

Meet the Purim Ball Honorees... Cinthia and Horacio Rozanski



Cinthia and Horacio Rozanski wanted a Jewish day school, but they were surprised and especially drawn by what they found the first time they walked into JPDS. Spread across the floor of the lobby was a group of children working on an art project. The kids were busy, relaxed, and pouring their imaginations into their work and chatter. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming. The school reminded Cinthia of the day school she attended in Argentina – that likeness helped her feel at home, and signaled a broad perspective that she and Horacio both value. When they met with Head of School Naomi Reem and discovered a common Buenos Aires history, it was as if the stars had aligned.

Reflecting on their years at the school, the Rozanskis stress the value of experiential learning. Their daughters Miriam ('16) and Sammi ('21) have both developed a strong sense of Jewish identity, and their connection to Israel is rooted in attachments to people

and stories of everyday life. Cinthia and Horacio talk about the sense of empowerment they see in their girls and other JPDS/MILTON kids. Sammi has turned a passion for reading into a fundraising force, participating in read-a-thons to benefit numerous causes. After Hurricane Sandy, Miriam was encouraged to turn concern into action, and organized her third grade class to raise money for relief. Both girls have been able to make a difference and feel part of something larger than themselves and the classroom. As Horacio puts it, the school's focus on *tikkun olam* – transforming the world – and personal leadership is an important foundation for citizenship.

Leadership is something Horacio embodied in his five years on the Board of Trustees, where he served on the Executive Committee as well as committees for Development, Finance, Strategic Planning and the school's first Security Task Force. Horacio views his tenure as Co-Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee as especially rewarding, as it centered on the decision-making process surrounding expansion and whether or not to open a middle school. Horacio describes a meticulous process of weighing at every turn the opportunity for growth against the capacity to preserve the school's mission and the strength of its programs. We have all been well-served by Horacio's steady hand and careful guidance through that process.

While Cinthia is famous for creating beautiful Purim Ball decorations, her tremendous talents and contributions are manifold. She is one of those volunteers recognized throughout the community for her warmth and creativity. Across years of chairing Birthday Lunch, serving as a Room Parent, and working on and chairing Purim Ball, Cinthia has taught other volunteers and worked with hundreds of families. Her volunteerism centers on the school's connective tissue – on building relationships and making the school a fun, accessible, and rewarding place for parents to be engaged.

Cinthia and Horacio teach their daughters to live their values, as they themselves do. The Rozanskis value pluralism, Jewish learning, community involvement, and personal commitment, all of which they strengthen through their engagement. Cinthia and Horacio say their family has grown in numbers and love since coming to JPDS. While the school may be all about helping children grow into their best selves, families forge powerful friendships that last for life. Theirs certainly has, and that is part of the joy of MILTON.

What does it mean to be a hero?

Look no farther than MILTON teachers, say Cinthia and Horacio. The teachers are heroes because they care, they attend to every child as an individual, and they consistently reach above and beyond. That's not just teaching, says Cinthia, it's educating.