

HISTORY OF PEACE AT VASSAR

By: Dr. Sa'ed Atshan, 2024–2025 Randolph Fellow in Peace, Conflict, and the Middle East

Julian Balsley '28

Bodie Morein '28

Preface

The purpose of this project was to chronologize the history of peace and justice at Vassar College from its founding in 1861 (and before) to the spring semester of 2025. We looked at three parameters for assessing whether an event fit into the timeline, guided by Swarthmore College's framework for Peace and Conflict Studies. First, Vassar's pedagogical evolution towards peace, justice, and conflict studies. Second, Vassar's engagement with local and world affairs, including protests, fundraisers, and teach-ins. And third, Vassar-specific institutional social change. We focused on where Vassar students, faculty, and administrators furthered peace and justice on campus.

To do this, we looked through various on-campus publications, including Vassar's student paper of record, *The Miscellany News*; *Vassar, the Alumnae/i Quarterly*; *A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College*; *The New York Times*; *The Poughkeepsie Journal*; and various other student publications, including *The Vassar Chronicle*, *Unscrewed*, *Vassar Spectator*, and *Womanspeak*. We also interviewed multiple Vassar professors and staff members for their expertise on College history.

Looking over the timeline of this slice of Vassar history, a few broad trends become clear. Since the 1850s, Vassar students, faculty, and administration have participated in a robust history of furthering peace and justice on campus with local, national, and international focuses. Students and faculty have struggled for greater peace and justice on their campus, including student protests that led to an Africana Studies Department and advocacy for campus workers' labor rights. Over many decades, students have been vocal activists for national and international causes like abolition and female suffrage, as well as opposition to the Vietnam War, South African apartheid, the War on Terror, and peace and justice in Palestine/Israel. The college has also been a site of lecturers like W.E.B. Du Bois, Angela Davis, and Edward Said, as well as conferences and festivals like Multicultural Awareness Week and Hunger Action fasts whose proceeds went to international famine relief.

1850s

- 1851: John Bolding, escaped South Carolina enslaved person turned Poughkeepsie tailor, is kidnapped back to South Carolina following the *Dred Scott v. Sanford* decision. Matthew Vassar and other Poughkeepsians raise about \$2,000 to free Bolding and bring him back to Poughkeepsie, where he lives out the rest of his life peacefully.¹

1860s

- 1861: Vassar College is established.
- 1865: Vassar College opens to accept its first class.
- 1867: Wendell Phillips, abolitionist, orator, and president of the Anti-Slavery Society, gives a speech at Vassar on “Street Life in Europe.”²
- 1868: Anna Elizabeth Dickinson, abolitionist, suffragist, and Quaker, gives a speech at Vassar on “Idiots and Women.”³

1870s

- 1872: Students are successful in convincing the trustee lecture committee to let abolitionist Wendell Phillips give a lecture on “The Lost Arts.”⁴
- 1876: Thomas Wentworth Higginson, minister, abolitionist, commander of the first African American regiment during the Civil War, and a post-war advocate for the rights of freed enslaved people and women, gives the Founder’s Day address on “Common Sense in the Study of History.”⁵

¹ “Civil War,” Vassar in Wartime, Vassar College, accessed 14 February 2025, <https://vcencyclopedia.vassar.edu/vassar-in-wartime/civil-war/>.

² “November 27, 1867,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1867-11-27-phillips-lecture/>.

³ “April 25, 1868,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1868-04-25-dickinson-lecture/>.

⁴ “March 8, 1872,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1872-03-08-phillips-lecture/>.

⁵ “April 29, 1876,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1876-04-29-founders-day/>.

- September 1876: The Democratic Club, the first political club at Vassar, is established. The group encourages the “disenfranchised to use their indirect influence to elect” Samuel Tilden in the 1876 presidential election.⁶

1890s

- 5 June 1898: Vassar President James Monroe Taylor talks about the Spanish-American War at his baccalaureate sermon, granting that while war may bring out certain “noble, heroic elements” in human nature, war is generally wrong and that “the pulpit should uphold the Gospel of Jesus, which is peace and not war.”⁷
- February 27–March 3, 1899: Suffragist and writer Harriet Stanton Blatch gives a series of lectures on “The Economic Position of Women,” concluding that it is essential that women should be offered the “same, manual education” as men.⁸

1900s

- 19 March 1909: Suffragists hold a meeting on campus, which is organized by Vassar students.⁹
- 24 April 1909: Suffragist students effectively circumvent the ban on suffragist meetings imposed by President James Monroe Taylor. They follow the ban to the letter, hosting no meeting and giving no speeches, instead gathering students for a tour through multiple rooms featuring wordless pictures supporting women’s suffrage. One student in each room is given the task of yelling out what each scene represented.¹⁰

1910s

- 17 November 1911: Vassar alumna Inez Millholland ‘09 gives a speech in Poughkeepsie on two reasons for women’s suffrage. A large number of Vassar students and some

⁶ “September 1876,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1876-fall-disenfranchised-class/>.

⁷ “June 5, 1898,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1898-06-05-baccalaureate-sermon/>.

⁸ “February 27–March 3, 1899,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1899-02-27-blatch-lectures/>.

⁹ “March 19, 1909,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1909-03-19-suffragist-meeting/>.

¹⁰ “April 24, 1909,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1909-04-24-suffragist-tableau/>.

faculty members attend.¹¹

- 22 April 1912: Students hold a mass suffrage meeting on campus, with the permission of President Taylor. Earlier in April, 478 Vassar students had signed a petition calling for a mass suffrage meeting.¹²
- 3 March 1913: Vassar alumna Inez Millholland '09 leads a women's suffrage march in Washington, D.C.¹³
- 1 December 1914: The administration gives permission for a student Women's Suffrage Club to be created.¹⁴
- 1915: The Vassar Socialist Club is formed, as part of the Intercollegiate Socialist Society.¹⁵
- March 1915: Vassar students pitch in to the effort by the Poughkeepsie committee of the Commission for Relief in Belgium, and help in gathering 3,000 pounds of food to be sent overseas.¹⁶
- 30 December 1915: Thirty Vassar faculty members sign and send a petition to President Wilson, urging him to cut diplomatic relations with Austria and Germany.¹⁷
- 15 December 1916: Students raise, as a Christmas gift, \$4,600 for Edith Wharton's tuberculosis hospitals in France, as well \$2,000 for ambulances overseas.¹⁸
- 1 February 1917: Mrs. Henry Noble MacCracken, wife of Vassar President MacCracken, creates (with the help of the Poughkeepsie YWCA and the Christian Association) a community center for underprivileged children. Upon its opening in downtown Poughkeepsie, 140 children (over 100 more than expected) line up for its first day.¹⁹

¹¹ "November 17, 1911," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1911-11-17-suffrage-meeting/>.

¹² "April 22, 1912," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1912-04-22-suffrage-meeting/>.

¹³ "March 3, 1913," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1913-03-03-milholland-suffrage-parade/>.

¹⁴ "December 1, 1914," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1914-12-01-suffrage-club/>.

¹⁵ "April 9, 1912," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1912-04-09-socialists/>.

¹⁶ "March 1915," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1915-03-food-relief/>.

¹⁷ "December 30, 1915," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1915-12-30-wilson-petitioned/>.

¹⁸ "December 15, 1916," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 4 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1916-12-15-fundraising-for-france/>.

¹⁹ "February 1, 1917," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, accessed 4 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1917-02-01-lincoln-center/>.

- 1918: Shortly before the end of WWI, the Vassar Training Camp for Nurses is established with the purpose of preparing, in the words of Minnie Cumnock Blodgett, “a battalion of women to do that war and peace work for which they are most needed....”²⁰
- 1918–19: The Vassar Relief Unit, made up of Vassar students and alums, goes to Savenay, France, to work across eight Red Cross Recreation Huts “for convalescent soldiers at the American Base Hospital Center.”²¹ In Verdun, France, they provide shelter and aid for those displaced by fighting in World War I. The Vassar women feed children and the greater community and employ young French women as part of an effort to empower the French to save themselves.²²
- March 1919: The Vassar Relief Unit establishes a dispensary and milk station in Verdun, France, to provide support for children, old people, and other vulnerable people affected by the war. They called it “La Goutte de Lait.”²³
- 19 March 1919: A number of Vassar professors and admissions officers convene to discuss the college’s policy on accepting Black students. They decide they have no specific policy regarding Black applicants, and the meeting ends with the secretary being instructed to accept one of the Black applicants, Ellen Love. She graduates in 1927.²⁴

1920s

- 14 April 1924: An anonymous donor gives the college \$10,000 to fund an “international peace scholarship” for foreign students.²⁵
- 26 April 1924: Frank Tannenbaum, Austrian-American sociologist, criminologist and historian, gives a talk on the conditions in Mexico, focusing in part on the importance of prison reform. He talks about how the then-government of Álvaro Obregón has been

²⁰ “The Vassar Training Camp for Nurses,” Vassar in Wartime, Vassar College, accessed 14 February 2025, <https://vcencyclopedia.vassar.edu/vassar-in-wartime/nurses-camp/>.

²¹ “January 16–18, 1918,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, accessed 4 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1918-01-16-08-vassar-relief-unit/>.

²² “Vassar Relief Unit, WWI,” Vassar in Wartime, Vassar College, accessed 14 February 2025, <https://vcencyclopedia.vassar.edu/vassar-in-wartime/vassar-relief-unit-wwi/>.

²³ “March 1919,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 4 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1919-03-goutte-de-lait/>.

²⁴ “March 19, 1919,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, 4 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1919-03-06-negro-policy/>.

²⁵ “April 14, 1924,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, 11 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1924-04-14-peace-scholarship/>.

effective in restoring peace, and condemns a recent rebellion against the Obregón government.²⁶

- 14–20 June 1924: The Institute for a Christian Basis of World Relations comes to Vassar, bringing with it over 200 delegates from different countries and organizations including the YWCA, the American Association of University Women, the Foreign Policy Association, and the League of Women Voters. There are no scheduled speeches and the topics of discussion are left up to the delegates.²⁷ Among the topics chosen are “Race Relations in the United States,” “The Immigration Policy of the United States,” “The Outlawry of War as a Way to Peace,” and “The Humanitarian Problems of the World.”²⁸
- 30 October 1924: A. C. Harte gives a lecture on the new British Mandate system in Palestine, explaining that Palestinians and Syrians have no self-determination but overwhelmingly desire self-rule.²⁹
- 13 November 1929: Ameen Rihani, a Syrian publicist and poet, gives a lecture advocating for pan-Arabism as a solution to colonial rule in Iraq, Palestine, and Syria.³⁰

1930s

- 1930: Vassar Professor of History Louise Fargo Brown and Wells College Professor of History Louise Ropes Loomis establish the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians to combat discrimination against female historians at conferences and in the historical discipline at large.³¹
- April–July 1930: In April, the Argentine-American Cultural Institute establishes a scholarship for an Argentine woman to go to Vassar.³² On 1 July, the scholarship is

²⁶ “Mr Tannenbaum Tells of Mexico,” *The Miscellany News*, 30 April 1924, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19240430-01.2.16>.

²⁷ “Women bring their minds to bear on world’s needs,” *New York Times*, 29 June 1924, <http://libproxy.vassar.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/women-bring-their-minds-bear-on-worlds-needs/docview/103332704/se-2>.

²⁸ “June 14–20, 1924,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 11 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1924-06-14-20-world-relations-conference/>.

²⁹ “Dr. A. C. Harte Lectures on Palestine,” *The Miscellany News*, 5 November 1924, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19241105-01.2.35>.

³⁰ “Mr. Rihani Discusses Present-Day Arabians,” *The Miscellany News*, 13 November 1929, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19291113-01.2.5>.

³¹ “History,” About, Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, accessed 18 April 2025, <https://berksconference.org/about/history/>.

³² “April 1930,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 11 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1930-04-argentine-scholarship/>.

awarded to Señorita Telma Recia, MD, so she can do postgraduate studies on social welfare, “especially in regard to delinquency among children.”³³

- 19 April 1930: W.E.B. Du Bois, a civil rights activist, historian, sociologist and educator, lectures on “Racial Segregation.”³⁴
- 22 April 1931: Arthur Garfield Hays, American lawyer and co-founder of the ACLU, gives a lecture on the “Martyrs of Justice.”³⁵
- 1 March 1934: In a statement from the New York League of Women Voters, President MacCracken endorses the ratification of a federal child labor amendment. Regulations at the time were set to expire with the closure of the National Recovery Administration, originally established as part of the New Deal.³⁶
- 13 April 1934: President MacCracken leads 500 students through the streets of Poughkeepsie for a peace march, carrying banners with slogans like “Why War?”, “We Want Peace,” and “Teach Peace to Your Boys.”³⁷
- 19 February 1935: Eighty Vassar students attend a meeting in Albany to oppose a bill aimed at repressing student activism and so-called radicalism. There is also a mass meeting of 500 students on campus opposing the same bill, and more than 1,000 students sign a petition hoping to defeat the bill.³⁸
- 18 April 1935: Students join the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of the Werber Coat factory in Beacon, New York, in picketing and striking. Students sing songs, join the picket line in shifts, and make and carry placards supporting the strikers in their attempt to gain better working conditions.³⁹

³³ “July 1, 1930,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 11 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1930-07-01-argentine-student/>.

³⁴ “April 19, 1930,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 11 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1930-04-19-dubois-lecture1/>.

³⁵ “April 22, 1931,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 11 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1931-04-22-hays-lecture/>.

³⁶ March 1, 1934,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 11 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1934-03-01-maccracken-child-labor/>.

³⁷ “President leads Vassar students in peace parade,” *The Miscellany News*, 18 April 1934, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19340418-01.2.7>.

³⁸ “Vassar protests Nunan bill with a mass meeting,” *The Miscellany News*, 20 February 1935, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19350220-01.2.2>.

³⁹ “Individual students give their support to strike in Beacon,” *The Miscellany News*, 20 April 1935, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19350420-01.2.4>.

- 9 December 1936: Conrad Hoffman gives a lecture on the rising tensions in Mandate Palestine due to European Jewish immigration under the British, and Zionism's goal of establishing a Jewish state.⁴⁰
- 27 December 1937: The third annual convention of the American Student Union takes place at Vassar. Students adopt "a peace program which calls for collective government sanctions against aggressor nations." They also call for "concerted government action to stop aggression and restore peace," a withdrawal of U.S. troops from abroad, and for the Ludlow Amendment (an amendment which would require a national referendum before the U.S. government could declare war) to be more seriously considered. Delegates also vote unanimously in favor of boycotting Japanese goods.⁴¹
- 15 January 1938: Salvador de Madariaga, a Spanish historian, diplomat, and author gives a lecture called "A Plea for Aristocratic Government" on his lecture circuit around the country, denouncing Francisco Franco's fascist government. Earlier in the 1930s, he had fought for a reduction of arms worldwide as part of his duties working for the League of Nations.⁴²
- 16-24 August 1938: The Second World Youth Congress is held at Vassar, hosting over 500 delegates from 18 international organizations and 52 countries. The American delegates come to a unanimous agreement on a seven-point program for world peace.⁴³ At the conference students sign the Vassar Peace Pact, which condemns war, pledges to build a "spirit of unity and collaboration between the youth of all nations" and to do all they can to avoid aggression between nations.⁴⁴
- 1 January 1939: Over winter break, Vassar students raise most of the \$2,400 they need to provide scholarships for two Jewish refugees to attend the College the following

⁴⁰ "Hoffman Describes Issues Confronting Modern Palestine," *The Miscellany News*, 16 December 1936, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19361216-01.2.22>.

⁴¹ "MacCracken opens student union meeting," *The Miscellany News*, 12 January 1938, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19380112-01.2.2>.

⁴² "Lecture tonight by Madariaga on govt.," *The Miscellany News*, 15 January 1938, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19380115-01.2.7>.

⁴³ "August 15, 1938," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 17 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1938-08-15-24-world-youth-conference/>; Isabelle Yoffe, "The Second Youth World Congress," *Vassar Quarterly* 24, no. 1 (1938): 3-4. <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19381001-01.2.5>.

⁴⁴ "Vassar Peace Pact," *Vassar Quarterly* 24, no. 1 (1938): 5. <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19381001-01.2.6>.

academic year. The College also decides to give a then-current Austrian refugee student a scholarship for the spring semester of 1939.⁴⁵

- February 1939: Vassar faculty fight for refugee scholars to be invited to the College, and the Board of Trustees approves this plan. Twenty scholars take part in this program between 1939 and 1943.⁴⁶
- 20 April 1939: Vassar conducts its own “Peace Day” along with many other colleges in the country. Both Vera Micheles Dean, a Russian-American political scientist, and student Barbara Allen are speakers.⁴⁷

1940s

- September 1940: Christine Vassar, a distant relative of Matthew Vassar, comes to stay at Vassar with the MacCrackens for the duration of the war despite being only thirteen years old. She graduates from the College in 1947.⁴⁸
- 15 November 1940: Herbert Hoover, former president of the United States, gives a speech at Vassar on “The Food Situation in Europe.” He makes an appeal for overseas aid to the small democratic countries of Holland, Norway, Finland, Belgium, and Poland, which he states are set to face starvation in the following winter or spring. He also entreats Germany to not interfere with this aid. His speech is broadcast nationwide by WABC.⁴⁹
- February 1941: Vassar students are among the 350 students nationwide who sponsor the “Youth Petition to Congress” asking for full support to be given to those fighting Nazism in Europe.⁵⁰

⁴⁵ “Study at Vassar for work abroad,” *New York Times*, 1 January 1939, <http://libproxy.vassar.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/study-at-vassar-work-abroad/docview/102802602/se-2>.

⁴⁶ “February 1939,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 17 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1939-02-refugee-scholars/>; “Faculty weigh the problem of emigre European scholars,” *The Miscellany News*, 18 February 1939, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19390218-01.2.10>.

⁴⁷ “Barbara Allen to present Mrs. Dean to students’ anti-war assembly,” *The Miscellany News*, 19 April 1939, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19390419-01.2.8>.

⁴⁸ “September 12, 1940,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 17 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1940-09-12-christine-vassar/>.

⁴⁹ “Nationwide audience hears Mr. Hoover’s plea for Europe,” *The Miscellany News*, 20 November 1940, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19401120-01.2.7>.

⁵⁰ “College youth asks full aid to Nazi foes,” *New York Times*, 26 February 1941, <http://libproxy.vassar.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/college-youth-asks-full-aid-nazi-foes/docview/106120220/se-2>.

- 1941: Vassar students raise \$12,000 for war relief.⁵¹
- 18 November 1942: Students decide not to hold a senior prom in the spring, and the sophomore class uses money raised to buy class rings for war bonds instead.⁵²
- 24 April 1943: Vassar students and faculty raise \$9,000 to buy war bonds and stamps.⁵³
- 3 July 1945: Vassar hosts its first seven-day vacation for the Women's Army Corps (WAC), giving 100 women access to Vassar's facilities. Another 600 come for vacations later in the same summer. The WACs had worked during the war for more than two years without any leave or days off.⁵⁴
- 20 February 1946: Sarah Gibson Blanding is chosen as the first female president of Vassar College.⁵⁵
- July 1946: Grace Harriet Macurdy, a professor of Greek at Vassar from 1893 to 1937, receives the King's Medal for Service in the Cause of Freedom from King George VI for her work in British and Greek war relief.⁵⁶
- 30 July 1946: President Emeritus Henry Noble MacCracken becomes chairman of the international conference of Jews and Christians held in Oxford, England, and leads the American delegation there. The goals of the council and the conference are to "promote understanding and good-will" and to address anti-Semitism, which the Archbishop of Canterbury calls one of the "most disturbing features of the day."⁵⁷

⁵¹ "March 26, 1941," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 20 February 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1941-03-26-relief-fundraising/>.

⁵² "November 28, 1942," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 18 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1942-11-28-no-prom/>.

⁵³ "VC buys \$9,000 in bonds this week," *The Miscellany News*, 24 April 1943, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19430424-01.2.17>.

⁵⁴ Mera Galloway, "WAC Rest Camp—Vassar 1945," *Vassar Quarterly* 31, no. 1 (1945): 8-9. <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19451015-01.2.10>; "July 3, 1945," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 18 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1945-07-03-vassar-vacation/>.

⁵⁵ "February 20, 1946," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 18 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1946-02-20-blanding-succeeds-maccracken/>.

⁵⁶ "July 1946," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 18 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1946-07-macurdy-kings-medal/>.

⁵⁷ "Jews and Christians hold rally in London," *New York Times*, 30 July 1946, <http://libproxy.vassar.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/jews-christians-hold-rally-london/docview/107766016/se-2>.

- 1948: Students host the first meeting of Vassar's chapter of Students for Democratic Action,⁵⁸ a nationwide organization committed to the realization of economic security and freedom for all by means of democratic planning.⁵⁹
- 21 February 1949: President Blanding addresses the importance of increasing access to financial aid and giving racial minorities more chances to attend Vassar. She reiterates that Vassar does not discriminate based on "race, creed or color," and would welcome more applications from Black students.⁶⁰ In June of the same year, Black student Ruth M. Graham is accepted to the class of 1953 and earns a full academic scholarship.⁶¹
- 2 December 1949: The director of the United Nations Department of Trusteeship, Ralph Bunche, gives a lecture on "The United Nations Peace Effort."⁶²
- 12 December 1949: The Vassar Hillel Foundation holds its first meeting.⁶³

1950s

1950

- 14 February 1950: In her third annual report, President Blanding urges students and faculty to recognize the importance of academic freedom, even as the fear of the USSR and communism rise. She affirms that all faculty at Vassar are loyal, and that suppression poses a great peril to freedom. She denounces "the fallacious belief that ignorance of an idea will forestall interest or sympathy."⁶⁴
- 15 February 1950: Vassar hosts a two-day forum on "The Non-Political Activities of the United Nations." The speakers are four women associated with the United Nations, and during the Q&A segment Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt joins. The topics covered range

⁵⁸ "January 9, 1948," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 20 February 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1948-01-09-students-democratic-action/>.

⁵⁹ "Students for Democratic Action Collected Records," Swarthmore College Peace Collections, TriCollege Libraries Archives and Manuscripts, accessed 20 February 2025, https://archives.tricolib.brynmawr.edu/resources/scpc-cdg-a-students_for_democratic_action.

⁶⁰ "February 21, 1949," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 18 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1949-02-21-annual-report/>.

⁶¹ "June 13, 1949," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 18 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1949-06-13-minority-scholarships/>.

⁶² "Ralph Bunch Speaks On Peace Efforts of U.N.," *The Miscellany News*, 30 November 1949, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19491130-01.2.6>.

⁶³ "Vassar Hillel Club Will Hold Meeting To Discuss Plans," *The Miscellany News*, 10 December 1949, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vcchro19491210-01.2.37>.

⁶⁴ "Vassar head hits stifling of ideas," *New York Times*, 14 February 1950, <http://libproxy.vassar.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/vassar-head-hits-stifling-ideas/docview/111521435/se-2>.

from social welfare, to the Covenant on Human Rights, to migration and education. At the end of the forum there is a screening of a short film on human rights.⁶⁵

- September 1950: With the help of donations from students and money from trustees, four displaced students from Latvia, Estonia, Hungary, and Yugoslavia are able to attend Vassar on scholarship.⁶⁶
- 13–15 November 1950: Vassar students raise over \$16,000 in the Vassar Combined Drive, slightly short of their \$17,200 goal. The budget is decided by students, and funds are raised for a variety of local, nationwide, and international organizations. The funds go towards scholarships for Black and international students; the Hudson Shore Labor School; and the Quaker peace and social-justice organization American Friends Service Committee.⁶⁷
- 6 December 1950: Vassar students sign and circulate a petition declaring that war in Korea is not inevitable, expressing concerns about the use of atomic bombs.⁶⁸

1951

- 1 May 1951: The head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Walter White, gives a lecture on “Color Lines around the Globe.”⁶⁹

1952

- 22 October 1952: *The Miscellany News* encourages students to consider voting for the Progressive Party, emphasizing that the existence of third parties is important for the flourishing of democracy. They list the program of the Progressive Party, which includes an immediate cease-fire in Korea, negotiations to ban the use of nuclear weapons, negotiations to stop the rearmament of Germany and Japan, supporting colonized

⁶⁵ “VC Sponsors Special Forum On Nonpolitical Activities of the UN,” *The Miscellany News*, 22 February 1950, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19500222-01.2.7>.

⁶⁶ “September 1950,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 24 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1950-09-refugee-scholarships/>; “Evarts Requests D.P. Fund Aid,” *The Miscellany News*, 22 February 1950, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19500222-01.2.2>.

⁶⁷ “Combined Drive Nears Goal: Strong Leads, Is Above Quota,” *Vassar Chronicle*, 18 November 1950, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vcchro19501118-01.2.2>; Elinor Schatzman and Mary Barnett, “Vassar Drive Gives To Hudson Shore, American Friends and Negro Funds,” *The Miscellany News*, 8 November 1950, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19501108-01.2.26>.

⁶⁸ “We Petition For Peace,” *The Miscellany News*, 6 December 1950, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19501206-01.2.2>.

⁶⁹ “White Talks About World Color Line,” *The Miscellany News*, 12 May 1951, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vcchro19510512-01.2.26>.

peoples' demands for freedom, and granting the Puerto Rican people "the right to full and immediate independence."⁷⁰

1953

- 3 December 1953: Two Vassar students go to the fifth Student Conference on United States Affairs at West Point, where they talk about national security and world peace with West Point students. The topics discussed include "The National Security Policy of the United States," "Internal United States," "The Western World," "East Asia," and the "Soviet Orbit."⁷¹

1954

- 2 December 1954: Salvador de Madariaga, who first lectured at the College in 1938, gives a lecture on "Peace and Liberty."⁷²

1956

- 19 November 1956: Vassar students succeed in raising \$2,000 for Hungarian students escaping to Austria following the 1956 nationwide uprisings for Hungarian freedom.⁷³

1957

- 16–17 March 1957: Vassar's Anthropology Club invites two Ghanaian students at other U.S. universities to visit the campus in celebration of Ghana Day, the end of British colonial rule in Ghana.⁷⁴

1958

- 11 October 1958: President Blanding endorses the NAACP and is one of the sponsors for an event run by the NAACP on 1 November 1958. Proceeds from the event go to the NAACP's National Legal Fund.⁷⁵

⁷⁰ "Misc Calls Attention To Political Platform Of Third Party In Coming '52 Elections," *The Miscellany News*, 22 October 1952, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19521022-01.2.19>.

⁷¹ "Vassar Students Confer With West Point Group," *The Miscellany News*, 12 December 1953, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vcchro19531212-01.2.42>.

⁷² "December 2, 1954," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 24 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1954-12-02-madariaga-lecture/>.

⁷³ "November 19, 1956," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 20 February 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1956-11-19-hungarian-rally/>.

⁷⁴ "Johnson to Head Anthropology Club," *Vassar Chronicle*, 9 March 1957, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vcchro19570309-01.2.6>.

⁷⁵ Frances Lennox, "President Blanding Endorses NAACP; Town Chapter Sponsors Benefit Show," *Vassar Chronicle*, 11 October 1958, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vcchro19581011-01.2.4>.

1960s

1960

- 15 March 1960: Vassar students host a civil rights rally. Herbert Hill, NAACP labor secretary, and Paul DuBrul, Democratic Socialist activist, both speak at the rally.⁷⁶
- 23 March 1960: One hundred Vassar students protest segregation on Main Street in Poughkeepsie, condemning the treatment of Black Americans in the South following the Woolworth's sit-in in North Carolina the previous month.⁷⁷
- 25 May 1960: Following a Civil Rights conference in Washington, D.C., Vassar students, with a group of 57 college students in New England, come up with five resolutions pertaining to civil rights. Among other resolutions, they recommend that students boycott and picket Woolworth's stores, tell students to investigate and publicize discriminatory policies, to work with established civil rights organizations, and to facilitate connections with Southern students, including raising money for scholarships and legal funds.⁷⁸
- 28 May 1960: The Vassar Student Aid Fund for Civil Rights holds a furniture sale to raise money for students in the South who have been arrested while peacefully protesting the Woolworth's sit-in. The money goes to legal and scholarship funds for illegally arrested students.⁷⁹
- 30 June 1960: Vassar's trustees withdraw the college from the National Defense Student Loan Program following a March 18 petition signed by 600 students "as a protest against its requirement that students submit a [sic] affidavit disclaiming communist ties."⁸⁰

1961

- 13 December 1961: Tom Hayden, Southern Field Secretary of the Students for a

⁷⁶ March 15, 1960," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 20 February 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1960-03-15-civil-rights-rally/>.

⁷⁷ "After The Picket—What Next?" *The Miscellany News*, 23 March 1960, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19600323-01.2.11>. During the Woolworth's sit-in, or Greensboro sit-in, four young Black students in Greensboro, North Carolina, sat at the "whites-only" section of an F.W. Woolworth's store, sparking protests across the country. After months of negative publicity, Woolworth's desegregated. See Jason G. Gauthier, "The 1960 Greensboro Sit-In," *United States Census Bureau*, 1 February 2025, <https://www.census.gov/about/history/stories/monthly/2025/february-2025.html>.

⁷⁸ "Conference Offers 'Rights' Resolutions," *The Miscellany News*, 25 May 1960, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19600525-01.2.16>.

⁷⁹ "Civil Rights Group Holds Benefit Sale," *The Miscellany News*, 4 May 1960, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19600504-01.2.6>. There is no article in *The Miscellany News* affirming that this event happened, or how much money was ultimately raised.

⁸⁰ "March 18, 1960," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 20 February 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1960-03-18-communist-petition/>.

Democratic Society, speaks at Vassar about the civil rights crises in the South. His lecture launches “a fundraising drive for the Southern Student Freedom Fund,” which will “provide maintenance wages for the Student Non-violent Coordinating committee staff... and... pay legal expenses of students arrested for protesting against illegal segregation.”⁸¹

1962

- 15 February 1962: Two Vassar students attend the First Intercollegiate Conference on Disarmament and Arms Control.⁸²
- 16–17 February 1962: Thirteen Vassar students go to Washington, D.C., to join the Student Turn Toward Peace demonstration. At the demonstration, they promote disarmament and protest the arms race and President Kennedy’s plan to resume atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons.⁸³
- 2 March 1962: Two folk singers, Dave Van Ronk and Roy Berkeley, perform a benefit concert to raise money for the Southern Student Freedom Fund, a civil rights organization.⁸⁴
- 3 October 1962: In response to the Ole Miss Riot in Mississippi, sparked by the attempted enrollment of Black student James Meredith at University of Mississippi, Vassar students create the Vassar-Mississippi Action Committee. The Committee is formed to (among other things) send a civil rights petition to Congress. They also plan to write letters to Southern students and to “leaders of the Ole Miss student body stressing the need for nonviolent action.” On 4 October, the Committee has a follow-up meeting to implement these plans.⁸⁵
- 19–21 October 1962: Four delegates from Vassar attend the Northern Student Movement’s planning conference, concerning civil rights. *The Miscellany News*, presumably citing the goals stated by the NSM itself, states that “the conference had three functions: ‘to inform the delegates of the various programs the staff has developed and

⁸¹ “Tom Hayden Speaks On Southern Crises,” *The Miscellany News*, 13 December 1961, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19611213-01.2.9>.

⁸² “February 15, 1962,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 20 February 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1962-02-15-disarmament-weekend/>.

⁸³ “VC Joins Demonstration For Turn Toward Peace,” *The Miscellany News*, 21 February 1962, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19620221-01.2.2>.

⁸⁴ “Friday Folk Concert Helps Sit-In Students,” *The Miscellany News*, 28 February 1962, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19620228-01.2.9>.

⁸⁵ “Mississippi Rioting Prompts VC Action,” *The Miscellany News*, 10 October 1962, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19621010-01.2.6>.

help them relate these programs to local situations; to involve the campus groups in decisions concerning program priorities and staff mandates for the year; and to establish a definite leadership on the campus and area level.”⁸⁶

- 31 October 1962: President of Students for a Democratic Society Tom Hayden speaks at Vassar on the role of the student in the Civil Rights Movement.⁸⁷
- 5 December 1962: Vassar students publish the first issue of their Civil Rights Bulletin, featuring letters about the University of Mississippi and James Meredith. They create and sell 250 copies.⁸⁸

1963

- 20 September 1963: About 100 Vassar students attend a meeting to establish the Vassar Civil Committee on Civil Rights.⁸⁹
- 5 November 1963: Vassar’s chapter of Students for a Democratic Society and the Vassar Committee for Civil Rights hold a fundraising drive “to gain contributions for the registration of Negroes in the South.” This money is raised to help Black voters overcome poll taxes, one of many barriers to voting.⁹⁰
- 7 December 1963: Vassar hosts a Civil Rights Symposium titled “The Negro Revolt: Contemporary Attitudes and Pressures.”⁹¹
- 15 December 1963: Vassar students march to the Bill of Rights Day Meeting at Poughkeepsie High School, carrying signs and chanting freedom slogans. The event is sponsored by the Vassar Committee on Civil Rights, and among the marchers are their members, Students for a Democratic Society members, faculty, and their children.⁹²

⁸⁶ Linda Chalfant, “NSM Group Discusses Northern Racial Crisis,” *The Miscellany News*, 24 October 1962, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19621024-01.2.2>.

⁸⁷ “Tom Hayden, SDS President, Discusses Role of Student,” *The Miscellany News*, 31 October 1962, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19621031-01.2.18>.

⁸⁸ “Civil Rights Bulletin Consists of Letters On James Meredith,” *The Miscellany News*, 12 December 1962, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19621212-01.2.22>.

⁸⁹ “Students Form Vassar Civil Rights Committee,” *The Miscellany News*, 25 September 1963, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19630925-01.2.3>.

⁹⁰ “VCCR, SDS, Raise Poll-tax Contributions,” *The Miscellany News*, 6 November 1963, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19631106-01.2.18>.

⁹¹ “Local Colleges Sponsor Civil Rights Symposium,” *The Miscellany News*, 4 December 1963, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19631204-01.2.2>; “Opportunity Wasted,” *The Miscellany News*, 11 December 1963, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19631211-01.2.11>.

⁹² “Civil Rights Comm. Sponsors Parade,” *The Miscellany News*, 18 December 1963, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19631218-01.2.9>.

1964

- February 1964: Following Vassar alumna Carole Merritt '62's January arrest and subsequent conviction due to helping with a voter drive in Mississippi, the College refuses to take an official stance but encourages students to aid Merritt.⁹³ The Vassar Committee on Civil Rights sponsors a petition that gains 986 signatures and is addressed to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, requesting "a federal investigation into the 'harassment, intimidation and arrest' of civil rights workers in Canton."⁹⁴
- 2 May 1964: Vassar's chapter of Students for a Democratic Society plans to join a New York demonstration against U.S. involvement in Vietnam.⁹⁵
- 3 May 1964: Associate Counsel for the NAACP Defense and Education Fund, Constance Motley, speaks on the "Present Civil Rights Struggle in the United States." Motley was the first Black woman to be elected to the New York State Legislature.⁹⁶
- June–August 1964: At least one Vassar student, Susan Finnel, goes to Mississippi for summer break to teach at a Freedom School, a program sponsored by various civil rights organizations including Student National Coordinating Committee and the NAACP. Upon arriving back at Vassar, she details the violence facing Black people in Mississippi as well as the volunteers. She tells *The Miscellany* that the parting words of a deputy sheriff in Mississippi to her and other student workers were, "I'd like to kill you but I can't."⁹⁷
- 7–10 October 1964: Vassar students volunteer with the Voter's League to collect information about whether or not Poughkeepsie residents are registered to vote. They give residents information about registering to vote, encouraging them to do so through canvassing and phone banking. They also take on some tasks in the office of the Voter's League.⁹⁸

⁹³ "January 23, 1964," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 21 February 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1964-01-22-sncc-alum-arrested/>.

⁹⁴ "February 3, 1964," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 21 February 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1964-02-03-sncc-alum-jailed/>.

⁹⁵ "Vassar SDS Group to Demonstrate Against U.S. Vietnam Intervention," *The Miscellany News*, 29 April 1964, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19640429-01.2.19>.

⁹⁶ "Mrs. Motley To Lecture," *The Miscellany News*, 29 April 1964, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19640429-01.2.10>.

⁹⁷ Lucy Kramer, "Civil Rights Worker Finds Fear, Threats of Violence," *The Miscellany News*, 30 September 1964, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19640930-01.2.21>.

⁹⁸ "Students Assist Voters League," *The Miscellany News*, 7 October 1964, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19641007-01.2.4>.

- 3–17 November 1964: The Vassar Committee on Civil Rights sponsors a book drive to replace some of the 7,000 books destroyed by the bombing of a Freedom House in Mississippi on 5 October 1964.⁹⁹
- 11 December 1964: Vassar's chapter of Students for a Democratic Society hosts a meeting at which four students arrested and indicted for going to Cuba in defiance of a government ban speak. They speak about their experiences getting to Cuba and what they saw, and to conclude the program a short film made in Cuba is shown.¹⁰⁰

1965

- 20 February 1965: Vassar's chapter of Students for a Democratic Society helps sponsor an anti-Vietnam War protest, with a March down the Main Street of Poughkeepsie.¹⁰¹
- 16 February 1965: A professor at Briarcliff College, Dr. Stanley Millet, and a student at Haverford College, Russel Stetler Jr., both speak on the role of the United States in the war in Vietnam. Dr. Millet argues that the role of the United States should be re-examined so that the conflict does not inevitably become an extended war. Stetler reiterates many similar points and gives a brief overview of Vietnamese history, especially focusing on resistance to the French and the signing of the Geneva Accords.¹⁰²
- April 1965: Student National Coordinating Committee (SNCC) worker Don Ross and civil rights worker Gordon Wilcox speak with students about summer job opportunities with SNCC and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.¹⁰³
- 27 April 1965: The Vassar Inquiry has its first meeting during which two Vassar professors, Frederick Heath and Richard Willey, give speeches on the topic of Vietnam before opening the floor to student discussion.¹⁰⁴
- 20 October 1965: The Vassar Committee on Civil Rights unanimously votes in favor of

⁹⁹ "VCCR Sponsors Book Drive for Freedom House," *The Miscellany News*, 11 November 1964, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19641111-01.2.6>; "Freedom School Drive a Success; VCCR Plans Housing Code Project," *The Miscellany News*, 11 December 1964, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19641211-01.2.17>.

¹⁰⁰ "SDS to Present Student Views On Cuban Trip," *The Miscellany News*, 11 December 1964, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19641211-01.2.2>.

¹⁰¹ "Saturday Set for Demonstrations; SDS to Sponsor Vietnam March," *The Miscellany News*, 17 February 1965, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19650217-01.2.8>.

¹⁰² "Speakers Examine Question of Intervention in Vietnam," *The Miscellany News*, 24 February 1965, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19650224-01.2.32>.

¹⁰³ "Ross, Kahn Speak at Freedom Day," *The Miscellany News*, 23 April 1965, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19650423-01.2.19>.

¹⁰⁴ "Vassar Inquiry Examines Recent Events in Vietnam," *The Miscellany News*, 28 April 1965, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19650428-01.2.21>.

sponsoring a Southern civil rights worker. They plan to pay him \$15/week, though ultimately end up sending \$10/week, enough to cover his living expenses. They offer this in exchange for information on the progress his efforts are making. *The Miscellany News* states that “this will both involve Vassar students directly with the civil rights cause and further it by sustaining one of its volunteers.”¹⁰⁵

1966

- 4 February 1966: Ira Grupper, the civil rights worker “adopted” by Vassar Committee on Civil Rights, talks about the deplorable conditions in the South facing Black people and civil rights workers like himself.¹⁰⁶
- 18 February 1966: The Vassar Committee on Civil Rights holds a conference titled “Freedom How?” in which students ponder how to achieve freedom; whether it is through the federal government or if much of it must be left up to independent organizations, unions, and cooperatives. Howard Zinn gives the keynote speech.¹⁰⁷
- February–March 1966: The Vassar Committee on Civil Rights runs a clothing drive for the impoverished and striking workers of the Mississippi Freedom Labor Union. The strike ultimately fails to secure workers’ demands.¹⁰⁸
- 6 May 1966: Vassar hosts a Vietnam teach-in, at which “students, faculty and guests listened, debated, argued and discussed for seven hours the many aspects of the current dilemma in Vietnam.”¹⁰⁹
- 5 November 1966: At a symposium on student protest, three speakers—William Sloane Coffin Jr., Reamer Kline, and Marya Mannes—urge students to take action and protest more.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁵ “VCCR Adopts Rights Worker. Plans Projects,” *The Miscellany News*, 27 October 1965, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19651027-01.2.5>; Ginnie Kozak, “Adopt Rights Worker, Sending Financial Support,” *The Miscellany News*, 8 December 1965, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19651208-01.2.36>.

¹⁰⁶ Ginnie Kozak, “Grupper Addresses VCCR; Deplores Conditions in South,” *The Miscellany News*, 9 February 1966, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19660209-01.2.8>.

¹⁰⁷ “Zinn, Noted Panelists to Highlight ‘Freedom How?’” *The Miscellany News*, 16 February 1966, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19660216-01.2.2>.

¹⁰⁸ “VCCR Holds Drive For Striking Workers,” *The Miscellany News*, 9 March 1966, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19660309-01.2.4>.

¹⁰⁹ Martha McWilliams, “Untitled,” *The Miscellany News*, 11 May 1966, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19660511-01.2.21>.

¹¹⁰ Betsy Dick, “Coffin, Kline, Mannes Comment, Urge Students to Take Action,” *The Miscellany News*, 9 November 1966, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19661109-01.2.13>.

- 21 November 1966: Three Vassar students attend a press conference on the National Organization for Women (NOW), a newly formed group meant to finally secure equal civil rights for women. In October 1966, history professor and chair of the department Carl Degler was elected to NOW's board of directors. Vassar President Alan Simpson has membership in the organization, counting him among the 10 percent of male membership.¹¹¹

1967

- 25 April 1967: William Sloane Coffin Jr. gives a lecture at Vassar on "Vietnam: Crisis of Conscience." In it he encourages students to participate in anti-Vietnam War activism over the summer, adding that "we need an end to the teach in ... and a beginning of the teach-out."¹¹²
- 27 September 1967: The Vassar Faculty Committee for Peace in Vietnam holds its first meeting, at which they focus on three areas of protest: "plans for campus activities such as a teach-in or lecture series; regional activities including support of 'peace-oriented political candidates' and cooperation with other peace groups at nearby colleges and in the community; national action as part of the University Council."¹¹³
- October 1967: The Vassar Committee on Civil Rights runs a drive to donate clothes to the Wilkinson Home Fund, which go towards orphaned Black girls in the Wilkinson Home in South Carolina, who "are forced to do without such things as paper, pens, soap, clothing, shoes, and toothpaste." The drive is successful, and students raise \$120 in addition to the clothes donated. They also plan to "adopt" students at the Wilkinson Home, and write to them "as a sort of sister."¹¹⁴
- 3 December 1967: The College holds an intercollegiate conference on the Vietnam draft in the chapel. Some students sign a statement which declares, "I do hereby declare that I will knowingly aid, council, and abet any young man to refuse or evade registration or

¹¹¹ Charlotte Kirk, "Friedan Heads Protest for Women's Civil Rights," *The Miscellany News*, 1 December 1966, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19661201-01.2.11>.

¹¹² Shelley Zena Green, "Coffin Calls for Summer Action, Repeats Known Anti-War Stand," *The Miscellany News*, 3 May 1967, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19670503-01.2.13>.

¹¹³ "Vassar to Join Vietnam Protest," *The Miscellany News*, 27 September 1967, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19670927-01.2.4>.

¹¹⁴ "VCCR Aids Wilkinson Home, Solicits Old Clothing Donations," *The Miscellany News*, 18 October 1967, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19671018-01.2.27>; Ginnie Kozak, "Miles Needs Library Books To Become Accredited College," *The Miscellany News*, 8 November 1967, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19671108-01.2.37>.

service in the armed forces of the United States.” This conference comes right before a greater “Stop the Draft Week” taking place in New York on 5–8 December 1967.¹¹⁵

1968

- January 1968: The Inter-collegiate Council (ICC), which includes Vassar students, establishes the “Draft Counseling and Peace Information Center” in Poughkeepsie in mid-January. The goals of the center “are to give information and answer questions about the war in Vietnam, to act as a bookstore of left-wing publications, and to supply draft counselling.”¹¹⁶
- January–February 1968: Assistant professor of sociology Martin Oppenheimer establishes the Greater Poughkeepsie Liberal Club “to provide a political vehicle for the ‘peace and civil rights people’ who are not represented locally.” They adopt a resolution in which they call for a halt on all U.S. bombing in Vietnam, negotiations with all relevant parties in Vietnam, “a pledge to act only through international agencies to rebuild Vietnam,” and (among other provisions) that President Lyndon B. Johnson not be the liberal candidate for the 1968 election.¹¹⁷
- 7 February 1968: Student and faculty peace organizations merge to unify their message, promote unity, and prevent the duplication of events. They plan to coordinate with Peace Officers in Poughkeepsie to educate Poughkeepsie residents on the Vietnam War, among other projects.¹¹⁸
- 20 February 1968: William Sloane Coffin Jr. lectures on “Vietnam and the Draft: Crisis of Conscience,” and arranges a symposium on “The New Morality.”¹¹⁹
- 16 April 1968: The Vassar Student-Faculty Peace Committee does a screening of films on draft resistance. After the films, draft resisters and a presbyterian minister from Harvard

¹¹⁵ “Area Colleges Hold Draft Protest Here,” *The Miscellany News*, 6 December 1967, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19671206-01.2.36>.

¹¹⁶ Christine H. Citron, “Vassar Helps to Establish Peace Center in Poughkeepsie,” *The Miscellany News*, 13 March 1968, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19680313-01.2.3>.

¹¹⁷ “Peace Resolve Adopted... Liberal Club Organized,” *The Miscellany News*, 21 February 1968, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19680221-01.2.39>.

¹¹⁸ Susan Gardner, “Faculty, Student Peace Groups Unite to Plan Future Activities,” *The Miscellany News*, 7 February 1968, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19680207-01.2.27>.

¹¹⁹ “February 20, 1968,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 28 February 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1968-02-20-coffin-draft-lecture/>.

lead a discussion.¹²⁰

- 1 May 1968: Twenty Vassar faculty and over 250 students write a letter to the president of Columbia University, Grayson Kirk, condemning his response to student protests in April 1968. This response involved calling in the police who used violence against student and faculty demonstrators alike.¹²¹
- 7 April 1968: Vassar cancels classes for a memorial march in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. who was assassinated three days prior.¹²²

1969

- 1969: Vassar College goes co-educational.
- 20 August 1969: Milfred C. Fierce is named first director of Black Studies at Vassar.¹²³
- October 1969: President Alan Simpson endorses Vassar's participation in the anti-war moratorium, letting professors cancel class and students skip on 15 October. On 13 October he gives a speech condemning the war and encouraging President Richard Nixon to withdraw U.S. troops from Vietnam.¹²⁴
- 1 October 1969: More than 150 Vassar faculty members and over 1,000 students sign an anti-Vietnam War petition.¹²⁵
- 11 October 1969: President Simpson, along with many other U.S. college and university presidents, signs a statement sent to President Nixon decrying the war and asking for a quicker timeline for U.S. troops to be withdrawn from Vietnam. He writes on his own behalf, and not the College's.¹²⁶
- 14 October 1969: 500-odd Vassar students and some faculty members sing and march for peace "in a candlelight procession that went from dorm to dorm, and finally to President

¹²⁰ "Peace Films To Advocate Resistance," *The Miscellany News*, 10 April 1968, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19680410-01.2.31>. There is no later article confirming this event took place.

¹²¹ "May 1, 1968," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 28 February 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1968-05-01-columbia-protests/>.

¹²² "April 7, 1968," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 28 February 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1968-04-07-classes-cancelled/>.

¹²³ "August 20, 1969," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 28 February 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1969-08-20-fierce-director-black-studies/>.

¹²⁴ "Viet Nam," Vassar in Wartime, Vassar College, accessed 14 February 2025, <https://vcencyclopedia.vassar.edu/vassar-in-wartime/vietnam/>.

¹²⁵ "October 1, 1969," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 28 February 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1969-10-01-anit-vietnam-war-petition/>.

¹²⁶ "October 11, 1969," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 28 February 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1969-10-11-statement-to-nixon/>.

Simpson's house and the chapel." The marchers wear armbands in memorial of the over 40,000 Americans killed in Vietnam at that point, and after their march conduct a memorial service in which anti-war readings and songs are shared.¹²⁷

- 15 October 1969: Twenty-three Vassar men pledge to resist the Vietnam draft.¹²⁸ President Simpson authorizes faculty to close classes for a day of moratorium in honor of 40,000 American troops dead in Vietnam.¹²⁹
- 24 October 1969: Thirty-eight Black Vassar students demonstrate in front of Alumnae House during the Seven College Conference, protesting the "administration's failure to act on their recent demands."¹³⁰
- 30 October 1969: Thirty-four Black female Vassar students occupy Main Building to demand, among other things, increased course listings on the Black experience, the creation of a Black Studies major, and the hiring of more Black faculty.¹³¹
- November 1969: Nineteen members of Vassar's faculty draw up a petition declaring their intention to boycott classes 13–14 November in opposition to the continuation of the Vietnam War. In all, forty-four faculty members sign the petition, with another ten faculty members signing an altered petition replacing the word "boycott" with "suspend." By 13 November, eighty-one out of Vassar's approximately 200 faculty members sign the petition pledging to cancel classes the 13th and 14th.¹³²
- 1 November 1969: Vassar administration signs an agreement with the Students' Afro-American Society.¹³³
- 13–14 November 1969: Faculty and students attend moratorium activities, as many classes have been cancelled in protest of the continuation of the Vietnam War. Three

¹²⁷ Julie Zafren, "Wood Calls for Commitment March Peaceful, Moving," *The Miscellany News*, 17 October 1969, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19691017-01.2.13>.

¹²⁸ "Viet Nam," Vassar in Wartime, Vassar College, accessed 14 February 2025, <https://vcencyclopedia.vassar.edu/vassar-in-wartime/vietnam/>.

¹²⁹ "October 15, 1969," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 28 February 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1969-10-15-vietnam-moratorium/>.

¹³⁰ "October 24, 1969," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 28 February 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1969-10-24-seven-college-conference/>.

¹³¹ "History," Africana Studies, Vassar College, accessed 31 January 2025, <https://www.vassar.edu/africana-studies/history>.

¹³² "Faculty Petition Supports Moratorium," *The Miscellany News*, 7 November 1969, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19691107-01.2.12>; "81 Pledge to Cancel Classes In Support of Moratorium," *The Miscellany News*, 13 November 1969, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19691113-01.2.2>.

¹³³ "November 1, 1969," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 28 February 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1969-11-01-simpson-s-a-s-agreement/>.

professors—David Schalk, Michael McCarthy, and Mel Rosenthal—give talks and lead discussions concerning the war, the effectiveness of the moratorium, and other issues.¹³⁴

1970s

1970

- November 1969–February 1970: Students create a Women’s Liberation group.¹³⁵
- 17 February 1970: As part of Guaranteed Income Week, members of the student organization Students for a Guaranteed Annual Income Now join a march by the New York State Welfare Rights Organization demanding improvements to New York State’s welfare program for low-income families. Demands include an increase in the annual welfare wage, restoration of Medicaid cuts, an end to housing discrimination against welfare recipients, the provision of food to low-income families instead of food stamps, and free school breakfasts and lunches for low-income children.¹³⁶
- 28 March 1970: A group of Vassar students and faculty named the Committee on IBM’s Corporate Responsibility lobby for the passage of an anti–Vietnam War resolution at IBM’s annual joint-stockholders’ meeting. The resolution calls for IBM to end all contracts with the U.S. Department of Defense until all U.S. military troops and Central Intelligence Agency personnel are withdrawn from Vietnam and the U.S. government ceases all weapons and other military shipments to Vietnam.¹³⁷
- 10–12 April 1970: Students put on a conference about women’s liberation.¹³⁸
- 13 April 1970: In accordance with one of the demands of the 1969 Main Building occupation, the College affirms that starting in Fall 1970, Kendrick Hall will house the

¹³⁴ “Teachers, Students Debate in Moratorium Activities; Schalk, Rosenthal, and McCarthy Lead Seminars,” *The Miscellany News*, 21 November 1969, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19691121-01.2.16>.

¹³⁵ Liane McAllister, “Duke Proposes V.C. Women’s Liberation Chapter,” *The Miscellany News*, 13 November 1969, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19691113-01.2.4>; Amy McCarthy, “Vassar Students for GAIN To March on Albany Tuesday,” *The Miscellany News*, 13 February 1970, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19700213-01.2.23>. The exact date of the group’s formation is unclear; a proposal for creating the group was made in November 1969 and *The Miscellany News* mentions the group existing in February 1970.

¹³⁶ McCarthy, “GAIN.”

¹³⁷ “Vassar Committee to Introduce Anti-War Resolution to IBM,” *The Miscellany News*, 3 April 1970, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19700403-01.2.2>; “March 28, 1970,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1970-03-28-ibm-anti-war/>.

¹³⁸ “Woman’s Lib Schedules Weekend Conference,” *The Miscellany News*, 10 April 1970, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19700410-01.2.6>.

Afro-American Cultural Center and serve as a residence hall for upperclassmen, as well as Black students. While no house is allowed to be exclusively for one race, it is presumed that largely Black students will live in Kendrick.¹³⁹

- 16 April 1970: As part of a week-long event about current problems in the United States entitled “The Week America Died,” discussions are led on the “Struggles of Blacks,” “Struggles of the American Indian,” and “Struggles of Women.” Students, administrators, and faculty all help facilitate the discussions.¹⁴⁰
- 25 April 1970: The Committee on IBM’s Corporate Responsibility hosts demonstrations involving Vassar students, students from other Hudson Valley colleges and high schools, and Poughkeepsie community members outside of a nearby IBM complex in protests of IBM’s ties to the Vietnam War.¹⁴¹ While usually working at 20–30 percent capacity on Saturdays, the plant was closed ahead of the rally.¹⁴²
- 27 April 1970: Howard Levy, a member of the Health Policy Advisory Committee and the Medical Committee for Human Rights gives a lecture, “Dissent in Military Service,” in which he advocates for anti-war resistance within the U.S. military. Levy, a former Army dermatologist, was court-martialed and served over two years of hard labor after refusing to give first aid dermatology training to U.S. Army Special Forces troops headed to Vietnam.¹⁴³
- 5 May 1970: President Alan Simpson signs a letter alongside thirty-six other college presidents to U.S. President Richard Nixon condemning the U.S. invasion of Cambodia and urging Nixon to immediately end the U.S. war in Southeast Asia.¹⁴⁴

¹³⁹ “Recommendations Endorsed For Housing at Kendrick,” *The Miscellany News*, 17 April 1970, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19700417-01.2.13>.

¹⁴⁰ “April 12, 1970,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1970-04-12-19-america-died/>.

¹⁴¹ “Coalition Organizes IBM Demonstration,” *The Miscellany News*, 24 April 1970, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19700424-01.2.4>.

¹⁴² “Demonstrators Close IBM Route 9 Plant,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 May 1970, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19700501-01.2.2>.

¹⁴³ Lisa Sullivan, “Dr. Levy, Court-Martialed War Dissenter, To Speak,” *The Miscellany News*, 24 April 1970, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19700424-01.2.5>; Gembolis, Betty. ““The US Military is racist,” Asserts Dr. Howard Levy,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 May 1970, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19700501-01.2.11>; “April 27, 1970,” A Documentary Chronicle Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1970-04-27-levy/>.

¹⁴⁴ Robert D. McFadden, “37 College Chiefs Urge Nixon Move for Prompt Peace,” *The New York Times*, 5 May 1970, <https://www.nytimes.com/1970/05/05/archives/37-college-chiefs-urge-nixon-move-for-prompt-peace-warn-invasion>

- 31 May 1970: Ten transfer students become the first men to graduate from Vassar. Many students put peace signs on their commencement hats and wear white, scarlet, and black armbands in protest of the Vietnam War; the peace symbols and armbands are sold for \$0.50 each by the Peace Commencement Funds, with funds going to peace candidates in the coming November elections. Twenty graduating students refuse to attend Commencement in protest. During her speech, Senior Class President Mary van Dusen Savage '70 calls for a moment of silence for students, soldiers, and civilians killed on both sides of the war. Feminist activist Gloria Steinem delivers the commencement address, entitled "Living the Revolution," on a future in which women do not accept the societal lies of their inferiority to men.¹⁴⁵

1971

- 7 April 1971: The Student Government Association Senate overwhelmingly endorses the People's Peace Treaty, a joint peace treaty for ending the Vietnam War developed through collaboration between U.S. and Vietnamese student organizations.¹⁴⁶
- 17 April 1971: Vassar students help organize and participate in a march protesting the U.S. war in Southeast Asia in Poughkeepsie.¹⁴⁷
- 21 April 1971: South African Methodist Minister Gladstone Ntlati, a member of the African National Congress party, gives a lecture on "The Liberation Struggle in South Africa."¹⁴⁸
- 4 May 1971: Feminist author Caroline Bird '35 delivers a lecture, "Why Woman's Liberation?," in which she identifies the feminist movement of 1971 as an "Age of

[-of.html](#); "May 5, 1970," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1970-05-05-letter-to-nixon/>.

¹⁴⁵ Marilyn Bender, "Beards, Peace Symbols and Daisies at Vassar's Commencement," *The New York Times*, 1 June 1970,

<https://www.nytimes.com/1970/06/01/archives/beards-peace-symbols-and-daisies-at-vassars-commencement.html>;

"May 31, 1970," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025,

<https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1970-05-31-commencement-peace-symbols/>; Gloria Steinem, "Living the Revolution," *Vassar, The Alumnae/i Quarterly* 98, no. 2 (2002),

<https://www.vassar.edu/vq/issues/2002/02/online-additions/living-the-revolution.html>. The Class of 1970 voted 159–99 against making a peace statement at commencement.

¹⁴⁶ "Senate Endorses Peace Treaty," *The Miscellany News*, 9 April 1971,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19710409-01.2.3>; "History of the People's Peace Treaty," *The Miscellany News*, 9 April 1971, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19710409-01.2.26>.

¹⁴⁷ "April 17, 1971," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025,

<https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1971-04-17-student-antiwar-march/>.

¹⁴⁸ "April 21, 1971," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025,

<https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1971-04-21-ntlati-lecture/>.

Androgyny,” since it looks to upend traditional sex roles and define women primarily as human beings, and only secondarily in gendered terms. This androgynous age is defined by three things: 1. The relative youth of feminist activists; 2. The leaderless, grassroots nature of the movement; and 3. A more liberated sexuality that has decentered men.¹⁴⁹

- 11 May 1971: Columbia University Professor of Law Telford Taylor and Princeton University Professor of International Studies Richard A. Falk, both international lawyers, present a lecture, “War Crimes: Who is to be Judged by Whom?” Both professors agree that the only way to effectively punish war crimes like the ones being committed by U.S. troops in Vietnam is the establishment of an international penal code and war crimes tribunal; both also advocate for the impeachment of U.S. President Richard Nixon.¹⁵⁰
- 30 May 1971: In her commencement address, New York City Commission on Human Rights Chairman Eleanor Holmes Norton congratulates the Class of 1971’s generation for undertaking women’s rights and anti-racism more thoroughly than previous generations.¹⁵¹
- 2 October 1971: Incoming Dean of the Faculty Barbara J. Wells pledges to “make a conscious effort” to hire more female and Black faculty members because “these two groups have been submerged, if I can use that word to describe two vastly different experiences.”¹⁵²
- 7 October 1971: New York State Senator John R. Dunne, chairman of New York’s Senate Crime and Correction Committee, lectures in support of prison reform in the wake of riots at the Attica, New York, maximum security prison protesting inhumane treatment of prisoners.¹⁵³

¹⁴⁹ Susan Casteras, “Caroline Bird Sees Evolving Sex Roles,” *The Miscellany News*, 7 May 1971, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19710507-01.2.4>.

¹⁵⁰ Jon Plehn, “‘War Crimes’ Lecturers Call For Judgement of Real Criminals,” *The Miscellany News*, 14 May 1971, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19710514-01.2.12>.

¹⁵¹ “May 30, 1971,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1971-05-30-norton-commencement-speaker/>.

¹⁵² “August 30, 1971,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1971-08-30-wells-dean-of-faculty/>.

¹⁵³ “October 7, 1971,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 27 March 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1971-10-08-dunne-lecture/>; New York University School of Law, “NYU Law and the Attica prison uprising, 50 years later,” 27 September 2021, <https://www.law.nyu.edu/news/attica-uprising-anniversary-impact-robert-mckay-alumni>.

- 14 October 1971: Black civil rights activist and Nebraska State Senator Ernest Chambers delivers a lecture, “Black Political Liberation,” as part of Vassar’s Center for Black Studies program.¹⁵⁴
- 17 October 1971: The anti-Vietnam War group Committee to End the War hosts a lecture by Ronald Young, a coordinator of the peace group Fellowship of Reconciliation and founder of the Daily Death Toll Project. Young discusses how a lack of anti-war interest is harming the anti-war movement despite widespread disapproval of the war.¹⁵⁵
- 19 October 1971: The Women’s National Abortion Action Coalition hosts a Mid-Hudson Abortion Conference as part of its campaign to end all U.S. anti-abortion laws.¹⁵⁶
- 22 November 1971: The Trustee Committee on Women hosts an open hearing on Vassar’s continued commitment to women’s education; it is almost universally agreed-upon that the College needs a Women’s Studies program and must make greater efforts to hire more female professors, who are currently about one-third of full professors compared to nearly half of instructors.¹⁵⁷
- 16 December 1971: Marian Gray Secundy ’60, a former social worker and Family Practice instructor at the Howard University College of Medicine, becomes the first Black person elected to the Vassar Board of Trustees.¹⁵⁸

1972

- 27 January 1972: Civil rights activist and sociologist Joyce Ladner delivers a lecture, “Getting it Together—The Black Man, The Black Woman.”¹⁵⁹
- 9–15 April 1972: Students set up a week-long encampment on the front lawn of the IBM plant in Poughkeepsie protesting the company’s role in the U.S. air war on Southeast Asia and calling for an end to IBM military contracts with the U.S. government.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁴ “October 14, 1971,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 4 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1971-10-14-chambers-lecture/>.

¹⁵⁵ Gilda Karu, “Young Notes War Apathy,” *The Miscellany News*, 22 October 1971, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19711022-01.2.22>.

¹⁵⁶ “Abortion Conference Set,” *The Miscellany News*, 22 October 1971, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19711022-01.2.15>.

¹⁵⁷ Margaret Sanborn, “Opinions on Women’s Education Exchanged,” *The Miscellany News*, 3 December 1971, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19711203-01.2.6>.

¹⁵⁸ “Trustees Elect Two Members to Board,” *The Miscellany News*, 16 December 1971, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19711216-01.2.4>.

¹⁵⁹ “January 27, 1972,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 4 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1972-01-27-ladner-lecture/>.

¹⁶⁰ “‘Invasion’ of IBM Planned for Sunday,” *The Miscellany News*, 7 April 1972, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19720407-01.2.4>.

- 11 April 1972: The Gay Liberation Front holds an organizational meeting to define the scope and aims of the organization.¹⁶¹
- 1–7 May 1972: Linda Kinsey '72 expands her senior biology thesis into the Vassar Sickle Cell Anemia Testing and Education Program, the first sickle-cell anemia program for Black Poughkeepsie residents, which identifies and tests residents vulnerable to the disease. The project, sponsored by the Vassar Urban Center for Black Studies, includes hematologists; the Albany State Health Department; Poughkeepsie media, ministers, housing project managers, public and private schools, neighborhood centers; and Vassar faculty, students, and community members. The project is supported in part by a "Sickle Cell Benefit Weekend," featuring performances by Earth, Wind and Fire and the Princeton University jazz-rock group Blacklite.¹⁶²
- 11 May 1972: The Committee to End the War organizes a march from the Vassar Chapel to Poughkeepsie City Armory in protest of President Nixon's recent expansion of intense bombing on North Vietnamese infrastructure.¹⁶³
- 7 October 1972: David Dellinger, a peace activist who helped secure the release of three U.S. airmen held as prisoners of war (POWs) in North Vietnam, delivers a lecture on the effect on U.S. society and culture of prisoners of war returning home. Dellinger argues that the U.S. press has willingly refused to cover POWs' anti-Nixon sentiments and North Vietnam's humane treatment of POWs.¹⁶⁴
- 19 October 1972: Andrew Morlion, President of the International University of Social Studies in Rome, Italy, gives a lecture on how peace was made in the past and how it will be made in the future. He argues that peace has been fundamentally changed by the creation of nuclear weapons because of the destruction that would be caused by nuclear war. Morlion served as an intermediary between U.S. President John F. Kennedy and

¹⁶¹ "Gay Lib Plans Activities," *The Miscellany News*, 14 April 1972, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19720414-01.2.35>.

¹⁶² Linda Kinsey, "Testing Program Attacks Sickie Cell Anemia," *The Miscellany News*, 5 May 1972, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19720505-01.2.22>; "May 1, 1972," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 4 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1972-05-01-student-sickle-cell-program/>; "SAC Sponsors Sickie Benefit Weekend," *The Miscellany News*, 5 May 1972, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19720505-01.2.4>.

¹⁶³ "May 11, 1972," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 4 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1972-05-11-vietnam-protest-march/>.

¹⁶⁴ Rochelle Flumenbaum, "Peace Activist Speaks," *The Miscellany News*, 13 October 1972, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19721013-01.2.3>.

Pope John XXIII in their relations with Soviet Premier Nikita Krushchev during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.¹⁶⁵

- 24 October 1972: P. Chike Onwuachi, Howard University Professor of Anthropology and Director of the African Studies and Research Program, delivers the first lecture in the Angela Davis Lecture Series, “Black Consciousness and the Liberation Struggle.” Onwuachi declares economic, political, psychological, and spiritual control of Black Americans worse than physical bondage. He advocates for Black people to create new institutional processes to achieve Black liberation, as the prevailing white-dominated processes have failed. The lecture series is sponsored by the Vassar Urban Center for Black Studies.¹⁶⁶
- 1 December 1972: Imamu Amiri Baraka, Secretary-General of the National Black Political Assembly and Chairman of the Congress of African Peoples, delivers the third lecture in the Angela Davis Lecture Series, on his “unity without uniformity” principle and its roots in African movements with many cultural diversities but common revolutionary values. He argues that Black Americans have often splintered into various parties and that they must unite under a durable political institution that serves the Black community.¹⁶⁷
- 13 December 1972: Nikki Giovanni, a poet and Assistant Professor of English at Rutgers University, gives a poetry reading and discusses Blackness, students, and social activism. In an interview with *The Miscellany News* the next day, Giovanni says, “When you think about the fact that blacks built everything you see in America, when you think about what we have done, then you know that we must reclaim it or destroy it, because its [sic] a travesty of our heritage that we are allowing America to treat us this way.”¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁵ Ricki Ryland, “Broader Perspectives for Peace,” *The Miscellany News*, 27 October 1972, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19721027-01.2.4>.

¹⁶⁶ Rosalind Fultz, “Angela Davis Lecture Series Begins,” *The Miscellany News*, 3 November 1972, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19721103-01.2.4>.

¹⁶⁷ Rosalind Fultz, “Baraka Calls for Unity,” *The Miscellany News*, 15 December 1972, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19721215-01.2.3>.

¹⁶⁸ Rosalind Fultz, “Poetess Discusses Literature, Liberation: Vassar Hosts Nikki Giovanni,” *The Miscellany News*, 23 February 1972, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19730223-01.2.24>; ““Wherever You Are There is Struggle,”” *The Miscellany News*, 23 February 1973, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19730223-01.2.25>.

1973

- 18 November 1973: U.S. Representative Ronald Dellums, the head of the Black Caucus, delivers the Angela Davis Lecture, “Strategies for the Seventies.” The lecture is sponsored by the Faculty Committee on Black Studies.¹⁶⁹
- 19 November 1973: Jonathan Kozol, an activist and public school teacher, calls on Vassar students to attend the 1973 Thanksgiving Day demonstration in Boston in support of United Farm Workers and free schools, calling it the “most important action against racism this nation has seen in the last five years.”¹⁷⁰
- 8 December 1973: The Board of Trustees unanimously votes to continue the Office of Assistant to the President for Black Affairs, formed as part of the settlement of the 1969 Main Building Occupation; the formation of an Administrative Committee for Black Affairs is also considered. President Alan Simpson had attempted to abolish the office, whose duties he said were adequately covered by other positions. Simpson’s attempt at abolition was met by a condemnatory letter by Vassar’s Black faculty and staff; the resignations of the only two Black faculty with doctorates; a protest of 130–200 students; and a resolution by the Student Government Association criticizing the decision.¹⁷¹

1974

- 1 February–18 April 1974: The Anthropology Department and Changing American Culture Program co-sponsor a series of events about the hardships Indigenous Americans face. The events include films on the history of Anglo–Indigenous conflicts; a screening of *And the Meek Shall Inherit the Earth*, a film made by the Menominee people of Wisconsin on legal problems Indigenous people face, as well as a discussion led by Joan Harte, a representative of the Menominee tribe; films and discussions contrasting contemporary Indigenous ways of life and popular perceptions of Indigenous people; a lecture by Alfonso Ortiz, an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Princeton University

¹⁶⁹ “Dellums To Speak,” *The Miscellany News*, 16 November 1973, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19731116-01.2.21>; “November 18, 1973,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 11 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1973-11-18-dellums-lecture/>.

¹⁷⁰ Narra Smith, “Kozol Fights Racism,” *The Miscellany News*, 30 November 1973, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19731130-01.2.19>.

¹⁷¹ “Vassar Continues Office on Blacks,” *The New York Times*, 9 December 1973, <https://www.nytimes.com/1973/12/09/archives/vassar-continues-office-on-blacks-report-on-office-asked-office.html>; Tom Hamill and Warren Green, “Simpson Drops, Adds Post,” *The Miscellany News*, 14 December 1973, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19731214-01.2.3>.

and member of the Tewa in New Mexico on “Native American Visions of Life”; and discussions led by Ortiz on differing Indigenous perceptions of place and time, considerations of Pueblo worldview, and Indigenous struggles against the English and U.S. governments.¹⁷²

- 12 February 1974: Audley Moore, the founder of the Black nationalist Republic of New Afrika organization, gives the Angela Davis Lecture, “Nationalism.” In 1961, the organization proclaimed its goals to be holding a nationwide referendum of Black Americans about citizenship, petitioning the U.S. government for reparations for 400 years of enslavement, and establishing a Black nation in the Southeastern United States.¹⁷³
- 5 April 1974: Martin Kilson, the first Black full professor at Harvard University, delivers the Angela Davis Lecture, “Education.”¹⁷⁴
- 20 April 1974: Ewart Guinier, the founding chairman of the Harvard University Afro-American Studies Department, gives the Angela Davis Lecture, “Survival in the Seventies: Some Social Science Perspectives.”¹⁷⁵
- 26 April 1974: The Ad Hoc Committee on the Study of Women, a faculty group, announces it will release a list of classes about women to be offered in the Fall 1974 semester.¹⁷⁶
- 2 May 1974: Angela Davis gives a lecture, “Racism and Repression in the United States,” to an audience of some 1,800 students, faculty, and Poughkeepsie community members. She discusses building a new radical coalition dedicated to ending repression in the

¹⁷² “Native American Series To Focus On Awareness,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 February 1974, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19740201-01.2.8>; “Inherit The Earth,” *The Miscellany News*, 15 February 1974, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19740215-01.2.13>; “Native American Events,” *The Miscellany News*, 12 April 1974, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19740412-01.2.32>.

¹⁷³ “February 12, 1974,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 11 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1974-02-12-audley-moore-lecture/>.

¹⁷⁴ “April 5, 1974,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 11 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1974-04-05-kilson-lecture/>.

¹⁷⁵ “April 20, 1974,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 11 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1974-04-20-guinier-lecture/>.

¹⁷⁶ Elsa Dixier, “Previews Of Women’s Studies To be Released,” *The Miscellany News*, 26 April 1974, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19740426-01.2.30>.

United States and globally, how U.S. capitalism has driven interference in Chile and Vietnam, and the need for immediate action against repression of Black Americans.¹⁷⁷

1975

- February 1977: The College forms a Sub-committee on Race Relations as part of a new Committee on the Quality of Residential Life. The sub-committee's goal is to improve general race relations on campus. Another sub-committee is formed to give recommendations about the organization and programming of the Afro-American Cultural Center.¹⁷⁸
- 24 February 1975: Marie Tarver, a local activist and the first Black member of the Poughkeepsie Board of Education, lectures on urban problems in Poughkeepsie.¹⁷⁹
- 4 April 1975: Harvard University nutritionist and hunger researcher Jean Mayer and author Emma Rothschild give talks during a two-day symposium, "The Politics of Hunger." Both conclude that world hunger is due primarily to impoverished countries' inability to sufficiently feed their people and wealthy countries' refusal to give enough financial support to abate hunger crises.¹⁸⁰
- 16 April 1975: Nancy Erickson, a law professor at New York Law School and Cornell Law School, lectures on the Equal Rights Amendment, a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would guarantee people of all genders equal protection under the law.¹⁸¹
- September 1975: Assistant Professor of History Teresa Vilardi is appointed as the first coordinator of the Women's Studies Program.¹⁸²

¹⁷⁷ Naomi Baden, "Davis Calls For Freedom Of Political Prisoners," *The Miscellany News*, 10 May 1974, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19740510-01.2.3>.

¹⁷⁸ "Three Committees Formed to Examine Residential Life," *The Miscellany News*, 14 February 1975, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19750214-01.2.2>; Yvonne Jones and Lucinda Moreno, "Race Relations Committee Seeks Input," *The Miscellany News*, 13 February 1976, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19760213-01.2.28>.

¹⁷⁹ "February 24, 1975," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 11 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1975-02-24-tarver/>.

¹⁸⁰ Norra Tannenhaus, "Nutrition Experts Discuss Hunger Problems," *The Miscellany News*, 11 April 1975, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19750411-01.2.6>.

¹⁸¹ "April 16, 1975," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 11 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1975-04-16-17-erickson/>.

¹⁸² Beth Lueck, "Women's Studies Coordinator Urges 'Personal Responsibility,'" *The Miscellany News*, 12 September 1975, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19750912-01.2.2>.

1976

- March 1976: The Board of Trustees establishes a Proxy Review Committee to study political and environmental concerns about the College's investments.¹⁸³
- 5–16 April 1976: The Students' Afro-American Society and the Urban Center Society protest College plans to relocate the Urban Center for Africana Studies from downtown Poughkeepsie to the Vassar campus. Administrators argue that the relocation will increase campus-wide participation in the center and Africana Studies Program.¹⁸⁴
- 16–18 April 1976: The Women's Center puts on the College's first Women's Weekend, to focus the campus' attention on women. Events include films, lectures, music, workshops, softball, and literature.¹⁸⁵ Women's Weekend will become an annual Vassar tradition.¹⁸⁶
- 11 November 1976: Judge William H. Booth, a New York City judge and President of the American Committee on Africa, lectures on U.S. exploitation of South Africa in the first event of a forum on South Africa.¹⁸⁷

1977

- 6 February–22 March 1977: After Black student L. Patrick Mellon is physically assaulted and arrested by a white New York Conrail officer while waiting for his train, the Vassar community rallies around Mellon in support; he is offered aid by the media, legal resources, public officials, and rights advocates. Judge John Leone dismisses the case against Mellon, declaring there to have been no cause for his arrest. In a letter to Associate Professor of History and Director of Africana Studies Norman Hodges,

¹⁸³ Hester Reed Eggert, "In Dreams Begins Responsibility," *Vassar Quarterly* 72, no. 3 (1976): 44, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19760301-01.2.16>; "Trustee Resolution," *Vassar Quarterly* 72, no. 3 (1976): 44, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19760301-01.2.17>; "Guidelines," *Vassar Quarterly* 72, no. 3 (1976): 45, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19760301-01.2.18>.

¹⁸⁴ Terry Purinton, "Administration under Fire on Plans," *The Miscellany News*, 9 April 1976, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19760409-01.2.4>; Diana Pearson, "Center Director 'Not Opposed' to Relocation," *The Miscellany News*, 16 April 1976, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19760416-01.2.31>; Students' Afro-American Society, "SAS Protests Urban Center Relocation," *The Miscellany News*, 16 April 1976, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19760416-01.2.48>.

¹⁸⁵ "Women's Weekend Takes Shape," *The Miscellany News*, 6 February 1976, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19760206-01.2.21>.

¹⁸⁶ See, e.g., Susan Allee, "Women's Weekend: Feminism Fuses with Socialism," *The Miscellany News*, 24 February 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19780224-01.2.21>; Lisa A. Verge, "Lobell Speaks Against Exploiting Women," *The Miscellany News*, 10 April 1981, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19810410-01.2.12>; "Women's Weekend," *The Miscellany News*, 15 April 1983, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19830415-01.2.4>.

¹⁸⁷ "Booth Assails South Africa at Forum: Criticizes Homelands Policy, Urges Boycott," *The Miscellany News*, 19 November 1976, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19761119-01.2.3>.

President Alan Simpson promises that the College will “do everything in its power to protect its students from this kind of indignity.”¹⁸⁸

- 21 February–2 March 1977: After two white students dress as members of the KKK and harass a Black student and an Indian student, the perpetrators are put on probation; 300 students march from Rockefeller Hall to the President’s House in protest against racism at Vassar and give petitions to President Alan Simpson.¹⁸⁹
- 25 February 1977: The Proxy Review Committee declares its aim to end Vassar’s investment in South African shareholdings.¹⁹⁰
- February–April 1977: An Intercultural Center is founded.¹⁹¹
- 16 October 1977: The Sub-committee on Race Relations and the Intercultural Center host a festival to encourage intercultural awareness. Events include films and exhibits about Chile, the Black American experience, Israel, and kung fu from Hong Kong.¹⁹²
- 28–30 October 1977: The Alumnae/i Association of Vassar College, Proxy Review Committee, and Departments of Economics, Political Science, and Religion host a conference on ethical responsibility in the stock market, relating both to Vassar’s investment and private investment.¹⁹³

¹⁸⁸ Carla Delandri, “Too Often, ‘Justice is but a Lofty Social Abstraction,’” *The Miscellany News*, 25 March 1977, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19770325-01.2.13>; Charlayne Hunter-Gault, “An Encounter at 125th St. Station And Dispute That Arose From It,” *The New York Times*, 20 March 1977, <https://www.nytimes.com/1977/03/20/archives/an-encounter-at-125th-st-station-and-dispute-that-aro-se-from-it.html>.

¹⁸⁹ Glenn Weiner, “Leabo, Fraley Placed on Probation: Court Reaches KKK Decision,” *The Miscellany News*, 25 March 1977, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19770325-01.2.3>.

¹⁹⁰ Cynthia Sheps, “Trustees Grant Proxy Proposals,” *The Miscellany News*, 25 February 1977, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19770225-01.2.10>.

¹⁹¹ Jackie Nadler, “Requiem for Sandra Jean,” *The Miscellany News*, 29 April 1977, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19770429-01.2.20>; Ronald Minkoff, “‘Let He Who Has Not Sinned...’” *The Miscellany News*, 1 April 1977, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19770401-01.2.22>; Jack Nadler, “College Council Meets: Unity Center Proposal Rejected,” *The Miscellany News*, 25 February 1977, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19770225-01.2.8>. The pages on the College’s website about the Jeh Vincent Johnson ALANA Cultural Center and Lathrop House claim that the Intercultural was in fact established in 1976, not 1977, in the basement of Lathrop. The *Miscellany News* archives make no mention of an Intercultural Center in 1976; the above articles indicate the Center was founded sometime between February and April 1977, although an exact date is not indicated. See “Jeh Vincent Johnson ALANA Cultural Center,” Buildings and Belonging, Vassar College, accessed 20 April 2025, <https://www.vassar.edu/buildings-and-belonging/the-alana-center>; “Lathrop House,” Buildings and Belonging, Vassar College, accessed 20 April 2025, <https://www.vassar.edu/buildings-and-belonging/lathrop-house>.

¹⁹² “Intercultural Festival to Feature Exhibits and Films,” *The Miscellany News*, 14 October 1977, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19771014-01.2.33>.

¹⁹³ “‘Social Responsibility in Corporate America,’” *Vassar Quarterly* 73, no. 4 (1977): 20–21, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19770601-01.2.17>; Fred Clowney, “‘Well Worth the Effort, but No Spokesman for the Opposition,’” *The Miscellany News*, 4 November 1977, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19771104-01.2.34>.

- November 1977: The Vassar food co-op boycotts Nestle's Jarlsberg cheese because of the harm Nestle is causing children in the Global South with its unsterilized formula.¹⁹⁴
- 15 November 1977: George L. Mosse, a historian of Nazism and the Holocaust and a University of Wisconsin professor, delivers a lecture, "The Acceptance of Mass Death and the Brutality of Consciousness."¹⁹⁵

1978

- February 1978: Vassar begins offering its first Introductory Women's Studies course. Some students express hope that it is the first step toward a Women's Studies Department.¹⁹⁶ A proposal for the course was approved by Vassar faculty on 15 December 1976.¹⁹⁷
- 2 February 1978: The Sociology Department sponsors a panel on the ongoing Supreme Court case, *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, on the constitutionality of affirmative action. The panel includes representatives from the ACLU, American Jewish Committee, NAACP, and National Law Guild. Representatives from all organizations defend affirmative action during the panel. Vassar Dean of the Faculty Elizabeth A. Daniels expresses strong support for affirmative action; Assistant Director of Admissions Bruce Moffett says that Vassar admissions staff support and practice affirmative action.¹⁹⁸ In June 1978, the Supreme Court decides in *Bakke* that affirmative action *per se* is constitutional but that strict racial quotas in admissions are not.¹⁹⁹
- 6 February 1978: The Proxy Review Committee hosts an open meeting on Vassar's investments in South Africa.²⁰⁰
- 10 February 1978: Over 400 students and faculty protest the College's investments in companies profiting from South Africa outside a Board of Trustees meeting. The protest

¹⁹⁴ Linda Mishkin, "Coop Boycotts Jarlsberg," *The Miscellany News*, 11 November 1977, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19771111-01.2.3>.

¹⁹⁵ Carol Belkin, "Mass Death: We Accept It Because We 'Trivialize' It," *The Miscellany News*, 18 November 1977, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19771118-01.2.33>.

¹⁹⁶ Aaron Holsberg, "Women's Studies Offers Innovations, Alternatives," *The Miscellany News*, 17 February 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19780217-01.2.36>.

¹⁹⁷ John Kalish, "Intro Women's Studies Passed," *The Miscellany News*, 10 February 1977, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vcchro19770210-01.2.4>.

¹⁹⁸ Michael Schuder, "Panel Endorses Affirmative Action," *The Miscellany News*, 17 February 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19780217-01.2.43>.

¹⁹⁹ "Regents of the University of California v. Bakke," Oyez, accessed 22 April 2025, <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1979/76-811>.

²⁰⁰ "South Africa," *The Miscellany News*, 3 February 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19780203-01.2.18>.

has five demands: 1. Reconsideration of Vassar's investments in companies with holdings in South Africa; 2. That divestment become a policy option; 3. Divestment from companies unwilling to leave South Africa; 4. No new investments in companies or banks supporting South Africa; and 5. The development of a morally and socially responsible investment policy. The Board of Trustees agrees to hold an open town meeting on South Africa the next day, 11 February.²⁰¹ In response to the protest, the Board of Trustees creates the Trustee Committee on Investment Responsibility to consider the College's ethical responsibility. Proxy Review Committee Chairperson Fred Bunnell says that the committee would have been created regardless of the protest.²⁰²

- 16–18 February 1978: The Students' Afro-American Society holds a "Cultural Weekend," with events including a lecture, "They Came Before Columbus," a drama production, dance, bazaar, choir concert, basketball tournament, brunch, and lecture by civil rights leader John R. Lewis, "Toward the Beloved Community: Black Liberation and Black Political Action."²⁰³
- 22 February 1978: The National Organization for Women holds a panel on gender segregation and occupational gender distribution.²⁰⁴
- 28 February 1978: Students and faculty form the South Africa Study Group to examine the College's investment in South Africa; the group is an advisory committee to the Trustee Committee on Investment Responsibility.²⁰⁵
- 2 March 1978: In compliance with Section 504 of U.S. Congress' 1973 Rehabilitation Act, the College forms the Committee on the Handicapped to advise structural renovations to make the campus comply with the Act's nondiscrimination requirements regarding handicapped people.²⁰⁶

²⁰¹ Robert Walker, "Protesters demonstrate concern: 'Don't Bank on Death,'" *The Miscellany News*, 17 February 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19780217-01.2.45>.

²⁰² Cynthia Sheps, "Trustees Consider Investor Responsibility," *The Miscellany News*, 17 February 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19780217-01.2.49>.

²⁰³ Urvashi Vaid, "Weekend Planned," *The Miscellany News*, 17 February 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19780217-01.2.41>.

²⁰⁴ "February 22, 1978," A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 17 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1978-02-22-now-panel/>.

²⁰⁵ Linda Ricci, "South Africa Study Group Formed," *The Miscellany News*, 10 March 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19780310-01.2.4>.

²⁰⁶ Robert Walker, "Students Express Reservations on Rehabilitation Committee," *The Miscellany News*, 10 March 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19780310-01.2.3>.

- 10 March 1978: Students form the Association for the Handicapped to bring awareness about the handicapped community in response to feelings that College administration is hostile to handicapped people.²⁰⁷
- 4 April 1978: On the tenth anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., Vassar students join People United for Justice in a march in downtown Poughkeepsie demanding greater city expenditures on initiatives to help poor residents, including housing, and condemning rights violations and police brutality.²⁰⁸
- 6 April 1978: Anti-war activist Elizabeth McAlister says the United States has a responsibility to end nuclear arms proliferation in her lecture, “The American Experience—Is Change Possible, Is Destruction Inevitable.”²⁰⁹
- 15 April 1978: The Coalition for Social Responsibility rallies in support of College divestment from South Africa.²¹⁰
- 21 April 1978: Many students of all faiths wear yellow Stars of David, distributed by Vassar Hillel, in protest of Nazi marches taking place in Skokie, Illinois. The demonstration is inspired by the apocryphal story that after the Nazis ordered Danish Jews to wear yellow Stars of David, Danish King Christian X told all Danish citizens to do so. (The story is in fact historically inaccurate.)²¹¹ Hillel also puts on programming about the horrors of the Nazi genocide against European Jews during the Holocaust.²¹²
- 25 September 1978: The new Hunger Action Committee, whose goal is expanding the Vassar community’s awareness of world hunger, holds a screening of a movie, *Water from Stones*, about Africans in the Sahel building dams to irrigate their land. The humanitarian aid organization Oxfam is designated as the recipient of the funds of the

²⁰⁷ Ivor Muroff, “Handicapped Students Form ‘Force to Reckon With,’” *The Miscellany News*, 10 March 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19780310-01.2.26>.

²⁰⁸ Betsy Ringel, “Poor Unite for Justice,” *The Miscellany News*, 7 April 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19780407-01.2.20>.

²⁰⁹ Nancy Ross, “Anti-War Activist Attacks Nuclear Weaponry,” *The Miscellany News*, 14 April 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19780414-01.2.31>.

²¹⁰ Linda Ricci, “Students Protest S.A.” *The Miscellany News*, 14 April 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19780414-01.2.5>.

²¹¹ “Did King Christian X of Denmark Wear a Yellow Star in Support of the Danish Jews?” Holocaust Encyclopedia, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, accessed 17 April 2025, <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/king-christian-x-of-denmark>. Danish Jews were in fact never required to wear yellow Stars of David to mark them as Jewish, a rarity for countries under Nazi occupation.

²¹² Aaron Holsberg, “Students Protest Nazi Terror,” *The Miscellany News*, 21 April 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19780421-01.2.16>.

year's skipped meal program. The committee plans to hold a series of lectures, discussions, and films.²¹³

- 8 October 1978: Georgia State Senator Julian Bond, president of the Southern Poverty Law Center and the NAACP's Atlanta branch, gives a lecture in which he calls for divestment from apartheid South Africa, comparing the regime to Nazi Germany. He also lambasts the United States for its widespread systemic racism against Black Americans.²¹⁴
- 16 October 1978: The Hunger Action Committee sponsors a film screening of *3,900 Million and One*, about women's role in Southern Indian extended families in the context of population growth.²¹⁵
- 19 October 1978: The Coalition for Social Responsibility organizes a picket of around forty students outside IBM's Fishkill, New York, branch in protest of the company's financial involvement in South Africa, as well as Vassar's investments in IBM.²¹⁶
- 21 October 1978: About fifty-five students rally in support of College divestment from South Africa outside of the dining hall, where a Board of Trustees meeting is being held. The students then hold a sit-in in the dining hall and barricade the exits, demanding a statement of divestment from the Board. After considering a recommendation from the South Africa Study Group to divest from six banks with ties to South Africa, the Board unanimously votes to divest from five of six.²¹⁷ The Board also replaces the South Africa Study Group and Proxy Review Committee with a new group, the Campus Committee on Investor Responsibility, composed of alumni, administrators, faculty, and students.²¹⁸

²¹³ Amelia Duroska, "Hunger Action raises concern; funds for Third World self help," *The Miscellany News*, 29 September 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19780929-01.2.48>.

²¹⁴ David Hart, "Senator Bond addresses divestment, racism," *The Miscellany News*, 13 October 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19781013-01.2.59>.

²¹⁵ Amelia Duroska, "Film focuses on women in India," *The Miscellany News*, 13 October 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19781013-01.2.42>.

²¹⁶ Suzanna Andrews, "IBM Picket protests Financial ties in S.A.," *The Miscellany News*, 27 October 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19781027-01.2.20>.

²¹⁷ Sarah Fisher, "S.A. sit-in blocks trustees," *The Miscellany News*, 27 October 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19781027-01.2.19>; "Vassar divests from five U.S. banks," *The Miscellany News*, 27 October 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19781027-01.2.4>; Carol Belkin, "Study Group calls for divestment of 6 U.S. banks," *The Miscellany News*, 13 October 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19781013-01.2.3>.

²¹⁸ Carol Belkin, "New committee replaces PRC, Study Group," *The Miscellany News*, 3 November 1978, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19781103-01.2.21>.

- 31 October 1978: The College holds a forum, “South Africa: Evolution or Revolution,” on U.S. policy toward South Africa, Black Americans’ role in the South African struggle, and the effect of guerrilla warfare on African populations.²¹⁹
- 13 November 1978: Over 150 students attend an event analyzing recent events in Vassar’s anti-apartheid movement. The event is sponsored by the new anti-apartheid group Concerned Students, an offshoot of the Student Defense Committee.²²⁰

1979

- 20 February 1979: The Hunger Action Committee hosts a lecture by Oxfam worker Tony Jackson, “Charity Bureaucracy vs. The People: Food Aid in Central America and the Caribbean.”²²¹
- 23–25 February 1979: The Students’ Afro-American Society hosts a Cultural Weekend in celebration of Black History Month, including a lecture, jazz concert, dance performance, and cabaret.²²²
- 27 February 1979: Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin gives a lecture on prospects of peace in the Middle East, specifically regarding Israel’s position toward Egypt and the Palestinian people. Rabin expresses confidence in a future Israeli–Egyptian peace treaty; and calls for Israel to end its Occupation of the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and Syrian Golan Heights.²²³
- 23 April 1979: The Coalition for Social Responsibility begins a series of daily pickets against the South African apartheid regime and Vassar’s continued financial support for it. The pickets are planned to continue until graduation or divestment; it is presumed that divestment will not come before graduation.²²⁴

²¹⁹ “South Africa,” *The Miscellany News*, 27 October 1978,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19781027-01.2.7>.

²²⁰ Aaron Holsberg, “Students analyze protest,” *The Miscellany News*, 17 November 1978,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19781117-01.2.18>.

²²¹ “Hunger Action sponsors lecture,” *The Miscellany News*, 16 February 1979,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19790216-01.2.15>.

²²² “SAS sponsors cultural weekend,” *The Miscellany News*, 23 February 1979,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19790223-01.2.44>.

²²³ Linda Ricci, “Rabin cites foundations for peace,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 March 1979,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19790301-01.2.36>.

²²⁴ “Coalition Picket: Against S.A. Apartheid,” *The Miscellany News*, 27 April 1979,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19790427-01.2.28>.

- September 1979: The College begins an interdepartmental course, “World Hunger and Moral Obligation,” involving the Anthropology, Biology, Economics, History, Physics, and Political Science Departments. The class aims to provide broad perspectives on socio-political issues surrounding world hunger.²²⁵
- 8 October 1979: Paul Leggett, a part-time Lecturer in Religion, gives a lecture, “Terrorism and the Churches in Central America.”²²⁶
- 12 October 1979: The Coalition for Social Responsibility puts on a film screening of *The Last Grave at Dimbaza*, a documentary about apartheid in South Africa, followed by an open forum discussion.²²⁷
- 24 October 1979: Daniel Ellsberg, an anti-war activist who leaked the “Pentagon Papers” to *The New York Times* in 1971, delivers a talk on civil disobedience as a tactic for stopping the nuclear armament industry.²²⁸
- 3 December 1979: As part of Black Arts Week, the Coalition for Social Responsibility and the Students’ Afro-American Society sponsor a talk by women’s rights activist Stephanie Urdang, “Women in the Guinea Bisseau Revolution.”²²⁹

1980s

1980

- January 1980: Four students form Vassar Draft Opposition to mobilize campus against reinstatement of the draft after U.S. President Jimmy Carter raised the possibility of doing so.²³⁰

²²⁵ Louise Kowitch, “Hunger Course Discusses Morality,” *The Miscellany News*, 5 October 1979, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19791005-01.2.42>.

²²⁶ “Central American Terrorism Discussed,” *The Miscellany News*, 5 October 1979, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19791005-01.2.14>.

²²⁷ “CSR Sponsors Film,” *The Miscellany News*, 12 October 1979, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19791012-01.2.15>.

²²⁸ David Duncan, “Civil Disobedience: Ellsberg Attacks Nuclear Weapons,” *The Miscellany News*, 2 November 1979, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19791102-01.2.23>.

²²⁹ “Women in Guinea Bisseau Revolution,” *The Miscellany News*, 30 November 1979, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19791130-01.2.12>.

²³⁰ “VDO to Oppose Draft,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 February 1980, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19800201-01.2.4>; Jimmy Carter, “The State of the Union Address Delivered Before a Joint Session of the Congress, January 23, 1980,” The American Presidency Project, accessed 18 April 2025, <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/249681>.

- 4 February 1980: The Vassar Jewish Students' Union holds a letter-writing campaign to U.S. and U.S.S.R. leaders protesting the U.S.S.R.'s arrest and internal exile of Andrei Sakharov, a well-known Soviet human-rights activist.²³¹
- 25 February 1980: Patricia Derian, the U.S. State Department Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, gives a lecture. Derian was famous for challenging anticommunist authoritarian regimes supported by the United States, particularly the Argentine military junta during the country's "Dirty War" of extrajudicial abductions and executions of dissidents, as well as dictatorships in the Philippines, South Korea, and other countries.²³²
- 4 March 1980: Students put on an exhibit, "Vassar at War," interrogating the reality of war in protest of President Jimmy Carter's proposal to reinstate the draft. The exhibit includes military uniforms and equipment as well as imagined defense plans of the Vassar campus itself.²³³
- 24 April 1980: The Vassar organization Hungerfast sponsors a fast that raises approximately \$1,200 for countries in the Global South, with proceeds going to the humanitarian organization Oxfam.²³⁴
- 2 November 1980: Thozamile Botha, a South African civil rights activist forced to flee South Africa due to numerous assassination attempts, gives a talk in which he calls for divestment from South Africa and says, "Investment in South Africa goes to maintain the white racist regime."²³⁵

²³¹ Marc Moebius, "Sakharov's Exile by Soviets Draws JSU Letter Writing," *The Miscellany News*, 1 February 1980, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19800201-01.2.33>.

²³² "Poli. Sci. Lecture," *The Miscellany News*, 22 February 1980, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19800222-01.2.36.1>; Paul Vitello, "Patricia Derian, Diplomat Who Made Human Rights a Priority, Dies at 86," *The New York Times*, 20 May 2016, <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/21/us/patricia-derian-diplomat-who-made-human-rights-a-priority-dies-at-86.html>.

²³³ Vaun S. Raymond, "'Vassar at War' May Send us Fleeing to Canada," *The Miscellany News*, 28 March 1980, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19800328-01.2.21>.

²³⁴ Matthew Kauffman, "OXFAM Fast Sponsored," *The Miscellany News*, 25 April 1980, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19800425-01.2.11>.

²³⁵ "Tozamile Botha [sic] Appeals for Support," *The Miscellany News*, 7 November 1980, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19801107-01.2.3>.

- 12 November 1980: Joan Freyberg, a clinical psychologist, delivers a lecture, “The Legacy of the Holocaust: the Psychological Effects on Children of Survivors,” sponsored by the Psychology Majors Committee and Vassar Jewish Students’ Union.²³⁶
- 14 November 1980: Pavel Litvinov, a Soviet political dissident and human rights activist, gives a lecture on his experience in the U.S.S.R. and the state of Soviet and world human rights.²³⁷
- 18 November 1980: The History and Religion Departments and Vassar Jewish Students’ Union sponsor a film screening of *Image Before My Eyes*, a documentary about Jewish life in Poland before the Holocaust. The film’s script was written by Vassar Visiting Instructor in English Jerome Badanes.²³⁸

1981

- 1–2 April 1981: Dana Lobell, a member of Women Against Pornography, gives a lecture condemning glorification of violence against women and sexual objectification in pornography and advertising. The lecture is part of Women’s Weekend, which focuses on “Women and Their Bodies.”²³⁹
- June 1981: Vassar hosts the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, which includes 136 panels over three days and attracts some 1,500 female academics.²⁴⁰

1982

- 17–25 February 1982: The Africana Studies Program hosts the Second Annual Festival of Third World Arts and Culture. The largest event is a two-day symposium on 17–18 February about the racist underpinnings of nineteenth- and twentieth-century imperialism. Other events include a lecture by civil rights activist Kwame Ture (previously Stokely Carmichael) about the ties between racism and capitalism; a panel discussion with Permanent Representative of Tanzania to the United Nations Paul Rupia and Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations David W. Stewart

²³⁶ “Holocaust,” *The Miscellany News*, 7 November 1980, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19801107-01.2.67>.

²³⁷ “Soviet Dissident To Speak,” *The Miscellany News*, 7 November 1980, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19801107-01.2.64>.

²³⁸ “Image Before My Eyes,” *The Miscellany News*, 7 November 1980, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19801107-01.2.66>.

²³⁹ Lisa A. Verge, “Lobell Speaks Against Exploiting Women,” *The Miscellany News*, 10 April 1981, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19810410-01.2.12>.

²⁴⁰ Alison Bernstein, “Oppressed victims or creative forces?” *Vassar Quarterly* 77, no. 4 (1981): 24–29, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19810901-01.2.10>.

on “South Africa: The Reality”; and a panel discussion on “The Mindset of Intolerance: Racism and Anti-Semitism in America,” co-sponsored by the Students’ Afro-American Society and Vassar Jewish Students’ Union.²⁴¹

- 21 February 1982: Moorhead Kennedy, one of fifty-two Americans held hostage in Iran for 444 days before their release on 20 January 1981, gives a lecture, “World Religions and World Peace.”²⁴²
- 13–15 April 1982: The Coalition for Social Responsibility puts on Peace Week. Events include a lecture by retired U.S. Rear Admiral Gene LaRocque on how U.S. nuclear armament policy will inevitably lead to nuclear war; a debate entitled “No More Nuclear Arms Increase National Security?”; a screening of *The War Game*, a British documentary imagining the destruction of nuclear war; and a lecture, “The Medical Effects of Nuclear War,” by two doctors from Physicians for Social Responsibility.²⁴³
- 10 October 1982: Reverend Paul Rutgers, a minister at The First Presbyterian Church in Poughkeepsie, delivers a lecture, “The Things That Make For Peace,” in which he argues that achieving peace will be extraordinarily difficult and expensive and that people must strive harder for it.²⁴⁴
- 9 November 1982: Leonor A. Huper, Consul General of Nicaragua, gives a lecture, “Turmoil In Central America: A Post-Revolution Perspective,” in which she condemns the long history of U.S. military intervention in Latin America and Nicaragua and argues that the new Nicaraguan government is substantively improving the lives of poor Nicaraguans.²⁴⁵

²⁴¹ “Program in Africana Studies announces Second Annual Festival of Third World Arts and Culture,” *The Miscellany News*, 19 February 1982, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19820219-01.2.13>; Julie Kaufman, “Third World Imperialism,” *The Miscellany News*, 26 February 1982, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19820226-01.2.24>; Cameron Gordon, “Kwame Toure Advocates Use of Violence,” *The Miscellany News*, 26 February 1982, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19820226-01.2.25>; Bonnie Stollowitz, “Panel Discusses Prejudice,” *The Miscellany News*, 26 February 1982, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19820226-01.2.15>.

²⁴² “Hostage to Speak,” *The Miscellany News*, 19 February 1982, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19820219-01.2.57>.

²⁴³ “Disarm for Peace Week,” *The Miscellany News*, 9 April 1982, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19820409-01.2.41.2>; Richard F. Lynch, “Retired Admiral Blasts Nuclear Arms Buildup,” *The Miscellany News*, 16 April 1982, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19820416-01.2.2>.

²⁴⁴ Christopher Ortiz, “Dollar For Pentagon Dollar For Peace,” *The Miscellany News*, 29 October 1982, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19821029-01.2.64>.

²⁴⁵ Christopher Ortiz, “Huper Talks On Changes in Nicaragua,” *The Miscellany News*, 19 November 1982, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19821119-01.2.13>.

1983

- 20 February 1983: Benjamin Sasway, the first person to be indicted for not registering for the draft after former President Jimmy Carter reinstated it, gives a talk on draft resistance.²⁴⁶ In an interview with the Vassar student publication *Unscrewed*, Sasway objected to being branded as a martyr or the focal point of the anti-draft movement. He says, “There are hundreds of thousands of people protesting draft registration, war preparation, and interventions.”²⁴⁷ Sasway was sentenced to two years in prison for not registering for the draft but was released after six months and given two years of probation.²⁴⁸
- 21 February 1983: The Vassar Jewish Students’ Union sponsors a rally for National Soviet Jewry Solidarity Day on 23 February. Speeches include one by Hamilton Fish, the U.S. Representative for New York’s 21st Congressional District, on conditions of Jews in the U.S.S.R., how these conditions affect U.S.–U.S.S.R. relations, and how Soviet Jews’ plight can be helped.²⁴⁹
- 28 March 1983: The History and Political Science Departments, in collaboration with the Women’s Studies Program and Feminist Union, host a film festival featuring five movies about women’s roles in union organizing and women’s indispensable role in the history of the U.S. labor movement.²⁵⁰
- 27 September 1983: Three years after it was confidentially released to the Vassar administration and Board of Trustees, the Black Caucus of the Vassar College Faculty and Administrators—made up of five to seven professors, the majority of whom are Black—publishes a ten-year report assessing the status of affirmative action at Vassar. The Caucus finds that the mission of affirmative action, professed through the College’s

²⁴⁶ Laura E. Mills, “Sasway, Draft Non-Registrant, To Speak,” *The Miscellany News*, 18 February 1983, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19830218-01.2.7>;

²⁴⁷ “An Interview with Benjamin Sasway,” *Unscrewed*, 1 April 1983, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vcunscr19830401-01.2.17>.

²⁴⁸ “Convicted draft resister Benjamin J. Sasway was released from...” *United Press International*, 20 September 1985, <https://www.upi.com/Archives/1985/09/20/Convicted-draft-resister-Benjamin-J-Sasway-was-released-from/1155496036800/>.

²⁴⁹ “Fish To Speak,” *The Miscellany News*, 18 February 1983, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19830218-01.2.15>.

²⁵⁰ Matthew Rauchberg, “History Movie Series,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 April 1983, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19830401-01.2.24>.

Catlin Report, which was drafted after the 1969 Main Building Sit-In, has not succeeded, as the College's Black student and faculty populations have continually fallen.²⁵¹

- 8 November 1983: The Political Science Department and Africana Studies Program host a faculty panel discussing the recent U.S. invasion of Grenada. Professors frequently critique U.S. President Ronald Reagan's decision to invade the country as an imperialist aggression and likely internationally and domestically illegal. Around 260 students attend.²⁵²
- 17 November 1983: About 450 students fast for the full day in support of Oxfam's tenth Annual Fast for a World Harvest; Vassar's dining hall agrees to pay \$2.70 per student, totalling over \$1,000. The fast is organized by the Hunger Action Committee.²⁵³
- December 1983: The Office of Admissions enacts a new recruitment program for Black students consisting of letters sent to the NAACP and 432 Black alumni requesting that they sponsor Black candidates for admission. The letters specifically ask for Black men.²⁵⁴

1984

- 5 February 1984: South African activist and poet Dennis Brutus gives a lecture, "The Poetry of Resistance: Human Rights In South Africa." Brutus was imprisoned for eighteen months after successfully banning South Africa from the Olympics while president of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee; after his release from prison, he gained political asylum in the United States.²⁵⁵
- 16 February 1984: Former U.S. Representative Shirley Crisholm, the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress, delivers a lecture, "Civil Rights and Human Rights in the

²⁵¹ Faculty Members of the Black Caucus, "Black Caucus Calls Affirmative Action At Vassar A Total Failure," *The Miscellany News*, 7 October 1983, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19831007-01.2.28>.

²⁵² Kathryn M. O'Neill, "Faculty Ask 'Why Grenada?'" *The Miscellany News*, 11 November 1983, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19831111-01.2.10>.

²⁵³ Adelita Press, "Students Fight World Hunger," *The Miscellany News*, 11 November 1983, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19831111-01.2.17>.

²⁵⁴ Samuel Scott, "New Program to Recruit Blacks," *The Miscellany News*, 17 February 1984, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19840217-01.2.8>.

²⁵⁵ Georgeanna Lewis, "South African Resistance Poet to Appear," *The Miscellany News*, 3 February 1984, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19840203-01.2.10https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19840203-01.2.10>.

United Suites and the Third World,” in which she denounces the racism that underlies U.S. domestic and foreign policy.²⁵⁶

- 2 March 1984: Vassar joins six other educational organizations in an amicus brief opposing the Solomon Amendment in the Supreme Court case *Selective Service System v. Minnesota Public Interest Research Group*.²⁵⁷ The Solomon Amendment, part of the Department of Defense Authorization Act of 1983, denied federal financial aid to men ages 18–26 who refused to sign up for the draft; financial aid applicants were required to inform their universities whether they had signed up. In *Selective Service*, the Supreme Court upheld the amendment as constitutional because, since no student is required to register for financial aid, requiring applicants to inform their school of their draft status was not self-incrimination.²⁵⁸
- April 1984: The Board of Trustees votes to include “sexual orientation” in the College’s nondiscriminatory policies, thereby banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.²⁵⁹
- April 13–15 1984: The College holds its first Black Alumnae/i Forum. The African American Alumnae/i Association of Vassar College is established.²⁶⁰
- 18 October 1984: Daniel Berrigan, an anti-war activist, poet, and Catholic priest, gives a lecture, “A Peacemaking Citizen in a Warmaking State.” Berrigan argues that U.S. society has become numb to the possibility of nuclear war. Furthermore, he defends his actions as part of the Plowshare Movement’s 1980 infiltration of a General Electric

²⁵⁶ Joseph Gill, “Chisholm Denounces U.S. Racism, Condemns Reagan,” *The Miscellany News*, 17 February 1984, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19840217-01.2.4>.

²⁵⁷ “Vassar v. Solomon amendment: an update,” *Vassar Quarterly* 80, no. 3 (1984): 27, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19840301-01.2.28>; Sarah Collins, “College Joins Brief Against Solomon Amendment,” *The Miscellany News*, 6 April 1984, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19840406-01.2.8>. The other institutions in the brief were the University of Minnesota, Macalester College; Macalester College Community Council, Wayne State University, University of Michigan, and Pacific School of Religion.

²⁵⁸ “Selective Service System v. Minnesota Public Interest Research Group,” Oyez, accessed 22 April 2025, <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1983/83-276>.

²⁵⁹ “Gay Rights on Campus: The 1984 - 85 Addition to the Vassar Catalogue,” *Womanspeak*, 1 May 1984, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=Womanspeak19840501-01.2.24>; Sarah Collins, “Gay & Homosexual Rights Promoted At VPU Panel,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 March 1985, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19850301-01.2.10>.

²⁶⁰ Claudia Lynn Thomas, “‘Black alumnae/i must organize’: A Vassar report,” *Vassar Quarterly* 81, no. 1 (1984): 26, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19840901-01.2.27>; Willa Panvini McCarthy, “Affiliate Program: LAGAVC and Affiliate Program Turn 10; Triple AVC Marks 15 Years,” *Vassar, the Alumnae/i Quarterly* 96, no. 3 (2000): 70, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq20000601-01.2.123>.

nuclear arms plant in Pennsylvania in which he and seven others banged on nuclear missile nose cones with hammers and poured their own blood on them.²⁶¹

1985

- 29 January 1985: Andrew Lukhele, a South African activist and member of the African National Congress, gives a lecture, “Change in South Africa,” in which he calls on students to protest against South African apartheid in the same manner they protested the Vietnam War. The lecture is part of the Third World Festival.²⁶²
- 31 January 1985: Fikile Bam, a South African lawyer and activist, delivers a lecture as part of the Third World Festival, “South African Youth and the Current Black Struggle.”²⁶³
- February 1985: The College divests about \$2 million in investments in Dun and Bradstreet because the company refused to sign the Sullivan Principles.²⁶⁴ The Principles establish guidelines for ethical investment in South Africa, such as respect for human rights, a commitment to nondiscrimination in the workplace, and improvement of the communities in which the company operates.²⁶⁵
- 20 February 1985: The Vassar Progressive Union sponsors a panel, “Homosexuality: the Status of Gay Rights in the U.S.A.” Panelists say that while gay people are largely socially accepted at Vassar there remains a discrepancy in belief about the necessity of gay civil rights.²⁶⁶
- 27 March 1985: About seventy-five Poughkeepsie residents, including sixteen Vassar students and four Vassar faculty, protest the Barclays Bank for its investment in South African apartheid. Residents and students participate in smaller rallies on 3–5 April

²⁶¹ Samuel Scott, “Berrigan Talks Peace,” *The Miscellany News*, 19 October 1984, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19841019-01.2.12>; Kristen Tobey, *Plowshares: Protest, Performance, and Religious Identity in the Nuclear Age* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2016), 1–2, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/vcl/detail.action?docID=6224761>; Isaiah 2:4 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition).

²⁶² Joseph Gill, “Illusory Changes in South Africa,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 February 1985, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19850201-01.2.4>.

²⁶³ “Third World Festival,” *The Miscellany News*, 25 January 1985, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19850125-01.2.18.1>.

²⁶⁴ Lisa Denby, “V.C. Divests from S. Africa,” *The Miscellany News*, 22 February 1985, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19850222-01.2.11>.

²⁶⁵ “The Global Sullivan Principles” University of Minnesota Human Rights Library, accessed 31 January 2025, <http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/links/sullivanprinciples.html>.

²⁶⁶ Collins, “Gay & Homosexual Rights.”

against Barclays.²⁶⁷

- 18 April 1985: Lucjan Dobroszycki, a Polish American historian who survived the Łódź ghetto and the Auschwitz concentration camp during the Holocaust, gives a lecture, “The Destruction of the European Jewry: Deportation into and out of the Ghetto of Łódź.” Dobroszycki explains that Łódź was the first death camp established by the Nazis and gives a detailed account of life in the ghetto, which is known to modern historians because of immaculately kept records that were hidden from the Nazis before the final deportation out of the ghetto in 1944.²⁶⁸
- 11 October 1985: The Vassar Student Coalition Against Apartheid hosts a demonstration for National Anti-Apartheid Day and International Political Prisoners Day, joining anti-apartheid student protests across the country.²⁶⁹
- 19 October 1985: The Board of Trustees unanimously accepts a proposal by the Trustee Investor Responsibility Committee to gradually divest the College’s holdings in companies tied to South Africa over a three-year period unless there is significant progress in the elimination of apartheid in South Africa during that time.²⁷⁰
- 27 October 1985: *The New York Times* reports that Vassar’s incoming Class of 1989 includes 101 minority students, 16.2 percent of the total class. In contrast, the graduating Class of 1986 is only 9.2 percent minorities. This rise comes in the wake of student and faculty protests against the small Black population at the College.²⁷¹

1986

- 20 January 1986: The Afro-American Program, Students’ Afro-American Society, Advisor to Minority Students Sheila Thomas, and Vassar Gospel Chorus sponsor a

²⁶⁷ “Anti-Apartheid Rallies at Barclays Bank,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 April 1985, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vcunscr19850401-01.2.6>.

²⁶⁸ Anne Ritterspach, “Holocaust Historian Tells of Jewish Ghetto,” *The Miscellany News*, 26 April 1985, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19850426-01.2.12>.

²⁶⁹ Anne Ritterspach, “Apartheid Foes Are Still Force Here,” *The Miscellany News*, 20 September 1985, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19850920-01.2.4>.

²⁷⁰ Neal Shultz, “Trustees Adopt A Gradual S. Africa Divestment Policy,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 November 1985, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19851101-01.2.2>; “Divestment Transcript,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 November 1985, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19851101-01.2.7>.

²⁷¹ Franklin Whitehouse, “In New York Area, Colleges Succeed in Recruiting Effort,” *The New York Times*, 27 October 1985, <https://www.nytimes.com/1985/10/27/us/in-new-york-area-colleges-succeed-in-recruiting-effort.html>.

screening of a documentary about Martin Luther King Jr. in honor of the first national Martin Luther King Jr. Day.²⁷²

- 7 February 1986: The Trustee Investor Responsibility Committee releases a specific divestment timetable.²⁷³
- 27 March–13 April 1986: Numerous departments and offices of the College sponsor a conference, “Hunger: The Ethical Challenge of Our Time,” with the aim of raising awareness about world hunger and presenting possible solutions. Events include a keynote lecture by U.S. Representative Mickey Leland, film screenings, poetry and prose readings, discussion panels with experts from various disciplines, a canned food drive, a fast day, and a marathon.²⁷⁴
- 4 April 1986: About forty faculty and students march silently in protest against racism at Vassar, specifically the lack of Black faculty on campus.²⁷⁵
- 10 April 1986: Students from Vassar, Marist, and Dutchess Community Colleges protest IBM’s investment in apartheid South Africa outside a local IBM plant.²⁷⁶
- 12 April 1986: A total of 648 students on meal plans, about 39 percent, participate in a day-long fast hosted by Hunger Action, raising over \$1,500. The Committee donates half of the money to Oxfam and the other half to local hunger groups.²⁷⁷

²⁷² Eric Robinson, “‘Business As Usual’ In Celebration of King’s Birthday,” *The Miscellany News*, 24 January 1986, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19860124-01.2.3>.

²⁷³ Anne Ritterspach, “New Divestment Timetable Follows Protest,” *The Miscellany News*, 14 February 1986, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19860214-01.2.9>; Student Coalition Against Apartheid, “Ties to South Africa Grew,” *The Miscellany News*, 7 February 1986, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19860207-01.2.20>.

²⁷⁴ Avril Fugger, “Conference On Hunger As Moral Challenge Starts,” *The Miscellany News*, 28 March 1986, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19860328-01.2.12>; “All College Hunger Program: The Ethical Challenge of Our Time,” *Unscrewed*, 1 March 1986, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vcunscr19860301-01.2.12>.

²⁷⁵ Anne Ritterspach, “Double Protests Against Racism and Apartheid: On Campus,” *The Miscellany News*, 11 April 1986, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19860411-01.2.3>; Steering Committee of Students’ Afro-American Society, “SAS on Dwindling Black Faculty,” *The Miscellany News*, 18 April 1986, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19860418-01.2.24>.

²⁷⁶ Anne Ritterspach, “Double Protests Against Racism and Apartheid: In Poughkeepsie,” *The Miscellany News*, 11 April 1986, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19860411-01.2.2>; “April 10, 1986,” A Documentary Chronicle of Vassar College, Vassar College, accessed 23 April 2025, <https://chronology.vassarspaces.net/1986-04-10-student-ibm-protest/>.

²⁷⁷ Eric Robinson, “Hunger Action Fast Raises Fifteen Hundred Dollars,” *The Miscellany News*, 18 April 1986, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19860418-01.2.3>.

- 14 April 1986: The Task Force on Racism hosts a panel discussion on whether racism is institutionalized at Vassar including eleven Black, white, Latino, and Asian students.²⁷⁸

1987

- 18 February 1987: Twelve students, most of them members of the Student Coalition Against Apartheid, rally outside an IBM office in downtown Poughkeepsie in protest of IBM's investments in apartheid South Africa.²⁷⁹
- 17–19 April 1987: The newly-formed AIDS Education Committee sponsors a three-day “AIDS Education Week” to educate the campus community on the dangers of the disease. Events include a faculty panel, a lecture, and three productions of William Hoffman's 1985 play *As Is*.²⁸⁰
- 25 September 1987: First Lady of Costa Rica Margarita Penón Arias '70 lauds democracy and Costa Rica's decision to abolish its military, as well as calls for women to continue fighting for equal rights. Her speech is attended by 500–600 students, faculty, and community members.²⁸¹
- 29 September 1987: Edward W. Said, a Palestinian Comparative Literature Professor at Columbia University and outspoken supporter of Palestinian liberation, gives a lecture, “The Media and the Mideast.” Said critiques the U.S. media's portrayal of the Palestinian–Israeli conflict as one-sided.²⁸²

1988

- 20 January 1988: In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Office of President Frances Fergusson sponsors a program of performances by the Vassar Gospel Choir and Madrigal Singers; a keynote speech by Reverend Samuel D. Proctor, a Black activist and friend of King; a screening of a half-hour section of *Eyes on the Prize*, a TV series about the Civil

²⁷⁸ Rosalind Olden, “Race Relations Forum Debates Campus Prejudice,” *The Miscellany News*, 25 April 1986, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19860425-01.2.8>.

²⁷⁹ E.R., “News Bits,” *The Miscellany News*, 27 February 1987, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19870227-01.2.17>.

²⁸⁰ Sarah Collins, “Task Force Works To Dispel Myths,” *The Miscellany News*, 17 April 1987, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19870417-01.2.23>; “AIDS Education Week Weekend Events,” *The Miscellany News*, 17 April 1987, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19870417-01.2.24>.

²⁸¹ Jennifer Greenstein, “Costa Rican First Family Speaks On Cooperation,” *The Miscellany News*, 2 October 1987, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19871002-01.2.2>.

²⁸² David C. Lehrer, “Said Disputes U.S. Media Image of Israel,” *The Miscellany News*, 2 October 1987, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19871002-01.2.3>.

Rights Movement; and poetry readings by the Ebony Theatre Ensemble.²⁸³

- 8–17 February 1988: The Committee to Stop Rape Now and Vice President for Administrative and Student Services Natalie Marshall '51 co-sponsor a program, “Walking the Sexual Tightrope: Rights, Responsibilities, Respect,” to heighten awareness of responsibilities and power in sexual relationships. Discussions about sexual politics are held in eight dorms, with attendance ranging from zero to thirty-five. Other events include lectures, discussions, and film screenings.²⁸⁴
- September 1988–May 1989: Throughout the 1988–1989 school year, the College celebrates the twentieth anniversary of the Africana Studies Program, formed after the Main Building Sit-In. Events include installations of art from the Evan-Tibbs Collection, including work by Black artists such as Edward Bannister and Jacob Lawrence; lectures and poetry readings; a library exhibition commemorating the program’s beginning; and a fundraising dinner and dance to help establish an endowed chair honoring W. E. B. DuBois.²⁸⁵
- November 1988: The Students’ Afro-American Society (SAS) meets with Chief of Security George Lochner to discuss the concern that Black students are asked by security to show their I.D. cards much more frequently than white students. Lochner says that Black students may be carded obsessively and that this negatively affects the security team’s relationship with Black students and guests. SAS presents three solutions: 1. A written policy of when carding is appropriate; 2. A rule about who can be on campus at night; and 3. A sensitivity session for all security guards and campus patrols.²⁸⁶
- 4 November 1988: The Vassar administration announces that the College has divested completely from corporations with ties to apartheid South Africa.²⁸⁷

²⁸³ Nathaniel Stevens, “King Holiday Commemorated,” *The Miscellany News*, 29 January 1988, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19880129-01.2.3>.

²⁸⁴ Anne Ritterspach, “Tackling Sexual Issues,” *The Miscellany News*, 12 February 1988, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19880212-01.2.3>.

²⁸⁵ “Africana Studies Celebrates,” *The Miscellany News*, 18 November 1988, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19881118-01.2.7>; Carol Ann Davis, “Africana Studies Dept. Celebrates Anniversary,” *The Miscellany News*, 27 February 1989, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19890217-01.2.4>.

²⁸⁶ Joanna R. Pearlstein, “Students’ Afro-American Society Discusses I.D. Checks With Security Chief George Lochner,” *The Miscellany News*, 18 November 1988, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19881118-01.2.3>.

²⁸⁷ Keith Slack, “Vassar Severs Ties With South Africa,” *Left of Center*, 1 December 1988, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vclleft19881201-01.2.26>.

1989

- 14 February 1989: Teboho MacDonald Mashinini, a South African anti-apartheid activist and member of the Release Mandela campaign, gives a talk in which he calls for the release of all political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela. Mashinini was imprisoned and tortured for three years for his anti-apartheid activism.²⁸⁸
- 15 February 1989: Students found Counseling and Assistance in Response to Rape and Exploitative Sexual Activity, a student-run call or walk-in center for assisting survivors of rape and sexual assault. The service replaces the HELP line, staffed by four administrators.²⁸⁹
- 20 February 1989: Naomi Tutu, the daughter of prominent South African anti-apartheid activist Archbishop Desmond Tutu, delivers a lecture on South Africa's current political and economic problems, especially the immense hardship Black South Africans suffer under apartheid. The lecture is part of the Africana Studies Program's twentieth anniversary celebrations.²⁹⁰
- 21 February 1989: Molly Yard, President of the National Organization for Women, delivers a lecture on the U.S. abortion crisis. She attributes most abortions to cases of failed birth control and rape, and declares, "We absolutely refuse to have compulsory pregnancy in this country."²⁹¹
- 12 April 1989: Student organizations and administrative offices hold a "Rally Against Violence," featuring five alumni discussing racism, homophobia, sexism, religionism, and the patriarchy. The march is followed by a vigil.²⁹²
-

²⁸⁸ Joanna R. Pearlstein, "Activist Speaks," *The Miscellany News*, 17 February 1989, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19890217-01.2.6>.

²⁸⁹ Joanna R. Pearlstein, "CARES Line Provides Support To Rape Victims," *The Miscellany News*, 10 February 1989, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19890210-01.2.3>.

²⁹⁰ Emily Tobias, "Naomi Tutu Lectures On South African Racism," *The Miscellany News*, 24 February 1989, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19890224-01.2.2>.

²⁹¹ Joanna R. Pearlstein, "Molly Yard, NOW President, Speaks On Abortion," *The Miscellany News*, 24 February 1989, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19890224-01.2.3>.

²⁹² Joanna R. Pearlstein, "College Fights Violence With Campus Rally," *The Miscellany News*, 7 April 1989, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19890407-01.2.6>.

- 8 October 1989: Over 450 students march to the Dutchess County Jail in protest of hatred and racism. The demonstration is sparked by KKK Imperial Wizard James W. Farrand's visit to Dutchess County to arrange bail for a Klansmaan arrested on weapons charges.²⁹³
- 15 October 1989: Vassar students join around 1,700 demonstrators from across New York State at a "Pro Choice/Your Choice" rally in Poughkeepsie, sponsored by Planned Parenthood.²⁹⁴

1990s

1990

- 14 February 1990: A group of ninety to 100 students calling themselves the Coalition of Concerned Students occupy Main Building. Approximately 600 students rally outside the building throughout the day. The protesters' key demand is that U.S. Senator Patrick Moynihan resign his position as Eleanor Roosevelt Distinguished Lecturer after he made multiple racist statements at a 29 January reception. Moynihan resigns.²⁹⁵
- May 1990: The Alumnae/i Association of Vassar College's (AAVC) Board of Directors votes to adopt an affiliation process by which groups of alumni with special interests or needs may form affinity groups associated with the AAVC. A Lesbian and Gay Alumnae/i Association is established shortly thereafter and holds its first annual reception during Reunion weekend, with more than seventy-five alumni attending.²⁹⁶
- October 1990: The Board of Trustees approves an affirmative action policy, under which the College will actively seek qualified female candidates and candidates of color for hire

²⁹³ Beth Saulnier, "'Eradicate Hate Before It's Too Late': Vassar Students March Against Hatred," *The Miscellany News*, 27 October 1989, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19891027-01.2.10>.

²⁹⁴ Devon Schyler, "Poughkeepsie marches for choice," *The Miscellany News*, 1 November 1989, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vclleft19891101-01.2.9>.

²⁹⁵ Joanna R. Pearlstein, "Student Takeover Of Main Building Prompts Moynihan Resignation Of Roosevelt Lecturer," *The Miscellany News*, 16 February 1990, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19900216-01.2.16>; Carol Ann Davis and Joanna R. Pearlstein, "Negotiations Continue After Main Takeover Ends," *The Miscellany News*, 23 February 1990, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19900223-01.2.2>; David E. Gallagher, "Results of Coalition Negotiations Released," *The Miscellany News*, 6 April 1990, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19900406-01.2.11>.

²⁹⁶ Liz Wexler Quinlan and John B. Wolf, "Board Approves Special Interest Alum Groups," *Vassar Quarterly* 86, no. 4 (1990): 38, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19900901-01.2.39>; Eric Marcus, Jessica Morris, Kas Kinkead, and Laura Evans, "Lesbians, Gays Organizing," *Vassar Quarterly* 86, no. 4 (1990): 72, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19900901-01.2.163>.

and promotions in all staff and faculty positions, especially groups that have been underrepresented in the past.²⁹⁷

- 6 November 1990: The Commencement Committee is presented with a statement signed by twenty-six Black members of the Class of 1991 denouncing the Committee for “consistent neglect” of Black students’ concerns and stating the formation of a separate Black Commencement Committee. All three Black members of the twenty-one-member Commencement Committee resign. Potential events for the Black Commencement Committee include a Black Parents’ Weekend and a Kwanzaa celebration.²⁹⁸
- 20 November 1990: Jean Stewart, an author and disabilities activist, lectures on the disabilities movement.²⁹⁹

1991

- 16 January 1991: Professor of Anthropology Charles Briggs joins around 150 Poughkeepsie residents in a “Demonstration for Peace” march against the recent U.S. intervention in the First Gulf War, organized by the Dutchess County Peace Vigil.³⁰⁰
- 20 January 1991: About ninety students attend the first meeting of the new club Vassar Opposed to the War, an anti-war organization founded in response to the U.S. intervention in the First Gulf War.³⁰¹
- February 1991: A center for gay, lesbian, and bisexual students opens, similar in function to the Women’s Center, which provides space for meetings and social gatherings.³⁰²

²⁹⁷ Joanna R. Pearlstein and Carol Ann Davis, “Trustees Approve Affirmative Action Policy,” *The Miscellany News*, 2 November 1990, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19901102-01.2.2>.

²⁹⁸ David F. Gallagher, “Black Seniors Split From Commencement Committee,” *The Miscellany News*, 16 November 1990, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19901116-01.2.2>; “Black Commencement Committee,” *The Miscellany News*, 16 November 1990, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19901116-01.2.9>.

²⁹⁹ “What’s Brewing On and Off Campus,” *The Miscellany News*, 16 November 1990, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19901116-01.2.47.1>.

³⁰⁰ Joyce-Ann Gatsoulis, “From a Crawl to a Walk: Student Activism Rising,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 February 1991, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19910201-01.2.3>.

³⁰¹ Gatsoulis, “Student Activism.” Around the time that Vassar Opposed to the War is founded, other students found a group to support U.S. military personnel deployed in the war and a new organization, Vassar Students for a Free Kuwait, co-sponsors a “Rally To Support Allied Troops” with the Vassar Conservative Society and the *Vassar Spectator*.

³⁰² “Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Center to Open,” *The Miscellany News*, 16 November 1990, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19901116-01.2.7>.

- 10 February 1991: The Vassar Student Association, the College's student government, approves the Black Commencement Committee as an official organization, allowing it to seek school funding and hold campus events.³⁰³
- 20 February 1991: Classes are suspended for an all-campus teach-in on the Gulf War, "The Persian Gulf War: A Day of Discussion," after the faculty vote unanimously to do so on 13 February. The first event, on the evening of 19 February, is a panel of prominent journalists who covered the Vietnam War on "The Media and the Gulf War." On 20 February, there are fifteen panel discussions on different aspects of the war, mostly consisting of Vassar faculty.³⁰⁴
- 25 May 1991: The civil rights activist Reverend Jesse Jackson speaks at the Baccalaureate service, invited by the Black Commencement Committee.³⁰⁵
- October 1991: The Alumnae/i Association of Vassar College approves the affiliate organization Asian Pacific Alumnae/i of Vassar College.³⁰⁶
- November 1991: Eric Moscow '80 and Craig Harris '80, a doctor treating people living with AIDS and a member of the Gay Men's Health Crisis who lives with AIDS, respectively, speak about their personal experiences with the disease. Harris expresses

³⁰³ "Campus Life: Vassar; Blacks Form Graduation Panel Of Their Own," *The New York Times*, 17 February 1991, <https://www.nytimes.com/1991/02/17/nyregion/campus-life-vassar-blacks-form-graduation-panel-of-their-own.html>; Vanessa Magnanini, "VSA Authorizes Black Students' Separation," *Vassar Spectator* 9, no. 4 (1991): 14, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vcspec19910201-01.2.19>.

³⁰⁴ G.W., "Vassar and the Persian Gulf," *Vassar Quarterly* 87, no. 3 (1991): 12, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19910601-01.2.21>; Joyce-Ann Gatsoulis, "As War Continues, Campus Reacts," *The Miscellany News*, 8 February 1991, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19910208-01.2.2>; P.S., "Plans Set for Teach-In," *The Miscellany News*, 15 February 1991, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19910215-01.2.7>. The fifteen topics are 1. Global Perspectives on the War; 2. Land, Religion, Diplomacy, and War; 3. Human Rights, Civil Liberties, and Dissent; 4. "Will I Be Drafted?"; 5. Islamic Religion and Culture; 6. "When Is War Justified?"; 7. Gender and the Gulf War; 8. Diversity, Vassar, and the War: An Open Discussion; 9. Middle Eastern Politics: Who's Who and Why?; 10. Race and Class: Another Look at the Persian Gulf War; 11. Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and the War in the Gulf; 12. Medical and Humanitarian Concerns; 13. Ecology, Economy, Energy, and Oil; 14. The Historical, Political, and Ethical Implications of the Draft; 15. War and American Society.

³⁰⁵ Michelle Peltier, "Graduation Smooth Despite Split," *The Miscellany News*, 6 September 1991, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19910906-01.2.4>; G.W., "One Commencement and One Baccalaureate," *Vassar Quarterly* 87, no. 4 (1991): 2, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19910901-01.2.7>. Emphasis in original.

³⁰⁶ "Asian-Pacific Alumnae/i Group Approved," *Vassar Quarterly* 88, no. 2 (1992): 39, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19920301-01.2.51>.

anger at the U.S. government for not doing more to stop the AIDS crisis.³⁰⁷ On 26 November, Harris passes away of AIDS.³⁰⁸

- 12 November 1991: Alexander Sanger, President of Planned Parenthood's New York City branch, gives a lecture on the history of the women's reproductive rights movement and limitations to reproductive rights in recent years.³⁰⁹
- 3 December 1991: Presidential candidate Lenora Fulani, Chairperson of the New Alliance Party and the first Black person and first woman to be on the presidential ballot in every state, gives a speech, "Which Way for Blacks' and Women's Empowerment: The Independent Option in the 1990's."³¹⁰

1992

- 4 February 1992: Betty Shabazz, a civil and human rights activist and the widow of civil rights activist Malcolm X, gives a lecture in which she admonishes Vassar students to do their part to create a better world and stresses the importance of building upon principles of equality.³¹¹
- March 1992: After multiple gay students receive threatening homophobic messages on their answering machines, prompting one to take a leave of absence and eventually withdraw from the College, the Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Alliance protests for four days by playing the tapes on repeat on a portable radio while other students hold signs and implore others to come forward with information about the caller.³¹²
- 2–9 November 1992: The Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Alliance host Pride Week, including revamping the queer safe space in the basement of Lathrop House to be more welcoming to queer students; a lecture by John Corvino, a University of Texas at Austin graduate student, debunking arguments against homosexuality; a discussion panel on

³⁰⁷ Michelle Peltier, "Alumni Present a Decade's Worth of Perspective on AIDS," *The Miscellany News*, 15 November 1991, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19911115-01.2.21>.

³⁰⁸ Miscellany News Editorial Board, "Wake Up! AIDS Hits Home— Our Home," *The Miscellany News*, 6 December 1991, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19911206-01.2.23>.

³⁰⁹ J.A.G., "Pro-Lifers Picket Main Gate," *The Miscellany News*, 15 November 1991, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19911115-01.2.11>.

³¹⁰ Michelle Peltier, "Presidential Candidate to Speak at Vassar," *The Miscellany News*, 22 November 1991, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19911122-01.2.11>; "Lenora B. Folani spoke in the Villard Room on Tuesday, Dec 3," *The Miscellany News*, 6 December 1991, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19911206-01.2.4>.

³¹¹ Susannah Nesmith, "Shabazz Speaks on Equality, Raises Controversy," *The Miscellany News*, 7 February 1992, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19920207-01.2.5>.

³¹² Jason Cantarella, "Homophobic Harassment Remains Unresolved," *The Miscellany News*, 18 September 1992, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19920918-01.2.14>.

bisexuality; a dinner and tea for relatives of queer students; the Homo Hop, a dance; and a lecture by Vassar alumnae Ann Northrop '70 on "The Politics of AIDS."³¹³

- 11 November 1992: Natalie Friedman '95 organizes a workshop, "Ethnicity or Religion," on Jewish identity.³¹⁴

1993

- 14–17 April 1993: The Intercultural Center opens as a permanent home for student affinity groups like the Black Student Union, Asian Student Alliance, and Poder Latino in a building next to the Powerhouse Theater.³¹⁵
- 18 April 1993: El Salvadoran educators and activists Regina de los Angeles, Garay Gomez, and Dora Alicia Lainez Escamilla lecture on "Women in War, Women in Peace." One topic discussed is how to tangibly help the rebuilding of El Salvadoran schools.³¹⁶
- 19 April 1993: Black feminist teacher, activist, and author bell hooks gives a lecture, "Race, Gender, and Representation," as part of Women's Week. She calls on all people to help in the missions of education and coalition building.³¹⁷
- 20 April 1993: Ninotchka Rosea, a Filipina political prisoner under former Filipino President Ferdinand Marcos, gives a lecture, "Human Rights Abuses Against Women."³¹⁸
- 22 May 1993: Angela Davis delivers the Baccalaureate address, "Education and Activism: Social Responsibility at the Turn of the Century," in which she discusses the increasingly complex intersectional struggles for racial, gender, sexual, and class equality.³¹⁹
- 11–13 June 1993: Vassar hosts the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, with an attendance of over 2,300 scholars and more than 180 panels, lectures, seminars, and screenings. The year's theme is "Transformations: Women, Gender, Power."³²⁰

³¹³ Jenn Walton, "Pride Week Provides Forum for Campus Discussion," *The Miscellany News*, 6 November 1992, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19921106-01.2.12>.

³¹⁴ Jessica Thaler, "Workshop Unites Jewish Students," *The Miscellany News*, 20 November 1992, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19921120-01.2.18>.

³¹⁵ Jessica Thaler, "Intercultural Center to Open this Week," *The Miscellany News*, 9 April 1993, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19930409-01.2.3>.

³¹⁶ Archana Rao, "Vassar Celebrates Women's Week," *The Miscellany News*, 23 April 1993, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19930423-01.2.14>.

³¹⁷ Rao, "Women's Week."

³¹⁸ Rao, "Women's Week."

³¹⁹ "Baccalaureate: Responsibility in the Year 2000," *Vassar Quarterly* 89, no. 4 (1993): 3, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19930901-01.2.9>.

³²⁰ "For Three Days, Women's History Is the Only Curriculum," *Vassar Quarterly* 89, no. 4 (1993): 5, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19930901-01.2.13>.

1994

- 31 October 1994: Ann Northrop '70 delivers a lecture, "A History of AIDS Activism."³²¹
- 11–19 November 1994: The Vassar community celebrates Multicultural Awareness Week, a singular celebration involving all affinity groups instead of each group holding its own, less well-attended celebration. Demonstrating the breadth of the event, twelve student organizations are involved in planning it.³²² Multicultural Awareness Week will become an annual event.

1995

- 25 April 1995: Sarah Weddington, one of the lawyers who successfully argued the landmark 1973 Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*, which enshrined the constitutional right to abortion, gives a lecture, "Women and *Roe v. Wade*: Looking Back and Looking Forward."³²³
- August 1995: The Hispanics Studies Department, Ford Foundation Diversity Initiative Grant, American Culture Program, and Office of the Dean of the Faculty sponsor "Legacies of Struggle: Colloquia on Social Movements," examining ethnicity and racial identity as integral to culture as a whole rather than isolated from it.³²⁴
- October 1995: The Alumnae/i Association of Vassar College Board of Directors approves the formation of the affiliate Latino Alumnae/i of Vassar College.³²⁵
- 9 October 1995: Iris Morales, a former member of the Young Lords and Puerto Rican Revolutionary Party, delivers a lecture, "Latina Movements U.S.A: From the 60's to the 90's."³²⁶

³²¹ E.S., "Alumna to Speak on History of AIDS Activism," *The Miscellany News*, 28 October 1994, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19941028-01.2.8>.

³²² Rebecca Brand, "Multicultural Awareness Week to be Campus Co-operative Effort," *The Miscellany News*, 28 October 1994, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19941028-01.2.13>. The organizations are the Africa Club; Asian Student's Association; Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Alliance; Black Student Union; Caribbean Student's Alliance; Celtic Society; Korean Student's Association; Middle East Awareness; Poder Latino; Vassar Jewish Union; Vassar International Students Alliance; and Women's Coalition.

³²³ "Calendar," *The Miscellany News*, 21 April 1995, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19950421-01.2.61>; "Roe v. Wade," Oyez, accessed 24 April 2025, <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1971/70-18>.

³²⁴ Dolores Calderón, "Legacies of Struggle..." *Images: Newsletter of the Intercultural Center of Vassar College* (1995): 2, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=ai19950901-01.2.4>.

³²⁵

³²⁶ "Vassar Calendar," *The Miscellany News*, 6 October 1995, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19951006-01.2.58>.

- 3 November 1995: The Jewish community house opens, housing the office of the Jewish student advisor Danna Kalkstein, Kosher Co-op, the office of Ra'ashan, Vassar's Jewish cultural journal, and the office of the Vassar Jewish Union.³²⁷
- 11 November 1995: Harry Wu, a Chinese activist and former political prisoner for nineteen years, gives a lecture, "Behind Prison Walls: The Red China."³²⁸

1996

- 6 February 1996: Julius Lester, Professor of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a Black man who converted to Judaism, gives a lecture, "Blacks and Jews: Where are We and Where are We Going?"³²⁹
- 14 February 1996: The faculty accept a proposal for a Jewish Studies correlate. This comes after a series of actions by the Multicultural Coalition for Jewish Studies and the Religion Department faculty's express support for a Jewish Studies Program.³³⁰
- 25 March 1996: Asian American political activist John Tateishi delivers a lecture, "The Asian American Political Agenda: An Awakening Dragon in the 21st Century?"³³¹
- 10 April 1996: Urvashi Vaid '79, a prominent queer rights activist, gives a talk, "Virtual Equality: Mainstreaming the Gay and Lesbian Movement."³³²
- 22 September 1996: Upon invitation by Assistant Professor of History Robert Brigham, former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara gives an informal talk to Brigham's students, some history and art history faculty, Vassar President Frances Fergusson, and a few others. In his talk, McNamara criticizes the U.S. governmental system for giving the president the power to use military force without congressional authorization; says that

³²⁷ Stephanie Bosco, "Jewish House Opens for College Community," *The Miscellany News*, 10 November 1995, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19951110-01.2.2>.

³²⁸ Stephanie Bosco, "Wu Speaks of Prison Experience," *The Miscellany News*, 17 November 1995, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19951117-01.2.2>.

³²⁹ Evan Greenstein, "Lester Discusses Jewish-Black Relations," *The Miscellany News*, 16 February 1996, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19960216-01.2.3>.

³³⁰ E.G., "Jewish Studies Correlate Sequence Approved by CCP," *The Miscellany News*, 22 March 1996, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19960322-01.2.5>; Joe Goldman, "Faculty, Students Request Jewish Studies Program," *The Miscellany News*, 21 April 1995, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19950421-01.2.3>.

³³¹ Jennifer Kim, "ASA Week Begins with Tateishi Lecture," *The Miscellany News*, 29 March 1996, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19960329-01.2.6>; "National Coalition for Redress/Reparations," *Densho Encyclopedia*, last modified 10 September 2024, https://encyclopedia.densho.org/National_Coalition_for_Redress/Reparations/; "Civil Liberties Act of 1987," United States Congress, accessed 24 April 2025, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/100th-congress/house-bill/442>.

³³² S.B., "Alumna to Lecture on Gay/Lesbian Movement," *The Miscellany News*, 8 April 1996, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19960408-01.2.8>.

the U.S. government fundamentally did not understand Vietnamese culture and history and did not try to; and calls the Vietnam War “a war of nationalism, not aggression.”

McNamara served as Defense Secretary during the Vietnam War under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.³³³

- November 1996: The Alumnae/i Association of Vassar College Board of Directors approves the formation of the affiliate Jewish Alumnae/i of Vassar College.³³⁴
- 3 November 1996: Promoting Equality And Community Everywhere, or P.E.A.C.E., a student organization working to develop tolerance and cross cultural friendships among Poughkeepsie children, is approved by the student government.³³⁵
- 9–16 November 1996: Santiago Portilla and Cecilia Rodriguez, respectively the advisor to Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo and American representative for the Zapatistas, hold a moderated discussion.³³⁶

1997

- 4–6 April 1997: The College hosts the Vassar Gathering, involving around 250 activists from across the United States. The conference’s goal is to provide a forum for professional and student activists to develop ways to proactively address progressive issues.³³⁷
- November 1997: Danny Rubenstein, a columnist at the Israeli newspaper *Ha’aretz* specializing in the Middle East, gives a lecture, “The Middle East Peace Process through Palestinian Eyes.” Rubenstein calls for Palestinian–Israeli peace as a necessity.³³⁸

³³³ Emily Berquist, “McNamara addresses pertinent issues in Vietnam talk,” *The Miscellany News*, 4 October 1996, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19961004-01.2.29>.

³³⁴ “Person, Place and Thing,” *Vassar Quarterly* 93, no. 1 (1996): 36,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq19961201-01.2.49>.

³³⁵ H.A., “P.E.A.C.E. authorized by VSA,” *The Miscellany News*, 8 November 1996,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19961108-01.2.8>.

³³⁶ Heather Appel, “MAW celebrates cultural diversity,” *The Miscellany News*, 15 November 1996,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19961115-01.2.2>; Miscellany News Editorial Board,

“Symposium offers opportunity students shouldn’t miss,” *The Miscellany News*, 8 November 1996,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19961108-01.2.33>; John Vidal, “Mexico’s Zapatista rebels,

24 years on and defiant in mountain strongholds,” *The Guardian*, 17 February 2018,

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/feb/17/mexico-zapatistas-rebels-24-years-mountain-strongholds>.

³³⁷ Jennifer Higginbotham, “Vassar Gathering held,” *The Miscellany News*, 11 April 1997,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19970411-01.2.5>.

³³⁸ Jennifer Higginbotham, “Diversity celebrated during MAW,” *The Miscellany News*, 21 November 1997,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19971121-01.2.2>.

- 5 December 1997: The new Vassar chapter of the national Students for a Free Tibet holds a benefit concert to raise awareness and money for Tibetan independence and human rights. The event fundraises over \$1,000. Students for a Free Tibet is approved as an official organization by the student government on 29 March 1998.³³⁹

1998

- January 1998: The Feminist Alliance becomes an umbrella organization for the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, the student publication *Womanspeak*, and a left-wing feminist discussion group.³⁴⁰
- 11 February 1998: Bill Baird, a prominent pro-choice activist sometimes called the “Father of the Abortion Movement,” gives a lecture.³⁴¹
- 3 April 1998: Over 400 students sign a petition by the AIDS Education Committee calling for on-campus AIDS testing.³⁴²
- 23 April 1998: Lesléa Newman, author of *Heather Has Two Mommies*, a children’s book about a lesbian couple raising their daughter, delivers a lecture, “Heather’s Mommy Speaks Out.” The event is part of “GAYpril,” sponsored by the Queer Coalition of Vassar College (formerly known as the Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Alliance).³⁴³
- June 1998: The College is awarded the Access Dutchess County Award, which recognizes organizations for exceptional effort to comply with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.³⁴⁴
- 28 September 1998: Reverend Richard C. Witt, Director of the Rural Migrant Ministry, lectures on “The Plight of Migrant Workers in the Hudson Valley.”³⁴⁵

³³⁹ Adam Ferguson, “Tibetan activist group gains momentum on campus,” *The Miscellany News*, 30 January 1998, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19980130-01.2.27>; A.B., “Council authorizes Free Tibet,” *The Miscellany News*, 3 April 1998, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19980403-01.2.9>.

³⁴⁰ Stephanie Litos, “Campus feminists reorganize,” *The Miscellany News*, 23 January 1998, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19980123-01.2.2>.

³⁴¹ Stephanie Litos, “Baird faces death threats, protesters,” *The Miscellany News*, 20 February 1998, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19980220-01.2.18>.

³⁴² Veronika Ruff, “Baldwin looks to implement HIV testing,” *The Miscellany News*, 3 April 1998, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19980403-01.2.5>.

³⁴³ “This Week at Vassar,” *The Miscellany News*, 17 April 1998, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19980417-01.2.54>. On the Queer Coalition’s name change, see “Queer Coalition plans pride week,” *The Miscellany News*, 11 April 1997, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19970411-01.2.11>.

³⁴⁴ Ali Berzon, “College receives access award,” *The Miscellany News*, 2 October 1998, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19981002-01.2.16>.

³⁴⁵ “Sept. 25-Oct. 1 At Vassar,” *The Miscellany News*, 25 September 1998, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19980925-01.2.82>.

- 13 October 1998: Isabel Juarez Espinos and Petrona de la Cruz, co-founders of *La Fortaleza de la Mujer Maya* (Spanish for “The Strength of the Maya Woman”), a theater troupe and community center in Chiapas, Mexico, deliver a lecture, “Empowerment of Mayan Women.”³⁴⁶
- 14 October 1998: The Queer Political Action Committee hosts a vigil for Matthew Shepard, a gay college student recently murdered in Laramie, Wyoming. Around 170 people attend.³⁴⁷
- 17 October 1998: The Board of Trustees passes a policy pledging that the College will “never knowingly purchase such apparel from vendors or manufacturers that use sweatshop labor” and reward business partners who treat their workers ethically. The Student Activist Union has been advocating for such a policy since at least 1997.³⁴⁸
- 5 November 1998: The Intercultural Center is officially renamed the Asian, Latino, African American/Black and Native American (ALANA) Center.³⁴⁹

1999

- 9 February 1999: The Revolutionary Student Movement organizes a rally in response to the 4 February shooting by four New York police officers of Amadou Diallo, an unarmed 23-year-old Guinean student. On 13 February, students protest the shooting at the Dutchess County jail.³⁵⁰
- 23 September 1999: Yale University Professor of History Gilbert M. Joseph delivers a lecture, “Rethinking Mexican Revolutionary Mobilization: Banditry and Peasant Political Consciousness in Yucatan, 1909-1915.”³⁵¹
- 7 October 1999: Former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara delivers a lecture on his book *Argument Without End: In Search of Answers to the Vietnam Tragedy*, co-authored with Vassar Associate Professor of History and Director of International Studies Robert

³⁴⁶ “October 9-15 at Vassar,” *The Miscellany News*, 9 October 1998,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19981009-01.2.76>.

³⁴⁷ Hilary Shroyer, “QPAC hosts vigil in honor of Shepard,” *The Miscellany News*, 30 October 1998,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19981030-01.2.17>.

³⁴⁸ Ben Silverbush, “Sweatshop-free policy announced,” *The Miscellany News*, 20 November 1998,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19981120-01.2.3>.

³⁴⁹ Anu Duggal, “Intercultural Center adopts new name,” *The Miscellany News*, 6 November 1998,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19981106-01.2.4>.

³⁵⁰ “Rally responds to recent Bronx shooting,” *The Miscellany News*, 12 February 1999,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19990212-01.2.3>.

³⁵¹ “Vassar Calendar, September 24-September 30,” *The Miscellany News*, 24 September 1999,

<https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19990924-01.2.57>.

Brigham and Professor of International Relations at the Watson Institute of International Studies at Brown University James Blight.³⁵²

- 12 October 1999: Olu Awoonor-Gordon, editor of the Sierra Leonean newspaper *For Di People*, gives a lecture, “Ending Coups and Wars in Africa: A Journalist’s Experience and Reflections of the Sierra Leone Civil War.”³⁵³
- 22 November 1999: University of California, Berkeley Professor of History Waldo Martin gives a talk, “I, Too, Sing America: The Black Freedom Struggle and the Transformation of American Culture, 1945-1975.”³⁵⁴

2000s

2000

- 10 February 2000: Hunter College Professor Peter Kwong lectures on undocumented Chinese immigrants in the United States.³⁵⁵
- September 2000: Jewish Studies, formerly a correlate sequence, is now offered as a major.³⁵⁶

2001

- 6 April 2001: A few students, in coordination with the Women’s Center, host a conference, with proceeds going to the Manuela Ramos Movement, a Peruvian organization that funds counseling centers, shelters for women who have undergone abuse, and family planning centers throughout Peru.³⁵⁷
- 10 April 2001: Kadiatou Diallo, the mother of Amadou Diallo, a Guinean student who was murdered by four New York police officers in February 1999, gives a talk sponsored by the Black Student Union. Diallo calls for sensitivity training for police to avoid

³⁵² Susan Kerlinger and Olivia Mancini, “Vietnam-era officials, historians, learn their lessons,” *The Miscellany News*, 29 October 1999, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19991029-01.2.26>.

³⁵³ “Vassar Calendar, October 8-October 14,” *The Miscellany News*, 8 October 1999, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19991008-01.2.64>.

³⁵⁴ “Vassar Calendar, November 19-November 23,” *The Miscellany News*, 19 November 1999, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany19991119-01.2.60>.

³⁵⁵ “Vassar Calendar, February 4-February 10,” *The Miscellany News*, 4 February 2000, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20000204-01.2.61>; Xiushi Yang, review of *Forbidden Workers: Illegal Chinese Immigrants and American Labor*, by Peter Kwong, *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal* 8, no. 4 (1999): 538–540, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/011719689900800406>.

³⁵⁶ “Jewish Studies Major is Approved,” *Vassar, the Alumnae/i Quarterly* 96, no. 2 (2000): 9, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq20000301-01.2.22>.

³⁵⁷ Ilene Ivins, “Is feminism stupid?” *The Miscellany News*, 13 April 2001, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20010413-01.2.17>.

killings of unarmed Black people simply because they seem “suspicious,” as well as for police to “know the hopes and fears of their communities.”³⁵⁸

- 19 April 2001: Reverend Michael Lapsley, a South African Anglican priest and activist, gives a lecture, “Memory, Healing and Justice: Creating a New South Africa.”³⁵⁹
- 21 April 2001: The Queer Coalition, in collaboration with Planned Parenthood of the Hudson Valley and the Newburgh-based LGBT and Friends, hosts a high school prom with the theme “Over the Rainbow” as a safe space for queer students. Around sixty-two high schoolers attend.³⁶⁰
- 21–22 April 2001: The Vassar Animal Rescue Coalition protests vivisection on campus; two students cage themselves to represent animals killed in the Biology and Psychology Departments. The protest is in conjunction with World Week for Animals in Laboratories.³⁶¹
- 4 May 2001: Vassar Greens and Students for a Free Tibet sponsor a panel discussion of British Petroleum Amoco’s current projects. The panel includes three experts and three students involved in campaigns against British Petroleum.³⁶²
- 11–14 September 2001: Following al-Qaeda’s attacks on the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and the failed attack on the White House or U.S. Capitol that killed 2,977 people, the Vassar community mobilizes in a variety of ways. On 11 September a television with cable broadcasts, a bank of telephones to call loved ones, and counseling services are set up; a candlelight vigil is held on the night of 11 September. On 12 September, an observance is held in which President Frances Fergusson speaks, the choir sings “*Dona Nobis Pacem* (Grant us peace),” and flowers are placed at the base of a large tree after a silent meditation; the College starts a fundraiser for the Finest and Bravest Foundation, which supports families of police and firefighters killed in the attacks. The College sponsors shuttles to a nearby Red Cross blood drive. On 14 September, students

³⁵⁸ Ruk Velamati, “Amadou Diallo’s mother calls for racial healing,” *The Miscellany News*, 20 April 2001, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20010420-01.2.17>.

³⁵⁹ “No More Rock Trios,” *The Miscellany News*, 13 April 2001, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20010413-01.2.51.1>.

³⁶⁰ Ben Silverbush, “QCVC to host ‘Somewhere Over the Rainbow’ dance,” *The Miscellany News*, 20 April 2001, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20010420-01.2.10>.

³⁶¹ Pulin Modi, “VARC protest,” *The Miscellany News*, 27 April 2001, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20010427-01.2.14>.

³⁶² Melissa Meece, “BP Amoco panel announced,” *The Miscellany News*, 27 April 2001, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20010427-01.2.3>.

begin a drive for items to aid emergency workers, which quickly collects significant donations

- 15–22 September: On 15 September, over 50 students participate in a letter campaign to urge reason and restraint in reactions to the attacks. On 20 September, Vassar joins 133 colleges in a Peaceful Justice Day, promoting the idea that justice for the attacks can come by peaceful means. On 21 September, around 100 Vassar and Poughkeepsie community members march silently through Poughkeepsie, carrying candles and signs advocating peace and tolerance. Over 400 Vassar and Poughkeepsie community members attend a faculty panel on the civil and political implications of the attacks. The College creates a September 11 Task Force. In a letter to U.S. President George W. Bush, many students, faculty, administrators, and staff urge the use of diplomacy, not force, and that the Global War on Terrorism must be a war on domestic ignorance and the perpetrators of the 11 September attacks, not a war on foreign peoples.³⁶³
- October 2001: The College declines to participate in United Way of Dutchess County's annual fundraiser due to the organization's continued support for Boy Scouts of America, which discriminates against gay providers.³⁶⁴
- 8 October 2001: The Vassar Anti-War group leads a silent march of around 100 students, faculty, and community members in protest of the U.S. government's bombing of Afghanistan the day prior. The group begins weekly protests.³⁶⁵
- 12 November 2001: The Vassar Animal Rescue Coalition protests in favor of a "choice policy" for dissection, as well as against animal breeding, experimentation, and killing on campus.³⁶⁶
- 13 November 2001: University of Miami Professor of Political Science Felipe Agüero gives a lecture recounting his torture at the hands of Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet.

³⁶³ "Vassar Community bands together in aftermath of tragedy," *The Miscellany News*, 14 September 2001, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20010914-01.2.7>; Katie Pontius, "Vassar students express concern and show support in various manners," *The Miscellany News*, 21 September 2001, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20010921-01.2.7>; Samantha Soper, "Vassar Reacts," *Vassar, the Alumnae/i Quarterly* 98, no. 1 (2001): 8, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=vq20011201-01.2.17>.

³⁶⁴ Chris Seaman, "Vassar ends its donations to United Way," *The Miscellany News*, 26 October 2001, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20011026-01.2.9>.

³⁶⁵ Katie Aberbach, "SAU's weekly protests," *The Miscellany News*, 30 November 2001, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20011130-01.2.12>.

³⁶⁶ "VARC protests in front of Main," *The Miscellany News*, 16 November 2001, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20011116-01.2.11>.

He argues that Chile remains unable to confront its past and contend with the horrors of the Pinochet dictatorship.³⁶⁷

2002

- 5 February 2002: Justice Albie Sachs of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, a renowned human rights lawyer who fought against the apartheid regime, gives a lecture, “South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission.”³⁶⁸
- 17 September 2002: Yale University Professor of International Law Harold Koh delivers a lecture, “One Year After 9/11: The Impact on Civil and Political Rights,” in which he critiques the Bush administration for waging war without a real objective and for compromising civil liberties in pursuit of national security.³⁶⁹

2003

- 22 February 2003: The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life co-sponsors a benefit concert with the Rural Migrant Ministry, “In Tune for Farmworker Justice.”³⁷⁰
- 25 February 2003: Vassar College Think Tank holds its second discussion, “Does campus security racially profile?”³⁷¹
- 22 March 2003: Vassar President Frances Fergusson publicly signs the widely-published “Not In Our Name” statement in opposition to the Iraq War.³⁷²
- 24–28 March 2003: The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life holds Vigils for Peace to foster reflection on the Iraq War.³⁷³
- 26 March 2003: The College sponsors a “Day of Information, Discussion, and Concern,” including informal discussions in each residence hall and a faculty panel discussion, “The War in Iraq: An All College Panel Discussion.”³⁷⁴

³⁶⁷ Marcie Braden, “Felipe Agüero speaks out,” *The Miscellany News*, 16 November 2001, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20011116-01.2.8>.

³⁶⁸ Sarah Hanson, “Equal Rights Awareness Week begins today,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 February 2002, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20020201-01.2.10>.

³⁶⁹ Laura Attanasio and Katie Aberbach, “College hosts Harold Koh Lecture: One Year After 9/11,” *The Miscellany News*, 27 September 2002, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20020927-01.2.28>.

³⁷⁰ Jen Dixon, “Concert to benefit farmworkers’ rights,” *The Miscellany News*, 21 February 2003, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20030221-01.2.13>.

³⁷¹ J.D., “Second think tank discussion scheduled,” *The Miscellany News*, 21 February 2003, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20030221-01.2.6>.

³⁷² Jen Dixon, “Campus events respond to war,” *The Miscellany News*, 28 March 2003, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20030328-01.2.11>.

³⁷³ Dixon, “Campus events.”

³⁷⁴ Dixon, “Campus events.”

- 7 April 2003: After a referendum vote by the student body, the Vassar Student Association adopts an official anti-Iraq War position.³⁷⁵
- 1 December 2003: Iraqi journalist Amal Al-Khedairy and historian Nermin Al-Mufti give talks about their positions on the Iraq War, the current U.S. occupation, and the role of women before and after the rule of Saddam Hussein. The event is sponsored by the Women's Center.³⁷⁶

2004

- February 2004: Vassar Democracy Matters holds events on campus such as voter registration and campaign finance education in anticipation of upcoming elections; the group also actively lobbies the Poughkeepsie City Council to support the Ortiz-Patterson Clean Elections Bill, which gives public funding to all New York State elections.³⁷⁷
- 18 February 2004: The Campus Life Resource Group hosts the fourth annual All College Day, with the theme "Race at Vassar."³⁷⁸
- 15 April 2004: Soon Ok Lee, who was imprisoned in a North Korean prison for five years after admitting to false charges of embezzling state property under torture, gives a talk on humanitarian issues and her experiences in prison.³⁷⁹
- 27 September 2004: Co-Coordinator of Multicultural Recruitment Krystal Tribbett discusses the College's recruitment policy for students of color in the ALANA Center.³⁸⁰
- 12–14 November 2004: The Jewish Alumnae/i of Vassar College host a program, "Jewish Identities: At Vassar and Beyond," to connect the College's Jewish past to its present. The event is the Jewish Alumnae/i organization's first on campus.³⁸¹

³⁷⁵ Simon Craven, "Student concerned about VSA statement on war," *The Miscellany News*, 11 April 2003, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20030411-01.2.31>; Sarah Hanson, "VSA Council responds to war in Iraq," *The Miscellany News*, 4 April 2003, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20030404-01.2.9>.

³⁷⁶ Ariel Schwartz, "Iraqi activists speak on panel," *The Miscellany News*, 5 December 2003, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20031205-01.2.5>.

³⁷⁷ Fabian Arzuaga, "Students attend annual Democracy Matters Summit," *The Miscellany News*, 20 February 2004, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20040220-01.2.13>.

³⁷⁸ Walter Padilla, "All College Day aims to unify the campus," *The Miscellany News*, 13 February 2004, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20040213-01.2.15>.

³⁷⁹ John Palmer, "Survivor of North Korean prisons speaks on human rights," *The Miscellany News*, 9 April 2004, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20040409-01.2.13>.

³⁸⁰ Anita Varma, "Admissions focuses on race diversity," *The Miscellany News*, 8 October 2004, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20041008-01.2.6>.

³⁸¹ Hayley Tsukayama, "Jewish Alumni Organization hosts conference on identity Nov. 12-14," *The Miscellany News*, 12 November 2004, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20041112-01.2.7>.

- 17 November 2004: About 20 students from the Vassar chapter of Habitat for Humanity sleep on the Quad to raise awareness about the houselessness crisis.³⁸²

2005

- 24 February 2005: More than a dozen students in the Vassar Anti-War Group hold a “die-in” to protest the presence of U.S. Army recruiters on Vassar’s campus, both in an anti-war effort and to protest the discrimination against gays in the military. They lie on the floor in front of the Career Development Office in white t-shirts splattered in red paint.³⁸³
- April 2005: A Haitian art sale, run by the Vassar Haiti Project, sells 150 out of 210 paintings, raising \$40,000 to go towards a school in the impoverished Haitian village of Chermaitre.³⁸⁴
- 18 April 2005: Over 100 Vassar students and workers gather for a panel titled “The Great Untold: A Day in Tribute to Vassar’s Employees.” They speak in support of a living wage for Vassar workers.³⁸⁵
- 20 April 2005: History Professor Emeritus at American University and Africana Studies scholar Bernice Johnson Reagon give a talk titled “Lifting High Every Voice: Race and Community in the American Experience.”³⁸⁶
- 16 September 2005: Vassar’s Tsunami Relief Task Force successfully raises \$9,900, 83 percent of their total goal, to go towards building a school in Kirinda, Sri Lanka, which a tsunami ravaged the previous December, leaving more than 4,000 Sri Lankan children homeless and orphaned. The school is projected to open within the next month.³⁸⁷
- 23–30 September 2005: The Community Works Campaign raises over \$10,000 in its first week and donates \$7,000 of that to the Red Cross, earmarked specifically for hurricane

³⁸² Judy Jarvis, “Habitat sleeps on Quad to raise awareness,” *The Miscellany News*, 3 December 2004, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20041203-01.2.31>.

³⁸³ Jonah Evans, ““Die-In” protests military recruitment on campus,” *The Miscellany News*, 2 March 2005, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20050302-01.2.7>.

³⁸⁴ “Jamie Rosen, “Haitian art sale and auction raise \$40,000,” *The Miscellany News*, 15 April 2005, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20050415-01.2.26>.

³⁸⁵ Aaron Biberstein and Anita Varma, “Students organize panel on workers at Vassar,” *The Miscellany News*, 22 April 2005, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20050422-01.2.4>.

³⁸⁶ Dan Morgan, “Africana Studies activist gives talk on community,” *The Miscellany News*, 29 April 2005, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20050429-01.2.21>.

³⁸⁷ Asya Magazinnik, “School funded by TRTF to open in Sri Lanka,” *The Miscellany News*, 16 September 2005, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20050916-01.2.4>.

relief efforts. The College matches that contribution, donating an additional \$7,000 to Dillard College, an HBCU in New Orleans.³⁸⁸

- 2 November 2005: Three organizations at Vassar—the Asian Students Association, the South Asian Students Alliance, and the Global Relief Group—organize a candlelight vigil for the more than 70,000 victims of a recent earthquake in Kashmir.³⁸⁹
- 9 November 2005: Over 115 students, faculty, administrators and others associated with the College gather in the Retreat for an anti-racism rally held by Vassar’s Students Allied for Equity and Justice.³⁹⁰
- 15–16 November 2005: An exhibition on the Iraq War, titled “Eyes Wide Open: Beyond Fear—Towards Hope” opens on the Alumnae Lawn. It is meant to highlight the human cost of the war, and features the boots of deceased American soldiers in columns, next to shoes meant to represent deceased Iraqi civilians.³⁹¹

2006

- March 2006: Dean of the College Judy Jackson approves the request made by the Black student group, the African Violets to let them march in the processional at the 2006 Commencement.³⁹²
- 5 April 2006: Students and faculty discuss the necessity and merits of an Ethnic Studies department being introduced at Vassar, with the Ethnic Studies Coalition pushing for the formation of such a department.³⁹³
- 23 April 2006: The Vassar Student Association passes a sexual assault resolution supporting Counseling and Assistance in Response to Rape and Exploitative Sexual Activity and Sexual Abuse and Violence Prevention.³⁹⁴

³⁸⁸ Rachel Wolff, “Campaign gives advance share to Red Cross for hurricane relief,” *The Miscellany News*, 30 September 2005, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20050930-01.2.31>.

³⁸⁹ Asya Magazinnik, “Earthquake in South Asia, College responds,” *The Miscellany News*, 4 November 2005, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20051104-01.2.5>.

³⁹⁰ Juliana Kiyon, “Student rally against racism held in Retreat,” *The Miscellany News*, 18 November 2005, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20051118-01.2.7>.

³⁹¹ Ilyse Kramer, “‘Eyes Wide Open’ exhibition on Iraq War comes to Vassar,” *The Miscellany News*, 11 November 2005, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20051111-01.2.12>.

³⁹² Anita Varma, “African Violets to march at Commencement,” *The Miscellany News*, 31 March 2006, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20060331-01.2.4>.

³⁹³ Juliana Kiyon, “Ethnic Studies Coalition continues on campus,” *The Miscellany News*, 7 April 2006, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20060407-01.2.7>.

³⁹⁴ Joe Rozek, “VSA adopts sexual assault resolution,” *The Miscellany News*, 28 April 2006, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20060428-01.2.6>.

- 1 May 2006: Vassar students, in tandem with Poughkeepsie immigration activists, “organize a... march in support of the millions of undocumented workers in the United States.”³⁹⁵
- September 2006: Vassar is voted among the top 100 schools for gay acceptance by LGBTQ magazine *The Advocate*.³⁹⁶
- 11 September 2006: Students observe the five year anniversary of 9/11 with a commemoration at the Garden of Peace.³⁹⁷
- 14 October 2006: The Vassar Board of Trustees “approve[s] the prohibition of direct investment by the College in 22 companies that are either owned by the Sudanese government or whose business activities perpetuate the genocide against the people of the Darfur region.”³⁹⁸
- 17 November 2006: Vassar’s Hunger Action hosts the Peanut Butter Jam, where students make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to hand out to hungry community members and attempt to raise awareness of the global hunger crisis, as well as problems locally. The Peanut Butter Jam is held again in 2008.³⁹⁹
- 20 November 2006: Members of Vassar’s Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/Chicana de Aztlán (MECha) run a teach-in and march to show support for the people of Oaxaca, Mexico, and solidarity with the Zapatista Army of National Liberation. It comes after the deaths and disappearances of Mexican citizens by the military, and the goal of MECha is to bring attention to an issue not covered extensively by United States mass media.⁴⁰⁰

³⁹⁵ Joshua Ferguson, “Students to march for immigrants’ rights,” *The Miscellany News*, 28 April 2006, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20060428-01.2.5>.

³⁹⁶ Jessica Hughes, “Vassar makes the grade in *The Advocate*,” *The Miscellany News*, 15 September 2006, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20060915-01.2.22>.

³⁹⁷ Christine Vines, “College commemorates Sept. 11 anniversary with Garden of Peace,” *The Miscellany News*, 15 September 2006, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20060915-01.2.5>.

³⁹⁸ Juliana Kiyani, “College bars investment tied to Sudan government,” *The Miscellany News*, 17 November 2006, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20061117-01.2.15>.

³⁹⁹ Jenny Nigro, “Hunger Action provides nourishment for community,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 December 2006, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20061201-01.2.24>; “Weekly Calendar 2/29-3/6,” *The Miscellany News*, 28 February 2008, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20080228-01.2.41>.

⁴⁰⁰ Nadine Reitman, “MECha protests killings in Mexico with teach-in, candlelight march,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 December 2006, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20061201-01.2.4>.

2007

- 16 February 2007: *The Miscellany News* notes that since its establishment in 2002, the Vassar Haiti Project has raised over \$200,000 “towards educating children in Chermaitre.”⁴⁰¹
- 22 February 2007: Queer Vassar students establish *The Vassar Quo*, a “weekly blog dedicated to political and cultural issues and events concerning the LGBTQ community at Vassar and beyond.”⁴⁰²
- 22 February 2007: ACT OUT, Vassar’s queer student activist group, holds a silent vigil “to support ACT OUT’s former president Curtis Peterson ’08, who is participating in the 2007 Soulforce Equality Ride.”⁴⁰³ The Soulforce Equality Ride is a bus tour young adults take around the country trying to drum up support for LGBTQ issues and face religion-based discrimination and violence against queer people.⁴⁰⁴
- 23–30 April 2007: During Vassar’s Sexual Assault Awareness program week, Vassar’s Committee on College Life makes revisions to the College’s sexual assault policy, broadening definitions of assault and stalking, and expanding victim protection.⁴⁰⁵
- 30 April–1 May 2007: Vassar’s May Day Working Group organizes a number of activities for International Workers’ Day. They put up a wall declaring “no human is illegal” with the names of immigrants who died trying to come to the United States, which Vassar students are encouraged to engage with and sign. Lydia Savage, Professor at University of Maine, lectures on “the role of women in unions.” The following day, students organize a march going from the College’s campus to the Family Partnership Center in Poughkeepsie, where they chant and hold signs in favor of workers’ rights.⁴⁰⁶
- 1–2 November: Vassar’s Hunger Action hosts two events to bring attention to the hunger crisis, and specifically how it is impacted by geography. They host “Geopardy” on 1

⁴⁰¹ Tendai Musakwa, “Haiti Project a role model for international charity,” *The Miscellany News*, 16 February 2007, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20070216-01.2.21>.

⁴⁰² Sarah Siegel, “Students launch two new Queer publications,” *The Miscellany News*, 23 February 2007, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20070223-01.2.22>.

⁴⁰³ Stephen Cheng, “ACT OUT demonstrates in Retreat,” *The Miscellany News*, 2 March 2007, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20070302-01.2.7>.

⁴⁰⁴ “Who We Are,” *Soulforce*, accessed 4 May 2025, <https://soulforce.org/about/who-we-are/>.

⁴⁰⁵ Stephen Cheng, “Sexual Assault Awareness Week sees changes in College’s policies,” *The Miscellany News*, 4 May 2007, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20070504-01.2.8>.

⁴⁰⁶ Brian Farkas, “International Workers’ Day inspires march through Poughkeepsie,” *The Miscellany News*, 4 May 2007, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20070504-01.2.5>.

November, and the following day organize a sleep-out along with other student groups including Habitat for Humanity, Operation Donation, and Class Issues Alliance.⁴⁰⁷

2008:

- 31 March–5 April 2008: Vassar hosts the Prison Focus Week, bringing together “faculty members, students, alumnae/i and formerly incarcerated people in an effort to raise awareness of the problems with America’s penal system and reinforce understanding and commitment to a diverse population.”⁴⁰⁸
- 24 April 2008: Jeffrey Sachs, advisor to the United Nations and international economist, lectures on global poverty. His presence at the College is arranged by Operation Donation.⁴⁰⁹
- Summer 2008: Vassar’s Office of Disability and Support Services decides to adhere to the guidelines of Universal Design, a system designed to create a more accessible and barrier-free environment. They install more accessible sidewalks, accessible lifts, magnetic “hold-opens” on doors, and accessible ramps.⁴¹⁰
- 6 October 2008: Vassar’s chapter of disability support and social awareness organization Eye to Eye organizes a panel discussion titled “Breaking the Silence: What Students With Disabilities Have Been Waiting to Tell You.”⁴¹¹
- 6 October 2008: Human rights activist and author John Prendergast gives a lecture titled “What You Can Do to End the Genocide in Darfur.”⁴¹²
- 11 October 2008: Vassar hosts a human rights symposium sponsored by the Alumnae/i Association of Vassar College. The symposium is titled “In Small Places Close to Home: Americans Struggle for Human Rights.”⁴¹³

⁴⁰⁷ Acacia O’Connor, “Geopardy, Sleep-Out seek to inform campus,” *The Miscellany News*, 2 November 2007, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20071102-01.2.22>.

⁴⁰⁸ Stephanie Damon-Moore, “Social justice meets criminal justice,” *The Miscellany News*, 10 April 2008, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20080410-01.2.24>.

⁴⁰⁹ Brian Farkas, “Jeffrey Sachs to lecture on global poverty,” *The Miscellany News*, 24 April 2008, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20080424-01.2.7>.

⁴¹⁰ Ruby Cramer, “College seeks to improve access for students with disabilities,” *The Miscellany News*, 11 September 2008, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20080911-01.2.25>.

⁴¹¹ Vanora Estridge, “Panel talks about disabilities,” *The Miscellany News*, 9 October 2008, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20081009-01.2.7>.

⁴¹² Charlie Dobb, “Prendergast tells students how to help in Darfur,” *The Miscellany News*, 9 October 2008, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20081009-01.2.9>.

⁴¹³ Stephanie Mischell, “Vassar to host human rights forum,” *The Miscellany News*, 9 October 2008, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20081009-01.2.26>.

- 13 November 2008: Vassar adopts a policy allowing undocumented students to apply to the College, promising that the applications of those students will be given the same consideration as all other applications.⁴¹⁴
- 24 November 2008: Vassar's Office of Religious and Spiritual Life works with Hunger Action Network of New York State to organize the sixth annual Hunger Awareness Fast, taking place in the Rose Parlor. Its purpose is to draw attention to world hunger, as well as local hunger. Students also can harvest food from the Poughkeepsie Farm Project to help feed hungry Poughkeepsie residents.⁴¹⁵
- 20–27 November 2008: Vassar's Hunger Action arranges for students to "adopt" a family, giving \$35–40 to fund a full Thanksgiving dinner for a family in need.⁴¹⁶
- 4 December 2008: The Vassar Haiti Project arranges a benefit dinner and open mic to raise money for the world-wide effort to rebuild Haiti following the 27 August 2008 Hurricane Gustav.⁴¹⁷

2009

- 3–5 April 2009: The annual Haitian Art Auction shows at the Palmer Gallery, with over 300 paintings, handcrafts, sculptures, and hand-painted silk scarves available for sale.⁴¹⁸
- 7 April 2009: Raymond Offenheiser, president of Oxfam America, speaks to students about global warming and poverty.⁴¹⁹
- 20 May 2009: Starting in 2009, graduating seniors are able to attend the Lavender Grad Reception to celebrate and show solidarity with LGBTQ Vassar students.⁴²⁰
- September 2009: The College establishes a Native American Studies correlate sequence under the American Studies Department.⁴²¹

⁴¹⁴ Molly Turpin, "College adopts undocumented students policy," *The Miscellany News*, 20 November 2008, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20081120-01.2.9>.

⁴¹⁵ Stuart Akers Jr., "Annual Hunger Fast strives to raise awareness about poverty," *The Miscellany News*, 20 November 2008, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20081120-01.2.26>.

⁴¹⁶ Kara Voght, "Hunger Action to give Thanksgiving dinners to local families," *The Miscellany News*, 20 November 2008, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20081120-01.2.29>.

⁴¹⁷ Erik Lorenzsonn, "Vassar Haiti Project aims to open minds with Open Mic," *The Miscellany News*, 4 December 2008, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20081204-01.2.33>.

⁴¹⁸ Eric Schuman, "Haitian Art Auction brings culture to campus," *The Miscellany News*, 2 April 2009, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20090402-01.2.43>.

⁴¹⁹ Julianne Herts, "Oxfam America President will discuss challenges of global poverty," *The Miscellany News*, 2 April 2009, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20090402-01.2.10>.

⁴²⁰ Molly Turpin, "Lavender Grad Reception celebrates LGBTQI graduates," *The Miscellany News*, 24 May 2009, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20090524-01.2.10>.

⁴²¹ William Hoynes and Jenna Nackel, "History of the American Culture Program at Vassar College," Vassar 150, Vassar College, January 2011,

- 26 September 2009: The African Students Union, Vassar Jewish Union, and Students Taking Action Now Darfur sponsor the Dunk for Darfur fundraiser. Dunk for Darfur, a basketball tournament, both raises money towards ending the genocide in Sudan and raises awareness of the issue.⁴²²

2010s

2010

- 31 January 2010: Students attend a vigil on the Chapel Lawn following the Port-au-Prince earthquake in Haiti on 12 January 2010, which killed over 200,000 people.⁴²³
- 24 April 2010: The Vassar Haiti Project and the College Department of Music team up to present a benefit concert titled “Harmony and Hope: A Musical Bridge to Haiti.” Proceeds from the concert go towards rebuilding the Holy Trinity Music School in Haiti.⁴²⁴
- 2 December 2010: Vassar students listen to a lecture by Dr. Philip Thiuri, former Vassar professor and Professor of Geography at William Paterson University, on the desperate need for literacy in Kenya. His lecture is sponsored by Vassar’s Operation Donation, and its goal is to help improve “quality of life for indigent populations across the globe.”⁴²⁵
- 2 December 2010: *The Miscellany News* brings attention to Challah for Hunger, which on a weekly basis bakes and sells challah bread. They give half of the proceeds to the American Jewish World Service’s Sudan Relief and Advocacy fund, which arranges aid in Darfur, while the other half of the money goes to the Dutchess Community Outreach Center to provide humanitarian aid in the area.⁴²⁶

<https://150.vassar.edu/histories/american-culture/#:~:text=During%20the%202005/06%20academic%20year%2C%20the%20American,partly%20in%20response%20to%20student%20concerns%20about.>

⁴²² Lillian Reuman, “Dunk for Darfur nets athleticism and awareness,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 October 2009, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20091001-01.2.65>.

⁴²³ “Weekly Calendar: 1/28-2/3,” *The Miscellany News*, 28 January 2010, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20100128-01.2.45>.

⁴²⁴ Jenna Konstantine, “VHP, Music Dept to join for benefit,” *The Miscellany News*, 22 April 2010, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20100422-01.2.51>.

⁴²⁵ Matthew Brock, “Thiuri’s lecture focuses on need for literacy in Kenya,” *The Miscellany News*, 9 December 2010, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20101209-01.2.14>.

⁴²⁶ Danielle Bukowski, “Challah for Hunger cooks for a cause, rises to the occasion,” *The Miscellany News*, 2 December 2010, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20101202-01.2.16>.

2011

- 11 February 2011: Hundreds of students gather for a teach-in by Vassar faculty on “the struggle for democratic reform in Egypt.” The teach-in was also a way of showing solidarity for the freedom struggles in Tunisia and Egypt.⁴²⁷
- 1 March 2011: Stephen J. Rapp, Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues, lectures at the College on the importance of bringing war criminals to justice.⁴²⁸
- 2 March 2011: Filmmaker Dustin Lance Black, creator of *Milk* (a biopic of Harvey Milk), lectures on LGBTQ issues, his own upbringing as a gay man in a Mormon community, and filmmaking.⁴²⁹
- 22 March 2011: Winifred Tate, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Colby College, lectures on “violence in Colombia and the ongoing women’s movement to bring peace.”⁴³⁰
- 25 March 2011: The Vassar Japan Relief group coordinates a teach-in on the recent earthquake in Tōhoku, Japan, that killed nearly 20,000 people. Less than a week after the formation of the Vassar Japan Relief group, it raises nearly \$1,000.⁴³¹
- 26 October 2011: Keith McHenry, co-founder of Food Not Bombs, speaks to Vassar students about his organization, which he calls “a non-violent direct action group.”⁴³²

2012

- 1 March 2012: Somewhere between seventy and 100 Vassar students join the National Day of Action for Education. They hope to call attention to the importance of education, its nature as a fundamental human right, and the systemic issues that exist within the United States’ K-12 system and higher education. They rally against student debt and tuition hikes.⁴³³

⁴²⁷ Joey Rearick, “Faculty host teach-in on Egyptian protests,” *The Miscellany News*, 17 February 2011, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20110217-01.2.5>.

⁴²⁸ Breanna Amorde, “Rapp emphasizes importance of justice,” *The Miscellany News*, 24 February 2011, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20110224-01.2.11>.

⁴²⁹ Jack Owen, “Writer Dustin Lance Black to lecture on LGBTQ issues,” *The Miscellany News*, 24 February 2011, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20110224-01.2.39>.

⁴³⁰ Matthew Brock, “Tate lectures on Colombian violence, peace movements,” *The Miscellany News*, 24 March 2011, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20110324-01.2.11>.

⁴³¹ Joey Rearick, “Second teach-in focuses on Japan,” *The Miscellany News*, 31 March 2011, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20110331-01.2.5>.

⁴³² Danielle Bukowski, “Food not Bombs founder Henry aims for social change,” *The Miscellany News*, 3 November 2011, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20111103-01.2.22>.

⁴³³ Leighton Suen, “Students protest for education equality,” *The Miscellany News*, 22 March 2012, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20120322-01.2.11>.

- September 2012: A newly hired full-time Support, Advocacy, and Violence Prevention coordinator begins working, following a pause where no such role existed after the expiration of funding in 2009 from the Justice Department.⁴³⁴
- September 2012: The College hires an alumna, Judy Jarvis '07, for the position of Assistant Director for Campus Life/LGBTQ and Gender Resources. Jarvis's position also includes the "newly-created role of Women's Center Coordinator."⁴³⁵

2013

- 21 January 2013: Vassar students and Poughkeepsie community members protest in favor of youth program funding and against expansion plans for the Dutchess County Jail in the eighteenth annual Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. March for Social and Economic Justice. On 22 January, the group pressures legislators to oppose jail expansion at the County Legislature office building.⁴³⁶
- 1–3 February 2013: Students for Critical Animal Studies hosts the First Annual Student Conference for Critical Animal Studies, which discusses the importance of advocating for animal rights.⁴³⁷
- 10 February 2013: The Vassar Student Association votes unanimously to create an expanded, centralized Women's Center.⁴³⁸
- 19 February 2013: The College holds All College Day, with the theme "Race, Privilege, and Power."⁴³⁹
- 6 April 2013: The Political Science Department and Social Action Committee of the Congregation Shir Cadash of the Hudson Valley host a faculty discussion panel, "What's Up With Gun Violence In The United States?," interrogating the roots of U.S. gun

⁴³⁴ Mary Huber and Hannah Blume, "Changes to sexual assault procedures improve VC response," *The Miscellany News*, 5 April 2012, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20120405-01.2.18>.

⁴³⁵ Danielle Bukowski, "VC hires new SAVP, LGBT coordinators," *The Miscellany News*, 13 September 2012, <https://newspaperarchives.vassar.edu/?a=d&d=miscellany20120913-01.2.2>.

⁴³⁶ Rachael Borné, "Dutchess community protests jail expansion," *The Miscellany News*, 7 February 2013, <https://miscellanynews.org/2013/02/07/features/community-protests-jail-expansion/>.

⁴³⁷ Carrie Plover and Leighton Suen, "Animal Studies Conference highlights need for advocacy," *The Miscellany News*, 7 February 2013, <https://miscellanynews.org/2013/02/07/news/animal-studies-conference-highlights-need-for-advocacy/>.

⁴³⁸ Leighton Suen, "Council endorses proposal to expand Women's Center," *The Miscellany News*, 13 February 2013, <https://miscellanynews.org/2013/02/13/news/council-endorses-proposal-to-expand-womens-center/>.

⁴³⁹ Bethan Johnson and Noble Ingram, "All College Day panels engages issues of racial equity," *The Miscellany News*, 20 February 2013, <https://miscellanynews.org/2013/02/20/news/all-college-day-panels-engages-issues-of-racial-equity/>; Bethan Johnson, "Tim Wise condemns 'white obliviousness,'" *The Miscellany News*, 20 February 2013, <https://miscellanynews.org/2013/02/20/news/tim-wise-condemns-white-obliviousness/>.

violence.⁴⁴⁰

- 9 April 2013: The Rural Migrant Ministry hosts a panel and march, “Shield the Fields: Equality Tour Discussion and Vigil,” in support of farmworkers’ rights.⁴⁴¹
- 11 April 2013: J. J. Suh, Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, gives a lecture on U.S.–North Korean relations. Suh argues that the volatile relationship is due to actions from both the United States and North Korea, but that the United States’ role is often ignored.⁴⁴²
- 16 April 2013: In response to homophobic graffiti written on a wall of the LGBTQ Center, the Campus Life Response Team holds two open houses in which around 60 students write messages in support of the LGBTQ Center and the larger LGBTQ community on Post-It notes as an action to reclaim the Center.⁴⁴³
- 19 April 2013: About 40 people attend a teach-in by the Vassar Haiti Project and Amnesty International, “Making International Development Work?”⁴⁴⁴
- September 2013: The Campus Life Response Team adds a Bias Incident Response Team, a team of administrators, students, and faculty to ensure victims of bias incidents have access to the appropriate resources.⁴⁴⁵
- September 2013: Vassar Students for Justice in Palestine is established.⁴⁴⁶
- 7 September 2013: The Queer Coalition holds Gays of Our Lives, an annual orientation event to teach incoming freshman about the various sexual orientations represented on campus and encourage students to identity however they wish.⁴⁴⁷
- 26 September 2013: The College holds a panel commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of

⁴⁴⁰ Bethan Johnson, “Panel discusses gun issue,” *The Miscellany News*, 10 April 2013, <https://miscellanynews.org/2013/04/10/news/panel-discusses-gun-issue/>.

⁴⁴¹ Noble Ingram, “Farmers, students push for equality,” *The Miscellany News*, 10 April 2013, <https://miscellanynews.org/2013/04/10/news/farmers-students-push-for-equality/>.

⁴⁴² Ben Hoffman, “Speaker discusses US–North Korean volatile relationship,” *The Miscellany News*, 17 April 2013, <https://miscellanynews.org/2013/04/17/news/speaker-discusses-us-north-korean-volatile-relationship/>.

⁴⁴³ Anna Iovine, “LGBTQ Center vandalized,” *The Miscellany News*, 17 April 2013, <https://miscellanynews.org/2013/04/17/news/lgbtq-center-vandalized/>.

⁴⁴⁴ Anna Iovine, “VHP teach-in challenges idea of ‘developing’ nations,” *The Miscellany News*, 24 April 2013, <https://miscellanynews.org/2013/04/24/news/vhp-teach-in-challenges-idea-of-developing-nations/>.

⁴⁴⁵ Emily Hoffman, “New team serves to investigate bias incidents on campus,” *The Miscellany News*, 25 September 2013, <https://miscellanynews.org/2013/09/25/news/new-team-serves-to-investigate-bias-incidents-on-campus/>.

⁴⁴⁶ “SJP 101” lecture, Vassar Students for Justice in Palestine, 26 February 2025.

⁴⁴⁷ Anna Iovine, “‘Gays of Our Lives’ facilitates discussion on sexuality,” *The Miscellany News*, 11 September 2013, <https://miscellanynews.org/2013/09/11/news/gays-of-our-lives-facilitates-discussion-on-sexuality/>.

the March on Washington, which took place on 30 August 1963.⁴⁴⁸

- 21 October 2013: Diane Putnam, United States Agency for International Development Mission Director of the Democratic Republic of Congo, gives a lecture on the immense difficulties of life for women in the Congo and how the U.S. government and organizations can help.⁴⁴⁹
- 15–16 November 2013: The College hosts the Consortium on Higher Education and Success Black and Latino Males Conference, at which over 100 students from across the country discuss setbacks faced by students of color in higher education, as well as possible solutions.⁴⁵⁰
- 18 November 2013: Wilfred W. Labiosa, a Ph.D. candidate at Simmons College of Social Work, gives a lecture, “From Imprisonment to Acceptance: the GLBT Movement in Cuba.”⁴⁵¹

2014

- 24 January 2014: The College holds a panel discussing how the Internet has shaped Black art, activism, and academics.⁴⁵²
- February 2014: Vassar Jewish Union declares itself an Open Hillel.⁴⁵³
- 5 February 2014: Students circulate a petition calling for greater Asian and Asian American voices in the Women’s Studies Program.⁴⁵⁴
- 17–19 February 2014: The College hosts All College Day, with the Theme “(Un)silencing Voices.” Topics of discussion include cultivating inner resilience, cyber culture, classism, social identity, racial justice at Vassar, and providing the language and

⁴⁴⁸ Anna Iovine and Shelia Hu, “Local marchers reflect on 50 years of race relations,” *The Miscellany News*, 2 October 2013, <https://miscellanynews.org/2013/10/02/news/local-marchers-reflect-on-50-years-of-race-relations/>.

⁴⁴⁹ Debbie Altman and Maggie Jeffers, “Lecture highlights women’s issues in Congolese society,” *The Miscellany News*, 23 October 2013, <https://miscellanynews.org/2013/10/23/news/lecture-highlights-womens-issues-in-congolese-society/>.

⁴⁵⁰ Shelia Hu and Debbie Altman, “Consortium lobbies for social justice in higher education,” *The Miscellany News*, 20 November 2013, <https://miscellanynews.org/2013/11/20/news/consortium-lobbies-for-social-justice-in-higher-education/>.

⁴⁵¹ Anna Iovine and Emily Hoffman, “Scholar compares LGBTQ movements of U.S. and Cuba,” *The Miscellany News*, 20 November 2013, <https://miscellanynews.org/2013/11/20/news/scholar-compares-lgbtq-movements-of-u-s-and-cuba/>.

⁴⁵² Shelia Hu, “Talk hones in on Black activism,” *The Miscellany News*, 29 January 2014, <https://miscellanynews.org/2014/01/29/news/talk-hones-in-on-black-activism/>.

⁴⁵³ Anna Iovine, “Vassar Jewish Union becomes Open Hillel,” *The Miscellany News*, 26 February 2014, <https://miscellanynews.org/2014/02/26/news/vassar-jewish-union-becomes-open-hillel/>.

⁴⁵⁴ Noble Ingram, “Petition seeks Asian inclusion,” *The Miscellany News*, 12 February 2014, <https://miscellanynews.org/2014/02/12/news/petition-seeks-asian-inclusion/>.

information needed to understand racism. Janet Mock, a transgender woman and transgender rights activist, gives the keynote lecture.⁴⁵⁵

- 31 March 2014: Sayed Kashua, a Palestinian citizen of Israel and award-winning author, journalist, and peace activist, delivers a lecture.⁴⁵⁶
- 20 May 2014: Over 200 students attend a panel, “Does Racial Profiling Happen Here: Cappy Answers to Recent Bias Incidents.”⁴⁵⁷
- 3 November 2014: Gershon Baskin, an Israeli writer and peace activist, gives a lecture.⁴⁵⁸
- 3–4 November 2014: The LGBTQ Center offers two workshops on transgender allyship for the second time.⁴⁵⁹
- 6 November 2014: Kathy Boudin, an Adjunct Professor at the Columbia University School of Social Work, gives a lecture on her experiences in prison and calls for better treatment of prisoners as well as a shift in the U.S. punitive model from retributive to rehabilitative.⁴⁶⁰
- 7 November 2014: Ivan Karakashian of Defense for the Children International-Palestine and Danielle Yaor of Shministim, an organization of young Israelis who refused mandatory military service, give lectures entitled “Militarism and Refusal in Israel.”⁴⁶¹
- 16–22 November 2014: The Vassar Animal Rights Coalition hosts an event week, “The Terrorization of Dissent.”⁴⁶²
- 24 November 2014: Around 150 students and staff rally in the dining hall in support of dining hall workers’ cause for improved labor conditions and treatment by

⁴⁵⁵ Shelia Hu, “Dialogue equips community with tools to combat racism,” *The Miscellany News*, 19 February 2014, <https://miscellanynews.org/2014/02/19/news/dialogue-equips-community-with-tools-to-combat-racism/>; Anna Iovine, “Janet Mock imparts her story,” *The Miscellany News*, 19 February 2014, <https://miscellanynews.org/2014/02/19/news/janet-mock-imparts-her-story/>.

⁴⁵⁶ Justine Woods, “Palestinian-Israeli television creator shares insights, stories,” *The Miscellany News*, 2 April 2014, <https://miscellanynews.org/2014/04/02/news/palestinian-israeli-television-creator-shares-insights-stories/>.

⁴⁵⁷ Marie Solis, “Panel examines racial profiling,” *The Miscellany News*, 24 May 2014, <https://miscellanynews.org/2014/05/24/news/panel-examines-racial-profiling/>.

⁴⁵⁸ Rhys Johnson, “Baskin supports ‘possible’ two state-solution in talk,” *The Miscellany News*, 5 November 2014, <https://miscellanynews.org/2014/11/05/news/baskin-supports-possible-two-state-solution-in-talk/>.

⁴⁵⁹ Aja Saalfeld, “Students explore breadth of allyship in Trans Ally Training,” *The Miscellany News*, 5 November 2014, <https://miscellanynews.org/2014/11/05/news/students-explore-breadth-of-allyship-in-trans-ally-training/>.

⁴⁶⁰ Rhys Johnson, “NY State prisoner-turned-activist chronicles experiences,” *The Miscellany News*, 12 November 2014, <https://miscellanynews.org/2014/11/12/news/ny-state-prisoner-turned-activist-chronicles-experiences/>.

⁴⁶¹ Emily Hoffman, “Palestinian and Israeli speakers recount violence, activism,” *The Miscellany News*, 21 November 2014, <https://miscellanynews.org/2014/11/12/news/palestinian-and-israeli-speakers-recount-violence-activism/>.

⁴⁶² Emily Hoffman, “VARC events analyze animal rights activism, U.S. laws,” *The Miscellany News*, 19 November 2014, <https://miscellanynews.org/2014/11/19/news/varc-events-analyze-animal-rights-activism-u-s-laws/>;

administration.⁴⁶³

- 25 November 2014: Hundreds of Vassar community members protest a grand jury's failure to indict police officer Darren Wilson for killing Michael Brown, an unarmed 18 year old, in Ferguson, Missouri.⁴⁶⁴
- 5 December 2014: More than 400 students, faculty, and administrators surround Main Building, then occupy the College Center and second-story administrative offices in a protest for racial and sexual justice, as well as increase mental health services.⁴⁶⁵

2015

- 13 February 2015: The Vassar Muslim Student Union hosts a candlelight vigil in honor of three Muslim students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—Deah Barakat, Yusor Abu-Salha, and Razan Abu-Salha—who were murdered by Craig Stephen Hicks.⁴⁶⁶
- 2 April 2015: Charles Blow, a *New York Times* opinion columnist, gives a lecture, "Civil Rights Today."⁴⁶⁷
- 13 September 2015: The College hosts a panel, "Bridging the Racial Divide in the College Classroom and Beyond: a Conversation," to facilitate campus discussions about racial division.⁴⁶⁸
- 7 October 2015: The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life holds a vigil in honor of the nine people killed and eight wounded in a shooting at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon.⁴⁶⁹

⁴⁶³ Emily Hoffman and Rhys Johnson, "Staff, students rally against shifts in labor policies at ACDC," *The Miscellany News*, 3 December 2014,

<https://miscellanynews.org/2014/12/03/news/staff-students-rally-against-shifts-in-labor-policies-at-acdc/>.

⁴⁶⁴ Bethan Johnson, Marie Solis, and Chris Brown, "Vassar, community unite to protest Ferguson decision in local rallies," *The Miscellany News*, 3 December 2014,

<https://miscellanynews.org/2014/12/03/news/vassar-community-unite-to-protest-ferguson-decision-in-local-rallies/>.

⁴⁶⁵ Bethan Johnson and Marie Solis, "Hundreds surround, occupy Main to demand administrative changes," *The Miscellany News*, 6 December 2014,

<https://miscellanynews.org/2014/12/06/news/hundreds-surround-occupy-main-to-demand-administrative-changes/>.

⁴⁶⁶ Rhys Johnson, "Candlelight vigil honors UNC victims," *The Miscellany News*, 18 February 2015,

<https://miscellanynews.org/2015/02/18/news/candlelight-vigil-honors-unc-victims/>; Bill Chappell, "N.C. Man Pleads Guilty To Killing 3 Muslim College Students; Video Is Played In Court," *National Public Radio*, 12 June 2019, <https://www.npr.org/2019/06/12/731981858/n-c-man-pleads-guilty-to-murdering-3-muslim-college-students>.

⁴⁶⁷ Chris Pompetzki, "NY Times columnist brings civil rights debate to campus," *The Miscellany News*, 8 April 2015, <https://miscellanynews.org/2015/04/08/news/ny-times-columnist-brings-civil-rights-debate-to-campus/>.

⁴⁶⁸ Eilis Donohue, "Students, alumni seek to bridge racial divide on campus," *The Miscellany News*, 9 September 2015, <https://miscellanynews.org/2015/09/09/news/students-alumni-seek-to-bridge-racial-divide-on-campus/>.

⁴⁶⁹ Jeremy Middleman, "Community reflects on victims of Umpqua shooting," *The Miscellany News*, 21 October 2015, <https://miscellanynews.org/2015/10/21/news/community-reflects-on-victims-of-umpqua-shooting/>.

- 8 October 2015: The College holds a panel, “Vassar College: Solidarity with Refugees,” discussing the global refugee crisis.⁴⁷⁰
- 12 November 2015: Spelman College Associate Professor of English Margaret Price gives a lecture arguing for increased services for those with disabilities in higher education, especially cognitive disabilities.⁴⁷¹
- 20 November 2015: Students and staff hold a candlelight vigil in solidarity with survivors of transphobic violence, inspired by Transgender Day of Remembrance. The event is co-sponsored by the student group TransMission, the LGBTQ Center and the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life.⁴⁷²

2016

- 24–25 February 2016: Najla Said, Palestinian Lebanese American author and activist and the child of Palestinian academic Edward Said, performs her one-woman play, *Palestine* and reads from her book, *Looking for Palestine*.⁴⁷³
- 10 March 2016: Christina Hanhardt, Associate Professor of LGBT Studies at the University of Maryland, gives a lecture, “Broken Windows at Blue’s: A Queer History of Gentrification and Quality of Life Policing.”⁴⁷⁴
- 7–25 April 2016: The Office of Campus Life and Diversity holds a series of workshops on intersectional antisemitism, intersectional racism, and Islamophobia.⁴⁷⁵
- 10–21 April 2016: Vassar College Refugee Solidarity holds a series of events raising awareness about the struggles of past and present refugees as a means of helping to solve the global refugee crisis.⁴⁷⁶
- Fall 2016: The Consortium on Forced Migration, Displacement, and Education initiative is founded in collaboration between Vassar, Bard-Annandale, Bard-Berlin, Bennington,

⁴⁷⁰ Eilis Donohue, “Refugee crisis panel sparks campuswide conversation,” *The Miscellany News*, 21 October 2015, <https://miscellanynews.org/2015/10/21/news/refugee-crisis-panel-sparks-campuswide-conversation/>.

⁴⁷¹ Derek Sonntag, “Disabilities expert urges greater openness on campus,” *The Miscellany News*, 18 November 2015, <https://miscellanynews.org/2015/11/18/news/disabilities-expert-urges-greater-openness-on-campus/>.

⁴⁷² Jeremy Middleman, “Community honors Transgender Day of Remembrance,” *The Miscellany News*, 2 December 2015, <https://miscellanynews.org/2015/12/02/news/community-honors-transgender-day-of-remembrance/>.

⁴⁷³ Clark Xu, “MESC, SJP-sponsored speaker explores identity via theater,” *The Miscellany News*, 2 March 2016, <https://miscellanynews.org/2016/03/02/news/mesc-sjp-sponsored-speaker-explores-identity-via-theater/>.

⁴⁷⁴ Jorge Gruber, “Hanhardt elucidates gentrification of queer communities,” *The Miscellany News*, 30 March 2016, <https://miscellanynews.org/2016/03/30/news/hanhardt-elucidates-gentrification-of-queer-communities/>.

⁴⁷⁵ Clark Xu, “Workshop series to focus on diversity and oppression,” *The Miscellany News*, 13 April 2016, <https://miscellanynews.org/2016/04/13/news/workshop-series-to-focus-on-diversity-and-oppression/>.

⁴⁷⁶ Shelia Hu, “VC Refugee Solidarity coordinates succession of events,” *The Miscellany News*, 13 April 2016, <https://miscellanynews.org/2016/04/13/news/vc-refugee-solidarity-coordinates-succession-of-events/>.

and Sarah Lawrence Colleges, The New School, and the Council for European Studies. The initiative aims to explore higher education's role in addressing issues of global migration and forced displacement.⁴⁷⁷

- 7–9 September 2016: Social activist Yavilah McCoy gives a talk, “Faith, Race, Power, and Privilege,” and holds anti-oppression workshops.⁴⁷⁸
- 19 September 2016: American University of Nigeria President Margee Ensign gives a lecture on how her university, alongside the Adamawa Peace Initiative, run a variety of programs to help Nigerian youth.⁴⁷⁹
- October 2016: Students and faculty attend a “Campus Life and Diversity Forum,” focusing on creating dialogue around recent instances of police brutality against unarmed Black Americans.⁴⁸⁰
- 7 October 2016: Vassar and Poughkeepsie community members gather on campus for a meeting of the Mid-Hudson Refugee Solidarity Alliance, featuring speeches by faculty, students, leaders of faith groups, and representatives of the resettlement agency Church World Services.⁴⁸¹
- 29 October 2016: Several Vassar students participate in the fourth annual Walk for Gun Sense across the Walkway Over the Hudson, advocating for more restrictive gun laws.⁴⁸²

2017

- 2 February 2017: Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, gives a lecture, “Is Religion the Problem or Solution?” Jacobs advocates for interfaith dialogue and broadening ideas of who is the center and periphery of religions, with the specific example of Jews of color.⁴⁸³

⁴⁷⁷ “Consortium on Forced Migration, Displacement, and Education (CFMDE),” Migration and Displacement Studies, Vassar College, accessed 20 February 2025, <https://migration-displacement.vassar.edu/projects/consortium-on-forced-migration-displacement-and-education-cfmde/>.

⁴⁷⁸ Clark Xu, “McCoy lecture bridges identity gap,” *The Miscellany News*, 21 September 2016, <https://miscellanynews.org/2016/09/21/news/mccoy-lecture-bridges-identity-gap/>.

⁴⁷⁹ Eilis Donohue, “API and AUN use education to empower young people,” *The Miscellany News*, 21 September 2016, <https://miscellanynews.org/2016/09/21/news/api-and-aun-use-education-to-empower-young-people/>.

⁴⁸⁰ Meg Howell, “Forum opens conversation about racial, social issues,” *The Miscellany News*, 12 October 2016, <https://miscellanynews.org/2016/10/12/news/forum-opens-conversation-about-racial-social-issues/>.

⁴⁸¹ Eilis Donohue, “Religious, secular groups unite in refugee solidarity,” *The Miscellany News*, 9 November 2016, <https://miscellanynews.org/2016/11/09/news/religious-secular-groups-unite-in-refugee-solidarity/>.

⁴⁸² Laurel Hennen Vigil, “Community promotes stronger firearm laws,” *The Miscellany News*, 2 November 2016, <https://miscellanynews.org/2016/11/02/news/community-promotes-stronger-firearm-laws/>.

⁴⁸³ Hanna Stasuik, “Rabbi calls for religious groups to unify, take action,” *The Miscellany News*, 8 February 2017, <https://miscellanynews.org/2017/02/08/news/rabbi-calls-for-religious-groups-to-unify-take-action/>.

- 10 February 2017: The student organization Yes for Equality and Safety of All Bodies holds an informational event with representatives from organizations and offices on campus to educate students about sexual assault safety, awareness, and solidarity resources.⁴⁸⁴
- 16 February 2018: Students host “Your Body Your Voice: A Benefit Concert for Planned Parenthood.”⁴⁸⁵
- 24 February 2017: Vassar Liberty in North Korea holds a benefit concert and flea market, with proceeds going to resettling North Korean refugees.⁴⁸⁶
- 24–25 February 2017: The ALANA Center holds a sit-in in the library for the community to stand in solidarity in the face of two incidents of racist hate speech written on walls of the library the week prior.⁴⁸⁷
- 27 March 2017: The College announces the Engaged Pluralism initiative to promote inclusivity and dialogue on campus.⁴⁸⁸
- September 2017: The Vassar Caribbean Students Alliance organizes a relief drive for Puerto Rico during the ongoing Hurricane Maria.⁴⁸⁹
- 15 September 2017: Student/Labor Dialogue and the Service Employees International Union bring students and staff together in an occupation of the dining hall to demand safe working conditions, organized scheduling, transparent hiring processes, and respect for workers on behalf of dining hall staff.⁴⁹⁰

⁴⁸⁴ Hanna Stasuik, “YES! resource fair promotes education on sexual assault,” *The Miscellany News*, 15 February 2017, <https://miscellanynews.org/2017/02/15/news/yes-resource-fair-promotes-education-on-sexual-assault/>.

⁴⁸⁵ Hannah Stasuik, “Students orchestrate PP benefit,” *The Miscellany News*, 22 February 2017, <https://miscellanynews.org/2017/02/22/news/students-orchestrate-pp-benefit/>.

⁴⁸⁶ Dylan Smith, “LiNK hosts benefit to support North Korean refugees,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 March 2017, <https://miscellanynews.org/2017/03/01/news/link-hosts-benefit-to-support-north-korean-refugees/>.

⁴⁸⁷ Sarah Dolan and Yiwang, “Racist hate speech jars community,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 March 2017, <https://miscellanynews.org/2017/03/01/news/racist-hate-speech-jars-community/>; Laurel Hennen Vigil, “H2A rallies Vassar against oppression,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 March 2017, <https://miscellanynews.org/2017/03/01/news/h2a-rallies-vassar-against-oppression/>.

⁴⁸⁸ Dylan Smith, “VC to initiate ‘Engaged Pluralism,’” *The Miscellany News*, 5 April 2017, <https://miscellanynews.org/2017/04/05/news/vc-to-initiate-engaged-pluralism/>.

⁴⁸⁹ Youngju Chang, “Poughkeepsie residents hold fundraiser for Puerto Rico,” *The Miscellany News*, 28 February 2018, <https://miscellanynews.org/2018/02/28/news/poughkeepsie-residents-hold-fundraiser-for-puerto-rico/>.

⁴⁹⁰ Clark Xu, “Students, staff rally for better ACDC working conditions,” *The Miscellany News*, 20 September 2017, <https://miscellanynews.org/2017/09/20/news/students-staff-rally-for-better-acdc-working-conditions/>.

- 28 September–17 October 2017: The Black Student Union and History Majors' Committee sponsor a series of events responding to the white nationalist "United the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, on 11 August.⁴⁹¹
- October 2017: The Offices of Campus Life and Diversity and Residential Life, Engaged Pluralism Initiative, and Drama and Film Departments sponsor film screenings of a documentary, "I'm Not a Racist... Am I?" The screenings are mandatory for first-years and are followed by faculty-led discussions.⁴⁹²
- 26 October 2017: Dozens of students participate in the second annual Take Back the Night Rally, an international event aiming to provide space for survivors of sexual assault to share their stories and work toward ending all forms of sexual violence.⁴⁹³

2018

- 31 January 2018: Filmmaker and comedian Ben Tumin gives a lecture on his documentary about Syrian refugee resettlement in Germany and the United States.⁴⁹⁴
- 28 March 2018: The Women's Center hosts an event, "Roadmap for Revolutionaries: Resistance for All," on how a successful movement requires and maintains momentum.⁴⁹⁵
- 27 April 2018: The student organization Underground holds the Red Sand Gala to raise awareness about the global human trafficking crisis. The gala becomes an annual event.⁴⁹⁶

⁴⁹¹ Laila Volpe, "Charlottesville panel features West Point professor," *The Miscellany News*, 4 October 2017, <https://miscellanynews.org/2017/10/04/news/charlottesville-panel-features-west-point-professor/>; Youngju Chang, "Professors discuss memorials in light of Charlottesville," *The Miscellany News*, 25 October 2017, <https://miscellanynews.org/2017/10/25/news/professors-discuss-memorials-in-light-of-charlottesville/>;

⁴⁹² Sasha Gopalakrishnan, "Film screening sparks vital conversations on campus around race," *The Miscellany News*, 25 October 2017, <https://miscellanynews.org/2017/10/25/news/vc-screens-documentary-on-race/>.

⁴⁹³ Laurel Hennen Vigil, "VC community gathers at Take Back the Night rally," *The Miscellany News*, 1 November 2017, <https://miscellanynews.org/2017/11/01/news/vc-community-gathers-at-take-back-the-night-rally/>. The first annual rally is not attested to in *The Miscellany News* but presumably took place in 2016, as the third annual took place in 2018. Jessica Moss, "Take Back the Night rally promotes healing, solidarity," *The Miscellany News*, 31 October 2018, <https://miscellanynews.org/2018/10/31/news/take-back-the-night-rally-promotes-healing-solidarity/>.

⁴⁹⁴ Youngju Chang, "Filmmaker presents documentary on refugee crisis," *The Miscellany News*, 7 February 2018, <https://miscellanynews.org/2018/02/07/news/filmmaker-presents-documentary-on-refugee-crisis/>.

⁴⁹⁵ Youngju Chang, "Jamia Wilson illuminates roadmap for revolutionaries," *The Miscellany News*, 4 April 2018, <https://miscellanynews.org/2018/04/04/news/jamia-wilson-illuminates-roadmap-for-revolutionaries/>.

⁴⁹⁶ Pazit Schrecker, "Student org plans Red Sand Gala," *The Miscellany News*, 11 April 2018, <https://miscellanynews.org/2018/04/11/news/student-org-plans-red-sand-gala/>. For instances of the gala in later years, see, e.g., Frankie Knuckles and Jessica Moss, "Gala promotes anti-trafficking awareness, advocacy," *The Miscellany News*, 10 April 2019, <https://miscellanynews.org/2019/04/10/news/gala-promotes-anti-trafficking-awareness-advocacy/>.

- 6 September 2018: Vassar creates a Forced Migration correlate sequence based on a \$2.5 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for the Consortium on Forced Migration, Displacement and Education.⁴⁹⁷
- 22 September 2018: The College holds the first Immigrant Youth Empowerment Conference, with the goal of informing and empowering immigrant and undocumented students. The conference becomes an annual event.⁴⁹⁸
- 24 September 2018: Around 100 Vassar community members join protesters across the United States in a #BelieveSurvivors walkout in support of survivors of sexual violence.⁴⁹⁹
- 4 October: Karen Saxe, Associate Executive Director of the American Mathematical Society and Professor of Mathematics at Macalester College, gives a lecture on how mathematics can be used to discover, quantify, and alleviate social inequalities such as income inequality, gerrymandering, and educational inequality.⁵⁰⁰
- 9 October 2018: The College hosts the local CHINA Town Hall for the first time. The meeting is sponsored by the National Committee on United States-China Relations, a non-profit, non-partisan organization that works to improve the United States–China relationship.⁵⁰¹
- 9 October 2018: The College bans from campus an individual unconnected to Vassar suspected of hanging antisemitic posters on campus.⁵⁰²
- 30 October 2018: Leah Goodridge '04, a supervising attorney at Housing Project at Mobilization for Justice, and Jenny Laurie '80, Executive Director of Housing Court

⁴⁹⁷ Sarah Kopp and Leila Volpe, "VC initiates forced migration study," *The Miscellany News*, 26 September 2018, <https://miscellanynews.org/2018/09/26/news/vc-initiates-forced-migration-study/>.

⁴⁹⁸ Rachel Yang, "Youth conference centers stories of resistance, resilience," *The Miscellany News*, 3 October 2018, <https://miscellanynews.org/2018/10/03/news/youth-conference-centers-stories-of-resistance-resilience/>. For instances of the conference in later years, see, e.g., Tiana Headley, "Conference empowers immigrant youth through healing," *The Miscellany News*, 17 October 2019, <https://miscellanynews.org/2019/10/17/news/conference-empowers-immigrant-youth-through-healing/>.

⁴⁹⁹ Charlotte Varcoe-Wolfson, "VC community participates in #BelieveSurvivors walkout," *The Miscellany News*, 26 September 2018, <https://miscellanynews.org/2018/09/26/news/vc-community-participates-in-believesurvivors-walkout/>.

⁵⁰⁰ Sarah Kopp, "Saxe lectures on relationship between math, social justice," *The Miscellany News*, 10 October 2018, <https://miscellanynews.org/2018/10/10/news/saxe-lectures-on-relationship-between-math-social-justice/>.

⁵⁰¹ Ha Bui, "College participates in international CHINA Town Hall," *The Miscellany News*, 24 October 2018, <https://miscellanynews.org/2018/10/24/news/college-participates-in-international-china-town-hall/>.

⁵⁰² Noah Purdy, "College bans suspect in anti-Semitic poster campaign," *The Miscellany News*, 10 October 2018, <https://miscellanynews.org/2018/10/10/news/college-bans-suspect-in-anti-semitic-poster-campaign/>.

Answers, give a lecture, “Priced Out: the Affordable Housing Crisis in New York City.”⁵⁰³

- 14 November 2018: Abelardo de la Cruz, a Nahua anthropologist, and Alberta Martínez, a Nahua academic, both Ph.D. students at SUNY Albany, present their work preserving the language and culture of the Nahua community, an indigenous people in Mexico, Central America, and the United States.⁵⁰⁴
- 14 November 2018: Orthodox Rabbi Mike Moskowitz, Scholar-in-Residence for Trans and Queer Jewish Studies at Congregation Beit Simchat Torah in Manhattan, gives a lecture, “Allyship as Spiritual Practice,” about his transgender allyship and activism.⁵⁰⁵

2019

- 29 January 2019: Kaveh Khoshnood, Yale University School of Public Health Associate Professor of Epidemiology, lectures on violence and population displacement as public health issues.⁵⁰⁶
- 1 February 2019: The Africana Studies Program celebrates its fiftieth anniversary with a showcase of student creative projects, including spoken-word poetry, dance, music, and visual arts.⁵⁰⁷
- 2–11 February 2019: Vassar Chabad Jewish Community exhibits recent examples of contemporary antisemitism in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East through articles, photographs, and tweets.⁵⁰⁸
- 7 February 2019: Vincent Lloyd, Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Villanova University, and Joshua Dubler, Associate Professor of Religion at Rochester

⁵⁰³ Sarah Kopp, “Alum panel discusses NYC affordable housing crisis,” *The Miscellany News*, 7 November 2018, <https://miscellanynews.org/2018/11/07/news/alum-panel-discusses-nyc-affordable-housing-crisis/>.

⁵⁰⁴ Jaime Aguayo Baas, “Scholars discuss preservation of Nahuatl language, culture,” *The Miscellany News*, 28 November 2018, <https://miscellanynews.org/2018/11/28/news/scholars-discuss-preservation-of-nahuatl-language-culture/>.

⁵⁰⁵ Chris Dillon, “Rabbi Moskowitz speaks on ‘Allyship as Spiritual Practice,’” *The Miscellany News*, 28 November 2018, <https://miscellanynews.org/2018/11/28/news/rabbi-moskowitz-speaks-on-allyship-as-spiritual-practice/>.

⁵⁰⁶ Aena Khan, “Lecture assesses impact of violent conflict on public health,” *The Miscellany News*, 6 February 2019, <https://miscellanynews.org/2019/02/06/news/lecture-assesses-impact-of-violent-conflict-on-mental-health/>.

⁵⁰⁷ Meghan Hayfield, “Africana Studies’ 50th celebrates Black life and art,” *The Miscellany News*, 6 February 2019, <https://miscellanynews.org/2019/02/06/news/africana-studies-50th-celebrates-poc-talent/>.

⁵⁰⁸ Frankie Knuckles and Jessica Moss, “Vassar exhibits roots of contemporary anti-Semitism,” *The Miscellany News*, 20 February 2019, <https://miscellanynews.org/2019/02/20/news/vassar-exhibits-roots-of-contemporary-anti-semitism/>.

University, give a lecture, “Break Every Yoke: Religion, Justice, and the Abolition of Prisons.”⁵⁰⁹

- 22 February 2019: Sherrilyn Ifill ’84, President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, engages in a dialogue with Professor of History Rebecca Edwards about contemporary issues of systemic racism facing Black Americans.⁵¹⁰
- 25 February 2019: Gabriel Perez Setright, a Nicaraguan peace activist, writer, artist, and historian, lectures on how Nicaraguans used social media to mobilize widespread resistance against Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega in April 2018.⁵¹¹
- 26 March 2019: Advisor for Muslim Life Nora Zaki and the Office of Religious and Spiritual life hold a candlelight vigil in honor of the fifty killed and fifty wounded when a white supremacist opened fire on worshippers at Al Noor Mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, during Friday prayer.⁵¹²
- April 2019: The College hosts the unveiling of the New York State Council on Women and Girls’ 2019 Women’s Justice Agenda.⁵¹³
- 10 April 2019: The Engaged Pluralism Initiative’s Global Campus Working Group hosts “What in the Wor(l)d: Imagining a Multilingual Campus,” an event aiming to spark conversation about how to incorporate all cultures, languages, and experiences into the Vassar community.⁵¹⁴
- 18 April 2019: The Vassar Asian American Studies Working Group and the ALANA Center co-sponsor “Envisioning Horizons: The Future of Ethnic Studies at Vassar.”⁵¹⁵

⁵⁰⁹ Sophie McGrath, “Lecture explores religion, morality in prison abolition,” *The Miscellany News*, 13 February 2019, <https://miscellanynews.org/2019/02/13/news/lecture-explores-religion-morality-in-prison-abolition/>.

⁵¹⁰ Ha Bui, “Alum talks U.S. voting injustice,” *The Miscellany News*, 27 February 2019, <https://miscellanynews.org/2019/02/27/news/alum-talks-u-s-voting-injustice/>; “Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission,” Oyez, accessed 1 May 2025, <https://www.oyez.org/cases/2008/08-205>.

⁵¹¹ Mary Retta, “Nicaraguan activist shares social media’s role in politics,” *The Miscellany News*, 27 March 2019, <https://miscellanynews.org/2019/03/27/news/nicaraguan-activist-shares-social-medias-role-in-politics/>.

⁵¹² Aena Khan, “Vigil grieves, honors victims of New Zealand shootings,” *The Miscellany News*, 3 April 2019, <https://miscellanynews.org/2019/04/03/news/vigil-grieves-honors-victims-of-new-zealand-shootings/>.

⁵¹³ Tiana Headley, “Vassar hosts state legislative forum for women’s rights,” *The Miscellany News*, 18 April 2019, <https://miscellanynews.org/2019/04/18/news/vassar-hosts-state-legislative-forum-for-womens-rights/>.

⁵¹⁴ Sasha Gopalakrishnan, “EPI explores multilingual narratives, encourages globality,” *The Miscellany News*, 18 April 2019, <https://miscellanynews.org/2019/04/18/news/epe-explores-multilingual-narratives-encourages-globality/>.

⁵¹⁵ Tiana Headley, “Forum envisions Ethnic Studies at Vassar,” *The Miscellany News*, 25 April 2019, <https://miscellanynews.org/2019/04/25/news/forum-envisions-ethnic-studies-at-vassar/>.

- 23–27 September 2019: The Engaged Pluralism Initiative hosts a week-long seminar, “War on the Global Commons.”⁵¹⁶
- October 2019: In response to an investigation into the Hudson Valley’s history of chattel slavery by Vassar students for a Community Engaged Learning project, Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County community members create The Black History Project Committee’s Memorial Project. The Committee looks to create markers in the Poughkeepsie area recognizing enslaved people’s contributions to better educate the community on the history of slavery.⁵¹⁷
- November 2019: The Consortium on Forced Migration, Displacement and Education holds an exhibit, “Dear Carlos: Mail from a Detention Complex,” featuring letters between Carlos Eduardo Espina ’20 and immigrants detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.⁵¹⁸
- 21 November 2019: Lü Pin, the founding editor of the prominent Chinese social media account Feminist Voices, lectures on her decades of feminist activism in China and state repression of activism.⁵¹⁹

2020s

2020

- Winter 2020: The Anti-Racism, Equity and Justice organization is formed to discuss issues of racism in the community and applications of anti-racist practices.⁵²⁰
- February 2020: After discovering Indigenous Alaskan remains and cultural items stored in Blodgett Hall, the College works to safeguard the remains and return them to the tribal communities from which they came, in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The College aims to ensure its compliance with the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), which ensures the protection and

⁵¹⁶ Taylor Gee, “‘War on the Global Commons’ micro-seminar engages,” *The Miscellany News*, 3 October 2019, <https://miscellanynews.org/2019/10/03/news/war-on-the-global-commons-micro-seminar-engages/>.

⁵¹⁷ Tiana Headley, “Project acknowledges local legacy of slavery,” *The Miscellany News*, 31 October 2019, <https://miscellanynews.org/2019/10/31/news/project-reveals-local-legacy-of-slavery/>.

⁵¹⁸ Aena Khan, “‘Dear Carlos’: exhibit illuminates hope in detention,” *The Miscellany News*, 7 November 2019, <https://miscellanynews.org/2019/11/07/news/dear-carlos-exhibit-illuminates-hope-in-detention/>.

⁵¹⁹ Xin Rui Ong and Hindley Wang, “China’s censorship targets feminists,” *The Miscellany News*, 5 December 2019, <https://miscellanynews.org/2019/12/05/news/chinas-censorship-targets-feminists/>.

⁵²⁰ Larry Hertz, “Anti-Racism Group Provides New Opportunities for Meaningful Dialog,” *Stories*, Vassar College, 9 February 2022, <https://www.vassar.edu/news/anti-racism-group-provides-new-opportunities-meaningful-dialog>.

repatriation of Indigenous human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony to the communities to which they belong.⁵²¹

- 24 February 2020: Rae Gould, Nipmuc Nation Enrolled Tribal Member and Associate Director of Native American and Indigenous Studies at Brown University, gives a lecture explaining the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act application at U.S. institutions.⁵²²
- 7 July 2020: Vassar joins 180 educational institutions in an amicus brief in a case brought by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), seeking to block a 6 July ICE directive that announces the agency's intention to expel international students who take all of their classes online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ICE rescinds the directive on 14 July.⁵²³
- 7 July 2020: Vassar students attend a Zoom meeting, "A Listening Town Hall: People of Color Sharing Their Experiences in Dutchess County," hosted by Dutchess County. The event's goal is to provide community members of color a space to speak directly to elected officials and share their stories.⁵²⁴

2021

- 26 February 2021: The Vassar Community Care Team releases a lecture on racial health disparities related to COVID-19, particularly inequities in vaccine access.⁵²⁵

⁵²¹ Elizabeth Bradley, "Statement from Vassar to parents, alumnae/i on NAGPRA compliance," *The Miscellany News*, 20 February 2020,

<https://miscellanynews.org/2020/02/20/news/statement-from-vassar-to-parents-alumnae-i-on-nagpra-compliance/>;
⁵²² Aena Khan, "Gould explains institution-tribe relations under NAGPRA," *The Miscellany News*, 27 February 2020, <https://miscellanynews.org/2020/02/27/news/rae-gould-examines-nagpra/>; "Facilitating Respectful Return," Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, National Park Service, accessed 1 May 2025, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/index.htm>.

⁵²³ Kimberly Schaye, "Vassar Joins 180 Colleges Fighting New ICE Directive," *Stories*, Vassar College, 13 July 2020, <https://www.vassar.edu/stories/2020/vassar-joins-180-colleges-fighting-new-ice-directive.html>; Kimberly Schaye, "ICE Rescinds Directive Opposed by Vassar and Many Other Colleges," *Stories*, Vassar College, 16 July 2020, <https://www.vassar.edu/stories/2020/ice-rescinds-directive-opposed-by-vassar-and-many-other-colleges.html>. See Brief for Presidents' Alliance et al. as Amici Curiae Supporting Plaintiffs, *President and Fellows of Harvard College and Massachusetts Institute of Technology v. United States Department of Homeland Security* (2020) (No. 20-cv-11283-ADB), <https://www.presidentsimmigrationalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/27-1-Presidents-Alliance-Amicus-Brief-Harvard-v.-DHS.pdf>.

⁵²⁴ Annabelle Wang, "Dutchess County forum addresses racism within community, sparks calls for reform," *The Miscellany News*, 14 July 2020, <https://miscellanynews.org/2020/07/14/news/dutchess-county-forum-addresses-racism-within-community-sparks-calls-for-reform/>.

⁵²⁵ Carolyn Patterson, "Vaccine Equity Coalition aims to reduce inequity in COVID-19 vaccinations," *The Miscellany News*, 18 March 2021,

- March 2021: The Black Students' Union, Gradient, and the Vassar Prison Initiative publish a statement—signed by over forty student and local organizations—calling for the College's divestment from the prison industrial complex.⁵²⁶
- May 2021: The College officializes its land acknowledgment, which acknowledges that the College sits on historic land of the Munsee Lenape people and that every member of the Vassar community since 1861 has benefited from the expulsion of Indigenous peoples from their land. In the acknowledgment, the College also pledges to “build and sustain relationships with Native communities.”⁵²⁷
- Fall 2021: The Race and Racism in Historical Collections working group is formed under the Engaged Pluralism Initiative to ethically and honestly contextualize and make more accessible Vassar's history.⁵²⁸
- 7 September 2021: The College implements its Migration and Displacement Studies correlate sequence.⁵²⁹
- 19 November 2021: The College hosts an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Practices event, featuring Cherokee artist Joan Henry, who discusses what Vassar's land acknowledgment asks of non-Indigenous people, Indigenous culture and history, and the importance of land acknowledgment practices to Indigenous communities.⁵³⁰

2022

- 30 March 2022: The Anti-Racism, Equity, and Justice organization hosts “Breaking

<https://miscellanynews.org/2021/03/18/news/vaccine-equity-coalition-aims-to-reduce-inequity-in-covid-19-vaccinations/>.

⁵²⁶ Alex Wilson, “Vassar College Prison Divestment Campaign releases demands to Administration,” *The Miscellany News*, 7 April 2021,

<https://miscellanynews.org/2021/04/07/news/vassar-college-prison-divestment-campaign-releases-demands-to-administration/>; Vassar Black Student Union, Gradient, and Vassar Prison Initiative, “Disclose, Divest, Reinvest,” accessed 28 February 2025,

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DP3h8_vhEozIzoEbZuoSGKmmKAH4D9Z8K-u7C7-SRDg/edit?usp=sharing.

⁵²⁷ Jacques Abou-Rizk, “Vassar hosts Indigenous land acknowledgement event,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 December 2021, <https://miscellanynews.org/2021/12/01/news/vassar-hosts-indigenous-land-acknowledgement-event/>; “Land Acknowledgment,” Vassar College, accessed 21 February 2025, <https://www.vassar.edu/land-acknowledgment>.

⁵²⁸ “Race & Racism in Historical Collections,” Engaged Pluralism, Vassar College, accessed 21 February 2025, <https://www.vassar.edu/engaged-pluralism/working-groups/race-racism-historical-collections>.

⁵²⁹ Ben Fikhman, “Migration & Displacement Studies Correlate introduced at Vassar,” *The Miscellany News*, 29 September 2021,

<https://miscellanynews.org/2021/09/29/news/migration-displacement-studies-correlate-introduced-at-vassar/>;

“Migration and Displacement Studies,” Vassar College, accessed 20 February 2025,

<https://migration-displacement.vassar.edu/>.

⁵³⁰ Abou-Rizk, “Land acknowledgment event.”

Down and Building Up,” featuring discussions and workshops to bring Vassar and Poughkeepsie community members together to analyze local anti-racist activities.⁵³¹

- November 2022: The College’s Accessibility Committee releases the 2022–2024 Accessibility Plan to broadly improve accessibility on campus.⁵³²
- 15 November 2022: The student organization Vassar Alliance for Ukraine hosts its first discussion panel on the history of the Russo–Ukrainian War and Russian imperialism. The organization also sponsors a fundraiser for Ukrainians affected by the war.⁵³³
- 19 November 2022: The College rededicates the ALANA Cultural Center in honor of Jeh Vincent Johnson, a renowned architect who designed the ALANA Center and taught architectural design at Vassar from 1964–2001.⁵³⁴

2023

- 7 February 2023: Vassar President Elizabeth Bradley announces the Vassar Inclusive History initiative to research, document, and publicize Vassar’s history through the lens of diversity.⁵³⁵
- 13 September 2023: The student-led HearUsOut movement hosts its first protest in support of proper compensation for female professors at the College.⁵³⁶
- 11 October 2023: Chabad Jewish Community hosts a Jewish Solidarity Rally.⁵³⁷

⁵³¹ Charlotte Robertson, “AREJ spreads communal anti-racism message during workshop,” *The Miscellany News*, 6 April 2022,

<https://miscellanynews.org/2022/04/06/news/arej-spreads-communal-anti-racism-message-during-workshop/>.

⁵³² Jyotsna Naidu, “Accessibility Plan aims to tackle campus inequities,” *The Miscellany News*, 9 November 2022, <https://miscellanynews.org/2022/11/09/news/accessibility-plan-aims-to-tackle-campus-inequities/>; “2022–2024 Accessibility Plan,” Dean of Strategic Planning and Academic Resources, Vassar College, accessed 2 May 2025, <https://offices.vassar.edu/dospar/accessibility-plan/>.

⁵³³ Emma Raff, “Vassar Alliance For Ukraine hosts first discussion on Russo-Ukrainian War,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 December 2022,

<https://miscellanynews.org/2022/12/01/news/vassar-alliance-for-ukraine-hosts-first-discussion-on-russo-ukrainian-war/>.

⁵³⁴ Jacques Abou-Rizk, “JVJ honored with ALANA center rededication,” *The Miscellany News*, 7 December 2022, <https://miscellanynews.org/2022/12/07/news/jvj-honored-with-alana-center-rededication/>; Larry Hertz, “Papers of Pioneering Architect Jeh Vincent Johnson Come Home to Vassar,” Vassar College, 17 February 2025, <https://www.vassar.edu/news/papers-pioneering-architect-jeh-vincent-johnson-come-home-vassar>.

⁵³⁵ Janet Song and Jacques Abou-Rizk, “Inclusive History initiative unearths complicated legacies,” *The Miscellany News*, 15 February 2023,

<https://miscellanynews.org/2023/02/15/news/inclusive-history-initiative-unearths-complicated-legacies/>; “Vassar Inclusive History Initiative,” President, Vassar College, accessed 13 February 2025, <https://www.vassar.edu/president/community/2023/vassar-inclusive-history-initiative>.

⁵³⁶ Jacques Abou-Rizk and Sarah McNeil, “Student protest supports professors in ongoing litigation,” *The Miscellany News*, 21 September 2023,

<https://miscellanynews.org/2023/09/21/news/student-protest-supports-professors-in-ongoing-litigation/>.

⁵³⁷ Will Sorge, “Vassar SJP stages walkout,” *The Miscellany News*, 1 November 2023, <https://miscellanynews.org/2023/11/01/news/vassar-sjp-stages-walkout/>.

- 12 October 2023: Students for Justice in Palestine hosts a demonstration of solidarity and a vigil for those killed in Gaza.⁵³⁸
- 25 October 2023: Students for Justice in Palestine stages a walkout of around 150 students. A student-led teach-in on the history of and U.S. involvement in the Palestinian–Israeli conflict followed the walkout.⁵³⁹
- 31 October 2023: Professor of Philosophy and Media Studies Giovanna Borradori, Director of Engaged Pluralism and Professor of Religion Jonathon Kahn, and Professor of History Joshua Schreier hold a teach-in in Rockefeller Hall to combat polarizing language surrounding the Palestinian–Israeli conflict and to build a deeper understanding of Palestinian history.⁵⁴⁰
- 29 November 2023: Students for Justice in Palestine hold a sit-in in Main Building protesting the Israeli war in Gaza.⁵⁴¹

2024

- 26 January 2024: Chabad Jewish Community and Vassar Jewish Union host author Dara Horn to speak about Jewish history in the context of antisemitism.⁵⁴²
- 15 February 2024: Four students present research on the legacy of Reverend Howard Thurman’s relationship with the College in the first event of the Vassar Inclusive History initiative.⁵⁴³
- 5 April 2024: Engaged Pluralism hosts the “PHOENIX: Livable Futures for Palestinians

⁵³⁸ Sorge, “Vassar SJP stages walkout.”

⁵³⁹ Sorge, “Vassar SJP stages walkout.”

⁵⁴⁰ Jacques Abou-Rizk and Jyotsna Naidu, “Campus opens spaces for conversation on Israel-Palestine,” *The Miscellany News*, 15 November 2023.

<https://miscellanynews.org/2023/11/15/news/campus-opens-spaces-for-conversation-on-israel-palestine/>.

⁵⁴¹ Clara Alger, “Students hold sit-in for international day of action,” *The Miscellany News*, 6 December 2023,

<https://miscellanynews.org/2023/12/06/news/students-hold-sit-in-for-international-day-of-action/>.

⁵⁴² Clara Alger, “CJC and VJU invite speaker Dara Horn,” *The Miscellany News*, 31 January 2024,

<https://miscellanynews.org/2024/01/31/news/cjc-and-vju-invite-speaker-dara-horn/>.

⁵⁴³ Emma Brown, “Students present research on Howard Thurman’s legacy,” *The Miscellany News*, 21 February 2024, <https://miscellanynews.org/2024/02/21/news/students-present-research-on-howard-thurmans-legacy/>. See Jarod Hudson, “What’s the Matter With Vassar?” Inclusive History Initiative, Vassar College, accessed 14 February 2025, <https://www.vassar.edu/inclusive-history/work/class-difference>; Croix Horsley, “A Video Reflection on Howard Thurman’s Activism at Vassar College,” Inclusive History Initiative, Vassar College, accessed 14 February 2025, <https://www.vassar.edu/inclusive-history/work/video-reflection-howard-thurmans-activism-vassar-college>; Katie Varon, “Olive Thurman’s Life and Legacy as one of Vassar’s First Black Students,” Inclusive History Initiative, Vassar College, accessed 14 February 2025,

<https://www.vassar.edu/inclusive-history/work/olive-thurmans-life-and-legacy>; and Maya Winter, “Uncovering Inequity,” Inclusive History Initiative, Vassar College, accessed 14 February 2025,

<https://www.vassar.edu/inclusive-history/work/uncovering-inequity>.

and Israelis” workshop about the Phoenix Plan, a post-war framework for Palestine and Israel.⁵⁴⁴

- 6–7 April 2024: Vassar students organize the “Activating Asian America” conference, which aims to foster political and community organizing among private liberal arts institutions.⁵⁴⁵
- 30 April 2024: Students, under the title Vassar Popular University for Gaza begin an encampment in solidarity with Gaza on the Library Lawn.⁵⁴⁶
- 4 May 2024: Students, under the title Vassar Popular University, dismantle their encampment after agreeing to four resolutions with College administration.⁵⁴⁷
- 1 August 2024: The College revises its Title IX policies in accordance with new regulation from the Biden Administration.⁵⁴⁸
- 6 August 2024: Vassar Against Antisemitism, a group of faculty, students, alumni, and allies, is established.⁵⁴⁹
- September 2024: Dr. Sa’ed Atshan, Chair of Peace and Conflict Studies at Swarthmore College, is named the 2024–2025 Randolph Fellow in Peace, Conflict, and the Middle East at Vassar.⁵⁵⁰
- 7 October 2024: Vassar Against Antisemitism hosts a memorial exhibit commemorating the lives of Israelis killed on 7 October 2023. A prayer service and rally follow, attended

⁵⁴⁴ Allison Lowe, “First-of-its-kind workshop investigates peacebuilding methods,” *The Miscellany News*, 10 April 2024, <https://miscellanynews.org/2024/04/10/news/first-of-its-kind-workshop-investigates-peacebuilding-methods/>. See New Story Leadership, *The Phoenix Plan: For a Just and Peaceful Future in Israel and Palestine*, November 2024, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q4g-clvTBc3_jShnwFSEJZpFC-6u1N/view?usp=sharing.

⁵⁴⁵ Clara Alger, “Students host ‘Activating Asian America’ conference,” *The Miscellany News*, 17 April 2024, <https://miscellanynews.org/2024/04/17/news/students-host-activating-asian-america-conference/>.

⁵⁴⁶ Charlotte Robertson, “BREAKING NEWS: Students stage encampment in solidarity with Gaza,” *The Miscellany News*, 30 April 2024,

<https://miscellanynews.org/2024/04/30/news/breaking-news-students-stage-encampment-in-solidarity-with-gaza/>; Vassar SJP, “FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Vassar Students Establish ‘Liberation Lawn’ For Gaza,” Instagram, 2 May 2024, https://www.instagram.com/p/C6ekXpcuPRJ/?img_index=1.

⁵⁴⁷ Charlotte Robertson, “BREAKING NEWS: Vassar Gaza solidarity encampment dismantled after five days,” *The Miscellany News*, 6 May 2024, <https://miscellanynews.org/2024/05/06/news/breaking-news-vassar-gaza-solidarity-encampment-dismantled-after-five-days/>. This article provides a fairly comprehensive account of all five days of VPU’s encampment.

⁵⁴⁸ Allison Lowe, Makenna Monaghan and Sarah McNeil, “Biden Administration’s Title IX policies take effect on campus,” *The Miscellany News*, 28 August 2024, <https://miscellanynews.org/2024/08/28/news/biden-administrations-title-ix-policies-take-effect-on-campus/>.

⁵⁴⁹ Vassar Against Antisemitism, “Introducing the Vassar Against Antisemitism coalition! Please swipe through to see what this account is going to be about !!,” Instagram, 6 August 2025, https://www.instagram.com/p/C-WTyeeugt2/?img_index=1.

⁵⁵⁰ “Welcome Back and Policy Updates,” President, Vassar College, 5 September 2024, <https://www.vassar.edu/president/community/2024/welcome-back-and-policy-updates>.

by around 120 students.⁵⁵¹

- 9 November 2024: RunVassar hosts a charity 5K for aid to Palestine and Lebanon; the event raises over \$600 through student and faculty donations.⁵⁵²

2025

- 26 January–26 February 2025: The Muslim Student Association and Middle Eastern and North African Students Association host a clothing drive for those affected by conflicts and humanitarian crises in Congo, Palestine, Sudan, and Yemen.⁵⁵³
- 19 February 2025: Ira Helfand, member of the International Steering Group of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, gives a lecture on the growing threat of nuclear weapons and their danger to public health and the environment.⁵⁵⁴
- 19 February 2025: The Race and Racism in Historical Collections Working Group holds a workshop revisiting the 1969 Main Building sit-in.⁵⁵⁵
- 5 April 2025: Over 100 students and Poughkeepsie community members attend “Bridging Academia and Advocacy: Hudson Valley Immigration and Leadership Summit,” a half-day event, organized by Owen McGarry ’25 and Amaris Hall ’25, with the goal of spreading resources and awareness about immigration in the face of the changing immigration landscape.⁵⁵⁶
- 9 April 2025: Khaled Beydoun, Associate Professor of Law at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, and Ken Stern, Director of the Bard Center for the Study of Hate, participate in a public dialogue, “Islamophobia and Antisemitism: Hate and the Contours of Speech and Expression.”⁵⁵⁷
- 25 April 2025: The Working Student Coalition presents administrators with a petition

⁵⁵¹ McNeil and Lowe, “Calls for divestment mount.”

⁵⁵² Julian Balsley, “RunVassar 5K raises money for aid to Palestine and Lebanon,” *The Miscellany News*, 14 November 2024,

<https://miscellanynews.org/2024/11/14/news/runvassar-5k-raises-money-for-aid-to-palestine-and-lebanon/>.

⁵⁵³ Emma Brown, “MSA and MENASA host humanitarian drive,” *The Miscellany News*, 29 January 2025, <https://miscellanynews.org/2025/01/29/news/msa-and-menasa-host-humanitarian-drive/>.

⁵⁵⁴ Ian Watanabe and Soren Fischer, “Nobel peace prize winner warns students about nuclear war,” *The Miscellany News*, 26 February 2025,

<https://miscellanynews.org/2025/02/26/news/nobel-peace-prize-winner-warns-students-about-nuclear-war/>.

⁵⁵⁵ Hadley Amato, “Event revisits 1969 Main Building occupation,” *The Miscellany News*, 26 February 2025, <https://miscellanynews.org/2025/02/26/news/event-revisits-1969-main-building-occupation/>.

⁵⁵⁶ Clara Alger and Julian Balsley, “Immigration summit informs community,” *The Miscellany News*, 9 April 2025, <https://miscellanynews.org/2025/04/09/news/immigration-summit-informs-community/>.

⁵⁵⁷ Allen Hale, “College hosts panel on Islamophobia and antisemitism,” *The Miscellany News*, 16 April 2025, <https://miscellanynews.org/2025/04/16/news/college-hosts-panel-on-islamophobia-and-antisemitism/>.

calling for improved student working conditions that has been signed by 720 Vassar community members and around 40 percent of all student workers.⁵⁵⁸

⁵⁵⁸ Julian Balsley and Emma Brown, “Student organizations push for labor rights,” *The Miscellany News*, 16 April 2025, <https://miscellanynews.org/2025/04/16/news/student-organizations-push-for-labor-rights/>; Maryam Bacchus and Emma Brown, “Working Students Coalition presents petition to administrators,” *The Miscellany News*, 30 April 2025, <https://miscellanynews.org/2025/04/30/news/working-students-coalition-presents-petition-to-administrators-wsc/>.