

First Alternative NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

Fresh, local, organic groceries for everyone

North Store: 2855 NW Grant Ave • South Store: 1007 SE 3rd St

The 
SCOOP
May 2024



From the First Alternative
Board of Directors

**Jasmin
Woodside**
Board President

Hello Co-op Community!

Wow! As a Board, we've seen a lot of changes over the last couple of years. I have been honored and privileged to lead this curious and thoughtful Board through many of those changes. We have taken a close look and changed the way our meetings are run in order to have more free flowing discussions and to hear more voices. We have been tackling high level visioning for the Board and the Co-op every month including strategic planning, a policy revamp, interim general management plans, and now the search for the future General Manager.

Speaking of our future General Manager, we have posted the General Manager position and have been receiving applications. Thank you to our Board directors who have volunteered to put in extra time evaluating applications and screening potential applicants. We expect to have in-person interviews with the full Board by summer.

All of this work is in addition to our very important monthly work of reviewing finances and limitation reports, which is how we evaluate the health of our business and alignment with our values.



See back page for details

Recently, we have decided to take on additional training about J.E.D.I. – Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Several years ago, the Board reviewed all of its policies and made updates to language using a diversity and equity lens. But this is a whole new set of information and skills that we need in order to assure Co-op Owners, shoppers, and staff that the Board is serious about fostering long-term growth and innovation.

The Board initially tried to take on the subject by ourselves. We opened the discussion to get alignment on the importance of training. During those discussions we recognized that we will be in unpracticed and vulnerable spaces, and as the executive committee began to look for more resources, it was apparent that video training might not have the intended impact. It is our intention to practice and implement what we will be learning.

Continued on next page...

May Board Committee Meetings

Owners interested in virtual attendance should contact BREC@firstalt.coop for details.

Board Recruitment & Elections

Committee: Working to recruit qualified Board candidates.

Tuesday, May 8, 5pm

Owner Relations Committee:

The conduit for communication between Owners and the Board.

Monday, May 13, 6pm

Finance Committee:

Reviews, analyzes, and makes recommendations on financial matters.

Wednesday, May 15, 4:30pm

Board of Directors:

Elected Owners putting our cooperative principles into action.

Tuesday, May 28, 6pm

Two locations
Open daily
7am - 9pm

Everyone is
Welcome



From the First Alternative Board of Directors

Jasmin Woodside
Board President

We turned to our fellow cooperative business, the consulting firm to the cooperatives, Columinate. We spoke to LaDonna Sanders Redmond, who told us about the Intercultural Development Inventory which is a tool used to help organizations assess their intercultural competency by trying to answer the question “How do individuals experience cultural difference?”

This inventory will guide the development of a curriculum tailored for our specific organization by providing concrete and descriptive data and using that data to set strategies for success. We intend to become practiced and comfortable by utilizing activities and self reflection to increase our intercultural competency.

We are excited to tackle this new work. Right now, we are scheduling ten hours of training, but we fully recognize that our training could go on for up to eighteen months to see us through implementation.

We are ready!

Mother's Day Brunch

Treat mom with **Biscuits & Gravy** and **French Toast Casserole**, on the Hot Bar at both Co-op locations for a limited time only!



Sat, May 11
& Sun, May 12,
8am - 2pm
in the
Co-op Deli

2023-24 Co-op Board of Directors



Jasmin Woodside
President



Emily Stimac
Vice President



Dana Monroe
Secretary



Rob May
Treasurer

The Co-op Board of Directors is a dedicated group of volunteers elected by Co-op Owners to guide the store through Policy Governance. This means that although they are not involved in day-to-day store decisions, they shape these decisions through the development of Co-op policy and vision.

BOARD MEETINGS
Last Tuesday of each month at 6 pm

Each meeting begins with a ten-minute period for Owner comments. Email is also welcome: FABoard@firstalt.coop.



Kestrel Bailey



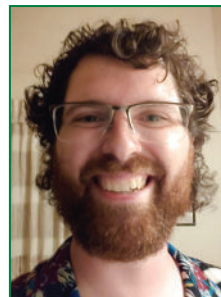
Jeff Contreras



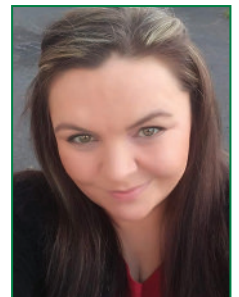
Frank Hall



Patrick Monroe



Jeremy Northway



Kate Woods

CORVALLIS-GONDAR WALK FOR WATER

SATURDAY MAY 18, 2024
9AM TO 1PM
BENTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
CORVALLIS, OREGON
JOIN THE 5K / DONATE

8:30am Check in 9:00am 5K walk begins 10:00am-1:00pm "Market Village" food, music, activities

You can make a difference!
Register today and Walk for Water!
All proceeds go directly towards the construction of wells in Gondar, Ethiopia.

	One Walker	\$20
	Two Walkers	\$30
	Family of Walkers	\$50


Gondar, Ethiopia

SISTERCITIES.CORVALLIS.OR.US/GONDAR-WALK-FOR-WATER/

Our friends at the Corvallis Sister Cities Association-Gondar are hosting their annual Walk for Water on Saturday May 18 at the Benton County Fairgrounds.

During the event people will walk 5K—the average distance a girl walk for water in Ethiopia—and after the walk we will have activities, music, Ethiopian food, and more. Proceeds from this event will help build a well for an orphanage and children's village in Gondar.

Register and get more details at sistercities.corvallis.or.us/gondar-walk-for-water.



2024 registration for Tarweed Folk School is open

Classes available May 11 and 12 at a variety of costs, with scholarships available to all

Tarweed Folk School is excited to announce and open registration for its May weekend of half day, full day, and multi-day classes taught by local educators, craftspeople, scientists, tradespeople, small business owners, and members of our Willamette Valley communities.

Participants can register for classes in woodworking, fiber arts, natural dyeing, nature, and more. This first weekend of classes will occur on May 11 and 12 and takes place across multiple locations in Corvallis.

More than 10 teachers will offer 10 classes in one weekend, altogether. *(See class offerings to the right.)*

Class costs range from \$40 to \$400, with full and partial tuition scholarships available to all. More classes to be released for July and Fall 2024!

Tarweed Folk School stewards opportunities for community-based, hands-on learning to all ages. The mission of Tarweed Folk School is to tend to the land, ourselves, and each other through the sharing of practical arts and place-based knowledge in the heart of the Willamette Valley. This season of classes is in partnership with Greenbelt Land Trust, Corvallis Waldorf School, Highland Woodshop, and Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development.

For more information, call (541) 760-3051 or email info@tarweedfolkschool.com.

TARWEED FOLK SCHOOL

Classes co-hosted by Greenbelt Land Trust, Highland Woodshop, and Corvallis Waldorf School

SATURDAY, MAY 11TH | SUNDAY, MAY 12TH

Learn from local educators, craftspeople, and members of our Willamette Valley communities in the following skills:

- May 11 - Bilingual Birdwatching Basics**
- May 11 - Beginning Spoon Carving**
- May 12 - Naturally Dye and Eco Print a Market Bag**
- May 12 - Make a Drop Spindle and Spinning Fibers**
- May 12 - Birch Bark Cylinders**
- May 11 & 12 - Rug Making with a Twining Loom**
- May 11 & 12 - Wooden Stool: An Exploration of Form & Design**



TENDING TO THE LAND, OURSELVES, AND EACH OTHER THROUGH THE SHARING OF PRACTICAL ARTS AND PLACE-BASED SKILLS TO ALL AGES IN THE HEART OF THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY.

TARWEEDFOLKSCHOOL.COM

Join at firstalt.coop/ownership or visit Customer Service

Spring Into Ownership

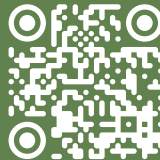
One-time \$70 Cost to Join!

Become an Owner in May & Receive a Special Gift!

The first 100 shoppers to become Owners in May will get a bonus gift bag filled with some wonderful products to discover & enjoy!

Shopping at the Co-op has great perks, being an Owner adds even more benefits

Owner Sale Day, 10% off non-sale items every month	Access to special monthly Owner Bonus Coupons	Access to unique Co-op Community events & tours	A vote & voice in the future of our Co-op leadership	And patronage dividends in profitable years
--	---	---	--	---



Follow First Alternative

For up-to-the-minute news, giveaways, recipes, special offers, and tons of cooperative fun.

@firstaltcoop



Facebook • Instagram • YouTube • TikTok

The Co-op welcomed...

39

new Owners in March

Learn more and become an Owner at firstalt.coop/ownership