

# True survivor

## Author encourages Greenhill students to pass it forward

By **ELAINE VELVIN**

Greenhill School faculty and staff are celebrating Random Acts of Kindness Week in myriad ways.

Cards saying “pass it forward” are being given to people to sign and pass on. All three divisions are participating in age-appropriate activities to remind everyone of the importance of kindness. Greenhill’s principles of honor, respect and compassion are at the center of the activities.

Greenhill welcomed renowned author and speaker Jackie Waldman, who has just completed a speaking tour of 150 cities. She has spoken with numerous groups about her philosophy of giving. Waldman was living the picture perfect life with three healthy children, a loving husband and a successful business.

Then, in 1991, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and felt her entire world collapse around her. She reached a turning point after seeing the movie *Schindler’s List* with a close friend

Inspired and touched by the story, Waldman realized how one person’s acts of kindness could make a difference. She thought about how she was treating herself and those she loved, and she realized that true survival was not

whether her legs worked.

“True survival was about how we treat each other — about love and acts of kindness, no matter what,” she said.

Waldman and a friend were the organizers of Random Acts of Kindness Week in Dallas, as part of the National Random Acts of Kindness Month.

The week was a huge success, with participation from Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King III, W. Deen Mohammed and Dennis Weaver, all of who spoke at rallies, schools and interfaith services. The Dallas Police Department even participated by passing out Kindness Citations. Dallas still celebrates Random Acts of Kindness Week.

Waldman spoke to the Greenhill upper school Valentine’s Day. She shared her story and several other stories that are included in her five books. She also addressed the entire faculty and staff.

Jackie and Steve Waldman’s two sons, Todd and Michael, graduated from Greenhill and their daughter, Melissa, was a teaching fellow at Greenhill.

*Elaine Velvin is the director of alumni and public relations for Greenhill School.*

See GREENHILL, Page 16.



**GREENHILL GROUP:** Jen Zigler, Sophie Levy, Jackie Waldman, Joi Windham and Courtney Chanon.



**THE WHOLE GANG:** Upper school students at Greenhill School learn from Jackie Waldman’s visit.



**A BEAR HUG:** Jackie Waldman spoke at Greenhill School Feb. 14.



**MOLDING YOUNG MINDS:** Jackie Waldman with upper school teacher Darryn Sandler.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS BY ELAINE VELVIN

**GREENHILL**

Continued from Page 15.

Neighbors • North Dallas

February 25, 2006



SUBMITTED PHOTOS BY ELAINE VELVIN

**TEEN INSPIRATION:** Jackie Waldman with senior Brett Reisman.**HELPING STUDENTS:** Jackie Waldman with Dan Kasten, chair of Greenhill School's Advancing Core Principles Committee.**GROUP LEADER:** Jackie Waldman with sophomore Jack Wielebinski.❖ **Sterling Bank** ❖

PRESENTS

ONE NIGHT ONLY!

**Maestro Magic!****Jerry Junkin & Ten of America's Best Bandmasters**DALLAS WIND SYMPHONY  
JERRY JUNKIN, ARTISTIC DIRECTORMaurice Ravel: *Daphnis and Chloe*John Mackey: *Redline Tango*Gustav Holst: *First Suite in E-flat for Military Band*Roger Nixon: *Fiesta del Pacifico*Dmitri Shostakovich: *Festive Overture*Ron Nelson: *Savannah River Holiday*

and on and on and on...

**Friday, March 3, 2006**  
**Eisemann Center, Richardson****CALL NOW! 214-528-5576**

SEASON SPONSORS

The Dallas Morning News  
DallasNews.comClassical  
**101**  
WRR 101.1 fm

SOUTHWEST.COM

See how many conductors it takes to change a light bulb...

**YOU'RE ENGAGED?**  
**CONGRATULATIONS!**Share the good news with your Neighbors.  
We print engagement announcements.