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Poultry Press

Promoting the compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl

Celebrating 23 years of dedicated activism for domestic fowl



UPC# 11656

United Poultry Concerns

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Visit Our Web Site:
www.upc-online.org



Photo by Holly Wills

UPC president Karen Davis holds Paco on January 7, 2013. Paco joined us last August after being rescued by Ronna Kirchert, who found her hiding under a truck in Northern Virginia. Paco is a spirited individual, an avid talker, and a beloved member of our sanctuary family. We're honored to have her with us.

Students Tortured a Turkey to Death at a Fraternity Drinking Party

University of Kansas Beta Theta Pi Fraternity is Under Criminal Investigation

On Friday evening, December 14, 2012, University of Kansas fraternity Beta Theta Pi, in Lawrence, rented a turkey for a fraternity house drinking party. A fraternity member kicked in the padlocked cage in which the turkey was confined. When the cage broke, the turkey was chased, thrown like a football, and choked by the neck. *The Kansas City Star* reported on Dec. 17, 2012: "When the turkey's wing snapped, and then its leg, the animal began screaming, witnesses said."

Witnesses said the brutality they observed was "nauseating" and "horrible." Lisa McKenzie, whose blues band Grand Marquis was hired to play at the party, begged a fraternity member, who she said was "carrying the turkey down the steps upside down by her feet while squeezing her by the throat," to give her the turkey, but was told it was none of her business. The band stopped playing and called the police.

The KU Beta Theta Pi complaint is under criminal investigation. The National Beta Theta Pi parent organization has put the KU fraternity on suspension. KU fraternities are governed by the campus's Interfraternity Council which will do the initial investigation using information from the police. The University of Kansas has influence over the Council. University Relations told Lawrence activist Judy Carman, "We're not going to let this go away."



Narragansett turkey hen.



BETA THETA PI
— MEN OF PRINCIPLE —

Kansas Cruelty to Animals Statute 21-4310 defines Cruelty to Animals as "Intentionally killing, injuring, maiming, torturing or mutilating any [vertebrate] animal." (Wantonly, that is, as opposed to abusing animals for "legitimate" purposes.)

A key word in the anticruelty law is INTENTIONAL. The fact that the fraternity rented the turkey for a drinking party shows their intention to put this bird in a destructive situation certain to cause injury or death to her by intoxicated students. By all accounts, Beta Theta Pi members rented this helpless, unoffending bird in order to make her suffer.

In phone conversations with United Poultry Concerns, McKenzie said the turkey appeared to be a Narragansett female weighing about 15 pounds. She said the band's trumpeter, Chad Boydston, watched the turkey die on the front porch of the fraternity house. The turkey was not killed "to end its suffering," as police were told at the scene. Boydston described the fraternity member holding the turkey by her neck and shaking her violently until she was dead. McKenzie said the fraternity's violence was unbelievable. She said, "You could see the fear in the turkey's face."

What Can I Do?

- ✚ Urge Douglas County District Attorney Charles Branson to conduct a thorough criminal investigation and, as findings warrant, to prosecute the offenders to the fullest extent of the law. Witnesses who called the police from the fraternity house told them exactly which students they observed torturing the turkey.

🐔 Urge the National Beta Theta Pi organization and the KU Interfraternity Council to investigate the complaint and discipline the KU Beta Theta Pi fraternity in keeping with findings of intentional animal cruelty at the drinking party. Urge adoption of a Fraternity Code of Ethical Conduct prohibiting the presence of nonhuman animals at all fraternity functions. The Code should also include enforceable standards of humane conduct for Beta Theta Pi and all fraternities. Animals should be banned from all fraternity functions. Violations should mandate expulsion of the fraternity from the campus and its parent organization.

🐔 Urge University of Kansas Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little to adopt and enforce strict policies prohibiting and penalizing animal cruelty at The University of Kansas. Penalties should include expulsion of students and failure to graduate. Urge Chancellor Gray-Little to adopt a Code of Ethical Conduct for all campus residents including students, faculty and other staff, showing the leadership that is needed to prevent animal cruelty in the future. Nonhuman animals should be banned from all campus social functions as these functions almost always involve alcohol and other substances and conditions likely to put a defenseless animal in danger.

An example of faculty attitudes that contribute to cruelty and disrespect toward animals was reported in *The Kansas City Star* Dec. 27. Jim Lichtenberg, Associate Dean of the School of Education, received an email from an Indiana resident, Jennah Dibiase, deploring the turkey's mistreatment. Instead of a sympathetic reply, he sent an email "that made fun of the whole animal abuse incident and used a slang term describing masturbation." He later said his message was meant only for his colleagues and was copied to Dibiase by mistake. Fortunately, Dibiase shared his message with the newspaper. She said: "The dean has a doctorate degree. He's educated. He should be outraged. But the way he responded makes me think of him as a thug." A university spokesperson responded, "The disrespectful levity

used in this email does not reflect the opinions or actions of the university on this issue." Let us make sure The University of Kansas means business.

CONTACT:

District Attorney Charles Branson

Douglas County DA's Office

111 East 11th St, First Level

Lawrence KS 66044

Office: 785-841-0211

Fax: 785-832-8202

Email: districtattorney@douglas-county.com

Justin Warren, Director of Chapter Operations

Beta Theta Pi Foundation and Administrative Office

5134 Bonham Road, PO Box 6277

Oxford, OH 45056

Phone: 1-800-800-2382, ext. 264

Fax: 513-523-2381

Email: Justin.warren@betathetapi.org

IFC Executive Board

Interfraternity Council

University of Kansas

1301 Jayhawk Blvd

Room 424, Kansas Union

Lawrence, KS 66045

Phone: 785-864-4643

Email: Ifcpr@ku.edu

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little

Chancellor's Office

The University of Kansas

230 Strong Hall

Lawrence, KS 66045-7518

Phone: 785-864-3131

Fax: 785-864-4120

Email: chancellor@ku.edu



To view UPC's correspondence with these offices, go to www.upc-online.org/entertainment/, and click on **Turkey (Allegedly) Tortured by Students at Fraternity Drinking Party: Take Action!** 21 December 2012.

Feathers Ripped From Live Birds for Coats and Pillows

Birds suffer horribly for these consumer products

A report by the *Daily Mail* in the UK was published on the Internet Nov. 30, 2012. To view the full report including the video on UPC's Website, go to www.upc-online.org/ducks/ and scroll down to **Feathers ripped from birds' backs and gaping wounds sewn up with no pain relief: The barbaric cost of your winter coat.**



UPC summary:

Down is the soft breast feathers of birds. Down-filled clothing made and sold by Armani, Ralph Lauren, Benetton, Gap and other designers is in fashion. The filling for much of this clothing originates on farms where feathers are ripped from the bodies of live geese, leaving them bleeding and in pain. Other feather fillers – about 98 percent of all feathers according to the European Down & Feather Association – are byproducts of the foie gras and duck meat industries. The most prized down is hand-stripped from live birds, because mechanical stripping from slaughtered birds affects product quality. Feathers are pulled from the bird's breast, back, under the wings, and neck.

Marcus Mueller, an investigator for the animal charity Four Paws, tracks the Hungarian plucking brigades – men and women who go from farm to farm stripping live geese of their feathers. There are plucking brigades in Poland, Ukraine, Russia and Moldova but Hungary is the largest European source of down sold in UK products. The world's largest feather/down supplier to designers and stores is the U.S.-based company Allied Feather & Down.

Many geese are stripped more than once. Grey geese, bred for foie gras, are plucked once or twice before being slaughtered at 26 weeks old. Investigator Mueller says: "The men and women from the brigades work without feeling, grabbing terrified geese by their wings or legs, sometimes breaking them, always hurting them, as they tear out the birds' feathers."

When the plucking is over, the workers roughly sew up the birds' bleeding wounds with a needle and thread without anesthetic. About 5 weeks later, when the feathers have grown back, the process is repeated. The feathers of three or four geese fill a coat. The feathers of one goose fill a pillow.

Manufacturers and retailers who say they don't use down from live-plucked birds cannot prove their claim. Marcus Mueller explains: "Brigades go from farm to farm stripping the birds as they go, then the feathers are sold to brokers and middlemen who mix live-plucked feathers with those recovered from slaughtered animals, depending on the quality of the mix their customers ask for." [UPC Note: this resembles how the "alternative eggs" supply chain works in which eggs from battery-caged hens, "free-range" hens, "cage-free" hens, "organic," etc. can get mixed along the way to the supermarket.]

Birds who are not plucked alive, but whose feathers are used for pillows, comforters and clothing, suffer no less. If they're raised for foie gras (fatty liver food product), tubes are rammed down their throats several times a day to force-feed them until their livers are ten times the normal size. If they're intended for goose, duck or chicken meat, they suffer the same as all animals confined in filthy, disease-ridden industrial buildings and then slaughtered.

Yes, even slaughterhouse chicken feathers are used as pillow and coat fillers, along with feathers from two billion slaughterhouse ducks worldwide each year.

What Can I Do?

Don't EVER buy a coat, jacket, comforter, pillow or any other clothing or bedding filled or decorated with down or feathers (or fur or fleece). Read labels. If down/feathers or other animal products are involved, skip the purchase and choose an item made with synthetic materials only. Inform the store's customer service department how down/feather-filled products originate and why you will never buy them. There are plenty of super warm feather-free products available. Educate your family and friends and stay alert to opportunities to write letters to the editor & participate in online media forums about the cruelty of down/feather products.

When making hotel reservations, arrange in advance to have only fiber/polyester-filled pillows in your room when you arrive. Explain that you want this guarantee the same as no smoking. When you get to the front desk the day of your arrival, reiterate your request for feather-free pillows, and when you get to your room, examine the pillows! Remove the pillow slips until you get to the pillow and READ THE TAG. It will say if the pillow filler is down/feathers or polyester. If down/

feather pillows are in your room, call the front desk and ask that the pillows be removed immediately and replaced with feather-free pillows. Politely inform hotel personnel that you are ALLERGIC TO ANIMAL ABUSE and that their "pillow policy" will influence your future hotel choices.

Urge LOEWS HOTELS & RESORTS to replace their down pillows with feather-free pillows. Explain your reasons and request a written reply. Contact:

Paul W. Whetsell, President & CEO

Loews Hotels Corporate Head Office
667 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10065
Phone: 212-521-2000

Sarah Murov

Director of Public Relations
Loews Hotels Corporate Head Office
667 Madison Avenue
New York NY 10065
Phone: 212-521-2495
Email: smurov@loewshotels.com

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We NEED Your Strong and Continuing Financial Support

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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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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.



United Poultry Concerns
PO Box 150 • Machipongo, VA 23405-0150

Freddaflower Memorial & Appreciation Fund

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.

Dear UPC, thank you for your support of Lou and Bill, the two affectionate companion oxen we tried to save at Green Mountain College in Vermont. – *Audrey Haschemeyer*

My donation is in memory of my dear friend Theodore Pickens and in memory of all the precious turkeys who die so that Americans can have a centerpiece on the Thanksgiving Table. Keep up your important work. – *Salene Seymour*

Dear Karen & UPC, We are sorry for your loss of Allan Cate. Wishing him well on his spiritual journey and thankful for all of his devoted work. We only know of him through you. Thank you for being an incredible inspiration and devotee of the animals. – *Dave & Cheryl Hopkins*

My donation is in honor of Marlene Dembin's Birthday Wish, on Facebook. – *Gail Dembin*

In memory of the gentle turkey who suffered at the hands of the University of Kansas Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. My heart hurts for you. – *Jennifer Stevens*

My donation is in memory of Ricky, my little rooster who was on the Chicken Run Rescue Calendar in 2012 for September. He was a very special bird. I can still remember the day we rescued him from the feed store. He was on a perch all by himself. The things he did were so special. He used to walk with me and I would call and he would come running. He was the protector of his small flock of Modern Game hens who were also rescued from the feed store. His memory will always be with me. He passed away from a short illness in November. He was only two years old. – *Victoria Figurelli*

In loving memory of Henry C. Nunley, a World War Two Veteran who recently passed away. – *Joan Martin*

My donation is in honor of my sister, Jazelle, who has always loved chickens. – *Madelaine Burgess*



Ricky & Heidi

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

In memory of Bob Auerbach, who died on Dec. 26 at age 92 after being struck by a hit-and-run driver while walking to the Post Office in Greenbelt, Maryland. Bob was the first chairman of the Maryland Green Party. He was the Green Party's nominee for Congress for Maryland's 5th District several times, most recently in the 2012 election. Bob was a vigorous animal rights supporter who was active in all progressive causes since the 1930s. Bob and his daughter Hopi were two of the first people I met when I joined the Animal Rights movement in the early 1980s. I ran into Bob a couple of years ago at the Washington, DC Green Festival. He was just the same – sweet, kind, and totally committed to nonviolence and justice for all. –

Karen Davis



Bob Auerbach

My memorial donation is to stop the abuse of all poultry. Their lives are so terrible. We should be ashamed. How can we humans be so cruel to living animals? The cages, the transports, the cruel killings, all done by cruel humans for greed. – *Hilde Wilson*

My gift is in honor of All God's Creatures. – *Brien Comerford*

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In Memoriam: **Henry Spira**,
Animal Rights International

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!
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Free Ways to Help United Poultry Concerns Raise Much-Needed Funds

Please make free fundraising a part of your online routine

Every time you shop at any of 700+ online stores in the iGive network, a portion of the money you spend benefits United Poultry Concerns. It's a free service, and you'll never pay more when you reach a store through iGive. In fact, smart shoppers will enjoy iGive's repository of coupons, free shipping deals, and sales. To get started, just create your free iGive account. And when you search the web, do it through iSearchiGive.com where each search means a penny (or more!) for our cause!

Start iGiving at: www.iGive.com/UPC & www.iSearchiGive.com/UPC.

You can also install the iGive Toolbar 3.0 now at www.iSearchiGive.com/UPC and help UPC get every possible donation when you shop or search online!



STOCK CONTRIBUTIONS

Dear Friends,

Several of our members have made financial contributions in the form of stock to United Poultry Concerns through our securities account. We are deeply grateful for these gifts, and anticipate more in the future. There are two obvious benefits in making stock contributions. Please consider these advantages in making your future gifts to United Poultry Concerns.

Donors may give as much stock as they want to a nonprofit organization without impinging upon their estate. By giving this way, they avoid paying a capital gains tax on their assets, because they are gifting their assets.

The benefits to the nonprofit are obvious. In giving a gift of stock, you enable the nonprofit of your choice to grow and do more. It's as simple and important as that. Everyone wins. United Poultry Concerns has a securities account with UBS Investment Center.

For information on how you can donate to us this way, please call 877-827-7870, and a member of the UBS Advisory Team will help you. You may ask to speak directly with Rachel Tomblin or Earl Singletary.

From United Poultry Concerns and all our Feathered Friends, we thank you for helping to ensure our future!

Sincerely,
Karen Davis, Ph.D., President

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.

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Karen & Mr. Frizzle ©2008 Davida G. Breier

Rooster Feather Hair Extension Trade Dealt a Serious Blow by AVEDA!

AVEDA: “At the end, no salon in our network has the practice of using feathers.”

- Aveda President Dominique Conseil January 16, 2013 in a conference call with UPC about discontinuing the sale of rooster feather hair extensions in Aveda's spas and hair salons.

In 2011, United Poultry Concerns launched a campaign to educate people about the source of rooster feather hair extensions popularized by rock star Steven Tyler on *American Idol*. Rooster feather hair extensions are extracted from thousands of roosters who are battery-caged and suffocated to death with carbon dioxide by companies that tear out their tail feathers then trash the dead birds who are brought into the world only so that a few feathers from each bird can be made into cosmetic ornaments and fly fishing lures. Entire breeding flocks of hens and roosters are factory-farmed strictly for these uses.

In addition to telling people never to buy any feather products, we targeted the beauty care company Aveda on learning that rooster feather hair extensions were being sold at Aveda salons. Our campaign included three Open Letters to Aveda's president & CEO Dominique Conseil in *VegNews* magazine in 2012. Based on Aveda's image of an “animal-friendly brand culture” that “cares for the world we live in,” we urged Mr. Conseil to implement a policy banning rooster feather hair extensions and all animal cruelty products from its retail network. Aveda's letter to its network, while affirming that such products “do not align with the Aveda Mission,” diluted the message by assuring retailers that “it is not our place to dictate what you should or should not do.”

United Poultry Concerns countered that it *is* Aveda's place to dictate ethical policy to any retail outlet bearing or affiliated with Aveda's name and from which Aveda profits.

Aveda Takes Action

On January 16, 2013, a conference call with UPC president Karen Davis initiated by Aveda president Dominique Conseil and vice president of global communications, Shelley Simmons, brought encouraging news. Mr. Conseil said UPC's campaign

led Aveda to tell the 150 businesses they learned were selling rooster feather hair extensions to stop selling them. “We told them, either you agree, or we don't do business with you anymore.” Calling the rooster compounds “organized concentration camps,” Mr. Conseil assured UPC that “we were prepared to lose 150 of our 6,000 independent businesses if necessary.” To prove Aveda's good faith, he said that a few years ago, Aveda stopped selling boar bristle hair brushes due to the animal cruelty involved in the bristles. Of the rooster feather hair extension trade, he said: “We hope we have dealt a serious hit to this industry.”

What Can I Do?

Please thank Aveda by contacting:

**Dominique Conseil, President
AVEDA**

4000 Pheasant Ridge Drive
Blaine, MN 55449

Customer Service: 1-800-328-0849

Fax: 1-800-236-4301

Email: Aveda@aveda.com

Email: custrel@aveda.com

Promote compassionate fashion. Educate people about the terrible cruelty of feather ornaments by purchasing and distributing copies of our handout “The Truth about Feather Hair Extensions.” 10 for \$1.00. 25 for \$2.50. Order from UPC by check or money order, or by credit card at www.upc-online.org/merchandise.



New from UPC!

“The Mother of Compassion Blesses Our Fellow Beings – May They Be Happy and Free From Suffering”

Beth Redwood's beautiful artwork is now available in a limited edition from United Poultry Concerns.

11 x 14" matted print ready for framing.

\$20 includes shipping. Order Now!

Send check or money order to UPC, PO Box 150, Machipongo, VA 23405, or order by credit card at www.upc-online.org/merchandise/poster.html.



Two Powerful New Books available from United Poultry Concerns

Cruel: Bearing Witness To Animal Exploitation

By Sue Coe, OR Books, 2012

Renowned visual artist Sue Coe, pioneer champion of animal rights and author of *Dead Meat*, has produced this mesmerizing new book documenting the experiences of animals raised and slaughtered for human consumption.

Richly illustrated with full-color paintings and drawings, *Cruel* evokes the intense suffering of the animals and conditions of the workers involved in their violent destruction. Through its written account and haunting visual images, *Cruel* is a surpassingly passionate testimony to the waste, sorrow and violence perpetrated by our species against others.



Sanctuary: Portraits of Rescued Farm Animals

By Sharon Lee Hart, Charta Books, 2012

Sharon Lee Hart's photography project SANCTUARY takes you on an intimate journey to meet wonderful animals and the courageous rescuers who become their companions.

Sanctuary caregivers evoke individual animals in short, handwritten stories accompanying Hart's starkly beautiful black & white photography. "I love it that there are more sanctuaries every year, all over the world, and that more people are visiting them. Some come away with a promise: 'I will no longer participate in the suffering of these innocent creatures.'" – Sharon Lee Hart



Each \$20 book includes shipping. Order from UPC by check or money order, or by credit card www.upc-online.org/merchandise/book.html.

Urge Brooklyn Business Owners to Stop Renting Out Their Property

In 2010, United Poultry Concerns and a group of New York City activists formed the Alliance to End Chickens as Kaporos (www.EndChickensAsKaporos.com). Our purpose is to promote the use of non-animal symbols of atonement instead of the cruel waving and slaughtering of chickens in public ceremonies preceding Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement. Kaporos “chicken-swinging” is a medieval custom practiced by some Orthodox Jewish communities in Brooklyn, Los Angeles, Jerusalem, and elsewhere. Practitioners transfer their sins and punishment symbolically to the chickens by waving them over their heads, with their wings pinned painfully backward, while reciting verses that basically say: “You suffer and die in my place.”

Prior to the ceremony, thousands of chickens are trucked to urban neighborhoods where they are held in transport crates for days without food, water, or shelter. Birds injured, dying and dead have been observed being thrown into dumpsters in garbage bags during and after the ceremony. More and more Orthodox rabbis are publicly denouncing the Kaporos ritual on grounds of religion, morality, and compassion for animals. In the words of Orthodox Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz, Kaporos observers “should be cultivating mercy for all those who suffer and not be perpetuating pain on sentient creatures in the name of piety.”

What Can I Do?

Please write a letter in your own words to these two Brooklyn business owners. Tell them you recently learned they are renting out their property to people who conduct Kaporos with chickens and that you are shocked. Ask them how they can justify the performance of the ritual and urge them to stop renting out their property for this purpose. Request a response to your letter.

Mr. Joe Cohen

AMR Auto Repairs
502 Avenue P
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Mr. Stanley J. Nieberg

Nieberg Midwood Chapels
1625 Coney Island Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11230



From Carol Guzy's photos of the ritual published in *The Washington Post*, Oct. 9, 2010.

You are cordially invited to attend

United Poultry Concerns' Eleventh Annual Conference

On the topic of



Saturday, April 6, 2013, Berkeley, California

Conference Hosts: United Poultry Concerns, Animal Place, Berkeley Organization for Animal Advocacy



The Second Annual Conscious Eating Conference will inform attendees about the true nature of sustainable food choices. There's a growing awareness of food and its relationship to our planet, our communities, our health, and the animals who share our planet. As we face unprecedented global challenges from climate change to food deserts, we realize that agriculture plays a crucial role in these challenges and that it is our responsibility to make informed and conscious choices. Discussion will focus on issues surrounding backyard chicken-keeping, small-scale farming, "eating local," animal-free farming, sanctuary experience, and vegan living as alternatives to the agribusiness model of food production and animals.



Location: YWCA Building, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

Across the street from the UC Berkeley Campus

This meeting is not sponsored by the YWCA.

Date: Saturday, April 6, 2013 • Registration: 8am • Program: 8:30am - 6pm

Registration: FREE for students with IDs. To register as a student, email Hope@upc-online.org. \$10 all others. To register, send check or money order to UPC, PO Box 150, Machipongo, VA 23405, or register by credit card at www.upc-online.org/forums/2013.

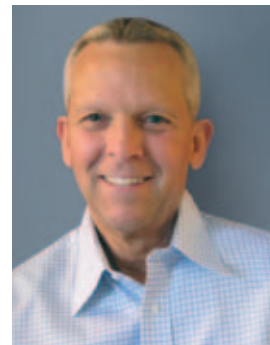
Food: Continental breakfast, Lunch for all participants, Dinner for speakers



Speakers:

Karen Davis, PhD, President of United Poultry Concerns, sanctuary director & author of books including *Prisoned Chickens*, *Poisoned Eggs: An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry*. www.upc-online.org.

Presentation: Is Backyard Chicken-Keeping an Ethical Alternative to Factory Farming?



Will Anderson, Founder of Greenpeace Alaska in 1978 and most recently of Green Vegans & author of the new book *This is Hope: Green Vegans and the New Human Ecology*. www.ThisIsHopetheBook.com.

Presentation: How We Find Our Way to a Humane and Environmentally Sane Future.



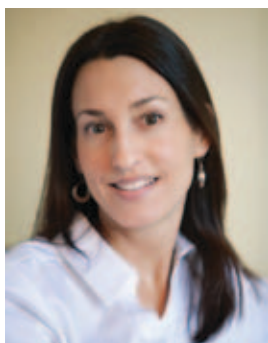
Hope Bohanec, Former Grassroots Campaigns Director for In Defense of Animals, longtime Bay Area animal activist leader & author of the new book *The Ultimate Betrayal: Is There Happy Meat?* www.the-ultimate-betrayal.com.

Presentation: The Ultimate Betrayal: Is There Happy Meat?



Michael Greger, MD, Director of Public Health and Animal Agriculture at The Humane Society of the United States & author of *Bird Flu: A Virus of Our Own Hatching*. Dr. Greger's nutrition videos are freely available at www.NutritionFacts.org.

Presentation: The Role of Diet in Preventing and Reversing the 15 Leading Causes of Death.



Melanie Joy, PhD, Ed.M., Professor of psychology and sociology at the University of Massachusetts, worldwide speaker and founder-president of the Carnism Awareness & Action Network & author of the award-winning primer on Carnism, *Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs, and Wear Cows*.

www.facebook.com/CarnismAwarenessandActionNetwork

Presentation: Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs, and Wear Cows: An Introduction to Carnism.



Kim Sturla, Executive Director of Animal Place, a sanctuary for farmed animals that she cofounded in 1989 with facilities in Grass Valley and Vacaville, California. Sturla has been a central figure in the animal rights movement for more than 30 years including shelter work and legislative campaigns for animals. www.animalplace.org.

Presentation: The Emotional World of Farmed Animals: What Sanctuaries are Showing Us

CHICKEN WISDOM: Calling for an Audience with Mr. Joy

Chicken by Annie Potts: Review by Karen Davis

REAKTION BOOKS 2012

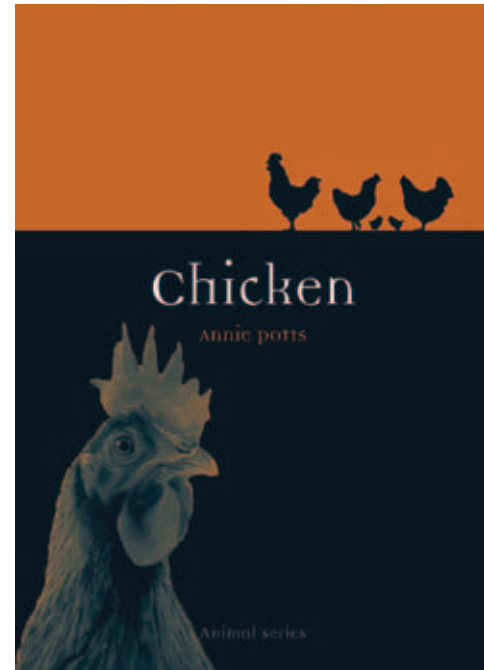
Karen Davis's review of *Chicken* appears in the Fall 2012 issue of *Humanimalia: a journal of human/animal interface studies*, Volume 4, Number 1.

www.depauw.edu/humanimalia/

Chickens are creatures of the earth who have been forced off the land. In Western countries billions of chickens are confined in industrialized buildings, and billions more are similarly confined in Africa, India, China, Russia and other parts of the world where poultry factory farming is rapidly supplanting, or has already supplanted, traditional farming. If there is such a thing as “earthrights,” the right of a creature to experience the earth from which it derived and on which its happiness in life chiefly depends, then chickens have been stripped of theirs.

Chicken traces the history of chickens, from their earliest known ancestry dating to a “pre-chicken” fossil record of 50 million years ago, to the “post-chicken” of industrialized animal farming – “post-chicken” meaning that the worldwide chicken industry is doing everything possible, from genetics to advertising, to destroy the chicken intrinsically and in public perception as a living being and fellow creature. Author Annie Potts, a professor of English and Cultural Studies and Co-Director of the New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, does not view the human stranglehold on chickens approvingly. Growing up in a rural town surrounded by poultry farms, she says she stopped eating chickens at an early age and cherishes a “strong love for chickens.” Her book is “dedicated to all chickens born to and killed for agribusiness, scientific research and entertainment, and to those special humans who educate, advocate and provide refuge for these birds.”

Potts argues that the disparagement of chickens which dominates today's popular culture is relatively new. Chickens were the first farmed animals to be permanently confined, in vast numbers, in automated



systems based on intensive genetic selection for food-production traits and reliance on antibiotics and drugs. In the twentieth century, the poultry industry in the United States became the model for animal agribusiness throughout the world. Roosters and hens went from being admired across cultures and time for “their vigilance, courage and loyalty to family or flock” to being caricatured as cowards and anthropomorphized as dim-witted. Hens became “egg-laying machines.” Chickens disappeared into “chicken.”

The disappearance of chickens into rhetorical anonymity and featureless buildings crammed with thousands of unseen birds has made it easy for the poultry industry, through advertising, cartoons and other means, to devalue chickens publicly, just as it is busy eviscerating chickens biologically through its worldwide experimental programs in universities, genetics and pharmaceutical laboratories. Who knew or cared what happened to chickens as the flow of cheap chicken and eggs entered the market after World War Two? A friend of mine said that when she was growing up in North Carolina in the 1940s and 1950s, every family kept a few chickens for eggs, but as soon as eggs started appearing in the grocery store, people stopped keeping chickens. Not having to tend them was labor-saving, and store-bought eggs were cheaper than feed and other supplies.

Chicken surveys the uses of chickens going back 8,000 years or so in folklore, popular culture, and art, from the “mythologies of ancient cultures to the mundane realities of the contemporary kitchen.” Four stages in the domestication of chickens, who evolved in the tropical forests of Southeast Asia and the rugged foothills of the Himalayan mountains, are identified: religion, including ritual sacrifice of hens and roosters and worship of eggs as cosmic symbols; cockfighting; the nineteenth-century craze in Europe and America of breeding “fancy” chickens for exhibition, an enthusiasm sparked in gentleman farmers by the importation to the continent of Asian breeds of chickens; and the utility

breeding of “egg-type” and “meat-type” birds which grew out of the fancy breeding frenzy to seal the fate of chickens in the twentieth century.

Potts traces a persistent tension in the human relationship with chickens. On the one hand, chickens have been accurately and appreciatively portrayed in literature and the arts; on the other hand, chickens have been trapped in anthropomorphic symbolisms and superstitions that have nothing to do with chickens except in a distorted, speciesist way. In cockfighting and religious rituals, chickens are tortured, killed and characterized by practitioners as *wanting* to be sacrificed to human and deific desires. As bad as industrialization



Woman feeding hens, from Tacuinum sanitatis, a medieval health and wellness book (c. 1370-1400).

(continued) CHICKEN WISDOM: Calling for an Audience with Mr. Joy

has been for chickens, people have been assaulting chickens for ages – in staged cockfights, blood fiestas, voodoo rituals, Hindu massacres, kaporos ceremonies and more. Chickens deemed “sacred” disappear into symbolic, sacrificial designations and uses that are as obliterating of their actual selves, as grisly and demeaning to them, as their disappearance into meat is.

Fortunately, a counter strain of empathy and understanding runs through the record. In the chapter called “Chicken Wisdom,” Potts quotes people in previous centuries who delighted in the devotion of roosters and hens to their families and the ability of chickens to bond with other species. The Renaissance ornithologist, Ulisse Aldrovandi, wrote of a hen he raised “who would not go to sleep at night anywhere except near me and my books.” The eighteenth-century natural historian Gilbert White wrote of the affection he observed between a hen and a horse whose mutual loneliness brought them together. The hen would approach the horse “with notes of complacency, rubbing herself gently against his legs, while the horse would look down with satisfaction, and move with the greatest caution and circumspection, lest he should trample on his diminutive companion.”

This chapter provides important information about the intelligence, emotional sensitivities, social sophistication and sensory complexity of chickens. The idea that mammalian brains are superior to avian brains, or that “tiny things just can’t be intelligent or aware,” is discredited. Potts explains that while the neuroanatomy of mammals and birds diverged during evolution, the mental development of both “has actually been convergent.” The cortical cells of mammals developed on the surface of the brain, while homologous cells in birds were retained “deeper within the cortex.”

Chickens have excellent hearing, full-spectrum color vision, discriminating smell and taste receptors, and acutely sensitive skin. Their beaks, with which they explore their surroundings, forage for food, rake in nesting materials, preen their feathers, and defend themselves against predators, are endowed with special receptors enabling them to make “exact tactile judgments.” Chickens love to sunbathe, dustbathe and socialize together. Their daily activities include playful chases, occasional spats, and vigorous vocal announcements – crows, egg cackles, predator warnings,

and “chook, Chook, CHOOK!” whenever food is found. Chickens have singing sounds of contentment that resonate through the flock intermittently during the day and often as they are settling down on their perches for the night. They use their voices not only to exchange information intimately and across distances, but to express joy and enthusiasm as well as boredom, weariness and woe. Having lived with chickens since 1985, I know that chickens are vibrant individuals, cheerful in all kinds of weather from sunshine to snow, and as Potts shows through stories she relates, chickens assert “their own forms of agency and self-determination.”

The vitality of chickens is crushed, however, by the poultry and egg industries, which operate unchecked by conscience or accountability. In the chapter “Meat Chicks and Egg Machines,” Potts shows the horror to which humans have condemned chickens for products we do not need and should not be eating. She writes that in modern societies, chicken have become denatured, depersonalized and even “de-animalized.” This summary is apt so long so we remember that the minds, consciousness and sensitivities of billions of chickens, whose body parts are marketed disgustingly as “wholesome food,” remain intact.

I personally have facilitated the recovery of hundreds of chickens rescued from poultry and egg operations. I have witnessed the revival of their personalities and self-confidence under the influence of sunshine, fresh air, loving care, and loss of fear. They have been traumatized, and as Potts writes, the suffering we inflict on chickens “seems set to intensify even further.” Yet their proprioceptive awareness remains and will persist, I believe, in the form of phantom limbic ancestral memories, recalling who they are ontologically, before our punishing hands were laid upon them.

In her “Epilogue: Appreciating Chickens,” Potts writes that alongside the terrible developments in poultry farming, there has been “a resurgence of interest in chickens as backyard helpers and cherished companions.” This interest is attributed to nostalgia for nature and a desire for contact with other species along with the activism and increased visibility of animal advocacy groups in North America, Europe and Australia. In Britain in the early 1970s, Clare Druce and her mother Violet Spaulding launched Chickens’ Lib,

the first advocacy organization in the world dedicated specifically to exposing the atrocities of modern poultry and egg production. Clare Druce, together with a beloved hen I rescued in Maryland in 1985 named Viva, inspired me to establish United Poultry Concerns in 1990.

While the trend in urban backyard chicken-keeping has benefited chickens insofar as people who previously knew chickens only as food have discovered how delightful they are as living creatures, it has also attracted people who mistreat their birds and brag on the Internet about their slaughtering activities, and it has fostered a bustling hatchery business entailing the same kinds of factory-farm cruelties and callousness that small farm practitioners and locavores claim to reject. Sanctuaries such as United Poultry Concerns and Chicken Run Rescue in the United States, and The British Hen Welfare Trust in the United Kingdom, have taken in many “casualties of the urban chicken movement,” but our ability to absorb even a fraction of these victims, of whom the majority are roosters, is limited.

Chicken is filled with exquisite photography and illuminating artwork from earliest times to the present. The visual art of Marc Chagall, Mary Britton Clouse,

Sue Coe and others puts chickens involved with humans hauntingly before us. *Chicken* concludes with the poignant story of Mr. Henry Joy, a small white rooster whose rescuer and friend Alisha Tomlinson, in North Carolina, arranged with area nursing homes and assisted living centres to visit residents as a “therapy chicken” to comfort and uplift their spirits. Until he died suddenly in 2009, leaving behind two grieving hens and his bereft human companion, Mr. Joy brought cheer to people while educating the public through media and community appearances “about chicken sentience and intelligence, factory farming and the truth behind nuggets.”

The pictures of Mr. Joy being tenderly and gently held in the hands of nursing home residents contrast grievously with images of the bleak fate from which chickens will never escape, unless we change our relationship with chickens and the natural world, or disappear entirely from the vast scene of suffering we have created on this planet. Potts concludes her account with the therapeutic suggestion that “Maybe we would all benefit from an audience with Mr. Joy.”

Karen Davis, United Poultry Concerns



An Audience with Mr. Joy.

vegan recipe corner

Vegan Southwestern Corn Pudding

Recipe courtesy www.fabulousfoods.com

This intensely flavorful, velvety side dish is the perfect accompaniment to any Southwestern meal.

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons corn oil
- 4 cups fresh corn (about 6 ears)
- 1 red bell pepper, seeded and chopped finely
- 2 jalapeños, chopped finely
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 cup cornmeal
- 2 tablespoons pure maple syrup
- 1 cup finely chopped scallions
- 1/4 cup finely chopped cilantro
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne

Directions

- Preheat the oven to 350°F and lightly grease an 8-inch square baking or casserole dish. A cast-iron pan would work here too (in fact, to cut down on dishes, you can sauté the corn in a cast-iron pan and later use it to bake the batter).
- Sauté the corn, bell pepper, and jalapeños with corn oil in a large skillet for 10 - 12 minutes, stirring occasionally. The corn should be very lightly browned. Meanwhile, stir together the cornstarch and coconut milk until the cornstarch has mostly dissolved.
- When the corn and the peppers are ready, transfer 2 cups of them to a blender or food processor. Add the coconut milk and cornstarch mixture, and pulse about 20 times, until the mixture is mostly pureed but not completely smooth.
- Transfer to a large mixing bowl and mix with the remaining corn, cornmeal, maple syrup, scallions, cilantro, salt, and cayenne.
- Pour the batter into a baking dish (or your cast-iron pan) and bake for 40 minutes. Let cool for about 10 minutes before slicing and serving.



Photo by Liqin Cao

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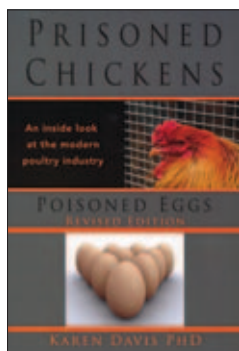
Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs: An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry

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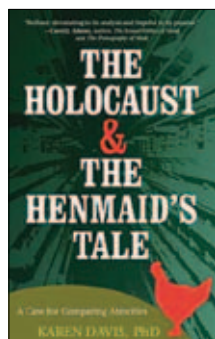
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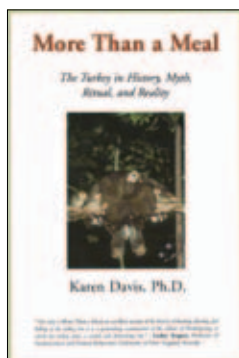
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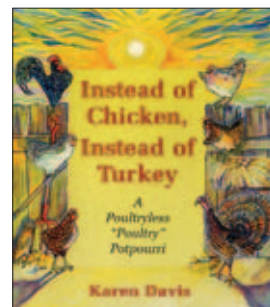
Karen Davis shows how turkeys in the wild have complex lives and family units, and how they were an integral part of Native American and continental cultures and landscape before the Europeans arrived, while drawing larger conclusions about our paradoxical relationship with turkeys, all birds and other 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



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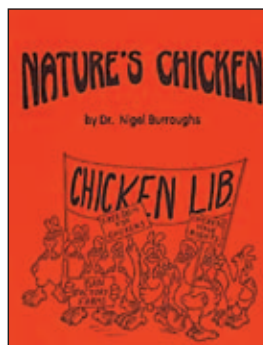
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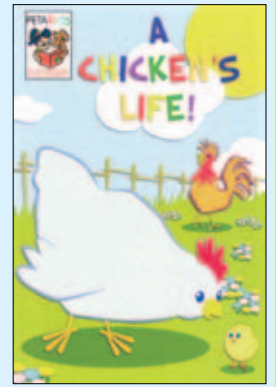
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International Respect for Chickens Day May 4

"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.



Ruby & Ivy. Photo: Jim Robertson

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