

Join Poughkeepsie AAUW as we prepare to celebrate the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 21, 2019)

## RACE SOLDIER: Growing Up Black in a White Environment in the 1960's

Presented by Jocelyn Johnson-Kearney

January 10, 2019

7:00 pm



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie \*

67 South Randolph Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

*Race Soldier: Growing Up Black in a White Environment* in the 1960's is a dramatic presentation based on Jocelyn Johnson-Kearney's memories of growing up as a Black child in an all-white environment during the Civil Rights era of the 1960's. Ms. Johnson-Kearney is a gifted writer and actor who combines drama, visual imagery and sound to tell a unique and powerful story.

*"Race Soldier" is for anyone who cares about the subject of race in America, likes history or enjoys theatrical artistry. The performance is loaded with social and political content that is relevant to what is happening today. I think America has denied its racism, which is one reason we are seeing the country coming apart just when many thought we had become a "post-racial society." A year ago, I was tempted to make, and even wrote, a speech about the history of racism and why it is so powerful in our lives. I decided instead to let art speak. Words and stories are powerful. My life has been full of drama, and I've got plenty more stories to tell. - Jocelyn Johnson-Kearney*

Jocelyn Johnson-Kearney is a creative writer and performer and a former activist with a playwriting degree from Howard University. She taught Reader's Theater to youth in the Poughkeepsie School District and works as a Youth Services Manager at Riverhaven Youth Shelter/Hudson River Housing.

*I am the child of a civil rights barrier-breaker in the Hudson Valley and my memories include growing up as a black child in an all-white environment in the 1960s. My father wanted to be like Martin Luther King Jr. As a minister, he took on some challenges that subjected our family to social experiments in race relations before and throughout the civil rights and Black Power movements. Like both of my parents, I became an activist, and contributed much of my activism to what became my community in the City of Poughkeepsie when I married, returned to the Hudson Valley and raised a family myself. - Jocelyn Johnson-Kearney*

Amina Kearney, Jocelyn Johnson-Kearney's daughter, is a media specialist and educator working at The Art Effect, the former Mill Street Loft, and is the founder of Valley Film Cooperative.

**\*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:** Monique Jones, 849-1692, [myj712@aol.com](mailto:myj712@aol.com) Sandy Lash, 227-4650, [sjlash@optonline.net](mailto:sjlash@optonline.net) ■