Americans for Democratic Action
2021 Awards Gala

September 22, 2021

Honoring:
Eleanor Clift, journalist & voice of reason
Rep. Jamie Raskin, progressive leader
Stuart Appelbaum, labor leader
Allen Kukovich, activist and dedicated ADA member
Bill and Carole Markus congratulate ADA on more than 70 years of liberal leadership and salute our deserving honorees:

Rep. Raskin, Stuart Appelbaum, Eleanor Clift and our great friend Allen Kukovich

Thanks to each of you for your leadership

and your vision for a better world.
Americans for Democratic Action gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the organizations & individuals that make our work possible.

United Steelworkers of America
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
Alliance for Retired Americans
United Mine Workers of America
Carole and Bill Markus
James and Rudine Bishop
Andy Thorburn
Kurt and Paula Meyer
Mary von Euler
Southern California ADA
A Special Message from ADA Leaders

Thank you for joining us this evening. Thank you for being like-minded citizens, activists, organizers, supporters, and donors.

Thank you for knowing and understanding that unless organizations like ADA step up and fight back, the dysfunction that characterizes the White House might somehow prevail. Honestly, it is very difficult to imagine a greater disaster... for our country, for our people, and for our collective future.

Accordingly, ADA has indeed “stepped up”. For example, the organization engaged and invested in defeating Trump as well as in targeted Senate, congressional, legislative races in 2020 and, we are pleased to report, with overwhelmingly positive results. Furthermore, every day ADA monitors and engages in actions on Capitol Hill, raising our voice when it’s called for, and most certainly raising the stakes when important legislative battles are underway: in congressional offices, in committee hearings, and, of course, on the floor of the House and the Senate.

For many decades, the enduring symbol of ADA has been a torch, an instrument of both heat and light. This symbol captures several key methods available to ADA – bringing heat to warm both hearts and minds (and, it must also be noted, scalding tail feathers when appropriate) ... while, at the same time, shining light on important matters when the alternative may be utter darkness.

We are proud to carry this torch. By your presence here today, you are among thousands of others! Our heartfelt gratitude for your willingness to join us. You are our guests tonight; please, enjoy the evening, as we enjoy your company.

Art Haywood, ADA President and State Senator from PA (left) and Kurt Meyer, ADA Executive Committee Chair (right)
Stuart Appelbaum
Reuther-Chavez Award for Workers’ Rights


He also currently serves as an Executive Vice-President of the 1.3 million-member United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

Appelbaum previously served as International Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-President, Executive Board Member, Assistant to the President and Coordinator of Special Projects for the RWDSU.

Appelbaum is a Vice-President of the national AFL-CIO and a member of the federation’s Executive Council, where he co-chairs the federation’s International Affairs Committee. He also currently serves as a vice president of the New York State AFL-CIO, and a member of its Executive Committee.

Appelbaum is a member of the Democratic National Committee where he serves on the DNC’s Executive Committee and co-chairs the DNC’s Resolutions Committee. He also serves as the Chair of the DNC Labor Council. Appelbaum served as a delegate to the 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016 and 2020 Democratic National Conventions and an alternate delegate to the 1992 Democratic National Convention. He served as a member of the Electoral College from New York in 2008, 2016 and 2020.

He serves as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store International Union and Industry Benefit Funds.

Appelbaum is the President of the Jewish Labor Committee; and he is a member of the Executive Council of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. He is also a board member of the Latino Victory Fund.

He is an officer of two global union federations: IUF (International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers’ Associations) and UNI (Union Network International). Appelbaum is President of UNI Global Commerce (representing 160 unions and 4 million workers worldwide).

Appelbaum was appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo to the Regional Economic Development Council for New York City, where he serves on the Executive Committee.

Appelbaum previously served as Chief House Counsel of the Democratic National Committee. He also previously worked for the Michigan State AFL-CIO and as Executive Assistant to the Secretary of the State of Connecticut.

Appelbaum is a summa cum laude graduate of Brandeis University, where he was named a Louis Dembitz Brandeis Scholar and was elected a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He graduated with honors from Harvard Law School. He is a member of the bar in Connecticut. Appelbaum resides in New York City with his husband, Michihito Osawa.
Allen Kukovich  
Winn Newman Lifetime Achievement Award

Allen Kukovich, is a former member of the Pennsylvania State Senate, where he represented the 39th senatorial district from 1996 through 2004. He was also a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1977 through 1996. He served as the Pennsylvania Democratic State Chairman from June 2002 through March 2003. He has served as chair of the ADA National Executive Committee and a Pittsburgh Area ADA Chapter leader. His is a founding board member of Smart Growth, an organization that enables communities to enhance their viability, quality of life, and long-term sustainability.

About Winn Newman 1924-1994

Winn Newman was one of the nation’s leading labor, civil rights and women’s rights lawyers and a pioneer in the fight for pay equity for women and minorities.

From his days in law school, when he co-led the successful fight to desegregate the University of Wisconsin dorms, to his work as a union organizer in Texas in the 50’s to his days as a general counsel for unions, a public interest lawyer in private practice, and a leader of ADA, he fought against bigotry and oppression and fought for workers and the disadvantaged.
In Memory of Winn Newman

The Newman Family Salutes

Rep. Jamie Raskin,

Eleanor Clift,

Stuart Appelbaum,

and Allen Kukovich

with appreciation for their leadership in the progressive cause
2021 ADA Awardees

Eleanor Clift
James Wechsler Integrity in Journalism Award

A Washington correspondent for The Daily Beast, Eleanor Clift is one of the nation’s preeminent political analysts, delivering an insider’s view of the legislative and political landscape. Clift guides audiences through the corridors of power with a candid, entertaining, and informative overview of what’s happening in the nation’s capital. She is also a regular panelist on the syndicated talk show, The McLaughlin Group.

Previously, Clift worked for Newsweek, where she was a key member of the magazine’s election team and one of the reporters who contributed to Newsweek’s best-selling book on the 2008 campaign, A Long Time Coming. After Newsweek merged with The Daily Beast, Clift wrote for both publications. Her cover story about the television show, Mad Men, won acclaim for expertly capturing the era when women were relegated to the secretarial pool.

Clift has authored or co-authored several books, including War Without Bloodshed: The Art of Politics, a road map through the byways of the Washington that teachers don’t teach in civics classes, and Madam President: Shattering the Last Glass Ceiling, which examines the potential for a woman president. Clift’s Founding Sisters chronicles the suffrage struggle for women and accompanied the HBO movie, Iron Jawed Angels starring Hilary Swank and Angelica Houston. Her latest book, Selecting a President, serves as a guide for how the political system works.

Playing herself, Clift has appeared in several films, including Independence Day, Rising Sun, Murder at 1600 Pennsylvania, and Dave, as well as the CBS series, Murphy Brown.

With an insider’s view of the legislative and political landscape, Clift guides audiences through the corridors of power as she provides a candid, entertaining and informative overview of what’s happening in the nation’s capital and the issues of the day.
IN FOND MEMORY OF

JIM JONTZ  
(1951 – 2007)

Past Member of Congress, President of ADA, Founder of ADA’s Working Families Win project and our good friend.  
We know that if Jim were with us he’d be outraged by the ongoing climate of hatred in this country. At the same time, we can guess that he would be encouraged by opportunities presented by the Biden administration in three areas of paramount importance to him: environmental sustainability, fair global trade and support for working people. Jim surely would be organizing to promote all of these.  
We miss Jim’s energy, his leadership, his spirit and his friendship.

James J. Bishop  
Rebecca Griffin  
Gail Kinney  
Don Kusler  
Bob Lucore  
Ray Pempek  
Chris Schwartz  
Mary Lee Jontz Turk  
Maria Wilkinson  
Sandy Woodthorpe
Lighting a Candle

Many years ago, one of ADA’s most distinguished founders, Eleanor Roosevelt, noted, “It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness.” Today, when the progressive movement is on the ascent, there is an urgent need to sustain and support this trend. As a result, now is an opportune moment for ADA to be more and to do more… to light more candles that will generate more light.

Accordingly, ADA continues to grow our support, build relationships, and secore our future. Our goals are geared toward expansion: to make ADA a larger, more diverse, more sustainable organization with an even greater impact in future decades.

Your support will make ADA a stronger, more robust, dynamic, and far-reaching organization. In turn, a strengthened ADA will help our country live up to our progressive ideals. ADA’s fund development activity focuses on three major initiatives:

1) EXPANDING - An initiative aimed at strengthening ADA’s operational capacity, including creating new as well as expanding current ADA Chapters. Historically, the cornerstone for much of ADA’s success is due to its vital chapters; this initiative will give birth to new chapters, will nurture young and existing chapters, and will fortify the organization’s national chapter model. As an example of increased capacity, ADA will update essential technology to equip employees and volunteers with modern, effective outreach and communication tools.

2) CONNECTING - An initiative aimed at providing more outreach to current members while simultaneously connecting with new audiences and, ultimately, converting new audiences into a larger membership and donor base. Annual members and donors have provided ADA with a financial base for seven decades. Growing the organization’s membership and increasing annual support from individuals and organizations is vital to meeting ADA’s ongoing expenses. Of greater importance, recruiting more “candle lighters” is vital to the long-term future of local, regional, and national liberal movements.

3) RESPONDING - An initiative aimed at capturing opportunities for the organization to step up quickly in situations where ADA can make a difference. There are times when quick action by ADA can play a decisive role; this initiative will help ADA act strategically, forcefully, and effectively when opportunities arise.

Seven decades ago, ADA founders lit a candle that has been shining brightly ever since. This group could never fully know the many positive changes their spark helped bring about. Succeeding generations have been attracted to the flame and have sustained the light in ways that have benefited us all. We are inspired by their efforts and their dedication.

Now it’s our turn. Your support provides an exceptional opportunity for us to participate in this tradition. There’s simply no telling all the remarkable possibilities that will result from our lighting candles and from our sharing this light.
ADA's community organizing project (formerly known as Working Families Win) works to change the economy in favor of working families, provides education about economic decisions made in Washington and their impact within our local communities, and engages individuals through neighbor-to-neighbor communication to hold our elected officials accountable.

Since 2005, ADA organizers have worked in hundreds of communities around the country educating the public and elected officials about our core platform: guaranteed health care for all, fair enforceable trade agreements, and economic policies that create good jobs at living wages.

Over the last several years, ADA organizers and participants have worked closely with the ADA's national field team to apply grassroots pressure on Senate and House Members by organizing community actions, town halls, constituent meetings, bird-dogs and producing thousands of petitions and phone calls. These efforts have helped to support and defend tax fairness, health care reform, fair trade, job creating programs, budget priorities, and our social safety-net programs at the state and federal level.

ADA's organizing project continues to build on its success and is poised to help keep the country moving forward. Your support of this work is expanding the progressive playing field.

Supporting World Peace

Gabe Sucher
Rockville, MD

Congratulations to Rep. Jamie Raskin, Eleanor Clift, Stuart Appelbaum, and Allen Kukovich

Joel Cohen
Washington, DC
Prioritizing the Health of our Nation & California

CalCare AB1400 - CA Guaranteed Health Care for All
H.R. 1976 - Medicare for All Act of 2021

ADA SoCal Continues its Commitment to Passing & Implementing Medicare for All Health Care with Action

Californians join us in our partnership with the CalCare Solidarity Project bringing the faces of our commUNITY to emphasize the human need for AB1400 the CA Guaranteed Health Care for All Act.

Take the CalCare Solidarity Project Action visit https://bit.ly/SM4SP-CSP
AFSCME congratulates Stuart Appelbaum, Rep. Raskin, Eleanor Clift, and Allen Kukovich on their much deserved awards
The 4.4 million members of the Alliance for Retired Americans proudly congratulate

**Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD)**
Progressive champion, constitutional law expert, and Trump impeachment manager;

**Stuart Appelbaum**
President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union;

**Eleanor Clift**
Journalist and commentator; and

**Allen Kukovich**
Former PA state senator and PA state official, dedicated ADAer and former ADA national officer.

Robert Roach, Jr.  
President  
Joseph Peters, Jr.  
Secretary-Treasurer

Richard Fiesta  
Executive Director and ADA Board Member

815 16th Street, NW, 4th Floor • Washington, DC 20006 • (202) 637-5399 • [www.retiredamericans.org](http://www.retiredamericans.org)
Congratulations to ADA’s 2021 Honorees and to ADA leaders, past and present, for making a difference in the world.

We need you.
We salute you.
We thank you.

Kurt and Paula Meyer
Have YOU Joined the Liberal Legacy?

It’s really very easy. It’s also really very important!

Americans for Democratic Action was founded in 1947 and, simply stated, after 72 years, there aren’t too many founding members still living. (Truth is, in another 72 years, in the year 2089, not too many of us living today will still be around.)

However, with careful planning, organizations that we care about – organizations that are important to us today, like ADA – can be alive and well more than seven decades into the future.

Here’s where the Liberal Legacy comes in. You can join the Liberal Legacy by including Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) or the ADA Education Fund in your will or estate plans. That all there is to it!

If you wish to get this process started, contact ADA at 202-600-7762. As noted above, it’s very simple. It’s also very important!

Ensure a thriving ADA decades into the future today. Thank you.

Thanks to these Liberal Legacy Members for the dedication to ADA and a progressive future!

Carol Casey
Peter Schott
Markley Roberts
Sarai Zitter
Dr. David Jacobs
The Honorable Cheryl Kagan
Christine Riddiough
Maria Wilkinson

Dr. Joel Cohen
Jane O’Grady
Carole and Bill Markus
Drs. James and Rudine Sims Bishop
Helen Darrow
Dr. David Sickles
Douglas Bender

You?
ADA Officers:

President: Art Haywood, State Senator, PA  
National Executive Committee Chair: Kurt Meyer, non-profit consultant, IA  
Counsel: Jack Blum, attorney, MD  
Treasurer: John Bickel, educator, HI  
Secretary: Clifford Tasner, composer, CA

ADA National Board:

Logun Buckley, activist, IA  
Nathanael Brouhard, activist, PA  
Joel Cohen, professor, DC  
David Condliffe, non-profit director, NY  
Paul Crist, economist, Mexico  
Richard Fiesta, labor activist, DC  
Linda DeHoyos, veterinarian, MD  
Louis Gerber, labor activist, VA  
Jan Goodman, activist, CA  
Cathie Hartnett, development, DC  
Amy Isaacs, former ADA director, MD  
John Isaacs, foreign policy expert, MD  
Allen Kukovich, former state senator, PA  
Robert Lucore, web designer, MD  
Carole Markus, activist, PA  
William Markus, professor, PA  
Elaine Newman, labor activist, DC  
Glenavie North, activist, PA  
Raymond Pempek, activist, IL  
Gerald Porter, professor, PA  
Doug Pyle, activist, HI  
Evelyn Jones Rich, educator, NY  
John Seeley, activist, CA  
W. Leon Stertz, physician, MD  
Tim Thomas, labor organizer, IL  
Andy Thorburn, activist, CA  
Mary von Euler, activist and attorney, MD  
Robert Weinberg, law professor, VA  
María Wilkinson, Activist, OH

ADA Honorary Vice Presidents:

Sherrod Brown, Senator, Ohio  
Rosa DeLauro, Member of Congress, Connecticut  
Marion Wright Edelman, president, Children’s Defense Fund, Washington, D.C.  
Jeff Faux, founder, Economic Policy Institute, Washington, D.C.  
Fernando Ferrer, Borough President, Bronx  
Al Franken, Senator, Minnesota  
James K. Galbraith, professor, University of Texas  
Leo Gerard, president, United Steelworkers of America, Pittsburgh  
Luis Gutierrez, Member of Congress, Illinois  
Mazie Hirono, Senator, Hawaii  
Marcy Kaptur, Member of Congress, Ohio  
Robert Kuttner, author, publisher, Massachusetts  
Ann F. Lewis, political activist, Maryland  
James Roosevelt, Jr., health care administrator, Massachusetts  
Bernard Sanders, Senator, Vermont  
Jan Schakowsky, Member of Congress, Illinois  
Patricia Schroeder, former Member of Congress  
Charles Schumer, Senator, New York  
Jose Serrano, Member of Congress, New York  
Nydia Velazquez, Member of Congress, New York  
Maxine Waters, Member of Congress, California
In Memoriam
Richard Trumka

Friend, Ally, Mentor
Allen has had a distinguished career in politics and as a leader and board member of many forward-thinking organizations. We at ADA respect and love Allen for his solid commitment to liberal values. While Allen was lauded for his role in passing the PA Children’s Health Care Partnership Act, it was not easy standing up for a woman’s right to choose, for gun control, for LGBTQ rights and for governmental accountability as State Rep, then Senator, from Westmoreland County PA from 1977 through 2004 ...but Allen persevered! Allen has served on our Executive Committee and as an ADA Officer, sharing his knowledge, his expertise and his engaging spirit with us for years and we are deeply grateful.

James and Rudine Bishop
Joel Cohen
Hon. Jim Ferlo
Lyn Ferlo
Richard Fiesta
Amy F. Isaacs
Congressman Conor Lamb

Bill and Carole Markus
Ray Pempek
Ken Regal
Dr. Evelyn Jones Rich
Mary von Euler
Maria and Allan Wilkinson
Congratulations to ADA’s 2021 Honorees and to ADA leaders, past and present, for all you do to make the world a better place.

Cheers to ADA's next 75 years of activism.

Linda DeHoyos and Leon Stertz
Congratulations to ADA’s Honorees


for Their Well Deserved Awards
And

-- Andy Thorburn

Villa Park, CA
Our Heartiest Congratulations to
ADA’s Worthy Honorees

Rep. Jaime Raskin, Stuart Appelbaum,
Eleanor Clift, and our dear friend
Allen Kukovich.

for Their Well Deserved Awards
And
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)
on more than 70 years of Effective
Liberal Actions Securing Justice,
Economic Security, Health Care, Better
Lives, Peace, Equality, and Full Rights
for All Americans.

-- James J. and Rudine Sims Bishop
Columbus, Ohio