



LaRueList Café®

LaRueList Café® Presents

# LaRueList® Game Changers

— WOMEN'S HISTORY EDITION —



Jeannine LaRue

Decades of leadership.  
Still changing the game.

#DecadesOfImpact #LivingLegacy

# From the Publisher

By Shanique Taliaferro | **The Game Changers**



This edition was created with care, intention, and deep respect for leadership. LaRueList Game Changers honors people fully — the work they do, the lives they touch, and the responsibility they carry. As Publisher, my role was to help shape and curate that vision so it could be shared clearly and thoughtfully.

I have been deeply influenced and mentored by Jeannine Frisby LaRue. She is known by many as "Mama LaRue" because she leads with generosity, wisdom, and an instinct to uplift, always making room for others to shine. That spirit guided how this work was approached and how recognition lives on these pages.

With so many deserving women, narrowing the list for this first edition required care, conversation, and trust. This edition is an offering and a beginning — not a conclusion — with many more LaRueList editions to come. Thank you for spending time with this edition. My hope is that these pages connect you — to Jeannine Frisby LaRue, and to the many women whose leadership continues to shape lives, communities, and generations — each a Game Changer in her own way.

*-Shanique Taliaferro*  
Publisher



## Clearing a Path Forward

There comes a moment when you realize you are no longer walking a path – you are clearing one. I felt that truth in rooms where I was often the only woman, sometimes the only Black woman, always aware that my presence carried a responsibility larger than my name.

I began my journey as a teacher, grounded in the belief that education, care, and truth change lives. That belief carried me into public service and leadership – into spaces where policy is written, industries are regulated, and decisions shape families, cities, and generations. I know the cost of being first. I know what it means to leave rooms changed by your presence.

### Honoring the Matriarchs and Other Game Changers

Game Changers are not defined by a single moment – they are defined by momentum. They are women who step into systems as they exist and refuse to accept them as they are. Some cleared paths long ago. Others are shaping them now. This list honors women across generations – the matriarchs who paved the way, the leaders carrying the work forward today, and those whose impact continues to guide us even though they are no longer with us. This is my love letter to women who led anyway – and to those still walking forward.



Photography: Courtesy of LaRueList Cafe®

*“Game Changers  
are not defined by  
a single moment  
– they are defined  
by momentum.”*

– Jeannine LaRue

Founder, LaRueList Cafe®

*For the women who cleared the path – and those still walking it.*

– A LaRueList Cafe® Editorial Series



LaRueList®  
**MATRIARCHS OF IMPACT**

Honoring women whose leadership, service, and influence  
have shaped communities across generations



**Amina Baraka**

Pioneering poet and cultural force of the Black Arts  
Movement; mother of Ras Baraka.



**Ruthi Zinn Byrne**

Founder of Zinn Graves & Field, Inc.,  
advancing civic and nonprofit leadership.



**Anne Y. Kim Cha**

Community Leader · President advancing  
Korean American seniors.



**Allison Davis**

Media leader and NABJ founding member  
amplifying diverse voices.





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**Karin Elkis**

Sr. VP, Optimus Partners. Long-standing  
leadership in public affairs/government service.



**Hazel Gluck**

Public Servant · Set the bar for women in  
New Jersey civic life hands down



**Lynne Hurwitz**

Civic Leader · Longtime community advocate  
in public service.



**Dr. Theodora Lacey**

Civil Rights Advocate · Leader in New Jersey  
school integration.





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**Susan Bass Levin**

Philanthropist · Entrepreneur · Strategist · Former  
state and municipal leader.



**Margarita Muñiz**

Former Newark Deputy Mayor · Public  
leadership and higher education



**Idida Rodriguez**

Government Affairs Leader · Managing partner  
shaping New Jersey public policy.



**Judy Shaw**

Political Strategist · First woman Chief of Staff  
to a New Jersey Governor.





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have shaped communities across generations



**Rev. Dr. Deborah L Stapleton**

Interfaith & Community Leader · Faith leader with a  
legacy of service.



**Hazel Stewart**

Church Mother · Spiritual pillar supporting  
pastors across generations.



**Myra Terry**

Founder - Established multiple organizations  
advancing women in politics.



**Cleopatra Tucker**

Community Matriarch · A lifelong public  
servant shaping communities in Newark and  
beyond.



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# LaRueList® MATRIARCHS OF IMPACT

Honoring women whose leadership, service, and influence  
have shaped communities across generations



**Barbara Wallace**

Former Mayor · Decades of strengthening  
communities through public service.



**Loretta Weinberg**

Political Trailblazer · Longtime New Jersey  
legislator and former Senate Majority Leader.



**Loretta Winters**

Civil Rights Advocate · NAACP Leader  
Advancing equity and justice across New Jersey.



**Joan Wright**

Public Servant · Decades long career in  
private/public sectors; both appointed and elected.

