



March 21, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

Rachel B. Spaulding has been an extremely valuable member of my teaching staff here at the Central Queens YM & YWHA in Forest Hills since the summer of 2000. She brought a real sophistication and style to the department when she joined us and introduced two new wonderful programs. In fact, the addition of her classes inspired us to change the name of the department from Cultural Arts to Creative & Performing Arts.

Rachel introduced a drama program which, in her own words for the course description: "with drama games and creative acting exercises, children will explore and discover their own voices, physicality and emotions. A great introduction to acting skills and a fun way to increase self expression and self confidence." Parents whose children have taken the classes over the years have often informed me that besides having fun in her class, their school teachers noticed a definite increase in class participation and self confidence.

The second program Rachel introduced was private voice lessons. Her students ranged from age 5 years through senior citizens, and even included students with heavy accents, people who required diction lessons and two handicapped students. Throughout the five years she taught here, it was evident how much Rachel cherished her work and her students and how much kindness, warmth and generosity she imbued in her teaching.

We will sorely miss Rachel, and wish her the best of luck always.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Sosha Halpern
Director
Creative & Performing Arts