Assembly Resolution No. 965

BY: M. of A. Jacobson

COMMEMORATING the 175th Anniversary of Vassar Temple

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize certain exemplary institutions whose stewardship of faith and commitment to public service strengthen the fabric of communities across the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of Vassar Temple; and

WHEREAS, It is our intent to recognize the work of Vassar Temple in Poughkeepsie, New York, in gratitude for its dedication to the Jewish faith and support for Jewish heritage; and

WHEREAS, Since its founding as The Congregation Brethren of Israel in 1848, Vassar Temple has served as the spiritual home for generations of Jewish members; and

WHEREAS, Opening with sixteen families at its founding, Vassar Temple is now the oldest continuously functioning Jewish congregation between New York City and Albany; and

WHEREAS, In 1951, Vassar Temple joined the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, now the Union for Reform Judaism; and

WHEREAS, In 1953, the current home of Vassar Temple on Hooker Avenue at Cherry Street in Poughkeepsie was dedicated; and

WHEREAS, Vassar Temple has served as a center of fellowship to support and guide congregants through life events, spiritual needs, and religious education; and

WHEREAS, Vassar Temple has supported outreach to both Jewish and non-Jewish residents, including through its work on the Dutchess County Interfaith Council; and

WHEREAS, Vassar Temple has been a local pillar in its work toward tikkun olam (the repair of the world), serving the community through blood drives with the Red Cross, helping unhoused individuals with Hudson River Housing, supporting domestic violence victims at Grace Smith House, and fighting hunger with monthly food donations to Dutchess Outreach; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of Vassar Temple; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be

transmitted to Vassar Temple.