This is such an honor. I am so grateful to be receiving this award. When Arlene told me last week, at first I did not want to say anything but then I realized that there are many people I wanted to thank and there are many of you who did not know Gail Littman. First…

**Thank you Harold Grinspoon**, Your vision to partner with communities and invest in legacy giving helped our Charlotte Jewish community realize the importance of working now to ensure our future. And then to bring us all together at a conference. It is truly brilliant.

**Thank you JFNA** for helping Charlotte launch the CJL and Life and Legacy initiative 4 years ago and offering me this opportunity.

**Thank you Arlene**, you kept me on my toes and ensured that our initiative presented a consistent message. You became a good friend while correctly analyzing our challenges and helping us overcome them or learn to live with them!

**As you know, this is a team effort. Thanks have to go to my wonderful family and to the Charlotte legacy teams,** approximately 50 volunteers and professionals who drank the Koolaid. With their help, our Jewish community has learned how to have legacy conversations, steward donors and embrace this culture of philanthropy.

**Thank you Phil Warshauer**, You have been a great teacher, mentor, advisor and friend. You gave me the chance to make a difference and guided me throughout this incredible journey. I truly have to share this award with you. We have been successful in Charlotte Together!

I also want take a minute to remember Gail Littman (OBM). I am so humbled to be presented an award in her name. She made a huge impact on me and after just one visit to Charlotte, a memorable impact on our community. Two weeks after she spoke in Charlotte, she passed away. I often think about how pleased she would be with our success. Her vision and passion truly inspired action and achievement. I know she would have been thrilled to see Harold’s commitment to legacy giving and all of us in this room. She once said…

“There are certain things that are fundamental to human fulfillment. The essence of these needs is captured in the phrase: **To Live**, **To Love**, **To Learn** and **To leave a legacy**!  
**The need to live** is our physical need for things such as food, clothing, shelter, economical well-being, and our health. **The need to love** is our social need to relate to other people, to belong, to love and to be loved. **The need to learn** is our mental need to develop and to grow and **the need to leave a legacy** is our spiritual need to have a sense of personal meaning, of purpose and of contribution.”

I am sure we all agree with her wholeheartedly. We are all helping people find that sense of personal meaning and fulfillment. Thank you for this Gail Littman award. I feel privileged to be able to keep her legacy alive and contribute to the vitality of our Jewish communities for future generations.