

Marian Anderson

February 26, 1939.

Henry M.
My dear Mrs. Robert:

I am afraid that I have never been a very useful member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, so I know it will make very little difference to you whether I resign, or whether I continue to be a member of your organization.

However, I am in complete disagreement with the attitude taken in refusing Constitution Hall to a great artist. You have set an example which seems to me unfortunate, and I feel obliged to send in to you my resignation. You had an opportunity to lead in an enlightened way and it seems to me that your organization has failed.

I realize that many people will not agree with me, but feeling as I do this seems to me the only proper procedure to follow.

Very sincerely yours,

Written correspondence from First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to the Daughters of the American Revolution president, Mrs. Henry M. Robert Jr., concerning Marian Anderson.

Activities

Reading

- Read Eleanor Roosevelt's letter carefully. Who is she addressing? Can you tell why? List your evidence.

Writing

- Respond to Roosevelt's letter as you think Mrs. Henry Robert may have responded at the time.

Learning Resources/ Information Technology

- Find the reply letter from the president of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Why might she have responded this way?

Working Independently or Collaboratively

- Look through magazines, newspapers, and other sources for evidence of discrimination in today's world. Write a letter to one of the sources of discrimination explaining your views.