

Deb-We would like to thank the co-chairs and steering committee members for creating this amazing night. Sue and Allan Carneol and Shelly and Michael Hart co-chairs. **Event Cabinet** Linda and Dan Bader, Cheryl and Mark Brickman, Jane and Steve Chernof, Melanie and Joe Devorkin, Jaynie and Howard Frankenthal, Karen and Jason Gottlieb, Sara and Mark Hermanoff, Sara Schott and Brian King, Meg and Kevin Kinney, Stacey and Dan Kohl, Lindy and Josh Liberman, Felicia and Jamie Miller, Cathy and Arnie Peltz, Susan and Todd Richheimer, Julie and Michael Sadoff, Jodi Habush Sinykin and Dan Sinykin, Susan Lubar Solvang and Oyvind Solvang, Lisa and Craig Zetley, Julie and Yoni Zvi.

Deb-Please also join us in thanking Felicia Miller and Jessika Jamir for organizing tonight. We know how hard you have worked on this and thank you from the bottom of our hearts! We'd be remiss on not calling out all of the staff the worked so hard on tonight's event! Thank you all!

Moshe-We'd like to ask all of the current and former MJDS staff to stand and receive the kudos you deserve. None of this matters without you!

Moshe-Her name was Ida Lerner but everyone called her 'grandma Ida'. She was a wonderful woman who was famous for saying 'look at this' when something really special was happening. It was always capturing to hear her say this and tonight Granma Ida is saying 'look at this'! WOW...LOOK AT THIS!

Deb-Thank you all for coming out tonight to celebrate our amazing MJDS. We thought we'd begin our shared thoughts with the roles we have played at MJDS:

- Deb-I've fed their bellies as a certified food handler otherwise known as a lunch lady.
- Moshe-I've fed their souls as an "interim" director of Jewish education for two years.
- Deb-I smelled like a latke for weeks after Chanukah was over
- Moshe-I smelled like sweat, Dead Sea and falafel!
- Deb-I've schlepped countless boxes of fruits and nuts all over town.
- Moshe-I've schlepped over 235 kids all over Israel
- Deb-I've gone on every field trip the school offered
- Moshe-I've told countless Shabbat Sing stories
- Deb-I've chaired the annual fundraiser and served on the board of directors and was the co-president of the PTO and coached the forencsics team.
- Moshe-I've cleaned vomit and graded countless tests and papers.
- Deb-I dropped off Cyd and Gabe every day for their 9 and 10 years at this place that we love. Gabe cried every morning for the first two years, and so did I, and Cyd couldn't say goodbye fast enough.
- Moshe-and our kids have grown up to be the menchen that this school creates!

Deb-

Moshe was always sure...me, not so much! I was raised in public schools in the Chicago suburbs where there were always

hundreds and by the time I got to high school, thousands of kids. I went to Sunday school---ugh---I hated it! I knew I wanted something better for my own kids, but didn't know what that could be until I heard a Rabbi sitting on the floor of the Shaliach's home telling a story. I wanted to go wherever he was and then I found out he was the Rabbi at the Milwaukee Jewish Day School. I knew I wanted my children to be wherever he was and I wanted to be there too!

My mom went on every field trip and my dad built the ark at our synagogue and cooked at every men's club event. I guess the proverbial apple didn't fall far from the tree!

I want to thank our co-honorees, most specifically Steve. You probably didn't know this but you were my mentor on the MJDS board, always the voice of reason for me. Your honest assessment of board business truly helped me understand all the nuances of what was really going on and for that I thank you! We wouldn't be here without our kids.

Cyd-you are an incredibly strong and confident young business woman and I am in awe of you. I am excited to see where this path takes you.

Gabe-you are a creative and talented emerging artist I and I respect and admire you. I love you both.

The greatest privilege of my life is being your mom and Moshe, being your life partner and best friend. I love you!

I want to share tonight's honor with all the moms and dads who forged the way for me and all those who've come after. I look out at this auspicious gathering and see so many of my dearest friends who were there with me. I want to thank the new parents who hold the future of MJDS in their hands. They along with the spectacular staff and educators will be the ones who bring new

life and new meaning to what is already a wonderful school. To the past, the present and the future, I am so grateful! Thank YOU!

Moshe-At some point in my life I realized that I am who I am thanks to those who came before me, to those people and places that are larger than life. I thank my mother, my spiritual partner, for teaching and raising and making me the serious proud Jew that I am. Thanks to my dad, my business partner for 20 years and my guide to Jewish Zionist thoughts. These two giants raised three children that have brought 11 grandchildren through Jewish Day Schools.

Who are the giants in your life? Who are those that helped you become you? One giant of mine was a humble Kibbutznik whose name says it all Betzael-in the shade of G-d. Another giant was a man you just heard from, who just shared his love of my family, Rabbi Nadel whose passion and love of Jewish life brought meaning and purpose to this school for over a decade. Phil and the array of teachers I get to call colleagues have helped us raise two amazing children and exemplify greatness in education.

Choosing MJDS for our kids and the love and support we continue to give to it is because MJDS is larger than anyone of us. It is greater than its individual parts...it is the sum of its parts. It's what each of us have added to it. It's what our kids bring to it. It's what the staff do daily and what the administration seeks for its future. It's the excellence that we crave and the excellence that it achieves.

Two wonderful things happened to me this morning. I bumped into Richard Edelman who challenged me by stating he was looking forward to hearing my words tonight and I actually changed the ending of my response to a call to action because of him. The second thing was being a small part of two visits of families I know and love who are considering bringing their children to MJDS next year. How perfect is that? How poignant is it that on the day we will celebrate 36 years of our school, we get to celebrate the additions of more families to our family!

Many of you that know me know that I don't like the term lucky. We are blessed with great genes and circumstances but we are also dynamically involved in our community. We are passionate about what we do and with whom we chose to do it. We are ardent about surrounding ourselves with great friends and people who make a difference in our lives and the lives of those that matter. We work hard, we play hard and we love what we do. MJDS is part of that equation and that's why we are here today!

Deb-Here is what we know:

- Deb-Our kids got to be kids longer because they went to MJDS
- Moshe-Our kids have a confidence and speak to adults differently because they went to MJDS
- Deb-Our kids were safer, longer because they went to MJDS
- Moshe-Our kids were loved by staff because they went to MJDS

- Deb-Judaism and Zionism are a normal part of their lives because they went to MJDS.
- Moshe-I know that our children, our family, our friends and most specifically my relationship with my wife is better, more loving, and more Jewish because of MJDS. Thank you Debra, Cyd and Gabe for being on this amazing journey.
- Moshe-Getting this award and recognition comes with serious responsibility. We, all of us here and beyond these walls and windows, must stay true supporters of our MJDS, the only Jewish, Zionist, pluralist day school. We need to love MJDS, the staff, the administration and of course the teachers. We need to financially support the needs of the school to ensure that our children and grandchildren will celebrate 72 and 108 anniversaries.
- Moshe-We thank you for honoring us when in fact it is our honor and pleasure to be a part of this wonderful school.