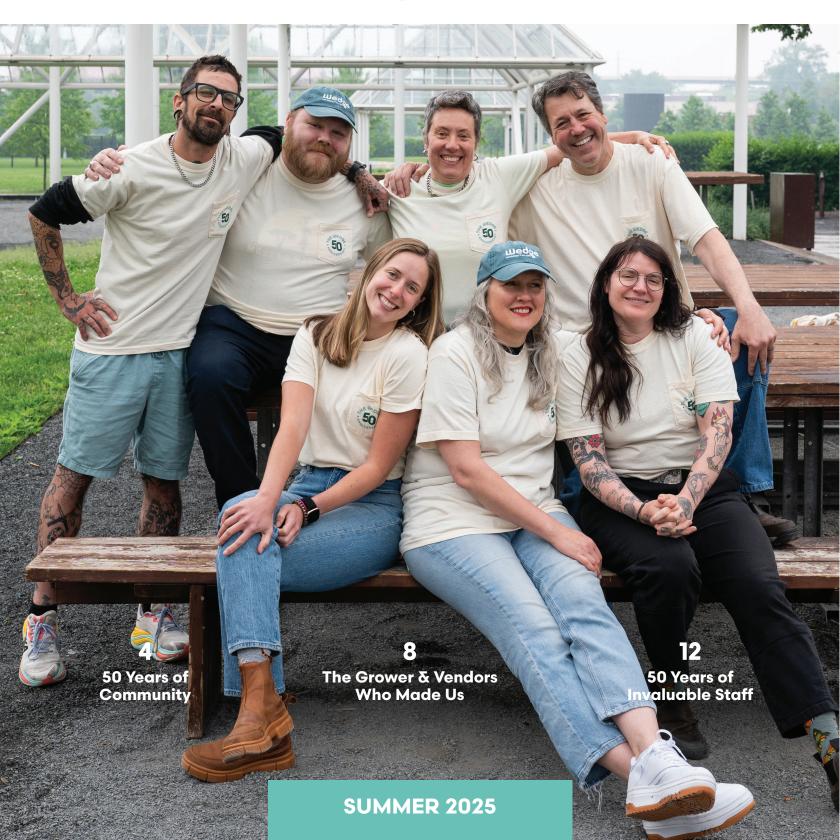


# CULTIVATE

**Know Your Food | Know Your Farmers** 





**Nick Seeberger** CEO

**Adam Gower** 

Director of Human Resources

#### Rebecca Lee

Senior Director of Purchasing & Merchandising

#### Jill Holter

Director of Marketing

## **Doug Peterson**

Wedge Lyndale Store Director

#### **Joleen Baker**

Coop Partners Warehouse Director

### Lisa Coyne

Wedge Linden Hills Store

#### Shannon Ash

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and rapid change. In times like that, and still today, the co-op model provides communities with the means of meeting their shared needs through democratic and local control. For 50 years, our co-op has been building community and a stronger local food system at our Lyndale and Linden Hills locations, and through our produce distribution warehouse Co-op Partners Warehouse.

What's so special about co-ops?

Co-operatives are mutual self-help organizations. The idea is that individual needs can be best accomplished by working with others who have similar needs. At the Wedge, our mission is, "Building community by developing a strong, local food system." We come together as a community, across cultural, racial, religious, and political boundaries to strengthen our community's resiliency through a vibrant and well-connected food system that is good for the environment and our health. All are welcome to come to the co-op and shop to support your well-being and the well-being of our community.

Who could have imagined that a charminally compact store front at 715 West Franklin Avenue would grow to become one of the largest natural foods co-ops in the country? As we reflect on the last 50 years and the strong

the local food system, we have so much to be proud of. This means everyone who is part of our local food system grows stronger together!

So what's next for the Wedge?

As we consider the challenges we face in our community, I am more energized than ever by the role the co-op can play. Climate change is an existential threat; but the Wedae aims to be a leader in environmental conservation in both practices and the products we carry. Progress made toward addressing disparate treatment and outcomes of people based on race, ethnicity, gender, and other identities is being threatened, and the co-op will not retreat from our position that all in our community are welcome at the Wedge. Global instability makes local supply chains that much more important, and the strength of our local food system provides resiliency.

Thank you to all our owners, employees and producers who have made the Wedge what it is today. Working together, imagine what and where we will be in another 50 years!



In cooperation, Nick Seeberger

# Check It Out

# Save the Date

**Upcoming Events** 



## **Twin Cities Pride Event**

Brat cookout at Wedge Lyndale, stop by on your way to or from Loring Park.

> Sunday, June 29, 11am - 2pm



## Cake & Ice **Cream Event**

Celebrate our 50th birthday with cake and ice cream at both stores.

> Saturday, July 19, 11am - 1pm



## Mill City **Farmers Market**

Join us at the Mill City Cooks demo tent where we'll make a seasonal dish to sample!

Saturday, August 30, 10am

# **Annual Owner Meeting**

Celebrate 50 years, and join us as we look ahead to the next 50. Enjoy food, drinks, live music, a guest speaker, kid's activities, prizes, and giveaways!

Tuesday, October 21, Glass House Minneapolis

# **Attention Owners**

We listened to your feedback and are excited to share our updated Owner Benefits. There are so many great reasons to be a co-op Owner, but here are the highlights that will be effective July 1, 2025.

**30% OFF** 

**Owners Love Local** on favorite and new local brands twice a month.

5% **OFF** 

**Senior Discounts** for owners 65+ every Wednesday

Co-op Affordability Project (CAP) save 10% off every shop for qualifying owners.

CAP

5% **OFF** 

**Monthly Discount** to be used on the shopping trip of YOUR choice

Co-op Perks

offers sent directly to your inbox with coupon rewards for your loyal shopping. wedge.coop/digital-opt-in

Vote

Vote in the Board of Elections and run for a seat on the Board of Directors.

10% OFF

on Cases of products for volume discounts

# **Owners-Only**

discounts throughout the store every month.

# Dividend

Patronage dividend in profitable years, and when voted on by the Board.



**Our Upcoming** 

**Change Matters Partners** 

July

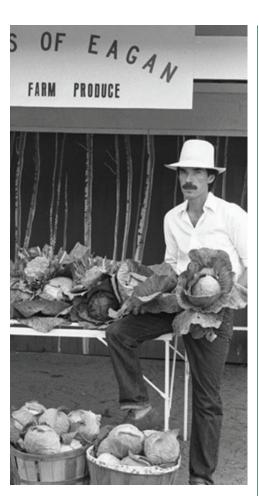
**eQuality Pathways to Potential** 

**August** 

**Immigrant Law Center** of Minnesota

September

Somali American **Women Action Center** 

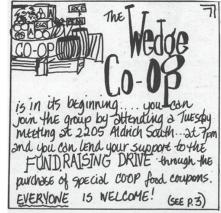


# LOOKING BACK

at 50 Years of Community

50 years ago the idea of a community-run grocery store took root and became the Wedge Community Co-op. Though locations and product assortment have grown and changed, we are driven by the same mission: building community by developing a strong local food system. Here's a fun look back on our big milestones, and other happenings in our community and world.

1974



The Wedge started after Deb Wexler and a friend organized a meeting in her backyard that summer. In November the Wedge opened in the basement shop on 712 W Franklin in the Wedge neighborhood.

Richard Nixon resigns as US president. In 1975 Vietnam War ends. Minnesota Co-op War begins.

1976



A group of Linden Hills residents raised over \$4,000 to open the store and signed a lease at 4303 Upton Ave S. Linden Hills Co-op opened with 160 members. By August, membership had grown to 400.

**US celebrates Bicentennial.** 

1979



The Wedge moved to an old 7/11 store on what is now the parking lot of our current location.

"Rapper's Delight" was the first major hip-hop song hit.

1991

Lyndale moved from being volunteer-run to a staff-led company.

Halloween Blizzard hits the Twin Cities with 28 inches of snow.

1992



The Lyndale location moved out of the old 7/11 and into our current location that we built from the ground up.

"Silence of the Lambs" won best picture at the Academy Awards.

1999



CPW formed to provide produce from local farms to bigger markets.

President Bill Clinton is impeached.

2003



Linden Hills discontinued the volunteer-led model; moved to full-time staff-led company.

Apple iTunes debuts.

2005

Who Sells the Electric Car? We Do!



For a short time, Linden Hills was in the electric car sales business!

Hurricane Katrina strikes New Orleans.

2008



The Wedge bought the historic Gardens of Eagan and transitioned it into a certified organic incubator farm. After seven years, it closed in 2015.

Barack Obama is elected as the first African American president.

2015

Opened the Wedge Table on Nicollet Ave, which closed in 2021.

2016

Owners of Wedge Co-op and Linden Hills Co-op voted to consolidate, creating Twin Cities Co-op Partners (TCCP).

MN icon Prince passes away.

2023

Wedge Community Co-ops became the primary retail brand for our two retail stores.

2025

Wedge Community Co-ops celebrate 50 years and look forward to serving their community another 50 years! Did you know?

There are lots of co-op celebrations this year! It's the International Year of the Co-op.

Read more: https://ica.coop/en

Our friends at Lakewinds Food
Co-op are celebrating their
50th this year – congrats,
fellow cooperators!



Do you have a favorite 50th memory?

We'd love to know about it! Send your quote or photo to marketing@wedge.coop and we may feature you on social media!



4 5

# WEDGE RECIPES

# **FOR TODAY**

A lot of delicious food has come through our co-ops! Including recipes for Wedge Made products, newsletter inspiration, and even owner contributions. We pulled a few from the archives and updated them for today. We think they're perfect for summer – or any time.

# **Shrimp Salad Roll**

#### **SERVES 4**

- **1lb Shrimp,** peeled cooked, halved
- 3/4 cup Dilly Thousand Island sauce\*
- 1 stalk of celery, thinly sliced
- 1/2 Fennel bulb, thinly sliced
- 1 cup Fresh herbs, (dill, parsley, basil, chive) roughly chopped
- Old Bay seasoning to taste
- Black pepper and salt to taste
- 4 Brioche hot dog buns
- A mix of lettuces, Butterleaf, Redleaf, Mizuna

- 1. Toss shrimp with Dilly Thousand Island Dressing.
- 2. Thinly slice celery and fennel.
- 3. Rough chop fresh dill, parsley, basil and chives.
- 4. Toss celery, fennel, and herbs in with the shrimp and stir together.
- 5. Butter the tops and bottoms of brioche hot dog buns, toast in skillet until golden.
- 6. Spread a little extra sauce on the insides of the buns.
- 7. Layer in the lettuces and fill with shrimp salad. Finish with a light sprinkling of Old Bay on top.





\*Find all of these recipes and more at wedge.coop/recipes

6



Dick Peterson and John Peterson, Kayla Emi **Botanical** 

**Wedge Community Co-ops** wouldn't exist without the incredible products that line our shelves—and more importantly, the people behind them. From the beginning, our purpose has been clear: to share the goodness of our local food system and to celebrate the farmers, makers, and producers who bring it to life every day.

As we reflect on the past 50 years, we are deeply grateful for the tireless dedication and enduring vision of those who sustain us. Our farmers and makers—many of whom started small and grew alongside the co-opare the heartbeat of our stores. Their entrepreneurial spirit, rooted in a respect for the land and a commitment to quality, continues to shape the way we nourish our community.

When you become an owner of the co-op, you're doing more than just shopping—you're actively building a stronger, more resilient local food system. You're supporting passionate growers and innovative food producers who rely on the co-op as a vital outlet for their goods. From household names like Talenti and Boom Chicka Pop, to up-and-coming local startups, many beloved brands began their journey right here, with us.



"We started working with the Wedge in 2018, and it was the very first store to carry Maazah. Their support gave us our start and helped introduce our sauces to a wider community. That early partnership meant the world to us - it gave us the encouragement we needed to keep going and showed us that there was a real love for what we were creating."

## Sheilla & Yasameen Sajady, Co-Founders of Maazah

We're honored to have been part of so many stories—stories of perseverance, sustainability, and innovation. Our stores serve as a platform for the voices and visions of the Midwest's food pioneers, and we're proud to continue that legacy.



"It's truly a pleasure to partner with Wedge Community Co-ops. We recognize that while we focus on producing high-quality turkey, it's your efforts that bring our products to our shared customers. You play a vital role in ensuring our turkey is available to the community."

#### Colleen Johnson,

Customer Service Manager, Ferndale Market

As we look to the future, our passion remains the same: to be a leading force in Minneapolis and beyond. We strive to bring you the freshest trends, the most exciting new products, and the best of what our food system has to offer—all while staying grounded in the values that got



"In 2017, I began working in Wellness at the Wedge. I discovered an entire world of herbal supplements, organic body and skincare, and healing teas and botanicals. That is what ultimately inspired me to create my own company, Botanical Lucidity, which is now sold at The Wedge!"

#### Kayla Emmons,

Founder, Botanical Lucidity

Thank you for being part of this journey. Here's to the next 50 years of community, cooperation, and good food.



# **Boom Chicka Pop**

Boom Chicka Pop began right here—proof that big dreams can start small. We're honored to be the launchpad for passionate makers chasing their vision. What started as Angie's Artisan Treats at Wedge Community Co-ops has grown into a beloved national brand. Their journey inspires us and reminds us of the power of community support.



Seeing kids shopping at the co-op with their parents is one of our favorite things. Seeing them grow up and shop at the co-op with their OWN kids is beyond inspiring. We dug into the way-back time machine and found some fun kids' recipes that stand the test of time, and are fun for co-op kids today.

From an early 1970's newsletter: "Cooking is something everyone can do. Here are a few no-bake, easy recipes so YOU can make your own breakfast drinks and sandwiches."



# Don't forget,

co-op kids get free fruit every time they come in to shop with their favorite grown up. Look for the Co-op Explorers bin in the produce department!



Did you grow up shopping at the co-op? Did your family come to Wedge Lyndale or Wedge Linden Hills? Send your memories to marketing@wedge.coop and be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card.

Drawing takes place in September.

# No-Blunder Blender Breakfast Drinks

## A.M. Boost Shake

1 cup milk of your choice½ cup plain yogurt1 banana, broken into small chunks1 cup fresh blackberries

**Directions:** Put all ingredients into blender, blend 10-15 seconds. Garnish with a fresh strawberry.

## **Morning M-M-M**

1 cup plain yogurt 1 banana, *broken into small chunks* ½ cup fresh or canned pineapple Zest from one lime

**Directions:** Put all ingredients into blender, blend 10-15 seconds. Garnish with extra lime zest.

# **Sandwich Spreads**

#### **Better Nut Butter**

½ cup peanut or other nut butter
1 very ripe large banana
¼ teaspoon cinnamon
1 Tablespoon shredded coconut
Handful of raisins, chopped dates, or other dried fruit

**Directions:** Mash peanut butter and banana together in a mixing bowl. Stir in cinnamon, coconut, and dried fruit. Use as a sandwich spread on your favorite bread or crackers.

## Say Three Cheese

½ cup cottage cheese
2 Tablespoons cream cheese, softened
½ cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
1 teaspoon chopped chives
¼ teaspoon salt

**Directions:** Mash together cottage and cream cheese. Stir in remaining ingredients. Use as a spread alone, or add to your favorite turkey or veggie sandwich.

10 11



## **Mary Garvie**

Began in 2001

# What were you hired for? What's your role now?

I was hired as an evening grocery stocker, then assisted the bulk buyer, ordered coffee for twenty years, and eventually became Bulk Buyer. Now I assist bulk grocery part-time.

# How do you value the Wedge workplace?

I've shopped many co-ops over fifty years — The Wedge was the first I truly wanted to join. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming. A year later, I saw a "help wanted" sign and applied. It was meant to be temporary —now it's 24 years later. I found a diverse, passionate community that values local, fairly-traded food. I love my co-op, my co-workers, and my co-owners.

# **Eleanor McGough**

Began in 2008

# What were you hired for, and what's your role now?

Sales at Co-op Partners Warehouse (CPW). Then Assistant Office Manager, then Marketing & Special Projects. We all did a little of everything - so I've done item data maintenance, local grocery buying, and coordinated the Will-Call desk.

# What's a favorite memory from your time here?

In 2016 I got to meet Mariana Cobos, an Ecuadorian banana grower from the El Guabo Farmer Coop. She was delighted to see her farm stamp on boxes of bananas in our inventory! It made me consider our food supply in more personal terms.

# **Lori Cyrus-Satter**

Began in 2011

# What were you hired for, and what's your role now?

Hired as Cheese Supervisor at Lyndale. A few years ago I left to work for a non co-op and instantly regretted it! I am so stoked that I was rehired as Cheese Buyer at Linden Hills.

# How do you value the Wedge workplace?

I'm so grateful to work here... With the state of the world, it's comforting to know I'm surrounded by similar minded folks

#### **Nate Oerter**

Began in 1995

# What were you hired for, and what's your role now?

I started as a Front End bagger. I applied for two positions, was interviewed two different days, and offered both jobs! Today I am the daytime Manager on Duty.

# What's a favorite Wedge product?

A vegan chicken nugget from Taiwan. When I was the Frozen Buyer, I got them from a Buddhist monk sect. Poor inventory control meant half the product arrived past date. I would buy it at half price, and sold it to staff. It had quite a following!

## **Emily Percy**

Began in 1993

# What were you hired for, and what's your role now?

I applied for a produce position but was hired as a Cashier, then took on Scanning tasks until I was full-time in Scanning.

# What's a favorite memory from your time here?

One that stands out is the flood of July 1, 1997. It was an ordinary evening that went from "look, it's raining pretty hard" to "it's above the window frames and pouring in the front door" within 30 minutes.













# Letter from the Board

Bao Vang, Board Director

As we celebrate The Wedge's 50th anniversary, I'm also reflecting on another powerful milestone: 50 years since the resettlement of the Hmong community in America. Both anniversaries are a testament to the strength of community, resilience, and shared purpose—threads that deeply connect our stories.

My journey to The Wedge's Board is deeply personal. In the early 1980s, not long after our family resettled from refugee camps in Thailand, my father, Xai Kong Vang, driven by the need to preserve culture and nourish community — helped launch one of the state's first Hmong grocery co-ops. It was more than a place to buy ingredients for traditional dishes; it was a gathering space, a source of pride and a symbol of our determination to thrive in a new land without losing who we are. That co-op reflected many of the same values I see alive at The Wedge today: mutual support, ethical food systems, and the belief that access to good food should be for everyone.

Both anniversaries remind me that co-ops are not just businesses — they are movements. The Wedge has spent decades building relationships rooted in trust, sustainability, and local impact. Similarly, the Hmong community's 50-year legacy in America is one of entrepreneurship, adaptation, and community-building against all odds.

Serving on The Wedge's Board allows me to honor both legacies. It's a way to ensure diverse voices are included in decisions and to advocate for practices that support equity and inclusion. It's also a chance to help shape a future where food co-ops continue to evolve and serve as powerful connectors across cultures.

This moment is more than a celebration of years — it's a celebration of values that endure, communities that uplift, and the seeds our ancestors planted that continue to nourish us today.



# BOARD ELECTION:

There are four seats open this year. Three for 3-year terms, and one seat for a 1-year term.

#### **June**

Board Candidate
Applications Open

## July

Candidate Interviews

## August

- Candidate Slate
   Approved
- Mid-August Date of Record for Voting Announced

# September

**Board Election** 

#### October

Election Results announced at the Annual Meeting October 21

**More information:** 

wedge.coop/ board-of-directors

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