



PRESS RELEASE



*Inspiring curiosity
through exploration*



*Valuing nature's
wisdom*

SCIENCE MUSEUM HOLDING REUNION FOR ITS “KIDS”

September 30 reunion scheduled for those who attended museum classes from 1920 to 1971

BUFFALO, NY (September 14, 2011) – As part of the 150th anniversary celebration for the Buffalo Society of Natural Science, the Buffalo Museum of Science (BMS) has planned a reunion for individuals who attended classes at the Museum between 1920 and 1971. The reunion is scheduled for Friday, September 30, on the eve of the Society's 150th black tie Anniversary Gala.

BMS is currently searching for these “Museum Kids” in order to extend invitations for the reunion and Gala.

Museum Kids attended classes at BMS ranging from Anthropology to Zoology, with beloved teachers providing the spark that motivated many children to continue with lifelong learning in the sciences.

Buffalo attorney and Margaret L. Wendt Foundation trustee Robert J. Kresse, recalls his days as a Museum Kid and says, “the pursuit of knowledge, sparked by many questions – always asked without fear – has led me on to every intellectual and life pursuit I have accomplished.”



Participants of Children's Story Hour

Some of the thousands of Museum Kids who spent many hours at the Museum learning about science, friendship and camaraderie include:

- Philip Ackerman, former president of National Fuel and past Chairman for Buffalo Society of Natural Science's Board of Managers
- nature writer Gerry Rising
- Carl L. Bucki, Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of New York

Museum Kids are asked to contact the Museum at museumkids@sciencebuff.org or 716.896.5200 x359 with their name, contact information and years they attended classes at BMS. Reunion and gala details will be provided to them.

More information can be found at www.sciencebuff.org. There is also a Facebook Group for Museum Kids to interact at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/236064706408906/>.

THE HISTORY OF MUSEUM KIDS

Since 1901 the Society has offered teaching and lecture service to the school children of Buffalo in cooperation with the Buffalo Board of Education. At the time, museums served as a bridge to the world of science and nature for school children. Museum educators would travel to schools and offer classes using audio-visual materials. Since many of the materials and collections were difficult to transport, the Society began leading classes at its location on Elmwood Avenue in 1920.



The Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences held classes at its Elmwood location prior to opening the Buffalo Museum of Science

Shortly after the Society opened the Buffalo Museum of Science in 1929, the Buffalo Board of Education maintained a fleet of buses, administered by the Society, used to transport children between the Museum and their schools. As an indication of the importance of the public schools program, this all took place despite the financial problems of a great depression. The number of science educators increased from one to seven as the program expanded.

School-aged children would also voluntarily participate in “groups” during non-school hours to focus on specific areas of science. The Society’s first such group, founded in 1920, was the Roosevelt Field Club which has evolved into today’s Buffalo Audubon Society. Children would earn credits for their successful participation in group programs and were presented with awards as they reached varying credit levels.

In 1971, with the help of the county, all BMS services were made free of charge and the administration of the transportation of school children to and from BMS were turned over to the Board of Education and classes were discontinued.

As of 1972, all the special organizations and clubs had either gone out of existence or ceased their connection with the Society. The need for education was as strong as ever, however social changes made it less appealing.

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