

# *The High School of Performing Arts*

A complete yearbook for the graduating class of January,  
1951 is not available.

No photographs of the graduates exist.

The names of the graduates from that period are:

Ellen Fields Balkan	
June Holmes Chory	
Mark Cohn	Drama
James Cordes	
Phillip Dichtenberg Dixon	Drama
Elana Meyers Duberman	
Robert Ellison	Music
Harvey Estrin	
Ronald Field	
Jerry Fishman	
Isadora Aptheker Frost	Drama
Honey Garfield	Drama
Barbara Kossower	
Pat Lavall	
Henry Lilienthal Lewis	Drama
Ivan Pleskow Lyons	
Daniel Melnick	
Muriel Fabricant Minoff	Drama
Ellen Weiler Payner	Drama
Leila Paul Riss	
Sandra Lansky Robbins	
Linda Roberts	
Joan Butler Robinson	Drama
Richard H Rosenberg	Drama
Jerry Sheik	Music
Roberta Accardy Shlasko	
Hazel Lazarus Silverberg	Dance
Sandra Isaac Sondor	Drama
John Steinmetz	Drama
Lee Becker Theodore	
Rita Grapel Vale	Dance
Caroline Villella	
Edna Cohen Weinberg	Drama
Yaffa Miller Weitzman	
Joseph Robinson Wishy	

# 1951 Year Book

Published by the Parents Association of the High School of Performing Arts, 120 West 46th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

Dr. Franklin J. Keller, Principal  
Dr. Frank H. Paine, Teacher-in-charge  
Daniel M. Gershon, President

Editor  
Miriam E. Gershon

Business Manager.....Sam Wolfe  
Guest Articles.....Isaac Fuhrman

Art..... George Frank  
Pictures..... Arthur Stettner

As Editor of this, the first Year Book published by the Parents Association, your correspondent has attempted to embody in an ordinary fund raising journal articles and pictures of interest about the school. We have also devoted several pages to the Senior Class, for their pictures and school histories.

This Year Book is but a small tribute to a great school, a grand Principal, a fine faculty and student body, and an enthusiastic Parents Association. Here is a school whose at-

tendance record indicates a strong desire on the part of the students not to miss any of the work in their chosen field.

Performing Arts is a unique school, and admission is based upon passing an audition in Dance, Drama or Music. The number of applicants far exceeds the number that can be accepted. These children have an opportunity to demonstrate their talents, and once admitted, prepare for careers in the professional world, while completing a full college preparatory academic course. Here you have children attending a school of their own choosing, enjoying their day and gaining great satisfaction while they work. Here you have a school in which children of like interests are able to develop and plan their futures. Performing Arts, where under one roof, boys and girls enthusiastically attend classes, and develop their talents to become the headliners of the future.

May the Parents Association continue its efforts on behalf of the High School of Performing Arts, and that some day soon these children shall be able to enjoy the new modern building which they so justly deserve.



The Year Book Committee offers its thanks to the Advertisers for their generosity and loyal support; to our members for their unselfish and untiring efforts; to our officers and executive committee for their able and inspiring leadership.



I well remember the first year of Performing Arts when we had no Parents Association. We had lots of parents, telephoning, visiting, some gloating and doting, others worrying and fretting. I also recall how some of my friends and colleagues warned

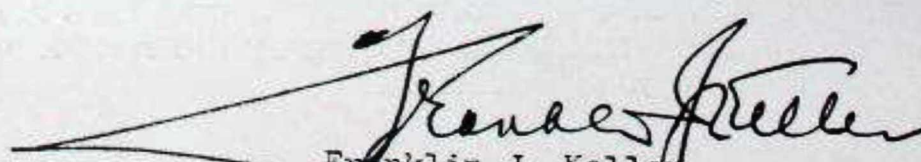
me against ever letting these nuisances organize themselves. What a trial that would be! However, I had what I hope was a balanced endowment of self-protection and good will to kids. (I love to hear the boys and girls speak of themselves as "the kids"). I knew that every parent who cooperated with the teachers would be another volunteer member of the staff, thus saving me a lot of trouble. That would protect me—as much as any principal can be protected.

I also knew that we in school could only build upon those personalities that the parents had prepared for us. As good educators, we could be a dynamic, vital, wholesome influence only insofar as our good will became effective while we worked hand in hand with you. So, you organized and have developed unusual leadership qualities and have shown an untiring interest in the welfare of your youngsters.

As we well know, this does not mean that all is plain sailing. There are differences of opinion, stormy weather, conflicting desires (what to do when child, parent, teacher—even principal—have different ideas?) but, in the last analysis, there must be an agreement on a course that will be in the best interest of your—and our—kids!

It has been exciting and pleasant to plan and work with you. So I am glad that I ignored those dark warnings and listened instead to the still small voice that egged me on to invite you to become part of the school. Best wishes to all of you!

Yours most sincerely,

  
Franklin J. Keller  
Principal

Dr Franklin Keller has had a long and active career in education, both within and outside the schools of the City of New York. He is known in this country, in Europe and in South America as a pioneer and authority in the field of vocational education.



I am happy to join the Parents Association, the faculty and the student body of the High School of Performing Arts in honoring a man of high character and rare accomplishment.

The School of Performing Arts, which is the newest vocational center for training high school boys and girls in the professional field of dance, drama and music, was organized in September 1948. This educational venture differs from our traditional type of school because provision is made for talented youth to prepare for careers in the entertainment world, for college entrance, and for further training in other professional schools.

Many of these gifted pupils have won scholarships to continue with their careers, many have passed auditions for parts in radio stage and television productions and some have received commendation for their performances in Broadway plays.

It is gratifying to know that you, the parents of pupils in this school, have taken such a cooperative interest in the educational progress of your sons and daughters.

Dr. WILLIAM JANSEN  
Superintendent of Schools  
City of New York

The High School of Performing Arts, by its very name, indicates the aims for which it was established; and by those aims, we are impressed with the ever-widening scope and objectives of our schools.

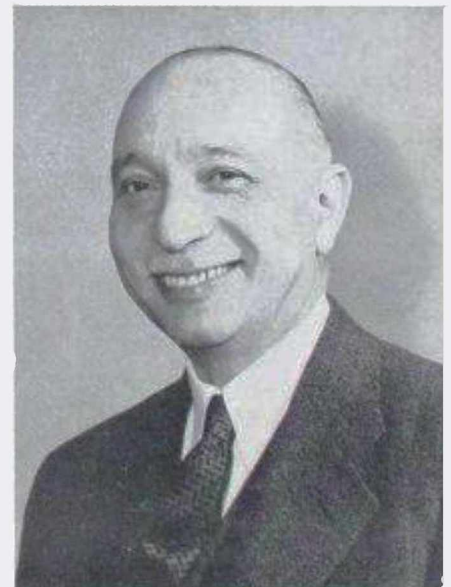
The High School of Performing Arts gives our youth the benefits of a broadened curriculum adequate to fit them for an inexhaustible richness of life in a specially attractive field.

Your Parents Association is an important part of the overall program, and by your interest, you are demonstrating in the highest possible manner, the finest ideals of community participation.

The inspirational drive of Principal Franklin J. Keller, whom you are honoring tonight has been a major factor in the splendid morale and spirit which pervades the school; and his efforts and energies have set a standard of which you can be justifiably proud.

I congratulate you on your civic interest and wish for you continued success in your noble endeavors.

Sincerely yours,  
MAXIMILIAN MOSS, President  
Board of Education





The High School of Performing Arts has made it necessary for orators and writers to resort to the superlatives of the Hollywood movie world, in singing the praises of this wonderful public high school of Dance, Drama and Music. The parents of the talented children who go to this school are grateful to Dr. Franklin J. Keller for his determination and perseverance in fighting for Performing Arts, the first public high school of its kind in the country.

While many wonderful words have been spoken about our school, about Dr. Keller and Dr. Paine, and about our Dancer, Actor and Musician children, this Year Book affords your president the opportunity to thank the officers of the Parents Association, the Committee Chairmen, and the many other active parents, whose concerted effort have made it possible for us to render some assistance to the school.

Through the liaison work of the Executive Vice Presidents in Dance, Drama and Music, the Parents Association provided many items which were needed by the faculty and the students in their work. The parents were ready to respond, at short notice, wherever needed. The keynote at all times was cooperation, and it is with a great deal of gratification that we examine the records for the past year, because they reflect the grand spirit of all the parents. It was a wonderful and thrilling experience to work with such a fine and loyal group of people. We know that the good work of the Parents Association will continue throughout the years, and we look forward to that great day in the not too distant future when we all shall meet at the dedication ceremony for the opening of the new building for this truly outstanding school.

*Franklin J. Keller*

President  
Parents Association  
High School of Performing Arts



It gives me a great sense of satisfaction to know that you and your fellow members have worked together so successfully for two years in the interest of all the pupils in this school.

While succeeding years may bring men and women into office who are equally capable, it will be difficult to surpass the enthusiastic leadership and worthwhile achievements of the present and past officers of the Parents Association.

This unique school has had to meet unusual problems in planning academic and shop programs in a building unsuited to training for the professional arts. Even so, our talented boys and girls have demonstrated their abilities to perform both in and out of school.

I am justly proud of the achievements, attitudes and cooperative efforts of our excellent students. Also, I am mindful of the many warm and lasting friendships that have been made with parents who have been eager to help meet individual and group problems. I am deeply appreciative of the spirit of good will that has characterized the efforts of the members and officers of the Parents Association for the past two years.

Cordially and sincerely

*Frank H. Paine*  
FRANK H. PAINE  
Teacher-in-Charge

### *A parent gets sentimental . . .*

To Daniel Gershon, our President, a fond, heartfelt adieu.  
You've done a monumental job and we're mighty proud of you.

As each task has come along, no matter how great or small,  
Somehow, you've been on the job, and in there, "pitchin' ball".

Service such as you've given us, has been a privilege rare,  
Which can't be measured in dollars and cents, yet is precious  
beyond compare.

So now, as your child graduates, and our ways, perforce, must  
part

We'll hold on to your friendship, hold on with soul and heart.

And we will never really lose you, as the years go rolling on,  
For we'll have a friend and advisor, in Past President, Daniel  
Gershon.

Mrs. BELLE COSMIDES



As a Member of the Board of Education, I am vitally interested in the High School of Performing Arts.

This school with its creative attainments has reached a place of high esteem in our educational system. The faculty of your school, under the able leadership of Dr. Franklin J. Keller, and your Parents Association, headed by Mr. Daniel M. Gershon, have long strived for the betterment of the students.

Your Parents Association has always shown an interest in the scholarship, health and welfare of the students attending the High School of Performing Arts.

It is really an inspiration to watch the creativeness of the pupils of your school, which is only reflective of the high abilities of the faculty.

May we, each and every one of us tonight, renew our pledge that we will continue our efforts on behalf of the High School of Performing Arts.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES J. BENSLEY

My congratulations on this occasion are threefold, extended to the association, the school and the guest of honor.

The members of the Parents Association, giving so generously of their energy and affection, have rendered invaluable assistance to our teachers and children. The record of cooperation is the more impressive when it is realized that our parents are not next-door neighbors but have to travel from many different parts of the city carry on their work together.

My congratulations are also proffered to the faculty and administration of the High School of Performing Arts. We have here a school that not so long ago was an experiment; today it is a model.

Finally, Dr. Franklin J. Keller deserves our highest tribute. His wise counsel and stimulating leadership over the years have shaped him most surely as the guest to be honored.

May the future offer us many an annual gathering like this—growing in happiness as the talents of our sons and daughters mature.

Rev. JOHN M. COLEMAN  
Member of the Board of Education  
of the City of New York



# Officers For Year Ending June 1951



STANDING: Sam Wolfe, Esther Kaplan, George Frank  
SITTING: Gus Raup, Syd Taylor, Daniel M. Gershon, Isaac Fuhrman, Percy Waksman  
Unavailable for Picture: Regina Hayman, Aida Berkeley, Ethel Goers



Banquet Committee



Executive Board



Year Book Committee

