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DATEBOOK

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Meanwhile, Earth Day was celebrated early at Farallon last Friday, when Organic Valley, a farmers' cooperative, threw a "local, seasonal and organic dinner." Turning April 22 into a national holiday was proposed, and there was convincing talk about the benefits of eating organic food and understanding the origin of food. Thumbs up so far.

But each table of eight or so people was presided over by a previously designated facilitator, who asked questions from a pack of cards supposed to stimulate discussion. What was the spiciest food each of us had ever eaten? our facilitator asked, suggesting we include in our response an acted-out reminiscence of that experience. "If your favorite food could win an Oscar, what would be its acceptance speech? ... You may want to hold a pepper mill or water glass as your award."

Just after moving to San Francisco, we were inadvertently lured to a Hare Krishna recruitment dinner — Mr. G. says it was the Moonies, but in any case, you get the picture — and the atmosphere was similar. It's bad manners to bite the hand that feeds you, but crunch. Organic food is desirable, organic conversation is a must.