



# Movies With Spirit

*A Humanity's Team Grassroots Activity*

*Supported by the Ulster County Religious Council, Kingston Area Council of Churches,  
Ministers' Alliance of Ulster County and Mid-Hudson Islamic Association*

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## 2010–2011 Calendar

**Sept. 25, AMAL (2007), Woodstock Sufi Center/Flowing Spirit Healing, 33 Mill Hill Road, Woodstock** — Filmmaker Richie Mehta's heartfelt fable follows an auto-rickshaw driver in New Delhi (Rupinder Nagra) who is content with his small but vital role in life. One day Amal chauffeurs an eccentric millionaire (Naseeruddin Shah) disguised as a vagabond. The millionaire is searching the streets for the last morsel of humanity — and someone to whom he can leave his fortune. A visual feast, the film asks the important question of what “success” means to each individual and ultimately reveals that the poorest of people are sometimes the richest. *Rated PG.*

**Oct. 16, THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN (2004), St. John's Episcopal Church, 207 Albany Ave., Kingston** — Lloyd Kramer's critically acclaimed adaptation of Mitch Albom's best-selling novel recounting the life and death of a simple yet dignified old man, Eddie (Jon Voight). After dying in a freak accident, Eddie finds himself in heaven, where he encounters five people who significantly affected his life, whether he realized this at the time or not. Other actors include Dagmara Dominczyk (Marguerite), Jeff Daniels (Blue Man), Ellen Burstyn (Ruby), Michael Imperioli (Captain), Steven Grayhm (young Eddie) and Callum Keith Rennie (Eddie's father). *Rated PG.*

**Nov. 20, COLD SOULS (2009), St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 163 Main St., New Paltz** — This comedy, written and directed by Sophie Barthes, stars Paul Giamatti as a fictionalized version of himself — an anxious, overwhelmed New York actor who decides to enlist the service of a company to deep-freeze his soul so he can live free of fear, doubt and worry. But troubles arise when Paul's soul is swiped by a soul-trafficking “mule” who in turn gives it to a no-talent Russian soap opera actress. Paul now has to travel to St. Petersburg to get his soul back, and along the way discovers the true key to happiness isn't the absence of pain, but the ability to experience the entire spectrum of emotion and cherish the things that really matter. *Rated PG-13. Be warned: This film encourages thinking.*

**Dec. 18, THE TRUMAN SHOW (1998), Reformed Church of Port Ewen, 160 Salem St., Port Ewen** — Peter Weir's moving, imaginative and wickedly smart social satire about all-pervasive media manipulation focuses on Truman Burbank (Jim Carrey), who is unaware his entire life is a hugely popular 24-hour-a-day TV series, now in its 30th year. In this real-time TV show, every moment of Truman's idyllic existence is captured by concealed cameras and telecast to a giant global audience. His friends and family are all actors whose chief role is to keep Truman happily duped. Truman eventually

gets suspicious of his sparkingly antiseptic life, learns the truth of his situation and tries to escape. The TV show's director and master manipulator, Christof (Ed Harris), must constantly devise ways to thwart Truman's escape attempts. *Rated PG.*

**Jan. 15, OH, GOD! BOOK II (1980), Jewish Congregation of New Paltz Community Center, 30 N. Chestnut St., New Paltz** — In this sequel to the 1977 appearance of George Burns as God, the Heavenly Father shows up again, this time to talk to Tracy (Louanne), a young girl whose earthly father (David Birney) is in the advertising business. God's intention is to promote Himself among the children first. Tracy comes up with a way to further awareness of the Supreme Being with posters and graffiti that say "Think God." She and her classmates set out on this campaign, but Tracy ends up facing a phalanx of psychiatrists for talking to an invisible God. Being who He is, God decides to finally make an appearance for the benefit of everyone. The film offers food for thought on the nature of God, the meaning of faith, the limits of psychiatry and the importance of story-telling. *Rated PG.*

**Feb. 19, PETER PAN (2003), Woodstock Jewish Congregation, 1682 Glasco Turnpike, Woodstock** — P.J. Hogan's adaptation of J.M. Barrie's novel is bracingly true to the tough, buoyant spirit of the original, and his filmmaking style combines wide-eyed wonder and slightly melancholy sophistication. While Peter (Jeremy Sumpter) is dashing and adventurous, Hook (Jason Isaacs) villainous and Tinker Bell (Ludivine Sagnier) cute and naughty, it is Rachel Hurd-Wood's Wendy Darling who critics say owns the picture. The 13-year-old British actress is at once a precocious child, an action heroine, the surrogate mother of a tribe of Lost Boys and the romantic lead. She and Sumpter remind us that Peter Pan, beyond all the swashbuckling and fantasy, is a love story. *Rated PG.*

**March 19, THE PHILOSOPHER KINGS (2009), Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills, 320 Sawkill Road, Kingston** — This fascinating Patrick Shen documentary journeys through the halls of America's most elite universities to learn profound wisdom from people often disregarded and ignored by society — custodians. The eight featured custodians serve as role models of selflessness and perseverance as they share extraordinary wisdom and inspiring lessons learned from surviving hard times, lost loves and shattered dreams. Winner of two film-festival awards. *Not rated.*

**April 16, A BEAUTIFUL MIND (2001), Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 22 Livingston St., Kingston** — A four-time Academy Award-winning film (Best Picture, Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Supporting Actress) inspired by Nobel laureate mathematician John Forbes Nash Jr. and his experiences of schizophrenia, the film, starring Russell Crowe and directed by Ron Howard, depicts the painful and harrowing journey of Nash's self-discovery and his amazing will to recover his life without the aid of medicine. The film — featuring Jennifer Connelly, Ed Harris, Christopher Plummer and Paul Bettany — shows the only thing greater than the power of the mind is the courage of the heart. *Rated PG-13.*

**May 21, MYTHIC JOURNEYS (2009), Vivekananda Retreat, Ridgely, 101 Leggett Road, Stone Ridge** — Award-winning filmmakers Steven and Whitney Boe blend documentary footage, storytelling, artwork and animation to argue that myths constitute one of the deepest and most profound reservoirs of human wisdom, bridging cultures, communities and generations. The film intercuts clips from modern-day thinkers with animated sequences that tell a unique parable on the limitations of human perception and the importance of morality. The thinkers include spiritual author Deepak Chopra, African philosopher Sobonfu Some, mythopoeic researcher Michael Meade and New Thought minister Michael Beckwith. The animated sequences are woven into a fantasy about a sorcerer, a corpse and a

king featuring the voices of Lance Henriksen, Mark Hamill (best known for playing Luke Skywalker in the original *Star Wars* trilogy) and Tim Curry. *Not rated.*

**June 18, AVATAR (2009), Clinton Avenue United Methodist Church, 122 Clinton Ave., Kingston** — James Cameron's epic science-fiction film is set in 2154, when greedy humans are mining a precious mineral called unobtainium on Pandora, a lush moon of a gas giant in the Alpha Centauri star system. The expansion of the lucrative mining colony threatens to kill a local tribe of Na'vi, a humanoid species indigenous to Pandora. This leads to an epic battle over Pandora's fate. The film stars Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver, Stephen Lang, Joel David Moore and Michelle Rodriguez. The film won three Academy Awards, for Best Cinematography, Best Visual Effects and Best Art Direction. *Rated PG-13.*

**July 16, TAOS (2008), Woodstock Reformed Church, 16 Tinker St., Woodstock** — Young attorney John Wahlberg (Rib Hillis) works round-the-clock as an associate in a large Washington, D.C., law firm, trading his nights and weekends for billable hours and the promise of a secure future. On his way to Aspen, Colo., to join the family of his blueblood girlfriend (Julie Dorris) for the Christmas holidays, the course of John's life changes irrevocably when his car crashes into a roadside ditch along a lonely stretch of highway near Taos, N.M. Waiting for his car to be repaired, John becomes enmeshed in the events of the mystical town. Old wounds resurface as John struggles with new perspectives and ghosts of his past. He then seeks balance between family, work and personal interests and later returns home to encounter a most unexpected surprise, bringing a smile to his face and hope for the future. Directed by Brandon Schmid. Winner of two film-festival awards. *Not rated.*

**Aug. 20, HAPPENSTANCE (LE BATTEMENT D'AILES DU PAPIILLON) (2001), Temple Emanuel, 243 Albany Ave., Kingston** — Writer-director Laurent Firode's charming, delicate and humane tale of coincidence, chance and fate is inspired by a variation on chaos theory, which supposes that if a butterfly beats its wings in one part of the world, it could theoretically cause a storm thousands of miles away. Firode applies the theory to a disparate group of Parisians, opening with Irene, a young retail worker (Audrey Tautou), reading her horoscope on the Métro to work. The horoscope says she'll meet her true love that day, but she must be patient. Before the day ends, 20 lives — including those of a homeless man, a pickpocket and a pair of Russian tourists — intersect in unpredictable, connected ways. Plain objects like a discarded sneaker, a white pebble, an uneaten piece of Swiss chocolate and an enterprising cockroach add to the web of whimsical connections. *French with English subtitles. Rated R.*

***Each screening begins at 7 p.m. and is followed by refreshments and a facilitated discussion. Evenings end around 10 p.m. A \$5 contribution is suggested for moviegoers over age 12.***

*The series is organized by Gerry Harrington, strategic alliances and communications coordinator of Humanity's Team ([humanitysteam.org](http://humanitysteam.org)), a global movement "awakening the world to oneness." The series and Humanity's Team have no religious affiliation.*

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