



Movies With Spirit

Supported by the Ulster County Religious Council, Dutchess County Interfaith Council, Kingston Area Council of Churches, Ministers' Alliance of Ulster County and Mid-Hudson Islamic Association
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2012–2013 Calendar

Sept. 15, BARAKA (1993), Flowing Spirit Healing/Woodstock Sufi Center, 33 Mill Hill Road, Woodstock — Ron Fricke's kaleidoscopic world tour is a visual study of the relationship between humans and the rest of life. Shot in 24 countries on six continents, the non-verbal documentary, supported by extraordinary world music, unites ritual, nature and humanity. With themes rather than a plot, the film shows a succession of religious shrines and holy places intermingled with scenes of natural wonders, gradually giving way to urban freneticism, squalor and ecological horror before regaining the high ground. An implied question of the film: How, in the face of a collective spiritual aspiration that inspired so much, can humanity still embark on a path that seems perilously self-destructive? *"Nothing in this epic visual poem is less than extraordinary."* — Hal Hinson, The Washington Post. *Not rated.*

Oct. 20, STAR WARS IV: THE NEW HOPE (1977), St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 2578 Route 212, Woodstock — This watershed science-fiction space opera, written and directed by George Lucas, is the digitally enhanced, augmented original movie in the six-film saga that later became the fourth in the *Star Wars* internal chronology. Set "a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away," it tells of a farm boy named Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) who assembles a motley crew of allies — including space mercenary Han Solo (Harrison Ford) and robotic droids C3PO (Anthony Daniels) and R2D2 (Kenny Baker) — to rescue rebel leader Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) from the evil Galactic Empire, embodied by its genius enforcer, Darth Vader (David Prowse, with the voice of James Earl Jones). *"It is, all in all, hard to think of a place or an age group that would not respond to the enthusiastic inventiveness with which Lucas has enshrined his early loves."* — Charles Champlin, Los Angeles Times. *Rated PG.*

Nov. 17, PIECES OF APRIL (2003), Olivebridge United Methodist Church, 5179 Route 213, Olivebridge — In Peter Hedges' intelligent and touching farce, reformed wild child April Burns (Katie Holmes) seeks rapprochement with her suburban family by making a Thanksgiving holiday meal that looks like a magazine photo. But the desire leads to Thanksgiving neuroses that even a "normal" family experiences. We witness three journeys — the family's trek to the city, including a burial service for an animal they hit; the efforts by April's new boyfriend, Bobby (Derek Luke), to find a suit so he can make a good impression, and April's meal preparations, including her Thanksgiving morning discovery her oven is broken. *"This is one of those quietly wonderful films that really deserves an audience."* — Richard Roeper, "Ebert & Roeper." *Rated PG-13.*

Dec. 15, HUGO (2011), Reformed Church of Port Ewen, 160 Salem St., Port Ewen — This five-Oscar-winning historical adventure, directed and co-produced by Martin Scorsese, is an astonishing journey through the exploits of wily and resourceful 12-year-old orphan Hugo (Asa Butterfield), on a quest to unlock a secret left to him by his father. Hugo tends the clocks of a train station in early 1930s Paris. Seemingly abandoned by his uncle (Ray Winstone), the station's official timekeeper, Hugo lives alone, deep in the station's interior, in a dark, dusty, secret apartment for employees. In the station he meets Isabelle (Chloë Grace Moretz), the daughter of real-life French illusionist and filmmaker Georges Méliès, who is now an impoverished toy seller who holds the key to Hugo's destiny. Based on the best-

selling 2008 Caldecott Medal-awarded children's book *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick. "*Hugo is pure movie magic.*" — Tom Long, *The Detroit News*. *Rated PG*.

Jan. 12, THE MUSIC NEVER STOPPED (2011), Episcopal Church of the Messiah, 6436 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck — *NOTE: Screening is 1 week earlier than usual*— Traditionalist engineer Henry Sawyer (J.K. Simmons), a 1960s square with Bing Crosby-Peggy Lee musical tastes, hates the music his longhaired-musician son Gabriel (Lou Taylor Pucci) loves. When Henry forbids Gabriel to go to a Grateful Dead concert, Gabriel runs away. Twenty years later, Henry and his wife Helen (Cara Seymour) learn Gabriel has a brain tumor. Determined to make up for lost time in forming a solid father-son bond, Henry researches brain-injury treatments and finds renowned music therapist Dianne Daly (Julia Ormond). When Dianne exposes Gabriel to the rock music of his youth, he finally finds words to express himself and regains the ability to have meaningful conversations. When Henry's own health takes a turn for the worse, the father determines to let go of his loathing for the music that awakened his son's consciousness and embrace the joy of loving the child he once drove away. Based on Oliver Sacks's case study *The Last Hippie*. "*A sentimental but deeply felt true story about the healing power of music.*" — James Greenberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*. *Rated PG*.

Feb. 16, THE HELP (2011), Woodstock Jewish Congregation, 1682 Glasco Turnpike, Woodstock — Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan (Emma Stone) is a 1960s Southern society girl who returns to Jackson, Miss., from college determined to become a journalist, but creates a social scandal when she decides to interview the black women who take care of prominent white families. Aibileen Clark (Viola Davis), Skeeter's best friend's housekeeper, is the first to open up— to the dismay of her friends in the tight-knit black community — exposing the racism she faces. Soon two other women tell their stories. The three very different women build an unlikely friendship around the secret writing project that breaks societal rules. From their alliance, they develop a remarkable sisterhood, instilling in them the courage to transcend the lines that define them — and bring everyone in town face-to-face with changing times. Winner of the Best Supporting Actress Academy Award. "*There's something lived-in and genuine about this infectious melodrama.*" — Chris Vognar, *The Dallas Morning News*. *Rated PG-13*.

March 16, QUEEN TO PLAY (JOUEUSE) (2009), St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 163 Main St., New Paltz — Oscar winner Kevin Kline and luminous Sandrine Bonnaire star in this stylish comedy drama of newfound passions and midlife triumphs. H el ene (Bonnaire), a chambermaid at a luxury hotel on the French Mediterranean island of Corsica, observes a chess game played by an American couple (Jennifer Beals and Dominic Gould). Stealthy moves accompanied by insinuating eye contact end with the woman's defeating the man and flashing H el ene a smile of conspiratorial glee. Taking the hint, H el ene gives her dockworker husband Ange (Francis Renaud) an electronic chess set for his birthday. Vaguely annoyed by the gift, Ange expresses no interest in the game. So H el ene begins teaching herself how to play and becomes obsessed, eventually learning chess skills from Dr. Kroger (Kline), a widowed U.S. professor for whom she works as a housekeeper. Ange is initially so threatened by and suspicious of H el ene's passion that he follows her to a lesson and spies on her. But then he realizes her gift. *French with English subtitles*. "*It's almost necessary to see it twice to really appreciate fully what's going on between Kline and Bonnaire's characters over the course of the film.*" — Mick LaSalle, *San Francisco Chronicle*. *Not rated*.

April 20, THE KING'S SPEECH (2010), Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 22 Livingston St., Kingston — Britain's King George VI (Colin Firth) struggles with an embarrassing stutter for years until he seeks help from unorthodox Australian speech therapist Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush) in this biographical drama that won four Academy Awards, for Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Director and Best Original Screenplay. Lionel's pioneering therapy and unlikely friendship give the royal leader a sense of confidence that serves him and his country well during the dark days of World War II. Intensely human, poignant, heroic and fiercely funny. "*A crowning achievement.*" — Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*. "*Makes your spirit soar.*" — Joe Morgenstern, *The Wall Street Journal*. *Rated PG-13*.

May 18, GOSPEL HILL (2009), New Progressive Baptist Church, 8 Hone St., Kingston — Danny Glover, Angela Bassett, Julia Stiles and Samuel L. Jackson headline actor-director Giancarlo Esposito's action drama about a small South Carolina town still haunted by a racially motivated murder

that occurred there 40 years earlier. Civil rights activist Peter Malcolm (Jackson) was at the peak of his popularity when he was gunned down in the town's Gospel Hill neighborhood. The crime, committed in broad daylight in front of witnesses, remains unsolved because racist sheriff Jack Herrod (Tom Bower), now retired and dying of cancer, refused to pursue the case. Four decades later, history threatens to repeat itself when Sarah (Bassett), the only person in town willing to mobilize resistance to a group of unscrupulous developers, begins receiving threatening phone calls. She has little support from her bitter, apathetic husband, John (Glover), who gave up civil rights activism after his father's shooting. A *"thought-provoking concept of historical reconciliation."* — Ronnie Scheib, *Variety*. *Not rated*.

June 15, I AM (2011), Vivekananda Retreat, Ridgely, 101 Leggett Road, Stone Ridge — This engaging documentary explores the personal journey of Hollywood comedy director Tom Shadyac (*Ace Ventura: Pet Detective, Bruce Almighty, Patch Adams*) after a 2007 bicycle accident that caused post-concussion syndrome, or shell shock. Shadyac interviews scientists, religious leaders, environmentalists and philosophers, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, linguist-philosopher Noam Chomsky, author-researcher Lynne McTaggart, evolutionary biologist Elisabet Sahtouris, historian Howard Zinn and political commentator Thom Hartmann. Shadyac asks two central questions: What's wrong with the world? and What can we do about it? These lead to discussions about everything from loneliness and the economy to Western mores and the drive to war. *"Everyone needs to see this film!"* — Bruce Cohen, producer of the five-time Academy Award-winning film *American Beauty*. *Not rated*.

July 20, SAFETY NOT GUARANTEED (2012), Temple Emanuel, 243 Albany Ave., Kingston — An award-winning comedy from the producers of *Little Miss Sunshine*, inspired by a real-life 1997 survivalist magazine classified ad by a person seeking someone to accompany him in time travel. In the film, the ad reads: "Wanted: Somebody to go back in time with me. This is not a joke. You'll get paid after we get back. Must bring your own weapons. I have only done this once before. Safety not guaranteed." Cynical editor Jeff (Jake Johnson) asks interns Darius (Aubrey Plaza) and Arnau (Karan Soni) to help him find the person behind the ad. They discover Kenneth (Mark Duplass), a likable but paranoid supermarket clerk and off-hours mad scientist who believes he's solved the riddle of time travel and intends to depart again soon. Darius wins Kenneth over with a mixture of sarcasm and audacity. Kenneth, she learns, is convinced he is being tracked by government agents. Together, they embark on a hilarious, smart and unexpectedly heartfelt journey that reveals how far believing can take you. *"Casts an enchanting spell from its opening scene."* — Claudia Puig, *USA Today*. *Rated R*.

Aug. 17, OLD GOATS (2011), Woodstock Reformed Church, 16 Tinker St., Woodstock — This Taylor Guterson film is a hilarious story about Bob Burkholder, David VanderWal and Britton Crosley, three elderly friends living in a small town near Seattle. Playing themselves but within a fictional framework, the men have lived completely different lives but suffer from the same condition — retirement. Bob is writing his memoirs but is uneasy about revealing his sins as a younger man. David is struggling to find his way while living with his bossy wife who wants to move to Palm Springs, Calif. Britt lives alone on a boat and searches for excitement and romance. At one point Britt becomes jealous of Bob's girlfriend and decides to try to find a woman of his own. This leads to new experiences with cellphones, the Internet and dating — under Bob and David's watchful eyes and unsolicited advice. *"A quiet, appealing film."* — Moira Macdonald, *The Seattle Times*. *"Suggests personal growth can happen at any age."* — United Press International. *"It's funny, it's eccentric, it's different, and I think you'll be smiling through the entire film."* — Stephen Simon, *Spiritual Cinema Circle*. *Not rated*.

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 and has no religious affiliation.

For more information, contact Gerry Harrington at (845) 389-9201 or gerryharrington@mindspring.com. Details are also available on Facebook at [facebook.com/MoviesWithSpirit](https://www.facebook.com/MoviesWithSpirit).