

FANNY GOLDSTEIN AWARD ACCEPTANCE SPEECH: JUNE 17, 2007

Thank you!

It is a scary and awesome feeling to be honored by  
Your peers who know exactly what you're doing!

I salute the Goldstein winners who precede me: including my CA colleagues Barbara Leff, Adaire Klein and Suzi Dubin; and my friend with her wonderful introduction, Libby White.

I am thrilled to be declared AJL's Fanny Goldstein winner,  
A Jewish Librarian's librarian.  
But I do not contribute in a vacuum.

My recognition was achieved thanks to you, my colleagues  
You are my models, my mentors, my friends  
You taught me what to do  
You taught me what not to do  
Your examples inspire me to what I can do

I would not be here without the support of my family  
Who withstand my blur of busy  
They shoulder long hours, late meals, phones, faxes, computers and  
The chaos of never ending projects  
Special thanks to my husband Marshall, who hates traveling,  
But crossed State lines to share this award lunch with me.  
We welcome him to his first AJL convention.  
More importantly, it's Marshall's encouragement  
That helped me achieve this award  
He wants me to be mad, M.A.D.:  
    Make A Difference.

I am proud to win this tribute.  
I belong to AJL by virtue of working in a one-room Judaic synagogue and religious school library. Your choice of me highlights the power of our profession to influence minds no matter our library's size.

German-Jewish inventor Charles Steinmetz said: "No one really becomes a fool until he stops asking questions." So I ask you:

Why do we all do what we do as Jewish Librarians in notoriously underpaid, overworked jobs and still find time to work for AJL?

We do it because we love learning and Jewish civilization.  
We do it to nurture a sense of community by turning Jewish literacy into a glue that binds

us together and gives each generation a secure sense of common references, stories, histories, values.

We do it because we believe in delivering our past to enrich the present and enlighten the future of Jewish generations.

And, what a kick! In an era dominated by the bottom line,  
We spend all day giving away priceless information for free

As we sustain our culture, AJL allows us to sustain one another.

Our profession is designed for sharing.

It is humane.

Thank you!