

GRIST FOR THE MILL



Early on a recent Saturday morning, an especially enthusiastic customer was pitching in, helping a farmer unload crates of just-picked peaches at the McCarren Park Greenmarket. She wasn't dressed for the job. Her short frock and strappy sandals seemed a better fit for dirty dancing than fruit stacking, and I couldn't help but comment on how lovely she looked amidst all those carhart overalls.

"Oh," she stammered, blood rushing to her pretty face, "I haven't been home yet."

Stranger in the red dress, I dedicate this issue to you.

I've enjoyed the spoonable special at Stone Park Café, but this sleepless woman sucks the real marrow out of life. With everything there is to experience in this town, unconsciousness is unconscionable.

One Brooklynite knows that: he's spent two years building a wood-burning oven after hours in his backyard (p. 44). Another is ruled by round-the-clock beef patty passions (p. 36). Cooks at Frankies 457 start the sauce at 6 a.m. (p. 20). And when you're burning your own candle from both ends, you needn't go hungry (p. 50).

If Thoreau hasn't inspired you to live deliberately, perhaps this issue can persuade you to eat that way. Hurry, Red Hook Rye is selling out (p. 10), Soccer Tacos may lose the game, and the sun is setting on Coney Island (p. 12). Great beers runneth over (p. 39), local wines are on the rise (p. 32), vegetables swell in BedStuy (p. 8), and have you *seen* what's cooking at Prospect Park (p. 26)? Peddaling feet bring granola near and far (p. 9), and mix up electricity-free smoothies (p. 30). Food for thought abounds too, from the big questions about cheese (p. 9) to the ugly truth about corn (p. 54).

Meanwhile, chickens across town are making the ultimate sacrifice (p. 47). As for your own inevitable death, eat heartily of these experiences and I promise you won't discover, on that day, that you have not lived.

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Gabrielle Langholtz, Editor

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