World-famous artist Sue Coe, author of Dead Meat and Cruel, created The Screaming Hen for this edition of Poultry Press. The hen screaming in her “enriched” cage echoes Norwegian artist Edvard Munch’s famous depiction of his experience, related in his diary in 1892, of hearing “an infinite scream passing through nature.” The Scream has been described as an expressionist evocation of an individual suffering from a sense of total distortion of one’s environment and one’s self. The proximity of a slaughterhouse and a madhouse to the site depicted in Munch’s screaming figure may have influenced his portrait of infinite agony. Please turn the page . . .
In “Agreement Raises Red Flags,” we look at the effort to ban battery cages for egg-laying hens in Europe and the United States. In January, a bill was introduced to the U.S. Congress called the Egg Products Inspection Act of 2012 (HB 3798). It advocates a federal law that would allow battery cages to continue in the form of “enriched” cages. If enacted in 2030, the federal law will preempt state efforts to ban all cages, critics say. For more information about HB 3798, see www.RottenEggBill.org, a website created by the Humane Farming Association.

The January/February 2012 edition of Animal People included a full-page ad headlined “It’s Time to Ban Barren Battery Cages Nationwide,” urging readers to ask Congress to support the Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments of 2012. The ad told us that “All the groups that have been leading the fight to ban battery cages – such as those listed below – actively support this legislation, because it’s the best opportunity to help the largest number of farm animals.”

The first part of this statement is false, and the second part begs the question, since whether the proposed legislation is the best we can do for egg-laying hens is at the heart of the current debate over the shift in the animal protection movement from trumpet calls to “ban cages for egg-laying hens” to “ban barren cages for egg-laying hens.”

To begin with, not all groups that have been leading the fight to ban battery cages actively support the proposed legislation. There is a mixture of sharp opposition and apprehensive ambivalence among us. Secondly, some groups so credited haven’t led the fight to ban battery cages at all. Some have done little or nothing of note.

As George Orwell famously observed in his writings about the politics of language, rewriting history is a commonplace strategy used by politicians and powerbrokers to get people to go along with shifting agendas. People can forget the facts of even the most recent past.

For the record, then, I must recall that United Poultry Concerns put chickens on the map of U.S. animal advocacy back when we were being told by some activist leaders, in the late eighties and early nineties, that “nobody would ever care about chickens.” We took the challenge and proved otherwise.
In the first edition of my book *Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs: An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry* (1996) I concluded: “The battle to liberate hens from battery cages has begun and it includes all of us. Wherever we are, we are morally obligated to end the oppression. Battery cages should be banned in the United States and throughout the world. Until they have been discontinued, our species stands condemned of a criminal relationship with the living world. Consumers should boycott battery eggs and discover the variety of egg-free alternatives.”

**“Enriched” cages in Europe.**

In the early 1990s, the distinction between barren battery cages and so-called enriched cages was emerging in Europe, as a result of initiatives by Chickens’ Lib and Compassion in World Farming toward trying to ban battery cages. A 1992 report by the European Economic Commission’s Scientific Veterinary Committee concluded that the existing battery cage system “does not provide an adequate environment or meet the behavioural needs of laying hens.”

However, the Commission did not propose a ban on battery cages, just modifications. It proposed that beginning in 1995, each new cage should provide at least 800 square centimeters (120 square inches) of wire floor space per hen, at least 60 centimeters (24 square inches) of cage height over 65 percent of the cage area; claw-shortening devices consisting of strips of abrasive foot-scratching tape added to the manure deflectors behind the feed troughs, as mandated in Sweden; perches; and fully openable cage fronts. All cages would have to comply with these standards by January 1, 2002.

In “A Cage is Still a Cage,” Compassion in World Farming lamented in the Spring 1993 issue of the CIWF magazine then called *Agscene* that if these standards became compulsory, egg-laying hens would continue to be condemned to life in a cage, with a little more wire to stand on, sit on, and be surrounded by.

This fear was prophetic. On June 17, 1999, the European Union announced Laying Hen Directive 1999/74/EC. The Directive banned the barren battery hen cage in Europe by 2012 by adopting the Swiss formulation of minimum conditions that could not be met by conventional cages. Compassion in World Farming hailed the Directive “a new era of humanity for hens.”

Until 2012, existing cage systems were required to be slightly improved by reducing the number of hens per cage, so that each hen had 86 square inches of living space, up from 70 square inches. In 2008, the European Commission reaffirmed its directive banning conventional cage systems in the EU, effective January 1, 2012.

**“Major New Threat – The ‘Enriched’ Cage!”**

This was the title of an alert published in the Winter 2002 issue of Compassion in World Farming’s renamed magazine, *Farm Animal Voice*. Pleased that the 1999 Hens Directive meant that the cruel system of conventional cages was on its way out, the editors worried that the EU directive “does not also ban the so-called ‘enriched’ cages.”

They were “appalled at the prospect of ‘enriched’ cages being used,” at the behest of the farm lobby, pointing out that while the “enriched” cage would give each hen a tad more space the size of a postcard, along with a tiny perch, “nest” box, and bit of litter for pecking and scratching, these features “are so minimalist that hens are unable to perform many of their basic behaviours in any way that is meaningful for them.”

Activists were urged to continue to seek a ban on all cages, including “enriched” cages.

In the Summer 2006 issue of CIWF’s *Farm Animal Voice*, Clare Druce, founder of Chickens’ Lib (later renamed Farm Animal Welfare Network), noted that

As compared with the conventional cage, the “enriched” cage offers no meaningful benefits to hens, said CIWF.  CIWF photo, 2002
among other defects of “enriched” cages, the teensy “dustbathing” scratch patch of a box of sand or wood shavings in each cage would likely increase the airborne debris in the caged environment, already densely polluted with toxic gases, floating feathers, skin dander, and pathogens. Increasing the load of airborne particles would exacerbate the respiratory infections and eye irritation from which caged hens already suffer.

Druce further noted that while laying hens do need nest boxes, “enriched” cages would make meaningful inspections of the hens – already next to impossible – even harder. She asked: “Will the nesting box be carefully inspected, daily? Will checks be made to see if a hen in there is in fact laying an egg, resting, escaping, or merely dying from cage layer fatigue?”

Based on copious investigative evidence of what actually goes on in caged-hen operations, the answer is No. Despite two decades of European campaigns to prevent “enriched” cages from being adopted as an “alternative” to the conventional, barren cage, the European Union law that went into effect on January 1, 2012 allows the use of “enriched” cages, just as the EU egg industry lobby wanted all along.

“Enriched” cages in the U.S.

In 2010, a coalition of U.S. farm animal sanctuaries published a position statement, which I wrote, titled “Farmed Animal Sanctuaries Oppose ‘Enriched’ Cages for Laying Hens.” We explained that California’s Proposition 2 (the Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act, supported by 8.2 million voters in the November 2008 election) did not necessarily ban cages in California. The new law, effective in 2015, required only that California’s egg-laying hens must have enough room to lie down, fully extend their legs and wings, and be able to turn around without bumping into other hens or enclosure walls.

However, most signatures-gatherers for Proposition 2 believed that this ballot measure, if enacted, would ban battery cages in California – not just “barren” cages but all cages. That was how the Humane Society of the United States framed the initiative, which also implied that each hen, acting simultaneously, must be able to extend her limbs fully without touching other hens or walls, whereas what was actually meant was that just one hen at a time must be able to do these things.

In June 2010, claiming compliance with Proposition 2, egg producer J.S. West & Co. opened the first “enriched” cage system for laying hens in the U.S., in Livingston, California. A celebratory photograph of an “enriched” cage load of hens being wheeled into their “colony barn” appeared on the front page of Feedstuffs, the weekly agribusiness publication, on June 28, 2010. Noting that more than 230 guests had attended the barn’s opening a week earlier, Feedstuffs reported that while American Humane Certified approved the system, in which each hen would supposedly have 116 square inches of living space, the Humane Society of the United States opposed it.

HSUS reacted with “astonishment” at the effrontery of J.S. West & Co. HSUS in a September 15, 2009 press release said that “Prop 2’s proponents have always been crystal clear that the measure requires cage-free hen housing,” and that United Egg Producers and
HSUS had “agreed very explicitly that these so-called ‘furnished’ or ‘enriched’ cages would be prohibited if the measure passed.”

J.S. West’s 116 square inches of living space per hen prevented hens from being able to “fully extend their wings without touching other birds.” Performance of basic “normal behavior” requires a minimum of 1.5 square feet per bird, or 216 square inches, HSUS explained, and went on to accuse UEP of reneging on its assertion the day after the election that cages for laying hens “will certainly be outlawed.”

**Step forward two years.**

Compassion in World Farming, which had long cried foul at the prospect of “enriched” cages for laying hens as opposed to a ban on all cages, on July 7, 2011 issued a statement welcoming an agreement trumpeted that day by HSUS and United Egg Producers, whereby the former foes would now work together for federal legislation to ban barren cages for egg-laying hens in the United States – but not caging itself.

Just two years earlier, on June 18, 2009, HSUS had blasted “Double-Talk by Egg Industry” for its “head-snapping turn-around” plot to amend California Assembly bill AB 1437, which sought to apply Proposition 2 standards to the sale of whole eggs from out-of-state as well as in-state sources, by adding language that would let California egg producers continue keeping hens in cages.

Seethed HSUS, “What’s even stranger about this post-election maneuver is that it contradicts just about everything the egg industry leaders said during the campaign.”

Yet now HSUS’s charge of UEP’s perfidy reads like a pun on George Orwell’s *Animal Farm*, where the leaders of revolutionary progress are constantly reversing themselves through backroom deals with former adversaries in a downward spiral that saps and befuddles the animal citizens of Manor Farm.

Writing to *Feedstuffs* on January 20, 2012, United Egg Producers president Gene Gregory defended the UEP alliance with HSUS. He said that a national standard through federal legislation, such as HR 3798, introduced three days later by U.S. Representative Kurt Schrader of Oregon, was the “only way” to ensure the industry’s future. He said it was the “only way” to avoid a “bleak future of overlapping, inconsistent, unworkable state-based animal welfare standards that will result from ballot initiatives that our industry cannot win even if – as we did in California in 2008 – we raise millions of dollars to try to educate the public.”

**Follow the money.**

Until 2011, the HSUS campaign for cage-free egg production had the U.S. egg industry scared. Fear of HSUS led UEP to “reach out to HSUS in March 2011,” Gregory told *Feedstuffs*. Would HSUS president Wayne Pacelle be receptive to “a transition to enriched colony cages as an option to ending our conflict?”

The rest is “history.” HSUS and UEP now both say that abandonment of cage-free ballot campaigns is the only solution. Both sides stress that their pact is a financial solution.

Under the new dispensation, battery cages, albeit “enriched” with new plastic furniture that will soon be filthy, will be enshrined. Once the U.S. egg industry invests $4 billion-plus dollars into converting to “enriched” cages with their zillions of “welfare” devices, the system will be in place. Ditto in the European Union.

In September 2011, Gene Gregory of UEP told *Egg Industry* magazine that cage-free egg production “is not economically sustainable” and “doesn’t improve the welfare of the animals.” Two years earlier, Wayne Pacelle of HSUS cited “the egg industry’s own economic analysis” to argue that cage-free eggs would add “less
(continued) Agreement Raises Flags for Egg-Laying Hens

than a penny per egg . . . a modest cost,” while reiterating that “enriched” cages are inhumane.

Since then, HSUS has undergone an Orwellian transformation. In “How Two Bitter Adversaries Hatched A Plan To Change The Egg Industry,” broadcast by National Public Radio on February 10, 2012, Pacelle said he now sympathizes with “the daily struggles that a lot of farmers go through, economically.” Looking at photos of the former adversaries on Capitol Hill, I can’t help visualizing the ending to Orwell’s Animal Farm. The animals gaze stupefied at the Manor House. “They rushed back and looked through the window again.” Their leaders were frolicking with the enemy, toasting business deals! They try to tell one from the other, but “already it was impossible to say which was which.”

A new era for hens?

There is reason to worry about the future of America’s hens, who are said in a statement by HSUS and UEP to “give us” their eggs. No, we steal their eggs and torture the birds in ways I can’t describe for lack of space.

Even if the proposed federal law passes, the majority of hens will remain entombed in cages on factory farms. They will be locked into a federal law administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture which does not even enforce the 54-year-old “Humane Slaughter Act,” from which birds are excluded.

At most, brown hens, being slightly larger than the white hens, may within 18 years get a maximum of 144 square inches apiece, or one square foot per bird. Even UEP said that hens need a minimum of 1.5 square feet, or 216 square inches, to engage in minimal “normal behavior.”

Claims that the deal with UEP will mandate humane transport and “euthanasia” of spent, injured, or ill hens are unrealistic. In truth, they are lies. Partial beak amputation will continue. Killing newly hatched male chicks in egg production facilities by the millions will proceed as usual.

Given that no amount of legislation will ever create truly humane treatment of mass-produced hens or any other mass-produced animals, I urge people as passionately as I did in 1996 to forego eggs in favor of egg-free, vegan foods.

– Karen Davis, PhD, President of United Poultry Concerns.

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This article, slightly edited, appears in the March 2012 edition of ANIMAL PEOPLE, the leading independent newspaper providing original investigative coverage of animal protection worldwide. www.animalpeoplenews.org.
Chicken Slaughter “Art” Exhibit Blocked by United Poultry Concerns and Animal Outreach of Kansas; Public Outrage and Anticruelty Law Killed It.

In “The Story of Chickens: A Revolution,” Amber Hansen, an artist-in-residence at the University of Kansas, planned to cart five chickens, housed in a nomadic coop, through the city of Lawrence in April. The chickens would be wheeled to various locations until April 21 when they would be slaughtered in a public ceremony in Lawrence. The exhibition was supposed to stimulate public discussion over food and farming.

However, animal activists in Lawrence alerted the City Attorney’s Office, which informed Hansen that her plan to transport and kill the chickens was illegal within city limits. The City Code prohibits willfully or maliciously killing any domestic animal.

Determination to stop the slaughter began on Feb. 8 when United Poultry Concerns and Animal Outreach of Kansas launched an Internet campaign igniting animal activists, artists, scholars, and concerned citizens in Lawrence and around the world to protest to the University of Kansas Spencer Museum of Art and related institutions that supported the project.

Renowned visual artist Sue Coe, author of Dead Meat and Cruel, was joined by professor of art history at Northwestern University, Stephen Eisenman; Justice for Animals Arts Guild founder Mary Britton Clouse; and University of Kansas professor Elizabeth Schultz in an outpour of opposition to the project arguing that it was cruel, inartistic, and not “revolutionary” at all but an act of conventional violence to defenseless animals. Protecting chickens instead of hurting them is the revolutionary action, protesters proclaimed.

In an article on Feb. 29 in The Kansas City Star, “Animal activists celebrate as Lawrence blocks chicken art project,” United Poultry Concerns president Karen Davis said: “We feel this project and our response to it has helped Amber even though the original project has been blocked. We also feel that she has been introduced to a sensibility about animals that maybe she hadn’t been exposed to before.”

The Kansas City Star noted that when it first reported on the project on Feb. 18, “a barrage of criticism was already beginning to reach the city.”

Following a meeting with Amber on Feb. 27, Kansas activist Judy Carman and University of Kansas professor Elizabeth Schultz confirmed there would be no chickens on display in public and no chickens publicly slaughtered as planned. The closing ceremony on April 21 will include at least one vegan dish, and Amber has invited Judy and Elizabeth to be among the speakers at the event.

United Poultry Concerns and Animal Outreach of Kansas will continue working with allies in the arts to implement a local and national “No Animals in the Arts” policy as has been implemented by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis.

UPC president Karen Davis told The Kansas City Star: “We do not believe that live animals should be treated as museum specimens or be art objects and we certainly don’t consider the slaughter of animals to be artistic.” To view our campaign alerts, visit www.upc-online.org/entertainment.
Regarding the Feb. 23 Metro article “Laying the groundwork for backyard hens”:

I speak as a person who has rescued, rehabilitated and cared for chickens, in Maryland and Virginia, for 25 years, since 1987. Keeping chickens properly involves work. It involves daily cleaning of coops, water and food bowls.

It requires good veterinary care for birds who become ill with treatable respiratory illnesses and other infections to which chickens are susceptible. It requires worming and other medications.

It also involves money. Of utmost importance to chicken keepers is interest in the chickens themselves, not just their eggs.

People who view chickens and other living beings as mere utilitarian organisms for their own selfish uses and who are unable to show compassion and respect for the animals in their care should not keep chickens or any other animals.

Chickens are highly sociable birds. They are keenly sensitive to the attitudes expressed toward them and to the treatment they receive from those upon whom they are forced to depend.

Chickens are not mere “objects” to extract body parts from. They are naturally cheerful, friendly and enthusiastic individuals deserving of the same compassionate attention as one’s beloved companion dog or cat.

Karen Davis, Machipongo, Va.
The writer is president of United Poultry Concerns
To learn more about urban backyard chicken-keeping, see www.upc-online.org/backyard.

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Misery In Every Mouthful

UPC is running a series of prominent display ads in six editions of the University of Maryland-College Park student newspaper, The Diamondback. Designed to show the terrible suffering of chickens in slaughterhouses, these ads are part of our annual International Respect for Chickens Day Campaign. Donations for our advertising projects are always needed and deeply appreciated. This series of quarter-page, spot-color ads runs from March 8 through May 12 at a total cost of $5511.22. Thousands of students, faculty members, alumni, and other campus affiliates read The Diamondback every day. The University of Maryland statewide system is heavily funded by Perdue Farms, which slaughters millions of chickens every week and fills campus eateries with its products.

“Please be kind to me. Choose Vegan.

“Misery In Every Mouthful.

“The chickens hang there and look at you while they are bleeding. They try to hide their head from you by sticking it under the wing of the chicken next to them on the slaughter line. You can tell by them looking at you, they’re scared to death.”-Virgil Butler, former Tyson chicken slaughterhouse worker

Millions of chickens are scalded alive each year. In tanks of boiling water “the chickens scream, kick, and their eyeballs pop out of their heads,” said Virgil Butler, who quit the chicken business and became a vegetarian. He said: “I could no longer look at a piece of meat anymore without seeing the sad face of the suffering animal who had lived in it when she was alive.”

Please choose compassion for chickens & a kinder world with a heart healthy vegan diet. For delicious recipes, visit www.upc-online.org/recipes.

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United Poultry Concerns is a nonprofit organization that promotes the compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl.
Farm Animal Angst: Decoding the Sustainable and Humane Meat Hysteria

By Karen Davis, PhD, President of United Poultry Concerns

This article was published on the Internet Website One Green Planet, Feb. 13, 2012.

“Now sustainable meat is all the rage.” Grist, Jan. 31, 2012

Since the late 1990s, something like mass support for eliminating factory farming has grown. Revelations of industrial animal production practices and conditions have attracted media coverage, as Internet images and investigative reports document how animals in agribusiness are living and dying horrifically on factory farms.

But while these revelations have boosted a vegetarian response, the prevailing attitude at present is that while industrial animal farming is bad, people can continue to eat animal products that somehow avoid the taint of “factory farming,” arriving in supermarkets and restaurants from pastoral settings where animals are “happy,” receive a “respectful death,” and contribute to the health of the planet in being farmed – a daydream popularized by Michael Pollan, Eric Schlosser, and other food writers.

Thus, The New York Times editorialized in “A Humane Egg,” on July 11, 2010, that “In fact, there is no justification, economic or otherwise, for the abusive practice of confining animals in spaces barely larger than the volume of their bodies. Animals with more space are healthier, and they are no less productive. Industrial confinement is cruel and senseless and will turn out to be, we hope, a relatively short-lived anomaly in modern farming.”

While this may sound promising to some, it doesn’t fit the reality that we know. Currently there are over 7 billion human beings on the planet, and around 65 billion land animals are being raised each year worldwide for human consumption. The United States Census Bureau expects the human population to reach 7.5 billion to 10.5 billion by 2050, and an article in World Watch by Robert Goodland and Jeff Anhang, in 2009, predicted that the number of animals raised globally for human consumption will double between 2006 and 2050. The number of sea animals killed for Americans alone in 2009 was 51 billion, and the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization predicts that “global meat consumption will rise from 233 million tons to 300 million tons by 2020” (Feedstuffs Foodlink, March 28, 2011, p. 16).

One must ask how these numbers comport with the idea of non-industrial animal production – at low prices, no less! – keeping in mind that nearly everything people buy in stores is mass-produced in industrial factories. Do we really believe that contrary to virtually every other product on the market, the majority of animal products can somehow reach billions of tables from tens of billions of animals custom-raised on land, in fresh air, with room to roam or even take a few steps? How much land would be needed to sustain this gargantuan population of “non-factory farmed” animals? How much land would people willingly set aside to support them?

In Comfortably Unaware: Global Depletion and Food Responsibility (Langdon Street Press, 2011), Dr. Richard Oppenlander explains why “grass-fed, pastured” animal production is a false solution to factory farming, and why small-scale operations cannot sustainably meet the demands of billions of people wanting cheap, readily available meat, dairy and eggs.

Smaller farms don’t alter the amount of resources required to raise, transport, and slaughter billions of animals. Currently, 55 percent of our fresh water is given to animals raised for food, and 89,000 pounds of excrement are produced by farmed animals every second in the United States alone, according to Oppenlander. Moreover, what is fashionably called “humane” farming does not meet the behavioral and cognitive needs of, or show any genuine respect for, the animals trapped in our food production systems and belittling attitudes.

Anti-factory farming discussions that accurately depict aspects of standard industrial animal farming seldom include an equally scrupulous evocation of so-called alternative production practices – practices and attitudes that investigations and Internet blogs have often shown to be as callous and cruel as the “factory farming” of which they are, in fact, extensions.

For example, many backyard chicken-keeping enthusiasts, and touted smaller farms such as
Polyface in Virginia, purchase birds with the same manufactured genetic disabilities (e.g., predisposition to painful lameness, congestive heart failure, respiratory infections, and reproductive tumors) as those used in factory farming. And they typically buy their birds from industrial factory-farm hatcheries like Murray McMurray, in Iowa. Hens purchased by smaller farms for egg-laying purposes are often debeaked at the hatchery as a routine procedure before being shipped to buyers. “Egg-type” rooster chicks are so discounted by these hatcheries that, in addition to being trashed at birth, they’re used as packing material – called “packers” – in shipments of female chicks to buyers.

These are just some examples I can cite to counter “humane farming” fantasies. The reality is that the cruelest, most brutal and atrocious industrial farming conditions and practices have become the standard by which so-called humane treatment of farmed animals and satisfaction of their “basic behavioral needs” are being measured. The term “humane” as applied to farmed animals is a true example of Orwellian Doublespeak.

If being progressive in the 1990s meant choosing a vegetarian-vegan diet for ethical and environmental reasons, those reasons have not been trumped by any evidence favoring an animal-based diet. On the contrary, there is every good reason to support the growing provision of delicious, nourishing, ethically sustainable vegan foods. Even on the Perdue-dominated Virginia Eastern Shore where I live, vegan food products are increasing, not decreasing, in the supermarket. So let’s not be too quick to say vegan evolution is dead. If it is, our own extinction may be closer than we think.

—Karen Davis

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In loving memory of Walter and Nicholas, two young rescued “broiler” chickens who found some comfort and peace in the care of United Poultry Concerns before dying of their traumas. — Mary Finelli

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

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Karen Davis, Ph.D., President

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Ari, who is nine years old, has a secret he’s afraid to tell anyone. He doesn’t even understand it very well himself yet. It’s a feeling inside of him, a “secret misery.” He lives in the Negev desert, in Israel, with his parents who are staunch environmentalists. They participate in the Green movement to save the earth – the land, air, water, flowers, trees and wild creatures – from pollution and destruction. One of their big projects is preventing a huge radio station from being built in the path of the migration of millions of birds – storks, pelicans, eagles, kestrels, and raptors in flights so spectacular that people from all over the world come to see them.

Ari shares his parents’ love for the wild birds so much that he decides to create A Big Book of Birds for his school project. But it isn’t just the wild birds that inspire him. Ari has a pet hen, a chicken he loves called Tk Tk, who is named for the contented clucking sounds she makes that endear her to him and his family. And then there are those other birds – the ones he’s seen that haunt him like a dirty secret in the desert and fester like a sore in his spirit. These are the chickens and geese who are caged in warehouse “barns” without sunlight or fresh air, for their flesh and eggs. The eyes of these birds express misery and madness.

Ari seeks to understand the baffling mystery of the different “classes” of birds – the birds of the air the environmentalists care about, his affectionate pet hen Tk Tk, and the tormented hens and geese in the cages that no one seems to care about at all. His mother, Ima, who is usually open to her son’s inquiries, disappoints him this time. She evades his questions, just as Joseph the chicken caretaker does, causing Ari to puzzle unhappily, but more and more thoughtfully, over “why his parents felt so strongly about the birds of the air and did not seem to care at all about the chickens in the cages.” He wonders why his parents are so passionate about other ethical and environmental concerns, but indifferent, even hostile, to this one.

Though Ari feels anxious and lonely with his thoughts, his quandary relates to another secret that he broods over. Ari does not like meat. He does not want to eat the meat that everyone else enjoys, takes for granted and insists is necessary for health and strength.

He is bullied at school for throwing away his chicken sandwiches; he’s bedeviled by his Grandma Ellie who taunts him and buys him steak against his will. She is not bothered by the flesh of a once living creature skewered on her dinner plate, but watching Ari wash the dead body – the “meat” – before he will eat it makes her “sick.”

Ari is alone with his feelings, but in his quest for understanding, he discovers that not all grownups are the same, and that even those in positions of authority and accomplishment have secrets both hidden and revealed that are not unlike the secret underground water in the desert that was once an ocean with the power still to appear in surprising forms that refresh and make life flourish.

A Boy, A Chicken & the Lion of Judah is the story of nine-year-old Ari’s quest for moral sense and self-determination in a family, in a community, that both encourages and discourages his project of becoming his own person. Biblically, he is situated in a region of the earth where “revelations have taken place,” and he knows that “freedom and redemption were first pronounced here.” Ari lives at a time – our time – when the fate of the earth and all of its inhabitants are affected as never before by human activity and human attitudes. Even as people claim to care deeply about our planet and the necessity of “protecting species,” we lock up billions of innocent birds and other creatures in tombs of living death that torture them and desecrate the environment, merely to indulge our appetites. While many might wish to believe that ceasing this merciless cruelty to animals has nothing to do with saving the earth, let alone our own souls, Ari’s experience offers a different, more challenging insight.

A Boy, A Chicken & The Lion of Judah: How Ari Became a Vegetarian is available from United Poultry Concerns. $10 includes shipping. To order online go to www.upc-online.org/merchandise.
Celebrate Easter Humanely with a New Easter Tradition

Instead of decorating Easter eggs, create Easter Sugar Cookies. Make sugar cookies in egg-shaped ovals, and have the kids help decorate them in spring colors. Instead of hiding eggs, break the frosted cookies into thirds as puzzle parts, and have the kids assemble the cookie puzzles.

Sugar Cookies

• 1 ½ cup flour
• ½ cup sugar
• ½ teaspoon baking soda
• ½ teaspoon salt
• ½ cup oil
• 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
• Egg replacer for one egg

Mix dry ingredients. In a separate bowl, mix wet ingredients well and stir into dry ingredients. Form dough into a ball (it should stick together). Separate into balls and flatten cookies on a cutting board or roll out to a thin dough. Use a knife to shape them into egg-shaped ovals. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet, and bake at 375 degrees for seven minutes. Let cookies cool on a rack before decorating.

“Buttercream” Frosting

• 16-ounce package of powdered sugar
• 6 tablespoons vegan margarine, softened
• 3 tablespoons soymilk or other nondairy alternative
• 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract
• 1/8 teaspoon salt
• Food coloring, commercial or natural

Beet juice or cherry juice from canned goods makes pink or red
Blueberry juice makes lavender or purple
Turmeric powder (a spice) makes yellow or gold
Bottled liquid chlorophyl makes green

In a medium bowl, add powdered sugar. (Using a flour sifter to add it in will eliminate chunks). Add rest of ingredients. Using an electric mixer at medium-low speed, beat all ingredients until creamy. Add more soymilk a teaspoon at a time until you achieve your desired consistence. Separate frosting into small bowls. In each, add a tiny bit of coloring and mix well. Add more coloring for darker hues.

UPC thanks Janelle Davidson for sharing this delicious recipe with us.

Cookies & Photos by Liqin Cao
**POSTCARDS**

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

**FACT SHEETS**

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- “Starving Poultry for Profit” (forced molting)
- “Poultry Slaughter: The Need for Legislation”
- “Why Be Concerned About Mr. Perdue?”
- “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”
- “Assume No Animal Products are Safe”
- “Henny’s New Friends”
- “Avoiding Burnout”
- “The Life of One Battery Hen”
- “Bird Flu - What You Need to Know”

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- “Don’t Plants Have Feelings Too?”
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- “Japanese Quail”
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- “’Free-Range’ Poultry and Eggs: Not All They’re Cracked Up to Be” - New & Revised!
- “Live Poultry Markets” (in English, Spanish, & Chinese)
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- “Chicken for Dinner?”
- “The ‘Human’ Nature of Pigeons”
- “Assume No Animal Products are Safe”
- “Henny’s New Friends”
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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
Hatching Good Lessons: Alternatives To School Hatching Projects
By United Poultry Concerns
A guide booklet for elementary school teachers and other educators including parents. Revised & Updated by United Poultry Concerns, 2010. 16 pages of information, storytelling, classroom activities & color photos. Grades K-6 (some activities are designed for K-12). $2.50 per booklet. $1.00 per booklet for orders of 5 or more. It can be viewed and printed out directly at www.upc-online.org/hatching/.

A Home for Henny
By Karen Davis
This wonderful children’s book tells the touching story of a little girl, a chicken, and a school hatching project. Beautifully illustrated by Patricia Vandenbergh, it’s the perfect gift for a child, parents, teachers, your local library. $4.95

Nature’s Chicken, The Story of Today’s Chicken Farms
By Nigel Burroughs
With wry humor, this unique children’s storybook traces the development of today’s chicken and egg factory farming in a perfect blend of entertainment and instruction. Wonderful illustrations. Promotes compassion and respect for chickens. $4.95

Animal Place: Where Magical Things Happen
By Kim Sturla
Enchant young children with this charming tale about a stubborn girl who is secretly touched by a cow while visiting a sanctuary for farm animals. $10

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

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

When the Chickens Went on Strike
By Erica Silverman and illustrated by Matthew Trueman.
One day during Rosh Hashanah – the beginning of the Jewish New Year – a boy overhears the chickens in his village plan a strike. They are sick of being used for Kapores, the custom practiced in his Russian village where live chickens are waved over everyone’s heads to erase their bad deeds. “An end to Kapores!” the chickens chant as they flee the town.

This enchanting book is adapted from a story by Sholom Aleichem, the great Yiddish author best known for his tales which are the basis of the internationally acclaimed play Fiddler on the Roof. $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.

VIDEOS

The Emotional World of Farm Animals
By Animal Place
This is a wonderful documentary produced by Animal Place and led by best-selling author Jeffrey Masson. This delightful film – for viewers of all ages – is all about the thinking and feeling side of farmed animals. A PBS Primetime Favorite! Get your local station to air it. VHS and DVD $20

The Dignity, Beauty & Abuse of Chickens
By United Poultry Concerns
Our video shows chickens at UPC’s sanctuary doing things that chickens like to do! 16:07 min. — Color * Music * No Narration. VHS and DVD. $10

Inside a Live Poultry Market
By United Poultry Concerns
This horrific 11-minute video takes you inside a typical live bird market in New York City. An alternative to “factory farming”? Watch and decide. VHS and DVD. $10

Behavior of Rescued Factory-Farmed Chickens in a Sanctuary Setting
By United Poultry Concerns
See what a chicken can be when almost free! This 12-minute video shows chickens, turkeys, and ducks at UPC’s sanctuary racing out of their house to enjoy their day. VHS and DVD. $10

Inside Tyson’s Hell: Why I Got Out of the Chicken Slaughtering Business
By Virgil Butler
Produced by United Poultry Concerns and the Compassionate Living Project, Virgil’s eyewitness account of what goes on inside chicken slaughter plants is an indispensable contribution to animal advocates working to promote a compassionate lifestyle. DVD. 58:35 min. $15

45 Days: The Life and Death of a Broiler Chicken
By Compassion Over Killing
This 12-minute video shows the pathetic industry treatment of the more than 9 billion baby “broiler” chickens slaughtered each year in the US. VHS and DVD. $10

Hidden Suffering
By Chickens’ Lib / Farm Animal Welfare Network
This vivid half hour video exposes the cruelty of the battery cage system and intensive broiler chicken, turkey and duck production. VHS. $10

Ducks Out of Water
By Viva! International Voice for Animals
This powerful 5-minute video takes you inside today’s factory-farmed duck sheds in the US. VHS. $10

Delicacy of Despair
By GourmetCruelty.com
This investigation and rescue takes you behind the closed doors of the foie gras industry and shows what ducks and geese endure to produce “fatty liver.” 16:30 minutes. DVD. $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. Watch: http://vimeo.com/13210456 DVD. $5. $12.50 for 5.
Volume 22, Number 1

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**POSTERS**

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Liqin Cao & FreddaFlower.
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International Respect for Chickens Day May 4, 2012

“Please do an ACTION for Chickens in May!”

INTERNATIONAL RESPECT FOR CHICKENS DAY, MAY 4 is an annual project launched by United Poultry Concerns in 2005 to celebrate chickens throughout the world and protest the bleakness of their lives in farming operations. The entire month of May is International Respect for Chickens Month!

Please do an ACTION for chickens on or around May 4. Ideas include leafleting on a busy street corner, holding an office party or classroom celebration, writing a letter to the editor, doing a radio call-in, tabling at your local church, school or shopping mall, hosting a vegan open house, or simply talking to family, friends or strangers about the plight – and delight – of chickens and how people can help them.

See our merchandise pages for posters & brochures, also available at www.upc-online.org/merchandise.

Thank you for making every day Respect for Chickens Day!