

THE MANY FACES OF TRAFFICKING AND WHAT WE CAN DO

Presenter: Grace Roebuck*, Vassar College

Thursday, February 8, 2018
7:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie**
67 S Randolph Ave., Poughkeepsie

Grace Roebuck, a sophomore Psychology major from Vassar College will speak on the issue of Human Trafficking.

About a year ago, Grace co-founded an anti-trafficking organization at Vassar College entitled "The Underground." Starting with a campus wide art initiative, the Red Sand Project, Grace and her team have since gone on to develop many new projects including an anti-trafficking curriculum at a Haitian Secondary School, a theater production on sex slavery, and the return of Red Sand among other things.



During this presentation Grace will elaborate on the primary causes of human trafficking, as well as its many forms; effect on victims; and susceptible high risk groups. Further she will discuss new and innovative combatant techniques - as well as interesting organizations, individuals, and businesses working to combat this issue.

****Directions:** Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie at 67 South Randolph Ave. can be accessed from Hooker Ave. OR take Route 9 to Sharon Dr. (near Holiday Inn). At the end of Sharon turn left onto Beechwood then the first right onto Ferris Lane, next an immediate left to S. Randolph. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie is on the right.

Questions:

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***GRACE ROEBUCK**

Currently a sophomore at Vassar College, Grace's main academic passions are psychology and education intermingled with human rights and social change. Much of Grace's activism involves combatting human trafficking, through art, education, and systemic change. This led her to found The Underground, an anti-trafficking organization, almost a year ago.

Grace and her team for The Underground have previously brought Molly Gochman's Red Sand Project to Vassar, supplemented with a student curated anti-trafficking exhibition and a lecture from communications director for Free the Slaves, Terry Fitzpatrick. This year, The Underground has many new projects, the first partners with The New Dramatists and Mirage Theater Company to create and premier "Broken Dolls" at Vassar College. This play will be supplemented with drama workshops on how to create socially conscious plays and on the interlude between art and activism, as well as a panel discussion on human trafficking. Another team from The Underground is working on an anti-restavek academic program for a secondary school in rural Northwestern Haiti, with expansion plans to Ethiopia and the Ukraine. The Underground is also in the process of bringing Kevin Bales, human trafficking expert, to speak on the relationship of religion and trafficking. In addition to running The Underground, Grace spends her time as the director for the Vassar Haiti Project's Education Initiative (where one of our members, Lila Meade, has done a marvelous job in building a clinic and so much else) and co-directing unFramed, a group dedicated to art and activism.

With a huge passion for traveling, Grace has served or attended conferences in California, Chicago, Texas, Haiti, and Boston, soon to fly to San Antonio, Texas to be one of fifteen nation-wide student liaisons for the Elks National Foundation. Previous accolades for Grace include 1/20 from 19,000 applications nationwide to receive the Elks Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarship, part of 5.4% of Girl Scouts to earn a Gold Award for her high school program Breaking Barriers, American Heart Association/Institute of Biosciences and Bioengineering fellowship recipient, Intern for the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, and guest speaker before the Providence Performing Arts Center.