C&C’s Influence on Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem

AT BIBLE LANDS MUSEUM JERUSALEM (BLMJ), the civilizations of the ancient Egyptians, Canaanites, Philistines, Arameans, Hittites, Elamites, Phoenicians, Persians, and more come to life through the objects in the collection. Jessica (Weiss) Waller '67, as Keeper of the Collection, is responsible for thousands of objects; whether they’re on exhibit, on loan, or in the store room. It’s a job she excels at, in part because of her experience at C&C.

“My XIIs’ love for Greek and Roman art, history, and archaeology—that’s my love today,” says Jessica. “That’s my favorite gallery that I’m redesigning all the time in Israel. It’s funny, what I learned from our art teacher, Ronnie, from the Clay Room, I carried through.”

In addition to its collection, BLMJ offers special exhibitions, docents and actors, an academic journal, and a robust education program that often features a community art project. Participants can dig their hands into clay, work with recycled materials, or learn how to carve ancient script into objects.

The hands-on way BLMJ approaches the study of ancient civilization—allowing visitors to walk in the shoes of others—echoes C&C’s program. The link should come as no surprise: Jessica’s sister, Amanda Weiss ’71, is BLMJ’s Director, and C&C alumnae parent, Batya (Weiss) Borowski, along with her second husband, Dr. Elie Borowski, founded the museum.

“Our mother married Elie in 1982,” says Amanda, “and they built the museum together.” Elie had amassed a magnificent collection of Ancient Near Eastern art reflecting the cultures and civilizations of the biblical period, and though he had always dreamed of dedicating a space to the collection, Batya was the driving force.

Amanda continues, “In ’91, when my mother and Elie were planning on moving to Israel, they basically said to my sister and me, ‘come.’ I said, ‘That’s ridiculous! First of all, you don’t work with family on a full-time basis. Second of all, I’m not moving.’

“But our mother was always pushing,” adds Jessica. “I went for one year to try it out with [my family]. None of us spoke Hebrew. The whole first year, we were trying it, we were getting accustomed. It took one year for my three kids to really learn the language and fit in and by the second year, we weren’t going anywhere!”

Though their mother was a major influence behind the move, both Jessica and Amanda cite C&C as a key factor in giving them the courage to take on such a huge project. As Amanda says: “City and Country taught us that if you wanted to do something, you could do it. You put your hands into the mud; you take the clay and you turn it into a pot or you do whatever it is. We made things happen at City and Country.”

The museum flourishes today thanks to the sisters’ leadership and dedication. From its beginnings, over twenty years ago, BLMJ now has a permanent staff of almost 50, with another 35 freelancers. All the exhibits are presented in three languages: Hebrew, English, and Arabic. There are close to 50 docents, guides, and other volunteers who help visitors learn about new cultures and build new understandings—and this in a city bitterly divided between cultures.

(continued on page 2)
**Sharing Our Program Block by Block**

**NYSAIS Members Experienced the Power of Unit Blocks From the Source**

Educators from City and Country often give workshops about the best practices of block use in action, but on November 7 of last year, 50 educators from around New York State gathered at City and Country School for the first ever workshop sponsored by the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS). C&C educators Jane Clarke (Director of Lower School), Sara Hance (IIs Group Teacher), William Harrison (IIIs Group Teacher), Ruth Cataldo (Vlls Group Teacher), Dumit Estevez (Lower School Support Teacher), and Angela De Vincenzo (former VIs Group Teacher) offered five workshops throughout the day that inspired participants through hands-on experiences and sharing opportunities to enhance their children’s work in the block area, exploring as well how block play touches on language development, math, science, and socialization.

“It was exciting and exhilarating to observe the confidence that our teachers exuded as they shared their work,” said Jane. “I am convinced that the obvious enthusiasm for their work spoke volumes to our visiting teachers.”

**Blocks @ PS 130 in Brooklyn**

Erin Teesdale (Vls Group Teacher), Eliza Romanyschyn (IVs Group Teacher), Ruth Cataldo (Vlls Group Teacher), and Nina Farrell (Director of Auxiliary Programs) are engaged in an ongoing collaboration with PS 130, a public school in Brooklyn. Our teachers guided educators from the school in the creation of a block room and an active block program for their Pre-K through Second Grade students. The newly-renovated space opened in the fall, and our teachers will continue to support the school as PS 130’s program evolves.

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**The World’s Smallest Museum?**

ALEX KALMAN ’99 runs what could be the world’s smallest museum, located in a freight elevator at 4 Cortlandt Alley in New York City. Mmuseumm is a modern natural history museum dedicated to the curation and exhibition of contemporary artifacts: a look at humanity through objects. The museum is currently open for private visits. More information at mmuseumm.com.

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**Welcome, Kelly!**

C&C welcomed Kelly Washburn as our Annual Giving and Special Events Manager at the start of the school year. Kelly has formerly served as Associate Director of Development & Director of Publications for Grace Church School and Regional Development Director for Clarke School for the Deaf. Kelly attended our neighbor school PS 41, and is very active with the alumni community of her high school, Hunter. She holds a BA in Latin American Studies and an MA in Jewish Women’s Studies.
The State of Sports at C&C

BY LUCA HEINEMAN ’06

I found my way back to C&C my junior year at Fordham University, when I saw a Facebook invite to an alumni game from Librarian and Sports Coordinator Todd Rosenthal. The following fall, I worked as an assistant soccer coach and head coach of the Xs/XIs boys basketball team.

As a kid at C&C, I always loved Yard and relished the opportunities to play on the volleyball and basketball teams. During my time, the sports program was limited, a source of frustration for me and a topic I wrote on a handful of times as a XIII in our newspaper, TNT.

But, the year after I left, soccer and softball were added, as well as more games and practices. Today, we offer soccer and volleyball in the fall, basketball in the winter, and softball and running club in the spring. All-in-all last year, 91 students from the Xs–XIIIs participated (or 81% of all children in those years!) in at least one offering.

C&C sports has had quite a bit of success in the three years I’ve returned as a coach. The 2014-2015 XIs/XIIIs Girls Basketball team won the MSAL championship. The Xs/XIs volleyball team went undefeated this past fall. A comeback win against VCS by the XIIs/XIIIs soccer team last year saw us score three goals in the last ten minutes to overcome a 2-0 deficit.

Yet the experience that stands out to me the most came in a loss in my first year coaching with Todd. Our XIIs/XIIIs boys basketball team played at Mary McDowell in the semi-final of the MSAL tournament and the first half saw us go down by 10 points—an identical start to our previous two games with MMFS that both ended in losses.

At halftime, Todd and I let the team know that they had nothing to lose and all to gain from working for and with each other. Watching how the boys were able to harness the work they had done throughout the season to elevate their cohesion and effort in the second half still holds an emotional charge for me. They played with no fear and believed in themselves—and each other. We weren’t the more talented team, but we found an even deeper internal resource of attitude and effort. In the end, MMFS would win on a last-second put back rebound. However, the effort we put forth brought a greater level of satisfaction as a coach than any win would have provided.

To help facilitate a group of young adolescents to find something within themselves that they didn’t know was there, not just individually, but as a team—now that was powerful! And something that happens in the C&C classroom every day.

DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

Since the start of the school year, the Diversity Group has sponsored three book discussions. The most recent discussion, which took place in January, featured Ta-Nehisi Coates’ groundbreaking (and National Book Award winning) Between the World and Me.

“It's important for our community to work through the issues of race and class that our country is currently dealing with,” says Millie Cartagena, Director of Student Services and Diversity Coordinator, “and these book discussions are good ways to enter into that conversation.”

For each of the two book discussions in the fall, the author was present, giving a deeper insight into the complex issues presented in The Fall of Rome (Martha Southgate) and The Tama River (Nobu Fukui).
2014, and to also celebrate my 94th birthday. I have fond memories of my years at C&C from age 3 to 13. Since then, I went to Birch Watten High School, Goddard College (junior year at University of Wisconsin), and University of Illinois for graduate work. I retired from a career as a Labor Economist and Human Resource Executive in Private Industry and Health Care. I just wanted to let you all know I am still about and think often about C&C and the importance it played in my life. I am delighted that the School is well and thriving today.

**Philip Langner ’39**

Aside from a small stint as an intern at his father’s law firm, Philip has been involved in theater ever since graduating from college, both as a manager of theaters, and as a producer with the famed Theatre Guild. He also produced a number of films in the 1950s and 1960s. Of all his achievements as a producer, Philip counts bringing the Oscar-winning Judgment at Nuremberg to the screen as one of his greatest achievements, by connecting with Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy. “When I wanted to make something happen,” Philip says, “I just went after it. C&C taught me that.” Today, he remains active as a member of the board of the Shakespeare Academy in Stratford, CT.

**1940s**

**Leigh Berrien Smith ’41**

I’m very lucky to be active at 88. I am proud to have recently overcome shyness about playing the piano in public, and have been playing once a month for an hour at the long-term care unit of Martha’s Vineyard Hospital. I have also been working with a resident almost weekly for the first two years to help her regain her piano skills. I really just encourage her now; amazing to her and me. Recently, I went through the Panama Canal, and observed my first great-grandchild, Mariposa, born October 2014 in New Hampshire. I’ve seen her on four occasions now, and it’s fun to observe her development.

**1950s**

**Eric Auerbach ’49**

My wife, Barbara, and I started dancing at Fred Astaire Studios more than four decades ago. I began teaching ballroom because I had spent a lot of time and money on it, and I wanted to share that knowledge. First, I taught four of my friends, fellow martial arts students (I practiced aikido for 20 years), then I taught an adult education class for five years. I now teach on a volunteer basis for the town of Winter Park, FL. Unfortunately, I spent our 56th wedding anniversary on the operating table, just before last Easter, after being run over by a reckless driver. I’m just now getting back to teaching, but it is a struggle with a semi-numb foot and a torn left shoulder. Just surviving was a significant accomplishment!

**Anelli (Muschenheim) Arms ’49**

I continue to work at prints and sculpture, and recently had my Lionfish print exhibited at the National Arts Club in NYC, in a show sponsored by the NY Society of Etchers; as well as my Seal Head print at the Faculty exhibit at Manhattan Graphics Center. I remain President of the Federation of Modern Painters and Sculptors, and exhibited two large prints for their big 75th Anniversary Show at the Po Kim Gallery in NYC. My studio and loft on Greene Street have been the subject of many tours and contain paintings, reliefs, sculpture, and prints from many years. Learn more at annelilarsms.com.

**City and Country School 1928-1935: A Memoir**

**Shane Riorden ’38**

is currently compiling his memoirs, the first part of which details his time at C&C, complete with reflections on the meaning of his “progressive education.” The entire first part of Shane’s memoirs is accessible in the Alumni section of our website. Here’s an excerpt on Rhythms:

“...an upright piano [was] played always by an ancient (to us) Italian lady, ‘Mendoza.’ The music, never identified to us, was a wide selection of classical, operatic, and ballet airs. It made you want to get up and dance—freely—no particular steps, no partners. Mendoza played vigorously without a score.”
Alan Herman ’58
 Aside from the two fired and glazed figures I have in clear view, a few feet from this laptop, the only other piece created in my days at C&C is me, in every way—something I truly reflect on often, and with great gratitude. These days I split my time between the City, and the remains of an upstate dairy farm, where I mow, garden, cut firewood, and enjoy cooking dinners for friends, over red wine and warm conversation. Recently—after a life in the visual arts—a third book of my poetry was published. BRAXTON: A Work in Stanzas, a single book-length work, along with two earlier books, is available on Amazon, and select bookstores.

Denise Lassaw ’59
 The last three years have brought many changes in my life. After 44 years living in Alaska, I finally moved back to the lower 48. In 2013 my sweetie and I decided on Bellingham, WA, because it has what we needed: mountains, a good library at the university, the ocean, a volcano, a long growing season, several Thai restaurants, and a lot of sweet little houses with big trees around them. I had been running my father’s sculpture studio on Long Island since 2003, when he had passed away, and that meant an annual migration to stay with my mother in the winters. Last year my mom passed away at 101. It took me a whole year to clean up their affairs, put artwork in storage, and sell the property that we had owned since 1954. Now I am building a new studio on top of my garage, where I will continue to work on my father’s archives—and the books that will come out of them.

Glynnis Golden Ortiz ’67
 I’m doing loads of interesting things these days, including my job as a trade unionist. It is a challenge to weave personal, family, friends, and work life together while keeping song and dance, swimming and yoga, and travel central in my life...but fun! I had the great good fortune to participate in an exhilarating choir performance of Bach’s B-minor Mass (I sang Tenor). I’m creating a slide and musical presentation of my adult son’s life for his upcoming wedding, which will be held next summer. I celebrate every day and so cherish my life and time at C&C. I hold my classmates dear to me, as siblings. I was little Matthew Broderick’s XII when he was in the IVs. He and his friend Orin were my IVs. I wrote the children’s book Algernon the Alligator for them—and left it at C&C. But when we went through the archives to find it, it was gone, and I’m told someone published it later, as their own! For shame.

Steven Vogel ’68
 My classmates included Andy Steed, Jon Agee, and Maura Spiegel. I left C&C, however, after the VIIs—to my sadness at the time. I have only the fondest and best memories of the School, and think it helped me in all sorts of ways. I’m now a professor of philosophy at Denison University in Granville, OH, and live in Columbus. I’m married, and have twins who are 23 years old. (You can read more about Steven’s book, Thinking like a Mall: Environmental Philosophy after the End of Nature, in the Fall/Winter 2014/2015 edition of the Alumni Newsletter.)

Kerry Hayes ’61
 Of all the things I’ve done in the last few years, I’m most proud of the soon-to-be-published Waiting for “ACTION!”, a book of my behind-the-scenes movie photography from 35 years of work on sets. The most interesting thing I’ve done in the last six months is kayaking the islands of Maine’s Penobscot Bay. The most recent projects I’ve finished are the key sets of promotional photography for two current movies: Crimson Peak and Oscar-nominated Spotlight.

1960s

Glynnis Golden Ortiz ’67
 I use this truly groundbreaking sculpture of M. Mouse to hold my business cards. THANKS, RONNIE!"
Amy Levine ’68
Amy Levine is the Executive Director and the Director of Education & Training for the Doula Program to Accompany and Comfort (doulaprogram.org), whose mission is to minimize the sense of isolation and loneliness for people facing the end of life alone. The Doula Program specially trains, matches, and supervises volunteers who commit to visiting individuals living at home, in nursing homes, and in hospitals weekly until they die. After 12 years, the Doula Program lost its agency financial sponsorship. Amy re-established it as an independent nonprofit Organization in 2012. “I knew nothing about establishing a nonprofit organization,” says Amy. “I attribute my willingness to take this on to the lessons I learned in my early childhood education. At C&C we learned to love to learn. Our curiosity was fostered and supported—we were encouraged to find the answers—and value collaboration with our community. The lesson learned: ‘anything is possible.’”

To learn more, contact Amy at 212-706-0398 or alevine@doulaprogram.org.

1970s
Julie Welch ’70
I only attended C&C from the VIs to the IXs back in the 1960s, but my time there was hugely influential! I loved running the cash register at the store in the IXs. I still use the stepstool I built in the Shop. C&C was the best educational experience I’ve ever had, and Virginia holds a special place in my heart. As do all my C&C teachers: Sylvia, Mary, Hai, and all the others.

1980s
Mark Rothman ’97
I graduated from Williams College in 2005. I moved back to NYC, where I still live and work. Three years ago I started my own company, Magma Global. We help manage travel and events for Fortune 500 companies, small businesses, and private individuals. The business uses a lot of fundamentals taught at C&C, including teamwork, problem solving, and learning from others—and, most importantly, giving time-outs when someone messes up! I still miss nap time and snacks, but just try to doze off when no one is looking now! My mom still has several pieces I made from Shop in her apartment; our hope is they become collector’s items.

2000s
John Maidman ’03
John recently worked on an HBO documentary film, Class Divide, as Associate Producer, Researcher, and Camera Operator. The timely film follows children from two sides of 10th Avenue and 26th Street—from the projects on one side and an independent school on the other—as they grapple with the great changes transforming Chelsea. Class Divide was featured as part of the DOC NYC Film Festival in November, and will be available on HBO in early February.

Zelda Gay ’06
I made the Library returns box that is still being used by C&C, which totally rocked my world. I am currently a second degree black belt working on an independent fight film. I am producing, doing the choreography, and performing in the film. Instead of waiting to be hired, I am out creating my own projects. Definitely reminds me of C&C’s attitude towards building things from your imagination!

Kojin Glick ’11
I started at UC Berkeley last fall. For my first semester, since there was no space at UC Berkeley, they sent me on a pilot program to study in London. Fifty-seven of us were chosen as a small sample size of UC Berkeley students from a possible pool of only 2% of freshman. I functioned as the Student Ambassador—a role that provides vital interlocution between the program directors. My time at C&C prepared me for the almost overwhelming cultural exchange while traveling in Europe by giving me listening skills. At the same time, I am able to evaluate my own role as an American student due to the active consideration of myself in a separate context. C&C was able to teach me the value of contribution: I can submit my opinion, not as a standard, but as a noted building block in the larger context of any conversation.

Planned Giving
Increasingly, alumni and parents use planned gifts to augment their outright giving to the School. Planned or deferred gifts, such as bequests, gift annuities, and charitable remainder trusts, provide income to City and Country for many years into the future, and allow individuals to leave a legacy of learning. To find out more about planned giving, contact PENNY ARNOLD, Director of Development, at 212.506.5945 or pennya@cityandcountry.org.
PASSINGS

Mary “Polly” (Childs) Hill ’31
Noted Canadian early childhood development expert and activist, Polly Childs, passed away on October 15. Polly was dyslexic to the point that she could only communicate her thoughts in writing through an assistant who would act as an “interpreter” of her writing. And despite this setback, or maybe because of it, she graduated from C&C and later Bennington College and launched a career in early childhood development, which included some 30 publications and a famous film series. She provided inspired leadership, founding many organizations (such as The Citizens Committee on Children of Ottawa) dedicated to the cause throughout her lifetime. She received The Order of Canada Medal, and the Queen’s Jubilee Medal—the highest honors in Canada—for her Jubilee Medal, the highest medal, and the Queen’s Medal, throughout her lifetime. She was a champion of her late father’s artwork, and was successful in placing his paintings in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Provincetown Art Association and Museum, and a number of galleries throughout the American South. She had also recently found a permanent home for Houghton’s work at the David Findlay Jr Gallery in New York City—the story of how was featured in the last edition of our Newsletter.

Dr. Martin Nachbar
(submitted by Nancy Nachbar ’81)
My father, Dr. Martin Nachbar (and husband to Felice Aull Nachbar ’52), died in May. He had a long and distinguished career at NYU Medical Center. And, in the midst of building that career, he also taught (students and faculty) for several years at City and Country. This was a very special experience for him and one that helped shape the next 36 years of his professional life. My father was ahead of his time. We had an Apple computer in our house in 1978. In 1979, our class was learning about the binary system—but adamant that the system was pointless. My father came to show us what the binary system could do. From there, he became the computer teacher at C&C. When my father died, my classmate Charlotte Davidson ’81 wrote the following on my Facebook page: “I am forever grateful to him for creating and teaching ‘computers’ at C&C in the early ‘80s. How many 11-year-olds back then got to learn three programming languages and how to solve logic puzzles in school? We had so much fun and learned so much. And I don’t remember him treating girls any differently from boys in his class—to be expected at C&C maybe but surely a rarity in the wider world. He gave us all a true gift.” This sentiment was echoed by other C&C alumni who benefitted from my father’s love of learning and children, his inquisitive nature, his talent as a teacher, and his infinite patience. I miss my dad terribly and also feel extremely fortunate that a generation of C&C students and teachers experienced my father as they did.

Florence (Smith) Shepard ’41
Florence passed away suddenly on August 1 of last year. Born in Nice, France, daughter of the noted artist Houghton Cranford Smith and Elena Peralta Smith, she and her husband, Donn Shepard (who had passed away earlier last year on January 15), ran the Brookside Country Store and Cabins in Dyberry Township, PA. She was also a huge champion of her late father’s artwork, and was successful in placing his paintings in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Provincetown Art Association and Museum, and a number of galleries throughout the American South. She had also recently written complimenting her father’s poetry.

Sarah Whittier ’67 wrote in about an omission in the cover story of our previous Newsletter: “You didn’t know that Ralston Crawford was also an alum parent? John ’67 and Neelon ’61”

Andrew L. Glaze
(Submitted by Elizabeth “Betsy” Glaze Searle ’64)
Poet, playwright, and writer, Andrew L. Glaze, has been the Poet Laureate of Alabama since January 2013, and in June of 2015 he was inducted into the inaugural class of the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame together with Harper Lee, Helen Keller, and nine other writers with Alabama roots. Now 95 years old, his most recent poetry book, Overheard in a Drugstore, was released by NewSouth Books last August. He is the father of Peter Glaze ’72 and Betsy Glaze ’64. Betsy became the editor for the book, and during the process she managed to gain permission from the Robert Frost Estate to include a 1956 note Frost wrote complimenting her father’s poetry.

Alumni Parent Connections

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Annual Report Update

We apologize for the following corrections to, and omissions from, the 2014–2015 Annual Report:

**BENEFIT FUND-AN-ITEM**
- $5,000 and Up
  - Rishi and Ashita Gupta

**ANNUAL FUND**
- Leadership ($10,000+)
  - Joel and Jacquie Tractenberg
- Benefactor ($1,000+)
  - Vincent and Vivien Katz
- Patron ($500+)
  - Shaokao and Niki Cheng
- Sponsor ($250+)
  - Allan and Victoria Agudelo
  - Lisa and Margaret Chu

**ANNUAL FUND PARTICIPATION**
- IVsC - 75%
- IVsT - 64%

We are so grateful for your support of the School last year.
Save the Date for the 2016 Alumni Reunion

Friday, May 20, 2016
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
C&C’s Library

INSIDE...

• C&C’s family connection to Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem
• Alumni Updates from the ’30s to the ’10s
• Luca Heineman ’06 talks sports at C&C
• C&C shares its block program with educators
• And more!

NEW! Architect Andrew Harris ’01 is the subject of our latest Alumni Video Profile! You can view his Profile—and many more—on cityandcountry.org!

PARENTS: If your child no longer lives at this address, please notify the C&C Development Office at alumni@cityandcountry.org or 212.242.7802.