

Wild Oats Board of Directors FY 2010/2011

The Wild Oats Board of Directors represents the interests of co-op members—overseeing co-op operations, setting membership policies, and ensuring that the principles of the co-op inform all of its activities. The Board's monthly meetings, which are open to members, take place in the store. To contact the Board, please email board@wildoats.coop.



Alison Kolesar, President

Alison and her family became members of Wild Oats soon after moving to Williamstown in 1984. She has served on several different boards within the community and currently organizes a monthly home-delivered meal for some 65 elderly and needy recipients in Williamstown through St. John's Church, to which Wild Oats contributes. Alison works as an artist, illustrator, editor and writer. She has been a member of the Wild Oats board since 2008.



David Zimmerman, Vice President

David and his wife have made Williamstown their home for the past 18 years, and David has been a member of the Economics Department at Williams College since 1991. Much of his work at Williams focuses on income inequality and poverty and on the economics of higher education. He has three sons, all of whom have attended local public schools. David believes strongly in contributing to his community, and has coached youth hockey, soccer and baseball, served on the Board at the Taconic Golf Club in Williamstown, and currently serves as a Corporator for the Williamstown Savings Bank. He and his family have been members of Wild Oats for many years and greatly value having Wild Oats in their community. David joined the Wild Oats board in 2009.



Peter Mehlin, Treasurer

Peter grew up in Williamstown and lived and worked in New York City for 40 years, mostly as a librarian in the Brooklyn Public system. In 2002 he moved back to his family home; and since then he has been an active volunteer for many local organizations including the Clark Museum, the Williamstown Elementary School, the Williamstown Public Library, and Images Cinema. Shortly after Peter returned to Williamstown, he started shopping at Wild Oats, at first occasionally but then more often as his interest in local produce and humanely raised meat grew. He became a weekly worker at Wild Oats and in 2007 he joined the Wild Oats board. Peter has found being a board member to be an interesting experience, and says he has learned more about the food business than he ever expected during his time as a board member.



Judy Raab, Clerk

Judy is a long-time member of Wild Oats. As she watched the co-op expand over the years, she became more aware of how important a food cooperative can be to a community, and her interest in serving on the Wild Oats board grew. Judy is retired from the Williams College Museum of Art, where she was on the staff for 25 years. Her responsibilities at the museum included initiating and managing a membership and travel program, assisting the museum's advisory board, and arranging for numerous special events both locally and across the U.S. Her work at the museum put her in contact with many chefs and caterers, which in turn sparked her interest in cooking with fresh ingredients and in the growing movement to eat locally. Judy joined the Wild Oats board of directors in 2008.

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Erwin Bernhart

Erwin has a degree in Facilities Management from the University of The Hague in Holland, where he majored in building and construction. After college, he was drafted into the Royal Netherlands Army and served as Lieutenant for a little over a year. When his service in the Army ended, he moved to St. Maarten to run a small beach hotel, where he met his wife. He then relocated to the U.S., where he worked as restaurant manager for the Albany Marriott Hotel. Erwin left this position to pursue a career in facilities management, and has worked as the manager of the Faculty Club at Williams College for the past 10 years. He became a member of the Wild Oats board in 2009.



Joan Edwards

Joan has lived in Williamstown for 30 years and has been a member of Wild Oats for much of that time. She has a long-term interest in sustainable agriculture and organic, biocide-free food, and is a fan of local foods. At Williams, where she teaches biology, she has served in the Administration as Dean of the College as well as on numerous committees including the Environmental Advisory Committee when this group worked on a plan for a biocide-free campus. Joan notes that her research interests, biodiversity, ecology and botany, align with her interest in food because biodiversity in our food plants is critical for maintaining our crops and providing unique culinary experiences. She has served on the Wild Oats board since 2009, and is interested in fostering the co-op's contributions to healthy eating and a healthy environment.



Mary Feger

After living and teaching in Montreal for 26 years, Mary and her husband moved to Williamstown in 1996 and were delighted to discover Wild Oats and Caretaker Farm in their new community. Eating fresh, organic, locally grown produce has become an increasingly important part of her life over the years. She is eager to learn more about food cooperatives and how they are governed and is looking forward to representing the members of Wild Oats as a Board member.



Jeanne Matthew

Jeanne Matthew has been fascinated by food since she was a child. She grew up in the Berkshires, daughter of an excellent, traditional Russian cook who married a curious experimental vegetarian cook. She became aware of the magic of co-ops at the ripe old age of five, when her parents joined one. Since then, her life has been an endless pursuit of the freshest and most environmentally friendly foods, in an attempt to simplify the process of feeding as many people as possible. Her Stone Soup Café in Adams, in existence for just over a year, is a natural outgrowth of her passion for food. Co-operative living is of great interest to Jeanne, and her curiosity has driven her to see what she and Wild Oats can learn from each other.



Carol Stein-Payne

Wild Oats has been an important part of the Payne family's life for many years. As vegetarians, Carol and her family have learned much about good nutrition, eating local and more from Wild Oats. Carol's children, Rachel and David, have both been employees of Wild Oats, and everyone in her family has a great appreciation for the Wild Oats community. Carol is currently employed by Clarksburg Elementary School as its school nurse/health teacher and by the Student Health Center at Williams College. She looks forward to putting her skills and experience as an RN, parent, cook, gardener, and community member to work as a Wild Oats board member. Carol joined the board in 2009.