

Prairie Newsletter

Yelm Food Coop Once Again a Sovereign, Member-Owned, Equity-Based Cooperative

For those who have not heard, the parent umbrella company called the Yelm Cooperative was recently informed (by the IRS) that it cannot continue with its current structure of having a for-profit arm (the Yelm Food Coop) that has a larger gross revenue than the non-profit activity (mainly the Yelm Farmer's Market). So we did something about it—we split up the parent, umbrella organization called the Yelm Cooperative into two totally separate, legal entities.



There has understandably been confusion over the former organization, the Yelm Cooperative. Folks may not have always realized that when they went into the co-op and renewed their annual membership that they were supporting the Yelm Cooperative, which not only ran the Yelm Food Co-op, but also the Farmer's Market and future Community Gardens. There has also been disappointment for example, from founding members who bought into a member-owned, equity based organization, then later learned they needed to renew their membership. Such disappointment is totally understandable. The Yelm Cooperative parent organization was designed to serve more than just the food co-op, but that is now part of the past.

In the past year the Yelm Cooperative was restructured into two independent, sovereign organizations. Bounty For Families operates as a nonprofit, and their department is the Farmer's Market, Community gardens, Gift of Gobble, and such non-profit activities. The Yelm Food Coop is now a separate, autonomous organization, and is once again the organization it was originally. The YFC is member-owned and equity based. All original founding members are lifetime members with full privileges (your new board president is also a founding member). New membership is once again one-time, and all members remain members... for life.

We, the Yelm Food Coop, are the organization we all wanted to join when we did. We are defined by the common definition of a cooperative: "A co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically-controlled enterprise." We hold in common the cooperative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. We are based on the principles of Voluntary and Open Membership, Democratic Member Control, Member Economic Participation, Autonomy



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and Independence, Education, Training and Information, Cooperation among Co-operatives, and Concern for Community.

So during the last year, the Yelm Cooperative Board of Directors split up into two discreet boards of directors. Your new board are the following YFC members: Roberto Mazzarella (recent new appointee), Judy Scott (recently elected new member), Debbie Lusk (recent re-elected member), Diane D'Acuti, Jeevan Anandasakaran, and Carl Zambuto.

GREAT FOOD FOR THE HOLIDAYS

We have scoured the grocery industry time and time again in order to provide our customers with the best new natural and organic goods of the market. We also have our new ION promotions for each month, and the combination has filled our little store with great new foods. Now that the holiday season is going full blast, this seemed like a great time to mention a number of these fantastic new products.

For those of you who love peanut butter cups, but your tastes have matured beyond Reese's, we now have Brooklyn Born Peanut Butter Cups in both dark and milk chocolate. These are the best of its type that we have ever come across, and the way they sell, other folks appear to agree. It has even been said by one adult customer that the milk are better than the dark. Try them and decide for yourself!



Siete makes grain free tortilla chips that are already a favorite of another customer of ours. It took months just to source them! For those who avoid grains, but still want real tortilla texture and flavor, you may be super pleased to get a bag of these!



For those of you who like to explore ancient and heirloom grains, we now have three products from Bluebird Grain Farms out of Winthrop, WA. These are certified organic products that include an Old World Cereal Blend, a Potlach Pilaf, and Whole Grain Emmer Flour. These products are made using grains grown in the Pacific Northwest.



Theo has come out with chocolate clusters, including a Coconut Turmeric flavored one along with two other kinds. Enjoy some superfood with your chocolate superfood!

For the holidays, we have baking kits from Scratch and Grain Bakery. These kits are kid friendly and contain only certified organic ingredients. Designed to make baking more enjoyable for kids – and their parents – these kits have all the dry ingredients necessary to make delicious desserts.



Harmless Harvest makes the only coconut water that we know



IT IS ONLY NATURAL

of which is both certified organic and raw. We have carried it for some time now, but we have added a 8.5z size in the case that you do not want so much, and we have a 32oz if you need a serious electrolyte infusion!

Pure Wild Oregon makes tasty preserves from fruit grown in the Pacific Northwest. We carry their Cherry and Marionberry jams. They are not certified organic due to the fact that they often use wild fruit in their mixes, but they are made with nonGMO ingredients.

Pacific has come out with tomatoes packaged in aseptic containers. Pacific uses Roma tomatoes which are famous for being used in some of the best red sauces ever made. They also claim that their packaging methods result in better flavor than other canned tomatoes on the market. There is only one way to be sure!



Oral Essentials uses dead sea salt as their main tooth whitening and cavity fighter for their toothpastes, mouthwashes, and whitening strips instead of chlorine, fluorine, or peroxides. These products were created by dentists, and they have very clean ingredients overall.



Rebel Green is a new cleaning products company with the most transparency of any cleaning products company on the market. Unlike other companies, Rebel Green fully discloses all of



the ingredients used for their cleaning products. This is the only cleaning products company that we know of that does this.

This list only puts a small dent in the wide number of new products that we bring in on a monthly basis. We have worked particularly hard to provide new goods that any foodie would relish as a holiday gift – either by itself or as an ingredient to an unforgettable holiday dish. Make your way to Yelm Food Cooperative in December, and you will find great ideas for bringing comfort to you during the seasonal rush!

Featured Members Only Sale Items—More in Store

 OCHO PEPPERMINT MINIS POUCH Member Price \$4.33 /3.52 OZ	 RUMFORD CAVIAR BLACK LUMPFISH Mem Price \$7.00 /2 OZ
 BTB BEEF/CHICKEN/VEGETABLE Member Price \$6.01 /8 OZ	 THEO PNTUT BTR CUPS-COCONUT BITES Mem Price \$2.03 /1.3 OZ
 CAESARS FROZEN ENTRES Member Price \$5.64 /EACH	 SUNSPIRE SEMISWEET CHIPS Member Price \$5.14 /9 OZ
 SUZIES ROSEMARY SESAME CRACKERS Member Price \$4.05 /8.8 OZ	 KETTLE SSALT BBQ SALT/PPR Member Price \$2.54 /5 OZ
 IF YOU CARE PARCHMENT PAPPER Member Price \$5.72 /70 SQ FT	 DANDIES MARSHMALLOW ALL FLAVORS Member Price \$4.35 /10 OZ

Board meetings!

Board meetings are open to all members. Ten minutes is set aside at the beginning of each meeting for comments and suggestions.

The Board will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, December 21st here at the store.



Join Anne every Friday 2p-7p
"Taste often. Drink what you like."

One block from the Co-op!



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