

Please complete the following candidate profile and question form.

Sat Jiwan “SJ” Ikle-Khalsa

Candidate Profile

1) Education (degrees held, schools attended, any relevant coursework)
BAs – Linguistics and Cognitive Science; and Psychology, Brandeis University, 1999

2) Present Occupation:
Tennis Instructor, Environmental Activist

3) Community Involvement (include volunteer service, outreach, etc.):
Board member:
Chesapeake Climate Action Network since 2002 – present (board pres/vp approx 2005-2008
(volunteer/members since 2001)
Alternative Gifts of Greater Washington (Alternative Gift Fair) since 2007 (volunteer since 2001)
Save Our Sky Home Heating Cooperative (aka Corn coop) – member since 2004, president since
2007
Washington DC Solar and Green Homes Tour - 2007-2011

Takoma Park:
Takoma Voice Going Green columnist – 2007-2011
Takoma Park Green Building Group and Green Homes Tour - 2008-2011
Transition Takoma - 2009-2011
Task Force for Environmental Action – 2005-2007
Committee on the Environment (co chair) – 2013- present
periodic Takoma Play Day volunteer and community tennis facilitator. 2009-present

Please check the following areas in which you have experience:

Y	Group process and/or group decision-making
Y	Meeting facilitation
some	Public speaking
Y	Writing newsletter articles
Y	Strategic planning
some	Accounting and/or finance
some	Project management
Y	Online file sharing and calendars (Google) or website editing or management
Y	Volunteer programs
Y	Past and/or present participation on a board of directors
Y	Retail and/or Other Business experience
no	Legal training and/or experience



Other

Food service: Whole Foods Market and Harvest Food Coop -cashier, baker, bakery counter help, bagger 1999-2001– and restaurant food prep and short order cook. 1995-1999.
Green building consultant and homeowner (energy efficiency, renewable energy, residential construction and renovation.) 2006-2012

Candidate Questions:

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Board?

I've been a member of TPSS Co-op and other cooperative grocery operations for nearly 30 years, starting when I was about ten and my family would breakdown trailer truck deliveries with other members of our community in suburban Boston area. During and primarily after college, I both worked at Whole Foods Market and volunteered at Harvest Food Coop in Cambridge, MA. And upon my first visit to TPSS, I joined even though I was still living in Baltimore at the time. I figured I would eventually pursue a position on the Co-op board, and now is a good time for me to do so. I'm rotating off my city environment committee position, and I am motivated to help navigate the Co-op through the junction development construction project and possible renovations and expansion plans.

2. What experience or involvement have you had with the TPSS Food Co-op or other cooperative enterprises or Boards of Directors?

I have and currently serve on a number of non-profit Board of Directors (Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Alternative Gift Fair, Corn Cooperative, and the city's Committee on the Environment, and previously the city's Task Force on Environmental Action). I've had leadership roles in most of those groups at some time, compiling agendas, taking notes, facilitating meetings, and updating bylaws.

3. What skills, qualities, formal training, education, or professional or volunteer experience would you bring that directly contribute to the mission of the TPSS Food Co-op?

Those experiences along with others in food service, and with Green Building (and conventional) design and construction projects, gives me a wide range of exposure to project components which integrated together can contribute to sound strategic decision-making. Specifically, I've worked on bylaws, databases, financial systems, donor and member relations, advocacy, project planning, conflict resolution and mediation.

Mediation – while not having formal training in mediation, I often find myself in situations where I can see both sides of an argument and help those involved to hear the other side as a way to work toward resolution and compromise. My patient and calm demeanor helps in these situations.

4. What is your favorite Co-operative Principle and why?

#6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

By working together through local, national, regional, and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

This is currently my favorite cooperative principle. I like the business model and ideals of ours and other food coops (though they do have some variations), and I like the idea of sharing this kind of alternative economic model to other industries and regions, with a pledge to work for a greater common good. Engaging consumers at a “gut level” through sustainable food systems and choices is a very powerful way to begin or continue to expand a conversation of how we can work together to build a better world... in our local communities and on a broader scale. In the last couple years a good college friend helped found and currently manages the relatively new and thriving Durham Food Coop. I hope to share and learn much from her and their successes, including how to expertly guide a former President of the United States, if one happens to stop in one day. (She made the local news giving Bill Clinton a mini-tour.)

5. Is there anything else you'd like to share or address?

Communication/Outreach – I want to hear from members and customers. What do you like? What would you change? What good ideas do you have to improve our store? I'll be spending time in front of the store soliciting more feedback and getting a chance to meet you and you to meet me. Look for the guy with a beard, tennis equipment, Peace Salaam Shalom shirt, or a big smile and say “hello.” Or call or email me: 508.641.4706 – Satjiwan@brandeis.edu

Here's my mini platform:

First priority - work to maintain and improve a fiscally-healthy co-op through internal and operational improvements and addressing external realities of the marketplace in general and disruption/transitions that are likely to occur with junction development project.

Ensuring the coop's stability and healthy future outlook, I would then look for options for three additional stretch goals:

- within strong preferences for natural and organic and fair trade and local foods, endeavoring to carry product lines and price points that appeal to a more economically diverse customer and member base. A more accessible “people's coop” as I've heard envisioned by Howard Kohn. First step could be a sliding scale membership capitalization fee.
- supporting other coops- keying off a cooperative principle I would like to see our successful coop do more for encouraging, talking about, and when possible, fiscally supporting other cooperatives and alternative economic models.
- addressing industry waste - work toward reducing waste in food and packaging and operations and increasing recycling and composting and donations/discounted items.

Thanks and Have a Great Day!

SJ – Sat Jiwan