



Brooklyn Kindergarten Society
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www.bksny.org

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BKS 125th Anniversary and Expansion

In 1891 Benjamin Harrison was president of the United States. The City of Brooklyn had a population of 800,000, making it the fourth largest city in the United States – a ranking it still holds in 2015. There were no subways, but more than 30,000 horses roamed the streets alongside a small number of horseless carriages – automobiles. Brooklyn was a very different place. One constant between those years and today is the Brooklyn Kindergarten Society.

BKS is formally celebrating its 125th anniversary this coming May, but we continue to look forward and plan for the coming years of change and challenge. We have recently begun a remarkable support program that focuses on family child care (in-home) providers in Brooklyn. Working currently with six providers and more than 60 children ages six weeks to four years, BKS is raising educational standards by introducing best practices in curriculum, classroom management, and general instructional techniques. We are also providing enrichment activities and supplies where appropriate. During the course of the next six months, we intend to double the number of children in this program.

Another exciting development is the current conversion of the Weeksville Gardens Community Center in Crown Heights into a learning center for prekindergarten children funded through a New York City Department of Education grant. Through the generosity and vision of Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and Councilman Robert Cornegy, the 7,000 square foot space, when renovations are completed in the spring of 2016, will not only serve the local residents with a high-quality early education program but also as a new center for community gatherings and functions.

We are hopeful that our 125th Anniversary Gala will provide an opportunity for BKS to take pride in its past achievements and display our future plans for serving the children in Brooklyn. A large and enthusiastic crowd is expected on May 19th.



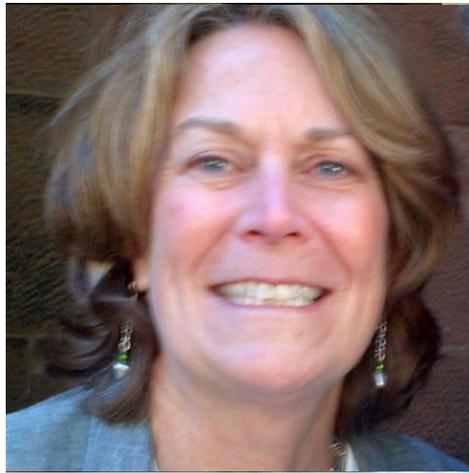
Children out for a buggy ride to the park.

NAEYC & Brevoort

We are pleased and proud to announce that our Brevoort Children's Center in Bedford Stuyvesant has just been awarded NAEYC accreditation status, the gold standard in the world of early education. NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) sets extraordinarily high standards for organizations that seek their endorsement. Brevoort now joins our Sumner and Tompkins Children's Centers in this elevated category, which has been achieved by only eight percent of all programs in the country. Congratulations to the director Huguette Lareche and her staff who worked so hard to make this happen.



Message from Judy Keefer, BKS Board President



Just one hundred and twenty-five years ago, Brooklyn Kindergarten Society became the first organization in Brooklyn to offer educational services to young children. Through the ensuing years, we maintained our high-quality programs and kept pace with the changing times so that today BKS is an acknowledged leader in early education in New York City. Receiving the Robin Hood Foundation Heroes award last year was further recognition of our achievements.

Looking forward in this 125th Anniversary year, we see the need to expand and adapt our programs to meet the continuing changes in our communities. Our family child care provider initiative will double in size in the coming six months. We will open a new children's center (our sixth) in Crown Heights to serve additional children and their families. And we are working with two developers to add early education programs in their affordable housing projects in Brownsville.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all the BKS employees, volunteers, and donors who have supported us for so many years. Your commitment is what makes us excel. You should take great pride in BKS' 125 years of success.

NYC Marathoners Support BKS

Last spring seven runners joined Team BKS to train and raise funds for the Brooklyn Kindergarten Society. Our team was lead by BKS board members Melinda Karp and Harry Shulman and included Susie Brandmeyer, Christopher Burks, Sabina Hartnett, Mariela Quintana, and Mark Townsend. Over the past five months our runners trained for this exciting event while raising critically needed funds to support BKS' innovative programs. In total the runners raised an impressive \$20,000.

All our runners crossed the finish line with fantastic times and we had many groups cheering for them from the side-

lines. One runner, Mariela Quintana, finished with the very competitive time of 3:01.10 - she was the 60th woman in the race and the 1st woman from Brooklyn to cross the line, earning her the title of Fastest Woman in Brooklyn! Go Mariela and Go Team BKS!

If you did not get the chance to donate, there is still time, just visit our Crowdrise page:

crowdrise.com/KindergartenNYC2015.

If you are interested in joining Team BKS next year, please contact Rovika Rajkishun at rjakishun@bksny.org or (718) 623-9803, ext. 120.

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Spotlight on BKS Honorary Board Members

Brooklyn Kindergarten Society is excited to welcome Gloria Lanza-Bajo as an honorary board member. Gloria joins Jane Hamburger, Janet Offensend, and Dino Veronese in bringing expertise and special historical knowledge of the organization to continue to create better futures for Brooklyn children. We are incredibly grateful to have such dedicated individuals provide guidance and support to Brooklyn Kindergarten Society and our mission. Their combined voluntary service to BKS totals nearly 100 years. Their commitment as expressed in their own words:

"The mission of giving children an important head start has always impressed me, and no one does it better than BKS. BKS' commitment to early learning is why, after more than 20 years, I continue to support this mission."

– Gloria Lanza-Bajo

"I remain committed to BKS because of my passionate belief in the power of early education to transform lives. Access to a high-quality, well-funded program like BKS will ensure that all young children start elementary school ready to learn, regardless of the challenges they may face due to poverty or developmental delays. Our future depends upon enabling everyone to participate in society to the full extent of their abilities."

– Janet Offensend

"BKS' incredibly long history of effective service to children and their families, adapting brilliantly to the ever changing structures and particular needs of particular times, is inspiring. How could I not be involved!"

– Jane Hamburger

"I became involved with BKS in the late 1950s and became aware of the important work the organization did and of course continues to do. We continue to see the results of educating children who otherwise may not have these opportunities."

– Dino Veronese

Enrichment Programs



BKS has been fortunate to have many supporters who appreciate the importance of providing high-quality education and family services in low-income neighborhoods. For us to offer a wide array of interesting, enlightening, and challenging experiences to our 350 children requires funding well above what we receive from our government sources. With the supplemental funds we have raised year after year, we have been able to provide some truly wondrous activities from chess to soccer, playwriting to horseback riding, and all manner of music, art, dance, and literacy programs. The end result is that our children have experiences that expand their vocabularies and their horizons. They discover things about themselves and the broader community around them, all leading to greater cognitive growth, an excitement about new experiences, and a feel-good sense of being in a fun world filled with

creative opportunities.

As we look to the years ahead, BKS will continue to offer numerous enrichment programs with the expectation that even more time will be spent learning about the natural world through science and technology. Being a preschooler should be an incredibly exciting time of life. And it is just that at BKS.

BKS CENTERS

Nat Azarow Children's Center
BROWNsville

Brevoort Children's Center
BEDFORD-STUYVESANT

E.L. Cleaveland Children's Center
NORTH CROWN HEIGHTS

Sumner Children's Center
BEDFORD-STUYVESANT

Tompkins Children's Center
BEDFORD-STUYVESANT

95 YEARS OF YULETIDE

Since the first-ever Yuletide Ball in 1920, our event has been a symbol of the spirit of the holiday season, combining good cheer with doing good. Over the course of the past 94 years, the Ball has evolved as our beloved borough has grown in size and popularity while maintaining its community spirit. Our pre-Ball dinners, graciously hosted by Yuletide Committee Members and Friends of Yuletide, continue to drive the success of the Ball by keeping expenses down and maximizing the amount of money raised to support our programs.

Our sincerest thanks to co-chairs, Amerika Williamson and Amelia Wilson and the Yuletide Committee and Friends of Yuletide for a truly remarkable 94th Yuletide Ball. Yuletide 2014 was another banner year – record number of dinner parties, record attendance at the Casino, and a record number of tickets sold. Last year's Ball was the most photographed thanks to one of our lead underwriters, One John Street. Not only did One John Street help to underwrite the cost of the Ball through their sponsorship, but they also underwrote the cost of sending photographers to over 29 dinner parties to document the pre-Ball dinners. We are so grateful for the support from all of our lead sponsors – One John Street, Sweet'N Low, and TD Bank as well as many community businesses and organizations.

Yuletide 2015 promises to be just as fun, exciting, and successful as past years!



Kaz Sakuma



Joshua Freiwald



Kaz Sakuma



Kaz Sakuma



Alena Adamson

Please go to bksny.org to purchase 2015 Yuletide tickets!

2015 LEAD UNDERWRITING SPONSORS



2014 LEAD UNDERWRITING SPONSORS

one
john
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Joshua Freiwald



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