Kate Turley Retires After 18 Years as Principal

IN DECEMBER OF 1998, THIS PUBLICATION ANNOUNCED an important hiring, and only in hindsight do we understand just how significant that appointment would be. In a letter to the “Members of the City & Country Community,” our Board of Trustees introduced us to our new Principal, Kate Turley. Kate came to us with 22 years as an educational professional, and with a history of strong leadership, having been the Head of the Middle School at the Spence School since 1984.

While Kate had two decades of experience in education, she was not experienced in progressive education. Some feared that Kate was the wrong choice, coming from a traditional, all-girls school. But Kate did her homework, made a smooth transition, and impressed the community with her intelligence, diligence, and very quick grasp of Caroline Pratt’s vision and the mission of C&C.

“I’m someone who likes to roll up her sleeves,” says Kate of those early days, when doubts swirled. “I had resources, experience, and great people to work with who needed support and direction for C&C to flourish.”

“She learned about the School from the outside in, and then from the inside out,” says Ann Isaacs, current VsA Group Teacher—and member of the search committee that hired Kate.

Since then, in the 18 transformative years Kate has been our Principal, she—amongst many other things—oversaw the implementation of double Groups throughout the School, increased our annual budget, solidified our campus space through real estate purchases and long-term leases, and established an endowment.

When she passes the baton to Scott Moran, our incoming Principal (more about Scott on page 3), Kate will leave behind a remarkable legacy—and a school that has solidified its role as a leader in progressive education.

“When you look at C&C’s history of strong leadership, Kate stands as one of the ‘big three’ principals,” says Matt Payne, Director of Communications. “Caroline Pratt was our pioneering founder, Jean Murray solidified Caroline’s program, and Kate guided it into the 21st century and made it financially viable.”

The announcement in December of 1998 came with a number of expectations that the Board had in mind for the new Principal. Looking back from 2017, it’s clear she fulfilled every one of them. Two of the goals were to reinforce the sense of C&C as a caring and respectful environment, and provide visible leadership through classroom presence and accessibility. These two expectations speak directly to Kate’s ability to warmly build community and consensus.

“I came here because it was a small community where I was going to know everyone,” says Kate. “All the parents, all the children, all the members of the faculty and staff—there could be an

(continued on page 2)
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interconnectedness, an intimacy. People are known to me, I'm known to them, and that supports a strong sense of community. From there you can move forward together. I didn't want to lead a school in which only certain people had access to the principal. Whoever you are in this community, you can come to my office, knock on my door, talk to me."

Another expectation fulfilled: Expand C&C's role in the broader educational community. This was achieved on three levels—by having Kate sit on boards, ensuring the Directors of the two divisions were active members of the progressive education community, and fostering the growth of "teacher leaders" who can share our program with others.

This “spreading of reputation through our people” ties in directly with another expectation the Board had for Kate: Develop and advocate programs to address economic and professional issues.

In her very first year, Kate promoted professional development—both by creating the Summer Grants program that is still in place today, and by working with the Board to improve teachers’ salaries over time. As Kate says, “The Summer Curriculum Development Grant was a small beginning, but it was a beginning. I’m always looking for ways to fund teachers’ capacities to do things that they would do anyway, while enhancing the lives of the children, the School’s practice, and the work of their colleagues—ultimately adding to City and Country’s renown. It took us quite a while to build our professional development budget. But there was always a deep respect for the work of teachers, and a recognition of the importance of teacher salaries. We moved professional development as well as compensation forward step by step, so that teachers weren’t sacrificing to teach here.”

The two biggest expectations that were included by the Board—and the ones listed first—were to develop long-range planning and maintenance of the School’s financial health while also building consensus about how the School’s historic progressive mission can be carried forward…and addressing the aspirations of diverse families and students.

Kate fulfilled those expectations through her work with the Board—informally and through the creation of and execution of two Strategic Plans, with our third presented last year. She has certainly secured the long-term financial health of C&C—while also solidifying our campus with the purchase of all of our 12th Street buildings as well as a new building on 13th Street.

When asked about how she was able to do such a good job of working with the Board on long-range planning, Kate states: “I’ve been fortunate to work with three amazing Board Chairs. We had a very respectful relationship in which we met or spoke weekly. The Board leadership and I were acting in sync. We were always thinking about what was in the best interest of the children at C&C, the families at C&C, and also balancing that with the long-term needs of the School. My work with the Board on big decisions that have moved the School forward in terms of facilities, in terms of fundraising, in terms of financial aid, has happened because of respectful relationships, mutually shared interest, trust, and confidence in one another.”

In terms of carrying the mission forward, Kate didn’t execute large changes; she stayed true to the core program in place while making sure that all elements of the curriculum were recorded and built upon from year to year. The School also improved the way it communicated, describing clearly to C&C families what children do at the School and why it’s important. “Caroline Pratt’s vision for our program was astonishing,” says Kate. “But we needed to make sure that we were doing what we said we did year after year. We’ve developed that consistency and we’ve been very successful with making sure that our reality matches our rhetoric.”

At the same time, annual financial aid grew from $350,000 to over $1.5M. In addition to a growing socioeconomic diversity, we learned through a recent survey that nearly 100 current students are identified by parents as multi-racial. Kate has also fostered long-term program pieces that touch on issues of diversity, such as the ongoing social justice integration (more info on page 7).

Ultimately, Kate has much to be proud of as she exits on June 30, but what is she most proud of? “One of the things I’m very, very proud of is that we have preserved and continued the legacy of Caroline Pratt’s vision for our School, and it is as vibrant today as it was then. I am proud that our School has stayed true to the vision, the philosophy, and the approach. While not always easy to do, I believe that is what sets our School up for continuing success.”

The community that Kate was so instrumental in building is celebrating Kate’s departure in several ways: from creating Spring Fair cakes that look like Kate, to videos featuring our students, to a June 8 retirement party at the Altman Building. Individuals can also honor Kate, and all of our Principals past, by considering a gift to The Principals’ Fund for Professional Development.

Though Kate now has a year of travel ahead of her (a”gap year” as she calls it) with extended stays on different continents, she will definitely miss City and Country School.

What will she miss the most? “Children, every day, from morning until night,” she says. “Our kids love to come to school, and the ownership that they have of this school, their comfort with grown-ups around them, that will be hard to leave!”

Kate will be greatly missed at C&C, but after years of opening the door (literally!) to families, we know that an exciting new door is about to open for her. Bon voyage, Kate!
C&C’S INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE

The work done by C&C educators resonates with peers around the world. Recent visitors have hailed from Japan, the Czech Republic, Brazil, England, and many other countries. Educational magazines and newspapers across the globe write about our program. And, recently, C&C educators have traveled abroad to share our program.

ICELAND
C&C has had a long-standing relationship with Icelandic educators first initiated by Dr. Harriet Cuffaro. Recently, Jane and VIeE Group Teacher Erin Teesdale spent a few days presenting our program to a group of educators in Reykjavík!

BRAZIL
During our Centennial, Paraná state’s newspaper, Gazeta do Povo, ran an article on the legacy of the Unit Blocks created by our founder, Caroline Pratt.

RUSSIA
Director of Lower School Jane Clarke traveled to Moscow in February, along with C&C parent and educator Anna Kegeles, at the request of a new progressive school: Horoshkola School. Over several days, Jane shared elements of our program, helping the school to understand the power of C&C’s basic materials and approach to children’s learning. This is not the only recent C&C news from Russia, as Semeynoe, a Russian education magazine, published two articles on C&C in 2016.

Recent press and visitors from around the world

INDIA
Aaran Patel, a Teach for India fellow and 3rd Grade Teacher from Love Grove Primary School in Mumbai, spent a month at C&C last year, and is now using what he learned in his classroom. You can follow him @teachingforindia on Instagram.

For the eighth edition of the Xlll’s Newspaper, We Have Issues, C&C students Isabella Palmer and Sylvan Wold interviewed Scott. Here is an excerpt of that interview, originally printed on March 10, 2017:

Q: Who is your teaching role model?
A: I would say that my teaching role models were [former C&C teacher and Bank Street advisor] Harriet Cuffaro, and also at the beginning of my career, Todd Rosenthal. He was the first person I was student teacher with.

A: My favorite memory is when I first became the VIIIs teacher, and I was still nervous about whether or not I really wanted to be a teacher, and maybe the third or fourth day of school, I remember leaning against the counter in my Classroom while there were lots of different things going on—all about getting ready for the Post Office—and I remember thinking at that moment, yep, I made the right choice.

Q: What’s your favorite memory at C&C?
A: My favorite memory is when I first became the VIIIs teacher, and I was still nervous about whether or not I really wanted to be a teacher, and maybe the third or fourth day of school, I remember leaning against the counter in my Classroom while there were lots of different things going on—all about getting ready for the Post Office—and I remember thinking at that moment, yep, I made the right choice.

Q: Use one word to describe your feelings about returning to C&C.
A: “Happy” is what comes to mind right now!

Q: What is your favorite place in C&C?
A: The Ball Yard.

Q: What is your favorite book?
A: If we’re talking nonfiction, then I Learn from Children by [C&C’s founder] Caroline Pratt.
**ALUMNI UPDATES**

**Gunter Weitzenkorn ’39**
Gunter, who is 94 and doing fine, recently called C&C. He was only at C&C for one year, the XIII's, and at the time he was 16. Gunter is from Kassel, almost smack-dab in the middle of Germany. His older sister, who in the ’30s was a leader of Germany’s Communist Youth, ended up marrying a Communist professor who had ties to Caroline Pratt. It was through that relationship that Gunter was connected with Pratt and Jean Murray, who welcomed Gunter to learn English at C&C as a XIII. He remembers Pratt as a nice person who went out of her way to help him.

Gunter describes Pratt and Murray as Trotskyists, and also spoke of the how the ACLU was formed in part by the parents who were active in the C&C community. (See the feature on page 6.) After his time at C&C, he went to DeWitt Clinton to play soccer, and then enlisted in the army to “fight the Nazis.” He suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and though he intended to go to college, he couldn’t. He became a machinist instead. He worked until the year his first wife (an Italian-American born in NYC with family ties to Bari), died. When he was 67, he retired to take care of her in her final year. He’s since re-married and shares time between Florida and Germany. He has two daughters and grandchildren.

**Hilary Knight ’40**
At 90 years young, Hilary has just signed two book deals with major publisher Macmillan, and the illustrations he’s done for theater will be featured in “Hilary Knight’s Stage Struck World” at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts through September 1, 2017.

**Peter Goldman ’46**
After 55 years as a journalist, mostly as a writer and senior editor with Newsweek, I’m writing crime fiction. I’ve published 10 nonfiction books and, in my new incarnation, two detective novels; a third, Students of Pain, is finished and will be published soon.

**Steve Meyers ’48**
My Class of 1948 covered the Presidential election of that year with great enthusiasm, going to political rallies at the old Madison Square Garden, staying up late as a group to listen to election returns, and actually being allowed in the Teachers’ Room in pairs the next morning to continue listening. The experience made me a “political junkie” for the next 68 years, but early in 2016, I gave the whole thing up. I stopped all face-to-face political discussions with everyone except one close friend. I stopped watching debates or any type of TV program that got political. I stopped reading political punditry columns. I’m a much happier man!

**Leslie Kandell ’50**
Of everything I’ve done in the last few years, I’m most proud of my ability to create a sense of community among

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**Alexa Manning ’81 Brings C&C’s Program to Vermont**

After C&C, Alexa (Ragozin) Manning attended Trinity, and then Brown University. Her career took her in many exciting and intertwined directions, including time in journalism, the music industry, the early days of the “internet economy,” and, most recently, education.

When her daughter was ready to attend school in Manchester, VT, where she settled, Alexa wanted her to attend a school “just like C&C.” But after searching, it appeared there was no progressive school in her area that fit the bill.

“I started talking with my friends about our dilemma,” Alexa says, “and several of them said, ‘Well, you went to Brown, you have experience at start-ups, you love to teach, why don’t you start a school?’”

What really made me consider the idea was my time at C&C, where I learned to tackle challenges fearlessly, analyze problems thoughtfully, and approach dreams with an eye toward the possible."

And thus The Downtown School (thedowntownschool.org) was born in the 2014–2015 school year. Like C&C, the program celebrates experimentation, inquiry, and problem solving, as teachers help students prepare to become society’s future leaders. But, as Alexa points out, the type of program C&C offers in the city naturally changes in the rural setting of Vermont. “For example,” Alexa says, “one aspect of our place-based learning involves a year-long study of the ecology of Mount Equinox, rather than a study of the Brooklyn Bridge. Also, our school is not yet big enough to successfully support a vibrant school store or an overall Jobs Program, so we learn some of these skills through ongoing relationships with local independent businesses and community organizations.”

The Downtown School is currently wrapping up its third year with 30 students in grades Pre-K through 3rd. It will add an additional, older grade in each of the following years, and will eventually be a Pre-K through 8th grade school. And as the school continues to grow, Alexa will continue strengthening the bond between C&C and The Downtown School.

“Our location in a vibrant small town in a rural community offers a multitude of opportunities for cross-study with students from a vibrant, small school in New York City,” says Alexa, “For instance, I hope someday to have C&C students visit us for our summer camp. That’s just one example of how we could build a growing, strong, and mutually beneficial relationship between the two schools!”

We wish Alexa and The Downtown School continued success!
Tony Robbins ’54
Tony, a retired medical doctor, currently lives in Boston, but recently came down to visit C&C. He had a very special tour guide: Leo (his grandson!) from the VIst.

Eric Darton ’64
This past spring, I was certified to teach foundational Liang-style Ba Gua Zhang, an internal Chinese martial art I’ve been practicing since 2002. Ba Gua Zhang, like

Helen Geltman ’65
While my brother and I attended C&C, our mom, Mary Hansen, volunteered. Eventually she was hired and taught at C&C until she retired. During the years she volunteered, she often helped in the kitchen and became friends with Freddy Lipsky, who drove the Pepperidge Farm bread truck. Freddy told her of his appaloosa horses, who lived at a stable in Brooklyn. Mom told him of my love of horses, especially appaloosas. One day Freddy told her he had started riding his beloved filly, Dominique, too young and had strained her legs and asked if we would like to have her. ’Nique was two and I was 16. In 1969 the filly from Brooklyn and I set off into the world together. We attended Antioch College, where I majored in biology and music, and ’Nique majored in Halloween pranks. In 1975 I graduated, gave birth to my son, Elijah May, and the stable where ’Nique lived started the third therapeutic horseback riding program in the country. ’Nique and I were bitten by the bug from day one. In 1979 I was certified as a therapeutic riding instructor, and in 1982 ’Nique and I founded Magic Mountain Therapeutic Riding in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains in North Carolina—the second such program in the state. There was a blue moon the night of July 31, 1985. That night ’Nique, at age 20, gave birth to a son. He was snow white with big black spots. Spot celebrated his 30th birthday on the night of another blue moon: July 31, 2015. He passed away quietly that Fall, but his children and grandchildren continue the work ’Nique and I started.

Carol (Levine) Paasche ’51
I have been married for 56 years to Gottfried Paasche. We met at Antioch College. In 1956, we moved to Toronto, Canada—mainly for job opportunities. Gottfried was a Professor of Sociology at York University for 40 years. I was a Professor of Early Childhood Education at Seneca College for 30 years. We have three children, Franz (Riverdale, NY), Denise (Brattleboro, VT), and Sara (Newton, MA). We also have eight grandchildren, the youngest of whom is now 15 years old. After being in Canada for 50 years, my husband and I have made the big move to Newton to be nearer to our children and grandchildren. We will continue to spend summers and free time at our farm in upstate NY. We would be happy to hear from old friends from C&C: you can reach out to C&C for our mailing address.

T’ai Chi Chuan, combines self-defense with life-nourishing qi gong practices and meditation. The certification was a great affirmation, one that counts as much or more to me than my academic graduate degree. This spring, I’ll be teaching BGZ at El Taller Latino Americano in NYC (tallerlatino.org). For more information, please contact me at edarton@earthlink.net. My family and I continue to use numerous objects I made at C&C. “Traditionally” our Thanksgiving mashed potatoes are served in an oval ceramic bowl with vertical sides dating from the XIs (ca. 1961). A ceramic turtle horse lends their presence to the household and occasionally serve as weights. A wooden spoon, made in Shop, gets put to use from time to time.

Steven Dunsky ’71
Steve often speaks about his formative experience at C&C, which spanned the IIs to the Xllls. In recent years, he has reconnected with classmates, several of whom he has known since age two. After graduating C&C in 1971, Steve attended Stuyvesant High School, where he encountered a far more rigid academic environment in which teachers were actually addressed by their last names! He learned how to take tests, however, and became interested in marine biology, which he continued to study at Bowdoin College in Maine. Halfway through his undergraduate career, he realized that his passion was making science and nature films. He worked in New York City for a couple of years, including as a stagehand on Broadway, before going to UCLA film school in 1981. There he earned graduate degrees in film production and cinema studies, and met his wife, Ann. Together they moved north to the San Francisco...
Bay Area. He worked as a reporter for a weekly newspaper until they both found film-making jobs with the United States Forest Service. For more than a quarter-century, they have been a husband/wife team, producing films for visitor centers, public television, and now the web. Their award-winning documentaries include *The Greatest Good*, *Butterflies & Bulldozers*, and *Green Fire*. Steve traces his need to question the world—an important trait of any documentary filmmaker—to his time at C&C in the politically engaged Greenwich Village of the 1960s.

**Melissa Roske '78**
Melissa has had a number of different careers, from journalist in Europe, to certified life coach in New York City, writing for the UK-based *Just Seventeen* magazine and *Reader’s Digest* in between. But she’s about to add another credential to her CV, as her first novel for middle grade readers will be available August 22, 2017 from publisher Charlesbridge: *Kat Greene Comes Clean*. Kat lives in New York City and attends fifth grade in the very progressive Village Humanity School—which is loosely (loosely, as Melissa emphasizes) based on her experiences here. Kat’s best friend is Melissa’s best friend from C&C. And there are special guest appearances from icons of C&C: well-loved Art teacher Ronnie appears in the form of “Remy.”

**Beau Shaw ’96**
Beau received his doctorate in philosophy from Columbia University. He did a two-year post-doc there, followed by one year of teaching. Beau has been adjunct at Columbia, NYU, and Pratt. He has also been published in four excellent philosophy journals in his area, Continental Philosophy. He’s currently searching for a full-time university position.

**Susannah Fadiman Colt ’03**
After attending C&C from the IIIs to the Xs, Susannah went to Deerfield Academy, Harvard University, and the University of London for graduate school. She’s currently living in New Orleans and works as an Associate Producer for media production company Picrow, Inc.

**Alyssa May Gold ’04**
Alyssa is currently preparing for the Off-Broadway opening of a play she conceived: *Julius Caesar* set in an all-girls high school. The opening comes as Alyssa also completes work on an independent film. Says Alyssa, “Everything I’m doing now is the direct result of the interdisciplinary curiosity and the impetus to build things with your bare hands that C&C instilled in me.” More information (and tickets for the limited June 21–July 8 run) at caesarbeware.com.

### ANNUAL REPORT UPDATE

We apologize for the following corrections and omissions:
- Ronald Collins & Sarah Humphreys were left out of the Visionary ($5000+) category in the 2015–2016 Annual Report.
- Susan V. DeWind was erroneously listed as Susan Keiner DeWind in the 2015–2016 Annual Report.
- Felice Aull Nachbar’s name was misspelled in the Donor (up to $249) category in the 2014–2015 Annual Report.
AROUND C&C...

Everyone was busy for Family Service Day in February, including the youngest children (IIs, IIs, and IVs) who, assisted by their parents, made crafts that added flair to the Church of the Village’s Community Meal. Upper School families filled all of the slots that were open for volunteering at the Community Meal. This was the first Family Service Day fully devoted to Helping Neighbors in Need, an organization run out of the Church where C&C leases space for lunch, gym, team sports, classes, and meetings.

A moving Conversation in Honor of Harriet Cuffaro was held in the Rhythms Room in October. Panelists Kvelina Butcher (Dalton), Kristín Einarsdóttir (Midborg School in Reykjavik), Judith Foster (Studio in a School), Jonathan Silin (Occasional Paper Series, Bank Street) and Sal Vascellaro (Bank Street) discussed subjects that were important to educator Dr. Harriet Cuffaro, long-time C&C teacher and advisor, who died in April 2016.

A Special Friends’ Visiting Morning was held in November. Vs, VIs, and VIIIs could each invite one adult relative or special friend (see photo)!

C&C Portfolio Wins CASE Silver Award!

City and Country Portfolio #1—Rising Up Together: The Social And Singular Voice at Six Years Old won a Silver Award as part of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District II Accolades!

The Portfolio, a collaboration between Director of Lower School Jane Clarke, C&C parent Grace Yu, Director of Communications Matt Payne, and designer Gin Chen, is a tri-fold that both visually and through writing relates the story of how one Group of VIIIIs worked together with teachers, Tara DiGerlando and Sarah Bynum, on a study of neighborhood that the students directed into a study of garbage, recycling, and finally, recycled materials as art. Within the Portfolio are 17 beautifully rendered Sharpie and watercolor paintings which the VIIIIs produced at the end of their study, after visiting Chinese artist Xu Bing’s Phoenix installation—an up-close view of how recycled material can be used as art.

More about the Portfolio series, including how to purchase Rising Up Together, can be found in the News section of cityandcountry.org, or by reaching out to Matt: 212.506.5950, matthewp@cityandcountry.org.

C&C IN PRINT!

Currents! “Journeys in Search of Firsthand Knowledge,” which focuses on our Trips Program, is now available in the Publications section of our website.

Independent School Magazine Article! C&C’s Archivist, Jordis Rosberg, was recently interviewed for the magazine of the National Association of Independent Schools. Her interview was featured in an article on the importance of archives, “Remembering the Backstory.”


SOCIAL JUSTICE IN SOCIAL STUDIES

Director of Student Services and Diversity Coordinator MILLIE CARTAGENA, Middle and Upper School Social Studies Consultant JOAN BRODSKY SCHUR, and Associate Director of Middle and Upper School GEE ROLDAN have lead several presentations at conferences that describe C&C’s collaborative process and approach when identifying and developing age-appropriate lessons around social justice concepts—work that has been progressing here at C&C for three years. Each presentation was then followed by an interactive workshop. Several schools have expressed interest in additional presentations for their faculty and staff.

“This work is a testament of our faculty’s dedication,” says Millie, “and to the leadership of our Principal!”
C&C is devoted to a greener today. Working with a printer who uses wind power energy, organic, non-petroleum based inks, and FSC certified papers are some of the ways we demonstrate this commitment.

VIDEO! On Vimeo.com/CityandCountrySchool
- Outdoor Blocks Program
- Students Celebrate Kate’s Retirement
- Profiles of Dr. Stephen Baum ’50 and Joanna Shapiro ’97

New Library Chairs!
When the parents of last year’s XIIIs were asked what gift they’d like to give in honor of the Class of 2016, they came up with an inspired idea: new Library chairs! But in order to match the original Library chairs, they had to be custom-built:
One was shipped to the Teterboro, NJ-based company, Walters, to have them match the design. Earlier this year, six beautiful chairs arrived at the Library as a result.

Last Year at the Annual Reunion...
Nearly all the living members of the Class of 1956—15—met for a special 60th Anniversary Reunion.

This Year at the Annual Reunion...Retiring Principal Kate Turley was made an Honorary Alumna!

See you at the 2018 ALUMNI REUNION or come to the SPRING FAIR on Friday, May 19, from 5:00–8:30 p.m. Schedule a visit or send us an update: alumni@cityandcountry.org or 212.242.7802.

The Annual Fund closes June 30. Have you made your gift? cityandcountry.org/support