

DAILY NEWS

LEGACY FOR JACKIE Robinson's kin spread his lessons

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Sharon Robinson, daughter of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, meets with students.

Her name is Dakota, a blond, blue-eyed baseball-playing girl who moves into predominantly black Harlem.

Her story defies stereotypes – just as the author's own father challenged barriers decades ago.

The daughter of Jackie Robinson appeared at a Harlem baseball camp yesterday and read a passage from her new children's novel, "Safe at Home."

"You know that feeling you get when someone is renovating a brownstone in your neighborhood, and you're excited to see who's coming?" Sharon Robinson said. "Well, you don't always get what you expect. And that can be a beautiful thing."

Like Dakota, Robinson's dad was a courageous outsider. As the first black player admitted into the modern major leagues, he endured racist remarks from fans and players when he started with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

"I want these kids to know I value them and support them," Robinson said of the visit to [Harlem RBI's Real Kids Summer Program](#) on E. 100th St.

The family-based Jackie Robinson Foundation distributes \$1.8 million in college scholarships every year.

Asked where she stands on a push to have the new Mets stadium named for her father, Robinson said, "We're great friends with the Mets. It's completely their decision. We understand there's a realistic financial picture, and that includes a corporate sponsor."

She said her real concern now is the Jackie Robinson Museum and Education Center planned for a 12,000-square-foot site on Hudson Square in lower Manhattan.

"It's so important. It's the last of my mother's dreams," Robinson said of her 84-year-old mom, Rachel Robinson.

She added, "We want a permanent place for my father's memorabilia and a place to engage kids in discussions about social change."



Alvarez for NEWS

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