



NASCO Institute

Cooperative Education & Training

November 3-5, 2006

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Our Story

connecting the threads

of cooperative experience



Our Story

There are many stories of cooperation, many different cultural histories of people living and working together, and many narratives of collective action still in the process of creation.

At this year's NASCO Institute, entitled "Our Story: Connecting the Threads of Cooperative Experience," we will explore various traditions of collective living and cooperative action, including those that are often omitted from mainstream understandings of 'the cooperative movement.'

We will use storytelling as a powerful tool for claiming our diverse pasts, shaping our own narratives, and creating a strong vision of a just and sustainable future.

North American Students of Cooperation

NASCO is an association of campus and community cooperatives dedicated to strengthening and expanding the cooperative movement across the United States and Canada. Since 1968, NASCO has been working with students, worker-owners, activists and community members interested in applying cooperative principles to meet their needs and fulfill their various missions.

NASCO provides its member cooperatives with operational assistance, encourages the development of new cooperatives, and serves as an advocate for cooperatives. NASCO teaches leadership skills, provides information, and serves as the central link facilitating the fruition of the cooperative vision for students and youth. NASCO's programs include educational conferences, member training services, career development, co-op development, consulting and anti-oppression work.

Cooperative Education and Training Institute

Each November, over 400 participants from all over the United States and Canada converge in Ann Arbor, Michigan to share ideas, learn new skills, and explore issues affecting the cooperative movement. NASCO's Cooperative Education & Training Institute, which has been providing cooperative education annually since 1977, is widely recognized as one of the most important training and networking opportunities available to cooperative members, directors, staff and managers.

The annual NASCO Institute is always a one of a kind opportunity to network with hundreds of cooperative leaders, to caucus about pressing issues, and to work on building the inclusiveness and efficacy of the modern cooperative movement. This year's Institute promises to be especially compelling as we connect the many diverse narratives of community cooperation.

Friday

8:30am	SMAC Track Registration Opens
9am	SMAC Track Begins
12pm	Institute Registration Opens
1pm	Detroit Tour Leaves
2-4pm	Skillshares & Tours Block 1
4-6pm	Skillshares & Tours Block 2
7pm	NASCO Welcome
8pm	Cooperative Hall of Fame
9pm-12am	Documentary Film Festival

Saturday

8am	Registration Opens
8:30-10:30am	Annual General Meeting Part 1
10:30am-12pm	Course Block 1
12:10pm-1pm	Keynote Address
1pm-2:30pm	Lunch on the town (not covered by registration)
2:40pm-4:40pm	Course Block 2
4:50pm-6:20pm	Course Block 3
6:20pm-7:50pm	Dinner Active Member Rep Candidate Speeches
8pm-9:10pm	Caucus Block 1
9:20pm-10:30pm	Caucus Block 2
11pm	Spoken Word Performance

Sunday

9:00am-12:00pm	Annual General Meeting Part 2
10am-12pm	Course Block 4
12pm-1:30pm	Lunch Diversity Congress NASCO Properties Family Reunion
1:40pm-3:10pm	Course Block 5
3:20pm-4:50pm	Plenary Sessions
4:50pm-5:30pm	Cider and Goodbyes

Coffee Haus

This year Institute will host its own unique coffee haus—a place where people can network, hang out with friends, hold informal caucuses and meetings, relax, browse the bookstores, drink coffee and tea—basically the physical epicenter of Institute. Open from early morning to late at night, this will be the place to take a break from the packed weekend and connect with other co-ops.

Cooperative Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame gives NASCO co-ops a forum to recognize individuals who have shown an outstanding commitment to the cooperative movement through their hard work and tireless enthusiasm for cooperation. Every year inductees to the Hall of Fame are formally honored at this memorable and lively ceremony.

Documentary Film Festival

The Friday night documentary film festival has become an Institute tradition. This year we've got a phenomenal lineup of independent documentary films. From the political to the humorous to the experimental, these films tell stories of inspiring resistance, unconventional cooperation, and everyday life in community. We'll be entertained and educated while we munch on popcorn and sip green tea.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is where NASCO members can voice their opinions and engage in NASCO governance. Each active member co-op sends one person to the AGM to represent their group. This member receives a discounted registration rate. For more information about how to become an AGM Representative for your co-op, contact NASCO staff.

The AGM takes place Saturday and Sunday mornings. It includes an orientation for co-op representatives, report backs from each caucus, and a business meeting in which NASCO members discuss and vote on issues affecting the direction of NASCO. This meeting is also the forum for active members to nominate and elect an Active Member Representative (AMR). The AMR is elected by active member co-ops at Institute and serves a one-year term on the NASCO board of directors.

Keynote Speaker



Grace Lee Boggs is an activist, writer and speaker whose sixty-five years of political involvement encompass the major U.S. social movements of this century: Labor, Civil rights, Black Power, Asian American, Women's and Environmental Justice.

In the 1940s and 1950s she worked with West Indian Marxist historian C.L.R. James and in 1953 she came to Detroit where she married James Boggs, African American labor activist, writer and strategist. Working together in grassroots groups and projects, they were partners for over 40 years until James' death in July 1993. Their book, *Revolution and Evolution in the Twentieth Century*, was published in 1974.

In 1992, with James Boggs, Shea Howell and others, she founded Detroit Summer, a multicultural, intergenerational youth program to rebuild, redefine and respirit Detroit from the ground up, which is now in its 14th season. Currently she is active with the Detroit Summer Collective and writes a column in the weekly Detroit community newspaper, *The Michigan Citizen*. Her autobiography, *Living for Change*, is widely used in university classes on social justice movements and the history of Detroit.

Caucuses

Caucuses provide networking opportunities for co-ops with similar interests or identities to share ideas and experiences, as well as plan actions and draft proposals to bring to the AGM. Caucus participants elect a caucus chair to keep each caucus active throughout the year and to be an official representative to NASCO's Diversity Congress.

Plenary Sessions

Inter-Cooperative Committee On Privilege & Oppression

Esteban Kelly, NASCO AMR

ICCOPO is an open work group dealing with power and privilege in co-ops. We are in touch through listserves and programs like Anti-Oppression Action Camp but our biggest gathering takes place during NASCO institute where we help one another organize dismantling oppression in our local communities. In this session co-ops come together to develop action oriented educational practices and tactical tools and strategies to address our struggles. Come together with other co-ops that share your challenges while we collectively explore next steps and solutions for change!

Cooperation in Action: The Wide World of Cooperatives

Panel Discussion

This panel discussion will feature representatives from a wide variety of cooperative models. Panelists will talk about their co-ops—from an urban bike co-op to a suburban co-housing co-op to a rural agricultural co-op—and discuss how their unique type of cooperative meets the needs of its members. This plenary session will highlight the breadth of the modern co-op movement and explore the many ways that cooperative principles are being put into action in people's everyday lives.

Spoken Word Performance

On Saturday night, after a full day of workshops, caucuses, and networking—it'll be time to get together at one of Ann Arbor's favorite co-ops, relax and enjoy the performances of three incredibly talented spoken word artists. Featured artists include Taina Asili, a spoken word artist from Philadelphia with a unique "story telling" style of poetry, and Climbing PoëTree, a Brooklyn based spoken word duo who employ poetry as their weapon, their medicine, their voice, and their vision.

NASCO Properties Family Reunion

The NP family of cooperatives will host its annual reunion during Sunday lunch. Each NP co-op will introduce themselves and tell a little of their story in whatever creative way they choose—with songs, stories, photo albums, or just plain talking. Everyone from a NASCO properties house is invited!

Diversity Congress

The Diversity Congress serves as a working group employed by identity caucuses that have established themselves at NASCO Institute. The Congress is designed to be a safe space where two participants elected from each identity caucus (POCC, Queer Caucus, Community Caucus and Women's Caucus), can share concerns, discuss solutions, and plan action steps for bringing issues to the NASCO Board and/or the AGM. Caucus representatives will have the opportunity to bring their caucus' concerns to the Diversity Congress.

SMAC Track

Now in its second year, this special program for Staff, Managers, and Administrators of Co-ops, offers a forum for in-depth training and valuable knowledge sharing. Similar to NASCO's annual Staff & Managers' Conference, participants engage in workshops led by experienced co-op professionals on a variety of topics. Round-table discussions help participants share information about their co-op's performance and do collective problem solving. To register for SMAC Track, visit nasco.coop/institute

Tools for Running Your Co-op

Keeping your co-op running smoothly requires a wide range of skills and a wealth of collective knowledge. Workshops in this course thread will focus on building essential tools for maintaining your cooperative—from meal planning to dynamic facilitation. This series is ideal for anyone who hopes to leave NASCO Institute with a new set of concrete skills to take back to their co-op.

Friday 4-6pm. Managing a Co-op Kitchen

111. The Basics of Cooperative Decision Making

112. Wikis (Collaborative Web Spaces)

113. Small Co-operative Group Finance

211. Conflict: Fight, Flight or Opportunity?

212. Open Source Software for Co-ops

213. Board Roles, Responsibilities, Legalties

261. Community Responses to Sexual Assault

311. How to Grab New Members for Your Co-op Without Breaking Their Arms

312. Meetings that Move Us Forward: Running an Effective Meeting

361. Meal Planning and Nutrition

411. Good Communication in Co-ops

412. Quickbooks

413. Taking Care of the Place: Making Preventative Maintenance and Stewardship a Tradition in Your House

414. The Essentials of Dynamic Facilitation: How to Get Through the Agenda and Build Energy at the Same Time

501. Giving Dynamic Trainings and Reporting Back Home

511. Consensus for Dummies

Telling Our Own Stories

Storytelling can be a powerful way for individuals and communities to claim their histories, express their current struggles and create a vision of a just future. This course thread will use different mediums—such as poetry, theatre, and visual art—as tools for empowerment through self-expression.

Friday 2-4pm. Stencil Making

Friday 4-6pm. Basics of Audio Production

121. Out of the Classroom & Into the Streets: Queer Theater for the 21st Century

122. Stories of Co-op Spirit

221. Costumes, Lights, Action!

222. Poetry of the Senses

231. The Forgotten History of Student Co-ops

321. Spoken Word, Spoken Truths

421. A Place at the Table: Storytelling for Inclusive Community

521. Women: Our Stories, Our Future

Learning From Experience: Case Studies in Cooperation

The most valuable knowledge often comes from lived experience, especially when it comes to different approaches to cooperation. This course thread will illuminate many of the ways that people have found to live, work and organize cooperatively by focusing on specific examples from history and today. By exploring the ways that these particular co-ops function, we will learn from their failures as well as their successes.

Friday 1-6pm. From White Flight to Urban Farming: Spreading the Seeds of Detroit's Radically Sustainable Communities

Friday 4-6pm. Tour of Sunward Co-housing Community

131. Notes from Another Ground: Stories and Lessons from Organized Struggle in Latin American Cooperative Movements

132. Mondragon: Building the Road as we Travel

231. The Forgotten History of Student Co-ops

242. Workers' Organizations & Co-ops: Partners for Social Change

244. Community Now!

261. Community Responses to Sexual Assault

331. Our Failures: Co-ops that Crashed and Burned

332. Palestinian Co-ops

431. From Cooperative Living to Collective Politics

451. Conducting Diversity Awareness Trainings in Your Co-op

472. Biodiesel Cooperatives

481. Worker Ownership as a Community Economic Development Strategy: Examples from African American History

571. Ecovillages

Sunday Plenary Session, The Wide World of Cooperatives

Building Inclusive Communities

Creating an inclusive community means going beyond feel-good rhetoric about 'diversity awareness' or using targeted recruitment strategies—it means working hard to ensure that systems of oppression are not being reproduced in your community. The courses in this thread focus on identifying and actively resisting institutional and interpersonal forms of oppression, as well as building alternative models of community that are based on equality and justice.

121. Out of the Classroom & Into the Streets: Queer Theater for the 21st Century

151. Anti-Racism, Part 1

241. Slingshot Hip Hop: Learning about the Palestinian Struggle and Connecting it to Our Own

251. Anti-Racism, Part 2

262. How to Support a Housemate who is Coming Out

321. Spoken Word, Spoken Truths

351. How to Make & Keep a Trans-Friendly Household

352. We're Expecting... a Little Co-oper!

421. A Place at the Table: Storytelling for Inclusive Community

451. Conducting Diversity Awareness Workshops in Your Co-op

461. Building Radical Community-Based Mental Health Support Systems in a World Gone Mad

521. Women: Our Stories, Our Future

551. Anti-Oppression Action Camp: Lessons Learned

Sunday Plenary Session, ICCOPO: Inter-Cooperative Committee on Privilege & Oppression

Ecological Sustainability

Cooperatives offer us the opportunity to live out environmentally conscious ideals on a larger level. This course thread will highlight the importance of ecologically sound living and the transformative potential of the environmental justice movement. Workshops will also build skills for making intentional choices about the way we consume resources.

Friday 1-6pm. From White Flight to Urban Farming: Spreading the Seeds of Detroit's Radically Sustainable Communities

Friday 2-4pm. Bike Mechanics Skill Share

Friday 2-4pm. How to Build Rainbarrels and Raised Beds

141. Roll out! Popular Education, Bicycles, and Youth

271. Raising the Roof: Co-op Architecture

371. Environmental Justice

471. For Sustainable Kitchens

472. Biodiesel Cooperatives

571. Ecovillages

572. Intensive Gardening: Growing Vegetables in Urban Settings

Community Organizing

Some of the most vital examples of cooperative principles in action take place when communities come together to address social problems and meet their everyday needs. Workshops in this thread will address strategies for grassroots organizing and community empowerment. We will look at different models of collective action—from a youth led collective in Detroit to a survey of resistance movements in Latin America—and explore ways to apply their lessons to our own communities.

Friday 1-6pm. From White Flight to Urban Farming: Spreading the Seeds of Detroit's Radically Sustainable Communities

131. Notes from Another Ground: Stories and Lessons from Organized Struggle in Latin American Cooperative Movements

141. Roll out! Popular Education, Bicycles, and Youth

241. Slingshot Hip Hop: Learning about the Palestinian Struggle and Connecting it to Our Own

242. Workers' Organizations & Co-ops: Partners for Social Change

243. Social Change Fundraising as Organizing

244. Community Now!

341. Co-op Based Community Organizing

342. Oral History as an Organizing Tool

371. Environmental Justice

431. From Cooperative Living to Collective Politics

541. Microradio

Worker Ownership

Worker owned cooperatives are a part of a growing movement that encourages economic solidarity, workplace democracy and economic self-determination within communities. Workshops in this course thread will explore the histories of worker cooperatives and the implications—both locally and transnationally—of a 'solidarity economy.' Principles of worker ownership, types of worker owned businesses, and examples of successful worker co-ops will be highlighted.

132. Mondragon: Building the Road as we Travel

181. Introduction to Democratic Workplaces, Worker Ownership, and the "Solidarity Economy"

242. Workers' Organizations and Co-ops: Partners for Social Change

281. Worker Ownership on College Campuses

381. Worker-Ownership and the Food Cooperative

481. Worker Ownership as a Community Economic Development Strategy: Examples from African American History

482. Other Economies Are Possible: Strategies and Tools for Building a Solidarity Economy

581. Starting Up a Worker-Owned Cooperative

Community Health

The health of a community is about more than just the physical health of its individual members—it is also about how the group deals with conflict, how members of the community are supported during times of crisis, and the ways that people communicate with each other on a daily basis. The workshops in this thread will explore the many aspects of collective well-being and offer strategies for making your cooperative a healthier environment for all its members.

161. Realistic Community Responses to Substance Abuse in Your Co-op

211. Conflict: Fight, Flight or Opportunity?

261. Community Responses to Sexual Assault

262. How to Support a Housemate who is Coming Out

351. How to Make & Keep a Trans-Friendly Household

352. We're Expecting... a Little Co-oper!

361. Meal Planning and Nutrition

362. Consent

363. Men's Issues

411. Good Communication in Co-ops

461. Building Radical Community-Based Mental Health Support Systems in a World Gone Mad

561. Power Dynamics in Cooperative Groups

572. Intensive Gardening: Growing Vegetables in Urban Settings

Developing New Co-ops

This course thread is designed to walk you through the process of starting a new co-op—from clarifying your initial concept to drafting your business plan. Workshops in this series provide a comprehensive, step-by-step training program to the development process.

Development Thread

191. Developing New Co-ops 1: Getting Organized

291. Developing New Co-ops 2: Incorporation and Tax Exemption

391. Developing New Co-ops 3: Housing Co-ops: Assessing Feasibility & Finding the Right Building

491. Developing New Co-ops 4: Negotiating Your Way to Ownership

591. Developing New Co-ops 5: Putting it All Together: The Business Plan

Development-Related Workshops

102. Membership: Questions You Should Have Asked Before Joining

271. Raising the Roof: Co-op Architecture

311. How to Grab New Members for Your Co-op Without Breaking Their Arms

331. Our Failures: Co-ops that Crashed and Burned

Sunday Plenary Session, The Wide World of Cooperatives

Skillshares & Tours

Friday 2-4pm

Bike Mechanics

Ben Chodoroff, Back Alley Bikes

As oil prices go up, imperialist wars wage on, public transit gets cut, and freeways get even more clogged, more and more people from all walks of life find themselves straddling a bicycle. Come to this workshop to learn some basic bicycle mechanics, along with education techniques to use while sharing these skills in your hometown.

A Walking Tour of the ICC Houses and the Surrounding Ann Arbor Area

Katherine Gorman, ICC Ann Arbor

We will explore Ann Arbor and its student co-ops on foot. Get a first hand look at a vital student housing network.

How to Build Rainbarrels and Raised Beds

Growing Hope

Learn about the benefits of and design of rain barrels and raised beds! Come and do some hands on learning about ways to improve your co-op with cheap and environmentally friendly gardening. We will be making rain barrels together out of found and recycled materials (and donating them to the local community gardening organization). We will also be discussing a variety of types of raised beds with demonstrations of how they are constructed.

Stencil Making

Stencils are a fun and inexpensive way to beautify your town. We will start with the basics and move through more complex methods of making stencils. Participants will get a chance to test out different techniques and make at least one stencil to take home. Minimal supplies will be provided. If you have other supplies to share, such as exacto knives, spraypaint or cardboard, please bring them.

Canned Heat: DIY Camping Stoves

Sam Putman, L2ve

Make an alcohol burning stove out of found materials. Hands-on skillshare will guide the process of making a stove from aluminum drink cans, that is both lightweight (10 grams) and will boil water like a champion. We will cover theory, acquisition of materials, variations, accessories such as simmer rings and wind screens, and will include a discussion of fuels and their manufacture.

Friday 4-6pm

Basic Audio Production

Kate McCabe & Max Sussman, BlackBox Radio

This hands-on workshop will take place in the studios of WCBN-FM, Ann Arbor's unique student/community radio station. We will go over the basics of audio production, focusing on the genre of radio news. We'll cover how to use recording equipment, record interviews, and edit news stories. You will leave this workshop with some basic production skills and a general understanding of how to build a story for radio news. You'll also pick up a useful manual and some neat handouts that can help you start producing radio news in your own hometown. No prior radio experience necessary.

Tour of Sunward Co-housing Community

Michael McIntyre, Sunward Cohousing

Visit Ann Arbor's first cohousing community (established 1998), exploring the physical design, organizational model and practical and operational details. Interactive indoor/outdoor guided tour. Please visit our website in advance of tour: <http://www.sunward.org/nasco/> and send in suggested topics/questions to explore during the tour.

You must register for this tour as part of the online registration process.

1-6pm in Detroit, MI

From White Flight to Urban Farming: Spreading the Seeds of Detroit's Radically Sustainable Communities

*Spencer Mann, MUCS Project & Co-op sur Genereux
Anthony Meza-Wilson, The Barrington Collective*

This course will explore and support radically sustainable communities in their process of becoming wider social phenomena. We will look at urban community projects with diverse ideas of and approaches toward sustainability and co-operation. Our focus will be on stories/case-studies of urban co-operative communities that have taken significant and inspiring steps towards creating ecologically designed and constructed spaces and physical systems, with safer, inclusive, and just communities and social systems.

We will travel together to Detroit to speak with grassroots organizers and to visit the urban gardens, community schools, and co-housing projects that are building steps towards a radically sustainable Detroit.

You must register for this tour as part of the online registration process.

Managing a Co-op Kitchen

Molly Breslin, USCA and Cooperative Grocers Alum, NASCO Board Member

Food for the body also feeds the soul of a community. This will be a round-table discussion about organization, cleanliness, and keeping everyone happy in a cooperatively run kitchen. Bring your stories—both problems and ideas—into a co-op kitchen and learn from each others experiences. This skillshare will be held in one of ICC Ann Arbor's co-op kitchens.

101. The 7 Things Intentional Communities Always Fight About & How to Handle 'Em Without Making it Worse

Ma'ikwe Ludwig

While the focus and vision of our communities might be different, one thing that is constant are the basic human tensions of living together; someone, after all, needs to do those pesky dishes! Whether you are a community of two (more commonly known as a "couple") a co-op house of 20, or a city of 200,000, some topics always come up. Dealing with these effectively allows us to keep our attention on our collective goals rather than getting mired in the common mud. Come get the nitty gritty on what these topics are and the attitudes and approaches that work best for dealing with them.

102. Membership: Questions You Should Have Asked Before Joining

Laird Schaub, Fellowship of Intentional Communities

This workshop will present a set of basic questions that all groups must face in defining who they are and what it means to be a member: how to handle feedback among members, level of engagement in each other's lives, rights and responsibilities, grounds for losing one's membership, and the process by which someone joins the group and is asked to leave. We'll discuss why it's a potential disaster to delay answering these questions until they come up, and why most groups do it anyway.

103. An Intro to Anarchism & Its Aspirations

Cindy Milstein, Free Society Collective, Institute for Anarchist Studies, Black Sheep Books

Anarchism has emerged as one of the most compelling currents within today's anti-capitalist milieu. With its emphasis on participation and prefigurative politics, anarchism has contributed to experiments in grassroots organization as well as social power, alongside or in solidarity with a variety of horizontalist movements worldwide. It has also brought utopian thinking to a tired Left. And perhaps for the first time in its own history, anarchism is more relevant and workable in this era, variously labeled the network society, the information age, or globalization. This workshop will outline anarchism's aspirations and various schools of thought, from its nineteenth-century beginnings to the present, in an attempt to capture some of the vibrancy and innovations of (and tensions within) contemporary anarchism.

111. The Basics of Cooperative Decision Making

Sky Blue, Twin Oaks Community

Cooperative groups require cooperation to function. But what does it mean to be cooperative, and to make deci-

sions cooperatively? Most of the old rules no longer apply. Cooperative decision-making takes a level of responsibility and engagement that most of us are not use to. No longer can we single-handedly push our agendas. No longer can we sit back and wait for the powers-that-be take to care of things (and complain when we don't like their choices). To function well, cooperative decision-making requires that everyone is informed, has equal access to the process, and has fully expressed their feelings and opinions. Ensuring that is not easy. This workshop will work with a combination of theory and specific examples to cover the basics and fundamentals of how cooperative decision-making functions (or dis-functions).

112. Wikis (Collaborative Web Spaces)

Charlie DeTar, The Barrington Collective

John Nishinaga, The Barrington Collective

Some Wikis such as Wikipedia have recently gained worldwide attention for archiving large quantities of human knowledge. But most Wikis are small and applied towards specific projects or tasks.

This class will show you how to apply Wiki technology to help your co-op or collective:

- o Quickly exchange information
- o Keep your organization's documentation current and relevant
- o Collaborate over long distances
- o Maintain history for your organization

The facilitators have experience designing and maintaining Wikis for several co-operatives and collectives. We'll keep it simple and provide tips on common pitfalls to beware of. Experience with computers and software installation is helpful but not required. Participants are encouraged to bring their laptops to experiment.

113. Small Co-operative Group Finance

Rebecca Nole, ICCAnn Arbor Alum, former NASCO Staff

Chipp Jansen, Brooklyn Research, Alumni (Black Elk-ICC, Arbor Vitae)

Do you space out when your treasurer talks finances at a meeting? If so, this course is for you! We will go over basic record keeping and gain an overview of co-op finances at the house level. In addition, we will get a good grasp of important questions to ask to keep your treasurer on their toes and to keep you well informed about where and how your money is spent. No prior finance experience is needed.

121. Out of the Classroom & Into the Streets: Queer Theater for the 21st Century

MaxZine Weinstein, Idyll Dandy Arts (IDA)

This is a two-part course where we will explore how performance is used to help achieve queer liberation. In the first session there will be an overview of the role of guerilla theater and its place in queer activism. We will identify concerns of queers within the co-op movement. Then we will

play theater games to help see how we can transform our concerns into action.

122. Stories of Co-op Spirit

Sheila Ritter, ICC Ann Arbor

There's something about co-ops that can be deeply moving. They can touch us in ways we might not expect, and can be very meaningful in our lives. They can create lifelong friendships and affect our careers and life goals. We will share our stories of what co-ops have meant in our lives, and talk about how to spread co-op spirit to others.

131. Notes from Another Ground: Stories and Lessons from Organized Struggle in Latin American Cooperative Movements

Esteban Kelly, NASCO AMR

Join us in sharing some stories and examples of cooperation of grassroots and radical movements across Latin America. We'll delve into past examples of collective resistance from slave liberation using Quilombos and Capoeira. We will examine movements through contemporary anti-neoliberal structures embodied by the Zapatistas in Mexico and of the Horizontal Industrial Co-ops borne of the 2001 economic crash in Argentina.

After investigating various tactics for cooperative liberation in their own cultural context we will investigate what lessons or strategies we can employ in a North American context. From which models of resistance can those of us in the U.S. and Canada learn in contributing locally towards movements for liberation and social freedom?

132. Mondragon: Building the Road as We Travel

Petr Bakus, NASCO Board Member

A look at the world renowned Mondragon Cooperative System, the largest worker cooperative in the world. What makes it unique? Why is it relevant to our cooperatives? What can we learn from the Mondragon Cooperative Experience?

The session will cover three main areas:

- 1) Why and how the Cooperative has maintained success and stayed relevant.
- 2) How the cooperative has been shaped by globalization, and how it has shaped globalization.
- 3) The lessons that can be learned from Mondragon and their impact on other cooperatives.

Knowledge of Mondragon, while not necessary, would be helpful.

141. Roll out! Popular Education, Bicycles, & Youth

Ben Chodoroff, Back Alley Bikes

Young people in our cities are getting more and more fed up with the official education system, and end up creating their own schooling. Learn how you can promote egalitarian and cooperative learning within your own community, and make your efforts accessible and reproducible by other groups. Back Alley Bikes has worked with youth education

projects in Detroit for over six years, beginning with Detroit Summer and growing into an organization of its own. Youth in our programs use bicycles as a catalyst for getting more theoretical messages across — come to this workshop and share your own youth organizing/freedom schooling experiences, so we can all become more effective learners and teachers!

151. Anti-Racism, Part 1

Farheen Hakeem, NASCO Board Member

How can white people work for racial justice? How can we eliminate racist attitudes and non-inclusive cultures in our communities? Racism is present in our daily lives but often goes unrecognized. This class will focus on institutional racism in society and how white privilege manifests in the everyday workings of our co-op and communities. We will look at definitions of multiple systems of oppression and explore how anti-racism can help strengthen our communities. Participants will walk away with specific skills to confront racism in their day-to-day lives. Anyone who is interested is encouraged to attend, although this class is intended for white folks interested in social justice. This is a two part class; participants are highly encouraged to attend both parts.

161. Realistic Community Responses to Substance Abuse in Your Co-op

Anthony Meza-Wilson, The Barrington Collective

Substance abuse is a very difficult and common problem in many communities. In cooperatives we have a higher likelihood of seeing the signs and struggles of those members of our community to whom substances pose a danger. In this course we will cover community healing from substance abuse from a harm-reduction perspective. We will focus on education and support as our tactics. Specific substances may be addressed in detail, depending on the interests and needs of the group. This class will be student-centered, and non-hierarchical; so come expecting to take an active role.

181. Introduction to Democratic Workplaces, Worker Ownership, and the "Solidarity Economy"

*Ajowa Nzinga Ifateyo, Grassroots Economic Organizing
Jessica Gordon Nembhard, Grassroots Economic Organizing Newsletter & Eastern Conference for Workplace Democracy*

We will introduce concepts of economic democracy, the solidarity economy, workplace democracy, worker ownership and worker cooperatives. Participants will discuss the role of worker ownership in the solidarity economy. We outline and discuss principles of worker ownership, types of worker owned businesses, and examples and elements of successful worker coops. We will view a "Made in America" video or another video introducing worker ownership. We will also give introductions of CICOPA and the U.S. Federation. The workshop will leave time for a question and answer session along with distribution of relevant resources.

191. Developing New Co-ops, Part 1: Getting Organized

Mark Fick, *Stone Soup*
holly jo Sparks, *NASCO Staff*

So you've decided to start a co-op and don't know where to begin. Or maybe you've already started organizing, but aren't clear on next steps. This course provides an introduction and overview of the co-op development process. From building a solid core group to mobilizing community support, we will address the key steps that will get your project on its feet and moving forward.

2

Course Block

211. Conflict: Fight, Flight or Opportunity?

Laird Schaub, *Fellowship for Intentional Community*

Does conflict mean your group is sick, or just paying attention? Starting with the premise that conflict is healthy and normal, we'll explore options for unlocking its potential using the whole person; rational, emotional, and intuitive. Rather than talking about "I" statements and simply being nice, we will focus on what happens and

what can be done when things get hot. We will conclude with a four-step plan for constructive engagement. Special attention will be given to the advantages of working in a group and in the dynamic moment, facilitated by those not in the stew.

212. Open Source Software for Co-ops

John Nashinaga & Charlie DeTar, *Barrington Collective*
Tired of paying hard-earned money to corporations for software that you feel forced to use? This class will show you how open source software can liberate your organization of its computing needs. Learn how the principles of open source software development relate to the Rochdale principals. No technical experience required.

213. Board Roles, Responsibilities, Legalities

Cary Hubbard, *Waterloo Co-operative Residence Inc.*
Are you a new or seasoned member of your co-op's board of directors? Not sure what your roles and responsibilities are? This workshop will help you learn more about the roles and responsibilities of board members both individually and as a group.

221. Costumes, Lights, Action!

MaxZine Weinstein, *Idyll Dandy Arts*
In this second session we will create a short performance piece that we will present to the NASCO conference at the Saturday night party. No experience is necessary— just an

open mind. The important thing is to see how humor, drama and frivolity can fuck things up and change the course of society. We can throw together some props quickly, but also feel free to bring along little accessories and/or outrageous outfits.

222. Poetry of the Senses

Taina Asjli, *The Life Center Association*

Poetry can be a useful tool in processing and communicating our experiences. This poetry workshop will explore ways to express our experiences and emotions regarding cooperative living. We will explore the poetic use of sight, sound, smell, touch, hearing, and "the 6th sense". We will also look at examples of poets' work on CD, as well as share various techniques for beginning a poem and basic editing. The theme, "cooperative living and expression," will drive our writing, and also support us in our day's discussion. Each participant will receive a reading packet with the day's materials and several poetic works to take home. Participants are asked to bring a pen/pencil and notebook.

231. The Forgotten History of Student Co-ops

Jim Jones, *NASCO Staff*

This course will survey the history of student and group equity co-ops, from roots in the women's movement after the Civil War through the Great Depression years, World War II, the McCarthy and Civil Rights eras, the Baby Boom and the recent expansion of interest to a non-student audience.

241. Slingshot Hip Hop: Learning About the Palestinian Struggle and Connecting it to Our Own

Ora Wise, *Palestine/ Israel Education Project*

The Palestine/Israel Education Project develops and facilitates interactive workshops in high schools and youth groups using hip hop video, role-playing, discussion, reading lyrics, and letters to raise awareness about the Palestinian struggle and its connections to the experiences of oppressed communities in the U.S. An important part of our work is supporting youth in thinking critically about criminalization of Arabs within U.S. society and reflecting on how their own communities are criminalized.

Using a mixture of demonstration and discussion, this workshop will share the work PEP has been doing. We will explore materials and ideas, using Palestinian hip hop videos, printed lyrics, discussion questions, video clips from Hollywood films, and footage from Aida Refugee Camp to jumpstart conversations around racism, occupation, and resistance. This workshop will provide concrete activity suggestions, handouts, and audio-visual material.

242. Workers' Organizations and Co-ops: Partners for Social Change

Max Krochmal, *former NASCO Board Member*

This course is a brief introduction to the history and current structure of the U.S. labor movement, emphasizing

questions of anti-racism, union democracy, and the state. We will survey 20th century labor and working class history and then discuss contemporary cross-class and transnational efforts aimed at promoting consumer-worker solidarity.

Participants will learn how consumers (and co-ops as organized consumers) can effectively organize in support of workers within the U.S. and internationally, and together we'll develop a model through which your co-ops can get involved with organized labor at home and abroad. It is highly recommended that you also attend "Co-op Based Community Organizing"

243. Social Change Fundraising as Organizing

Steve Dubb, The Democracy Collaborative

There is a tendency to think of fundraising as a technical matter of writing grant proposals. However, fundraising is also about relationship-building, which, among other things, involves building political alliances or coalitions with funders on issues that are of concern to both the donor and the recipient (that's you!) This course will provide an overview of large foundation programs and how co-ops might relate to some of them. A good part of this course will also involve discussion of how to research and find political allies with money at the local level.

244. Community Now!

Jenny Lee, Detroit Summer

Detroit Summer is a multi-racial, inter-generational collective which organizes monthly events, community gardening and youth-led media projects around critical issues facing the city of Detroit. This class will look at the different ways Detroit Summer has advanced our vision of collective, community-based, youth-led social change in our city. It will also highlight the significant changes Detroit Summer has undergone since its inception, in order to stay relevant and meaningful in our dramatically changing city over the past 14 years.

251. Anti-Racism, Part 2

Farheen Hakeem, NASCO Board Member

Jason Lyndon Community Church of Boston, Youth and Young Adult Anti-Racism Training Collective

How can white people work for racial justice? How can we eliminate racist attitudes and non-inclusive cultures in our communities? Racism is present in our daily lives but often goes unrecognized. This class will focus on institutional racism in society and how white privilege manifests in the everyday workings of our co-op and communities.

We will look at definitions of multiple systems of oppression and explore how anti-racism can help strengthen our communities.

Participants will walk away with specific skills to confront racism in their day-to-day lives. Anyone who is interested is encouraged to attend, although this class is intended for white folks interested in social justice. This is a two part class; participants are highly encouraged to attend both parts.

261. Community Responses to Sexual Assault

Sharon Wasko & Yonah Esthalom Philly's Pissed and Philly Stands Up

Esteban Kelly, NASCO Active Member Representative

This workshop will investigate the reality of sexual assault on campus and within our communities, and how we can create systems to prevent assault and deal with specific situations. We will look at the model developed by Philly's Pissed and Philly Stands Up for dealing with sexual assault. We will also discuss what responsibility a community has to support survivors and work with people who have assaulted in a participatory and democratic manner.

262. How to Support a Housemate who is Coming Out

Kerrick A. Lucker, Oscar Wilde House

Jeremy Merklinger, Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project

The process of coming out can be different for different people. Some queer co-ops' first experience of coming out is to their housemates. Others may already be out to their housemates, but are in the process of coming out to their families of origin. This workshop will offer concrete ways that you can support a housemate who is coming out and build a queer-positive house culture. Participants are encouraged to bring stories from their own co-ops.

271. Raising the Roof: Co-op Architecture

Chantal Cornu & Laura Knap, The Grand House Co-op

This workshop will explore the questions we have asked over the last two years while seeking to construct a "green" co-operative house for 10-12 students: How can an ethic of sustainability, the values of co-operation and community, and the concerns of architecture come together to build a place for us to call home?

281. Worker Ownership on College Campuses

Jimmy Cooney, Maryland Food Collective

Jessica Gordon Nembhard, Grassroots Economic Organizing Newsletter & Eastern Conference for Workplace Democracy

In this course we will discuss organizing and maintaining a worker-owned business on a college campus. We will confront the difficulties that worker-owned businesses face from both school administration and the campus environment. We will explore how we can forge our own models for co-operative workplace ethics in the sometimes hostile university/capitalist environment.

291. Developing New Co-ops, Part 2: Incorporation and Tax Exemption

Mary Ann McClure, MS Accounting and Taxes Inc.

David Sparer, Herrick & Kasdorf, LLP

IRS has their own rules about non-profit status, and it's not automatic just because you have incorporated as a not-for-profit in your state. If you want to know more about this issue and how to address it, or have stories to share with others, come to this workshop. Some other tax filing questions can be addressed here as time permits.

3

Course Block

301. This is Delegated to the Ones I Love: A Focused Look at What Should Be Done by the Group as a Whole and What Shouldn't

Laird Schaub, Fellowship for Intentional Community

For large groups working with consensus, it is crucial that they learn to delegate effectively (or the meetings will never end). This workshop will break down what work should/must be done in plenary and what can/should be delegated to a committee or manager. We'll lay out the essentials of a

clear mandate, and the proper sequence of consideration that will empower committees and managers, yet keep their work in balance with whole group responsibilities. We'll talk about groups whose work is re-done in plenary and runaway committees who do way more than they were asked (bad, bad, bad.)

302. Sustaining Revolutionary Politics in Counter-revolutionary Times

Gindy Milstein, Free Society Collective, Institute for Anarchist Studies, Black Sheep Books.

Since 9-11, there's been a rise in the Right's power, and a loss of the radical anti-capitalist critique and vision we saw in the global justice movement. The barrage of atrocities and attacks against basic aspects of life has left most of us feeling overwhelmed. In this workshop, I will argue that critical thinking as a visible, instituted praxis is essential not just to sustain a revolutionary sensibility but also to build reconstructive movements that can continually challenge hierarchies. I will explore some hopeful examples of this integration of engaged thinking and doing, such as developing horizontal models of scholarship, popular education, and public debate and decision-making. Such praxis allows us to prefigure the types of selfhood and social organization that suggest a liberatory, directly democratic world.

311. How to Grab New Members for Your Co-op Without Breaking Their Arms

Jim Ellinger, Austin Airwaves, Inc.

You know that you have the best place to live in your campus community, but how do you let everyone else know... especially with a microscopic advertising budget? Well come to this workshop and Jim Ellinger will share 20 years of tips of the trade in getting positive, cheap, even FREE, exposure for your co-op or community group. Can't afford an ad on the backpage of the local weekly? Then try and get a free story on the front page! Topics covered include; dealing with the straight/corporate media, organizing publicity events, writing press releases, and working with other groups. Plus the famous Swag Bag!

312. Meetings that Move Us Forward: Approaches for Running an Effective Meeting

Cary Hubbard, Waterloo Co-operative Residence Inc.

Meetings play an important part in the business and social aspects of our co-ops. Ineffective and inefficient meetings can leave members feeling drained or even frustrated. It is possible to hold meetings that ensure business is completed while also making people feel good. During this workshop we will look at different approaches to meeting facilitation and ways to make your meetings amazing.

321. Spoken Word, Spoken Truths

Alix Garcia & Naima Penniman, Climbing PoeTree

Who is the perpetrator? Who is the victim? Where do the roles interchange? With poetry as a vehicle for testimony and transformation, we will take an honest and energetic look at how race and discrimination shape our realities. We will pull from our own experiences to discover our collective and individual strengths, and uncover common ground. Through writing and dialog this workshop will challenge each of its participants to identify themselves as part of the problem and the solution to prejudice and alienation in our society.

331. Our Failures: Co-ops that Crashed & Burned

Panel discussion

Some co-ops just don't make it. They may end violently (tear gas and riots) or peacefully (bankruptcy and vacancies). Panelists will share stories of some of the most famous co-op failures, as well as touch upon some of the most common ways that co-ops die. After sharing stories, the group can explore what went wrong, what went right, and how to apply these stories to present and future co-ops that are in danger of going under.

332. Palestinian Co-ops

Farheen Hakeem, NASCO Board Member

The co-op structure empowers individuals to self-govern and experience true democracy. How does this model work in an occupied country where the right to self-determination has been removed? This is the situation in Palestine, and yet over 500 cooperatives exist in this land still not recognized as a country. This discussion will detail the diversity of these co-ops, the challenges they face under occupation, and the sustainability of a people that refuse to "not exist."

341. Co-op Based Community Organizing

Max Krochmal, former NASCO Board Member

Jeremy Fredericksen, SCSHC Alum, former NASCO Properties Board Member

This workshop provides an overview of the process of community organizing in both political and social justice arenas. Participants will discuss how and why their co-ops can (and should) become active participants in their communities, and together we'll simulate a campaign from beginning to end, charting effective strategies and surveying different organizing tactics. We will conclude with a short

exercise on getting members to “turnout” for events. This class is a must for anyone interested in the nuts and bolts of organizing.

342. Oral History as an Organizing Tool

Elena Herrada, Centro Obrero de Detroit

This workshop will feature a video and discussion. The half hour video is a local, grassroots documentary of Mexican elders in Detroit who were interviewed about the repatriation of our community between 1929 and 1939. The purpose of the discussion and video is to highlight oral history as a tool for engendering intergenerational dialogue between family members, as well as an organizing tool in the community. This workshop will be in both Spanish and English and is of interest to all, but particularly Chicanos and Mexican Americans.

351. How to Make & Keep a Trans-Friendly Household

CJ Tune-Copeland, Transgender Michigan

This workshop will explore ways to create a trans-friendly environment in your co-op. It will touch on how to be an ally to transgender housemates and talk about how to go beyond just making your house a safe space for trans folks, to building a house culture that is trans-celebratory.

352. We're Expecting... A Little Co-oper!

Beth Barclay, Heiwa Co-op

Rebekah Williams, Nickel City Housing, NASCO Board Member

What would you do if someone announced at a house meeting they were pregnant? What would you do if a father of a three year old was interested in house membership? How can student co-ops successfully transition to a community co-op model that includes children and families? This interactive workshop will address issues that co-ops need to look at if they are considering having children and parents as members. We will also examine the ways that kids and co-ops offer a sustainable alternative to a largely age-segregated world. Issues of financial accessibility, parenting in community, and wild frantic dancing with toddlers will also be discussed.

361. Meal Planning and Nutrition

Molly Breslin, USCA and Cooperative Roots Alum, NASCO Board Member

“For dinner, we have mac ‘n’ cheese, curly fries, and rice pudding.” “We have to eat that borscht until it’s gone—we can’t waste all that food!” “Vegans can eat it, just pick out the eggs.” Sound familiar? This session will discuss protein, vitamins and minerals, seasonality, quantities, leftovers, and space considerations. We’ll also workshop methods for planning healthy, balanced meals for everyone in your community. Bring menus from your house.

362. Consent

Yonah Etshalom & Sharon Wasko, Philly’s Pissed and Philly Stands Up

Communication is key to functioning in any community. Yet, how do we incorporate this cooperative value into physical intimacy and our personal lives and make sexual spaces safe, positive, and enthusiastic? In this workshop we will explore consent in sexual situations through group discussion including verbal vs. nonverbal communication, the “awkwardness factor”, and making consent sexy! Using role play and interactive exercises we’ll also investigate different scenarios and practice ways of giving and withholding consent from the romantic to the assertive.

363. Men’s Issues

Sky Blue, Twin Oaks

Though men are afforded more power and privilege as well as the role of oppressor, there are huge hidden costs: emotional repression or numbness, isolation, pressure to succeed, emotional dependence, male guilt, etc. And, like other groups, the range of behavior and roles men are allowed to play without negative consequences is incredibly limited. Men have a lot of healing to do, with themselves and each other, from growing up in a violently oppressive, patriarchal society.

This workshop aims to be 100% guilt free. We’ll look at the negative effects our patriarchal society has on men, non-male identified people and society at large. We’ll explore tools and practices for breaking through the damaging patterns men develop through societal conditioning. Above all, we’ll try to broaden our scope of what it means to be a man. This will be for male identified people only.

371. Environmental Justice

Michelle Lin, Detroit Summer & Detroit Asian Youth Project

Environmental Justice is about building a movement of transformative politics to achieve and actualize a new way of living and relating to ourselves and the natural world. This workshop will introduce concepts of environmental justice through popular education and theatre of the oppressed techniques. What does the environment mean? What does it look like to achieve justice? How do we relate to environmental justice in our daily lives? Workshop participants will also learn about the origins of the environmental justice movement, as well as local struggles taking place in Michigan.

381. Worker-Ownership and the Food Cooperative

Jimmy Cooney, Maryland Food Collective

This course will ask participants to describe their background with food co-ops. With an understanding of the different models, and through exploration of the Maryland Food Co-op’s 30-year traditions, we will focus on collective decision-making and worker-ownership in food cooperatives. We will discuss common struggles and how we can shape our food co-ops into non-hierarchical, yet effective centers for community and food activism.

391. Developing New Co-ops Part 3: Housing Co-ops: Assessing Feasibility & Finding the Right Building

holly jo Sparks, NASCO Staff

Mark Fick, Stone Soup

(Participants are expected to have attended parts 1 & 2.) Before checking the for-sale listings and touring open houses, you will need some basic real estate savvy and financial tools. Researching the housing market, assessing properties, and understanding "pro forma" budgets are critical to your co-op's success. This course explores purchasing and leasing options for new co-ops, as well as strategies for embarking on your property search.

4

Course Block

411. Learning to Listen: Good Communication in Co-ops

Sheri Wander, Michigan Peace Team

Healthy group process, effective decision making, and strong community bonds all have one thing in common: good listening. This hands on workshop will focus on learning and practicing tools for better communication; including deep listening, giving feedback, communication in group settings, and during conflict. Perfect for anyone looking to brush up on their communication skills or gain new ones.

412. Quickbooks

Mary Ann McClure, MS Accounting and Taxes, Inc.

Quickbooks is an affordable option for computerized accounting for your co-op, and how you set it up can make all the difference in getting the reports that you want. If you want to hear some suggestions and get an opportunity to talk about what works, this workshop will address that. We will also have some problem-solving time available to work with existing files. Bring your company file/laptop with you if you want to schedule some one-on-one time during the weekend as a follow-up to this workshop.

413. Taking Care of the Place: Making Preventative Maintenance & Stewardship a Tradition in Your House

Jesse Livingston, NASCO Staff, ICC Ann Arbor

Jen Dombrowski, ICC Ann Arbor Alum

Want to know how folklore can fix a shower or how storytelling can stop the deterioration of a hardwood floor? In a housing co-op, the physical space we inhabit is the basis of our existence. Its state of repair has a huge impact on whether we have positive experiences in our homes. This workshop will focus on both the technical and psychological aspects of co-op maintenance. It will provide ideas for preventative maintenance projects, technical knowledge for

home repair and strategies for inspiring a spirit of stewardship in house members.

414. The Essentials of Dynamic Facilitation: How to Get Through the Agenda and Build Energy at the Same Time

Laird Schaub, Fellowship for Intentional Community

Good meeting facilitation can make the difference between pain and gain. We'll look at the basic qualities needed to become a full-service facilitator, the process agreements needed to spread your wings, and how to recognize those magic moments when passion can be harnessed to transform binding into bonding.

421. A Place at the Table: Storytelling for Inclusive Community

La'Ron Williams

This will be a workshop on using the power of Storytelling to create communities of inclusion. How do we become aware of the ways we unconsciously exclude those different from us? How can we create environments where everyone is able to enjoy a place at "The Welcome Table"?

431. From Cooperative Living to Collective Politics

Cindy Milstein, Free Society Collective, Institute for Anarchist Studies, and Black Sheep Books

Many people first experience the joys of participatory forms of organization in a housing co-op. But creating nice lives for ourselves shouldn't be enough. How we can move toward applying the values and lessons from our domestic situations to society as a whole, in hopes of helping to ensure an ever-freer world for everyone? In this workshop, I'll use the story of my own collective, Free Society, as a case study in anarchist political organizing. I'll look at how our collective formed, our structure and mission, and our current and future projects, from study groups and popular education, to an all-volunteer public space, to political campaigns and collaborative writing; scrutinizing how collectives can function as the confederated core of a libertarian left movement. Participants are encouraged to bring their own stories of collectives to share.

451. Conducting Diversity Awareness Workshops in Your Co-op

Shannon Tubbs, The Inter Cooperative Council, U of Michigan

ICC-Ann Arbor was awarded a grant to conduct diversity awareness workshops in our student cooperative houses. Come to this workshop to learn how it has worked, was hasn't, and how to start your own program.

461. Building Radical Community-Based Mental Health Support Systems in a World Gone Mad

Icarus Project,

Anthony Meza-Wilson, Barrington Collective

As cooperative communities, how can we help members with mental health issues feel less alienated? How can we

respond compassionately to crisis and encourage health? How can we talk about altered states of consciousness and what it means to be "crazy?" How can we encourage self-care, self-determination, and personal growth in our communities? This presentation will be led by mental health activist, Anthony Meza-Wilson, and members of The Icarus Project, a grassroots network of people struggling with the dangerous gifts commonly labeled as "mental illnesses." Come learn about the work we're doing and join a discussion about strategies for creating mental health support structures and a culture of radical wellness in your cooperatives.

471. For Sustainable Kitchens

Ma'ikwe Ludwig, Sol Space Consulting

There are 8 essential ingredients that every cook (or kitchen manager) must know in order to serve up a sustainable meal. In addition to the more commonly known factors (such as organic versus conventional growing) there's a whole lot to know to make your food friendlier to the planet. Class includes a personal food survey (and it's community adaptation) to help figure out how you are doing in the bigger scheme of things, and encouragement and stories from an experienced community kitchen manager, organic garden coordinator and long-time sustainability teacher.

472. Biodiesel Cooperatives

Jim Leidel

Biodiesel is a diesel fuel substitute made from animal or plant oils instead of petroleum. It greatly reduces the emissions from diesel engines, as well as supporting local jobs and reducing dependence on foreign oil while improving safety and engine performance. Vegetable oil based biodiesel completes a closed loop carbon cycle reducing your transportation contribution to global CO2.

This workshop, led by experienced biodiesel enthusiasts, will cover the history of biodiesel, the basics of making your own at home from fresh or waste cooking oil, and an overview of setting up biodiesel production co-ops. It will include samples of various home brewed biodiesel as well as a live demonstration of the biodiesel transesterification process. Participants will take home references that will help them make their own biodiesel.

481. Worker Ownership as a Community Economic Development Strategy: Examples from African American History

Jessica Gordon Nembhard, Grassroots Economic Organizing Newsletter and Eastern Conference for Workplace Democracy

Ajowa Nzinga Ifateyo, Grassroots Economic Organizing
The benefits from worker ownership contribute in many ways to community economic development (ced). Participants will identify needs in communities and then ways that cooperatives, particularly worker owned cooperatives benefit communities and contribute to ced. Discussion will focus on needs of marginalized communities and explore the history of African American worker cooperatives and

community owned businesses. There may be some role-playing such as production of testimony to a city council and the enacting of a hearing on whether or not to grant city job creation money to a newly forming worker cooperative.

491. Developing New Co-ops, Part 4: Negotiating Your Way to Ownership

Margie Greene, USCA

Gray Ayer, Portland Collective Housing

You've organized, incorporated, planned & budgeted—and by gum, you're finally ready to buy some property! Determined to achieve this dream, new organizers are often frustrated by the fast & loose reality of real estate and banks. This course covers all phases of purchasing, from borrowing and bidding, to dealing with sellers, brokers and lenders. We will learn to play our cards in order to reach the best sales price, loan package, and closing terms. While this course will focus on first-time buyers, it is equally valuable for co-ops who are in need of money, or who are looking to expand. This course follows others in the development series, but is also suitable on its own.

5

Course Block

501. Giving Dynamic Trainings and Reporting Back Home

Rebecca Nole, former NASCO Staff, ICC Ann Arbor Alumni

This course will discuss strategies for planning and administering successful and stimulating trainings specific to your organization. We will be sharing ideas and learning new techniques for training your Boards, house officers, and new members. In addition to organizing information receiving, this course will also touch upon how to partake in information sharing. We will learn how to apply what we've learned at Institute and bring it back home to our coops. The reporting back

and teaching elements in cooperative communities are just as important as the learning and training.

502. The Mysterious Presence

Jim Jones, NASCO Staff

What makes your co-op unique? Why do co-ops last over time instead of collapsing when the individual members leave? How do house "personalities" develop, and why are they so important to the success or failure of the cooperative? Our groups have tremendous institutionalized turnover, yet they are some of the strongest co-ops ever to be born. Come find out why, and how to build on your shared culture.

503. Co-ops in Times of Crisis

Jeremy Fredrickson, SCSHC Alum, Former NASCO Properties Board Member

This workshop will address how to prevent co-op crises, how to cope if one occurs, and how our co-ops can best support one another in times of crisis. Crises can occur in many forms, whether via a fire, a financial breakdown, lawsuits, or problematic co-op cultures. Newcomers and veterans of all different types of co-op crises are encouraged to attend, as this workshop will consist largely of participant-driven brainstorming and discussion.

511. Consensus for Dummies

Laird Schaub, Fellowship for Intentional Community

Making decisions by consensus is an unnatural act. At least it is for people raised in a hierarchic and competitive culture—which is just about everybody. We'll go over the cooperative roots of consensus and explain why it requires unlearning old adversarial responses in order to succeed. We'll go over the essential ingredients of consensus, explain blocking and standing aside, and make the case for why it's the most efficient form of decision making, once you've learned how to do it well. Really.

521. Women: Our Stories, Our Future

Sheila Ritter, ICC Ann Arbor

What has changed for women in the last 50 years, and what is the same? Where do we want to go from here? We will share stories from our lives and our co-ops, and support each other in looking for ways to make sure we are treated with equality and respect.

541. Microradio

Prometheus Radio Project

Organizers from the Prometheus collective, which builds community radio stations and otherwise works and organizes for community-based, democratic media access, will speak on the Micro Radio movement and the past few years' brilliant successes for media democracy. As cooperatives in North America plan to share their resources and energy with their larger communities, Prometheus will teach people how to agitate for community radio in this pivotal year, where thousands more radio stations might become available.

551. Anti-Oppression Action Camp: Lessons Learned

Rebekah Williams, NASCO Board Member

"Perhaps the theater is not revolutionary in itself; but have no doubts, it is a rehearsal of revolution!"

- Augusto Boal

The Anti-Oppression Action Camp is a week of intensive trainings on privilege and anti-oppression work. Camp participants return to their communities with concrete ideas and strategies to be agents of creative change and resistance against racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism, and other forms of oppression. Camp graduates will facilitate this

class, sharing with you their favorite activities, and some of those concrete ideas and strategies they took home from camp. If you couldn't make it to Action Camp, this is your opportunity to find out what happened.

561. Power Dynamics in Cooperative Groups

Sky Blue, Twin Oaks

By living cooperatively we're challenging one of the most fundamental assumptions that our society is based on: hierarchy and the dynamics of power-over. Unfortunately, simply stepping into an environment where cooperative decision-making is practiced doesn't mean that we simply step out of our conditioning to compete and succeed.

We need to train ourselves to make decisions with the consent of all. We need to learn to think about the needs of others and the group as being as important as our own. We need to identify and deal with the old patterns of individualistic thinking, control, and manipulation. This workshop will work with a combination of theory and specific examples. We'll work on identifying common patterns and dynamics and look at how to shift towards attitudes and practices, as well as systems and structures that empower everyone and promote cooperation.

571. Ecovillages

Ma'ikwe Ludwig, Sol Space Consulting

An Ecovillage is: A place—designed for ecological sustainability and community-building. A context—to integrate all the aspects of an engaged, conscious, activist life. People—dedicated to being the experiment for how to live sustainably within our culture. An intersection—of the sustainability, group process, business and communal-living worlds. A future—modeling conscious design for planning our neighborhoods.

This introduction to Ecovillage life will focus on the social, economic, worldview and ecological aspects of building sustainability, as told from the perspective of an ecovillage member. We'll go on a whirlwind internet tour of current projects, and look at the convergence between the world's best thinkers and most active do-ers in the field. We'll also include a little on the essential ingredients for successful ecovillage projects.

572. Intensive Gardening: Growing Vegetables in Urban Settings

Lizzie Ayer, Growing Hope

Urban gardening is an old activity with recent popular resurgence around the world. In this workshop, we will be discussing community gardening and school gardening, and learning about local gardening projects and how you can get involved in your community. This workshop will also touch on intensive gardening, an inexpensive way to grow vegetables in a very small space. Intensive gardening is ideal for co-ops that want to save money and eat healthily by growing some of their own food. We will learn some basics that will help you get started gardening in your co-op's backyard.

581. Starting Up a Worker-Owned Cooperative

Lindsay Cole, Sustainability Solutions Group Workers Cooperative (SSG)

This course will explore the trials, tribulations and triumphs of the start-up and first year of operation of Sustainability Solutions Group workers cooperative. SSG is a small consulting company working in Canada and doing green building, sustainability assessment, food security, and other sustainability consulting work for a range of public and private sector clients. Participants will also discuss issues and questions that they have in dreaming, visioning, and reality checking their own worker co-op start up so that we can draw on our collective experiences.

582. Other Economies Are Possible: Strategies and Tools for Building a Solidarity Economy

Ethan Miller, Grassroots Economic Organizing

This workshop will focus on sharing and developing concrete strategies for democratic economic organizing. We will explore the power of stories in shaping our collective sense of what kinds of economic livelihoods are possible (& impossible) to create.

How do dominant stories about the nature of "capitalism" and "the economy" hinder our organizing? What kinds of stories can we tell that might empower us to see new possibilities, build relationships and articulate positive and compelling economic visions?

Using the story of "solidarity economics"—a broad, democratic and cooperative vision for economic organizing that is emerging from social movements around the world—we will ask: Can we create a common language & practice of economic struggle and creation that encourages autonomy, democracy and diversity while also fostering a broad sense of solidarity? How can we link together existing alternatives into a broader, mutually-supportive movement for social transformation?

591. Developing New Co-ops Part 5: Putting it All Together: The Business Plan

Brad Karrer, TCG Development Services, LLC

Many "would-be" co-ops dissolve before they even get off the ground. Others find themselves in crisis when faced with lease expirations, financing deadlines, or turnover in leadership. The business plan serves as a guide for the challenges ahead, as well as a tool to mobilize community support or secure funding. This course will introduce the fundamental elements of business planning and how to turn your dream of starting a co-op into a tangible project.

Accessibility

We actively strive to create an event which is totally accessible for all who wish to participate. We aim to avoid replicating the barriers in society which exclude and marginalize people.

Much of the power to foster a safe and respectful atmosphere lies with you, the participants. For this reason we have a zero tolerance policy for racist, sexist, classist, homophobic or other oppressive language or behaviors.

We have taken the following steps to ensure that the 2006 NASCO Institute is accessible:

- + Providing a gender neutral restroom
- + Offering need based scholarships
- + Making affordable childcare available
- + Taking steps to house participants in co-ops where they will feel safe and comfortable
- + Assuring the building, including all restrooms, is wheelchair accessible
- + Providing ingredient lists for all meals
- + Including vegan, vegetarian and meat options
- + Asking that participants refrain from wearing strong smelling perfumes or lotions
- + Requesting that all presenters speak loudly and clearly, respecting the needs of those who have impaired hearing
- + Providing a quiet room where participants can take a break and rest

All of our attempts to equalize access are made within the limits of current resources and therefore are not perfect. However, we welcome suggestions for improvement and will do our best to implement them.

We appreciate your help in making the 2006 NASCO Institute an event that is welcoming and accessible to all who attend.

Conference Fees

	Before Oct. 7th	After Oct. 7th
Member of NASCO Active Member Group	US \$175 CA \$200	US \$225 CA \$255
Member of NASCO Associate Member Group or Individual Member	US \$230 CA \$260	US \$280 CA \$320
Non-Member	US \$285 CA \$325	US \$330 CA \$375

Registration fees include all receptions, workshops and conference meals—Saturday night banquet and Sunday lunch.

Scholarships

Scholarships are offered to those who need financial assistance in order to attend Institute. These scholarships are funded by donations from private individuals and charitable organizations. In distribution of scholarship funds, priority is given to individuals who have limited financial resources and hail from co-ops which also have limited resources. These scholarships will also be distributed to help subsidize the travel costs of individuals who must travel great distances to attend Institute.

The last day to apply for a scholarship is September 20th. Scholarship recipients will be notified by September 30th. Please visit our website to fill out an application.

Many NASCO member co-ops offer their own scholarships and arrange travel for their members to attend Institute. Contact your co-op office to inquire about these scholarships.

Housing

Some free housing is available in local community homes and student housing co-ops. If you are interested in this option, you must fill out the application for community housing. These spaces are limited so please apply early.

Rooms have also been reserved at local hotels for Institute participants. For more information about how to reserve these rooms at a discounted conference rate, please see our website.

Childcare

In order to make Institute accessible for parents of young children, we can provide referrals to several experienced childcare providers who have agreed to be available during Saturday & Sunday of Institute.

Parents will negotiate payment directly with childcare providers. NASCO will reimburse parents for their childcare expenses on a sliding scale basis, so that parents pay \$15- \$30 per day.

If you need childcare during Institute, please fill out the Childcare section of the registration form. Contact Megan at megan@nasco.coop, with questions or concerns about childcare.



<http://nasco.coop/institute>

