The 99th Yuletide Ball

Brooklyn Kindergarten Society
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Dear Friends,

For 99 years now, our friends and family gather on a cold December night in Brooklyn for a magical event, the Yuletide Ball. The Yuletide Ball raises critical support for the Brooklyn Kindergarten Society.

Brooklyn Kindergarten Society provides high quality early education activities and experiences to toddlers and young children; and promotes family stability through a comprehensive set of social service supports and referrals.

Since 1920, the Yuletide Ball has been a symbol of the spirit of charity, combining good cheer and doing good. Annually, hundreds come together to break the cycle of poverty where it does the most harm—in early childhood. Thank you for standing with us and supporting a vision for a better Brooklyn for the most vulnerable children and families.

This year’s Ball will continue its glorious tradition of pre-ball dinners hosted throughout the borough. This year marks the first, ‘Honorees Dinner’ which will celebrate Richard Buery, Jr. and his work to establish New York’s Universal Pre-K program. The myriad of dinners culminate in the joyous Yuletide Ball held at the Heights Casino.

We would like to thank all of our dinner hosts, as well as their families, for their hospitality and generosity. We also wish to thank our co-chairs, Julia Neff and Rachel Apthorpe, whose passion and hard work contributed so much to this year’s success. Thank you to our Steward level sponsors, Kathy & Henry Elsesser, and Engel & Völkers for their generous underwriting support as well as our other sponsors and donors.

This year, Brooklyn Kindergarten Society is excited to introduce our Honor Roll, a program designed to help provide ongoing and stable support to the children and families we serve. Honor Roll donors make an annual commitment of $2,500 paid over 12 months, we hope you will consider joining our honor roll this year.

Save the date, December 12, 2020 on your calendar for our 100th Yuletide Ball, where we will celebrate a century of giving to the Brooklyn Kindergarten Society.

So please, enjoy the night, and thank you for making this holiday tradition an important part of our ability to serve vulnerable children and families throughout Brooklyn.

Happy Holidays,

Benita Miller, Esq.
Executive Director
Brooklyn Kindergarten Society

Harry Shulman
President
Board of Directors
Brooklyn Kindergarten Society
Special Thanks

2019 Yuletide Co-Chairs - Julia Neff and Rachel Apthorpe
Sabrina Rodriguez for spearheading the decorating committee

Congratulations to the 2019 Advocate for Children Honoree
Richard Buery, Jr.

Thank You

The Brooklyn Kindergarten Society Board wishes to thank the Yuletide Ball Committee and Dinner Party Hosts for making the 99th Yuletide Ball a great success!

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*List as of 12.3.19*
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List as of 12.3.19
As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

-Nelson Mandela

Brooklyn Kindergarten Society Congratulates

Richard Buery, Jr.
2019 Advocate for Children Honoree

Richard is the Chief of Policy & Public Affairs at KIPP, leading its public policy, advocacy, marketing, alumni affairs, and communications efforts. He served as Deputy Mayor to New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, where he led key initiatives including Pre-K for All.

While in college, Richard founded the Mission Hill Summer Program in a Roxbury, Massachusetts housing development, and went on to teach fifth grade at an orphanage in Bindura, Zimbabwe. After a brief stint as a civil rights lawyer, Richard co-founded iMentor, a national college access program which empowers low-income first-generation high school students to graduate college, and Groundwork, supporting the educational aspirations of Brooklyn public housing residents. While the CEO of the Children’s Aid Society, he founded the Children’s Aid College Prep Charter School in the South Bronx.

A 2016 Pahara-Aspen Institute Education Fellow, and a 2012 Fellow of the British American Project, he was named one of Ebony Magazine’s “30 Leaders of the Future under 30,” and Crain’s “40 Leaders of the Future under 40,” and received the Extraordinary Black Man Award for Humanitarianism from the United Negro College Fund. A graduate of Yale Law School and Harvard College, Richard lives in Manhattan with his wife Deborah, a law professor, and his two sons.

Thank you

Benita R. Miller
& the Board of Directors
for your dedication & service to
our children & families.

- The BKS Senior Team
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&
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List as of 12.3.19
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Happy Holidays to everyone at
The Brooklyn Kindergarten Society and those participating in the 99th Yuletide Ball!
We are grateful to be a part of this wonderful event.
Cheers to a DELICIOUS 2020!
Thanks Christine Benson for all of your impactful work on behalf of The Brooklyn Kindergarten Society!

Kerry and Jeffrey Strong
Ben Grossman, Craig Samuel and the B+C Restaurant Group team are proud to support the great work done by The Brooklyn Kindergarten Society. Congratulations on your 99th Yuletide Ball!

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This year, Brooklyn Kindergarten Society is excited to introduce our **Honor Roll**, a special program designed to help provide ongoing and stable support to the children and families we serve.

**Honor Roll members make an annual commitment of $2,500 paid over 12 months.** The Honor Roll provides support for early education enrichment activities and enhanced professional development for our teaching staff.

Honor Roll members will receive a Yearly Report Card, a thank you letter from one of the students you are helping, and a class photo for each year that you are a member. Members will also receive recognition at BKS events, online, and in our newsletters.

Please join the inaugural class of our BKS Honor Roll today.

To join the Honor Roll, visit bksny.org or email, development@bksny.org
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To learn more, contact

**Matthew Hedegaard, Regional Manager**
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Thank you Benita!

Your leadership and commitment to improving the lives of children throughout Brooklyn inspires me!

Congratulations to BKS on your 99th Yuletide Ball and to your 2019 Advocate for Children Honoree, Richard Buery, Jr.

With gratitude,
Your friend, Lu-Shawn M. Thompson
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When you support the Yuletide Ball with a ticket or gift, your generosity provides high-quality early education to children from low-income families.

For 128 years, the Brooklyn Kindergarten Society has worked to ensure children receive quality education in a nurturing environment that cultivates the skills to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

We serve more than 430 children and more than 350 families at seven BKS early childhood learning centers. Children receive full-day classes and enrichment programs. Families have access to counseling, classes, and referrals that continue support beyond the classroom.

Your generosity works to stop the cycle of poverty where it does the most damage—in early childhood. To learn more or to make a gift, visit bksny.org. Thank you!

BKS Educational Center Locations:

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- Sumner Children’s Center
- Tompkins Children’s Center

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BKS Would like to thank its Enrichment Program Partners:
- Brooklyn Seeds
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73%
Of families whose children attend BKS are working families…...yet most have an annual income of less than $19,500.

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2/3
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