

16 Woodland Drive
New Paltz, NY 12561

As I write this letter of recommendation, I am sitting next to a large photographic print of the woods and river five minutes from my home. I am lucky to be housing this exquisite work by Karen Capobianco. In addition to this, my living room wall is graced with a painting Karen created with two of my ELL students, representing La Virgin De Guadalupe. Both works add elegance and spiritual force to my home.

Karen and I have worked together as teachers, collaborators, and neighbors for over 10 years. I find Karen to be one of the most creative artists and educators I have ever known. Her sense of color, texture, and design is unparalleled. Her teaching is insightful and inspiring.

As a teacher, Karen and I worked together at the Lenape Elementary School in New Paltz, NY. She was the guest art teacher for one year and frequent classroom guest teacher for over five years. Our student population included all abilities and levels, including special needs students. She was especially tuned into the needs of children on the autism spectrum and ELL students.

As a collaborator, Karen advised me on several theatrical projects. She understands global design concepts and could give me feedback on the best way to create stage sets and costumes using common fabrics and materials found at our local resource recovery agency. I loved her ideas. They were out-of-the box, yet very practical and effective.

As a neighbor with similar aged children, we conducted regular philosophical discussions on parenting “twice exceptional” children. She was a supportive peer with a creative solution to every dilemma facing us, from organizing toys to choosing the right educational program to advocating at CSE meetings.

Karen is truly a woman of many gifts and talents. Somehow she has managed to integrate all of her expertise into a cohesive package. She is an artist among teachers and a teacher among

artists. She is a multi-talented fine artist in painting, photography, computer technology, sculpture, ceramics, fiber, and jewelry. Each expertise informs and builds upon the other. She carries all of this talent with a grace and humility that is highly spiritual; not unlike her works on my living room walls.

For these reasons, I highly recommend Karen.

Liz Burdick, M.S. Ed

Lenape Elementary School

And Passion Players Inc.