

"It's just food!"

**Brighton Food Coöp Newsletter
October 2011**

**Welcome, new members Judy Moran of Williamston and
Terra Bulloch of Hartland!**

Key Upcoming Dates:

- Next Distribution: **Tuesday, November 1st** (Shift times will be announced by Denise Hauk.)
- Initial Orders Due: **Wednesday, October 19th** (by 9:00PM)
 - **UNFI** – Login to the Online System at <https://www.unfi.com> (Warehouse = Greenwood, IN).
 - **Frontier**: Send order to Dana Janssen at dana.leahy.janssen@gmail.com.
 - **Outside Vendors (OV)**: Send order to Christie Winch at tc_winch@gmail.com.
 - **Sami's Bakery**: Include your Sami's order with your OV order to Christie Winch.
 - **Produce**: Include your Produce Share order with your OV order to Christie Winch. To suggest items for inclusion in the Produce Share or to inquire about availability of items for whole case orders, contact Nicole Brown at colerie@charter.net.
- Unfilled Case Orders Due: **Sunday, October 23rd** (by Noon)
- **Creswick** Orders Due **Sunday, October 23rd** (by Noon) for Pickup on **Saturday, November 19th**
 - Send order to Dolores Johnson at samjon@sbcglobal.net.
- Nuts and Candy can be ordered this month and next month; Honey next month.

Musical Chairs or Chinese Fire Drill?

The Coöp's so-called "homeworker" jobs are undergoing a major reshuffling:

- Christie Winch is taking over the job of Outside Vendor Batcher from Nancy Clark. She will also take Sami's Bakery orders as part of the regular OV order process, although Gina Barnowsky will continue to place the consolidated orders to Sami's, receive those orders, and deliver them to distribution.
- Megan Putnam is taking over the "Nut Lady" job (Nuts/Honey/Syrup Coordinator) from Diane Brady.
- Diane Brady is taking over the job of Frontier Batcher from Dana Janssen.
- Bryan Battjes is taking over the Zingerman/Rosewood Delivery job from Sally Sibula.
- Treasurer, Dolores Johnson, who has also been hosting special Creswick distributions at her house, is taking over the additional function of delivering Higher Grounds orders to the main Coöp distributions. (This function was previously part of the Zingerman/Rosewood Delivery job).

These transitions will occur over October and November to minimize disruption to Coöp operations.

BFC Vice President Resigns

To add to all the job reshuffling, Janice Mehan decided in late September to resign as Vice President. In an email to the membership, Janice mentioned that “activities of the past several months” had placed such a burden on her family that she felt it was time to step down. “It’s been such a great pleasure working for and with each and every one of you as we shared the desire to get better quality foods for our families,” she wrote. “I will miss the times we’ve spent at distribution and working as a team.”

Annual Membership Meeting

The Board is now weighing whether to fill the VP job through the usual election process at January’s Annual Membership Meeting or to eliminate the position altogether through changes to the Bylaws. A related consideration is whether to merge the 1st and 2nd Shift Work Coordinator jobs into a single position. The end result of these two changes would be to reduce the size of the Board from 7 to 5, scaling it more to the current size of the Coöp. (The Board was originally set up back in the 1980s to support a membership of 60 families, but for the past 15 years, the membership has hovered between 30 and 40 families.) A smaller board would reduce expenses to the Coöp and put more workers on the floor at distribution. The end result could be lower operational markups and shorter distributions. As with any changes to the Bylaws, however, the Board changes under consideration would have to be approved by majority vote at the Annual Membership Meeting. For that reason, the upcoming meeting will be especially important. **Please mark your calendar with the preliminary date of January 10th.** More information about the meeting will be sent out in December.

Distribution Recap

The October 4th distribution went much longer than usual and was especially challenging for a host of reasons. For one thing, the order itself was quite large, with an enormous influx of first-of-the-season apple products from Almar Orchards. Various Almar substitutions caused much confusion, which in turn led to time-consuming redistribution of many individual orders. (Since Almar will be available for the next several months, floor workers need to keep in mind an important point: Almar distribution should be treated like Zingerman distribution – that is, **make sure all individual orders are properly labeled and accounted for before any orders are distributed to members!**) Another issue appeared to be a holdover from the [by all accounts “disastrous”] system upgrade that UNFI initiated back in early August. One member’s entire order disappeared, yet most of it somehow ended up in the Extras order. Much time was spent reconstructing the member’s order and adjusting the Extras Table accordingly. Even though such problems make a distribution lively and interesting, let’s hope the next distribution is more boring and uneventful. After all, it’s just food!

More on Wilderness Family Naturals

Previously, we reported that we were looking into Wilderness Family Naturals as a prospective supplier of high-quality organic coconut-based products. Unfortunately, we were never able to negotiate a cost-effective arrangement with the supplier. However, member Sherry Smith has offered to handle BFC orders for Wilderness products as part of orders for a small group of families outside the Coöp. Sherry would take BFC orders by email, merge the orders with those from her group, place the total order to the company, receive and split the orders at home, and bring them to distribution. However, payments would go directly to Sherry, not to the Coöp. If interested, contact Sherry (sherryjsmith@gmail.com). For more information about Wilderness, you can go to <http://www.wildernessfamilynaturals.com>.

Great Recipes

Emily Brown made this hors d'oeuvre for the September Board Meeting, and everyone seemed to find it a real treat. The recipe comes from a cookbook titled Tidewater on the Half Shell, published in 1985 by the Junior League of Norfolk-Virginia Beach. All the ingredients are available through the Coöp, but of course, you have to be picky if you want the result not just to taste good, but also to be good for you.

Sausage Spinach Balls

2 packages frozen spinach, chopped and drained	¾ cup (6 ounces) butter, melted
2 cups seasoned stuffing	2 small cloves garlic, minced
4 ounces (1 cup) grated Parmesan cheese	1½ tsp. salt
2 Tbsp. minced onion	½ tsp. pepper
6 eggs, well beaten	4 ounces sausage, cooked and drained

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. Combine all ingredients, mixing thoroughly.
3. Form into small balls about the size of walnuts.
4. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake for 20 minutes or until browned.
5. Serve immediately.

If you have a recipe you think members would enjoy – especially one that uses ingredients available through the Coöp – please send it to bfc@brightonfoodcoop.com, and we will publish it in the next newsletter and/or put it on the website.

See you on the 1st!

Jim Brown

BFC Communications Coordinator



*Live long and prosper;
keep life in perspective;
and don't ever forget--
it's just food!*