

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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## SARA DELANO ROOSEVELT HOUSE

It is with great pleasure that I can announce the gift to Hunter of the Roosevelt houses on East Sixty-fifth Street. The funds were raised by a group of citizens interested in the religious and character-building activities of the College, and the project has had the constant, sincere endorsement of President and Mrs. Roosevelt. All groups of the city's population are represented in the list of sponsors, the honorary chairmen of whom are Mr. John S. Burke, Mr. Henry Monsky, and Mr. Charles Tuttle. The House is to be known as the Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House, and is to be enriched by a portion of the White House Library generously donated by the President. One part will provide offices and meeting rooms for the religious clubs which are active at the College, notably the Hillel Foundation, the Newman Club, the Y.W.C.A., and other student groups. The counselors will be furnished with adequate rooms. The other part will be at the disposal of House Plan, a social and intellectual organization of all students. The plant as a whole is dedicated to "interfaith activities and democratic living".

The Associate Alumnae have generously taken an interest in furnishing the houses, and already notable contributions have been made to the fund. A report on these actions by the Alumnae will be ready for a subsequent issue of the ALUMNÆ NEWS. At the present time, I wish to thank sincerely all who have promised to participate in the venture.

GEORGE N. SHUSTER.

You have, of course, read elsewhere in the NEWS the long-awaited announcement of the acquisition of houses in which student activities may be conducted. That it is the Roosevelt Houses with their charm, spaciousness, and tradition of fine living, represents undreamed-of good fortune for our Hunter girls.

As Chairman of the House Plan Committee of the Alumnae, I have already undertaken to get funds and pledges toward the furnishing of these houses. The Westchester Chapter has generously agreed to furnish one room; the husband of Evelyn Picker, 1905, a Westchester Alumna, has given \$1,000.00 to furnish one of the larger rooms in Mrs. Picker's name; the Washington Chapter has agreed to make a contribution; the Philadelphia Chapter had the matter on its agenda on June 24th; the Associate Alumnae itself will furnish at least one room.

A very large sum of money will be needed to furnish the houses suitably, comfortably, and without extravagance. Everything that goes into the houses will be bought under the supervision of a Central Committee to be named by President Shuster. This is the

first chance that we, as graduates, have had to do something directly and specifically for the students themselves. I hope that each one of you who reads this will send a contribution before you put the NEWS aside, and will help gather further funds. The College counts on you for a prompt and generous response.

RUTH LEWINSON.

## COMMENCEMENT

Commencement this year—on June 24—was a particularly memorable and momentous occasion.

In the first place, Hunter was once more honored, for the third time in a little over a year, by a visit from the First Lady. Mrs. Roosevelt's address was characterized by her usual earnest sincerity and ardent sympathy with youth. She passed on to the Hunter girls advice she had received at her own graduation. "Never take injustice to any one placidly. Whatever you work for you must be sure you believe in. Put into any work you do everything you have to give; never give half of yourself." She stressed the great opportunities and the equally great responsibilities of the girls of to-day, and the country's need of convictions and a knowledge of the objectives for which we fight—freedom of worship, freedom to choose our government, freedom from want, freedom from racial prejudice; and she wished our youth courage to bear what they have to bear, and the joy that comes with knowledge of work done. She closed by urging her hearers not to fear love but to love all people and desire to alleviate their sufferings. "If you live in that spirit, in twenty years you will report on a better world."

In the second place, Mr. A. C. Horn spoke for the committee—of which he had been treasurer—which, thanks to contributions from many diverse sources, was presenting to the College the houses of President Roosevelt and his mother to serve as a center of religious and social activity. President Shuster in accepting this munificent gift spoke of its two-fold dedication, to inter-faith activity and to democratic living. He introduced several committee members, and asked Mrs. Roosevelt to convey our gratitude to the President.

The over 900 candidates for degrees, presented by Dean Grady, were told by President Shuster that their generation was dedicated to the task of bringing order out of chaos; and heard from Mrs. Simis, Dr. Tead, and Mrs. Mack of the importance of well-rounded development and service to the community. Music was provided by Dr. Inch at the organ, and the Choir under Mr. Emile. Dr. E. R. Clinchy delivered the Invocation and the Benediction. E. ADELAIDE HAHN.

## SPANISH ALUMNAE

On April 22nd, the Spanish Alumnae had the pleasure of listening to Mr. R. Cowen of Brownsville, Texas, whose subject was the Frontier Ballads of Mexico. He was ably assisted by Irene Thompson, June '38, who read several poems and ballads in illustration of Mr. Cowen's discourse. The musical portion of the program consisted of Spanish and Mexican dances performed by Raquel Klimis, Alicia Colomba, and the Hermanos Del Villar, all of whom are pupils of Lola Bravo, well-known teacher of Spanish and Mexican dances. The principal feature of the program was the drawing for the \$25.00 Defense Bond, which was won by Mrs. Guadalupe Gonzalez, the mother of Helen Gonzalez Barkwill, June '40.

On Saturday evening, May 2nd, the Spanish Alumnae attended the Annual Cervantes Day Program given at the McMillin Theater by the Hispanic Institute in the United States. The Intercollegiate Alliance, made up of students of Hunter, Brooklyn, and Barnard, presented three tableaux, forming the first part of the program. The latter half consisted of a play, *La Zapatera Prodigiosa*, by F. G. Lorca, presented by the Institute Players, a group made up of faculty members of various colleges.

On May 20th the group held its annual election of officers, the result of which will be announced in the NEWS in the fall.

The Spring Dance given by the Spanish Club of Hunter College was held on May 23rd, at the Hotel Sheraton, and featured Esteban Roig and his orchestra. The Alumnae were rather well represented.

At the time of writing plans are in preparation for a USO Dance to be held in June, to which members of the armed forces will be admitted free of charge, and all others will pay a nominal admission fee.

As the group does not meet during the summer months, we take this opportunity of wishing all members and friends a most enjoyable summer, and look forward to the resumption of activities in the fall.

HELEN HOCHFELDER.