



THE SARA DELANO ROOSEVELT
MEMORIAL HOUSE

At Hunter College



This House, dedicated to fostering the interest of Hunter students in religion, comradeship and inter-group understanding, was made possible by the generosity of more than a thousand persons of every creed and calling. Our gratitude to them is expressed here, for all who come to read.



SARA DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL HOUSE

Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House is host to all the students of Hunter College. It is a place of beauty and tradition, associated with the memory of one of the nation's great Presidents and of his mother.

At the present time there are about 11,000 students in regular attendance at the day and evening sessions of Hunter. These young women hail from all the groups of which New York City is comprised. They represent native and immigrant America. If they can develop understanding and amity, they will have helped to set a pattern for the nation at large.

We believe that what is called "intercultural education" is not something to be found in a textbook but rather something to be derived from the experience of living. Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House is a friendly place. It welcomes the generous ideas and impulses of youth, but it supplies at the same time courteous adult guidance. Relatively little stress is laid on oratory about good relations, and everything possible is done in order to permit such relations to develop naturally and spontaneously.

Six major student organizations have their headquarters here, and nearly every other college group makes use of the well-appointed rooms. Some of the students belong to the religious clubs at Hunter. Others are members of the social organizations which invite the girls to broaden and enrich student life.

One cannot well imagine that President Roosevelt's mother could have found a more suitable memorial. This House, in serving youth, serves humanity.



THE ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

Here, beside a fire which revives memories of a notable American mother and her son, Hunter students and their friends may talk during quiet hours about the challenge which coming generations of Americans must meet. A democracy is perennially engaged in carrying the burden of its commitment to great purpose and idealistic service. It cannot exist half slave and half free; and it cannot prosper either if it is half enemy and half friend. Because this House is dedicated to freedom and friendship, it stands resolutely for what is best in American life.

The books in this library once formed the collection of Dr. Helen Gray Cone, one of Hunter's great and inspiring teachers. It is frankly an inspirational library, rich in the major poets of the English language and in what are called the great books. The wisdom of Shakespeare blends with the brilliant wit of Pope, and there is the romance of Bliss Carman as well as the realism of Edgar Lee Masters.

This room is used for intimate meetings concerned with fostering discussion. Surely one of the principal objectives of American education must be to make it clear that the future of young people and of their country depends upon that measure of understanding and cooperation which can transform tension into harmonious neighborliness. We are fortunate that the spirit of President Roosevelt, who worked so long and hard to serve this educational objective, seems to preside over this beautiful room.

This room, dominated by Salisbury's portrait of President Roosevelt, is memorable also because the beautiful furnishings were provided partly through the generosity of Mr. Roosevelt and partly by the kindness of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

FRIENDLY PLANNING

During the past year, many thousands of students came regularly to Roosevelt House. Here all acquired a more intimate acquaintance with their teachers and counselors. Under quiet and unobtrusive guidance, young women have grown up more aware of their obligations and more keenly cognizant of their own social gifts.

Guidance is hard work. It is also inevitably expensive. When one recalls the almost infinite sums which must be raised and spent to quell uprisings against the decency of humankind, one also understands how precious are the relatively small alms which go to make leadership in community living possible.

This House was not presented to Hunter by a few wealthy persons. More than a thousand individuals contributed to the purchase and equipment of these rooms. Other thousands will, we hope, continue to do their part in order to make possible the effective work which alone can insure the success of the venture.

Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House, incorporated by Act of Legislature, signed by Governor Thomas E. Dewey on the 20th day of March 1945, is under the general supervision of a Board of Directors. The Roosevelt House League, recently formed, has for its main purpose the promotion of intercredal and intergroup cooperation at Hunter. Its members endeavor to furnish the material means that foster this great purpose.



Here Mrs. Ruth Deiches, Social Secretary, confers with students about their plans for happy and eventful occasions.



The religious counselors confer with the student chairmen.

THE GREAT RELIGIOUS FAITHS

Roosevelt House is dedicated to the principle that the great religious faiths which make up the community can preserve their identities while working side by side in friendly understanding. Therefore the Directors accord to each of the church groups complete autonomy. In addition to the resident Jewish, Protestant, and Catholic organizations, two new groups are in the process of formation—the Greek Orthodox and the Unitarians. From this point of view, the House mirrors the great City of which it is a part—a City in which each man and woman is free to derive, in the manner his conscience dictates, strength from an illustrious spiritual tradition.

Just as this City must in turn depend upon the readiness of all groups to exercise mutual respect and to join in fostering every type of social and civic good, so also must those who come to Roosevelt House be helped to discover that the mainspring of democracy is not tolerance but cooperation. The freedom and dignity of the human conscience are not mere phrases to us. They are vital truths which we must explore together. Intergroup and interracial understanding are therefore themes for study and discussion. No pains are spared to provide the most mature and far-sighted adult leadership. But student initiative is particularly important and we are happy in the knowledge that it has borne excellent fruit. Roosevelt House is sometimes a pulpit but always a home in which living counts more than words.

TRADITIONS OF THE GREAT JEWISH FAITH

The Hillel Foundation serves Jewish student groups in all the major colleges of the United States. It is interested in the religious and personal well-being of young people. Roosevelt House owes a great debt to Hillel. When its directors came to Hunter for the purpose of inaugurating work on the campus, they responded with alacrity to a suggestion that Hillel combine with other organizations instead of setting up an establishment of its own. An initial drive for funds was started. Then, under the able leadership of Mr. A. C. Horn, a committee of all the major faiths on which Mr. Charles H. Tuttle and Mr. John S. Burke served as Protestant and Catholic co-chairmen respectively, raised the sum needed for the purchase of the House.

Under judicious direction, admirable progress has been made. Classes are conducted, and friendly counsel is afforded to the individual student. Efforts are made to illustrate the traditions of the great Jewish faith. Among the major events recently sponsored by Hillel was an exhibit of religious art, made possible through the generous cooperation of Mr. Stephen Pichetto and the Kress foundation. A highlight in the planned program for the year was the Conference on Religion and Higher Education, featuring such speakers as Dean Hugh S. Taylor of Princeton, Professor Herbert W. Schneider of Columbia, Dr. Robert Gordis of the Jewish Theological Seminary, and President George N. Shuster and several students of Hunter College.

The value of Hillel to the students of Hunter is beyond estimate. It has been eager to help all groups and to share in every worth-while project.



Rabbi Henry Rosenthal listens while one of his student groups reads the Twenty-third Psalm in Hebrew.



*Father John C. Mulcahy expounds
a text to an interested study group.*

THE NEWMAN CLUB

The Newman Club at Hunter is an old and successful institution with a large membership in both the day and evening sessions. When the idea of Roosevelt House was broached to Archbishop Spellman, he endorsed it and pledged his cooperation.

Newman girls, coming from all parts of Greater New York, and some making long daily journeys from the most remote districts of the City, are interested in their own Catholic religion and in social betterment. They endeavor to carry out a practical rule enunciated by Pope Leo XIII: "While holding firm to our dogmatic position and avoiding all compromise with error, it is Christian prudence not to reject, but rather to win over to us, the collaboration of all men of good will to the pursuit of individual and especially of social welfare." Their meetings often crowd the available space to the last inch. Protestant and Jewish students and faculty members are appreciated guests at their functions.

Newman publishes two journals, one for the day and the other for the evening students.

Their chaplain is a busy man with numerous obligations. Yet he manages to give a great deal of his time to Hunter, and is ably assisted by a number of the clergy and the laity. Newman Club helps to make Roosevelt House a better place in which to live.

THE COLLEGE PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION

The College Protestant Association was organized by a group of interested faculty members and students with the cooperation of a number of Protestant churches of different denominations. Its expressed object is to provide "the means whereby Protestant students may grow in Christian knowledge and insight and gain experience in Christian leadership." It also shares enthusiastically in the intergroup activities of the House.

Those who belong to this unique organization, which owes a great debt to far-sighted and unselfish faculty members, have a rich program of meetings, study groups, religious conferences, and social service projects of interest to Protestant students and groups at Hunter. The directing committees include the ministers of some of the contributing churches, faculty members, and students. A woman trained in religious education is employed by the Association to serve as program director and religious counselor. Financial support is received from students, alumnae, faculty members, friends, and churches.

The rooms of the Association hum with activity and are unusually friendly places. Everyone who visits them comes away refreshed by the experience. Here is an appealing illustration of cooperative pluralism.



Dr. Eleanor Marr, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the College Protestant Association, looks on while an absorbing student project is being completed.



Officers of the popular Athletic Association plan great things. Paul Meltsner's well known painting of Martha Graham hangs in the background.

THE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Since our motto is friendly union for common service, the major social clubs of Hunter likewise have their headquarters in Roosevelt House. These social clubs—House Plan, the Pan-Hellenic Association, and the Athletic Association—enlist practically all students who take some interest in extra-curricular activities. They enable students of all faiths to meet as young women eager to create a truly human community.

These social clubs are the particular responsibility of the Associate Alumnae, who have been very generous in their support. To them the House owes most of its splendid equipment and tasteful furnishings. In addition the Office of the Dean of Students offers guidance to students in the planning and conduct of social affairs. Young people cannot grow up in splendid isolation. At a girls' college teas and dances are very important, but many other kinds of activity are likewise fostered.

The Athletic Association affords undergraduates, graduates, and faculty an opportunity to participate not only in individual and team games and sports, but also in folk and modern dance. Scores, stories, and highlights of events—intermurals, play days, and intramurals—are reported in the Association's own publication, *The A. A. Voice*.

Hunter students are proud of the Athletic Association, which covets the values of physical education and good sportsmanship.

The resident matron assists House Plan girls at tea, in a room where Sara Delano Roosevelt was once at home.

THE HOUSE PLAN ASSOCIATION

House Plan is the largest of the Hunter social organizations, having a membership of far more than a thousand girls. The idea on which it rests is very democratic and is, one thinks, a special favorite with young people in Father Knickerbocker's town. Any group of students may form a "house" which is usually named after a person associated with the history of the College. All the "houses" then constitute House Plan. The several units may have their own affairs, or they may pool their energies for a more elaborate event.

House Plan rooms buzz with continued activity, and students affiliated with it also crowd the common rooms on the first and second floors. The organization has an enviable record in war work, doing much to entertain disabled veterans, to promote the sale of bonds and stamps, and to keep up student morale.

Faculty and alumnae give very generously of their time to eager and happy House Plan girls, who in turn do virtually all the work required for preparing a party and cleaning up afterward. Membership is therefore also good training for the home life to which most girls look forward.



The Armed Forces are handsomely represented at a dance with Pan-Hellenic girls. The Chase portraits in the background are of Hunter graduates in the United States services.



THE PAN-HELLENIC ASSOCIATION AT HUNTER

Pan-Hellenic includes practically every sorority. But all fit snugly into clubrooms used jointly, and only initiates can tell one Greek letter from another. Rushing emphasizes brains as well as beauty, and members are among the leaders in campus activities. Pan-Hellenic drew quarters in the remodeled basement, where dinner was once prepared for numerous Roosevelts. Nothing daunted, the girls transformed their surroundings into a charming environment.

Sororities at Roosevelt House have provided a shining example of how to overcome banal prejudices. Girls have learned how to share work, fun, and responsibility. If the House had accomplished nothing more than this, it would have been worth the effort expended on making it a reality.

There are numerous evening affairs at the House, affording the relaxation and social associations which students need. The Dean of Students provides the necessary supervision and faculty friends are welcome. Perhaps our only difficulty is that our large student body has a hard time fitting into the space available. A Planning Committee, to which representatives of all the organizations belong, assures equality of opportunity.

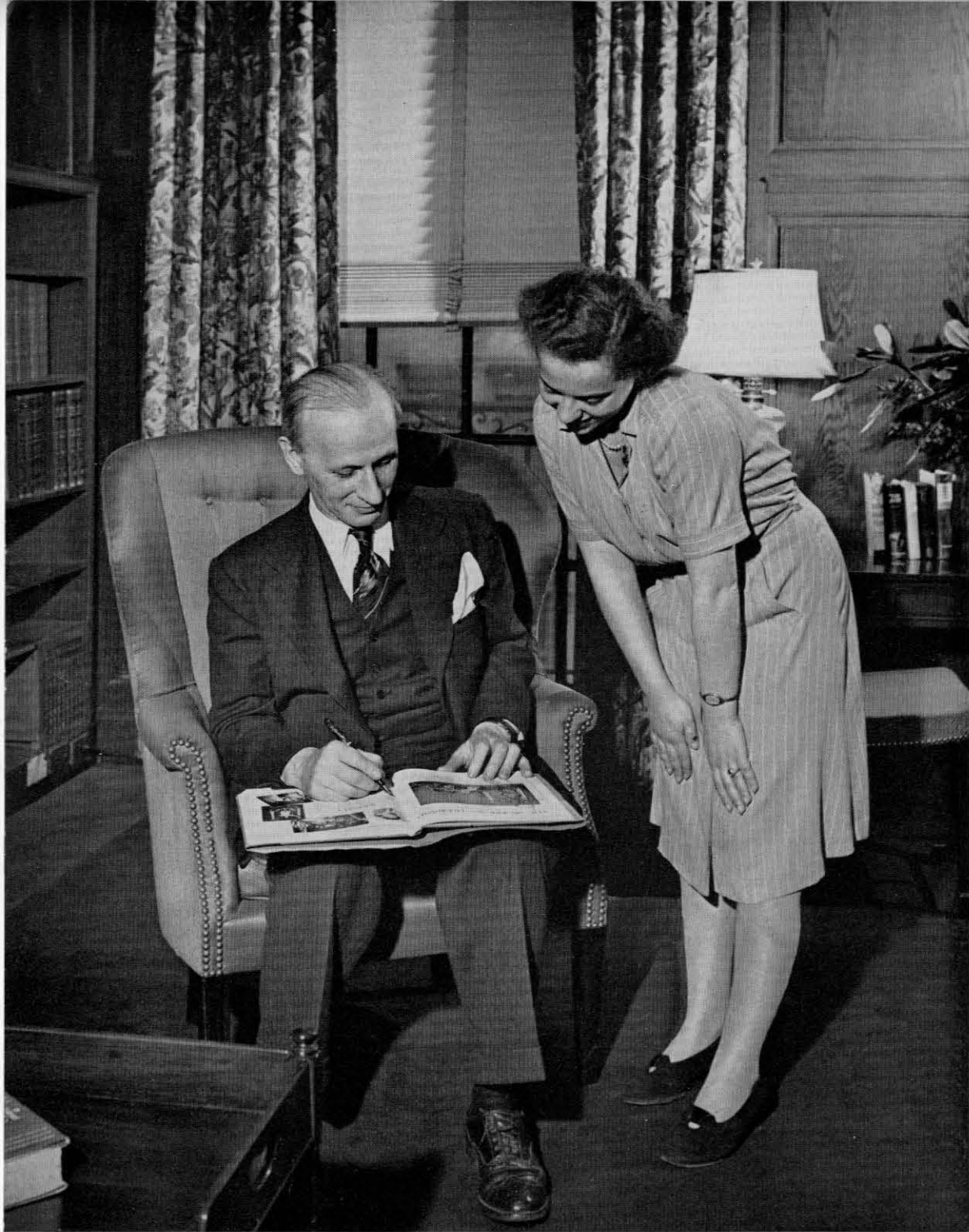
LIVING IN THE AMERICAN WAY

The common rooms, of which there are five, are used for events as diverse as teas, dances, concerts, lectures, and even fashion shows. But they are also places to which the individual girls can come during off hours, to read in the library or to play the piano. All testify to Hunter's unflagging awareness of its purpose, which is to provide a sound education and yet also to prepare for living in the American way. We hold that birth is neither an open door nor a locked one, that a religious faith is compatible with courtesy, and that it is more wholesome to differ than to dictate. In our opinion the natural joy of youth can become a prelude to kindly adult living.

On evenings when students are busy at their books, rooms are made available to groups serving purposes akin to those of the House. We have played host to the New York State Association of Deans of Women, the directorate of the Girl Scouts, the Catholic Association for International Peace, B'nai B'rith, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Red Cross, and many other groups—more than one could list on a page. Students participate in most of these meetings, and are thus enabled to extend their circle of acquaintance.



The Picker Room provides the lovely setting for a musicale in honor of the heroes of World War II.



An informal moment in The Burke Library. President Shuster, guide, philosopher and friend to every member of the Hunter family, autographs a student's "Wistarion."

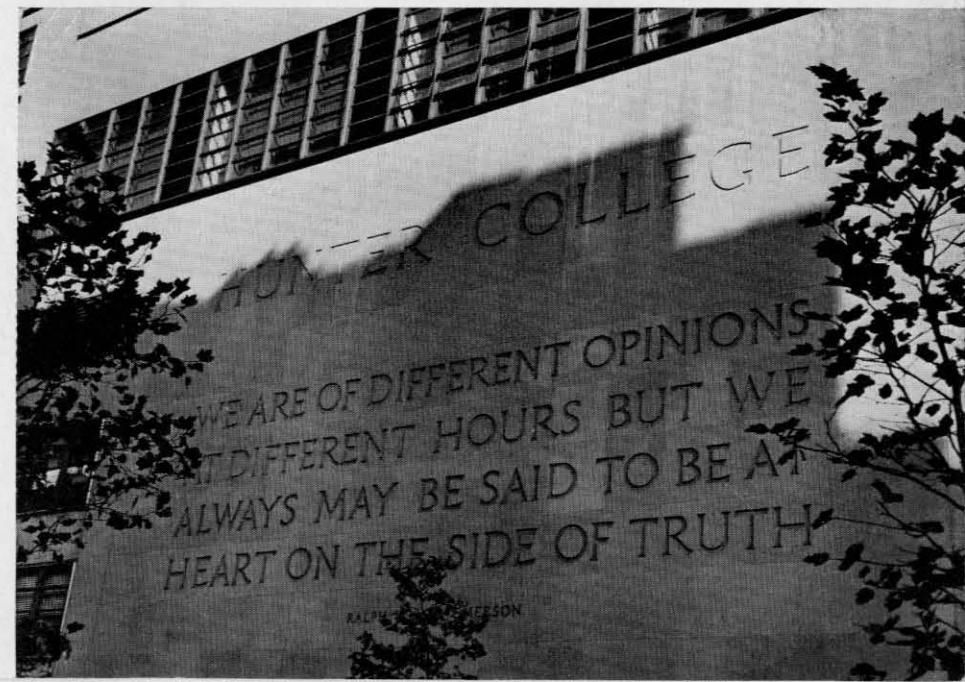
THE HUNTER COLLEGE STUDENT
SOCIAL, COMMUNITY, AND
RELIGIOUS CLUBS ASSOCIATION

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47 and 49 East 65th Street
New York City

This booklet has been set in Egmont type, and printed at the Comet Press, Inc., in New York City. The photograph for the cover is by Charlotte Brooks, the small doorway is by Alfred Luetz, the first photograph showing Sara Delano Roosevelt's portrait is by A. Losch, all other photography is by Sozio. The book has been designed by Edna Wells Luetz. Photo-engraving is by the Beck Engraving Company. Of this booklet, three thousand copies were printed in December 1945.

The Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House

November 1943

The Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House was donated to Hunter College a year ago by the Roosevelt House Association, Inc., a committee of citizens, as a Center for use as headquarters for the college's religious and other extra-curricular activities. The twin buildings at 47-49 East 65th Street, former residences of President Roosevelt and his mother, were incorporated in March, 1943 as the Hunter College Students' Social, Community, and Religious Clubs Association. Joseph P. Day was chairman of the presenting committee, to which more than 100 separate donors contributed; Charles H. Tuttle and John S. Burke were honorary chairmen; and A. C. Horn was treasurer.

The adjoining houses were built in 1908 by the elder Mrs. Roosevelt for herself, the President, and his family, after a design by Charles Platt, architect. While living in No. 49, Franklin D. Roosevelt ran for State Senator in 1910, resigning in 1913 to become Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Mrs. Roosevelt bought the twin buildings eight years after the death of her husband, James, and lived in No. 47 until her last illness in September, 1941. She was then 87.

The conversion of the home into a Center in which all religious groups meet in amity keeps alive the spirit of religious cooperation manifested by Mrs. Roosevelt, who devoted herself to advancing the cause of all faiths. When the gift of the twin houses was first announced, in June 1942, the President said it was "the finest memorial to my mother." It is the first Center of its exact kind in New York, fostering better understanding among the different religious groups in the community.

The buildings are seven-story structures of white limestone and brick, with separate doors opening onto a single porch, and several rooms connected. Entrance now is through No. 49 only.

No. 49 has been given over to the religious groups of the college. The Hillel Foundation (Jewish) occupies the fourth floor, the Newman Club (Catholic) the fifth floor, and the Protestant Students' Association, the sixth floor. The Student Christian Association, non-denominational, will also occupy the sixth floor.

No. 47, which was the President's mother's home, is used by social clubs such as House Plan, the Athletic Association, and the Pan Hellenic Association. The second and third floors of both houses are general meeting rooms for use by all student and alumnae groups.

The show room of the establishment is the large drawing room on the ^{third} ~~second~~ floor, which combines the rear rooms of the two houses. This room, furnished by Mrs. James Picker, an alumna of the college, is used for small dances, receptions, and meetings of a general nature.

Drawing room libraries occupy the second floor front rooms of both houses. The Inter-faith Library, on the No. 47 side, was furnished by President Roosevelt, who contributed a number of books from his White House Collection, and some Dresden China figures and other art objects treasured by his mother. Furnishings for the No.49 Library were presented by Mr. John S. Burke, president of B. Altman and Co., and a member of the committee which purchased the house.

House Plan, a group of small social clubs, occupies the upper floors of No. 47. The Athletic Association has its headquarters on the first floor, which has been equipped as a game room and meeting place. The Pan-Hellenic Association, central society of the college's sororities, also occupies rooms in No. 47.

The Associate Alumnae Rooms, on the second floor, have been furnished by contributions from members of the organization under the direction of Mrs. Louise Draddy and Mrs. Helen Sinis.

The Roosevelt House is designed primarily to serve as headquarters for the work of the religious clubs, which are directed by representatives of the three faiths, and for the major college social organizations. Dr. Henry Rosenthal represents the Jewish group, the Rev. John G. Mulcahy the Catholic, and Mrs. Theodore Thornton the Protestant group. The house will also serve as a meeting place for all college clubs, and will be open to any student or alumnae group.

Mrs. Ruth G. Deiches will act as social secretary at the Roosevelt House.

PLAN OF THE ROOSEVELT HOUSE

		Front of House			
7	Back of House	Custodian's Apartment		Back of House	
	Mrs. D. Apartment	Apartment of Mrs. Deiches	Protestant Student's Association	Protestant Group	
6	House Plan	House Plan	Newman Club Study	Newman Meeting Room	
5	House Plan	House Plan	Hillel Foundation Study	Hillel Meeting Room	
4	Picker Room	President's Library	Burke Library	Picker Room	
3	Alumnae Rooms	GENERAL MEETING ROOMS		Alumnae Rooms	
2		Alumnae Rooms	Reception Room		
1		Athletic Association	Pan Hellenic Association		