

Bios of Speakers

Manisha Shah, Esq. is the Deputy General Counsel of the United Nations Federal Credit Union, a cooperative financial institution serving the UN community. (Many of you may very well be familiar with UNFCU, as members yourselves.) Since joining the Office of General Counsel in 2006, she has been involved in advising the credit union on a broad array of legal and regulatory matters. She is a founding member and co-leader of UNFCU's volunteer Green Team. Manisha provides pro bono legal services to the Kilimanjaro Initiative NGO and is a member of the Association of Corporate Counsel. Prior to joining UNFCU, Manisha lived in Vienna, Austria where she worked at one of Austria's largest law firms helping in the development of the firm's regional offices throughout Central and Eastern Europe.

Dr. Leslie Dreifus has been a member/owner of the Flatbush Food Coop since 1982, a board member for the last 12 years, and since 2010, its Board president. Flatbush Food Coop began in 1976 as an 11-member shopping club and has since grown to more than 5,000 members operating out of a 6,000-square foot store featuring organic, local, fair trade, sustainable products. A chiropractor practicing in Brooklyn for the last 30 years, Dr. Dreifus specializes in the treatment of sports injuries; even being selected to work at the US Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. A frequent lecturer and newsletter author, he also serves on the board of Community Board 14 in Brooklyn, and is the President of the Midwood Merchants Association.

Vanessa Bransburg, Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), has been the Cooperative Coordinator at the Center for Family Life in Brooklyn, NY since February 2008. She provides technical assistance and consultation to three Sunset Park, Brooklyn Worker-Owner Cooperatives, including Si se Puede Women's Cooperative "We can do it!", as well as guidance to Collective and other evolving cooperatives around New York City. Vanessa has also been a leader in the development of the NYC Network of Worker Cooperatives ("Nick Nock") since its inception in 2009.

Marina Metalios, project manager, Urban Homesteading Assistance Board, the oldest "homesteading" organization in the United States, has worked in the New York housing and tenant justice movement for over 25 years; serving at UHAB for the last 18 years; five in her role as project manager. She also serves on the Board of Tenants PAC, the Steering Committee of the Real Rent Reform Campaign, and on the (NY State) Tenants + Neighbors Leadership Committee. A graduate of Barnard College in New York, she received a Javits Fellowship to obtain a Master's in Public Affairs from Columbia University's School of International + Public Affairs.

Housing will be covered by a three-some, so vast is the scope and impact by cooperatives! **Anya Irons joined Urban Homesteading Assistance Board in 2007 and serves as its in-house general counsel.** As the director of the legal department, she oversees the rehabilitation and cooperative conversion of UHAB's entire development pipeline - over 70 buildings or 2,000 units. As an integral part of preserving the affordable coops created by UHAB, she helps ensure

the legal survival of this unique form of ownership and fields various issues on coop management and interest inheritance. Anya's legal specialties also include Elder Law, Wills, Trusts and Estates. She is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College and New York Law School.

For the last 32 years, **Mary Ann Rothman has been the Executive Director** of The Council of New York Cooperatives & Condominiums (CNYC Inc.), a membership organization providing information, education and advocacy to the boards and residents of housing cooperatives and condominiums in the New York area. She is responsible for organizing its seminars and conferences, editing its publications, and representing housing cooperatives and condominiums on various boards, committees and task forces. She lives in a cooperative in Manhattan, where she has often served on the board of directors.