

Meet the Purim Ball Honorees... Sandy and Ted Schulman



Many people describe the strong personal relationships and sense of community at JPDS/MILTON. For Sandy and Ted Schulman, it's a particularly sweet truth. One of their first dates was to a teachers' party at Susan Koss's house. When Ted and Sandy got married, Sandy's students and JPDS families surrounded them under the *chuppah*.

Sandy has been part of JPDS since 1997 when she came to check out the "little day school at the synagogue" and accepted a job teaching first grade. The school was at Adas Israel in those days, and Sandy likes to say she has worked on every campus and through every name change.

A strong believer in hands-on learning and the power of children's active engagement, Sandy infused her classes with experiential learning, including Judaics focused on life cycle events, and

lots and lots of art. She also worked as Special Education Coordinator, strengthening student support services and helping to establish the Think Tank. The same passions that drove Sandy's teaching have shaped her volunteerism over the years – she has tutored and worked as a reading assistant, created art installations for Purim Ball and other events, and led the stage crew plus set and costume design for nearly every theatrical performance.

Ted's service to the school has centered around his work on the Board of Trustees and the school's fundraising efforts. In his six years on the board, Ted helped steer both the Finance and Development Committees; he chaired the latter for four years. Ted played a key role in moving the school to be more data-driven and analytical in setting goals and annual giving strategies. He has been a tremendous partner to the Advancement Office, and a tireless *Ru'ach* volunteer.

For Ted and Sandy, school has never been a place to just send their kids. It's an integral part of their community and an extension of their home. That, says Sandy, sends a strong message to their three kids, Dora ('17), Ben ('17), and Kayla ('21). Ted and Sandy's partnership with the school is a kind of *tzedakah* the kids can connect with. Paired with what they learn in the classroom, they learn that kindness comes from the heart, and that you get involved. Dora, Ben, and Kayla have learned to be keen observers, and developed pride and confidence in their own contributions and accomplishments.

The Schulmans emphasize that part of the school's strength comes from the differences it embraces among its students and staff. Their children have learned that there are many ways to be Jewish, and many ways to learn. That inclusive spirit, in their words, continues to make the school unique and amazing. Sandy and Ted, you are amazing.

What does it mean to be a hero?

Both Sandy and Ted talk about heroes sending positive energy through the world, lifting others up. Says Sandy, "good vibes spread good vibes." And, Ted adds, "a hero is a *mensch*, in both large and small ways."