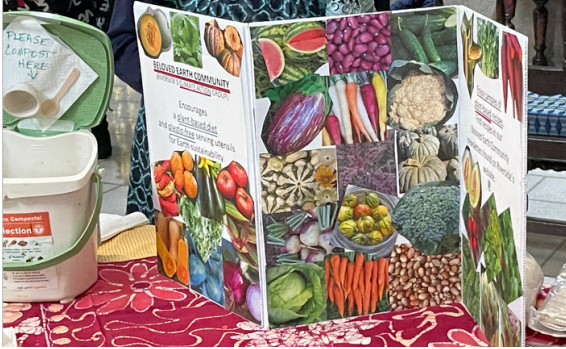




# SAVE OUR FUTURE

*Beloved Earth Community of Riverside Church*

## Eating Healthy with my Wife Claudia and The Beloved Earth Community



On a recent Sunday, I was delighted to be at Riverside Church in person (since I usually attend the online service with my wife), to sample the first **Plant Based Food Event**. I enjoyed some delicious healthy vegan treats, such as bean salad and guacamole salad prepared by Dana Minaya and Jocelyn Perry. Other members of the Beloved Earth Community were supporting the team.



As the BEC’s official “first husband,” I was happy to help out and show support for Claudia and her planet saving team. Before the special food event, I helped Claudia hand out the latest edition of the BEC Newsletter...“hot off the presses!”...a ritual that always makes me feel more connected to the church.

I heard wonderful feedback about BEC’s inaugural healthy food “eat and teach in.” Let’s hope it’s the start of a new tradition that proves delicious can also be nutritious.

*John Bredin*



## All Hands on Deck to Support PRRIA: Reduce Packaging Waste

The NYS Legislature will reconvene in January 2026 and we need all hands on deck to pass New York State's Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (PRRIA) (Assembly Bill 1749 / Senate Bill 1464). PRRIA is a packaging reduction and recycling infrastructure program which would shift the financial burden of managing packaging waste from taxpayers to those who produce it. It would significantly reduce the amount of plastic waste produced in New York State, cut down the use of toxic chemicals in packaging, and improve recycling rates across the state. The legislation passed the state Senate last year and nearly passed in the Assembly as well, making it out of multiple committees.

Learn more about the bill here:  
<https://www.beyondplastics.org/publications/prria>.

We are invited to join our friends at Beyond Plastics and It's Easy Being Green, our local Beyond Plastics affiliate, for a Lobbying Day in Albany on Monday, February 9 from 10-4 in the Legislative Office Building. When you register to attend at [bit.ly/2-9-26](http://bit.ly/2-9-26) you can also sign up for free bus service leaving from Long Island, NYC, the Bronx, Westchester, and New Paltz. Space is limited so if you plan to attend don't hesitate to sign up. Lobbying is fun. Join friendly, like-minded people for a meaningful day of action. Have questions? Contact: [itseasybeinggreen.uws@gmail.com](mailto:itseasybeinggreen.uws@gmail.com)

With Thanks to *Sharon Waskow of IBEG*

## Good news: Senate Bill S8512A would be a huge step forward to Solar: First Utah, next New York, and on from there!

Assemblymember Emily Gallagher and Senator Liz Krueger have announced the launch of a campaign to pass the Solar Up Now New York (SUNNY) Act, which would exempt “small balcony solar,” also known as “portable” or “plug-in solar,” from existing interconnection and net metering requirements.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2025/liz-krueger/krueger-gallagher-introduce-sunny-act-support-balcony>

Following on the passage of similar, first-in-the-nation legislation in Utah, this small statutory change has the potential to make solar generation available to millions of New Yorkers who cannot install rooftop solar, either because they are renters, cannot afford the up-front cost, or do not have an appropriate roof.

According to The New York Times “Across Germany, more than a million people had installed solar panels on their balconies as of last month. But those are just the officially registered systems. The actual figures could be three times as high, according to government estimates. Though each installation is small, the aggregate electricity generated from these plug-in solar panels is helping Germany reach its renewable energy targets. Is the US Next?” Utah legislators eliminated one of their state’s biggest hurdles for plug-in solar this year when they passed a law exempting certain home solar systems from requirements that they enter into interconnection agreements with local utilities

to send small amounts of electricity back to the grid.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/12/climate/balcony-solar-united-states.html?searchResultPosition=1>

As Bill McKibben, co-founder of Third Act, said: “Apartment dwellers deserve a place in the sun too —balcony solar extends the clean energy revolution to everyone.” Stay tuned!

## RECIPE FOR TOMATO CASHEW SOUP



**Only 4 ingredients are needed and very easy to make!**

Ingredients:

- Two tablespoons of olive oil
- Two teaspoons of chopped garlic
- Two 28-oz cans of diced tomatoes with basil or blend in ½ cup of fresh basil before serving
- One cup of raw cashews
- ½teaspoons of salt

1. In a medium saucepan, heat the olive oil, add the garlic and cook the garlic until golden brown.
  2. Pour in the tomatoes, cashews and salt. Bring to a boil and simmer for 30 minutes.
  3. Transfer the soup to a blender. Blend until the soup is smooth and more orange than red in color.
- Makes 4 bowls of soup.

This recipe was adapted from The Brain Health Kitchen cookbook by Annie Fenn, M.D.

### Beloved Earth Community

We call on Riversiders to protest the climate crisis and care for the Earth through educational programs, greening the church, changing our lifestyles, and courageous political actions. For more information, or to join, contact: Claudia Canasto <[canastoclachi@gmail.com](mailto:canastoclachi@gmail.com)>, Tom Goodhue <[twgoodhue@gmail.com](mailto:twgoodhue@gmail.com)> or Dana Minaya <[danaminaya@yahoo.com](mailto:danaminaya@yahoo.com)>

January Newsletter contents by Betty Kranzendorf, Dana Minaya and John Bredin.  
Logo, Geofix by Jeremiah Drake. Editor Claudia Canasto. Photos from Dana Minaya and John Bredin.

- The next Beloved Earth Meeting: February 07, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. Watch for details.
- To view this S.O.F. online, visit [www.trcnyc.org/belovedearthnewsletter](http://www.trcnyc.org/belovedearthnewsletter)

