“Please, never, ever, call me a ‘battery hen.’ I, Minny, am a proud descendant of the Red Jungle Fowl!”

UPC Sanctuary photo of Minny Greenwell by Karen Davis, December 22, 2014

My background with children and young people

I grew up in Altoona, Pennsylvania in the 1950s where my father and three brothers and virtually the entire male community took sport hunting and fishing for granted without question. I never participated in their activities or had any desire to, though my father would sometimes invite me to join them, “just for the walk.” I could say no, but my brothers could hardly refuse. Boys are as much at the mercy of “male domination” and punishment for deviance as girls are, sometimes more.

Through the years I’ve worked professionally with children and young people of all ages. In the 1960s, I taught at a daycare center in Baltimore, MD called – yes! – The Little Red Hen. In the 1970s, I was a juvenile probation officer in inner-city Baltimore for five years, where I counselled troubled teen-age girls. From 1980 to 1991, I taught English at the University of Maryland-College Park to students who often sought my counsel not only about literature and writing, but about themselves. Thus I have had many interactions with a variety of children and young people over the years, and my views on the effect of socialization on the human-animal bond include these encounters.

My talk is inspired by the English Romantic poet William Wordsworth (1770-1850), whose poem *Ode on Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood* recounts his loss of visionary insight into Nature as he became an adult. The poem begins:

There was a time when meadow, grove, and stream,
The earth, and every common sight,
To me did seem
Apparel’d in celestial light,
The glory and the freshness of a dream.
It is not now as it hath been of yore;
Turn wheresoe’er I may,
By night or day,
The things which I have seen I now can see no more.
In the poem, Wordsworth argues that children enter the world with a light of perception that fades over time “into the light of common day.” Seeking to understand the loss of this light, he describes how children, despite their affinity for Nature and the bliss this gift confers, are driven simultaneously to imitate and please their parents. Wordsworth views the eagerness of children to model and fit into the adult world as a tragic but inevitable motivation that, unbeknownst to the innocent ones, guides them into “the darkness of the grave.” Toward the end of the poem he asks the child:

Thou little Child, yet glorious in the might Of heaven-born freedom on thy being’s height, Why with such earnest pains dost thou provoke The years to bring the inevitable yoke, Thus blindly with thy blessedness at strife? Full soon thy soul shall have her earthly freight, And custom lie upon thee with a weight, Heavy as frost, and deep almost as life!

This is a rhetorical question but one that seeks an answer. Wordsworth finds solace in his belief that there are compensatory forms of adult happiness commensurate with the hard realities that Life brings, and that despite the loss of visionary joy in Nature that comes with growing up, there remains in each person a “primal sympathy” that custom cannot destroy.

Children are not blank slates

The seventeenth-century English Enlightenment philosopher John Locke (1632-1704) argued in opposition to Wordsworth that the mind of a child at birth is an “empty cabinet,” a blank slate or tabula rasa devoid of innate ideas or content. Whereas Wordsworth argues that people are born with a supernal knowledge that informs the young child’s perceptions and enthusiasms, which he regards as positive attributes that socialization stifles, Locke views the human infant as an empty vessel whose content develops from the elements of each person’s life experiences. Locke said, “I think I may say that of all the men we meet with, nine parts often are what they are, good or evil, useful or not, by their education.”

Modern genetics disproves the idea that individuals come into the world as blank slates. Instead, we each have a unique genetic blueprint. As noted on microworld.org, “Almost every cell in your body contains DNA and all the information needed to make you what you are, from the way you look to which hand you write with.” As for Wordsworth’s idea that children possess an inextinguishable primal sympathy with Nature, even if so, the question remains as to how, and why, biology, psychology, aging and socialization conspire to smother this primal sympathy as part of the growth process in most people. Must socialization conflict with compassion for animals?

Let us note that compassion for animals as individuals is not synonymous with primal sympathy with Nature. Wordsworth’s own passion for Nature had more to do with waterfalls and woods than with animals per se, and being a Nature enthusiast can involve treating animals badly. Worship of animal Spirits and concern for animal Species can coexist with callousness toward individual animals, even disdain for a “mere” bird or a single squirrel.

4-H crushes compassion for animals

Writing in the anthology Sister Species: Women, Animals, and Social Justice, farmed animal transport and slaughterhouse investigator, Twyla Francois, describes her experience growing up in a small, religious farming community in Manitoba, Canada. In rural Canada, she writes, almost all students are enrolled in the 4-H – Head, Heart, Hands, and Health – program, where they learn to suppress their feelings of compassion for animals. She recalls how her friend who unknowingly was raising her beloved calf to be auctioned for slaughter, wept as the calf was loaded onto the trailer to be taken away and killed. Immediately, the organizer handed her a check for $1,000. “To my surprise,” Twyla writes, “her tears were quickly replaced with thoughts of how she would spend the money.”

What this episode shows is complicity between the “child” and the elements of adult callousness – not just
between Twyla’s friend and the auction organizer, but within the girl herself. The elements of socialization include desires, satisfactions and compensations that compete with and often overwhelm empathy and compassion, not only for animals but for anyone. Socialization is not simply an outside force bearing down on innocent children. Like all animals who live in herds and flocks, humans have evolved to be socialized in order to live within their own group.

**Being a child vs. being socialized**

In “At First Blush,” in the December 2014 issue of *Harper’s Magazine*, Norwegian writer Karl Ove Knausgaard describes a childhood episode in which he was shamed by his teacher in front of the class. He goes on to consider what it means to be a child:

To be a child is to be within yourself, inside your thoughts and feelings. To be a child is to be free of the perceptions of others. To be a child is also always, in a certain sense, to be inconsiderate. Your own needs, your own hunger, your own thirst, your own joy, your own anger—these direct everything you do. To grow up is to learn to show consideration, to know who you are in the company of others, and to act in relation to them, not only to yourself. Shame is our way of regulating this relation. Shame is the presence of the gaze of others within ourselves. This is what I experienced back then, in the classroom.

Knausgaard discusses the role of shaming—bullying—in socialization. Bullying isn’t so much learned behavior as it is instinctual. Children will bully a deviant without any help from adults. This “dark side of childhood,” while cruel and pitiless toward the victim, acts as a social correction. Without bullying, he says, there would be no rules or sense of belonging to a community—“just individuals who would each be forced to create and maintain their own separate worlds.” The cost and benefit of being part of a community is that the “deviant” (the individual or that part of the individual that differs) has to be sacrificed. “It is the price we have to pay to be more than one,” he says.

**Ethical deviance and socialization**

Psyche and socialization are complicated, but let us assume that there is a compassionate “child”—a primal sympathy for animals in most of us. One of the saddest ironies in life, I believe, is that there are adults in every community who love and empathize with animals, only they don’t know that there are others among them who feel the same way, because everyone keeps quiet about it. Fear of ridicule and rejection, isolation and ostracism, enables people to bully one another into silence and submission. Ethical deviance challenges the tyranny of custom and compliance.

Ethical deviance is the element in society that prevents socialization from becoming sclerotic. The ethical deviant opens the window a crack to let in fresh air, fresh ideas and perceptions. The ethical deviant may be thought of as the “child” within a society who, lucky for that society, will not grow up to be just another replica. The ethical deviant reassures people whose sensibilities have not gone totally underground or been beaten to death that they are not “crazy” for caring about a chicken. The ethical deviant refuses to be bullied into becoming a slave or a clone in order to belong. The ethical deviant provides a social service.

In a very valuable sense, then, the “child” aka ethical deviant is a grownup. In his *Ode on Intimations of Immortality*, Wordsworth contrasts his instinctual, unreflecting passion for Nature as a child with the “years that bring the philosophic mind.” The ethical deviant’s primal sympathy with and insight into the life of things matures to become the conscious sensibility, awareness and purposefulness of the adult. This person is the poet, the peacemaker, the social justice activist, the animal rights advocate—the “outsider” who keeps the consciousness and conscience of society alive and growing.

The struggle between conscience and callousness isn’t just between the self “in here” and society “out there”; the struggle takes place among conflicting impulses within our nature in response to situations we find or put ourselves in. Running a sanctuary for chickens, I can tell you that whereas I like mice and raccoons ontologically, I am not fond of them situationally. There is an ethical struggle among competing forces, feelings and obligations even within
Where Did Our Compassion Go? City College of New York, Dec. 2, 2014. Left to right: Chris Parucci, Bill Crain, Karen Davis, Brian Shapiro, Nancy Cardwell, Joyce Friedman, Daisy Dominguez

a sanctuary and a sanctuary provider. For some people it may be that being or becoming vegan changes them to feel more peaceful inside, but as I once wrote, this hasn’t been my experience. Rather:

Veganism has made me more conscious of behavior patterns that are not consistent with my adherence to philosophic veganism. Being vegan has not made my personality more peaceful, as by some sort of physiological or mystical transformation or holistic purification; however, it has made me intellectually more aware of my feelings and behavior and less able to rationalize and do certain things that I might otherwise overlook.

An important point is that we must never take for granted that people “over 25” are unreachable, unteachable, or dispensable in our quest to make compassion for animals part of the socialization process. Not only is this assumption wrong, but children who are surrounded by adults who don’t support their compassionate feelings suffer in lonely isolation and confusion and will often turn against themselves, and against animals, violently for having feelings that no one they looked up to when they were little seemed to share or understand. Our best hope for the future isn’t five-year-olds. Our best hope is five-year-olds supported by adults who have nurtured their own primal sympathies to maturity. – Karen Davis

Would you like to do more to help the birds? Just go to www.upc-online.org/email and sign up to BECOME A UPC E-SUBSCRIBER! News updates, action alerts, upcoming events and more!
Thanksgiving saw UPC featured in USA Today & Eastern Shore News, huge bus ads in San Francisco & Washington DC, a fabulous Open House Nov. 29, a splendid table at the Wash. DC Vegetarian Celebration, a beautiful rescued turkey at
our White House leafleting, and participation in the 46million turkeys exhibit in Takoma, Washington, DC. Staff members Hope Bohanec and Ronnie Steinau passed out thousands of UPC Turkeys brochures in San Diego and San Francisco!
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.

My Dixie passed away last February and I grieve her loss every day, God rest her soul. Please accept this donation to continue your good work, in memory of Dixie, my angel. – Roberta Beauchamp

Bless you all for loving and protecting these dear innocent beings. My donation is given in loving memory of our precious rescued banty hen, Martha. – Judith Roehm

My donation is in memory of Ann, the “spent” hen in the Butterfield slaughterhouse video by The Humane Society of the United States, and all spent hens who die a horrific and inhumane death needlessly. – Victoria Figurelli

In loving memory of our dear boy, Buddy. You came to us from a background we knew little about. Only that your face was scarred and you were nervous. You came to be the most joyous being. Missing your dog dances, your exuberance and love for your family. Watching you cuddle with your “sister,” Nina. You were with us only a year and 3 months, when we were hoping for a lifetime. But now you are free and at peace and thankfully your suffering wasn't long. Love you forever, sweet boy. For all the animals, Michael and Dianne Bahr

In honor of the good work going on for the animals. – Joan Martin

In memory of animal rights advocate Norm Phelps. I first met Norm and his wife Patti Rogers in the 1980s in a van at around 4am taking us to a hunt sabotage in Maryland. We remained good friends despite some philosophical disagreements. Norm spoke at UPC’s first annual conference on Direct Action for Animals June 26-27, 1999, which introduced the concept of Open Rescues to U.S. activists. Norm’s books The Longest Struggle and The Dominion of Love are permanent contributions to the Animal Rights Movement. In The Longest Struggle, Norm wrote “Thanks to Karen Davis, chickens and turkeys are now front-and-center on the animal rights agenda.” Norm and Patti have been wonderful friends to United Poultry Concerns, and Norm will be deeply missed. – Karen Davis

My donation is in loving memory of Noel, my handsome Siamese boy. You came for Christmas and made it especially happy for me. I miss your lively chatter and watching you perform your exercise routine. I love you and miss you daily. Love Mom. – Ana A. Garcia

In memory of my previously sponsored rooster Benjamin, who died after living happily at United Poultry Concerns. – Marcia Mueller

Norm Phelps speaks at UPC’s conference in Machipongo, VA on Direct Action for Animals, June 26-27, 1999.
Maya, a Very Special Peahen
by Joan Martin’s friend Carolyn in Mississippi

I fell in love at a poultry show with a peachick. She was so cute I couldn’t resist bringing her home with me. People said you can’t tame a peafowl, but I was determined to give it my best try. I named her Maya. She was only about the size of a bantam chicken when I brought her home, so I put her in a cage with my Serama rooster named Sierra. They bonded right away. Maya didn’t want him out of her sight. As chicks do, she started to grow. And grew and grew. She got so tall Sierra had to look up at her, but they still loved each other. To my delight, she bonded with me also. I think it helped for her to be an only peachick and raised with a rooster. She watched me hold and cuddle Sierra and saw it was OK. So she let me hold her too. Even though she is grown up now, she still lets me hold her on my lap and hug her. We cuddle and put our cheeks together. She has free range of my house. At night she sleeps up high on top of a cage. A peahen is an unusual house pet but Maya is a wonderful one. So don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t have a peahen companion. One just might surprise you. Maya is one very special bird and I love her dearly. I’m glad I didn’t listen to folks who said it couldn’t be done.
The End of Hens: Inside a “Spent Hen” Slaughterhouse

Butterfield Spent Fowl Slaughter Plant in Minnesota

What this new undercover video investigation released in January by The Humane Society of the United States shows is what happens to millions of egg-laying hens in the U.S. In or out of cages, this is how they die unless they get sent to a live poultry market or are gassed to death. Please don’t be fooled by “organic,” “cage-free” and other labels. Young hens whose profit-making days are over are trucked to “spent fowl” plants just like in this video. Or they are stuffed into metal containers, sealed dumpsters or killing carts to be hosed to death painfully with ice-cold carbon dioxide. Hens used for egg production are killed horrifically no matter what lies egg cartons and companies like Whole Foods and other retailers tell people.

Because spent fowl plants are few and far between, hens travel hundred even thousands of miles in battery cages to their final destination. All the while their bodies are forming and pushing out eggs so that, in addition to no food or water or space in the transport cages and being trucked nearly naked of feathers in all kinds of weather, they are covered in egg slime. Throughout the world, egg-laying hens are treated just like in this video, which includes hens being paralyzed with electricity and scalded to death.
Whole Foods: The False Face of Humane Farming – Investigators Find “Certified Humane” Cruelty to Chickens

A video released in January by the animal rights group Direct Action Everywhere (DxE) reveals horrific suffering of hens and roosters at Petaluma Farms, a Northern California egg supplier for Whole Foods and Organic Valley supermarkets. Instead of what Whole Foods calls “Chickens Raised with Care,” investigators found starving, debeaked hens and roosters covered in feces and crowded miserably in a dark shed thick with pollution. In the video, amid the horror, we watch as an investigator gently gathers up one little hen who lies dying in the manure. This hen, whom they name Mei Hua, meaning Beautiful Flower, lived to experience grass and fresh air for the first time in her life. But for the others, there was no way out.

EDITOR: I’m grateful that brave activists are shining a much-needed light on the dark and secretive world of animal agriculture in Sonoma County. This is not just a case of one bad egg. Cruelties are inherent to breeding animals for meat, dairy and eggs, no matter the label. Mothers are separated from frightened newborns, agency is denied, and the brutal slaughter of young animals who want to continue living is inevitable.

The owner’s defense was that the hens in the video were not from their “certified humane” flock but from the conventional buildings they have on the property. So let me get this straight — the Mahrts [the owners] are OK with having some of the birds suffer, as long as they are not the certified humane hens? If the owners truly cared about the birds, they would have the highest standard for them all, but it’s about running a business, and they can make more profit with a wider variety of products.

It’s unnecessary and unhealthy to eat animal products and impossible to honestly farm animals humanely. Let’s embrace a new ethic. Bring farmed animals into our circle of compassion and not eat meat, dairy or eggs. – Hope Bohanec, Penngrove, California

Let’s Embrace a New Ethic

In a letter published in The Press Democrat, January 14, in Sonoma Country, California where Petaluma Farms is located, United Poultry Concerns Projects Manager Hope Bohanec responded to the farm owners’ claim that the chickens shown in the video weren’t Certified Humane:

Direct Action Everywhere activist Brian Burns will discuss DxE’s philosophy and strategies at UPC’s 4th Annual Conscious Eating Conference in Berkeley, CA Saturday April 4 cohosted by Animal Place. Registration is now open – please join us! Turn the page for more information.
You are cordially invited to attend

United Poultry Concerns’ Fourth Annual Conference

On the topic of

2015

Conscious Eating

Local, Organic, Plant-Based:
What are the Most Compassionate Choices?

Saturday, April 4, 2015, Berkeley, California

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

Conference Synopsis: UPC’s Conscious Eating Conference brings expert speakers to Berkeley, California to share their ideas about the best food choices we can make for the planet, ourselves, and other animals. We will explore the ethics of eating and the effect that each food choice has, and why it matters.

Our conference features a fearless investigator who went undercover to document the inside story of animal farming. We will reveal little known facts about the fishing industry, including factory-farm fishing and how the oceans are being affected, and we will hear startling new information about the consciousness and emotional lives of fish. We will examine controversial strategies for farmed animal advocacy – especially the arguments raging over “single-issue” campaigns and confrontational activism in restaurants and supermarkets. Along with our speakers, this year’s conference highlights an interactive discussion with the audience on how to heighten our message with the most effective voices and actions. You don’t want to miss this exciting day of information exchange and advocacy support!
Location: David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

Date: Saturday, April 4, 2015 • Registration: 8am • Program: 9am - 5pm

Registration: FREE for students with IDs. To register as a student, email hope@upc-online.org. $15 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/2015.

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

Speakers:

TJ Tumasse,
Animal Legal Defense Fund,
Former Undercover Investigator

Kim Sturla,
Executive Director, Animal Place

Mary Finelli,
Fish Feel

Victoria Moran,
Main Street Vegan

Karen Davis,
United Poultry Concerns

Brian Burns,
Direct Action Everywhere

Katie Cantrel,
Factory Farming Awareness Coalition

Full Schedule & Bios for CEC 2015 Speakers available at www.upc-online.org/forums/2015
The June 2012 issue of *Smithsonian* magazine published an article celebrating global chicken production and consumption. “How the Chicken Conquered the World” features a cartoon of the “Chicken Conqueror” dressed as Napoleon. Eager to glitz the story of chickens as “crispy” corpses and world conquerors, the editors thought it would be cute to dress up the account with “astounding” images. Readers were invited to chuckle with the editors: “What if you were to take portraits of raw chickens, dressed up as some of the most famous leaders in history . . . Chickens-Dressed-Like-Napoleon-Einstein-and-Other-Historical-Figures?”

Other than the Napoleon cartoon, the chickens dressed as “historical figures” for the article are naked, headless corpses. The article’s coauthor is science writer Andrew Lawler, whose book *Why Did the Chicken Cross the World?* looks at why the chicken, of all animal species on earth, emerged, in his view, as “our most important animal companion.”

According to the book jacket, *Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road?* presents “the sweeping history that this humble fowl deserves.” Lawler entertains the reader with vivid accounts of how chickens have been exploited through the ages for medicine, sacrifice, sport, science, food and war, right up to where, through his eyes, you can watch a contemporary cockfighting spectacle in Manila, witness a Kaporos chicken-swinging ritual in Brooklyn, peek inside a chicken research laboratory at Michigan State University, and catch a glimpse of an industrial “broiler” chicken shed where these very world conquerors – our “partners” in the project of powering the human race with their proteins – sit in dead silence until the chicken catchers, pumped up for violence, come cursing, kicking, clacking and hollering at them, a squad of terrorists descending on birds who are sick and lame and never harmed anyone.

Lawler’s summary of cockfighting fits nearly every scene he shows: “The contest is about the human rather than the animal. . . . [T]he bird is simply an extension of its owner.” Research for his book brought him to United Poultry Concerns on the Eastern Shore of Virginia – part of the Delmarva Peninsula including Maryland and Delaware where more than half a billion chickens are confined in thousands of toxic sheds throughout the region, and millions are slaughtered each week – to interview me and see our sanctuary chickens in October 2013.

He says he was initially leery because I responded to his request for a visit by saying that his *Smithsonian* article was despicable and that he needed “a whole different perspective, spirit, and attitude toward chickens”; thus his surprise when instead of a lecture he was invited outdoors to meet our chickens, of whom he writes that “After the numbing uniformity inside the Delaware broiler shed, the individuality of each of Davis’s birds is startling and unnerving.”

Lawler says we agree that the effort of United Poultry Concerns on behalf of chickens is “impractical, ineffectual, and wildly anthropomorphic.” This may be his interpretation of my saying, on pages 227-228: “I think chickens are in hell and they are not going to get out. They are already in hell and there will be more of them. As long as people want billions of eggs and millions of pounds of flesh, how can all these animal products be delivered to the millions? There will be crowding and cruelty – it is just built into the situation. You can’t get away from it. And we are
ingesting their misery.”

Yes, so I said, but pessimism about an atrocity and its outcome is not the same as feeling, or being, “ineffectual” in one’s commitment to alleviating the atrocity, nor is it an assessment or equivalent of one’s (or one’s organization’s) ability or accomplishment confronting the atrocity. The fact that a situation may be beyond one’s control does not make one’s actions toward it, per se, “ineffectual.” Lawler’s book, and maybe his conscience, benefited from my book *Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs: An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry*, and from other writings of mine that he read. He told me during his visit that until he encountered the idea in *Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs* that by eating chickens we are eating their misery, it never occurred to him. And probably most readers never thought of it either, but perhaps now they will.

I believe his book benefitted also from our personal interview and as a result of his seeing our sanctuary chickens living and being treated in ways that differ starkly from how chickens look, act, and are treated in the various situations our species forces them into – situations that, as Lawler describes cockfighting, are about “the human,” not chickens. The chickens, poor souls, are simply extensions of their owners, whether it’s cockfighting, religious sacrifice, genetic manipulation, or whatever. Those of us who want chickens to live sanely as chickens, instead of as what Lawler calls a sanctuary’s “fowl flotsam” and “misfit poultry” – we are not the anthropomorphic ones. The abusers are.

Anthropomorphism originally referred to the attribution of human characteristics to a deity. It now refers almost entirely to the attribution of consciousness, emotions, and other mental states, once commonly regarded as exclusively or predominantly human, to nonhuman animals. Anthropomorphism based on empathy and careful observation is a valid approach to understanding other species. After all, we can only see the world “through their eyes” by looking through our own. The imposition of humanized traits and behaviors on other animals for purely selfish purposes, forcing them to behave in ways that are pathologic to the animals themselves, is not the same thing as drawing inferences about the emotions, interests, and desires of animals rooted in our common evolutionary heritage.

The “humble chicken” as Napoleonic conqueror . . . To a thoughtless person, dressing up a defenseless and defeated creature as a “conqueror,” representing chickens as our companions in our destructive ventures toward them, may seem clever and cute; otherwise, it is callous and cruel – and far from new. Anthropomorphic derision of other animals in a spirit of malevolent jollity is an age-old ritual in the carnivalesque tradition of taunting and tormenting helpless victims, both literally and figuratively. Opposing the sanctimony of pious sentiments and ceremonies, the carnivalesque spirit emphasizes mockery, sarcasm, cruelty, gluttony, and pleasure in the abuse of bodies. In the carnivalesque tradition, humans and other animals are mixed derisively together. Only the eyes, wrote cultural analyst Mikhail Bakhtin, “have no part in these comic images,” because eyes “express an individual, so to speak.”

Apart from the Napoleon cartoon, all of the chickens depicted as conquerors in Lawler’s *Smithsonian* article, of which *Why Did the Chicken Cross the World?* is the fruition, are headless. Looking at them, I thought of former Tyson chicken slaughterhouse worker Virgil Butler, writing before he died, in 2006, of how the chickens who were about to be killed would stare at him with their eyes as they hung upside down on the conveyer belts, fully conscious and filled with excruciating electric shocks administered to their faces through cold, salted, electrified water: “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 became a vegetarian when he could no longer look at a piece of a dead chicken or any other meat anymore without seeing “the sad, tortured face that was attached to it sometime in the past.” Lawler is not a vegetarian or vegan-friendly. Despite the wealth of delicious animal-free foods that can be found even in the rural area where I live, he dismisses them, whether in ignorance or by design, as mostly unworthy items that merely “mimic the bland taste of industrial chicken.” Instead, he feeds the fantasy that “More humane genetics, treatment, and living conditions could roll back the worst abuses against our companion species without unduly interfering with the flow of cheap animal protein to our cities.”

Cognitive science shows that chickens are birds with “a deep intelligence,” who “see the world in far greater depth and detail than we do,” have “a sophisticated method of communication,” and “a complex nervous
system designed to form a multitude of memories and make complex decisions.” However, a researcher at Michigan State University who does the usual hideous things to hens that people like her have been doing for decades says that chickens “are not kind and gentle. They peck at each other and pull feathers out” and don’t always use the “freedom” of their crowded confinement systems “wisely.”

This slap at chickens is an example of false anthropomorphism. Chickens do not pick and pull at each other, or get into “cockfights,” in their tropical forest homes. They are foragers with a strong family life whose picking at one another in captive squalor and sterility is a form of distorted behavior engendered by living conditions that frustrate their nature and reflect the psychopathy of their captors. Thirty years of keeping chickens, and I know. Sure they have spats now and then—so what? They’re sentient, social beings, not robots. When Andrew Lawler visited our place, I took him upstairs to look down at the chickens in the yard, surrounded by trees and moving about in the loveliest rhythms and patterns of their daily activities.

Lawler calls the modern, “engineered” pure white debilitated chicken, “a poster child for all that is sad and nightmarish about our industrial agriculture.” His account of how chickens got this way is one of No Exit. He travels to tropical forests and mountain tops in Asia, where the families of red jungle fowl – ancestors and contemporary relatives of domesticated chickens – live shy of humans, but they cannot escape. They and their forest habitat are disappearing, and the locals catch them and use them as live bait to lure others into captivity. A village farmhand explains that the “smart and secretive [jungle fowl] can swiftly die if caged by rushing the bars and breaking its neck.” No matter. A campaign is underway to appropriate the genetic traits of remnant populations of jungle fowl in their shrinking forests. Laboratories, zoos. This is their future. Why Did the Chicken Cross the World? concludes with a North Carolina ecologist – a retired employee in a nuclear weapons laboratory – thanking “our most steadfast and versatile companion,” in Lawler’s words, for giving itself to us. He is interested in saving the “pure stuff.” —Karen Davis, PhD

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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.

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!

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Please make free fundraising a part of your online routine

Every time you shop at any of 1400+ 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!

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Vegan Vanilla Pound Cake

Said the Soybean to the Egg: “Anything you can do, I can do better!”

- ½ cup vanilla soy yogurt
- ½ cup blended silken tofu (whip then measure)
- ¾ cup vanilla or plain soy milk
- 1 ¼ cups sugar
- ½ cup canola or vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon lemon extract or grated lemon zest
- ½ teaspoon orange extract or grated orange zest
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ Tablespoons arrowroot powder
- 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees for at least 15 minutes. This cake's thick batter requires a well-preheated oven to rise properly. Lightly grease and flour a 9 x 5-inch loaf pan. (A metal pan with a dark finish is best for this cake. Do not use a larger pan.)

In a medium bowl, combine the soy yogurt, blended silken tofu, soy milk, sugar, oil, and extracts. With an electric mixer beat until everything is smooth, about 2 minutes.

In a large bowl, sift in the flour, arrowroot powder, baking powder, baking soda, and salt and mix well. Add wet ingredients, stir with a rubber spatula to combine, then beat with electric mixer for about two minutes, until a very thick batter forms. Don't overmix.

Pour batter into the prepared loaf pan. Use the rubber spatula to scrape all of the batter out of the bowl and smooth the top of the loaf. Bake for 60 to 65 minutes, and don't open the oven to peek for at least the first 45 minutes of baking. Cake is done when a toothpick or thin sharp knife inserted into the center comes out clean (although a little moisture is okay).

Remove from oven and let cool in the pan 10 minutes, then carefully transfer loaf to a wire rack to cool completely before slicing. Store cake in an airtight container.

Variation: For lemon pound cake, use lemon soy yogurt and increase the lemon extract to 1 teaspoon and decrease the vanilla extract to one teaspoon.

(Adapted by Janelle Davidson from Veganomicon by Isa Chandra Moskowitz and Terry Romero)
POSTCARDS
20 for $4.00, 40 for $7.50
“Love is Best”
“Peaceable Kingdom”
“Chickens – To Know Them is to Love Them”
“Misery is Not a Health Food”

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

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

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

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

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

T-shirts Too Neat to Eat (Hen & Egg or Rooster) • Give a Cluck. Go Vegan! • Available in Unisex (S, M, L, XL) or Ladies (S, M, L, XL) $18

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P.O. Box 150
Machipongo, VA 23405-0150
Or order online at upc-online.org
**Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs: An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry**

By Karen Davis


**The Holocaust and the Henmaid’s Tale: A Case for Comparing Atrocities**

By Karen Davis

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

**More Than a Meal: The Turkey in History, Myth, Ritual, and Reality**

By Karen Davis

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

**Instead of Chicken, Instead of Turkey: A Poultryless “Poultry” Potpourri**

By Karen Davis

This delightful vegan cookbook by United Poultry Concerns features homestyle, ethnic, and exotic recipes that duplicate and convert a variety of poultry and egg dishes. Includes artwork, poems, and illuminating passages showing chickens and turkeys in an appreciative light. $14.95

**Animals and Women: Feminist Theoretical Explorations** Edited by Carol J. Adams & Josephine Donovan

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

**Ninety-Five: Meeting America’s Farmed Animals in Stories and Photographs**

An anthology of photos and stories by No Voice Unheard Editors: Marilee Geyer, Diane Leigh and Windi Wojdak. $20

**Sister Species: Women, Animals, and Social Justice**

Edited by Lisa Kemmerer, Forward by Carol J. Adams

*Sister Species* presents the experiences of fourteen women activists who are working on behalf of non-human animals and a more just and compassionate world. $14.95
CHILDREN’S BOOKS & EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

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, 2013. 16 pages of information, storytelling, classroom activities & color photos. Grades K-6 (some activities are designed for K-12). $2.50 per booklet. 5 for $5. It can be viewed and printed out at www.upc-online.org/hatching/.

A Home for Henny
By Karen Davis
Melanie is a 3rd grader who is excited about a chick hatching project in her class at school. The project seemed like a good idea at first, but unexpected problems arise and the whole class learns a lesson in compassion. When the project is over, Melanie adopts one of the chicks she names Henny. A Home for Henny explores the challenges and concerns with school hatching projects while evoking the lively personality of Henny and her loving relationship with Melanie. $6.99

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Books available at upc-online.org/merchandise
(continued) CHILDREN’S BOOKS & EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

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

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.

More books and videos available at upc-online.org/merchandise

Plus These Great Gifts from UPC!

"The Mother of Compassion Blesses Our Fellow Beings – May They Be Happy and Free From Suffering”
Beth Redwood’s beautiful artwork is available in a limited edition from United Poultry Concerns. 11 x 14” matted print ready for framing. $20

"Songs for Animals, People & the Earth"
is Daniel Redwood’s powerful new album of sanctuary songs. Dedicated to “the compassionate women and men whose hearts and minds have awakened to the needless suffering of animals,” this music is beautiful, moving & exhilarating, lyrical and liberating! $12.

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. 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. $20

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. $20
**POSTERS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WHAT WINGS ARE FOR**

**CHICKS NEED THEIR MOTHERS**

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

**Stickers**
Send a message with your mail! Order our eyecatching color stickers!
100 stickers for $10.

**With Heart and Voice - a Beautiful Greeting Card from UPC**
$19.95 for 20 cards.
$38.95 for 40 cards. Envelopes included. Single card & envelope $1.00.
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Thanksgiving Photo Gallery
Certified Humane Fraud
Custom Heavy as Frost
“Why Did the Chicken Cross the World?”
The End of Hens: An Investigation
Maya the Peahen
International Respect for Chickens Day
Recipe Corner & More!

Wishing You a Happy New Year!
Please renew your membership for 2015

Frankincense & Chickens Relish Organic Kale!