On September 25, 2011, we celebrated the achievements of Joan Suarez, founder of Missouri Immigrant & Refugee Advocates and co-founder of Harriet’s List. Retired from a career as a union official, Ms. Suarez has gone on to a dedicated second career of advocacy for workers and immigrants, serving on the Executive Committees and Boards of such organizations as St. Louis Pro-Vote, Consumers Council of Missouri, Interfaith Legal Services for Immigrants, and Jobs With Justice; while making significant service commitments to organizations such as the Peace Economy Project, the Community Arts and Media Project and the Interfaith Committee on Latin America.

This mentor, leader and organizer is recognized by many, in the words of nominator Lynda Callon, as a person whose “personal tenets of moral and ethical integrity are steadfast.”