

"I am honored and humbled to be chosen for the S.J. Noven Koach Award." If you think those words might sound familiar, they are because they were spoken by my husband, Blair, just five years ago when he received this meaningful award. While he did not know Mr. Noven, I do have memories of the man from when I used to hang out at the Y in Oakland as a teenager. Of course, what do teenagers know about people who are so involved in such organizations? I just remember that he was always there and seemed to be a "macher." What a great example he was for generations to come!

It has been over 50 years since then, and the name of the agency has changed: from the YM & WHA to the Y-IKC to the JCC, but the mission and accomplishments have continued to improve our community. So many of us <sup>have</sup> wonderful personal memories of Emma Farm in Harmony, PA, Laurel Y near Donegal, and now EKC; our children participated in the toddler and pre-school programs here and went to J & R and EKC. More alphabet soup! Now the JCC is helping to keep us vital and active with the phenomenal health center and my special favorite, AgeWell Pittsburgh.

The "J" has been an important and positive factor in all of our lives as it has been in the Jewish and general communities for generations, so I am particularly honored to be recognized for doing what I love: being involved. Thank you to my wonderful family for their support: Blair, Larry & Missy (who is also being honored tonight) and Teddi. The staff is phenomenally dedicated and caring and they make it so enjoyable to spend time here. My heartfelt thanks to the excellent Board and the fabulous staff for making it so comfortable for our 17,000 members, and for giving me the opportunity to participate and learn and grow. *I hope to grow up to be like Charlotte.*