fc

February 26, 1945

Dear Mrs. Davis-Dubois:

I am sorry to say I could not give five hundred dollars to your Workshop now, because during the war I am not making as much money and my taxes have gone up greatly. I am obligated for regular monthly contributions to various things which make extra contributions impossible.

I will try to come over and visit the Workshop some day when I am in New York and will gladly give a small contribution later on.

Sincerely yours,

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Mrs. Rachel Davis-Dubois
Intercultural Education Workshop
204 East 18th St. NYC

INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP

CONSULTATIVE SERVICE FOR SCHOOL, CHURCH, AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

204 EAST 18TH STREET
NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

ORchard 4-3193

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Director
E. HAROLD MASON
Associate Director
CHARLOTTE A. SCOTT
Secretary

FEB 21 1945

February 19th, 1945

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

A few years ago you were interested enough to mention me in your column and to give us $ 500 toward an experiment in the use of creative theatre in the high schools in dramatizing the problem of race and culture conflict.

That report has been written up by teachers who participated in it and will soon be published.

I am now working on another pioneering phase of intercultural education - but as usual pioneering must rely for funds not on well established foundations but from people of vision as yourself. The attached book will give you a partial report and the enclosed copy of Dr. Lindeman's (our chairman) letter will give you his evaluation.

This school year our new phase which is really excitingly and surprisingly successful is to have twenty-five or thirty parents revive their seasonal memories in front of their own children. The parents like it and so do the children, especially since the group conversation is interspersed with song and sometimes to everyone's surprise - folk dance. We have done this with adult groups alone, and with their children in different kinds of communities and under different auspices on an average of once a week for four years and have reached between seven and eight thousand people.

As yet we have hesitated to give it widespread publicity though it has been described in Coronet for April, 1943 and Parents Magazine for September, 1943 and in several smaller church magazines.

Our little group of four is working only for expenses but more and more requests come and so we must have financial assistance in order to secure and train others. Can you possibly give the amount of

help you did before?

One of our observers, a man of deep wisdom, said recently: "To take adults back to their childhood in such a friendly atmosphere is a real discovery - a discovery of their own personalities at their best. Such a discovery has the force of a religious conversion and being adults the complete development of this spiritual force can be left to that particular person."

You may desire to use this in your column sometime. We should be happy if you could attend one of our group conversations just as a person.

I'd like to close with an account of an incident that happened only last week. A parent came to the school to attend a Neighborhood-Home Festival. When she came into the room she saw two Negro mothers and a few olive skinned Puerto Ricans among the usual mixed group of New York City parents. She said to me, "I don't belong here - I wasn't brought up with these kinds of people." I asked, "Where were you brought up?" "Iowa". I said, "I'm old stock American too, but I think we belong here. Come in with me." As we got our group conversation started, she began to participate in the warming friendliness more and more freely. At the end she said, as she conversed with me, with deep emotion: "Now I know what my boy is fighting this war for.

With kindest personal regards.

Cordially

Rachel Davis-DuBois

Rachel Davis-DuBois

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Director
E. HAROLD MASON
Associate Director
CHARLOTTE A. SCOTT
Secretary

January 5, 1945

Will you take the time, busy though you are, as everyone is these days, to read the attached copy of a letter which I recently sent to my friend, Rabbi De Sola Pool, describing the approach to the problem of race and culture conflict of the Intercultural Education Workshop?

If what I have written interests you and the work seems to be a sound though humble attack upon a situation about which you and I are much concerned, will you join with others in providing an adequate budget for the expansion of the work?

At a small gathering where Mrs. DuBois' approach in the field of intercultural education was discussed recently, five persons spontaneously contributed twenty-five dollars each and it was this response which led me to believe that you would wish to aid in this work if you knew about it.

Sincerely yours,

Edward C. Lindeman

E. C. Lindeman

P.S. In order that contributions may be deducted from your income tax, the checks should be made payable to the Institute for Intercultural Studies, Inc., and earmarked for the Intercultural Education Workshop.

TELEPHONE
GRAMERCY 5-4420

EDUARD C. LINDEMAN
122 EAST 22ND STREET
NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

December 27, 1944

COPY

Dear Rabbi De Sola Pool:

Hatred and prejudice are, I believe, symptoms of a peculiar kind of "sickness" which we Americans are now experiencing in a manner both disturbing and surprising. Amidst the shock and perplexity of the American minorities issues, earnest citizens are attempting many action programs. Some place their hope in the passage of new legislation; others believe that education is the only safeguard; still others seem to feel that we shall know what to do about our complex racial, religious, and group conflicts and tensions only after we have conducted careful scientific researches. These are all no doubt needed programs, and I have found myself at one time or other affiliated with each of them.

However - there is still another form of action - perhaps far less spectacular but nevertheless effective: a method originated and practiced successfully for four years by Dr. Rachel Davis-DuBois, whom you know, and the group working with her. Dr. DuBois is a Quaker and an old friend of mine. Her approach to the problem of prejudice is primarily psychological. She brings together people of diverse backgrounds living in tension areas. By simple methods of drawing on their past experiences, she melts down the barriers that separate them and slowly they reveal to each other the worthy and cherished elements in their diverse cultural inheritances. From this grows respect and a new feeling - a feeling of togetherness.

The method works with extraordinary success in the most variegated groups and is being called the Neighborhood Home Festival. I am not particular about what name is applied to the work; my concern revolves about the knowledge that it succeeds. It is no cure-all for our deep-seated prejudices and tensions, but it heals many persons and thus enables them to participate in the normal democratic life of diversity.

I am telling you all this because I believe that this unostentatious approach to a baffling problem will interest you and also because I should like to enlist your support for the work. I have been for some years the chairman of the committee that has guided her work; we call ourselves the Intercultural Education Workshop. It is our purpose to expand the services of the workshop so that leaders may be trained and demonstrations be conducted in a wider number of tension areas outside New York City.

If you would like more detailed information, please feel free to call upon me. The method is described in Dr. DuBois' book, GET TOGETHER AMERICANS, which was published by Harper's last year and her second volume, BUILD TOGETHER AMERICANS will soon be available.

Trusting that you will find it possible to make a contribution to help Americans get together, I remain

Most sincerely,

Eduard C. Lindeman

Eduard C. Lindeman

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CITY OF NEW YORK

JOHN F. CONROY
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY, 8:30 TO 4 P. M.

TELEPHONE, WADSWORTH 3-2100

OFFICE OF
SCHOOL DISTRICTS 12, 13 AND 14
J. H. S. 164 M.
184TH ST. & EDGECOMBE AVENUE
NEW YORK 33, N. Y.

The field activities of the Intercultural Education Workshop has consisted of (1) work with parents in "getting acquainted experiences." (2) talks at faculty meetings, parents meetings and principals' conferences. (3) Intercultural Workshop which teachers may visit to get individual advice and classroom materials. As a result of this program there hs been an increased awareness on the part of teachers and better relations among the parents.

JOHN F. CONROY
Assistant Superintendent

THE AUDUBON SCHOOL
PUBLIC SCHOOL 165, MANHATTAN
AUDUBON AVENUE AND 165TH STREET
PAULA F. MILLS, PRINCIPAL

I believe that the four Festivals held over a period of a year have done a great deal in arousing thought and high-lighting our chief problem. The various parents who were present received a great deal of inspiration. The children, too, who were present benefitted through the activity.

I am aware, as you are too, that this is only one means of attacking our problem. It is a colorful and stimulating vehicle. I believe there are many other sections of this city and other cities, too, that might adopt this method as part of their program

PAULA F. MILLS - Principal.

I am enclosing a clipping from our local newspaper describing the last Neighborhood-Home Festival which you conducted in our school.

The neighborhood merchants and parents who enjoyed this spontaneous experience with our children agree with us that it is a big step in producing the kind of intergroup friendliness which will help in keeping the situation from becoming acute.

The parents and teachers will meet next Tuesday to discuss follow-up steps. We trust you can be with us.

Mrs. Gertrude Ayer, Principal
P. S. 24 Harlem

MARGARET MEAD, noted anthropologist, author of Coming of Age in Samoa, etc.: "After seeing the neighborhood festival demonstrated at Wellesley School of Community Affairs, I consider it a real social invention for bringing people together in an atmosphere of friendly understanding, as a first step in getting them working together on problems."

Parties Go Global

By MARJORIE BARROW GREENBIE

WHEN YOU MEET a person outside of your own social circle, what do you do? Either you are embarrassed, and "can't think of a thing to say,"—or you talk about the weather.

On this simple impulse to talk to strangers about the weather has been built a new kind of get-together party intended to remove barriers of race, color, age and economic status. Called a "home festival," it is the original idea of Dr. Rachel Davis DuBois, a friendly Quaker lady who has long been professor of inter-cultural Education at New York University. After 15 years of trying to make little Yankees, Italians, Jews, Germans, Catholics, Protestants, Chinese and Irish get along together in the public schools, Dr. DuBois thought she could devise a form of social entertainment guaranteed to make the most unsocial guest love his neighbor as himself. And she set about to do just this.

CORONET APRIL, 1943

WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION
NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION

In my opinion, Dr. Rachel Davis DuBois developed one of the most outstanding approaches to interracial problems in the country. While in normal times, this contribution is of value during the period of strain which wars create. Very often the cause of these war conditions cheat achieved through constructive channels and expression. Dr. DuBois has devoted her work over a period of twenty years, techniques and programs for such an approach. Her experience, her simplicity and sincerity of expression command and hold the attention of those with whom she comes in contact and to whom she speaks. Her message is one that all America can understand and one that all America needs.

Mary Alfred Bethune
Mary Alfred Bethune
Director of Negro Affairs

My Day
By Eleanor Roosevelt

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PARENTS' MAGAZINE: "The neighborhood house festival seems to be a sure way to break down the barriers that keep us from knowing and enjoying other families in the community. This intimate method has been successfully tested by several parents groups and we recommend its use throughout the country."

PM'S DAILY PICTURE MAGAZINE
July 30, 1943

HOW QUAKERS WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE

The other day, while the United Nations battled Fascism on all fronts but the Second, the Society of Friends carried on the fight for democracy right here at home. To its American-Unity Home Festival, held at the New York City Quaker Center, 144 E. 20th St., came members of all races, from all countries, to sing, dance and play together—as part of the program devised by Dr. Rachel Davis-DuBois to promote understanding. This program is being taught to community teachers at the Intercultural Workshop.

THE READERS DIGEST
Program Service
6

III. Recommended Reading for the Speaker on Developing Democracy in Community and Nation

"TRY A NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY" by Rachel Davis-DuBois and Marjorie Barstow Greenbie, *Parents' Magazine*, September 1943. A party provides a springboard for cooperation in other community affairs and is a sure way to get to know and enjoy other families.

I am enclosing herewith my check for $25.00 to be applied to the splendid service you are rendering through the Workshop. I am glad to have some part in this enterprise.

Henry A. Atkins
General Secretary
THE CHURCH PEACE UNION