

NEWS&VIEWS  OF REFORM JEWS**NOTEWORTHY** *from p. 61*

Women's Commentary Accorded Top Prize: *The Torah: A Women's Commentary* (WRJ and URJ Press) has received the Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year award. More than 100 women theologians, historians, sociologists, scholars, anthropologists, poets, rabbis, and cantors contributed to the volume edited by Dr. Tamara Eskenazi and Rabbi Andrea L. Weiss.

New Resources on Judaism & Transgender Issues: Rabbi Elliot Kukla (HUC-JIR class of 2006) and other activists have launched Transtorah.org, a resource for the Jewish community on transgender issues. In addition, he and Reuben Zellman, a HUC-JIR student, have designed *Trans-Texts: Exploring Gender in Jewish Sacred Texts* (<http://www.jewishmosaic.org/verses/about>), a guide to exploring transgender and intersex issues with commentaries written by Jewish scholars from ancient times to the present day.

WHAT WORKS *from p. 59*

Talking Books for Children In Poughkeepsie, New York, Vassar Temple members of all ages, from youth to senior citizens, have recorded twelve beloved children's books on CD/tape (and furnished a portable CD/tape player, too) for young inpatients at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. The "talking books," many in Spanish (to meet the needs of the local Mexican population) as well as English, are especially appreciated by children receiving chemotherapy, who need to pass long hours in the hospital and whose eyes sometimes hurt as a result of treatment.

HAPPENINGS For Adults & Youth **For Youth**

December 11-13, 2009: Get a taste of **Camp Harlam at Camp Harlam's Intro to Camp Weekend**, a Shabbat experience created just for current 2nd-5th grade first-time campers. Kunkletown, PA. www.harlam.urjcamps.org

December 11-March 8 (six independent weekend seminars): Participate in the **The Bernard and Audre Rapoport L'Taken Social Justice Seminar**, an intensive four-day teen study *kallah* focusing on Jewish values and social justice. Washington, DC. www.rac.org/ltaken

December 18-20, 2009: Children of all ages and their parents—Come to the URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp's **Winter Family Camp**, featuring activities for the whole family and the Jacobs Camp Shabbat experience. Utica, Mississippi. www.jacobs.urjcamps.org/yearround/

January 15-18, 2010 (Martin Luther King Jr. weekend): Teens from the western United States—Explore a fun Jewish camp environment as well as NFTY, EIE, and NFTY in Israel at the **West Coast Party**. URJ Camp Newman-Swig, Santa Rosa, CA. <http://newmanswig.urjcamps.org>



EISENDRATH INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS ON A *TIYUL* (FIELD TRIP) IN ISRAEL, SPRING 2008.

January 25-May 30, 2010: Reform teens—Delve into Jewish history, learn Hebrew, and get to know Israel at the **NFTY-EIE High School in Israel**, a four-month, fully accredited high school program. Kibbutz Tzuba, in the Judean hills. www.nftyeie.org

February 12-15, 2010: NFTY General Board members—Adopt policies and themes for the 2010-2011 year and elect the Board at **Veida**. Greene Family Camp, Bruceville, TX. www.nfty.org/leadership

 **For Adults**

March 7-9, 2010: Directors of Early Childhood Education and selected teachers—Advance your knowledge, develop leadership skills, and share challenges and successes at the **ECE-RJ Leadership Development Intensive**. Dallas. www.ecerj.org

March 18-21, 2010: Temple professionals and lay leaders—Learn new recruitment techniques, how to create a culture of welcome, and how to retain members throughout the lifecycle at the third annual **Alexander Schindler Fellows Program for Membership Certification**. Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel, Cleveland, OH. www.urj.org/membership

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side the staff to ensure the kids' full camp participation. And at Camp Dream Street Mississippi, cosponsored by the URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp (<http://jacobs.urjcamps.org/>) in Utica, Mississippi and NFTY's southern region, children with physical disabilities (primarily mobility impairments) enjoy a five-day/four-night camp experience, supported by NFTY teens serving as one-on-one counselors as well as a team of profes-

sionals and support staff.

Called upon to provide Jewish education and enrichment for *all* of our children—the prophet Isaiah commands, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people" (56:7)—the Reform Movement is responding with compassion, creativity, and commitment.

—Jane E. Herman (*JanetheWriter* at rj.org), writer and assistant to Union for Reform Judaism President Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie