In Memory of Hope

Turn to page 9 to read her story!
In honor of International Respect for Chickens Day May 4/Month of May, we received this inspiring story by Melanie Jacobs. We’re delighted to share it with you.

By Melanie Jacobs, cofounder of Rooster Redemption

Hi, my name is Melanie, and I’m an alcoholic. My full time job as an addiction counselor keeps me on my toes. In my free time I care for my beautiful companion animal family that consists of 13 animals, with my very understanding husband. I have been sober for just over 10 years now. Recovery from alcoholism involves spirituality and believing in something greater than ourselves. Having identified as an atheist most of my life, I assumed there was no place for me in recovery.

Luckily, I was later told that I could believe in anything I wanted as far as spirituality went. Ever since my first whale watching trip in 1996, I have held a deep spiritual connection with orca whales after two of them surfaced near my kayak and swam under me. Living in Minnesota is not conducive to whale watching. I was lacking a spiritual connection in my landlocked home state. When I was 7 years sober, I became a vegan. It was shortly after my cousin asked me, “Why do you care about whales so much but eat other animals?” This was eye opening to say the least. Becoming a vegan opened up a spiritual dimension for me I never knew existed.

When I first became vegan, I volunteered on a few occasions at Chicken Run Rescue. At that time, they were the only farmed animal rescue in Minnesota. I went into that experience thinking, “Bummer, I want to see cows and pigs, not just chickens.” Just chickens . . . ? I instantly fell in love with chickens, particularly a giant rooster named Butler. As a new vegan, I was still in that mode of speciesism, that certain animals were better than others. That changed very quickly and I knew one day I would also rescue chickens.

In the winter of 2016, my spirituality blossomed even more when my husband and I bought an 1895 farmhouse with 6 acres, a barn, stable, and chicken coop. In July 2016, our microsanctuary Rooster Redemption was born, when I took in 3 roosters from a school classroom hatching project. Nacho, Cain, and Koda had gone to the home of a backyard chicken farmer after the school was “done” with them. Once they started crowing, they instantly became unwanted and prohibited in the city they lived in. This is the most common issue for these lovely birds, the “Oops, it’s a rooster,” since many people have significant difficulty sexing chickens at young ages prior to crowing.

Since our first 3 rescues, we have taken in 6 more. Their previous situations range from school hatching...
projects to religious rituals to cockfighting busts. It gives me great satisfaction to care for these birds and see them safe every day.

I often hear from patients in residential treatment that they fear sobriety will be dull and boring. This is understandable since we, as alcoholics, expected alcohol to entertain us, but we found it only destroyed us and everything in our paths. Now that I am 10 years into my recovery and am happier than I could ever imagine, it’s rewarding to share with patients my passion for roosters. When I tell them, “I had no idea when I quit drinking that I would be in love with rescuing roosters 10 years later,” I love their reactions. One patient in particular giggled and asked, “What? What do you do, find a rooster on the side of the road holding a sign that says ‘homeless’ and take him in?”

In a way, Yes, I do.

Roosters have granted me an understanding of spirituality in ways I never expected. I guess partly it may be because alcoholics feel “disposable” and roosters are often viewed the same, so I feel a huge pull to help them and create awareness that they matter, just like us alcoholics.

Photos courtesy of Rooster Redemption.
Learn more by visiting www.roosterredemption.com

Your Ads Are Working!

Hi UPC,

I live in San Francisco and work in Oakland so I take BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) every day. I’ve been vegan now for a little over a year, but I just recently started noticing your ads on BART. I love whenever I see one on the train, but I also love that my non-vegan coworkers and friends have been noticing your ads as well. One of my non-vegan Facebook friends just posted recently about seeing your ad.

Keep up the great work! I think the Bay Area is a great place to advertise - there are many people here who probably would reduce their consumption of animal products but just need a little push.

Sydney Wong
A Chicken Named Viva Changed My Life

By Karen Davis, PhD
President of United Poultry Concerns

Published in the South Strand News, Georgetown, South Carolina, April 26, 2017

If you had told me a year before I met her that a crippled chicken in a wooden shed would change my life forever, I would not have believed you. Yet this is what happened one summer day thirty years ago when my husband and I rented a little house on a dirt road in Maryland outside Washington, DC. Unbeknown to us, our landlady was raising a flock of chickens. Discovering them on an afternoon walk, I visited them every day until, one day, they were gone – all but one.

We named the survivor Viva because she alone of her flock had been left alive. Like her companions, she had the deformed feet and heavy breast of “broiler” chickens – the kind who have been bred since the 1940s for abnormal growth rates and weight gain. Reading the poultry literature I learned about the disabilities bred into these birds including the fact that their bones are too weak for their bodies and their bodies are wracked with bizarre diseases. Like so many, Viva could only stand and walk by balancing herself on her wings.

Despite her condition, Viva was a very affectionate chicken who purred and chirped contentedly in the comfort of our kitchen where we made her a bed by the stove. On nice days, we liked to sit with her outside in the grass where she would take great pains to steady herself and run through the yard on her wing tips before collapsing, resting, and starting over.

Already by the 1980s, broiler chickens weighed four pounds at eight weeks old – more than 40 times their original hatching weight. The U.S. Department of Agriculture bragged that if human beings grew that fast, “an eight-week-old baby would weigh 349 pounds.” A study published in 2008 said that the growth rate of chickens had increased “by over 300 percent” in the past fifty years, resulting in “impaired locomotion and poor leg health.”

It isn’t only their legs. Poultry scientists in the 1990s warned that chickens “now grow so rapidly that the heart and lungs are not developed well enough to support the remainder of the body, resulting in congestive heart failure.”

Uncaringly, the poultry industry continues to increase the size and growth rate of these deeply troubled birds. At a meeting in 2014, a company executive raved that over the past year, “average big bird weights have averaged 8.2 to 8.6 pounds, with nearly a dozen companies producing birds over 9 pounds.”

Ethically, there is nothing to crow about. These are baby chicks who in nature weigh barely a pound at that age. The effects of the “human controlled evolution” of chickens are described in the poultry science literature. An article in International Hatchery Practice (“Trends in developmental anomalies in contemporary broiler chickens”) states that chickens with extra legs and wings, missing eyes and beak deformities “can be found in practically every broiler flock,” where “a variety of health problems involving muscular, digestive, cardiovascular, integumentary, skeletal, and immune systems” form a complex of debilitating diseases. Dr. Andrew A. Olkowski, DVM and his colleagues say poultry

Hi Karen, I have never, ever responded to an article that I’ve seen in the paper, but I just finished reading your article in the South Strand News. I am a bird lover and that absolutely sickens me. I used to love to eat chicken and did a good job separating the thought of eating animals from the food on my plate! But I don’t think I can do that anymore after reading your article.

Kind regards, Marsha, May 1, 2017

Viva. Photo by Karen Davis, June 1985
personnel provide “solid evidence that anatomical anomalies have become deep-rooted in the phenotype of contemporary broiler chickens.”

The breeding pathologies of chickens are compounded by the unsanitary conditions in which they are raised. The combination of infirmity and filth overwhelms their immune systems with salmonella, campylobacter, E. coli and other pathogens that sicken and kill people in the United States and worldwide. The Centers for Disease Control data show more deaths from poultry than from any other food product.

Currently, an epidemic of deadly avian influenza (H5N2) in chickens and turkeys on farms around the country dominate the agribusiness news media. Concerned that people might not want to eat these sick birds, the poultry industry and the U.S. Department of Agriculture reassure the public that the virus does not sicken humans and that poultry and eggs are “safe.” They blame wild birds for the epidemic, but as a UN News Centre release said in 2005, “We are wasting valuable time pointing fingers at wild birds.”

Avian influenza viruses have lived harmlessly in the intestines of waterfowl for millennia. Shed in sparsely populated outdoor settings in the droppings of birds whose immune systems have evolved to accommodate them, these viruses are rapidly killed by sunlight and tend to dehydrate to death in the breeze. By contrast, chickens and turkeys are crowded together in dank, sunless buildings – ideal breeding grounds for disease organisms to thrive and prey on the disabled birds.

Thirty years after rescuing Viva from a Maryland chicken shed, I have watched the plight of chickens grow worse. At the same time, more people are speaking up for chickens now than ever before, praising their charm and intelligence, their capacity for happiness and their right to enjoy fresh air and a life worth living. Inspired by Viva, I founded United Poultry Concerns in 1990 dedicated to the compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl. Back then I was told that people “weren’t ready” to care about chickens and that an organization devoted to them would never fly, but they were wrong.

May 4th is International Respect for Chickens Day and May is International Respect for Chickens Month. Our message is simple. Be kind to chickens. Don’t eat them. Tell your family and friends how much chickens suffer in animal agriculture and how cheerful and loving chickens are when they are treated with compassion and respect. Please make every day Respect for Chickens Day.

Karen Davis, PhD is the author of Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs: An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry and the president of United Poultry Concerns, a nonprofit organization that promotes the compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl. Karen Davis can be reached at www.upc-online.org or Karen@upc-online.org.

“The gruesome reality behind the pet food industry”

Letter to the Editor by Karen Davis, The Washington Post, August 12, 2017 (Print version is titled “The costs aren’t just environmental,” p. A14)

Regarding the Aug. 7 news article “U.S. pets’ meat consumption carries high environmental costs”: Pet food advertising insists that your dog and cat love the same “high-quality” chicken, beef and seafood that you do and can’t get enough of them. The gruesome rendering business converts millions of pounds of animal flesh that is not salable for human consumption, including hundreds of millions of male chicks that are ground up alive as soon as they hatch, into pet food and farm-animal feed.

Human consumption of animal products is the lifeblood of the pet food industry, which converts the unsold and unsalable carnage into two grades: pet-food-grade and livestock-grade. The mess is doctored with flavor enhancers and whatnot to make it palatable to the captive animals who must eat it or starve. Chicken nuggets, chicken strips and other animal products are similarly doctored for palatability. Unlike our captive animals, however, we have a choice not to eat the stuff.

Karen Davis, Machipongo, Va.
The writer is president of United Poultry Concerns, which promotes compassionate treatment of domestic fowl.
“A man paid us a visit one day. Inside the barn he said, ‘I don’t eat red meat anymore, but I still eat chicken and turkey.’ Along comes Milton, burdened by the overweight and arthritis afflicting turkeys who are bred for meat. Soon this man was exclaiming, with Milton standing attentively beside him, ‘I didn’t know turkeys – could – ’ Could what? I think what he was trying to say was be companionable.”

Turkeys have a zest for living and enjoying the day. Treated with respect, they become very friendly. At a distance, turkeys look like otherworldly visitors moving gracefully through the grass. Up close one sees their large, dark almond-shaped eyes and sensitive fine-boned faces. In nature, turkeys spend up to 5 months close to their mothers. Turkeys raised for food never know the comfort of the mother bird’s wings or the joy of exploring the woods and fields with her.

Turkeys are Full of Diseases and Drugs

Turkeys are not suited to crowded confinement systems – including so-called free-range (a fraudulent term). When hundreds, even thousands of birds are forced to sit and stand in a crowded yard or in filthy litter (wood shavings and excrement) breathing burning ammonia fumes and lung-destroying dust, they develop respiratory diseases, ulcerated feet, blistered breasts, and ammonia-burned eyes. Most turkeys are fed antibiotics to promote artificial growth and to control Salmonella, Listeria, Campylobacter and other diseases transmittable to humans. Poultry Science reports that 72% to 100% of chickens, turkeys, and ducks have Campylobacter at the slaughterhouse – despite all the drugs.
Turkeys are Painfully Lame and Obese

Turkeys have been bred to grow so fast and heavy that their bones are too weak to carry the weight. Turkeys frequently suffer from painful lameness so severe they try to walk on their wings to reach food and water. If a 7-pound human baby grew as fast as baby turkeys are forced to grow, the human baby would weigh 1500 pounds at 18 weeks old. Feedstuffs says turkeys raised for food "have problems standing, and fall and are trampled on or seek refuge under feeders."

Forced to grow too large too fast, turkeys raised for food develop congestive heart and lung disease accompanied by engorged coronary blood vessels, distended fluid-filled heart sacs, abdominal fluid, and gelatin-covered enlarged congested livers.

Turkeys are Mutilated at Birth

“Very few animals go through the stresses of poults [baby turkeys] in their first three hours of life. They are squeezed for sexing, thrown down a slide onto a treadmill, someone picks them up and pulls the snood off their heads, clips three toes off each foot, debeaks them, puts them on another conveyer belt that delivers them to another carousel where they get a power injection, usually of an antibiotic, that whacks them in the back of their necks. Essentially, they have been through major surgery. They have been traumatized. They don't look very good. . . .” - Dr. William E. Donaldson, North Carolina State University

Turkeys are painfully debeaked and detoed without anesthetic to offset the destructive effects of overcrowding and lack of environmental stimulation. Beaks are amputated with a hot machine blade. The blade cuts through the sensitive beak tissue causing severe pain and suffering in the mutilated birds. Debeaked birds cannot eat or preen properly, and detoed birds have trouble walking.

Turkeys are Sexually Abused to Reproduce

Turkeys used for breeding cannot mate naturally due to artificial growth rates. Male and female turkeys used for breeding are masturbated and artificially inseminated in order to obtain semen, which is driven into the female bird’s body. A “milker” at a ConAgra turkey breeding facility in Missouri described his job: “I have never done such hard, dirty, disgusting work in my life: 10 hours of pushing birds, grabbing birds, wrestling birds, jerking them upside down, pushing open their vents, dodging their panic-blown excrement and breathing the dust stirred up by terrified birds.”

Turkeys are Tortured to Death

Between 12 and 26 weeks old turkeys are grabbed by catchers and carried upside down by their legs to the transport truck. Jammed in crates they travel without food, water or weather protection to the slaughterhouse. No U.S. welfare laws regulate the treatment of turkeys, chickens, ducks or other birds during catching, transport, or slaughter.

At the slaughterhouse, turkeys are torn from the crates and hung by their feet upside down on a movable belt - torture for a heavy bird especially. They may or may not be “stunned” - paralyzed while fully conscious - by a handheld electrical stunner, or by having their faces dragged through an electrified waterbath. The
The purpose of electrical “stunning” is to paralyze the muscles of the feather follicles “allowing the feathers to come out easily” and has nothing to do with humane slaughter. The electricity shoots through the birds’ eyes, eardrums, and hearts causing “intolerable pain,” according to researchers. Nor does throat-cutting, with or without prior electric “stunning,” produce a humane death.

You Can Help Turkeys By Following These Simple Steps . . .

Discover the joy of turkey-free cooking and dining. Try Mrs. Gobble-Good’s Golden Brown Pie (see page 18) and other savoury dishes in the highly acclaimed cookbook, Instead of Chicken, Instead of Turkey: A Poultryless “Poultry” Potpourri. Order from UPC, PO Box 150, Machipongo, VA 23405. $12.95

Contact your legislators. Urge them to enact laws banning the crowding, debeaking, detoeing, drugging, and artificial insemination of turkeys. Urge them to adopt humane poultry slaughter legislation. To learn your federal Members of Congress call 202-224-3121. Or visit www.senate.gov or www.house.gov

Tell your family, friends, coworkers and news media how badly turkeys are treated. Use this information for letters to the editor and other opportunities to Speak Out. Purchase UPC’s book More Than a Meal: The Turkey in History, Myth, Ritual, and Reality, by Karen Davis, PhD, and learn all about these amazingly sensitive and intelligent birds. Order from UPC, PO Box 150, Machipongo, VA 23405. $14.95

Urge restaurants and stores to provide wholesome vegetarian foods free of meat, dairy and eggs. Support these restaurants and stores by purchasing their vegan products.

Bypass “free range.” To learn more about the free-range fraud, visit www.upc-online.org/freerange. Or write for our free brochure “Free-Range Poultry & Eggs: Not All They’re Cracked Up to Be.”

Would you like to do more to help the birds? Just go to www.upc-online.org/email and sign up to BECOME A UPC E-SUBSCRIBER! News updates, action alerts, upcoming events and more!
The pain of losing them is the price we pay for the privilege of knowing them and sharing their lives . . .

We thank those people who have contributed to our work with recent donations In Loving Memory and in Honor and Appreciation of the following beloved family members and friends, both those who have passed away and those who are with us.

In honor of International Respect for Chickens Day and in memory of all the birds who suffer the most at the hands of a brutal, cruel, and greedy poultry industry, I am sending you this donation. I am trying to light my own tiny candle for the dark days we face for the disasters inflicted and being inflicted on the flora and fauna of this tortured planet by the sociopaths of our species. – Aaron Rubin

My donation is in celebration of Jessica Fomalont’s birthday! – Erin Marcus

My donation to UPC is on behalf of Christie Wisniewski. – Jeremiah Arias

My donation is in honor of International Respect for Chickens Day. It’s wonderful that you are doing all you do to help the chickens and other birds who are innocent and whose voices need our Voice to be heard. – Howard Schultz

I am proud to make this donation in memory of my husband, Retired Coast Guard Officer, John E. Martin, Jr., who passed away May 5, 2016. – Joan Martin

I am also donating in memory of Martitu, a wonderful, 8-year-old rooster. This sweet guy passed away peacefully on May 30, 2017. He was a mixed Cochin & Silkie. – Joan Martin

In honor of our beloved hen Hope, whose big heart gave out too soon. She was abandoned in a playground as a youngster, and it was our good fortune to adopt her. Bred for the meat industry, she could barely walk at first, but with guidance from UPC and others, we learned how to take care of her. As she gained strength and confidence, she was so joyful in her experience of a chickeny life: stretching her wings in the warm sun, digging for worms, a chicken friend. She gave and taught us so much. Miss you, Hopester. – Carol and Scott Bartram

In honor of Nero, Fredericka, Julie, Nathaniel, Leonard, and Bertha, remembered forever and sadly missed. – Paul Deane

My gift is in honor of All God’s Creatures. – Brien Comerford
Help Us End the Use of Chickens in Cruel Kaporos Ritual

Our plea is prompted by the horrific cruelty to chickens at Kaporos sites year after year in New York City, Los Angeles, New Jersey, Chicago and everywhere the ritual is conducted. Thousands of chickens are trucked onto city streets from factory farms. They are crammed in transport crates without food or water for as long as four days. They are deprived of shelter from rain, heat and cold. Often their toes and feet are ripped off during the neglectful handling of the transport crates where they sit miserably immobilized in their own feces. Many die in the crates of starvation, dehydration, heat stress, and fear.

This year the ritual takes place the week of September 25-29, 2017.

What is Kaporos?

Kaporos (“atonements”) is a ritual preceding Yom Kippur - the Jewish Day of Atonement - in which chickens are “swung” and slaughtered by certain ultra-orthodox Jewish communities. Practitioners wave the chickens over their heads by the legs or by pinning the bird’s wings backward while reciting a chant about transferring their sins and punishment symbolically onto the bird. The chickens are slaughtered in the open air and claimed to be given to “the poor.”

The practitioners’ manner of holding the birds by their wings has been condemned by veterinarians and animal scientists. Dr. Amir Kashiv, a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, wrote that suspending chickens by their wings “places an unnatural tension on ligaments, tendons and bones. Swinging the bird in the air can cause dislocations, tears, ruptures and broken bones.” Dr. Ian Duncan, Professor Emeritus of Poultry Science at the University of Guelph, states that suspending chickens by their wings is “extremely painful.”

The mistreatment of the chickens before, during and after the Kaporos ritual, when many are left alive, writhing and crying on the ground, violates the New York State animal cruelty law and desecrates the Torah mandate of Tzaar Balei Chayim, which forbids causing unnecessary pain and suffering to animals. It violates the Talmudic mandate that one must feed one’s animals before feeding oneself.

Despite claims that the chickens are donated to the poor, most are trashed. A 2016 investigation found that at Brooklyn’s largest Kaporos site in Crown Heights, two thirds of the slaughtered chickens were stuffed in plastic trash bags. Local media filmed slaughtered Kaporos chickens being picked up by a company whose employees said the corpses would be turned into biodiesel. Dozens of trash bags full of dead birds were loaded onto the truck. The lack of refrigeration at most Kaporos sites means that the birds cannot legally be used for human consumption regardless.

In light of these facts, many rabbis have come out against the use of chickens for Kaporos including some who once used chickens but now use money. Please urge the following associations to join these compassionate rabbis by opposing the use of chickens for Kaporos and encouraging the use of money instead.

What Can I Do?
Contact:

Orthodox Union
Attn: Mr. Allen I. Fagin, Executive Vice President
11 Broadway New York, NY 10004
Phone: 212-563-4000
Email: afagin@ou.org
All OU executives, titles & email addresses are listed here: www.ou.org/contact

Rabbinical Council of America
Attn: Rabbi Elazar Muskin
305 Seventh Avenue, 12th Floor
New York, New York 10001
Phone: 212-807-9000; 212-741-7522
Fax: 212-727-8452
Email: RabbiMuskin@gmail.com
Email: office@rabbis.org

Vaad Harabonim of Flatbush
Attn: Rabbi Meir Goldberg
1206 Avenue J
Brooklyn, NY 11230
Phone: 718-951-8585
Email via this website: www.vaad.org/contact

The New York Board of Rabbis
Attn: Rabbi Joseph Potasnik
Executive Vice President
136 East 39th Street
New York, NY 10016
Phone: 212-983-3521

Fax: 212-983-3531
Email: jpotasnik@nybr.org
Email: info@nybr.org

Agudath Israel of America
Attn: Rabbi Shia Markowitz, CEO
Attn: Chaim Dovid Zwiebel, Executive Vice President
42 Broadway
New York, NY 10004
Phone: 212-797-9000
Email: news@agudathisrael.org
Email: dzwiebel@agudathisrael.org

Rabbinical Alliance of America
Attn: Rabbi Mendel Mirocznik
Executive Vice President
305 Church Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11218
Phone: 212-242-6420; 718-532-8720
Email: rabbi@igud.us

Sign our petition, adding your voice to thousands of other caring people who have signed it!

If you have access to the Internet, please sign our petition to the above-listed rabbinical groups. Go to www.endchickensaskaporos.com/2017petition and click on the change.org link Urge Jewish Community to Do Kaporos with Money, Not Chickens. Fill out the short form, hit the Signature button, and that’s it!

Court Rules on Alliance to End Chickens as Kaporos v. City of New York Appeal

On June 6, 2017, the New York State Appellate Division rendered a decision on our appeal regarding our lawsuit Alliance to End Chickens as Kaporos v. New York City Police Department, et al. Our lawsuit seeks to compel the New York Police Department and other city agencies to enforce the fifteen laws that are violated by Kaporos practitioners in New York. In Brooklyn alone, 60,000 chickens are slaughtered on public streets for this ritual.

The lower court dismissed the action, and the Appellate Division affirmed the lower court’s decision. The appeal was filed by Alliance attorney Nora Constance Marino in June of 2016.

The central issue of the lawsuit hinges on whether the city agencies have “discretion” to enforce the laws they choose. Plaintiffs claimed that the health codes and animal cruelty statutes are mandatory, meaning there is no discretion, and enforcement...
is mandatory. Defendants claimed they do have discretion, and enforcement is not mandatory. Three of the five appellate justices on the panel agreed with the defendants, and due to the majority, the lower court decision was affirmed. However, two of the justices dissented and filed a separate opinion that the “plaintiffs have a right to the relief they seek.”

Alliance attorney Nora Constance Marino said, “The fact that there were two dissenting judges allows us to seek appeal in New York State’s highest court, The Court of Appeals. We intend to press on.”

Please help us win a legal victory for the birds by making a generous tax-deductible donation to help with our demanding Court of Appeal costs entailing thousands of dollars. Please donate by check for “Kaporos” to: UPC, PO Box 150, Machipongo, VA 23405. Or donate by credit or debit card to our Alliance to End Chicken Kaporos Fund by clicking on www.endchickensaskaporos.com/donate

Thank you for your kind and generous contribution to our compassionate cause!

Breaking News!

On July 26, 2017, Alliance Attorney Nora Constance Marino was informed by the New York Court of Appeals that our appeal will proceed! The filing deadline is September 18th. This is a huge accomplishment! We’ll keep you posted!

The Alliance to End Chickens as Kaporos is an association of groups and individuals who seek to replace the use of chickens in Kaporos ceremonies with money or other non-animal symbols of atonement. The Alliance does not oppose Kaporos per se, only the cruel and unnecessary use of chickens in the ceremony.

Please, Join Us Today!

We NEED Your Strong and Continuing Financial Support

- New Membership $35
- 2018 Membership Renewal $30

Membership includes our quarterly Poultry Press Magazine to keep you informed on current issues, and how you can get involved in many other ways. If you would like to support us by credit card, please go to our website at www.upc-online.org and click on DONATE to make your donation. It’s that easy!

Additional Tax-deductible Contribution:

- $20
- $35
- $50
- $100
- $500
- Other $_____

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City __________________________ State ___ Zip ___________

Please make your check payable to United Poultry Concerns. THANK YOU!

Are you moving? Please send us your new address.
Do you want to be removed from our mailing list? Please tell us now. The U.S. Postal Service charges UPC for every returned mailing. Remailing the magazine costs UPC an additional sum. Due to the enormous cost of remailing, we can no longer provide this service. Thank you for your consideration. Please keep up your membership. We need your continuing financial support.
Tell Yellville to Quit Dropping Turkeys from Airplanes

Turkeys Dropper: Mountain View pharmacist Dana Woods defends dropping turkeys from his airplane. “It brings in a lot of money,” he told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

As far back as December 1989, the National Enquirer called the Yellville, Arkansas “turkey drop” a “sick Festival of Death.” The Yellville turkey drop is an October event in which live turkeys are forced out of planes flying 500 to 1,000 feet above ground. The fun is to make the turkeys suffer by tossing them out of a plane. The fun is to watch them free-falling in midair until they hit the ground or get tangled up in wires and tree branches. The fun is to chase the birds who didn’t die and subsequently kill them.

The promoters like to joke that these turkeys “can fly”; however, wild turkeys would not normally fly that high above ground. Moreover, for a bird, the decision to take off from the ground or a branch or other platform is totally different from being pitched involuntarily from a MOVING machine high in the air in the midst of terrific wind pressure produced by the plane, to plunge to wherever the traumatized bird happens to land.

What Can I Do?

Please contact:
Mayor Shawn Lane and the Yellville Chamber of Commerce
414 West 3rd Street
PO Box 647
Yellville, AR 72687
Phone: 870-449-4676 & 870-449-6581
Fax: 870-449-4142
Email Yellville Mayor Shawn Lane: mayor@yellville.net
Email the Yellville Chamber of Commerce: info@yellvillechamber.com
Website Contact Us: www.yellville.com/members.html

Learn more about turkeys and how you can help them here: www.upc-online.org/turkeys

Thank You for Speaking Out!

A Legacy of Compassion for the Birds

Please remember United Poultry Concerns through a provision in your will. Please consider an enduring gift of behalf of the birds.

A legal bequest may be worded as follows:

I give, devise and bequeath to United Poultry Concerns, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation incorporated in the state of Maryland and located in the state of Virginia, the sum of $________ and/or (specifically designated property and/or stock contribution).

We welcome inquiries.
United Poultry Concerns, Inc.
P.O. Box 150 • Machipongo, Virginia 23405-0150
(757) 678-7875

Karen & Mr. Frizzle ©2008 Davida G. Breier
United Poultry Concerns Annual Report for 2016

Federal ID: 52-1705678

A Financial Statement is available upon written request to: Officer of Consumer Affairs, PO Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218.

United Poultry Concerns is certified by Independent Charities of America to receive donations through the Combined Federal Campaign. Our CFC Agency Code is #11656.

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Liqin Cao, Vice President-Director
Franklin Wade, Vice President-Director
Veda Stram, Vice President-Director
Debbie Donovan, Secretary Treasurer-Director

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Franklin Wade, Vice President, Website Administrator & Graphic Designer
Veda Stram, Vice President
Bill Ferguson, Web Assistant
Ronnie Steinau, Office Assistant
Hope Bohanec, Projects Manager
Debbie Donovan, Bookkeeper
Diane Harris & Holly Wills, Sanctuary Assistants

United Poultry Concerns holds that the treatment of chickens, turkeys, ducks and other domestic fowl in the areas of food production, science, education, entertainment, and human companionship situations has a significant effect upon human, animal, and environmental welfare. We seek to make the public aware of the ways poultry are used, and to promote the compassionate and respectful treatment of these birds and the benefits of a vegan diet and lifestyle. UPC conducts full-time educational programs and campaigns through our quarterly magazine Poultry Press, our Website at www.UPC-online.org, and our chicken sanctuary in Machipongo, Virginia.

United Poultry Concerns maintains a permanent office, sanctuary and education center at our headquarters at 12325 Seaside Road, Machipongo, Virginia 23405. We respond daily to Internet and telephone requests for help with bird-care problems, student projects, alternatives to classroom chick-hatching projects, and numerous other communications on the care, treatment and abuse of domestic fowl. We are grateful to all of our members and supporters for enabling us to fulfill our mission in 2016. From all of us at United Poultry Concerns, thank you for your support!

Highlights of Our Activities and Accomplishments in 2016

For a complete listing of UPC’s action alerts, news, photos & activities in 2016, please visit What’s New 2016 at www.upc-online.org/whatsnew/2016.html.

UPC Sanctuary - 2016

Adopted 12 wonderful chickens in need of a loving home into our 12,000 square foot predator-proof outdoor aviary for the total safety of our 100+ rescued birds!

Reva found love and happiness at United Poultry Concerns. Photo by Karen Davis
International Respect for Chickens Day May 4/Month of May - Celebrating the Life and Dignity of Chickens & Protesting Their Abuse in Farming Operations. For a full view of our 2016 campaign, please visit www.upc-online.org/respect.

Hosted our annual public outreach demonstration & leafleting at the White House.

Posted What Wings Are For-Go Vegan! Ads on Kiosks throughout NYC’s 5 boroughs in May.

Promoted Chicken Run Rescue Chicken Photo Contest in May.

Distributed UPC chickens literature & posters through our activist members in offices, libraries, shopping centers & university campuses in the U.S. and Canada.

Gathered media coverage across the USA via PR Newswire and radio interviews!

Further Actions, Investigations & Outreach Campaigns - 2016

Urged humane alternatives to classroom chick-hatching projects to teachers.


Won felony conviction of Cassius Mankin on April 21, 2016 for torturing and killing Molly the emu in Comanche County, Texas on February 14, 2015.

Urged Chandler, Arizona Chamber of Commerce to Ban Ostrich Races at its annual March Festival.

Protested Artist Strapping Lights onto the legs of 2,000 pigeons for Art Shows in New York City in May.

Protested classroom chicken slaughter at Berman Academy, Rockville, MD, May 18.

Successfully protested “foie gras and duck meat” auction by Pets Lifeline in Sonoma Valley, CA, July 30.

Urged Wild Abundance in Asheville, North Carolina to cancel sheep slaughter workshop.

Protested Yellville, Arkansas “turkey drop” from an airplane, October.

Rescued a mother hen and 7 chicks from a gas station in Sonoma County, CA, December 9.


Helped sanctuaries and individuals around the country find permanent homes for rescued cockfighting roosters and other abandoned, neglected and mistreated birds. See our Farmed Animal Sanctuary Websites webpage at www.upc-online.org/sanctuaries.

Alliance to End Chicken Kaporos Campaign - 2016

In 2015, the Alliance filed a lawsuit in the New York Supreme Court requesting the court to compel the NYPD and other city agencies to enforce the 15 laws broken by Kaporos practitioners. When the court denied our request, the Alliance filed an Appeal in 2016. For an update, see pp. 10-12 in this issue and visit the Alliance website at www.EndChickensAsKaporos.com.

Fabulous Kiosks & Bus Posters for Chickens and Turkeys! - 2016

100 “What Wings Are For” Kiosks in New York City in May.

Giant Bus Posters for turkeys and a compassionate holiday in November in Seattle, Washington State & Minneapolis, Minnesota.

University of Maryland Diamondback full-color display ad series, Spring & Fall:

“Compasion is a Beautiful Thing” • “Misery in Every Mouthful,” • “Don’t Gobble Me!”

New Website Documents - 2016

“BIRDS: The Need For Avian Advocacy” www.upc-online.org/alerts/160609_the_need_for_avian_advocacy.html

Transforming Our Traditions  www.upc-online.org/pp/winter2016/transforming_our_traditions.html
Which Is Worse For The Environment — Poultry Or Beef?  www.upc-online.org/pp/summer2016/which_is_worse-poultry_or_beef.html
Pet Food, Bird Shredding & Embryo Sexing: Behind the Scenes  www.upc-online.org/pp/fall2016/pet_food_bird_shredding.html

1990s UPC Videos Posted on YouTube

UPC 24-Hour Spring Mourning Vigil for Chickens (1992)
UPC Thanksgiving Dinner for Turkeys (1994)
Raw Footage, Raw Pain (1994)
Chickens in a Truck Accident (1995)
Ratite Slaughter: Ostriches and an Emu (1996)
Ostrich Slaughter at Brandywine Farms, Hemet CA (1996)

Speaking Engagements, Lectures & Exhibits – 2016

Sacramento (CA) VegFest, January 30.
Veggie Pride Parade, New York City, March 29.
Left Forum, City University of New York, May 21.
Salisbury (MD) University Environmental Studies Class Lecture, June 8.
Charlottesville VegFest (VA), September 26.
Vegan Mania, Chicago, IL, October 1.
New York City Hall End Chicken Kaporos Press Briefing & Rally, October 5.
World VegFest, San Francisco, CA, October 8 & 9.
Salisbury (MD) University Environmental Class Lecture, November 5.


Additional Community Outreach – Exhibits, Demos – 2016
Frederick Veg Out Street Fair Celebration (MD), Apr 23.
Baltimore VegFest, (MD), April 30.
Compassionate Living Protest at Whole Foods, Petaluma, CA, May 1.
Leafleting at the White House for International Respect for Chickens Day, May 7.
Richmond Vegetarian Festival (VA), July 9.
CARE Veggie Fest, West Chester, PA, August 6.
Vegan SoulFest, Baltimore, MD, August 20.
Sonoma County VegFest (CA), August 20.
Washington, DC VegFest, September 24.
Charlottesville Vegetarian Festival (VA), September 24.
New Jersey VegFest, Morristown, October 2.
Demonstrations in Brooklyn against Kaporos, October 9-10.
Twin Cities VegFest (MN), October 29-30.
Hampton Roads VegFest VA), November 6.
Virginia Association of Science Teachers Conference, November 17-19.
Annual Leafleting for Turkeys at the White House, November 20.
Life-Affirming Thanksgiving Celebration, Washington, DC, November 24.

UPC in the News:

PRINT MEDIA (Including Internet Publications) - 2016

Published Articles, Book Chapter & Letters to the Editor – 2016
(1) Karen Davis, PhD, President of United Poultry Concerns
“My Personal Path & Rocky Road to Thinking Like a Chicken, Cape Charles Mirror, May 1.
"You're Not Doing the Environment a Favor by Eating Chicken Instead of Beef," Los Angeles Times, October 20.

"We Don't Need to Slaughter a Sheep to Learn Where Our Food Comes From," Mountain Xpress, Asheville, NC, November 17 & 18.


**Additional Print Media Coverage - 2016**

"Reva the Revenant: Our Chesapeake Chicken Rescue” by Kathy O’Hara, One Green Planet, August 31.

"Interview with Hope Bohanec," Free from Harm, September 25.


Orange County Register, October 4. Kaporos campaign coverage.


Gothamist, October 11-12. Kaporos campaign coverage.


**Financial Report - 2016**

United Poultry Concerns Fiscal Year: January 1 - December 31, 2016

Revenues..................................................................................$220,000

Public Support.................................................................215,000

Expenses.................................................................................$418,000

Programs and Education...............................................352,000

Organizational Management.........................................36,000

Net Assets/Fund Balance at End of Year..............$1,041,000

United Poultry Concerns gratefully acknowledges the kind assistance of

Harold B. Larson Charitable Trust

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund for The Marino Foundation

The New York Community Trust

Estate of Marcia Grodin

Donors Trust, Inc.

Community Foundation Boulder County

Schwab Charitable

Richard and Peggy Greenfield Foundation

The Kay and David Bushnell Charitable Fund

Engineers for Change Inc.

Vanguard Charitable

CLAW Theory

Thank You for Your Support!
Mrs. Gobble-Good’s Golden Brown Pie

Discover New Traditions!

Serves 4 to 6. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

- Uncooked pie crust for placing on top of pie
- 2/3 cup lentils
- 8 cups water
- 2 to 3 sliced carrots
- 2 sliced celery stalks
- 1 medium diced onion
- 2 packets vegetarian bouillon
- 3 to 4 peeled & diced potatoes
- 1/2 teaspoon sage
- 1 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon parsley
- 3 tablespoons margarine
- 3 tablespoons flour

Cook lentils and 2 cups of water on low heat till tender. Put prepared vegetables in a large saucepan with 6 cups of water plus bouillon. Bring to a boil and cook for 10 minutes. Add prepared potatoes to cooking vegetables. Cool all vegetables for 20 minutes while seasoning the lentils with sage, salt, and parsley.

Prepare a thickening by melting margarine in a frying pan, adding flour, then 1 cup of water from cooking vegetables. Drain vegetables and put in an oven-proof bowl. Add lentils and thickening. Stir. If mixture is too thick, add more water from the cooking process. Place pie crust on top and bake till brown (about 1 hour).

This delicious recipe is from Instead of Chicken, Instead of Turkey. $14.95 includes shipping. Order by credit card at www.upc-online.org/merchandise/. Or send check or money order to United Poultry Concerns, PO Box 150, Machipongo, VA 23405.

For more great recipes, go to www.upc-online.org/recipes!
POSTCARDS
20 for $4.00, 40 for $7.50

“Love is Best”
“Peaceable Kingdom”
“Chickens – To Know Them is to Love Them”
“Misery is Not a Health Food”

FACT SHEETS
20 for $3.00
“Viva, the Chicken Hen / Chickens Raised for Meat”
“Jane-one tiny chicken foot”
“Starving Poultry for Profit” (forced molting)
“Poultry Slaughter: The Need for Legislation”
“The Rougher They Look, The Better They Lay” (free-range egg production)
“Intensive Poultry Production: Fouling the Environment”
“Philosophic Vegetarianism: Acting Affirmatively for Peace”
“The Rhetoric of Apology in Animal Rights”
“Providing a Good Home for Chickens”
“Chicken Talk: The Language of Chickens”
“Celebrate Easter Without Eggs”
“Chicken for Dinner: It’s Enough To Make You Sick”
“Guide to Staffing Tables: Do’s & Don’ts”
“Henny’s New Friends”
“Avoiding Burnout”
“The Life of One Battery Hen”
“Bird Flu - What You Need to Know”
“How I Learned the Truth About Eggs”

“Peeper the Turkey, a Story of Endless Love”
“Factory Farming vs. Alternative Farming: The Humane Hoax”

BROCHURES
20 for $3.00
“A Wing & A Prayer” (Kapparot ritual)
“Don’t Plants Have Feelings Too?”
“Chickens”
“The Battery Hen”
“Turkeys”
“Ostriches & Emus: Nowhere To Hide”
“Japanese Quail”
“The Use of Birds In Agricultural and Biomedical Research”
“Free-Range’ Poultry and Eggs: Not All They’re Cracked Up to Be” - New & Revised!
“Live Poultry Markets” (in English, Spanish, & Chinese)
“Chicken-Flying Contests”

LEAFLETS (FLYERS)
10 for $1.00, 25 for $2.50
“Chicken for Dinner?”
“The ‘Human’ Nature of Pigeons”
“The Truth about Feather Hair Extensions”
“Birds Suffer Horribly for Pillows & Coats”

Bumper Stickers
Don’t Just Switch from Beef to Chicken: Get the Slaughterhouse out of your Kitchen. $1 each
Don’t Just Switch from Beef to Chicken: Go Vegan. $1 each

Beautiful Chicken and Turkey Buttons
$2 each. 3 for $5. 10 for $10. Any mixture.
Stick Up For Chickens • Chickens are Friends, Not Food
Turkeys are Friends, Not Food • End Chickens as Kaporos
Be Kind to Turkeys - Don’t Gobble Me

UPC Ordering Information:
All Prices Include Postage
To order indicated items send check or money order to:
United Poultry Concerns
P.O. Box 150
Machipongo, VA 23405-0150
Or order online at upc-online.org
Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs: An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry
By Karen Davis

The Holocaust and the Henmaid’s Tale: A Case for Comparing Atrocities
By Karen Davis
In this thoughtful and thought-provoking contribution to the study of animals and the Holocaust, Karen Davis makes the case that significant parallels can – and must – be drawn between the Holocaust and the institutionalized abuse of billions of animals on factory farms. “Compelling and convincing . . . this bold, brave book.” - Charles Patterson, author of *Eternal Treblinka* $14.95

More Than a Meal: The Turkey in History, Myth, Ritual, and Reality
By Karen Davis
Karen Davis shows how turkeys in the wild have complex lives and family units, and how they were an integral part of Native American and continental cultures and landscape before the Europeans arrived, while drawing larger conclusions about our paradoxical relationship with turkeys, all birds and other animals including other human beings. “The turkey’s historical disfigurement is starkly depicted by Karen Davis in ‘More Than a Meal.’” - The New Yorker $14.95

Instead of Chicken, Instead of Turkey: A Poultryless “Poultry” Potpourri
By Karen Davis
This delightful vegan cookbook by United Poultry Concerns features homestyle, ethnic, and exotic recipes that duplicate and convert a variety of poultry and egg dishes. Includes artwork, poems, and illuminating passages showing chickens and turkeys in an appreciative light. $14.95

Animals and Women: Feminist Theoretical Explorations Edited by Carol J. Adams & Josephine Donovan
“Karen Davis’s brilliant essay [Thinking Like a Chicken: Farm Animals and The Feminine Connection] brings together the book’s central concepts, leading to conclusions that rightly should disturb feminists and animal advocates alike.” - Review by Deborah Tanzer, Ph.D. in *The Animals’ Agenda*. $16.95

Ninety-Five: Meeting America’s Farmed Animals in Stories and Photographs
An anthology of photos and stories by No Voice Unheard Editors: Marilee Geyer, Diane Leigh and Windi Wojdak. $20

Sister Species: Women, Animals, and Social Justice
Edited by Lisa Kemmerer, Forward by Carol J. Adams
Sister Species presents the experiences of fourteen women activists who are working on behalf of non-human animals and a more just and compassionate world. $14.95
A Home for Henny
By Karen Davis
Melanie is a 3rd grader who is excited about a chick hatching project in her class at school. The project seemed like a good idea at first, but unexpected problems arise and the whole class learns a lesson in compassion. When the project is over, Melanie adopts one of the chicks she names Henny. A Home for Henny explores the challenges and concerns with school hatching projects while evoking the lively personality of Henny and her loving relationship with Melanie. $6.99

The Great Cage Escape
Grades 4-7. By Louise Van Der Merwe
The birds in a pet shop think they are happy until a brown box punched full of air holes is left overnight on their front door step. The creature inside looks very weird at first. But as his feathers begin to grow, his true identity becomes apparent, and the stories he tells inspire the pet shop birds to pull off a Great Cage Escape. This is a story that encourages respect for all forms of life and helps learners realize that heaven can be right here on earth if we choose to make it so. $4.95

Goosie’s Story
By Louise Van Der Merwe
A touching story about a “battery” hen who is given a chance to lead a normal life – a happy life. This moving book will be warmly welcomed and shared by children, parents and teachers, highlighting as it does the concern and compassion we ought to feel for all our feathered friends on this earth. $4.95

Minny’s Dream
By Clare Druce
What happens when a young girl from the city discovers a battery-hen operation in the country? What happens when a “battery hen” named Minny speaks to her? What must she do when her friend Minny is going to be killed? This book is a must for the young person(s) in your life, age 8-14. $10

A Boy, A Chicken and The Lion of Judah – How Ari Became a Vegetarian
By Roberta Kalechofsky
This wonderfully gifted children’s story, set in modern Israel, is about a young boy’s quest for moral independence. An intelligent book for all ages. Winner of the Fund for Animals “Kind Writers Make Kind Readers Award.” $10

Dave Loves Chickens
By Carlos Patino
Dave is a quirky monster from another planet who loves chickens and all animals on Earth. He encourages people to share his love and not eat any animals! Filled with fun and bold colors, this book is perfect for young children to learn compassion for chickens and all animals in a sweetly told, lovable story. $10

A Chicken’s Life!
Grades 4-6. PETAkids Comics
This cute comic book illustrates a group of children visiting an animal sanctuary where they meet a flock of chickens and learn all about them including the differences between Nature’s Way and The Factory Farm Way. “Are these chickens really your friends?” they ask. “I’ve never met a chicken before.” A Chicken’s Life includes a puzzle for elementary school students to unscramble words including barn, beak, cluck, feathers, grass, hatch, peck, peep, wings, and lots more. $1.50 each. 10 for $10.

More Books, plus Videos available at upc-online.org/merchandise
‘Twas the Night Before THANKSGIVING
Story and Pictures by Dav Pilkey
Scholastic Book Shelf
Available from United Poultry Concerns $6.99

Turkeys don’t usually celebrate Thanksgiving. And they wish we wouldn’t either! Here is a tale of eight children who meet eight turkeys who are in big trouble. Only the kids can keep the turkeys from meeting their Thanksgiving fate. But how will they save the turkeys?

A Rooster’s Tale: A Year in the Life of a Clan of Chickens, by Claudia Bruckert, transports readers to the fascinating world of Change, who tells the real life story of his chicken family during his first year of life. Enchanting experiences and intriguing facts, chronicled and photographed beautifully over the course of one year, convey deep insights into the daily life of chickens. Grades 3-12 and a reading joy for all ages. $20

Cha Cha Chicken Coloring Book By Marc Chalvin
Narrated by Cha Cha the hen, this book invites children to visit Green Farm sanctuary and learn about the happy animals who live there. Written by Marian Hailey-Moss and illustrated by Marc Chalvin, Cha Cha shows children that chickens are people too and invites them to color their world beautiful! Cha Cha Chicken Coloring Book is a delightful gift for children K-3. $10

Chickens at Play
By United Poultry Concerns
This vibrant video shows chickens at the United Poultry Concerns sanctuary accompanied by lively music, with brief explanations of what the chickens are doing throughout their daily activities into the evening as, one by one, they hop up to their perches for the night. Narrated by a young child. 10:04 minutes. DVD. $5. $12.50 for 5. Watch: http://vimeo.com/13210456

More books and videos available at upc-online.org/merchandise
**Stickers**  Send a message with your mail! Order our eyecatching color stickers! 100 stickers for $10.

**POSTERS**

**International Respect for Chickens Day**
Celebrate 12.5” x 17” Wings 12” x 16”

**WHAT WINGS ARE FOR**

**CHICKS NEED THEIR MOTHERS**
Photos by Jim Robertson & Karen Davis
Great educational tool. Full color 11-1/2”x16” poster.

**Walking to Freedom After a Year in Cages**
Photo by Dave Clegg. Full color, 18”x22” poster.

**“Battery” Hens Roosting in Branches After Rotting in Cages**
Photo by Susan Rayfield
This beautiful color poster shows the rescued Cypress hens at UPC. Perfect for your office, your home, your school. 11.5”x16”.

**Great Turkeys Poster!**
Photos by Barbara Davidson & Susan Rayfield
The posters are in color, and come in two sizes: 11.5” x 16”, and 18” x 27”.

**UPC posters in any mix:**
One for $4. Two for $5. Three for $7.

**With Heart and Voice - a Beautiful Greeting Card from UPC**
$19.95 for 20 cards.
$38.95 for 40 cards, envelopes included.
Single card & envelope $1.00.

**A Heart Beats in Us the Same as in You**
*Photo by PeTA*
Full-color poster vividly captures the truth about factory chickens for the public. Vegetarian message. 18”x22”

**Friends, Not Food**
*Photo by Franklin Wade*
Liqin Cao & FreddaFlower.
Full color 19”x27” poster.

**TURKEYS ARE TOO NICE TO EAT!**
Photos by Barbara Davidson & Susan Rayfield
The posters are in color, and come in two sizes: 11.5” x 16”, and 18” x 27”.

**UPC posters in any mix:**
One for $4. Two for $5. Three for $7.
Activists “Take to the Streets” to End Chicken Kaporos in New York City!
This summer, the Alliance to End Chickens as Kaporos took to the streets to educate Brooklyn residents about the cruelty and illegality of using chickens in the Kaporos ritual. For those wishing to practice the ritual, coins may be used and donated directly to charity. Abusing and slaughtering thousands of chickens on Brooklyn streets - any streets – is unacceptable and more and more rabbis are speaking out against this brutal ritual.