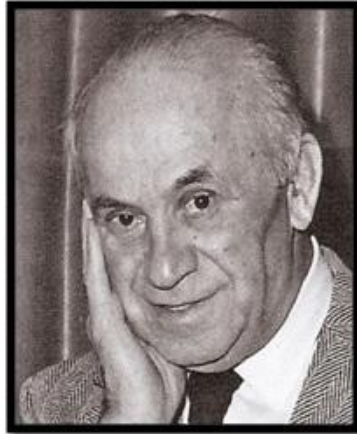


**The Grand Opening of the
Moses E. Josephs Auditorium
Ceremony**



**Tuesday, November 18, 2014
10:00 am**

at
"47" School
225 East 23rd St.
New York, NY 10010



Moses E. Josephs '11 was among P.S. 47's first graduates in 1911, three years after the school's founding. Born in Dupont, Pa., in 1893, he moved to New York City to attend P.S. 47. His love for and contributions for the school never wavered, and he attended every graduation ceremony until his passing at the age of 90.

My father was a man ahead of his time. Throughout his life, he pored through newspapers, kept himself aware of political trends, lived and died with the Brooklyn Dodgers, and was active in many deaf societies, associations and clubs in the New York City Area.

To the end he was curious, always wanting to know what was on the other side of the mountain and, I am sure, that he had more to offer, the world, than was asked.

*Ira Josephs, Son
February 7, 2007*

Program

Master of Ceremony.....	Kenneth Mortensen Rolf Olsen
Welcome Message.....	Cheryl (Pipp) Mortensen
Color Guard.....	8th Graders
Pledge of Allegiance.....	Luis Serrano and Oddes Woods
The Star Spangled Banner.....	Whitney Chesser
Power Point Presentation.....	Dorothy Cohler
Grand Opening Cutting Ceremony.....	Michael Josephs Judy Rosenberg
Speakers.....	NYCDOE Deputy Chancellor Corinne Rello-Anselmi Claire Whitcomb
Show by PS 347.....	1st Graders: "Celebration"
Speakers.....	Principal Dave Thacker-Bowell Principal Watfa Shama
Show by.....	HS "47" Singing and Signing Chorus "Defying Gravity from Wicked" "Will you Be There by Michael Jackson"
Our School's Cry.....	Marqui Duran, Janise George, Almany Rodriquez and Heriberto

**Followed by Refreshments for Administrators,
Guests and Alumni in Room 214
and a tour of three Alumni Museums**

**Welcome Message from
“47” Alumni President Cheryl (Pipp) Mortensen**

As President of “47” Alumni Association of the Deaf, I welcome you all to this special grand opening of the new Moses E. Josephs Auditorium Ceremony. We are honored to pay tribute to our beloved alumni, Moses E. Josephs for his steadfast love of “47” and for his valuable contributions to the community.



Before



After

We are proud of our school, our students and our staff and wish to express publicly our gratitude and appreciation to the City of New York and to the NYC Department of Education for renovating the Moses E. Josephs Auditorium to its glory.

Presented by

“47” Alumni Association of the Deaf, Inc.

“47” The American Sign Language and English Lower School

“47” The American Sign Language and English High School

“The Story of My Life”

My name is Moses E. Josephs Auditorium. I was named after Moses, one of the first graduates of P.S. 47 School of the Deaf in 1911. I am located at East 24th Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues.

In 1925, I was built as an auditorium when the new school was erected on East 24th Street. At first I was used as several classrooms for the students from the 1865 building, at East 23rd Street. Once the school was completed in 1926, I became an auditorium.

I am fitted with 500 used wooden chairs, 10 iconic columns, a tile floor, a stage with curtains, and several large windows. On my right side is a grand piano, and on my left side is a set of three flags representing NYC, the state and the school. Onstage, there is an American flag on the right side.

It always gives me great pleasure to see, during assemblies, the students proudly march down the aisles to their seats. They remain standing while the color guard, of which I am very proud, marches to the front. The captain passes the flag to the sergeant, and then the school salutes the emblem of our country and recites “Pledge of Allegiance, “The Star Spangled Banner,” “My Country Tis of Thee” and “God Bless America.” After all the students have been seated, the assembly begins with a show.

My most memorable day has always been when the graduates received their diplomas. I am so proud of them because I remember them as young students, and I hold this dear.

After 88 years, it is time for me to say goodbye to the old me and welcome the new me. I can't wait to see the 500 new sturdy wooden chairs, the new paint, and the new floor tiles. I will also beam proudly in the new stage and auditorium lights. I'm glad the piano and the four flags will remain with care.

When I am done with my makeover in the fall time of 2014, I will happily welcome all of you, and all of the students marching down the aisles to their new seats.

Our School's Cry

Excerpt from
The Voice June 1913



*Boom! Whee!
Boom! Whee!
Boom! Whee!*

F-o-r-t-y-s-e-v-e-n

*Rah! Rah! Rah! Rah!
Rah! Rah! Rah! Rah! Rah!*

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“47” School’s History

Since 1908, the school’s name has changed several times, starting with P.S. 47 School for the Deaf. The number “47” is symbolic of the first 47 students. The name was then changed to J.H.S. 47 School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and then changed again to J47. Located on 225 East 23rd Street in New York City, the school served both elementary and middle school departments within the school with one principal and two assistant principals.

On February 2, 2002, the school was renamed “47” The American Sign Language and English School. Three years later on February 1, 2005, New York City Department of Education Chancellor Joel Klein announced his decision to convert the lower and secondary programs into two schools, now called “47” The American Sign Language and English Lower School and “47” The American Sign Language and English Secondary School. The primary reasons for having two schools include better budget control and improved teaching methods.

The elementary school, from preschool through the fifth grade and gradually the middle school, from sixth through eighth grade, became a new school, and the high school, from ninth grade through twelfth grade, remained the same. The schools are general education programs serving Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Children of Deaf Adults, Special Education, and Hearing students in an American Sign Language and English dual language environment under the auspices of Region 9.

Each school has its own principal, activities, athletics, administrators, balanced literacy program, budget, parent coordinator, parent-teacher association, related services, school leadership team, Union Federation of Teachers (UFT) chapter leader, and library.

The “47” Alumni Association of the Deaf cherishes its alma mater and has worked closely with the school ever since its origin. We celebrated our beloved “47” school’s 105th anniversary in 2013, and we look forward to continuing our relationships with the school, the neighborhood, and the Deaf and Hearing community as a whole. We also provide a museum and archives, along with an office, that are open to the public.

Thank you

"47" Alumni Coordinator

Dorothy Cohler

Master of Ceremony

Kenneth Mortensen and Rolf Olsen

New York City Department of Education

Chancellor Carmen Fariña

Deputy Chancellor Corinne Rello-Anselmi

New York City Councilwoman

Rosie Mendez

Moses E. Josephs Family

Judy Rosenberg

Michael Josephs

Great Niece of Principal Carrie W. Kearns (1910-1936)

Claire Whitcomb

"47" The American Sign Language and English Lower School

Principal Dave Thacker-Bowell

"47" The American Sign Language and English High School

Principal Watfa Shama

"47" Alumni Officers and Board members

President Cheryl (Pipp) Mortensen

Interpreters

Stephanie Feyne, Melanie Girshick, Rachel Grudberg,

Heather Rossi, Glenn Sheprow, Lynnette Taylor

Ceremony Technical Support

Marla Schaeffer and Reid Sherman