



Extraordinary Education. Timeless Traditions. Inspired Lives.

2019 Annual Dinner Honorees

Brian & Dana Friedman

Brian and Dana Friedman believe their children will better navigate our diverse world if they first know their own heritage. They want their kids to understand that Jewish civilization is a treasure trove of cultural wealth and wisdom.

"We chose to send our three kids to Denver Jewish Day School because as parents, we felt it was a top priority for our kids to know who they are," says Dana. "Knowing our Jewish culture, history, and language is fundamental to that."

Dana, who emigrated from Israel with her family when she was 8, still has family ties and strong connections to Israel. She feels strongly that her children should be able to speak and understand the ancient language. Brian, a Denver native who also lived in Israel and returns frequently, agrees.

"We both believe that understanding Hebrew facilitates a close connection to the Israeli people and the modern state of Israel," says Brian. "Hebrew is also the key to unlocking deeper levels of understanding in our religion and culture."

Dana is the daughter of Hazel & Dr. Herzl Melmed and Brian is the son of Robyn and the late Ben Friedman.

The Friedmans' three children have been students at Denver JDS since kindergarten. Their oldest, Samuel, is a Denver JDS graduate and currently attends Lehigh University. Their son David is a Denver JDS senior, and daughter Maya is a Denver JDS eighth grader.

As members of the Denver JDS school community for the past 15 years, Brian and Dana have connected with families in ways that have created lifelong friendships for not only them, but their children as well. Dana's involvement with the school began with PTO where she initiated the "welcome back coffees" after school breaks. She also served on the Finance Committee, the Helping Hands committee, and has been a room parent for her kids' grades. The school community has become such a big part of their lives that Dana even started teaching an honors psychology class to twelfth graders in 2013.

Brian and Dana also are involved with AIPAC, JEWISHcolorado, American Friends of Tel Aviv University, American Friends of the Israel Antiquities Authority, the World Trade Center, the National Association of Business Economics, and the JCC Mizel Arts & Culture Center.

Brian is president of GHP Investment Advisors, an organization specializing in wealth management, and is the portfolio manager of the Israel Investment Fund, L.P. Brian received his bachelor's in economics from George Washington University and his MBA from the University of Chicago.

In addition to teaching at Denver JDS, Dana provides training for a variety of companies focused on management skills, including team building, customer service, and coaching. She received her bachelor's in psychology from CU Boulder and her master's in education from CU Denver.