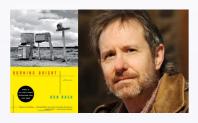
# **NEA Big Read**

OCTOBER 12 - NOVEMBER 16

POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT



# **Exploring Appalachia**

Where is Appalachia? What is "Appalachian"? How does one even pronounce Appalachia? Welcome to the world of Ron

Rash, "one of the best writers in America writing about Appalachia" (San Francisco Chronicle). This year's NEA Big Read book selection is Rash's collection of short stories from Appalachia entitled Burning Bright.

The twelve short stories in this book tell the story of Appalachia from farm to subdivision, Civil War to the present, love to heartbreak. Traditions face off against progress and survival trumps all else. The stories are inhabited by flawed characters facing wrenching moral dilemmas.

Ron Rash's ancestors have lived in the southern Appalachia Mountains since the mid-1700s. He grew up in the Carolinas in a family of readers and storytellers. He has written numerous acclaimed novels, collections of poetry and short stories, and hundreds of articles. He currently teaches poetry and fiction writing at Western Carolina University.

While every tale in *Burning Bright* is set entirely in Appalachia, as Rash says, "You go deep enough into a place and you're going to hit the universal, because you're hitting what's true of people." So, join us on this literary journey and we might just learn something new about our world, our community, and ourselves.

The following pages contain a calendar of 2019 Big Read events and descriptions of programs happening across the Mid-Hudson region. These events are designed to broaden our appreciation of Appalachian literature, culture and history.

Many book clubs are reading Burning Bright as part of the NEA Big Read too (register your book group for a chance to win a free lunch at Paula's Public House: poklib.org/events/nea-big-read-2019/). The NEA Big Read, coordinated by the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, also provides thousands of copies of the books and author visits to classrooms for six school districts.

To become a Big Read Volunteer, contact Jewel Ratzlaff at jratzlaff@poklib.org or 845-485-3445 x 3372. For complete details and to register for events visit www poklib.org.

NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. It is designed to broaden our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.



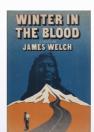


## Saving Wonder

For the past five years, the Library District has selected a companion book for younger readers, creating a Little Read component to the Big Read. The selected literature has similar themes and settings as the Big Read book. This year's companion book is Saving Wonder written by Mary Knight, who is coming to Poughkeepsie!

Many local middle schools are using Saving Wonder in their classrooms this fall. The Library District is bringing Mary Knight to eight schools and also to the Boardman Road Branch Library on Wednesday, October 30 at 6 pm. The whole family is welcome - teens and adults will also enjoy the presentation. Q and A will follow. Mary will also have time to sign student copies of the novel.

Author Mary Knight has always loved reading and telling stories. She's been a librarian, a freelance writer, and a writer-in-residence teaching kids how to write. Saving Wonder is her first novel, set in Wonder Gap, Kentucky. It is a tale of abiding friendship and love of the land, and illustrates the power of words for telling truth to power.



## Complementary **Enrichment**

Place and Story: Book Discussion Series led by Lea Graham, Associate Professor of English at Marist College. Registration required.

- September 7: The Ninemile Wolves by Rick Bass
- October 5: Winter in the Blood by James Welch
- November 2: Red-Tails in Love by Marie Winn
- December 7: Angle of Repose by Wallace Stegner

#### Saturday, October 12



## **Kick-Off Event: Author Ron Rash** 2 pm, PPLD-Boardman

Big Read author Ron Rash introduces us to the people and mountains that shape

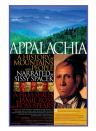
his work. Multi-instrumentalist Tom Walker sets the tone for an afternoon in Appalachia.

#### Sunday, October 13

#### **Appalachian Themes** in Classical Music

3 pm, Hyde Park Library Composer Peter Gilmore highlights Appalachian themes in the work of Copland, Delius, and Hovhaness.

## Tuesday, October 15



## **Documentary** Series: **Appalachia**

6:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance Part I of the PBS series, Appalachia: A History of Mountains

and People. This 2009 series explores the natural and human history of the oldest mountains on the planet: part one is entitled Time and Terrain. Discussion will follow.

#### **Staatsburg Literary Book Club**

7 pm, Staatsburg Library Discussion of Burning Bright.

## Wednesday, October 16

#### **Spack Readers**

3:15 pm, Laura's Family Restaurant Discussion of Burning Bright.



Cookbook Club Goes to **Appalachia** 

6 pm, PPLD-Boardman Road Bring a dish with

Appalachian heritage and enjoy the sampling.

## **Library Book Discussion**

7 pm, Pleasant Valley Library Discussion of Burning Bright.

#### Thursday, October 17

#### **Literary Luncheon\***

12 pm, Millbrook Library Book discussion of Burning Bright. Bring a lunch.

#### **Library Book Discussion**

2 pm, PPLD-Adriance Join Big Read coordinator Jewel Ratzlaff to discuss Burning Bright.

#### **YA Book Club**

6:30 pm, Hyde Park Library Discussion of Saving Wonder by Mary Knight. For grades 6-9.

## Friday, October 18

#### **Library Book Discussion**

12 pm, Hyde Park Library Discussion of Burning Bright.



#### **Concert of Appalachian** Music

4 pm, Millbrook Musician Mark Rust performs

on guitar, fiddle, spoons, and keyboard. Light refreshments.

#### **Big Read Film Fest**

7 pm, Hyde Park Library October Sky, 1999, with Jake Gyllenhaal and Chris Cooper.

## Saturday, October 19



Collage Workshop\* 1:30-4:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance

Create

postcard-sized collages evoking home or "place". Bring photos, or use ours.

#### **Appalachian Fusion**

7 pm, Bardavon 1869 Opera House



evening of Appalachian music, dance, photo montage, and short stories read

aloud. A collaborative project of Vanaver Caravan, the Bardavon, PPLD, and the FDR Presidential Library and Museum.

## Sunday, October 20

#### **Gallery Reception**

2:30-3:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance 100 Years Removed: Appalachia through the lenses of Cecil Sharp and Roger May.

#### Monday, October 21

#### **Big Read Double Feature**

10 am-3 pm, Howland Public Library Enjoy one or both films; Songcatcher at 10 am and Glass Castle at 12:30 pm. PG-13. Light refreshments.

#### **Library Book Discussion**

6:30 pm, Hyde Park Library Discussion of Burning Bright.

## Tuesday, October 22

#### **Appalachian Apple Dessert\***

3:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance Teen cooking workshop with a Chef from Blueprint Consulting. Space limited.



**Documentary** Series: **Appalachia** 6:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance Part II of the

PBS series, Appalachia: A History of Mountains and People.

## Wednesday, October 23



#### **Appalachian** Fiddle Music\*

6-7:30 pm, LaGrange Association Library A presentation with music on the history and

distinctive characteristics of mountain fiddle tunes, with Ambrose Verdibello.

#### **Uncovering Place: Burning Bright**

7 pm, PPLD-Boardman Road Marist professors from the Departments of History and English explore the role of place, sounds, history, and literary naturalism in Ron Rash's short stories. Panelists Stephen Mercier, Nicolas Marshall, and Steven Garabedian, moderated by Sally Dwyer-McNulty.

#### **Readers Rendezvous**

7 pm, Grinnell Public Library District Discussion of Burning Bright.

## Thursday, October 24

#### **Scholar-led Book Discussion**

3 pm, Howland Public Library Discussion of Burning Bright with Dr. James Cotter of Mount Saint Mary College. Light refreshments.

#### **Not Your Mama's Book Group**

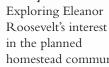
6:30 pm, PPLD-Boardman Road Discussing Amity and Prosperity, the 2019 Pulitzer Prize winner for general non-fiction, set in Pennsylvania's western mountains.

#### **Beekman Book Club**

6:30 pm, Beekman Library Discussion of Burning Bright.

#### **Eleanor and Arthurdale**

7 pm, Hyde Park Library Exploring Eleanor



homestead community of Arthurdale, WV, with Jeff Urbin of the FDR Presidential Library and Museum.

## Friday, October 25

#### **Big Read Film Fest**

7 pm, Hyde Park Library Winter's Bone, 2010, with Jennifer Lawrence and John Hawkes.

## Saturday, October 26

## **Exploring the Complexities** of Appalachian Identity

2:30 pm, PPLD-Boardman Road



Siena College Professor and poet/author Todd D. Snyder shares perspectives

from his Appalachian roots, including 12 Rounds in Lo's Gym.

## Sunday, October 27

## **Appalachia Themed Open Mic**

1:30 pm, Hyde Park Library Featured artist: Loretta Hagan. Suggested donation \$5.

## **Thoughts of Home\***

2 pm, Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center

The popular curated live series Read650 presents a dozen regional writers performing their fiveminute, 650-word essays on the theme "Thoughts of Home". Postshow reception and book sale. A collaboration between Read650. org, PPLD, and Cunneen-Hackett Art Center. Register at read650.org/events. \$5/\$8 at door.

# Monday, October 28

#### **Library Book Discussion\***

6 pm-LaGrange Association Library Discussion of Part I of Burning Bright.

#### Food Literature & **Cookbook Bookclub**

7 pm, Staatsburg Library Discussion of The Potlikker Papers: A Food History of the Modern South by John

## Tuesday, October 29

#### **Documentary Series: Appalachia**

6:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance



Part III of the PBS series, Appalachia: A History of Mountains and People. This

2009 series explores the natural and human history of the oldest mountains on the planet; part three is entitled Mountain Revolutions. Discussion follows

## Wednesday, October 30

#### Friends of PPLD Bus Trip to Bear Mountain Inn\*\$

All day, Bear Mountain Park



Presentations on the Appalachian Mountain Range and the development

of the Appalachian Trail at the Bear Mountain Inn. Includes lunch at the Inn and time to relax by the lake. \$63



#### **A Conversation** with Mary Knight 6 pm, PPLD-Boardman Road

The author of this year's companion book for younger readers, Saving Wonder, shares her thoughts on writing, empowering youth through literature, and the wisdom she's learned from her readers along the way. Bring your questions. Book signing will follow.



Mountain Tales 7 pm, Hyde Park Library

Storyteller Bill

Spooky

Joel spins some spooky tales for a Big Read Halloween special. For all ages.

## Friday, November 1

### **Big Read Film Fest**

7 pm, Hyde Park Library Matewan, 1987, with Chris Cooper and James Earl Jones.

## Saturday, November 2

## The Wink of Immediacy: The Art of the Short Story\*

10 am-12 pm, PPLD-Adriance Author Sandi Sonnenfeld leads a workshop on short story writing. Using Ron Rash's story 'Waiting for the End of the World' as a model, participants will explore various narrative elements essential to a short story's success. Registration required; bring pen and

## Sunday, November 3

#### Ramp Hollow: The **Ordeal of Appalachia**

2:30 pm, PPLD-Boardman Road Fordham Professor and author Steven Stoll provides a fresh perspective into Appalachia through its agrarian history.

## Report from Appalachia

7 pm, Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church Teens share experiences and perspectives from their summer work trip to West Virginia.

Programs continue on page 14.

<sup>\*</sup>Program registration and location information on page 15.

# NEA Big Read October 12 - November 16

# Burning Bright BY RON RASH

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Details on Facebook & poklib.org

- \* Program requires registration
- \$ Fee involved

#### October 12

**Kick-Off Event: Author Ron Rash** 2 pm, PPLD-Boardman With multi-instrumentalist Tom Walker.



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**Appalachian Themes** in Classical Music 3 pm, Hyde Park



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**Documentary Series:** Appalachia 6:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance Part I: Time and Terrain Literary Book Club: Burning Bright 7 pm, Staatsburg

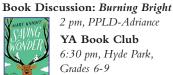
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Spack Readers: Burning Bright 3:15 pm, Laura's Family Restaurant



Cookbook Club Goes to Appalachia 6 pm, PPLD-Boardman Book Discussion: Burning Bright 7 pm, Pleasant Valley

17 Literary Luncheon\* 12 pm, Millbrook Library



18 Book Discussion: Burning Bright 12 pm, Hyde Park



Appalachian Music 4 pm, Millbrook Big Read Film Fest: October Sky 7 pm, Hyde Park

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Collage Workshop\* 1:30-4:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance



Appalachian Fusion 7 pm, Bardavon 1869 Opera House

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Appalachia through the Lenses of Cecil Sharp and Roger May Reception: 2:30-3:30 pm



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Big Read Double Feature 10 am-3 pm, Howland Songcatcher @ 10 am, Glass Castle @, 12:30 pm

Book Discussion: Burning Bright 6:30 pm, Hyde Park



Appalachian Apple Dessert\* 3:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance, for teens Documentary Series: Appalachia 6:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance



Part II: New Green World

Appalachian Fiddle Music\* 6-7:30 pm, LaGrange

Uncovering Place: Burning Bright 7 pm, PPLD-Boardman Marist Scholar Panel

Readers Rendezvous: Burning Bright 7 pm, Grinnell Public Library

Scholar-led Book Discussion 3 pm, Howland Not Your Mama's Book Group



6:30 pm, PPLD-Boardman Beekman Book Club 6:30 pm, Beekman **Eleanor and Arthurdale** 7 pm, Hyde Park

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Big Read Film Fest: Winter's Bone 7 pm, Hyde Park

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**Exploring the Complexities** of Appalachian Identity 2:30 pm, PPLD-Boardman

27



Appalachia Themed Open Mic 1:30 pm, Hyde Park,\$ Thoughts of Home\*

2 pm, Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, \$

28 Book Discussion: Burning Bright, Part I\* 6 pm-LaGrange



Food Literature & Cookbook Bookclub: The Potlikker Papers 7 pm, Staatsburg

Documentary Series: Appalachia 6:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance Part III: Mountain Revolutions



30 Friends Bus Trip to Bear Mountain Inn\* All day, Bear Mountain Park, \$



A Conversation with Mary Knight 6 pm, PPLD-Boardman Spooky Mountain Tales 7 pm, Hyde Park, all ages

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November 1



Big Read Film Fest: Matewan 7 pm, Hyde Park



The Wink of Immediacy: The Art of the Short Story\* 10 am-12 pm, PPLD-Adriance



Ramp Hollow: The Ordeal of Appalachia 2:30 pm, PPLD-

Report from Appalachia 7 pm, Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church



**Book Discussion:** Burning Bright 6:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance

Little Read Word Collage\* 4-4:45 pm, PPLD-Boardman Documentary Series: Appalachia 6:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance



Part IV: Power and Place

6 Appalachian Craft Session 4 pm, Hyde Park, elementary grades Book Discussion: Burning Bright, Part II\*6 pm-LaGrange



Folk Concert: The Malvinas 7 pm-Taconic Regional Office Auditorium, Staatsburg



Photographing Appalachia\* 5:30 pm, Frances Lehman Loeb Art



Big Read Film Fest: Nell 7 pm, Hyde Park Literary Salon\* 7-9 pm, Beekman

Bluegrass Concert: Oxford Depot 7 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes High



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Pack Mule Librarians in Appalachia 6 pm, FDR Presidential Library and Museum 14



Appalachian Trail 7 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church AAUW sponsored

Exploring the

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Big Read Film Fest: Songcatcher 7 pm, Hyde Park

16 Closing Program

2:30 pm, PPLD-Boardman



Tales of Appalachia with the HV Philharmonic 8 pm, Bardavon 1869 Opera House, \$

#### Monday, November 4

#### **Library Book Discussion**

6:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance Join Big Read coordinator Jewel Ratzlaff to discuss Burning Bright.

#### Tuesday, November 5

#### Little Read Word Collage\*

4-4:45 pm, PPLD-Boardman Road Make a collage inspired by Curley's weekly words in Saving Wonder by Mary Knight. For Grades 5-8.

#### **Documentary Series: Appalachia**

6:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance



Part IV of the PBS series, Appalachia: A History of

Mountains and People. This 2009 series explores the natural and human history of the oldest mountains on the planet; part four is entitled *Power and Place*. Discussion will follow.

## Wednesday, November 6

# **Appalachian Craft Session**

4 pm, Hyde Park Library Let's get crafty! For children in elementary grades.

#### **Library Book Discussion\***

6 pm-LaGrangeAssociation Library Discussion of Part II of Burning Bright.

## **Folk Music Concert** by The Malvinas



7 pm-Taconic Regional Office Auditorium, Staatsburg This female folk trio from upstate New York, Quebec,

and Louisiana performs a broad range of regional music: from blues-tinged grooves and spicy Cajun tunes of the American South to Celtic sounds of Eastern Canada and the groovy troubadour tradition of the Catskills. The Malvinas offer tight harmonies and quirky instrumentation for high-energy fun for the whole family.

\*Program registration and location information on page 15.

#### Thursday, November 7

#### **Photographing Appalachia\***

5:30 pm, Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College



Photographers have been drawn to document the Appalachian region's people

and culture for well over a hundred years. While many images, particularly those taken by outsiders during President Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty" in the 1960s, cemented a visual idea of Appalachia as a place only of dire deprivation, the stories told through both historic and contemporary photographs of the region are much more diverse and nuanced. This program will examine several photographs of the region held in the permanent collection of the Art Center.

## Friday, November 8



## **Big Read Film Fest**

7 pm, Hyde Park Library Nell, 1994, with Jodie Foster and Liam Neeson.

#### Literary Salon\*

7-9 pm, Beekman Library Annual Big Read Salon presents works from the Creative Writer's Group at Green Haven Correctional Facility and the public. Wine and light desserts served. Registration required.

## Saturday, November 9



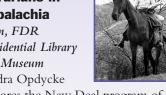
**Bluegrass** Concert 7 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes High School Auditorium

Concert by the local band Oxford Depot.

#### Wednesday, November 13

## **Pack Mule** Librarians in **Appalachia**

6 pm, FDR Presidential Library and Museum Sandra Opdycke



explores the New Deal program of librarians delivering books in the mountains of Kentucky.

## Thursday, November 14

#### **Exploring the Appalachian** Trail

7 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church AAUW presents avid hiker Rich Keyes sharing



stories and slides from the hundreds of miles of the AT he has hiked. He'll be ioined by Kevin and Carol Becker for some bluegrass-inspired music to round out the evening.

## Friday, November 15

#### **Big Read Film Fest**

7 pm, Hyde Park Library Songcatcher, 2000, with Aidan Quinn and Janet McTeer.

## Saturday, November 16

## **Big Read Closing Program**

2:30 pm, PPLD-Boardman Road Celebrate our Appalachian literary journey and be the first to learn about next year's Big Read book selection. Our book discussion group winner will also be selected.

#### Tales of Appalachia with the HV Philharmonic

8 pm, Bardavon 1869 Opera House, \$



Jay Ungar, Molly Mason, and Cellist Zuill Bailey join the Hudson Valley Philharmonic

for a literary musical finale. Tickets available only at the Bardavon Box Office or online at bardavon.org/box-office/



## 100 Years Removed: Appalachia through the Lenses of Sharp and May

The Big Read exhibit on display between October 1 and November 13 at Adriance is a unique collection of photographs capturing Appalachia

approximately 100 years apart. These two sets of photographs are the work of English musicologist Cecil Sharp and Appalachian native and documentary photographer Roger May.

From 1916 to 1918, Cecil Sharp and his assistant Maud Karpeles spent 46 weeks traveling through Appalachia in search of traditional English folk ballads. The goal was to capture this transatlantic cultural connection before it disappeared. Sharp photographed the people he visited as he collected ballads.

Roger May left Appalachia as a teen, returning as an adult with a hunger for home. His work explores the history of place, faith, and identity in the coalfields. In 2014, he started the crowdsourced 'Looking at Appalachia' project, seeking positive, beautiful representations of an oft-maligned region.

## **NEA Big Read is a program of:**

The National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest

#### And these generous local sponsors:

Norman and Jeannie Greene Fund FairGame Arts Grant Paula's Public House Salisbury Bank H.W. Wilson Foundation The Friends of PPLD



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## **Coordinated by the Poughkeepsie Public Library District** with the cooperation of the following partners:

#### **School Districts**

Arlington Central School District **Dutchess County BOCES Salt Point** Catholic Schools Region of Dutchess Hyde Park Central School District Our Lady of Lourdes High School Poughkeepsie City School District Poughkeepsie Day School Spackenkill Union Free School District Wappingers Central School District

#### **Higher Education**

**Dutchess Community College SUNY** Dutchess County BOCES Adult Learning Inst. Marist College Vassar College

#### **Public Libraries (and Friends)**

Beekman Library Friends of Poughkeepsie Public Library District Grinnell Public Library District Howland Public Library Hyde Park Library LaGrange Association Library

Millbrook Library Pleasant Valley Free Library Staatsburg Library

#### **Arts Organizations**

The Art Effect Arts Mid-Hudson Bardavon 1869 Opera House Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center Hudson Valley Philharmonic Orchestra Read650

#### Other Local Organizations

American Association of University Women, Poughkeepsie Branch Arc of Dutchess County Day Hab Program Book Clubs across the Region DC Regional Chamber of Commerce FDR Presidential Library and Museum Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church Green Haven Correctional Writers' Group Marist College Center for Lifetime Study Poughkeepsie Journal

#### **Location & Registration**

#### Bardavon 1869 Opera House

35 Market Street, Poughkeepsie 845-473-2072, bardavon.org

#### **Beekman Library**

11 Town Center Blvd, Hopewell Junction 845-724-3414, beekmanlibrary.org

#### **Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center**

12 Vassar Street, Poughkeepsie, 845-486-4571 Register at read650.org/events.\$

#### **Grinnell Public Library District**

2642 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls 845-297-3428, Grinnell-library.org

#### **FDR Presidential Library and Museum**

4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park 845-486-7770, fdrlibrary.org

#### Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center

Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave, Poughkeepsie 845-437-5237, fllac.vassar.edu

#### Friends of PPLD

141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie, 845-485-3445 x3422 https://friends\_bear\_mountain\_trip.eventbrite.com or at the Friends' Book Store

#### Freedom Plains United Presbyterian

1165 Route 55, Lagrangeville, 12540 845-452-0684, fppchurch.org

#### **Howland Public Library**

313 Main Street, Beacon 845-831-1134, beaconlibrary.org

#### **Hyde Park Library & Annex**

2 Main Street, Hyde Park 845-229-7791, hydeparkfreelibrary.org

#### **Laura's Family Restaurant**

Hudson Plaza, 2585 South Road Poughkeepsie, Bonnie: 845-876-5696

#### **LaGrange Association Library**

488 Freedom Plains Road, Suite 109, Poughkeepsie, 845-452-3141, laglib.org

#### Millbrook Library

3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook 845-677-3611, millbrooklibrary.org

#### **Our Lady of Lourdes High School**

131 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie 845-463-0400, ollchs.org

#### **Pleasant Valley Free Library**

1600 Main Street, Pleasant Valley 845-635-8460, pleasantvalleylibrary.org

#### **Poughkeepsie Public Library District** 845-485-3445 x 3707, poklib.org

-Adriance Memorial Library 93 Market Street, Poughkeepsie

#### -Boardman Road Branch Library

141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie

#### **Staatsburg Library**

70 Old Post Road, Staatsburg 845-889-4683, staatsburglibrary.org

#### **Taconic Regional Office Auditorium** 9 Old Post Road, Staatsburg, 845-889-4100

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship** 

67 S. Randolph Ave. Poughkeepsie Monique Jones, 845-849-1692, myj712@aol.com