

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

Published Monthly from October to June, inclusive, at 12-14 Lawton Street, New Rochelle, N. Y.,
by the Associate Alumnae of Hunter College of the City of New York.

Entered as second class matter, 1895, at the post-office at New Rochelle under the Act of March 3, 1879.

VOL. XLVIII NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y., NOVEMBER, 1943

No. 8

SARA DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL HOUSE IN NEW TOGS

Now that we can look forward to November 22nd as the date on which the Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House will formally open, I am sure the Alumnae will be glad to have an inside story about the inside. For although the premises were given a year ago last June by a group of friends, the task of altering and equipping the building was a formidable one. We discovered first of all that City regulations insisted that before a private dwelling could be used for quasi-public purposes, any number of major operations would have to be performed. Mr. Harmon, of Shreve, Lamb, and Harmon, conducted our negotiations with the Building Department, and money was got together for the purpose. Anonymous donors, responding to an appeal from Mr. A. David Benjamin, agreed to furnish lighting fixtures for the Houses. Then Mr. Samuel Lemberg generously agreed to undertake supervision of the contractual work, free of charge. Our debt to him is very great. We have not succeeded in doing everything we should have wished to do, but on the whole the place is beautifully and serviceably repaired and painted.

The furnishing problem caused us many headaches. As will be remembered, the House has two floors which are devoted to common rooms. In addition, three floors on one side are occupied by the Protestant Clubs, the Newman Club, and the Hillel Foundation, reading from top to bottom. Two floors on the other side are the property of the House Plan Association, while a third is reserved for the Social Secretary. In addition, there are two first floor suites, one of which will be furnished by the Pan-Hellenic Association, while the other challenges the decorative genius of the members of the Athletic Association.

Let us look at the common rooms first. There is a beautiful salon on the third floor, the exquisite furnishings of which we owe to Mrs. James Picker. One library has been equipped by President Roosevelt, who has generously added a large number of books from the White House collection, and a number of precious mementos of his mother. Book-cases were required for this library,

and funds to build them were given by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The other library has been furnished through the generosity of Mr. John S. Burke, of B. Altman and Company. Donations with which to purchase books for this library have been received from Mrs. de Sola Pool and others. Particularly memorable also are portraits of President Roosevelt and his mother, which will hang in the libraries. That of the President is a copy of the famous painting by Mr. Frank Salisbury which is the property of the Metropolitan Museum. Mr. Myron Taylor, responding most generously to a request from Dr. Ruth Lewinson, arranged with Mr. Salisbury to duplicate this portrait, which was thereupon loaned by the Metropolitan and despatched to London. The portrait of the President's mother is a copy of the favorite painting by Mr. Douglas Chandler. This copy has been most unselfishly donated by the artist.

The rooms on the second floor have been tastefully furnished by the Associate Alumnae. It is impossible to enumerate the many contributors, who include in particular the Class of 1918, the friends of the late Professor Henrietta Prentiss, and the Westchester Alumnae. I must, however, single out a gift of \$1,500 from Professor Emeritus Margaret Wilson, who has taken a deep personal interest in the House. Mrs. Helen L. Simis, President of the Alumnae, has given most generously of her time and energy. In fact, she has been a veritable godsend during these months of preparations. Her able assistants, Mrs. Louise Draddy, Mrs. Katherine Horgan, and Dr. Ruth Lewinson, also deserve more credit than the writer of these lines can ever give. Mention should also be made of the Committee on Furnishings, members of which include Professor Margaretha Brohmer and Mrs. Edythe July of the Art Department, and the benevolent senior counsel of which is Professor Joseph C. Chase, who has also painted a triptych for the House, memorializing Hunter girls in the services of their country. Expert interior decorators, especially Mr. Raymond Toucher, of B. Altman and Company, and Mr. James Blauvelt,

An elaborate program has been planned for the Dedication ceremony of the Sara Delano Roosevelt House, to be held on Monday, November 22nd, at 2:30 P. M., in the Assembly Hall at Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue.

Three hundred tickets have been made available to the Alumnae. It has been decided to distribute them to the first three hundred members of the Alumnae to apply and enclose with their request a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Please address your request to the Associate Alumnae of Hunter College, 204 West 55th Street, New York 19, N. Y. Reservations will be given in the order in which they are received.

HELEN L. SIMIS, President.

SPANISH ALUMNAE

The Spanish Alumnae held their first meeting of the academic year at the Alumnae Rooms on October 6, 1943. Elections were held with the following results: President, Mrs. Anna F. Santangelo; Vice President, Shirley Kreisman; Treasurer, Frances De Bourg; Recording Secretary, Mary Giglio; Corresponding Secretary, Hannah Siegel; Publicity Manager, Helen Hochfelder; Publication and Club Hostess, Maria Ferran.

Plans were formulated for a hike on Sunday, October 24. HELEN HOCHFELDER.
