Gail Littman, of blessed memory, was one of the pioneers of the Jewish community legacy movement.

As the founder, along with Marjory Kaplan, former CEO of the San Diego Jewish Community Foundation, of San Diego's Endowment Leadership program, Gail trained and coached professionals and lay leaders in the art of legacy conversations and donor stewardship.

In a short time Gail's efforts in San Diego gained attention and she was asked to share her success with other communities.

As her national reputation grew, a coalition of philanthropists including Harold Grinspoon and Michael Steinhardt asked Gail to lead a legacy program for four major cities and several Hillel campus affiliates.

As a result of the success of that program, known as Areivim, Harold and Gail's partnership evolved and they launched LIFE & LEGACY.

Marjory Kaplan, in her eulogy, described Gail as having the absolutely magical combination of common sense, vision, discipline, wisdom, creativity and joy.

Marjory further noted that if we want to honor Gail, then we must ensure that every Jewish community is healthy,

High functioning,

Multigenerational,

Well organized and

Well-funded.

Building great communities, Marjory stated, that's what Gail Littman's service was all about.

I was fortunate to learn from and partner with Gail through the Create a Jewish Legacy program here in Western MA.

Her passion for securing legacy commitments to support the Jewish community was contagious and one could not help but get swept up by her enthusiasm. It is truly my honor to help her passion come to fruition through the LIFE & LEGACY Program.

Phil Warshauer, Executive Director of the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community, noted in an article following Gail's passing, that she was so full of life and energy with a deep commitment and passion for Judaism. He also noted that he was thankful that Nancy Kipnis, Charlotte's Create Your Jewish Legacy Coordinator, was able to meet Gail as they both shared the same passion of securing the legacy of Jewish communities.

And so when HGF and JFNA decided to establish the Gail Littman Leadership award in Gail’s memory to honor a Jewish communal professional who shares Gail's passion for legacy giving, and has worked tirelessly to spread the legacy message,

Coach and mentor partner organizations,

Assist donors in defining what aspects of Jewish communal life are most important to them,

Facilitate legacy commitments and

Integrate legacy giving into the community culture it was an easy choice.

Having had the pleasure of working with Nancy Kipnis over the past three years, I have witnessed first-hand her enthusiasm for this work and her commitment to insuring the future of the Charlotte Jewish community.

Just like Gail, Nancy places great value on building partnerships,

Thinking strategically,

Understanding a donor's passion and

Giving them the opportunity to fulfill that passion in a way that will be both personally satisfying and have a positive impact on the community.

When asked to comment on Nancy's selection for this honor, Phil wrote “Leaving a legacy to support the future of Charlotte's Jewish community is very personal to Nancy.

She grew up in Charlotte and her four boys were raised with the support of the organization's that sustain and promote Jewish life.

She has the unique ability to balance the love she has for Judaism and Jewish life with the tenacity it takes to keep 10 unique legacy teams on track.

All you need to do is wind her up, get out of the way and watch her go.

When you look into her eyes and hear the passion in her voice you truly understand the meaningfulness of her work.

She leads by doing and the success of our legacy initiative is a direct result of the energy, compassion and friendliness that she brings to work each and every day."

Please join me in honoring Nancy Kipnis with the first Gail Littman Leadership Award.

(Applause)

(Take photo)

(Let Nancy say a few words if she wants)

Before Debbie Stein of JFNA introduces this evening’s keynote speaker, we would like to take a few minutes to celebrate those of you in this room, your legacy team members who were unable to be with us, and your legacy donors.

(Show slide show)

(Have photographer take photo of Nancy with Harold, Phil,)