movie, but actually refers to weeds that have incorporated the properties of the GE crops). There is also the attitude of Syngenta CEO Michael Mack, who recently said organic food is the "productive equivalent of driving an SUV." I doubted he drove a hybrid (unless it was a genetic hybrid), but maybe he had some horrendous gas-guzzling mega-hummer, and next to it, an SUV was positively benign. But he also said the whole planet switching to organic farming "would be an ecological disaster," and that compared to pesticides and GE seeds, "organic food is not only not better for the planet. It is categorically worse." Hmm.

The deadline for comments is March 15 (see www.weaversway.coop). I'm not saying oppose deregulation just because Mack seems like a jerk, but if you do leave a comment, why not make it a snarky one?

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e.g. January 1 for the December issue

For information about advertising, contact advertising@weaversway.coop, or call 215-843-2350, ext. 135

Statement of Policy

Articles should be under 500 words and can be submitted neatly typed, on disk, or e-mailed to editor@weaversway.coop.

Be sure to include your name, phone number, and membership number. Drop them off by the deadline to the Shuttle mailbox on the second floor of the Co-op. The purpose of the Shuttle is to provide members with information as well as education about co-ops, health food practices, and other matters of interest to the members as consumers and citizens of the community.

Articles express only the views of the writers and not those of the Co-op or the board of directors, unless identified as such. Articles, letters, comments, criticisms, and suggestions are welcome and should be directed to the editor. Space limitations require that the editor has the right to edit all articles. Ad rates are available upon request, in the advertising mailbox on the second floor, or at www.weaversway.coop. All ads must be submitted electronically, or camera-ready with prior arrangement, and should be submitted with payment. Products or services advertised in this paper should not in any way be construed to be endorsed by Weavers Way Co-op.

The Shuttle is printed on 100% recycled paper

Feeding Democracy While Serving Dinner

by Gina Giazzoni,

When grumblings of belly hunger become a chronic roar, a hamburger and a milkshake satisfy faster than a salad. Fast food industrial profits mushroom by relieving chronic hunger pangs with cheap fat and sugar. But a couple of months ago, members and staff from Weavers Way and leaders from Martin Luther King High School's Seeds for Learning Farm met at Weavers Way Ogontz to form the Northwest Food Justice Alliance and find ways to make wholesome food more available as an alternative to fast food for hungry people.

photo by Jonathan McGoran

Helping to plan the West Oak Lane Food Justice Food Fest are (from left to right, rear) Sara Popkin, Anaiis Salles, Karl Ingraham, Armani Isaiah Gordon-Key, Albert Wheeler, Jared Shearer, Chris Bolden-Newsome. Front Row: Sharlene Waller, Hannah Flipakoff, David Haughton, Laron Thompkins, Rachel Milenbach, and Jason Price.

The group is partnering with West Oak Lane Senior Center and Einstein Healthcare Network to plan a West Oak Lane Good Food Fest on February 20 (see the ad on page 10). The event will feature cooking demonstrations guided by senior citizens, who will pass their skills and cooking expertise to community members seeking community-led alternatives to fast food. Recognizing the influence that teens have among youngsters in the community, students who work at Seeds for Learning Farm will guide youngsters in preparing wholesome snacks and planting seedlings for their homes.

When the group met, it identified chronic hunger as an injustice and looked to the burgeoning Food Justice Movement for solutions. Food Justice recognizes that hunger is profitable to those few who buy our politicians, but detrimental to the rest of us. Yum Brands Inc., parent of the Taco Bell, Pizza Hut and KFC, predicts $1.54 billion dollars in profits this year. After saturating low-income neighborhoods across this country, they have begun gobbling poor people worldwide—expanding first to China and now to India. The hidden health cost to chronically hungry people is more than $1 for a satisfying value meal. This is the food that eats people. Low-income people disproportionately suffer from diet-related diseases such as diabetes, resulting from obesity.

Though income is the widely accepted source of this disparity, Food Justice asserts that structural inequalities and power

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Art Installation

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visited local food-systems and hunger organizations in order to learn more about what we are doing in Philadelphia. In early August, JJ and I took the Weavers Way tour, driving from the Weavers Way Mt. Airy store on Carpenter Lane, to the farm at Awbury Arboretum, to the garden at Stenton Family Manor, to the Weavers Way store on Ogontz Avenue. By the time we landed at the Highpoint for tea and a snack, JJ's vision for *the Hunger Project* was coming together. Without giving it all way, I can tell you that the project includes clay, performance art, growing plants, and of course, raised beds.

JJ will be back in Philadelphia from March 17-30, 2010 preparing the installation. WWCP would like to show our appreciation by helping to build the raised beds. So, if you have basic carpentry skills and want to earn cooperator hours by being part of this exciting project, e-mail me at wwcp@weaversway.coop The beds are being built at a warehouse in Kensington, about 25 minutes from the Mt. Airy store. The exact dates for bed-building have not yet been determined, so please let me know your availability, either with dates/times you can help, or whether you are more available on weekends or week days.

The project will be exhibited at The Painted Bride Art Center from March 31 to May 15, 2010 and directly responds to the issue of hunger in Philadelphia. It is one of 92 exhibitions that are part of the 44th Annual National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) conference taking place in Philadelphia from March 31 – April 3, 2010. The Clay Studio is serving as the onsite liaison and organizing body of the exhibitions program.

According to the announcement of the show, McCracken's other recent project-scale works probe interests in accumulation, the ideal of perfection, and decay. Per installation, each project reflects observations on the passage of time, mass production, and consumption/consumerism. The artist often inserts repeated, cyclical human action into either highly sterile, factory-like production settings or arid, geologic landscapes to set the act of attempted preservation against struggle, loss, and ultimately, futility.

Calling attention to need as an underdiscussed issue in society, *The Hunger Project* juxtaposes plenty with value, immediate gratification with sustainability. Here, focus shifts toward repair and tending as this new project develops in response to Philadelphia's urban community.

McCracken is partnered with The Clay Studio, The Arlington Arts Center, The Painted Bride, and Weavers Way Community Programs for the execution of this project.

The installation will be active Thursday and Friday, April 1 and 2, and Friday, May 7, 2010. During a closing celebration on Saturday, May 15, all project proceeds, including a fully functioning community garden, will be gifted to Mt. Airy Stenton Family Manor, a homeless shelter in Northwest Philadelphia.

The closing ceremony will end with participants and audience members taking the raised beds out of the Painted Bride and into a truck waiting to take them to the Hope Garden. We will caravan back to Stenton Family Manor, and possibly have a brief ceremony there as well. More information will be available as we move closer to the event. If you are interested in attending on May 15 and helping move the beds to their permanent home, please e-mail me about that as well.

As Farmer Gina noted in her November 2009 Shuttle article about the Hope Garden, WWCP has created spaces which fulfill our vision of a "community where people have access to healthy food and lifestyles, and live in a healthful and sustainable environment." The raised beds from JJ McCracken's installation will help us fulfill one of our goals for the 2010 Hope Garden growing season. That goal is to include seniors living nearby in the shelter's gardening and summer camp activities, and other folks who are unable to comfortably garden in the ground. The Hope Garden is all about growing and creating, good food and good community. I hope you can join us.

Witness to the Passing of the World
by J.J. McCracken, 2008,
clay, live model, drapery, eggshells

The Philadelphia Hunger Project *has been commissioned by The Clay Studio (Philadelphia, PA) and by New York art critic John Perreault with support for development and planning provided by the Philadelphia Exhibitions Initiative, a program of the Philadelphia Center for Arts and Heritage, funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and administered by the University of the Arts.* The Philadelphia Hunger Project *is funded in part by the Harpo Foundation (Los Angeles, CA and Coconut Grove, FL) under the sponsorship of the Arlington Arts Center (Arlington, VA). Additional funding provided by the William Penn Foundation (Philadelphia, PA).*