



Wisconsin Gospellers December 2018 Newsletter

Book Review for Compelling & Readable “Life of a Slave Girl” Memoir

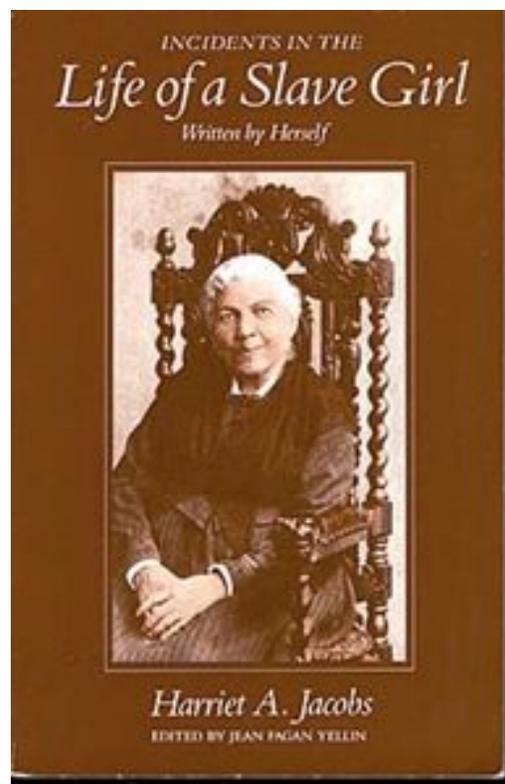
Writing was one way 19th century women spoke up in the public sphere—decades before they won the right to vote. So I was curious when I saw *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* on the “give-away” shelf at the library. Once I started reading, it was hard to put down Harriet Jacobs’s autobiographical novel, which is one of more than a hundred such books published by African American women before the Civil War. Jacobs recounts several years in the life of a family that includes freemen, slaves, exslaves, sharecroppers and small-business owners. Here’s a teaser: Hiring day in the south takes place on the 1st of January. On the 2d, the slaves are expected to go to their new masters... It is easy to find out, on that day, who clothes and feeds his slaves well; for he is surrounded by a crowd, begging, “Please massa, hire me this year. I will work very hard.”

...Were it not that hiring day is near at hand, Christmas might be a happy season. The Johnkannaus is the greatest attraction. For a month previous, companies of slaves are composing songs, which are sung on this occasion. These companies, of a hundred each, turn out early in the morning, and are around to go around until 12 o’clock, begging for contributions. Not a door is left unvisited where there is the least chance of obtaining a penny or a glass of rum. They do not drink while they are out, but carry the rum home in jars, to have carousal. It is seldom that any white man or child refuses to give them a trifle. If he does, they regale his ears with the following song:

Poor massa, so dey say
Down in de heel, so dey say
Got no money, so dey say
Not one shilling, so dey say
God A’mighty bless you, so dey say.

This book is a page-turner, great for holiday travel or snow days. Jacobs will challenge what you think you know about slavery. Her story will also remind you that every human being is a beloved child of God, endowed by our Creator with the ability to make choices and speak truth to power.

Kimberly Redding





Mission Statement: To bridge cultural divides and touch souls through the transformative power of gospel music

Vision Statement: A world where God's love triumphs over that which divides us.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Lunch by</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Sat Jan 12th	9am-10:30am Rehearsal 10:45am-2:30pm Workshop 3pm concert	Cedar Ridge 113 Cedar Ridge Dr West Bend WI 53095	Cedar Ridge	Rehearsal workshop & Concert
Sat Feb 16th *3rd saturday	10am-3pm	Swiss UCC? 18 5th Av New Glarus, WI 53574	Men	Rehearsal
Sat Mar 9th	10am-3pm	Congregational UCC 1511 Nicolet Blvd Neenah, WI 54956	Sopranos	Rehearsal
Sat Apr 13	10am-3pm	Olivet UCC 313 W Prairie St, Columbus, WI 53925	Altos	Rehearsal
Sat May 11	10am-3pm	?	men	Rehearsal
Sat Jun 9	10am-3pm	?	?	Rehearsal
Sun Jun 23	?	?	?	?

? = still tentative and could change. Stay tuned!

*There's NO June 2019 Annual Mtg @ Green Lake because General Synod is in Milwaukee June 21-25.

