

**2013 Distinguished Service Award Recipient:  
Joan Benedetti  
May 3, 2014**

Good evening. I'm Jon Evans and it is my distinct honor and privilege to recognize Joan Benedetti as this year's distinguished service award recipient.

Anyone who has spent more than five minutes with Joan can attest to her charming nature, infectious smile, genuine curiosity, and tenacious character. I myself confess to having been won over many years ago after imbibing the Benedetti Kool Aid. But before I digress too far into my own drinking habits, I want to acknowledge those individuals who have helped to make this award possible.

First of all, the DSA Committee deserves our praise for diligently reviewing each of the nomination packets this year. The committee was comprised of Jennifer Park, Chair, as well as members Rina Vecchiola, Alexandra Gregory, and Ted Goodman. (More to come about Mr. Goodman later...)

I also want to acknowledge my co-conspirators who helped in the nominating campaign, including my former TxMx colleague Janine Henri, who now plays for the California branch of our chapter, as well as Joyce Weaver, who was the primary instigator in nominating Joan. I'm particularly disappointed that Joyce cannot be with us here this evening to help us celebrate the occasion.

Joan Benedetti's career has been a long, varied, and distinguished one that began back in 1967. The dossier submitted to the DSA Committee was not surprisingly substantial and full of noteworthy achievements. Rather than enumerate each of these, I thought I would share a few of the qualities that exemplify Joan as an individual and as a professional – and for those of you who know her, those two things are difficult to separate.

In reading through the letters of support from more than 14 individuals, several common elements reverberated again and again: a dedication to service, a commitment to scholarship, leadership through word and deed, and a passion for our field and in particular for ARLIS/NA. Joan also carries with herself a relentless spirit – what one former employer expressed as “a model of extraordinary persistence.” Where I come from that’s a euphemism for something I can’t repeat here in such genteel company.

I would add one additional quality of my own, which is compassion. Many of Joan’s initiatives over the years have focused on those individuals or voices on the outside, those marginalized, or otherwise neglected. Joan has worked tirelessly to rectify these wrongs in life, in her work, and through her actions and deeds as an ARLIS member. And for this, we are all honored to call her one of us.

If ever there was an individual who from birth grasped for the glory of that wooden frame with the UV plexi, the Kinko’s 20 weight paper emblazoned with the new ARLIS/NA logo and the auspicious acronym of DSA that person would be Joan Benedetti ... attempting to wrest it from hands of one Ted Goodman.

Please join me in welcoming our own Tenacious D and this year’s Distinguished Service Award recipient – Joan Benedetti!