

The Plainfield Co-op Newsletter

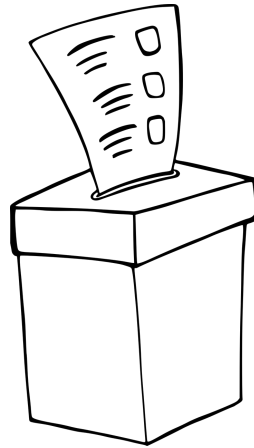
Fall 2023

LOOKING BACK



REMEMBERING RANDY
Photo credit: Alice Merrill

MOVING FORWARD



CO-OP MEMBERS VOTE
TO MOVE

Open Seven Days a Week

Monday-Saturday 9 AM–7 PM Sunday 10 AM–7 PM

Phone: 802-454-8579 Website: www.PlainfieldCoop.com

Email: info@plainfieldcoop.com

Staff

Anji Domino: Buyer: Frozen, Grocery, Household Goods, Body Care, Supplements. Floor Staff/ Cashier; Produce Staff.
Annie Reed: Floor Staff/Cashier.
Chris Thompson: Maintenance Coordinator.
Cullen Partin: Bulk Buyer.
Dan Siegel: Clerk, Information Technology.
Deb Barnwell: Floor Staff/Cashier/ Buyer: Herbs and Tea, Gifts.
Debra Bothfeld: Floor Staff/Cashier.
Dragon Domino: Floor Staff/Cashier.
Eben Markova-Gold: Buyer Bakery, Floor Staff/Cashier, Floor Trainer.
Jay Ekis: Floor staff/cashier, produce.
Jezebel Crow: Operations Manager. Buyer: Produce, Cheese, Coffee, Tea, Dairy, Meat, Refrigerated.
Leah Tedesco: Membership and Marketing Coordinator.
Matthias Lathrope: Floor Staff, Cashier, Produce.
Rin Austin: Floor Staff/Cashier.
Stanzi Scribner: Administrative Manager.
Tim Llewelyn: Buyer: Beer and Wine.

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About This Newsletter



This newsletter looks both forward and back—forward to next steps now that the proposal to buy Plainfield Hardware has been approved by the large majority of members

who voted, and backward to honor Randy Keeney, long-time Co-op supporter, who has recently died but still provides an inspiration for us. She sits on the cover with a turkey, center piece of Thanksgiving dinner for many, in her lap.

Starting with the next (winter) issue, the newsletter will be published online in a more readable format for most people. While we will discontinue the usual printed version, we promise that a paper newsletter in some form will be available to members who need it. This will save many volunteer hours spent creating the layout needed for print copies that fewer people are reading. Print copies have been costing \$2 each. (Personally, as a reader, I prefer a paper newsletter but . . .) Change isn't easy, whether it's for our store or our newsletter.

We welcome your contributions of letters, photos, cartoons, poems, whatever, sent to the editor. Deadline for the winter issue is Dec. 15 to be published in early January. ❖

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Outgoing President's Report

as presented at the August Annual Meeting 2023

by Cat Klarich

I have been reflecting a lot lately about the last four years that I've had the honor of serving on the Plainfield Co-op board. This hasn't been an ordinary term! From financial hardship, change of leadership, to COVID, the Co-op has had a bumpy road. What I am the most proud of is the simple fact that the Co-op remains open, providing this essential service to the community. This is a huge feat and I want to recognize the hard-working staff for wearing so many hats every day!

A shout out to our Co-managers Jezebel Crow and Stanzi Scribner. Stanzi is on maternity leave so Jez has had a lot on her plate! Let's give the staff a shout out! And to my favorite Board members ever—thank you for your time and commitment, your brilliant ideas and talent for turning a vision into a reality. I'm taking about grants, people! The USDA Rural Development Grant. Thank you, Rose, for taking the lead on this. Immense gratitude to Mary Niebling and the other friends of the Co-op who have

helped us during the process leading up to the real estate vote. How about the \$19,000 VEDA grant that our Treasurer, John, procured for operations. You all are the best and it's been such a pleasure working with you.

As fiduciaries of the Plainfield Co-op, it is the Board's duty to monitor the financial condition of the Co-op. This involves overseeing overall margins and labor costs to keep our current store viable. Through the USDA grant, we were able to explore various available options that would create a thriving Co-op rather than a Co-op that is struggling to survive. The struggle to remain viable is real for small, rural co-ops in the nation. The Plainfield Co-op is a member of the Neighboring Food Cooperative Association. We join other Vermont members that include 11 Food Co-ops, locally owned by over 50,000 people, employ 940 people, generate over \$147 million

Outgoing President's Report, continued



New Look for our Newsletter

by Gail Falk

Keep your eyes open for a new look as we reformat our newsletter to make it easier to:

- read on your electronic devices
- search for specific articles, recipes, announcements
- share an article with someone else

You will receive the newsletter as an email with links to the articles. For the few who need a print version, we will provide a printout that can be picked up at the Co-op.

in annual revenue, and sell more than \$51 million in local products! Our Co-op matters! But, we can't be an economic alternative if we aren't around. Karen Zimelman, a lobbyist representing co-ops, said, "Small is beautiful, but invisible is not."

I want to remind folks that the future of the Plainfield Co-op is in your hands. This is your decision. The Board has presented the membership with a culmination of our work over the past year and held two community forums to promote the discussion of the challenges and opportunities so members can make an informed decision when casting their ballot. Open and democratic membership is what a Co-op is all about. Thank you everyone for your dedication and support. Have I told you lately that I love you?

In Cooperation,

Cat ❖

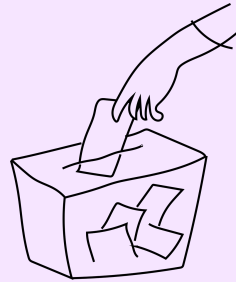


RESULTS of the VOTE

Should the Co-op pursue the purchase of Plainfield Hardware?

- 190 valid ballots cast
- 82% voted Yes (156 votes)
- 18% voted No (34 votes)

The 2/3 majority required for real estate issues, was achieved.



Tribute to Cat Klarich

from the Board

We say thank you to outgoing Board member Cat Klarich who was on the Board for four years, president for the last three. Cat led the Board with good humor and steadiness through all the upheaval that COVID brought, spurring a change to the bylaws to make voting more accessible, presiding over our 50th anniversary celebrations, and during the years of background work leading up to our historic vote to relocate. She did this as a working mom with kids at home and she was always smiling, pleasant and ready to crack a joke. She is amazing and we're going to miss her on the Board, but we'll see her at the Co-op!



Treasurer's Report

by John Cleary, Board Treasurer

After a conclusive vote by the membership to pursue the purchase of Plainfield Hardware, one of my roles as treasurer will be to continue to assess the financial viability of the project. While our consultants developed a financial plan for the project, there are numerous decisions to make as we finalize the business plan. The Board will approach the project conservatively and realistically. We plan to bring in expertise to help us through the process, beginning with a Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Grant from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. These grants help rural communities access the funding they need for community and business development, including providing grant writing assistance. The final numbers in our business plan will determine whether we will be able to obtain financing from banks and cooperative lenders. Member equity through a capital campaign and member loans will also be a significant part of our financing plan. Banks are generally more willing to loan for secured debt such as real estate, but less comfortable loaning for operating expenses and specialized equipment. The final financing package will be a combination of several sources of capital. It is important for the Co-op to try to generate cash for ongoing business operation while we lead up to the move. **Now is the time for members to step up and shop heavy at the Co-op to help us through the process.**

Profit and Loss Summary (January - August 2023)

	2023	2022	Variance	% change	Notes
Total Sales	691,962	724,862	-32,900	-4.5%	Decline in total sales creates challenges
Cost of Goods	480,754	513,865	-33,111	-6.4%	Cost to purchase items for resale
Gross Profit	211,208	210,997	210	0%	Amount of \$ to run the business
Operating Expenses	242,785	291,205	-48,420	-16.6%	Managers have cut costs significantly
Profit	-31,578	-80,207	48,630	60.6%	Major improvement, still a loss

The business continues to face the long-term challenges that we have discussed before: declining annual sales, limited cash reserves, high wage costs as a percentage of sales, and lack of investment in the business. While we have made progress on some of these compared to last year, the Co-op is still facing a loss year-to-date. We have hit monthly profits in 4 of the 8 months in 2023. Staff has been strategic in managing inventory levels to hold cash, but that is a short-term strategy. For

Treasurer's Report, continued >>

example, selling down inventory in June and July helped us be profitable in those months, but a full re-stocking in August led to a very significant loss for the month.

The Balance Sheet of the Co-op remains stable. A Balance Sheet shows assets and liabilities at a point in time. Looking at these numbers at the end of August 2023 compared to August 2022, there some changes, but not significant. Cash on hand is slightly lower and Inventory is slightly higher, leading to current assets being almost the exact same as last year. Current liabilities (short term debt) is very similar to last year with a substantial amount accumulated in accounts payable (approximately \$104,440 owed to vendors). This is a worrying sign for a business and needs to be addressed. Our only long-term debt is our loan with the Cooperative Loan Fund of New England, with a balance of \$44,083. Our business could be described as having poor cash flow but a manageable amount of total debt. Improvements in monthly profitability are necessary. Continued attention to margins, inventory and wage costs can help. Longer term, growth in sales is required to maintain the viability of the business. ❖



HEALING SESSIONS

Community Circles * Nature Retreats
Pagan Events * Culture Building Programs
Equity Consulting * Facilitation Services
at

Grandmother Cherry Sanctuary
*Community healing, gathering, respite & retreat
space in the forest, Plainfield VT*

EmpowR-Transformation.com

So You Wanna Buy a Hardware Store?

by Rose Paul, Board Secretary (now President)

One hundred ninety Co-op members held a decisive vote to pursue, if feasible, acquiring Plainfield Hardware. Eighty-two percent of voters were in favor of acquiring and running the store pretty much the way it has been—hardware, groceries, seasonal greenhouse—with typical Co-op fare as well as clean, conventional food. So what are the next steps?

We've hired real estate attorney Keith Roberts of Darby Kolter & Roberts to advise us through the process. It is time to have some in-depth conversations with owners Rich and Gaye Christiansen and then send them a letter of intent spelling out terms that we mutually agree upon.

And we need to get started on fundraising. Our financial model specifies a certain dollar value of bank loans and a certain dollar value of member loans we'll need to raise. In a few weeks we hope to begin reaching out to a small number of members individually to get a sense for how willing individual members might be to lend the Co-op money with a guaranteed interest rate on their loan.

The financial model did not include any funding from grants, but the Board wants to dig in and try to raise as much grant money as possible. One of the first

So You Wanna Buy, continued ➤ ➤



Our Farmers Thank You

Since 1919, the farm families of Cabot Co-op have been passionate about making the world's best cheese. We use only the purest ingredients to craft our creamy, delicious classics. Just maybe, that's why we've won every major award for taste. Learn more at cabotchese.coop



So You Wanna Buy >>>

we'll apply for is called REDI—the Rural Economic Development Program run by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. REDI provides a small amount of seed money to hire help from a group of private consultants. The Co-op can decide what kind of help we most need, such as writing a business plan and writing grant applications.

The models exist for how to manage this kind of ambitious project. Both Buffalo Mountain Co-op and the East Calais General Store have been very successful

in their recent fundraising. The Morrisville Co-op opened six years ago with help from member loans. And in the spirit of co-operatives, they have been willing to share their stories with us.

If you have expertise writing a business plan or writing grant applications, the Board would love to hear from you. Other skills are very welcome—it will take a big team to make this transition happen. Please tell a Board member if you're interested in helping out! [emails for individual Board members are on p.2.] ❖

Announcing: 11/11/23 PCC Golden Jubilee Celebration!

Plainfield Community Center Collective Performance Arts Event Call for Performing Artists

Saturday November 11, 2023
5:30-9:30 PM
Plainfield Co-op & Community Center

The program will include a potluck, music, food, performance, poetry and celebration of the Co-op's 50 years!

We especially honor our own recently deceased activist/artist Elinor Randall. Randy was a long-time supporter of the Plainfield Co-op and Community Center who deeply supported socially-engaged non-commodified arts in building community.

For music or theatre performance, contact Alexis: VTPieGirlCo@gmail.com or Jerome: JeromeLipani@gmail.com

Please mark 11/11 on your calendars and come celebrate our history and art including Peter Schumann's Possibilitarian Uprising, and work by PCC longtime artists:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Dan Dolan | Jason Mallery |
| Daniel Marcus | Jerome Lipani, |
| Delia Robinson | Nicholas Hecht |
| Elinor Randall | Orin Langelle |
| Erok | Sam Kerson |
| Golden True | Susan Grimaldi |
| Helen Rabin | Takako Nagai |
| Janice Walrafen | |

and other socially-oriented/activist artists in our community.

Come share in our Golden Jubilee!

The Improbable Store

Co-manager's report by Jezebel Crow

as presented at the August Annual Meeting 2023

My fellow Co-opians, the State of the Union is Strong. We have had a good year, slowly pulling the Co-op out of debt accrued in the past several years. These things take time. Last fall, after the loss of sales due to the resurfacing of the bridge, the Co-op went into debt to our vendors. I remember the day it passed the \$100,000 threshold. Looking back historically, the Co-op used to average owing about \$50,000. We used to remain within terms with our vendors.

I have always called the Plainfield Co-op the Improbable Store. We are small, tucked back, a little funky, and manage to sell healthy food without being pretentious. And we chug along being pulled by our devoted members and hard working staff. We are truly venerable, and a big part of the Local Food Web that Vermont is famous for. The store remains open to this day because we all love it.

What has the Improbable Store managed to do in the past year? Besides chipping away at the debt accrued since the pandemic, we have Rounded Up over \$5,000 and applied those funds to painting the Gable End of the building. Years ago, it was estimated that it would cost \$50,000 to paint the building, and this was seen as an impossible goal. Through everyone's pocket change, progress is being made. Thanks to Jason Mallery, whom I am sure you have all seen up on the scaffolding painting away patiently. Look for the installation of new windows soon.

We all know that sales are declining, but the Co-op has adjusted its spending and managed to save a lot of money. For

example, last year at this time we had lost over \$67,000. This year, our net income January through July is -\$6,671. We have showed profit in the past two months and August is looking good too.

Most of this money was saved in labor. We have a small staff, and everyone wears many hats. As you all know, we shifted the Management into a team of two. We no longer have a lead receiver, instead buyers and staff are responsible for their departments.

It is ok to not always be growing. I know this statement goes against the tenets of Capitalism. But there is something to be said for dialing a business in, growing more efficient, being less wasteful, and staying super local. I know the main subject of the Annual Meeting, at least for the past several years, has been whether to expand or to move. And a lot of doom and gloom regarding the location in the Village proper.

Here are some things to think about: Every village used to have a little store. When economies were smaller and more local, and people drove less, the store was the heart of the community. If the store is removed from the village, what will happen to our folks who live right across the street? Some of our shoppers live here without cars. Who is going to walk down Route 2 to grab fixings for breakfast? Who here wants to shop at the gas station? When there is Climate Chaos, and Route 2 is closed, (as it was in Mid-July), who wants to be stranded in a food desert?

Improbable Store, continued ➤➤

Whatever is decided when we vote, I want to thank all our members for keeping us open all these years, for believing in the Improbable Store, for not always driving past us and down Route 2 in search of cheaper groceries. Thank you

for shopping local, supporting your farmers and the thriving food economy of Vermont. ❖



On PACT (Plainfield Area Community Trust)

by Anne Van Couvering

Assuming the Co-op moves, one of the ideas being passed around regarding the Co-op building in Plainfield Village is to sell it to PACT. So, you might ask, what is PACT?

We are a group of Plainfield Area residents in the early stages of setting up a non-profit with the following mission statement: “To foster community, support sustainable economic growth and development, and maintain the historic integrity of the Plainfield area.”

The idea is that we are an umbrella non-profit to help facilitate projects spear-headed by community members. People with an idea for how to improve or preserve or maintain the community, who want to apply for grants or state money and need non-profit status to do so, could use PACT for that purpose without having to become a full non-profit. (Details still being hammered out.)

Ideas that have already been floated run the gamut from affordable housing to a day care center or youth center to tool lending library and — most salient for this newsletter — to purchasing the Co-op building so as to be able to access grants to repair it, upgrade it and make it ADA compliant. Once that is done, the model suggested by Preservation Trust is to find an entity (business or non-profit)

to lease it that can pay maintenance costs and taxes while they are occupying the building. Models for reduced rent, etc. are available for projects that enjoy wide community support and are beneficial for the health of the town (e.g. community center, youth center, cafe with Co-op distribution, etc. In other words, PACT would not be on the line for upkeep costs unless that’s agreed on in advance and money is coming in from some source to support that.

Please keep in mind that we are painting in very broad strokes here because PACT is still in its infancy and none of the details have been hammered out. If you would like to be a part of creating this non-profit and/or being part of a fundraising committee for your dream project (including the purchase and improvement of the Co-op building if the Co-op chooses to sell to us) please reach out to Anne Van Couvering (annevanc@gmail.com). ❖



Welcome New Board Members

Kathleen Sultz



Kathleen and her husband moved to Plainfield last year looking for a place to start a family, grow food, and raise animals. One baby, a robust (and weedy) garden, and 30 chickens later it seems they have found it! Kathleen has worked in grocery stores, as a mental health provider for under-resourced youth, and as a farmer, seeing first-hand the impact that access, or lack of access, to high quality and affordable food has on a person's quality of life and happiness. She sees the Co-op as a wonderful way to get local and healthy food to the community and wants to play an active role in the Co-op's mission.

Walker Blackwell



Walker Blackwell grew up on a farm in Cabot and has been a customer of the Plainfield Co-op since age one. He worked as a cook at the Hunger Mountain Co-op before moving out to Chicago to become a fine art print-maker and later founded a non-profit community-access lab, Latitude Chicago. Local, accessible, and sustainable food access has been a major part of his life; serving on the Board of the Plainfield Co-op is a way for him to stay involved in that world.

Advertise in the Newsletter

Deadline for the Winter issue is Dec. 15. The newsletter is published quarterly online in color. To place an ad, contact Elizabeth Mathai, ad co-ordinator, elizabethmathai@yahoo.com

Electronic graphics files are preferred, but we are able to work with any clear copy.

Page Size	Ad Dimensions width x height	Single Issue	4 issues; prepaid, consecutive
Full page	5" x 8"	\$75	\$240
Half page	5" x 4"	\$50	\$160
Quarter page	5" x 2" horizontal	\$25	\$80
Quarter page	2.5" x 4" vertical	\$25	\$80

Why changes are in the works for our quarterly Newsletter

by Elizabeth Mathai, Layout Editor

Due to rising mailing costs, a few years ago we discontinued the practice of mailing newsletter copies to each member. Members were encouraged instead to pick up a copy from the store, or to read the PDF version online that was sent by email; also available on the Co-op website.

Due to rising printing costs (each copy now costs \$2), we are printing fewer newsletters. However, the amount of time required for layout and design of the newsletter remains the same regardless of whether we print 600 copies or only 50 copies. So the question arises as to whether the many hours spent on layout of each issue are justified if we are not printing at least a 100 copies.

Now with our current Website Administrator Julia Wilk's help, the Newsletter Committee is looking to bring you an online version that you will receive as an email with links to the articles on the Co-op website. This format should allow you to search for a specific article on our website and also to share articles/recipes by email or social media.

From the Annual Meeting on Aug 27, 2023

Photos by Gail Falk



Members gathering and taking their places before the meeting

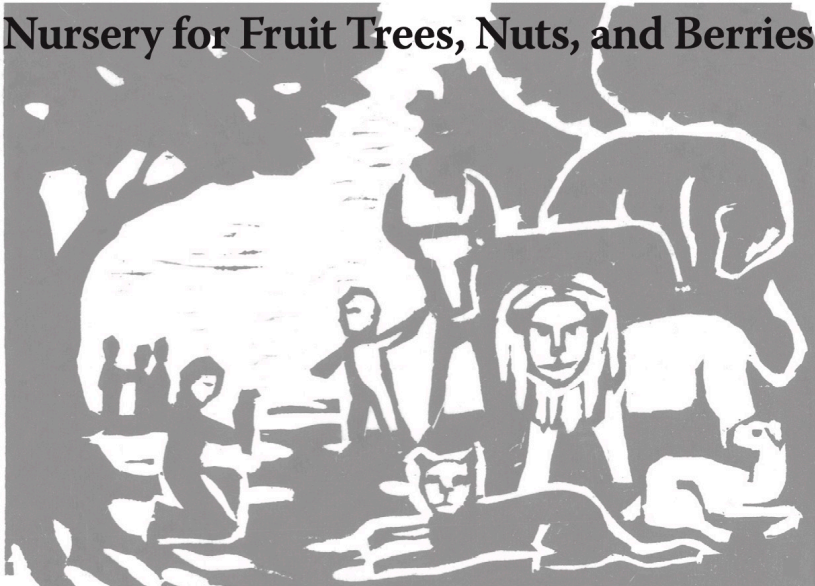


Cat, busy at the registration table



EAST HILL TREE FARM

Nursery for Fruit Trees, Nuts, and Berries




3499 East Hill Rd. Plainfield, VT
Check: www.easthilltreefarm.com



RENT THE COMMUNITY CENTER



Plainfield Community Center is OPEN

Free Wi-Fi and Baby Grand Piano 

Space available for a variety of events:

- ◆ Classes/Workshops
- ◆ Meetings
- ◆ Parties
- ◆ Special Events
- ◆ Art Gallery Exhibitions

◆ **Co-op sponsorship**
may be available for
community-based
not-for-profit events

More information: See plainfieldcoop.com/community-center/

Questions: Contact Leah membership@plainfieldcoop.com

Art Gallery: Contact Alexis VtPieGirlCo@gmail.com

Co-op members \$9/hour; others \$15/hour

Events: Co-op members \$35; others \$50

Recipes collected by Debra Stoleroff

Not only was Randy Keeney an amazing artist, she was an amazing cook. AND, there was always plenty of good food at her holiday parties.

– Debra Stoleroff

Randy's Pumpkin, Spinach and Walnut Salad

Ingredients:

- 1½ cup peeled cubed pumpkin
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup walnuts
- ¼ tsp salt
- ½ tsp cayenne
- 1 TBL light oil
- ½ cup olive oil (warmed)
- 4 oz goat cheese
- 6 TBL tarragon vinegar
- 1 tsp mustard
- 2 cups cleaned spinach
- 1 TBL minced red onion

Directions:

1. Put pumpkin mixed with brown sugar in a baking pan in 300F oven for 15 minutes (turn once and hold aside)
2. Sauté walnuts, salt and cayenne in light oil for for 10-15 min. (hold aside)
3. Mix goat cheese, warmed olive oil, tarragon vinegar and mustard together (hold aside)
4. Mix spinach and minced onion
5. Put the spinach and onion into a wide flat bowl
6. Place all the rest on top — first pumpkin, then walnuts, then the goat cheese mix.



Randy's Chocolate Mousse

SOOOOO good. The mousse is also delicious frozen!

Ingredients:

- 7 oz. dark chocolate
- ¼ cup black coffee
- 5 eggs separated
- ½ cup heavy cream
- 2 TBL sugar with vanilla and brandy in it

Directions:

1. Melt chocolate in double boiler
2. Add coffee
3. Beat egg yolks with sugar
4. Stir in warm chocolate
5. Stir in cream
6. Beat egg whites stiff and fold into the mixture

More of Randy's recipes on p.20

Remembering Randy Keeney

by Glenda Bissex

The Co-op is what it is today because of the devotion and energy of many people who came before us. (And it will be what it will be in the future because of our efforts now.) One of the Co-op ancestors many of us fondly remember is the spirited Randy Keeney—artist, lover of horses, cook, and Co-op supporter extraordinaire.

We were blessed that she and her family moved to Marshfield in 1991 and that her farm has passed on to Kagen Dewey and Elise Magnant of Blackbird Organics.



Photo credit: Alice Merrill



Photo credit: Alice Merrill

“Wherever she lived, Randy created a community of friends, abundant gardens and a menagerie of animals. In many ways her relationship with her animals is the key to her spirit and her extraordinary creative output. The chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese, the dogs and cats, and most of all her beloved horses were the real taproot of her life. She had an infectious laugh, a generous nature, and never missed the opportunity to have a party. Her spontaneous spirit, her courage, irreverence, and love of the ridiculous brought people together” (from obituary in VT Digger 7/19/23).

Here are some memories, photos, and a few of Randy’s drawings to help us celebrate her life.

Randy and I were close friends and neighbors for over 20 years. Randy loved the Co-op and everything it stands for. We spent many evenings cooking meals for friends and family, and she was always more than willing (and happy) to jump in her car and zip down to the Co-op to pick up more food.

— Lorita Adkins

Birds in the bathtub. Books for walls.
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy and The Sopranos.
The February Indoor Yard sale.

Yellow hubcaps, hollyhocks, lilacs and that fierce guard goose.

Randy’s Household Hints: She kept a metal trash can full of oats in the pantry for greasy pans. Let the oats soak up the grease. Place pan in yard and allow chickens to consume oats and grease. Voila!

— Paula Emery

Jeff and I met Randy when Joey Klein asked Jeff and I to help out with haying. That was sometime in the early 2000s. I had to attend to my day job, but Jeff helped out with the hot sweaty work. Randy made switchel (my first time trying it!) and I showed up to help with dinner — the most amazing buttermilk fried chicken! It was a delightful feast. Later, our mutual friend Lisa suggested we stay in Randy's cabin when we needed a place for a few months. What a wonderful sojourn! I discovered zucchini relish in the pantry of Randy's cabin (we still make it every year — just finished a batch yesterday) and lost my wedding ring in the garden.

I took my first horse ride, helped in her amazing gardens, and remember a few lovely evenings with Len, Randy and some wonderful poetry in the front lawn. After that stay, Jeff and I left for the Peace Corps and we came back to Plainfield on our return to grow our family. I remember Randy (and Len) as fiercely supportive and loving to each other and to us. Not afraid to speak her mind but always nurturing as she was steadfast.

— Sarah Phillips



Drawing by Randy Keeney

CO-OP BOARD BIO Sept. 2006

E. Randall Keeney (Randy)

I was born in New England, twined in and out of horses, chickens and my father's decayed farm machinery. I studied drawing with George Grosz and Marshall Glasier in NYC. I turned to printmaking wherein the lines and dots fog and clear to make another world. Collective printmaking groups are roots and taps to my work and so the Plainfield Food Co-op is a deep fit—as is Plainfield itself.

Elinor Randall Exhibit at SPA

more information at studioplacart.com

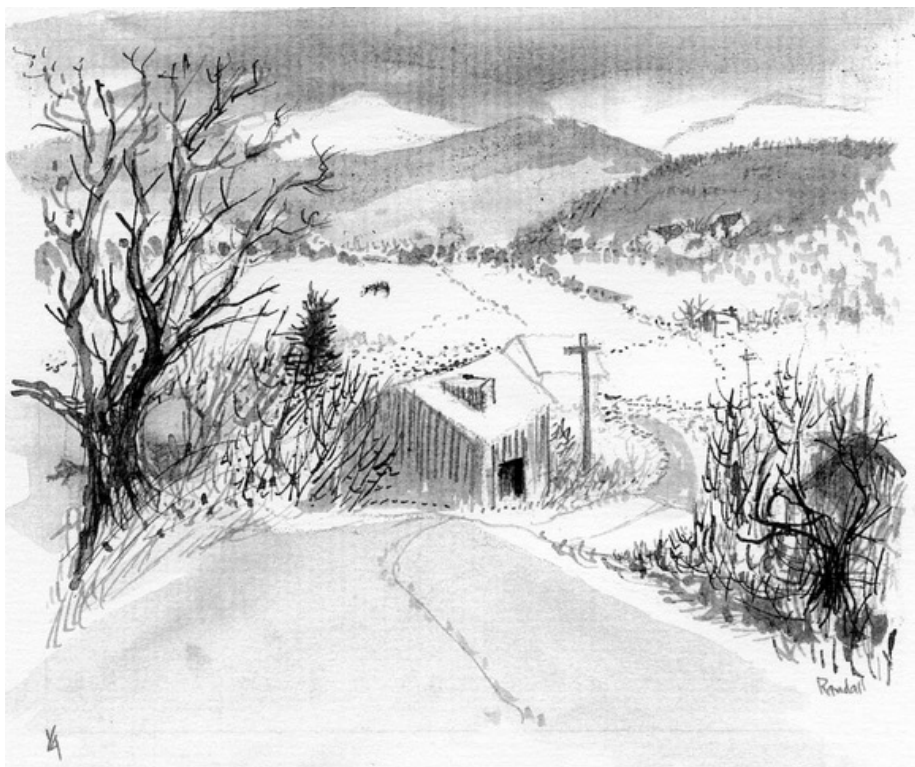
Second Floor Gallery:

Deep Impressions:

Elinor Randall, Master Printmaker

Extended Exhibit Dates: Sep.13 – Oct.28, 2023

A survey of printmaking by Elinor Randall (b. 1932, d. 2023), representing most of the various printmaking forms that she examined in her exhibition history, stretching from 1954-2013. The exhibit is curated by the Northern New England Museum of Contemporary Art (NNEMoCA).



Drawing by Randy Keeney



**Excerpts from “Randy’s
Kitchen” by Len Irving**

A dervished cook and baker,
apron inside out
plunging around the kitchen
creating vibrations
to make the walls shake.

.....

Cups, forks, a great silver spoon,
monogrammed initials
down the broad handle.
And she,
serious mouth to playful face.
Sleeves rolled to the elbows
bends to her breadmaking;
throws dough around the crowded table
as burly cowhand bulldoze small steer.

.....

Battered pots banged about.
The oven door thrown shut
to quiver the teapot lid.
Iron skillets crash down onto the stove top.
Dough rises, quiet as lava.
The mixer gently hums.
Rasp of grated cheese.
Blood and Band-aids strewn at random
amidst cardamon and basil leaves.

Drawing by Randy Keeney

RANDY'S RECIPES

from Fall 2006 newsletter, submitted by
Debra Stoleroff

In accord with our emphasis on locally-grown foods, Randy Randall offers these recipes using mainly locally grown, seasonal produce.

PLUM CRAZY CARROTS

1# carrots, scrubbed
2½ TBL butter
2 tsp sugar
½ c. chopped & pitted plums
1 tsp slivered orange peel
1½ tsp brandy
salt & pepper
chopped parsley

Cut carrots into slivers 3" x ¼", boil 4 minutes.

Melt butter. Add carrots and sugar.

Add plums and orange peel. Cook 5 min.

Stir in brandy. Cook until liquid is gone.

Add salt & pepper and parsley.

Serve.

TURNIPS & PEARS

Peel 3 or 4 pears and slice thickly.

Peel and cube 1# turnips.

Toss pears and turnips with 2 TBL olive oil, salt & pepper.

Bake in 400 degree oven for ¾ hour, covered.

Then add ¼ c. heavy cream, and bake uncovered ½ hour more.

CARROT-LOVAGE SALAD

1# carrots, grated
2 TBL EACH chopped lovage, parsley, and mint (or ginger)
Zest & juice of 1 lemon
1-2 TBL olive oil.

To Randy, the Co-op was an extension of her kitchen and the heart of the community. She believed that good food shared with good friends made the world a better place.

– Alice Merrill

I was close friends with Randy. We were neighbors and my son Joshua (5) wanted a job so he walked down the road and introduced himself. Randy gave him a job checking the hay loft for chicken eggs (they like to lay up there) and cleaning out the coop. After that were dinners with my three boys and now ex-wife, helping with haying, wassail parties, Wallace and Grommitt on the VCR, making books together and marbleizing. I helped with carpentry projects. We had so many laughs together over glasses of red wine about the madness of how people do or don't get along.

Randy was a great artist and strong community member. She was very involved with the Co-op and helped with the book sale which went on for a long time.

She suffered great traumas in her life, many of which were never fully able to heal, but she continued to care deeply about animals and people.

And so much more.

– Jason Mallery