

# Madison Metropolitan School District

Donald A. Hafeman, Superintendent  
Department of Human Relations

545 West Dayton Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703-1967

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Ms. Ruth Pelham  
MUSIC MOBILE, Inc.  
P. O. Box 6024  
Albany, New York 12206

Dear Ruth:

I want to express my deepest and most joyful thanks to you for the good performances you gave in our schools on April 22, 23 and 24. How fortunate we were to have you here to help us celebrate Peace Week 1986!

First of all, your songs reinforced beautifully our curricular emphasis, particularly in the elementary grades, on individual differences, interpersonal relationships and participation in the human family. "Under One Sky" could be our global awareness theme song -- and may well become just that!

Secondly, your slides and comments on your visit to the Soviet Union were especially timely, given the ups and downs of Soviet/American relations, the recent Chernobyl disaster and the ever-present nuclear threat to both populations. I think you could tell from the questions the children asked that they were anxious to learn about Soviet people and that, with every answer, you dispelled stereotypes and increased understanding.

Finally, the way you related to the children reflects your strong commitment to their growth and learning as human beings. Your respect for their inquisitiveness at some age levels and their attempts to cover it up at others was a model for all of us as educators. Thank you also for listening to teachers' comments and modifying your presentation in light of them. Your flexibility and good humor were both helpful and greatly appreciated.

At a recent meeting of the Teaching Toward Peace Group, a teacher remarked: "It was Ruth Pelham's being at our school that really got teachers thinking about peace and doing things in their classrooms." I can think of no finer compliment we could give you for the time spent with us in April. Please accept our gratitude and our best wishes for your continued good work.

Warmly,

*Ruth*

Ruth A. Gudinas, Ph.D.  
Curriculum Specialist