

## Wild Oats Board of Directors FY 2009/2010

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](mailto:board@wildoats.coop).



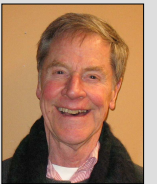
### **Zelda Stern, President**

Zelda has served on the Wild Oats board since 2000, and has been a member of the co-op since 1985. With a background in communications for both nonprofit cultural organizations and for-profit companies in the Berkshires and New York, she brings a broad background in marketing, public relations, business and public service to the Wild Oats board. Zelda and her family have relied on Wild Oats for the past 25 years for food they can trust and for the sense of community that Wild Oats provides. In her new role as president of the board, Zelda will continue to work to ensure Wild Oats' future as a thriving cooperative business that promotes healthy food choices, local production, environmental sustainability, and social responsibility.



### **Alison Kolesar, Vice 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.



### **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.

### **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.



### **John Wilson**

John has been a member of the Wild Oats board for almost 10 years. He has seen many changes during his tenure as a board member, including the co-op's move to a new location, its investment in the new building to bring it up to green standards, the change in general management, and the ebb and flow of staff. Although he may miss the time when Wild Oats was a small co-op, John is pleased that the co-op has maintained a strong sense of local community as it has grown and that it continues to add new members. John, who grew up on a local poultry farm, still resides in the same house in which he grew up and was a fan of local foods long before the term "localvore" was coined.



### **David Zimmerman**

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.