

*Gail Littman Leadership Award Winners*



*GAIL LITTMAN, z"l*



*GAIL LITTMAN, ז"ל*

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 Institute, 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, 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 Arevim, 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.

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation established the Gail Littman Leadership award in Gail's memory to honor a LIFE & LEGACY coordinator 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.

**NANCY KIPNIS**  
Foundation for the  
Charlotte Jewish  
Community

2016

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**NANCY KIPNIS**

Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish  
Community  
- 2016 Award -

**Phil Warshauer, Executive Director of the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community has the privilege of working with Nancy and shared the following:**

“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.”

**Some of Nancy’s remarks upon receiving the award:**

“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.”

**GAIL MANDEL**  
Oregon Jewish  
Community  
Foundation

2017

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**GAIL MANDEL**  
Oregon Jewish Community  
Foundation  
- 2017 Award -

**Julie Diamond, Executive Director of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation had the privilege of working with Gail and shared the following:**

“Gail has played an enormous role in Portland and Oregon’s success in LIFE & LEGACY®. She has led the program with passion and conviction. It’s her unique and impactful accomplishments, in addition to her generous time and focused one-on-one attention, that has resulted in our 10 partners meeting their goals every year and staying with the program for four years, in spite of numerous challenges related to mergers and leadership changes. Gail has contributed significantly to breaking down the organizational silos among our community partners, creating new opportunities for them to get to know and trust each other, something that didn’t take place before LIFE & LEGACY. She cross promotes LIFE & LEGACY at every opportunity, is well liked and respected by everyone who works with her and is a huge asset for her combination of passion, intelligence and attention to detail.”

**Some of Gail’s remarks upon receiving the award:**

“I had the privilege of meeting Gail Littman, of blessed memory, in May 2012 when OJCF invited her to visit Portland to speak to community leaders and financial advisors about the importance of Jewish legacy giving. Her passion for working with families, organizations and communities to help build endowments to support a strong Jewish future was obvious and contagious. She energized the room.

To receive this award, named in her memory, is a true honor. And furthermore, it is an honor to do the work that helps make Gail’s vision to create healthy and strong Jewish communities a reality.”

**MARGO  
PARSOW**

Jewish Federation  
of Omaha  
Foundation

2018

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**MARGO PARROW**

Jewish Federation of Omaha  
Foundation

- 2018 Award -

**Arlene D. Schiff, National Director, LIFE & LEGACY® had the privilege of working with Margo and shared the following:**

“Just like Gail Littman, Margo 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...

From my visits to Omaha and my interactions with her over the phone, it is very clear to me that Margo lives and breathes LIFE & LEGACY. Her passion for securing the future of her Jewish community is evident in everything she does and in every interaction she has with a member of the Omaha Jewish community. She values the work of the volunteers and professionals from each of the partner organizations and goes out of her way to express her appreciation and gratitude for their efforts. She also puts extensive time and effort into honoring her community's legacy donors at the very well attended legacy celebrations when she runs into them at events, or on the street, and in the local Jewish newspaper.”



**STEVE BROWN**  
Jewish Federation  
of East Bay

2019





**STEVE BROWN**

Jewish Federation of East Bay

- 2019 Award -

**Dena Morris Kaufman, LIFE & LEGACY® Community Consultant has had the privilege of working with Steve and shared the following:**

“In a community with mountains, a tunnel, a bridge and horrible traffic as well as vastly different organizational cultures, Steve has shown the ability to kindly, but with steely determination, motivate, assist and inspire organizations to create and implement legacy programs that work within each of their unique cultures. He listens with an open mind and heart and is always respectful of the many demands facing organizations, their volunteers and their staff while helping them to move their legacy initiative forward. He is a dedicated and knowledgeable professional and an amazing steward. I have a collection of 15 handwritten thank you notes from Steve, one for every visit I have made to his community!”

**Some of Steve’s remarks upon receiving the award:**

“As Margaret Mead said, ‘one person can and does make a difference’. But if you want to make a bigger difference, you can’t do it alone. If you want to make a bigger difference, it’s all about leadership. Leadership is about granting others leadership and granting others the chance to make a difference. That idea is woven into Create a Jewish Legacy and LIFE & LEGACY -- and that’s why they have been so successful. It starts with legacy team members giving donors the chance to make a difference, to team leaders leading their teams... all the way up the chain to Harold and the fabulous LIFE & LEGACY team.

Gail Littman was a leader of leaders. She was instrumental in helping East Bay to launch our Create a Jewish Legacy program in 2010. She was a mentor and role model to me -- and many others. Create a Jewish Legacy -- and LIFE & LEGACY -- is part of her legacy. So, to have my name in the same *paragraph* with her is extremely meaningful and an enormous honor.”



**RACHEL  
ROSENMAN**  
Jewish Federation  
of Greater Seattle

2020

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**Tamra L. Dollin, LIFE & LEGACY® Community Consultant has had the privilege of working with Rachel and shared the following:**

“Rachel has been the shepherd of Seattle’s LIFE & LEGACY initiative since September of 2016. She came on board enthusiastic, passionate, and well-armed with educational and practical experience in community organizing, storytelling and organizational leadership. She got to work quickly and with great determination and grit. She personally went out to meet each organization’s team leader and built relationships with team members. She became their chief resource, coach, cheerleader, liaison to the Federation, confidante, and friend. The smallest organizations received as much of Rachel’s attention as the larger ones, as she traveled more than 150 miles to the furthest participating synagogue. LIFE & LEGACY’s results in the Greater Seattle community demonstrate Rachel’s caring and commitment. The results achieved under Rachel’s leadership are dazzling, but none more than the legacy of love, caring, creativity and commitment she has brought to the Greater Seattle Jewish Community.”

**Some of Rachel’s remarks upon receiving the award:**

“Finally, last night, as I was preparing these remarks, I took time to read through papers and reflections I had written as part of my graduate program in Organizational Development. There was one quote that kept drawing me in, and it’s attributed to Edith Wharton, the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Literature. In her words: ‘There are two ways of spreading light. To be the candle, or the mirror that reflects it.’ I think that the work we are all doing through LIFE & LEGACY: shining a light on legacy donors who care so deeply about our organizations, giving them the opportunity to make a meaningful difference to Jewish life through their legacy, and supporting each other in the process so that our rising tide really does raise all of our ships, implies that our choice is not whether to be the candle OR the mirror, but that our calling is to be BOTH the candle and the mirror.”



**RACHEL  
ROSENMAN**

Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle  
- 2020 Award -