



Jeremy Weinstein and daughter Simone

Founders' Circle Donors Debby and Jeremy Weinstein

"How can a Jewish community expect to continue another generation without Jewish schools? Schools keep Judaism alive."

The words may be recent but the thought behind them goes back

20 years to when Jeremy Weinstein, now a Walnut Creek lawyer but then a student of law at Cambridge University, visited his parental homeland of Czechoslovakia. What he found startled him. "I met illiterate Czech peasants who remembered my family and which family members were sent in which trains to which concentration camps."

Mr. Weinstein remembers visiting the spot in Bratislava where a famous Yeshiva once stood, now replaced with a riverfront restaurant. That image has stayed with him: "Hitler decimated the Jews of Eastern Europe to the point where they no longer have the critical mass to support a school. This contributes to further Jewish decline, and a continuing victory for Hitler. Without Jewish schools, a Jewish community can't rationally expect its children to pass Judaism to the next generation. A Jewish school, more than anything else, is how we achieve victory over Hitler."

"For many in my grandparents' generation, being Jewish meant you and your family had your property seized, got thrown out of school, and then were surgically sterilized or murdered. Coping with this was a dominant aspect of Judaism in my parents' generation. Our generation," Mr. Weinstein told us, "and more importantly our children's generation, is the first in a long time where being Jewish can be felt not as a source of persecution and, at times, unspeak-

able horror, but as a source of joy in family celebration of the holidays, in marking the weekend by lighting the candles, and in our worship of G-d. We have a responsibility to ensure that the Jewish children in our community learn as early as possible in their lives to see Judaism as this source of joy and pride. This is how we should define ourselves; we should not allow ourselves to be defined any longer by those who would destroy us."

Even though their own children would not be able to take advantage of the school, and even though the donation required trade-offs, the Weinsteins did not hesitate when asked to become Founders' Circle Members of CCJDS. "Judaism is not a commodity you can subdivide; being Jewish is not about just paying for those services you personally find useful. For Judaism to last we must develop the next generation of Jewish community leaders; Jewish Day Schools are a necessary part of that." For most of us, they say, the cost of supporting Jewish education means foregoing long or luxurious vacations and setting aside home improvements. But what do we get back? "We have been fortunate to meet and join outstanding people in the Day School community; and we are fortunate to be able to help provide a Jewish future for this community that past generations couldn't give the Yeshiva in Bratislava."

The Weinsteins join six other Founders' Circle families who have helped sustain CCJDS with gifts of \$100,000 or more. We thank them for their generosity and send a Refuah Shlema to Simone Weinstein.

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