

something about the New York International House, which was home to me from September until June this past year, while I was a student at Columbia University.

Hundreds of foreign and American students of many ages and professions make their temporary homes in one of the three International Houses built in New York, Berkeley and Chicago with funds given by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. The inscription above the door of our New York House best expresses the reason for the building of these student centers . . . "That brotherhood may prevail." Those of us who support the International House idea believe that people must approach each other with a true sense of fellowship, as human beings with fundamental characteristics, problems and hopes which are alike, if we are to attain international peace and cooperation.

We ate together in the cafeteria, argued politics over tea or beer and hamburgers in the coffee shop. One day in the laundry room I watched an American girl showing a young man from India the mysteries of running the automatic clothes washer. And we exchanged information freely at discussion meetings. How could we fail to know each other as individuals? Through these daily contacts it did not take us long to learn that the differences between people are interesting and stimulating . . . the similarities are basic and binding. When we wanted a good picture taken, we didn't hunt up Hamid, the Indian. It was Hamid, the photographer, whom we asked to take the picture for us. Not that all of us liked the personal actions and characteristics of everyone of our fellow members. Opinions clashed, personalities were sometimes incompatible. But we learned and demonstrated in endless ways that nationality, culture or religion are not in themselves barriers to love and friendship and most of all, not to understanding. For many of us our experience meant a strengthened respect for all people. To some, it brought new respect for others. There were others of course, who came with prejudices and managed to remain unchanged by their experience.



Author (extreme top) with friends at International House.

Since the building of the first International House in New York 20 years ago, 50,000 students have shared in the activities of one of the three Houses. Although they differ somewhat in facilities and design, life is much the same in each House. A quick look at the activities of our New York International House during the past winter and spring reveals the general pattern.

The Living America Series presented discussions of various aspects of life in the United States by outstanding Americans, including the writer and literary critic, Bernard De Voto; Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr of Union Theological Seminary and author of many books and magazine articles; and James Carey, well-known labor leader. On Wednesday evenings some of us used to gather in the comfortable Home Room for discussions of World Government and various programs of the U.N. Visiting representatives from Japan, Indonesia, Italy, Africa and other countries also presented the political, social and cultural life and problems of their nations. Other regular features included "philosophy and religion" discussions which centered around the principles of many