



Marc Steiner, Gala Emcee

In 1993, when the General Manager of Johns Hopkins University's radio station WJHU decided the station needed a public interest radio show, Marc Steiner asked if he could give it a shot. He was given a phone, a studio, one hour a week, and told to do the best he could. Thus was born "The Marc Steiner Show."

In the seventeen years hence, Marc has become one of the most recognized voices in Maryland and has gained national acclaim for his insightful style of interviewing.

When WJHU came up for sale in 2001, Marc led the movement to maintain community ownership, and played an integral role in the founding of WYPR. He served as Executive Vice President of WYPR from 2002 to 2006, and in that time founded his own nonprofit production company, the Center for Emerging Media (CEM).

In 2007 Marc and CEM won a Peabody Award, the most distinguished accolade in broadcast media, for the series "Just Words." In May of 2008 Marc brought his show to WEAA at Morgan State University, which is still his broadcast home.

Creating something from nothing was not a new concept for Marc. He has always been on the cutting edge of bringing creative programs to life.

Earlier in his career he worked in therapeutic settings with at-risk youth. He founded a theater program in the Maryland State prison system, as well as the Family Circle Theater, a company of teenagers who wrote, produced, directed, and acted in original productions.

Marc also served for a year as the principal of Baltimore's Experimental High School, and taught theater for ten years at the Baltimore School for the Arts.

Marc and his wife Valerie live in the country just outside of Baltimore. He has three beautiful daughters and five brilliant grandchildren.



U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski

The people of Maryland elected Senator Barbara A. Mikulski to be their U.S. Senator because she's a fighter — looking out for the day-to-day needs of Marylanders and the long range needs of the nation.

Growing up in the Highlandtown neighborhood of East Baltimore, Mikulski learned the values of hard work, neighbor helping neighbor and heartfelt patriotism. She often saw her father open the family grocery store early so local steelworkers could buy lunch before the morning shift.

Determined to make a difference in her community, Mikulski became a social worker in Baltimore, helping at-risk children and educating seniors about the Medicare program. Social work evolved into community activism when Mikulski successfully organized communities against a plan to build a 16-lane highway through Baltimore's Fells Point neighborhood. She helped stop the road, saving Fells Point and Baltimore's Inner Harbor, both thriving residential and commercial communities today.

Mikulski is a trailblazer. Her first election was a successful run for Baltimore City Council in 1971, where she served five years. In 1976, she

ran for Congress and won, representing Maryland's 3rd district for 10 years. In 1986, she ran for Senate and won, becoming the first Democratic woman Senator elected in her own right. She was re-elected with large majorities in 1992, 1998 and 2004.

A leader in the Senate, Mikulski is the Dean of the Women — serving as a mentor to other women Senators when they first take office. As the dean, she builds coalitions — proving that the Senate women are not solo acts, but work together to get things done.

Mikulski's experiences as a social worker and activist provided valuable lessons that she draws on as a United States Senator. She believes her constituents have a right to know, a right to be heard and a right to be represented. She listens to her constituents and makes the personal, political.

As a U.S. Senator, Mikulski puts her values into action to make a difference in people's lives.

Mikulski is committed to a safer, stronger and smarter Maryland and nation. That means protecting America from terrorism and making investments in science, technology and innovation.

Mikulski has never forgotten her roots. Throughout her career, she has returned home each night to her home city, of Baltimore. From community activist to U.S. Senator, she retains her view that all politics and policy are local and her job is to serve the people in their day-to-day needs as well as prepare this country for the future.



Congresswoman Donna Edwards

Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards of Fort Washington represents Maryland's 4th Congressional District comprising portions of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. She was sworn in as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives in the 110th Congress in June 2008, began her first full-term in the 111th Congress in 2009, and was re-elected in November 2010.

She serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee where she sits on the:

- Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
- Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment where she is the Vice Chair
- Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management

She also serves on the Science and Technology Committee where she sits on the:

- Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation
- Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics where she is the Vice Chair

In addition, Edwards is a member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Rep. Edwards has enjoyed a diverse career as a nonprofit public interest leader and in the private sector on NASA's Spacelab project. Just prior to serving in Congress, she was the executive director of the Arca Foundation in Washington, DC. During her time at Arca, she gained national prominence in her efforts to:

- Secure a "living wage" for working people
- Ensure the independence of the federal judiciary
- End capital punishment
- Protect Social Security, and
- Promote labor and human rights both nationally and internationally.

She was the co-founder and executive director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence where she led the effort to pass The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 that was signed into law by President Bill Clinton.

Rep. Edwards completed undergraduate studies at Wake Forest University and received her Juris Doctor from Franklin Pierce Law Center. She is the proud mother of her son who is currently attending college.



Maryland State Senator Paul Pinsky

Paul Pinsky became a member of the Maryland Senate in 1994 after serving two terms in the House of Delegates. He serves on the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee where he is an outspoken voice.

Paul is a strong advocate for a clean environment and was the lead sponsor of the landmark Healthy Air Act (2006) which limits pollution emitted from coal-fired power plants, among the state's oldest and dirtiest. The bill also required reductions of carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas.

In 2009, Senator Pinsky sponsored the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act which requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 25% from 2006 levels by 2020. The senator chairs the committee's Environment Subcommittee.

Senator Pinsky is recognized as the state leader in building and expanding efforts around National Board Certification, a rigorous process to recognize outstanding educators.

He was the lead sponsor of several successful bills that provide state funding to obtain the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification. The senator also serves as chair of the Education subcommittee.

Paul has led efforts to reform Maryland's tax structure by closing corporate tax loopholes and creating a progressive tax structure as well as provide health care for all Maryland residents. He has also championed "Clean Money Elections" legislation to establish voluntary public campaign funding in Maryland.

In addition to his other duties, Senator Pinsky serves as co-chairman of the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, & Legislative Review.

Senator Pinsky taught high school history for twenty years and currently is a teachers' union organizer with an affiliate of the Maryland State Educators Association. He represents the 22nd district in Prince George's County where he lives with his wife and two daughters.



Ronald Collins

Vice President, Communications Workers of America District 2

Ron is the Vice President for District 2 of the Communications Workers of America. The District represents 35,000 members in Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Ron has dedicated his entire career to fighting for the rights of workers in the telecommunications industry and other sectors of our economy.

After joining the ranks of CWA in 1981 as a C&P Telephone employee, Ron soon assumed the first of many leadership positions, when he was appointed shop steward in 1983.

Ron was later elected to the position of Chief Steward for CWA Local 2101 in Baltimore and in 1992 was appointed, and then formally elected Vice-President of that local.

Building upon his many organizing successes while at Local 2101, in 1998 Ron was appointed CWA District 2 Organizing

Coordinator. Among the organizing victories spearheaded by Ron's efforts were campaigns at US Airways, Cingular Wireless, Verizon Information Services, Hudson General, and the Community College of Baltimore County. These victories led to collective bargaining protections for thousands.

In 2003, Ron was appointed Administrative Director to the Vice-President for CWA District 2, and elected its Vice-President in June 2008.

In recent years, Ron has taken a leadership role in CWA's efforts to bring about health care reform at the national level, and has promoted diversity in CWA's leadership at local and national levels. In Maryland, he has fought to maintain regulations that protect telephone consumers. In nearby West Virginia, he led a successful campaign to protect consumers that would be affected by the sale of Verizon phone lines to Frontier Communications. As a result of that campaign, CWA was able to secure a \$400 million commitment to expanding high-speed build out in that state.

Throughout his career, Ron has spoken at venues throughout the Mid-Atlantic States and has been distinguished with numerous honors, including the CWA President's Award for Organizing. He holds a bachelor's degree in labor studies.



Jaime Contreras

District Chairman, Service Employees International Union 32BJ

Jaime Contreras has emerged as the key figure among the next generation of leaders in the immigrant community and labor movement of the East Coast region. Working as a janitor in a downtown office building in Washington, DC, Jaime witnessed the injustices that many janitors face: low wages, unjust treatment, and little hope for change. In 1992, when he was 17 years old, Jaime helped organize his coworkers by providing them leadership and courage. He led their fight for union representation and won significant wage increases and benefits. After high school from 1994-1997, Jaime proudly served our country in the United States Navy.

Since then, Jaime has been a union activist under the umbrella of the Service Employees International Union Local 82, now, SEIU Local 32BJ, the largest building service workers union in the country. It represents more than 100,000 cleaners, doormen, porters, maintenance workers, window cleaners, security guards, superintendents, and theater and stadium workers in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland and Washington, DC.

Jaime's peers recognized his leadership and dedication in SEIU 32BJ and in 2001, at the age

of 27, he became the youngest Latino to hold a full-time elected office, as Secretary Treasurer of then Local 82 for nearly four years.

As an elected leader of SEIU Local 32BJ, Jaime has not only provided SEIU 32BJ with a tremendous amount of skill and leadership, but he has been very dedicated to work with the Latino and immigrant communities in the Washington, DC metropolitan region. Jaime has been able to build alliances with the growing immigrant community in DC, Maryland, and Virginia and has been able to bridge the gap between the labor and the immigrant community. Jaime is the founder and former Chair of the National Capitol Immigrant Coalition (NCIC) — a coalition of organizations that advocate, educate, and mobilize the immigrant community in the DC metro area toward citizenship and civic participation. He has earned the respect and admiration of diverse groups of people from all backgrounds that see him as a true community leader.

In February 2008, Jaime became the first Latino elected President of the SEIU Maryland and DC State Council, the Political arm of SEIU for Maryland and the District representing more than 35,000 SEIU members. His mission continues to be one of social justice and a strong belief that change is possible through strong commitment to civic involvement.

Born in El Salvador, Jaime came to the U.S. in 1988. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Labor Studies from the National Labor College in Silver Spring.



Catherine Poe

Community Activist, Maryland's Eastern Shore

Catherine Poe has been a Progressive as long as she can remember. It probably came from hearing the stories of her grandfather being fired for his union activities in Indiana during the 1920s. Or watching her mother organize librarians in California. And seeing her parents toil in the political vineyards for the Democratic Party.

As an adult, activism came easily, whether it was fighting prejudice at her college or joining the Women's Movement at its inception. Catherine became the President of Long Island NOW, then the third largest chapter in America, leading the fight to reform women's prisons in New York, opening the construction trades to women, changing laws to safeguard battered women, and protecting the rights of rape victims.

During her activist years, Catherine taught high school and college English and was named New York State's English Teacher of Excellence. To better understand the background of her minority students who had moved from New York City to Long Island, she volunteered for Head Start in Spanish Harlem.

After retiring she moved to Maryland's Eastern Shore where she became active in Democratic politics through the local club, the Talbot County Democratic Forum and has been its president for the past six years. She has made the Democratic Party a force to reckon with, even though the County is predominately conservative Republican. Participation in local Democratic politics has increased fivefold under her leadership.

During the past two years Catherine has also been involved in getting Health Care Reform through Congress, working closely with Maryland HCAN and serving on the Advisory Committee of Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform. Last year she organized a rally of 400 activists on the Eastern Shore to pressure Congress to vote for the bill, not the bill she wanted, but a start.

Catherine is currently a trustee at Chesapeake College and believes education is the keystone for both personal success and a better community. She has also long championed the family. As a feminist who worked as she raised her daughter, she knows strengthening families requires women to be full economic partners and pressure on local politicians to support pro-family legislation.

If Catherine has learned anything over the years it is that progressive change does not come easily, and while society has evolved for the better, it is only with continued vigilance and commitment that true reform happens.

Progressive Maryland's Affiliates

USAAction (our national partner organization)
1199SEIU, Maryland/DC Division
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689
American Jewish Congress: MD Chapter
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
Asian Pacific American Network
Baltimore-Washington Laborers District Council
Casa de Maryland
Coalition of Korean American Organizations
Collective Banking Group
Communications Workers of America, District 2
Communications Workers of America, CWA Local 2100
Communications Workers of America, CWA Local 2108
Elevator Constructors Local 10
Equality Maryland
Federal Asian Pacific American Council
Howard County Education Association
Ironworkers Local 5
Korean American Association of the State of Maryland
Laborers Union Local 710
League of Korean Americans – Maryland
Maryland Association for Justice
Maryland Employment Lawyers Association
Maryland NOW
Maryland State & DC Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
Maryland State Education Association
Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
Mid-Atlantic Regional Joint Board, Workers United
Mid-Atlantic Laborers International Union of North America
Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters
Montgomery County Career Fire Fighters, IAFF Local 1664
Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless
Montgomery County Education Association/NEA
NAACP- Baltimore Branch
NAACP- Maryland State Conference of Branches
NAACP- Montgomery County Branch
National Capital Area Union Retirees
OPEIU Local 2
Peace Action Montgomery
Plumbers & Steamfitters UA Local 486
Prince George's County Education Association
Progressive Cheverly
SEIU Local 500
SEIU Maryland & District of Columbia State Council
Southern Christian Leadership Conference – Maryland
Steamfitters Local 602
Union for Reform Judaism, Mid-Atlantic Region
United Church of Christ
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 27
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 400
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1994 MCGEO
United Transportation Union, State Legislative Board
United Workers Association
Washington, DC Building & Construction Trades Council