

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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## PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S LETTER

"Dear Mr. Bishop:

"I feel that my dear mother would be very happy in the realization of plans whereby the old home in East Sixty-fifth Street, with all of its memories of joy and sorrow, is now to become Interfaith House, dedicated to mutual understanding and good will among students matriculating in Hunter College.

"It is to me of happy significance that this place of sacred memories is to become the first college center established for the high purpose of mutual understanding among Protestant, Jewish, and Catholic students. I hope this movement for toleration will grow and prosper until there is a similar establishment in every institution of higher learning in the land, the spirit of which shall be unity in essentials, liberty in non-essentials, and in all things charity.

"In that spirit we should all treasure in our hearts and souls the admonition of the grand Old Testament prophet, 'What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.'

"Very sincerely yours,

"FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT."

## SARA DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL HOUSE

The Dedication Exercises in the College Assembly Hall on Monday, November 22nd, marked the culmination of an enterprise which had for months enlisted the ardent endeavors of a devoted band—the acquisition and furnishing of the two Roosevelt Houses, the President's and his mother's, at 47 and 49 East 65th Street, henceforth to be known jointly as Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House.

The note of inter-faith for which the House is to stand was carried out in the choice of the divines of different creeds who participated in the ceremonies. The Rt. Rev. William A. Scully pronounced the Invocation, Dr. Herman M. Rosenthal read from the Scriptures, and Dr. Samuel G. Trexler delivered the Benediction.

Since the House is to be used for the noble purpose of fostering inter-race as well as inter-faith understanding, it was fitting that one of the high lights of the program was the superb singing of spirituals by a Negro, Mr. Aubrey Pankey, fittingly introduced by President Shuster as a brilliant young artist. The effortless ease with which even Mr. Pankey's softest notes filled the huge Assembly Hall with a volume of combined strength and sweetness, and at the same time the attitude of modesty, of dignity, of dedication that characterized his renderings, furnished an unforgettable experience, and evoked an outburst of applause after a moment of rapt silence that was perhaps an even deeper tribute.

On the lighter side there was a hint of inter-politics too, provided by President Shuster's jesting remark in presenting the first speaker of the afternoon that it was proper that first place in the dedication of Roosevelt House went to an eminent Republican. This was Mr. Charles H. Tuttle, member of the

Board of Higher Education, and president of the association that had made Roosevelt House possible.

Mr. Tuttle in his talk recalled as a notable event the incorporation on March 20th of a group of lay persons—Catholics, Jews, and Protestants—to serve the educational, spiritual, and social needs of the students and to foster religious ideals. He declared that "the heart of culture is the culture of the heart", and that the test of men is whether they make for unity or for disunity. He also recalled the recent World's Fair as the first time in human history that Catholics, Jews, and Protestants united in erecting a temple to the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and expressed the view that brotherhood cannot be achieved without religion.

President Shuster then gave further details as to the inclusive scope of those managing the affairs of the House: the three religious groups through their respective councils, and also representatives of several different bodies—faculty, students, Board of Higher Education, and alumnae. After this he proceeded to the actual Dedication, asking by whom this could more fittingly be done than by her whose home the House had been—the First Lady of the Land.

Mrs. Roosevelt brought a message from the President, a letter written from the White House on November 4th to Richard E. Bishop, Vice-President of the A. C. Horn Company, Long Island City, Queens, in which he expressed his own joy and the happiness that his mother would have felt that "this place of sacred memories" is to become Interfaith House for the students of Hunter College, "the first college center established for the high purpose of mutual understanding among Protestant, Jewish, and Catholic students". The First Lady then in her own person re-

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MRS. ROOSEVELT'S COMMENT  
ON SARA DELANO ROOSEVELT  
MEMORIAL HOUSE

The following is an excerpt from "My Day", by Eleanor Roosevelt, in the *World-Telegram* for November 24, 1943.

"WASHINGTON, Tuesday. — Yesterday I went to New York for the dedication of our old houses, which were bought by the Hillel Foundation for Hunter College to be used as an interfaith house by the girl students. We lived in one of these houses off and on for a number of years, but my mother-in-law lived in hers steadily for many years. My husband is particularly glad that something which he feels she would have approved is going to be carried on in her house.

"My mother-in-law had traveled a great deal all of her life, beginning with her trip to China when she was a very small child, so she had a liking for many different countries and their people. Though she had been brought up as a Unitarian and became an Episcopalian after her marriage, she was very tolerant of all other religions. I think she would have been interested in having work go on in these houses which will bring about greater understanding and tolerance in young people."