LILLIAN WALD

1933 - 1939
My dear Miss Wald:

I am proposing Marion Dickerman for membership in the Cosmopolitan Club and I wonder if you would be willing to second her. If so, will you write a letter to Mrs. Whitney Sheppardson, Chairman of the Membership Committee?

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Lillian Wald
265 Henry Street
New York City

S:R
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park, New York

Very dear First Lady:

I hope the trip was not too strenuous so that you will not be afraid to come again. It was grand to have you and Jane Addams and Alice Hamilton together and Elinor Morgenthau, too. I was particularly glad that you had a chance to meet Alice Hamilton, and I wish that if you carry out your plan of having her come to Hyde Park - the letter from you has not yet reached her and so of course you could not have had any answer - that the President and you will have an opportunity to hear about Germany that she knows so well, and which she has so recently seen. The Times, last Sunday, August sixth, on the first page of the magazine section, had one story and other magazines are to have
contributions from her.

Having seen her, you will understand that she is acceptable even though a woman, to the faculty of man dominated Harvard. She's a wise woman.

My very dear love to you,

[Signature]

Lillian D. Wald.
August 14, 1933

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing a copy of Margaret Bondfield's statement, which I have taken from the guest book of the settlement, and which Miss Wald promised to send you.

Very sincerely yours,

Deborah H. DeCamp
Secretary to Miss Wald

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
July 10th to 26th, 1933

My visit to America this time coincides with the birth of the "New Deal" and it will be my inspiration to remember that the day I reached Washington was the day on which child labour under the age of 16 was abolished. By a stroke of the President's pen, America caught up with and passed the point reached in England as a result of more than eighty years of strenuous effort. I am impressed by the reach of the code called the 'blanket code' which sets up a universal maximum of hours and minimum rate of wages, and by the President's broadcast calling upon employers and workers to cooperate in this 'gentleman's agreement' pending the working out of codes for the separate trades. Of course it remains to be seen how long this drive will last and how much of this improvised structure will become permanent. It seems to me that it rests upon an emotional reaction from the terrors of the depression and the people will follow the President blindly while he speaks to them of action and with confidence in their response, very much in the vital atmosphere I found in Russia in 1922, amid the ruins of the old economic and political order, with this important difference, however, that their leaders in Russia have no written constitution and no supreme court in which a single successful protestor may bring disaster to the plan, and Russia has no band of competent technicians and organizers who may and can, in America, build the necessary administrative structure which will turn emotion into habit.

Frances Perkins has done wonders in the face of an un-
paralleled situation of difficulty and by setting up a Federal System of Exchange under a competent and non-political civil service, she will most quickly establish the foundation for the next advance in the direction of provision for the relief of unemployment and old age, etc.

The danger, as I see it, lies in the lack of an administrative machinery for enforcement of the law, and of a trained inspectorate; if there is a great improvement in trade union membership that will help in securing compliance provided collective bargaining and cooperation in industry is frankly conceded by the employers and wisely exercised by the workers. A very hopeful feature is the readiness of the "white collar section" to make common cause with the workers in industry. It is too much to hope such a gigantic revolution can be carried through without some disasters and mistakes, but enough should remain to make this period stand out as a turning point and a great advance in the history of the United States and its influence will be felt throughout the world.

Margaret Bondfield 26-7-33
August 24, 1933

Dear Mr. Walker:

Many thanks for your letter telling me that you had sent Mrs. O'Day a check for a thousand dollars. We all deeply appreciate it.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Frank C. Walker
Hotel Biltmore
New York, N.Y.
August 17th, 1933.

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In conformity with your suggestion, I have to-day sent check for $1000.00 to Mrs. Daniel O'Day, at 331 Madison Avenue, New York City.

With kind personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Frank C. Walker.
August 29, 1933

Dear Mrs. Wallace:

The President and I would like very much to have you and the Secretary dine with us on Wednesday, September 6th, informally, at 7:45.

Looking forward to seeing you both, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Henry A. Wallace
Wardman Park Hotel
Washington DC
October 14, 1933

Dear Miss Wald:

How very sweet of you to send me such a delightful telegram. I very much appreciate your thought of me.

My mother-in-law told me she had visited you and found you feeling very happy and comfortable.

With much love,

Miss Lillian D. Wald
Westport
Connecticut

House-on-the-Pond
Saugatuck,
Westport, Conn.
WESTPORT, CONN OCT 11 1933 3:42 PM

MRS ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON D.C.

ALL BENEATH THE ROOF OF THE HOUSE ON THE POND JOIN ME IN
CONGRATULATIONS AND LOVING ADMIRATION

LILLIAN D. WALD

3:56 PM
October 24, 1933

My dear Miss Wald:

Thank you so much for your letter and for sending the advance copy of "Windows on Henry Street". The President greatly appreciated it and asked me to thank you very much for it. I hope you are continuing to improve.

Much love,

Miss Lillian D. Wald
House-On-The-Pond
Westport, Connecticut
Beloved First Lady,

I feel as if I were sitting in the veranda of your temple and I honestly hope that the advance printing of the chapters in "Windows on Henry Street" will be of some little help.

I was urged to get "Prixister" out and the November issue of the fantastic magazine his wife had done herself over the Russian situation.
November issue (on sale Oct. 25) will have a condensed chapter of my study:

 appeal for recognition in Kansas.

 The book will not be out until March — Atlantic Monthly Press — but some of us believe the article may be helpful and the magazine changed its tone with that in mind.

 I have it in my heart to hope that in this extraordinary year of our husband's and your leadership, I can contribute even this informed service.

 PaulKK has written to the President that he would have reprints of it given out anywhere and to any number.

 Keep helping to clear the air of racial prejudices.

 With dear love — Lillian O. Walker.
January 2, 1934

Dear Miss Wald:

Many, many thanks for your kind telegram. Both my husband and I deeply appreciate your thought of us and your very heartening message.

We both send you our very best wishes for the new Year.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian D. Wald
Westport
Conn.
PRESIDENT AND MRS ROOSEVELT=
WHITE HOUSE WASH.:

THIS CHRISTMAS WILL ALWAYS BE MEMORABLE FOR THE WISDOM THE
JUSTICE AND THE GENEROSITY IN RESTORING FIFTEEN HUNDRED
CITIZENS TO FULL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENSHIP
AND YOUR BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS SENT TO ME HAVE MADE ME VERY
HAPPY AND VERY PROUD THANK YOU MANY TIMES AND MAY ALL GOOD
THINGS BEFALL YOU=

LILLIAN D. WALT.
January 6, 1934

Dear Miss Wald:

Of course nothing would give us greater pleasure than to have you come at any time that is convenient to you. I feel, however, that perhaps the early spring will be more propitious as to weather, though we are having very nice days now. I am so happy that you are really better.

With all good wishes for the New Year and many thanks for your letter,

Affectionately yours,

Miss Lillian Wald
House on the Pond
Saugatuck
Conn.
December 29th, 1933

Beloved First Lady:

I suspect that you will be glad to receive a note from me, clearly expressed by the typewriter, in preference to my alleged indistinct handwriting. In the event of 25,000 mail pieces addressed to the President and you, it is, of course, not to be assumed that he or you know the individual messages. I am, therefore, adding to the 25,000 friends my own personal happiness in what is being done and the life giving hopes that come from both of you.

Your beautiful plant is a matter of Connecticut gratification. In the same room with it are the plants that the children of the public schools brought to me.

I am so much better that perhaps my visit to the White House, that you so affection-
ately invited me to, may come off during the winter, unless you think better of that hospitality - which I hope you will not.

With deep devotion,

Your friend,

L.D.W.G

Lila D. Wala.
March 19, 1934

Dear Miss Wald:

I am just back and I shall be thrilled to read your book. I wish I could see you and tell you about my trip to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. It has been very interesting.

Now that spring is here, could you not be able to come down with your secretary or your maid or anyone you have with you and stay for a few days? We would all love to have you and I think probably the month of April would be the best, although May is really not too warm.

Much love to you always.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian D. Wald
House-on-the-Pond
Saugatuck
Conn.
March 8, 1934

Beloved First Lady:

I know how difficult it is for any mail to emerge from the avalanche, but I have sent the President and you my book. He and you are so much in it, not only in the printed word but in the implication of much that is said, that perhaps you will read it.

I am asking someone in your office to let me know when you return. I want your attention drawn to a box of flowers, very extraordinary pansies. A neighbor of mine, Mr. Fillow, has "put Westport on the map" for these pansies, and he had a very great desire to send you some.

None of us forget how excited and honored we were to get White House flowers and plants.

I watch your steps and marvel that you do and say the right thing without fail.

I send you my love.

LDW:G

[Signature]

Westport, Connecticut
March 23, 1934

Dear Lillian Wald:

I never saw such perfectly beautiful pansies as those which arrived this morning and perhaps you do not know that pansies are really one of my very favorite flowers. If you will send me Mr. Fillow's address, I will be glad to write him and thank him for his thought of us.

Hoping surely that you will be able to visit us, I am

Affectionately yours,

Miss Lillian Wald
265 Henry Street
New York, New York
Mrs. Fillmore was a great favorite at Sunday dinners and was often accompanied by Miss Wadsworth. The family was large, with five children: Mary, John, James, Anna, and John. They lived at 155 Henry Street and 152 Campo Road, Westport, Connecticut.
March 26, 1934

Dear Lillian Wald:

The pansies were the most beautiful things I have ever seen and I feel I must tell you again how much I enjoyed them.

I was so happy to get your letter and to know you are coming down here. I will count on your arrival Saturday, April 21, and staying as long as you can. I will also expect your secretary to stay here as it will be entirely convenient to have her. I may have to go to New York for the day on the 26th, but by that time I hope you will be so much at home that you will not miss your hostess.

Please let me know what train you will arrive on so I can have a car to meet you. We are all looking forward to your visit.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian D. Wald
House-On-The-Pond
Westport, Connecticut
March 22, 1934

Beloved First Lady:

How like you you are, in everything you do, but I suppose it is because you are never, even accidently, anything but yourself.

I am going to say right now that I will come. The latter part of April would be better but I want to come when it is entirely convenient to the President and to you.

If truly and truly, it meets with your own engagements and commitments, the nurses would be happy if my visit to you coincided with their conference. The three National Associations are meeting from April 22nd to the 28th. I am most interested in the National Organization for Public Health Nursing and they would like it if I could come to their luncheon on April the 26th, but I have not promised and I want to come to you when
If, also, you really and truly can and care to accommodate my Secretary, who is very attractive, she could come with me; but we have other arrangements for her stay in Washington while I am your privileged guest.

I am quite overcome with the favor that has been accorded to "Windows on Henry Street". From the floor in Congress and from various other authorities, it is proclaimed an important commentary of our time.

But I care most to have your opinion, and perhaps the President would be interested to know what conclusions I have recorded about the New Deal; the New Dispensation, I call it.

With dear love to you,

Affectionately,

[Signature]
June 30, 1934

Dear Lillian Wald:

Thank you very much for your letter and for the interest you have taken in Madame Segalla.

I thought of you when we were in your part of the country but we were very late and, of course, traveling with Franklin means doing just what is on the schedule and nothing more. I hope I shall have a chance to see you when we are in Hyde Park later in the summer.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian & Wald
House-on-the-Pond
Westport
Connecticut
Beloved First Lady:

Your Secretary sent me a letter some time ago, in the interest of Madame Segalla. I have been trying to make contact for her. The enclosed may be of interest to you.

I follow your strides with loving interest and admiration; and when I knew you were so near this corner of Connecticut, I was tempted to try to coax a detour.

Jane Addams and Alice Hamilton have been here for a dear week.

Devotedly yours,

Lillian G. Vale
Hartford, Conn.

Miss Lillian M. Wald.
Westport, Conn.

My dear Miss Wald:

Your kind letter received and I thank you a million for your interest.

I made an application to the Edgewood School in Greenwich, but received no reply yet.

I heard from Mrs. Riddle. She sent her car for me, I went out to her gorgeous, residence. She is charming. Ideal, practical and kind. She promised to write to certain schools and recommend me. That is all she could do and I am very grateful to you and to her.

I received my Conn. State Teachers' Certificate, Entitling me to teach French, Spanish, English, and Economics.

Just got it this morning and I am very proud to be entitled to teach four subjects in the Public High Schools of the State.

Thanking you again for your kindness. I am Respectfully,

[Signature]
Madame F.J. Segalla.
44 Ashley Street.
June 16, 1934.
Dear Mr. Schneider,

Of course I send my best wishes to you and yours. I hope to see you in any and every time I can. I think you will be able to get away at the end of the week. I was just able to see her the very day before I left the matter of

[signature]
let trustworthy people in
Milledgeville in 1840
from Milledgeville since 1840
read and understand the
Your own friend, &c. Sende the
Milledgeville is not
problem. I will so much in
for and I will 800 words, and
a day or two, and send when
I will return his
letter with her respect to you.
With all my respect to you.

W. S. Walker
September 24, 1934.

Dear Miss Wald:-

I did go through Westport and I am sorry that I did not have time to see you but I was on my way to Westport and had to arrive there at a definite time. I am still hoping that when I am in New York again for a weekend in October, I will have a chance to run over and see you. In the meantime, I am counting on seeing you in Washington.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian Wald,
Westport,
Connecticut.
October 16, 1934

Miss Lillian Wald
265 Henry Street
New York, New York

Will be delighted to have Miss Slade come to tea Wednesday five p.m.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT.
Beloved First Lady;

I am sending a copy of this note to Hyde Park for I know that you and Agnes Leach and Eleanor are planning a trip, and I do not know your Poste-restante.

This is to say that Madeleine Slade, Gandhi's right-hand-man, is in the country for a few days and would like greatly to see you. I think you would like to see her too. She would be happy to go anywhere you desire. Her free time is all of Monday (October 15) until noon Tuesday, all of Wednesday, and up to noon on Thursday.

Your mother brought me your delightful message, and I shall be looking up and down the road for your coming.

If you have any message for Miss Slade, I would make it directly to 265 Henry Street, where she is our guest.

Devotedly yours,

[Signature]

October 14, 1934

Add. 10/16/34

HOUSE-ON-THE-POND
SAUGATUCK, CONNECTICUT
MAIL AND TELEPHONE, WESTPORT
TELEPHONE 4532
November 1, 1934

Dear Lillian Wald:

Miss Perkins assures me that the health question will be very carefully considered and will not be affected in the general plan. Miss McLise of Henry Street had written me about it and I had taken it up with Miss Perkins.

I was very glad indeed of the opportunity to see Miss Blake and thoroughly enjoyed talking to her, although I did more listening than talking. I thought she was a very interesting person and thank you so much for telling me about her.

Much love always.

Affectately,

Miss Lillian Wald
Westport
Conn.
Beloved First Lady:

I want to thank you for your kindness in seeing Miss Slade. She was very happy, and said that every part of India, every villager, will know of it, and appreciate the courtesy and the honor of your reception.

I know you are moving rapidly for Mrs. O'Day and we are deeply interested. As you may know, she is a member of our Nursing Committee and of our Board of Directors; and numerous of our members shine in the New Deal.

If the President or you have occasion to say something about the necessity of caring for the sick in their homes, I hope it can be said. The enclosed is, I think, an understatement, but may be well worth your giving a moment to read it.

I am still looking up and down the road for your visit, and I get out of the chair so nimbly, comparatively
speaking, that I hope I may be mounting the steps at the White House for the precious visit that you and the President want me to make.

Devotedly yours,

[Signature]

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
November 24, 1934

Dear Lillian Wald:

I shall be delighted to have you come on the 10th. I must be away from noon on the 12th to the morning of the 14th, but if you can stay on I shall be more than happy to have you do so. It will also be most convenient to have you bring Miss Cummer.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian Wald
House-On-The-Pond
Saugatuck
Connecticut
night at the big dinner but the doctors thought it was too close. I was very proud to select Florence Kelley and you as having made progress for women in this 1914.

I should have spoken tonight but the doctors thought it was too close. They were engaged in writing my speech and I was very proud to select Florence Kelley and you as having made progress for women in this 1914.

Before you left, what did you say to my coming about the 10th? I expect you to be entirely frank. If you say you want me to come in December, what do you say then? That will have your masquerade party covered.
I quoted the furrier who said: "I am crazy about Mrs. Roosevelt. It seems too good to be true that we should live to see a President's wife not afraid to be democratic".

Let me know at your leisure just what is convenient for you and the President and the White House about the visit.

Devotedly yours,

William O. Wald

LDW/MS
November 15, 1934

Dear Lillian Wald:

Klunor Morgenthau and I did have a perfectly delightful day and were so happy to have the opportunity of seeing you.

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of "The House on Henry Street".

I am counting on your coming to visit us whenever it is convenient to you and hope that you will let me know.

Always affectionately,

Miss Lillian D. Wald
House on the Pond
Saugatuck
Conn
November 10, 1934.

Beloved First Lady:

Your and Eleanor's visit was very precious to me. I hope that you were not too much fatigued for that would be a grief. I want to keep the memory of your visit without alloy.

I am sending you with this a copy of The House on Henry Street, as you said you would like to have the set. You already have Windows on Henry Street, a copy of which I sent to you and the President the day it was published, and another copy which I see was included in the Library of 200.

I am going to tell the story of the furrier in my speech on women's influence and would you mind if I added the tribute of the Southerners, Virginians were they not?

When this agony of getting
the budget for the nursing service is over I will submit the day of my visit but you must know that if your house is filled, and the limit of your hospitality reached, which I suppose never, never could occur, I will come at another time.

Tell the President that though it is little that I can do, I feel sometimes as if I am one of the flying buttresses to his great edifice.

Devotedly yours,

William J. Wilkie,

LDW/MS
Dear Lillian Wald:

I am looking forward with great joy to having you and Miss Cummer and the date is perfectly convenient. We will have you met at the station and brought in through the south grounds so that you will not have any stairs to negotiate. That is the way my husband always goes in and out.

Affectionately yours,

Miss Lillian Wald
The House on the Pond
Westport
Connecticut
November 28, 1934.

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

Beloved First Lady:

Miss Cummer and I will plan to arrive sometime on the 10th. If the weather is good we will probably fly but I will let you know definitely before we come.

Would your secretary be good enough to let me know if it makes any difference which door we enter at the White House?

It will be thrilling to be there and precious to see you and the President. I am not sure that we will want to stay on if you are not there but we can talk about that later.
May at least one of those turkeys that are sent to you taste luscious!

Devotedly yours,

[Signature]

LDW/MS
December 5, 1934.

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

Beloved First Lady:

I am afraid that I did not say in my previous letter that if anything has developed that would make it better for me to come with Miss Cummer at another time, please do not hesitate to say so.

I hope you are not too tired and I am bubbling over - if a "flying buttress" can bubble!

Devotedly yours,

LDW/MS
December 24, 1934.

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

Beloved First Lady:

Even at the risk of having poor Mrs. Scheiber and your staff give an additional groan over the mail, I cannot resist telling you a story which came to me a day or two ago which I think that you and the President will chortle over. This is the story:

A woman in my neighborhood — very precise, very rich, very grande dame and generous too in her way, is preparing to go for a winter's rest to a point in Florida which she says is perfect. It has been acquired by a group of her friends and in describing it she says there is no place in the south particularly where one can feel so comfortable and rested. There are
no Catholics and no Jews and no Democrats
and every Republican is a hundred percent Republican.

Isn't this a peach, and it's an excuse for my saying once more what is in
my heart for you, the President and the Administration. I hope the pansies added
a bit of pleasure to your party.

Devotedly yours,

[Signature]

LDW/MS
January 11, 1935

Dear Lillian Wald:

I want to send you just a line to thank you for all your sweet notes and to tell you that I enjoyed enormously the story of the impossible Heaven. How horrible it would be!

I hope the winter is bringing you continued improved health. We still talk of how much we enjoyed your visit and hope to see you again before so long.

With much love,

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian Wald
Westport, Conn.
December 26, 1934.

President and Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Beloved President and Beloved First Lady:

Connecticut is very proud, not to mention any individual unimportant resident such as myself, to have the lovely poinsettia on the table in the living room admired and treated with great reverence by the visitors who come. I reluctantly relinquished to two great admirers the card that hung upon the plant and the young lad who was entrusted with the President’s and his darling sister who got Mrs. Roosevelt’s card marveled at my willingness to entrust the treasures to them.

I hope you had time to pass on my story of the Heaven in America where no Catholic, Jew or Democrat could ever penetrate. What a dull Heaven it must be!
I hope the Kentucky people will not make your bag until your mail admits of one more piece.

My dear love to you and may you be given the strength to carry the burdens that you carry, but you are attended by so much good will and so much pride in you and the Administration that I have it in my heart to hope that strength and humor to bear the responsibility will attend you.

Your devoted,

[Signature]

LDW/MS

and please give my feelings to [Redacted] and [Redacted] and [Redacted]
January 21, 1935

Dear Lillian Wald:

I would love to see Anna Louise Strong. Do you think she would care to come to lunch with me on Saturday the 26th? If so, I will try to get Franklin here or arrange for her to have a chat with him afterwards. Thank you so much for thinking of it.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian Wald
House On The Pond
Saugatuck
Westport, Connecticut
January 17, 1935.

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

Very dear First Lady:

Anna Louise Strong, whom you may remember as the girl who went to Russia thirteen years ago and who in that thirteen years has been back numerous times to lecture and to try to have us see Russia as she sees it, has just visited me. Her numerous books have been well received and she is just finishing a volume which Holts will bring out. From many connections and for many reasons she knows Russia now better than anybody else and she knows it better now than she did two years ago.

It occurred to me that you might like to see her informally. She is in New York until the end of the month and then goes on a trip across the continent, sailing back from California and stopping in Siberia to see some of the Colonies.

It is whispered, though I do not know it as a fact, that the rich Jews in Europe and America are negotiating for ten thousand
German emigrees to go to Buro Bidgin. Anyway Anna Louise Strong is going to visit the place in Siberia.

If it means anything at all to you let me know when if at all you would like to have her call on you. She is an attractive creature and fair.

I remember once arranging for a distinguished man who was first to recognize the Soviet philosophy as a great phenomenon to meet Justice Hughes but alas, he turned out soon after to be a very red Communist. The interview with Justice Hughes may have accelerated that!

I am enclosing this extract from UNITY. They have perfectly delightful letters from a California college girl who is in Russia now, apparently crushing the young males whether red or blue or black. Please show it to your daughter. I think she will be very much interested.

Devotedly yours,

[Signature]

LDW/MS
My dear Miss Wald:

I have today finally gotten around to sending you the photographs of the President and Mrs. Roosevelt and hope you will be pleased with them.

I am apologetic for not having written to you long before this to thank you for the delightfully-inscribed copy of your book, which I shall cherish very highly. I shall be on the lookout for the bag for Mrs. Roosevelt and see that she gets it immediately.

With much admiration, I am

Very sincerely yours,

January 29, 1935

Miss Lillian Wald
House on the Pond
Saugatuck
Westport
Connecticut
January 24, 1935.

My dear Mrs. Scheider;

Busy you and your busy desk rise before me and I should not like to bother you but I have ordered the big, black lined with white, shell frame and it is being made.

It ought to appear at the White House very soon and I wonder if you would keep an eye on it and deliver it into our lady's hands. I know how packages can be mistaken for uninteresting reports and if it is not too much and you ever have an odd moment may I remind you of the autographed pictures of the President and his dear wife that you were so ready to make my possession? If there is any choice I love the picture of the President in profile.

With warm regard and greetings to your associates, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

LDW/MS

Do not put too much emphasis on the profile as any pose Mrs. Roosevelt selects will suit me.
February 4, 1935

Dear Lillian Wald:

The bag has arrived. It is perfectly lovely and I am crazy about it. Many many thanks!

I hope that the days you are spending in bed simply mean that you are getting a good rest and not that you are feeling ill.

You were quite right about the girl and I have told her that if she could give her time I thought she might get a chance to learn what she wants at Henry Street. Otherwise, she would have to search around to find a way to use her spare time.

With much love, I am

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian Wald
House on the Pond
Saugamuck
Westport, Connecticut
January 30, 1935.

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

Beloved First Lady:

It was a birthday present to me to get the dear pictures and please thank Mrs. Steiger a thousand times.

I hope the bag is quite right. They have written to me that it was carefully scrutinized before it was put in the mail box.

I am not going to the Ball although I am one of the President's Committee because the snow is deep, the weather is cold and I am for a few days in bed enjoying the beautiful white expanse.

Devotedly yours,

[Signature]

LDW/MS
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I am glad for your sake that you are more optimistic than I am, and I thank you very much for the way you took my letter. To a person as sincere as you I felt that I owed the most sincere and thoughtful analysis I could make.

But wisdom did not begin and will not end with me, and you have thousands of wise people helping you as well as millions who trust your leadership. So perhaps you may succeed either in repairing the capitalist system to fit human needs or in making a more or less painless transition to some system that will. If anyone can, I think you can.

In any case, if there is ever any time when anything I know can be of use to you, please call on me. This applies not only to your term or terms in the White House, but to any time in whatever future awaits us.

Cordially yours,

[Signature]

Anna Louise Strong
March 2, 1935

Dear Lillian Wald:

What you sent me was quite sufficient about Harry Hopkins and allowed me to speak with authority instead of just because of my own personal belief.

I am glad you can wait a while for the stamp. I will ask again about it.

I think of you very often and shall certainly come over as soon as I get an opportunity.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian Wald
House-On-The-Pond
Saugatuck
Westport
Connecticut
Miss Lillian D. Wald,
House on the Pond,
Westport, Conn.

Dear Miss Wald:

Some weeks ago I had a chat with Mrs. Roosevelt and she showed me your letter of January 23rd relative to the issuance of a commemorative stamp to make the nation more "nurse conscious". For your information, Miss Wald, I discussed the matter at length with the President, and it was deemed inadvisable to issue such a stamp at this time.

To be very frank with you, an issue of both the boy scout and the girl scout has been rejected; also another issue sponsored by a group of women for Susan B. Anthony. We issued a number of new stamps last year and frankly I am under the impression that this year new issues will be very few.

However, you may be sure that I shall keep your correspondence before me in case there is any change in our plans.

Sincerely yours,

James A. Farley.

JAF:AC
February 25, 1945.

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

Beloved First Lady:

Mr. Farley sent to so good deal of trouble about the subject. I enclose a copy of his letter to me. I think his comparison with the scout movement, boy or girl, is not valid. The Settlements, particularly Henry Street, long anticipated this movement and the executive has graciously acknowledged his indebtedness but, as I wrote to Mr. Farley, though England has two of the very few statues to women dedicated to nurses in London - Florence Nightingale and Edith Cavell - America created the public health nurse, one of the three original contributions, according to Dr. Welch.

There is no particular reason for having the stamp this year but sometime if the matter should be discussed, I would be glad to have the President note the difference.

I follow you day by day by sight and by ear and I am hoping the weather will clear before long and that you will take the road to me.

Lovingly yours,
P.S. Did you want any more data about H. K?
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Miss Wald is not writing or dictating letters as yet, but she is definitely "out of the woods." Dr. Poole said yesterday. She asked that I write to you today about what is, and has been for many years, so much in her thoughts...the attitude of the college student toward National and World affairs.

The new interest among college students in affairs outside of the former student horizon Miss Wald feels is largely due to you.

Men representatives from various colleges through-
out The United States presented their colleges' reactions to national and foreign problems versus the old attitude of closing out the World during college years, Miss Wald listened in via radio, and has since followed up that great event by further inquiries among college students, and has much of interest to report to you. She longs to feel strong enough to listen in to your next broadcast on this subject, but feels now that she will not be equal to it.

Your pink roses were greatly enjoyed not only by Miss Wald but by the entire New York Hospital. Everyone felt the thrill and glamour of having flowers sent by the First Lady of the Land.

May I join Miss Wald in loving and sincere good wishes to you and yours.

[Signature]

Constance C. Cummer
Dear Miss Wald:

It is grand to be home and we thought you looked better than you have since you have been ill, when Paul and I came up to the hospital last night.

Everything seems to be going well at Henry Street but I am so distressed at news from Cuba. On our way home I read the news but one can never be sure of what is really happening from the papers, and I hoped it was exaggerated as so often foreign (and domestic) news is, but I found a letter from one of the women in Cuba whom I came to know quite well while I was on the Commission last June, waiting for me. She is anything but an alarmist. She is one of the most outstanding and level-headed women in Cuba, so I feel that what she says is to be trusted.

The part that is most distressing to me is that I feel, and I know so many Cubans feel, too, that we are partly responsible for the present military control. While the President has been so farsighted in his treatment of Cuba, and they have felt a new relationship was beginning for them, the American Ambassador has continued to play an interfering role in Cuban politics. While I was there, they were beginning to be frightened and discouraged by Caffrey's growing intimacy with Batista. His morning horseback rides were on everybody's tongue and they felt that the balance of power would be taken out of the hands of Mendieta and put in Batista's because of the backing America was giving him. Caffrey was very frank in his friendship for Batista and certainly anything but diplomatic. The Cubans felt that again their government was being manipulated by outsiders.

Those who know Mendieta associate the extremes to which civil liberties are invaded, and the mass arrests and repressions, with the army and with Batista, leaning on support from the American Embassy. On my desk on my return was this proof of an article in the Christian Science Monitor, giving the conclusions of an investigation. You will see that it is specifically claimed that efforts were made to get these findings in advance before President Roosevelt, and that these efforts failed. It seems wrong to tell you anything sad but I am very full of this, but the many thoughtful Cubans I met were so eager to see Cuba have a "New Deal" that I can't bear to think of what is happening now.

The colored colors are coming over trying to get to the camp. We welcome Paul and we think it was right for the bus to reach you in the hospital. We are so happy to get up here tomorrow but may not make it tomorrow.
Dear Miss Hall:

"Today I received six 'Surveys' with your article on Cuba - The Island Next Door, and Mr. Kellogg's comment on Cuba. Thanks, I enjoyed them and they helped me react against the despondency created by last week's events.

"Nothing can describe the anxiety and anguish of these days in which the poor civil power Menditea had seemed to have faded and given way to an omnipotent military hand, empowered to suffocate by terror the employees' strike initiated to support the teachers' demand for school material and decent salaries - and which afterwards acquired a more revolutionary character by being (?) by the proletarians.

"The constant firing in the streets at night - the shrieks of those whom they give 'gome' (horse whip) to - the numerous bodies of those whom they murder (leaders) appearing here and there, many of them after having been reported as detained in the police stations; the hundreds of government employees now dismissed on the one hand and the lack of cohesion of the revolutionary groups on the other, make one pessimistic, for these factors seem to create an unsurpassable barrier for the constructive government we stand in such need of. Everything that is not crime and cruelty and misunderstanding appears Utopian in the Cuba of today.

"More women are imprisoned now than ever were in Machado's period. Today there are 64 political prisoners in Guanabacoa and poor Miss Coanche is having a dreadful time trying to accommodate them, without proper means or resources. They are now sleeping two in each cot, on benches, etc., and even so, several have to sleep on the floor. Tomorrow, I expect to go out there and see whether the Lyceum can do anything to help out. I will take one of the Surveys - the others I will distribute in the Lyceum. I gave one today to Mrs. Leon.

"I am sorry I have not been able to write on pleasanter subjects, but as I know you are accustomed to sympathize with human troubles, you will understand how I feel, and how impossible it would be for me to write a different kind of a letter at present.

"I hope for better times for Cuba and I do wish you all the happiness you deserve."

Cordially

PS Portal Vila is imprisoned and his wife has been extremely worried over his fate. She has not seen him yet but has been able to ascertain he is alive.
Beloved First Lady,

I do hope that you know how much I have loved the flowers, and though the world's a good place my convalescence could of course not be as I wished. When you come to see me at Westport I will tell you all the gory details but it turns out to be a good thing.

I got so mad at the Nation's article about Frances that I have just written them as sassy a letter as I know how.

Please remember me to your faithful staff.

With love to you,

Always your devoted friend,

[Signature]

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

dictated—not-read

LDW:w

P. S. I am so glad that Mr. Howe is better.
April 2, 1935

Dear Lillian Wald:

Thank you so much for your letter. I cannot tell you how happy I am to know that you are better. I hope you will be very careful and not overdo until you are entirely well again.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian Wald
99 Park Avenue
New York
Beloved First Lady,

I know you want me to give you the advantage of any personal information which comes my way, and I am sending the enclosed in the hope that it may be of value. It has just reached my hands today. A few Cubans have come to us since the Commission, getting as much as they can from Henry Street.

Please tell your gardener that the White House flowers make the greatest hit here in the hospital.

Devotedly,

Leonard Wood

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.
June 4, 1935

Dear Lillian Wald:

Many thanks for your very sweet note. Both the President and I are grateful for your kind thought of us.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian Wald
Saugatuck
Conn.
May 10, 1935

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

Beloved First Lady:

We are all so annoyed at the disappointment in the Supreme Court and stand ready to be with the President and the Administration for support of any measures that may nullify their outdated realization of the functions of the Supreme Court. Some folks seem not to know that the world does move!

I hope all is otherwise well with you, your courage will never be diminished as the red blood courses through your veins. I hope you are coming this way and will let me know in time that the flag of welcome we be flying.

Very much your friend,

[Signature]

LDC: MS
July 29, 1935.

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

Beloved First Lady:

John Haynes Holmes' play, "If This be Treason", is an exciting event dramatically and for social propaganda. The Theater Guild will probably give it during the winter's program, but an exceptional company under exceptional conditions is giving it for the week at the pretty little theater in Westport.

Dr. Holmes and his wife are my guests and today we had the inspiration to suggest that you come over for the play. I do not know exactly where you are but I am sending this letter to Washington, where I know your kind secretary will get it into your hands as soon as possible, and the copy to Hyde Park.

Dr. Holmes will come from New York on Thursday or Friday, which—
ever night will suit you best, if you can come, and of course bring Elinor or Nancy or anyone you choose to companion you. Please telegraph in answer to this and Dr. Holmes will adjust his engagements according to your decision.

With dear love and hoping that it will be possible for you to come,

Your devoted,

LDW:MS

Of course for dinner.

LDW.
July 30, 1935.

Mrs. Roosevelt,
Campobello,
Eastport, Me.

Beloved First Lady:

We are very much excited over John Haynes Holmes' play, which had a wonderful reception last night.

We hoped that you could get here but I know you are far away. If, however, you should be thinking of turning towards Connecticut, do come. Dr. Holmes is returning Friday for the performance that night.

Devotedly,

LDW:MS

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten notes]
Westport, Conn., July 29, 1935.

Mrs. Scheider:

Please let me know where I can reach Mrs. Roosevelt.

Thank you.

Lillian D. Wald.
September 27, 1935.

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

Beloved First Lady:  

The President and you are much in my thoughts and I follow all that he does and all that pertains to the Administration and to you personally, though I cannot separate you from the Administration.

Bad luck would have it that I have been in bed again, a recurrence of that disgraceful cardiac condition, which means that I was cut off from active correspondence and the President’s letters lie in my portfolio unanswered, but if he is aware of it at all he will understand that I have not been idle and so many things have shaped themselves about the taxation that his disciples must feel informed and satisfied.

I was especially delighted with your speech on keeping out of war and I am hoping profoundly that you will see John Haynes Holmes’ play “If This be Treason”,
Theatre Guild production. The whole country ought to be made aware of it. We have never had anything like it and it thrilled the audiences here in Westport where there was a trial production.

What I thought was extraordinary was that there was the identical reaction that we have been accustomed to get from war excitements. The country ought to be roused and if you can see it or can possibly participate in the debate the Theatre Guild is carrying on I think it would be of very great importance. After all, the best that the theatre can do is to exercise its authority to get people to think and that, as we know, is the age-long message of the theatre, to educate and to entertain.

The Press has been good, with the exception of the Herald-Tribune which, true to type, jeers at the production. The enclosed was written after its production here.

Anyway, this is one of a thousand messages that I have in my heart for you and love for you and a very strong desire to see you and happiness that you are surrounded with such true friends.

Your Devoted

LDW:MS

[Signature]
October 8, 1935

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Miss Hall asked me to write to you tonight, as she has not had a good day.

She is anxious to know the date you will be able to see the play "If This Be Treason" and to know how many tickets you desire. Dr. Holmes' letter just reached Miss Hall telling her that he wishes to have you and your friends come as his guests. Please let us know as soon as you are able to plan the date.

Miss "Ellen" has many delightful visits recounting the happy time we had with you as your guests at the White House last winter. She sends you her devoted love and I join her in her greetings.

Sincerely yours,

Constance C. Cummer

Constance C. Cummer

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

Beloved Eleanor Roosevelt:

Dr. Holmes was perfectly delighted that you could come to the theater and see his play. I hope it will go through the country. It closes this week in New York. Though the house has been filled every night, the play has cost $10,000 a week and that is prohibitive, but it has created a great deal of thought and I, (and so will he) appreciate your sending me your comments. I cannot tell you how comforted I am that you value lay support. I think England's action is largely influenced by the labor vote and America by the women, and how fortunate we are to have you, beloved First Lady!

I am optimistic enough to hope that some day you will be driving in this direction and no more affectionate welcome will you find in any other place under the sun.

Please remember me to your dear associates.

Devotedly yours,

[Signature]

LDW: MS
October 23, 1935

Dear Lillian Weld:

I am enclosing a copy of the letter which I have written to Rev. John Haynes Holmes. I felt that he would want me to be entirely frank with him.

I did enjoy the play and thank you very much indeed for making it possible for me to go.

I hope that you are able by now to be up and around.

Much love.

Affectionately,
October 17, 1935.

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

Beloved First Lady:

John Haynes Holmes is so happy to welcome you and he has arranged his church program so that he will be able to meet you on Monday night.

Dear love to you as always,

[Signature]

LDW:MS
October 30, 1935

Dear Lillian Wald:

I am sorry to be so long in thanking you for your remembrance of me on my birthday, but I have been away and things have piled up. Many, many thanks for your kind thought and your good wishes.

Always affectionately,

Miss Lillian Wald
House-on-the-Pond
Saugatuck
Westport
Conn.
December 3, 1935

Dear Lillian Wald:

It was very kind and thoughtful of you to write, and I will see that the things you send me are brought to the President's attention.

I am so sorry that I am not going to see you at the dinner.

Affectionately,
Mrs. Roosevelt,
c/o Mrs. Morgenthau,
1133 Fifth Avenue,
New York City

Beloved Lady:

There are several things that I want very much to impart to you, one of them which does seem important and which ought to come before the President and his publicity men but I am sure he is too absorbed until after Thanksgiving. However, I think I will write the purport of it to you and if you judge that immediate action should be taken you will let me know.

I am sorry I am not seeing you at the dear Morgenthau's dinner. They came out yesterday and it was good to see that loyal couple and are they proud of "little Henry"?

It pleased me greatly to have a hard-boiled Republican, who erstwhile had been critical, tell me that he must say now that you are a great asset to the Administration. I would have a different appraisal but I like to know that the impenetrable skull had been penetrated.

Devotedly yours,
January 7, 1937

Dear Lillian Wald:

Thank you very much for calling my attention to the article in The New Republic. I will get it and read it at once.

Affectionately,
January 12, 1937

Dear Lillian Wald:

I am deeply grateful for your kind letter and was so amused by the story. I do hope I will be able to see you before too long.

I think a grand time to receive the pensives would be on Inaugural Day and I cannot tell you how pleased I would be to have them. It is very generous of you to want to send them to me.

Sincerely,

Miss Lillian D. Wald
House on the Pond
Saugatuck, Westport, Conn.
January 7, 1937.

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

Very dear First Lady and very dear Friend:

That invitation told the old story of your devotion, your consideration and your loyalty to the least of us. I wish and wish and wish that my legs could carry me where my heart is but I have to acknowledge that they are not any use at all and unless something brings you to Hyde Park during the months that are not good for travel I will have to wait, and wait with hope that when the summer comes and I can lie in the garden you will come with the blessing that your presence brings and the hope that you inspire.

We listened to the noble, and withal simple, speech of the President - simple because it was understandable to everybody who listened with heart as well as with brain - and I rejoiced from my invalid bed that I had lived to know that democracy met the hopes and the wishes of those who have and who do believe.
I have so many times given expression to my own faith where the Roosevelts guide that I can do no more than repeat it and I do with all my being. Some day I will relate to you all the persecutions and funny stories of the campaign. The richest one is that of a woman who attacked me because I came out for the President as a humanitarian when he had so many pigs killed, and she cheritably added that the only possible excuse would be that I probably did not read the papers!

Devotedly yours,

LDW:MS

P.S. I should like to be your florist this year for some special occasion where the unique pansies of Mr. Sniffen may make even the White House more interesting. He still refuses to sell the plants and you are alone in getting the leaves. It would be a pleasure to him and a happiness to me to be your decorator again.
January 21, 1937

Dear Lillian Wald:

Many, many thanks for the pansies. They were perfectly beautiful and I enjoyed having them more than I can tell you. You are very kind and I am deeply grateful.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian D. Wald
Compo Road
Westport, Conn.
TELEGRAM

The White House
Washington
West Port, Conn., 51717 Jan., 1937.

Mrs. Roosevelt,

The White House, Washington, D.C.

Flowers carrying loving congratulations sent four thirty.

Lillian D. Wald.
Miss Weeks

Laura Smith

Grafton Road

New York, New York
June 7, 1937

Dear Lillian Wald:

I was glad to talk with Anna Louise Strong and I will do what I can.

With many thanks for your letter and with all good wishes, I am

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian D. Wald.
Westport
Conn.
June 1, 1937

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

Very dear First Lady:

I hope that it was worthwhile, asking for an interview with Anna Louise Strong. I think that interest in those Spanish children may be my "Swan Song", but I do care tremendously and I am doing my very best to enlist reasoning about their plight. I have large correspondence about them and I know with your limitless sympathy, which has no boundaries, and your affection for the whole world and capacity to visualize the situation that the Spanish children cannot fail.

Affectionately yours,

LDW:MS
June 16, 1937

Dear Lillian Wald:

I have passed your letter on to the President.

I will be going to see you soon.

I know your garden is lovely now.

With much love,

Affectionately,
RETURN TO MRS. ROOSEVELT
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.
June 14, 1957.

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

Beloved First Lady:

It doesn't seem a friendly act to add to your pile of letters, but when you went through Westport I did have a homesick pang for you.

However, this letter is to thank you first for your interest in the Spanish situation, but mainly because I have been deeply worried about the repeated suggestion of influencing Senator Wagner to come to New York.

I think he would mess up the LaGuardia mayoralty and I do not know that with all his great talents Wagner is an executive, for the mayoralty of New York is an executive job.

The point is that the Administration's best friends and I, as an insignificant member, think it would be a terrible tragedy. He is needed in Washington, the President needs him. A job to beat Tammy is another story entirely.
Strictly between you and me, I don't mind if
the other prominent nominee is sacrificed on the altar
of loyalty, TAMMANY LOYALTY!

Our garden is so beautiful, it's worth
turning the little car this way to see, If there
is any time left before or after the wedding.

Dear love and a passionate desire,
whether in or out of bed, to serve.

Devotedly yours,

LDW:MS

[Signature: Addie S. Walker]
June 28, 1937

Dear Lillian Wald:

It was nice to have Karl Anderson's letter and I am glad that you sent it on to me. Many thanks and all good wishes.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian D. Wald
Westport
Conn.
June 21, 1937

Dear Mr. Hold:

I have a desire to add to our recent conversation about the new aspect and vitality of American painting. To confirm our agreement that the encouragement given to the present administration in Washington has great deal to do with it. I have just returned from Washington and saw there the mural commission by the procurement division of the Treasury Department. I like telling you that I was greatly stimulated and encouraged for American painting in the future. For not only were most of the mural excellent technically, but seemed to me the emotional approach and results were of something we can have pride in. Something close to me.
way of thinking and living. I found no one I can influence in any of them.

And so I was glad to hear across the way. I wish you a good-

Sincerely

Mall Anderson
October 13, 1937

Dear Lillian Wald:

It gave me a great deal of pleasure to know that you thought of me on my birthday, and your telegram added greatly to a very pleasant day.

I hope that things are going well with you and that you are feeling better.

With deep appreciation and much love,

Affectionately,
TELEGRAM

The White House
Washington


Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House.

Continue as you are and enrich the world and especially your loving friends.

Lillian D. Wald.
November 24, 1937.

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

Beloved First Lady:

I have cheering words from your visit in Chicago and I am awfully pleased that you wrote of me in connection with Jane Addams. I don't think we will ever see her like again but I am grateful for the time we had her and for her influence, which is undying.

I am writing this note particularly to tell you how much I liked that picture of you in yesterday's Times. It is so sweet and so yourself - most impressive. My thought of you is how precious everybody is to you - a real claim which you never set aside.

I am going to get the book as soon as it can be delivered and I think of all the young people who must have it and who will have it if I have any authority for guiding their selection of a library.

You will no doubt be at the White House for Thanksgiving. Anyway, I am sending this letter
to you with a heart full of gratitude that I have lived to know you for what you are. I wish I could send you flowers for your Thanksgiving but I know your gardener doesn't want competition and I have it in my heart to hope that when you are ready for the unique pansies that grow in Westport, you will let me know and Mr. Sniffen will take pride, as he has in the past, in having a suitable small part in your gracious hospitality.

I rejoice that you are surrounded by the faithful and they express you in their simplicity and naturalness and sincerity.

Tell the President that I think enduring a tooth-ache is another call upon invincible courage.

My love and good wishes to you always and always,

[Signature]

LOW: MS
December 10, 1937

Dear Lillian Wald:

Many thanks for your note and for what you say about my book. I value your opinion most highly.

It was very kind of Mr. Sniffen to offer to send the pamphlets again. Will you tell him that I will be delighted to have them for the Diplomatic Reception on December 23, if that is convenient for him.

With every good wish,

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian D. Wald
Westport
Conn.
December 9, 1937

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

Beloved First Lady:

I was a companion on your trip, and an anxious friend awaiting your opinion of the President.

Now your friend and my old neighbor, Mr. Sniffen, asks when you want your pansies. They are the show of Westport, so I was delighted that he did not wait for me but volunteered the offer.

Naturally I think of you a great deal as everybody in the world does, and the publication of the book seems to emphasize all the things that have made you what you are, and drawn forth the love of individuals and the people.

Let me know if there is any special party that you want the pansies for and they will be forthcoming.

Your devoted friend,

LUMAS

[Signature]
December 17, 1937

Dear Lillian Wald:

I will be very happy to have Mr. Sniffen send the pansies for the President's Birthday, January 20.

Many thanks for your note, and with every good wish, I am

Affectionately,
December 15, 1934

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

Beloved Lady:

Mr. Sniffen was promptly interviewed
and he says if you have a suitable occasion he
would rather send his pansies for one of the
January dates. The pansies are larger, the
stems longer, and he is a little prouder of
them in January than he is in December! So
please ask one of your kind secretaries to
select the date and the pansies will be forth­
coming and will emphasize the link between you
and the White House and Mr. Sniffen and me.

Devotedly,

LDW:MS
December 27, 1937

Dear Lillian Walds,

I like the editorial so much and I will try to write as good a one for Christmas, perhaps next year.

Many thanks for your letter and for your warm hearted greetings to all of us.

Much love.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian D. Wald
Westport
Conn.
Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Very dear Eleanor Roosevelt:

Mr. Sniffen will be no gladder than I that we are represented on the great birthday. Thanks for your answer.

I think so often what your advice can be to people at Christmas time – so many valuable things can be emphasized, and I am afraid that the fundamental is forgotten.

I thought you would be interested and accept as a Christmas card the little editorial I wrote for the magazine. For your information I will tell you that the President who could not accept the present was Wilson, and Mr. Goldberg was the kindest hearted little man, or big man, that I have met, and that's saying something!

He had a "family liquor store" and it was because we could not offer a gift from the liquor interests to the White House that we could
not grant his request, though goodness knows his "family store" was inoffensive and he supplied the nurses with all the customers they could send — sick old ladies who needed a bottle of his innocuous wine.

Please give my greetings to your dear daughter and to the grandchildren and to all those who dwell beneath your White roof, from President to secretaries.

Lovingly,

[Signature]

LDW:MS

[Signature]
THE most important lesson in giving I have ever received came from one of my neighbors on Henry Street.

Some time ago, a naturalized Rumanian immigrant came to me with a request which I was unable to grant. I carefully explained to him the reasons. Then, to ease his disappointment, I asked him for a little advice and help in finding a job for a blind jeweler in my block. We hoped to establish him with a newsstand, but the whole matter rested on selecting a location that was promising. Said I, “We believe this will set our blind man up without asking for charity, but all will depend upon getting a suitable place.” I did not ask for money.

Said my Rumanian friend in immediate response, “I give you a hundred dollars.”

AS he had come to me, asking a favor, and was offering his gift in impulsive reaction to my story, I was reluctant to take the money, and so explained, adding, “If you go home and think it over and still want to send it, I have no right to refuse help for my blind neighbor.”

Whereupon I received my lesson. Said my friend: “Miss Wald, it’s me that wants to give the hundred dollars—the real me. If I go home and talk it over with my sons, they may say, ‘Father, that’s a lot of money. Rich people would not, maybe, give so much,’ and the chances are I send you twenty-five dollars; but that would not be the real me. The real me says a hundred dollars.” Then he took out his checkbook and made his sign (he had never learned to write) and left with me the check for one hundred dollars.

I SHOULD like to pass that lesson on to the world, because I am convinced that there is too little encouragement for people to be their real selves when giving. I do not like to see a person tricked into unwise or fanatical generosity through a sudden and calculated appeal to his emotions, but I do believe that we should be true to the warm, sympathetic, and adventurous spirit of giving which lies behind our masks, no matter how cold and circumspect they may be. Women have told me that they were often thwarted in their program of giving by men who were close to them, who were too protective; that in making wills, they were often discouraged from expressing their feeling for those in need. Generous men are sometimes called weak and are held up to good-natured ridicule by their wives and friends because they yield often to the noblest impulse that a human being may have—to share what he has with others. And I have known children to be rebuked by their elders for giving away a treasured possession.

BEWARE lest those who admonish against unwise giving are not fortifying their own selfishness. “Let the government do it” is a mere defense. The desire to give is an emotion, your real feeling for human life on this earth. Its expression should be encouraged. The generous heart should be exalted. And the impulse to give should be carefully nurtured and educated, so as to serve most effectively in the world today.

LILLIAN D. WALD
Guest Editorial Writer
January 3, 1938

Dear Lillian Wald:

Many thanks for your letter. I have read the French manuscript of Eve Curie’s story of her mother, as well as Mr. Sheean’s translation, and I agree with all you feel about it.

I am glad you found such a splendid way to share the poinsettia and that it served such a good purpose.

I will give your message to the President.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian D. Wald
Saugatuck
Westport
Conn.
December 31, 1937.

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

Very dear Lady:

I wonder how much of you or how much of the service made your cross-country journeys so calm and pleasant. I have my own suspicions!

I want to tell you how very much I appreciate your book and I am completely engrossed in Madame Curie's. I cannot tell you how affected I am by the simple recital of an extraordinary woman, and almost as much by Mr. Sheean's translation. I hope you will read it. I find myself at half past one in the morning turning on the light and reading it, and Madame Curie herself seems like a vial of her own extraordinary radium.

The poinsettia too is so fine — I will confess to you something that I did and I think you will approve of it. Mary Beard, the Rockefeller nurse, had fifteen nurses from fifteen foreign countries, largely from Asia, dining with her on Christmas day and I sent your poinsettia to her. She lives around the corner and I thought they
would have something to "write home about", and we added all the personalities that glorify our White House now.

Please tell the President that he is much in my thoughts and very much, of course, in our discussions.

With love to you and good wishes, I am now and always

Your devoted, admiring friend,

LDW:MS

P.S. The wonderful pansies will come in time for the President's birthday. I will visualize them in your silver vases.
January 17, 1938

Dear Lillian Wald:

I am so sorry that you have had a relapse and hope that everything goes well. You were sweet to write at such a time to praise my book, and I value your praise very highly.

You may tell Mr. Sniffen that I would like to have the pansies arrive on the 29th, so as to have them fresh for the President's birthday dinner that evening.

With my love and every good wish, I am

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian D. Wald
Westport, Connecticut
18th January, 1938.

Beloved Lady,

I cannot tell you with what emotion I have finally laid down "This is my Life".... You will for ever be a leading light and example as woman, as citizen!

This is an immediate note to ask one of your Aids to let me know what day you want the flowers for the Birthday Party. Mr. Sniffen says they could arrive Saturday, Sunday or Monday - as you may desire.

I have had a relapse since the holidays and am still in the Doctor's charge and not allowed to have any visitors, sign any letters or have even anyone talk to me. But I send you my loving thoughts and all good wishes,

Very sincerely,

[Signature]

L.D. Sniffen
January 31, 1939

Dear Lillian Wald:

I have received the lovely giant pansies from you and Mr. Lorne Sniffen and they are surely a great joy to have. Thank you many, many times for your thoughtfulness in having them sent to me.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian Wald
Compo Road
Westport, Connecticut
April 27, 1938

Dear Lillian Wald:

Many thanks for your letter. I am glad to know that Margaret Bondfield is in America, and I will try to see her. I am also looking forward to seeing you soon.

Affectionately,
May 17, 1938

Dear Lillian Wald:

I have your letter about saving the
Saugatuck Valley and have already had one or two
others, which I have passed along. I will also
write to Governor Cross.

Affectionately,
June 24, 1938

Dear Miss Wald:

On account of Mrs. Scheider's illness, I have been rather tied down, but she is coming home next week and so I hope I will be able to see you before long.

Cordially yours,

mds
June 22nd, 1938

Beloved First Lady:

I am following your career as published from day to day, and hoping you will be dropping a word as to the time of your coming to the "House on the Pond".

Mr. Duffus, poor man for his sins, is writing a story of me and writes to me that he has written to the World Telegram for permission to quote you in one of your columns to publish your gracious lines about me, and your visit here. He adds, "you surely will be glad to say "yes", but the form must be complied with.

Lovingly yours,

[Signature]
July 30, 1938

Dear Lillian Wald:

I am planning to come over to see you but something seems to come up every day that makes it impossible for me to get away. I have had Anna's children here but they are leaving and after I get back from a week on Long Island I am sure I will be able to make a definite date.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian Wald
House on the Pond
Saugatuck
Westport, Conn.
July 20th, 1938

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park
New York

My dear friend:

Are you planning a journey to the "House on the Pond?" I am afraid I have asked this before and have had no satisfactory reply.

Has any movement reached your ears about Judge Allen's appointment to the Supreme Court should there be a vacancy, and possibility of her being appointed? Do you have a record of those who are espousing her, please put me down and record our approval and support of the many who may come your way.

We mourn Judge Cardoza's death and are glad that even for part of the time he was our neighbour and
received the untiring care of the Lehmans.

Will you let me know whether you have read Frau Lips story of the Nazis as she knew them. She is an Aryan, as we like to think them before the taint of Hitler came upon them.

This is in no way to deflect from the warm desire to see you personally and who ever may escort you.

I am now and always will be your very devoted

[Signature]

[Note: In the margin]

Think in via now

Very truly,

[Signature]
September 27, 1938

Dear Lillian Wald:

Thank you for your sweet letter. I wish I knew of something cheerful and optimistic about the world picture, but I don't. It looks very sad to me.

I am so sorry the summer has gone and I have not been over to see you. I tried to keep my summer free so I could do the things I enjoy, such as visiting you, but I did not succeed very well. I am still hoping to come, however.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian D. Wald
Saugatuck
Westport
Conn
September 19, 1938.

Mrs. Roosevelt,
Hyde Park, N. Y.

Very dear Lady of the Country - Lady of the White House:

I have just had occasion to write to Nancy, your devoted one, and to tell her how very much I hope that we can seat Mrs. O'Day.

But above all this you dominate and nothing, not even world politics can dim the picture. If there is anything cheerful or optimistic that can be done about Europe, please steal the time and let me know.

I am putting this letter in one to Nancy to be sure that it gets to you. I don't blame your secretaries who, if they are not worn out ought to be.

Dear love to you,

[Signature]

LDW:MS
October 13, 1938

Dear Lillian Wald:

Your note was enough of a gift for my birthday. The thought and affection of those whom you love and admire means more than anything more tangible, as you well know judging from your biography. I finished it and enjoyed it and have written a review for the Survey, though it is not entirely finished. I hope they will like it.

What a wonderful life you have led, what you have done for humanity! I think your philosophy of doing the individual thing is a wise one for it spreads to the utmost corners of the earth.

Much love,

Miss Lillian D. Wald
House on the Pond
Saugatuck
Westport, Conn.
October 10, 1938.

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

Beloved First Lady:

I know, without the thing being retold, that you should have no time for the likes of me. Our country is quite big enough to occupy you, and especially in the present condition of the world, and your family's misadventures. I suppose everybody in the United States has said "how do you do it?" but patience and grace are given to us according to our strength to bear them and lucky you have the strength as well as the burdens, so there!

I don't know what to send you for your birthday but when I am up and out of bed perhaps intelligence will come to me and I have my mind fixed on something that you can keep.
Mr. Duffus sent you a copy of my Biography. We wondered if you liked it and whether it gave you any insight into the friend who loves you so well.

Your devoted

[Signature]

LDW:MS
December 17, 1938

Dear Lillian Wald:

I am deeply appreciative of any word from you always and I am more than sorry that I have not been over to Westport this year. I will come to see you the first opportunity I have.

Affectionately,
December 5, 1938.

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

Beloved Friend:

Every day I think that I must write to you for I feel very close to you and the Administration and to Washington. But it seems as if there is so little that I can do now that I cannot expect to have busy people give me any attention.

I wish I could fill this letter with optimistic messages that my faith continues that the world will be better for us all and how can it fail to be better when you are steady and gifted in all ways? You seem wonderful to me. Several hundred times in one day what did the Bible say? I am not so familiar with what the Bible has said but I do feel sensitive to the meaning of all good people that the world can be saved by a handful of good people and surely there can be no one "gooder" than you.
The latest incitement to see this is your review of the book. I like it so very much and I am pleased that so many people seem to like it. It makes me feel very proud and very happy for Mr. Duffus' sake as well as for my own. Mr. Duffus was grateful for your generous review and says that he would write you but he is afraid your mail is so voluminous that his letter would probably not reach you, but I think that your secretary would keep it for your eyes.

If you have a minute, will you read the enclosed? I would be glad to have him carve something for you, but I'm sure it would be a kindness for you to have him do it.

Your devoted florist lets me know that the pansies are in bloom, so when you have a party that you would like to have adorned with the pansies from Westport, just say the word!

I am still in bed the greater part of the time but I can get up and sit in front of the fire at least once a day.

Dear love to you over and over again,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

LDW:MS
February 14, 1939

Dear Lillian Wald:

Thank you so much for your letter. We would love the pansies for March 4 if Mr. Sniffen cares to send them.

I hope you are feeling better and I am still hoping to get over to see you. I leave March 5 on a lecture trip and get to Seattle on March 26 to stay with Anna until after the baby is born.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian Wald
House on the Pond
Saugatuck
Westport, Conn.
February 11, 1939.

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

Beloved First Lady:

Our flower man, Mr. Sniffen, telephoned today that he had received no word about the pansies that were due Mrs. Roosevelt and I think he misses the privilege of sending them. I am sure, if I had not been ill, I would have thought of an occasion to suit the flowers but I know you will have just the time and place for them and if you will let us know what it is we will all be happy.

I follow you on your migrations and observe all your good deeds and sorrow with you in your perplexities, which are inevitable, and I am, though not a complete person,

Fully and devotedly yours,

[Signature]

[Handwritten: William J. Wald]
March 7, 1939

Dear Lillian Wald:

I have written to Mr. Steffen, and I want to tell you how much we enjoyed having the penguins for March 4. They were the most beautiful I have ever seen.

Affectionately,

[Signature]

Miss Lillian Wald
Saugatuck
Westport
Conn.
Memo

March 4, 1939

Read Large box Giant Pansies

To: Jerry S. Roosevelt

From:
The Heine Flower Company
Westport, Connecticut

No card in box

Look up bill
Walks letters
Chase most
Thank you

E.R
May 1, 1939

Dear Lillian Wald:

I was distressed to hear that you were not so well and hope you are better by now.

I have been so anxious to get over to see you, but life seems so full all the time and the next few weeks are more crowded than ever.

Will you please have your secretary drop me a line telling me how you are?

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian Wald
Westport
Conn.
June 14, 1939

Dear Miss Wald:

I am wondering if you are well enough to see me on Friday, June 23rd. If you are, I would love to drive over just to call on you. I don't want to come if it will be any strain at all, but I have been thinking about you a great deal.

Affectionately,

Miss Lillian Wald
Westport, Conn.
TELEGRAM

3WUA 82 D.L.

The White House
Washington

West Port Conn., Dec. 24, 1938.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt:

A million thanks again for all your attention, for all your goodness and, for yourself. I like the book, the poinsetta graces Connecticut too. May the coming year be less vexacious. It couldn't be fuller of tribute and loyalty to you and the President. Please scatter my love and congratulations, and to all with you, who have made this administration the greatest in the history of this country. Love to your children, your grand children, those here and those to come. Your lovingest.

Lillian D. Wald.
Eddie Welch
61 Westport Avenue,
Norwalk, Conn.

Miss Lillian Wald,
Westport, Conn.

Dear Miss Wald:

I am enclosing a news write up which I would appreciate having you read. The reason is that I have carved a specimen of rose wood which I am going to send to Mr. Roosevelt as a gift. I would like also to carve and send something to Mr. Roosevelt. I have been informed that you are a very dear friend of Mrs. Roosevelt and I thought it would be a very fine idea to carve something for her from a piece of wood from your land. I would also like to carve some item from you. Many of our native woods are very fine. I have used lilac wood and it is very beautiful. Would you give me permission to call some day soon and get a small piece of some sort of wood and carve something. I do hope that this note will not offend you. May I hear from you?

Thanking you in advance,

sincerely yours,

Eddie Welch.