

## Meet the Purim Ball Honorees... Kimby and Lawrence Berger



Kimby and Lawrence Berger believe in leading by example, and they've done just that in their eleven years at MILTON. When looking at schools for their oldest son, Aden, Jewish day school wasn't specifically on their radar, but JPDS was a natural place to look coming from the Gan HaYeled at Adas Israel. Little did they know how JPDS would change their lives. Kimby says they were "blown away" the first time they visited. The halls were alive with energy, and what she saw was deep and joyful learning as kids followed their curiosity and engaged actively in everything around them. Kimby knew it was the right place for their family.

Today, both Aden and his brother Micah are at Sidwell, in Grades 10 and 8; Ollie is a MILTON fourth grader. Kimby talks about how well prepared her older boys were for middle school, and how grounded they are in Judaism. "They have a sense of history, and of who their people are." For Kimby and Lawrence, MILTON is a school that educates the mind and the heart. Kids learn to make evidence-based arguments, and to be serious in their pursuits. They also learn to be kind, open, and nurturing. Says Kimby, "MILTON has played an incredibly important role in our family and I am always eager to help the school in any way that I can."

Kimby has been volunteering since her very first year at school. She has chaired Purim Ball and the Rabin Lecture, and served six years on the Board of Trustees. Three of those years were on the Executive Committee and as Chair of the Facilities Committee, where her strategic planning expertise helped guide the school through a critical period of growth. A defining part of her tenure was working on the purchase and renovation of South Campus. A hallmark of her leadership has been to ask challenging questions and ensure that the school's long-term interests are being served. Kimby describes it as a rich and rewarding experience, and she's clearly still excited about "creating this magical place that draws young families."

Lawrence and Kimby have taught their boys that "it's important to show up, and to give what you can. If you have time, you give time. If you have money, you give money." For their family, it was especially moving to be able to make two major gifts to the school, honoring their sons while investing in the school's future. They were paying forward their own gratitude, and, for Lawrence in particular, it affirmed their connection to the community and to Jewish education in Washington, DC.

Kimby talks a lot about community, and says it's a part of the school ethos that she often shares with others. She notes that their closest friendships were forged at JPDS-NC, and through the years, the school has enriched their entire family. It has also inspired them to continually connect, at school and beyond, in new and meaningful ways. That recognition of one's obligation to the larger community is a lesson they value in the teaching at MILTON and one they repeat at home. MILTON grows mensches, and the Bergers have too.

*What is their idea of a hero?* we asked. "A hero helps, and puts other people ahead of themselves."