



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



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Celebrating the next wave of women shaping what's ahead through innovation, influence, and bold leadership.



Luisa Rodriguez-Aponte

President · 100 Hispanic Women NJ
Community leadership



J. Noelle Baptiste

Co-founder · Noir Marketing & Design
Marketing and branding



Jade (Mostyn) Bechelli

Chief of Staff · Department of Human Services
Public service



Shadaya Bennet

Chief of Staff · Assemblywoman Speight
Government leadership



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Kenya (Kenny Bee) Bullock

School Programs and Partnerships Manager ·
Count Basie Center Arts education



Skye Chang

Process Engineer II · IPS
Engineering and innovation



Alea Couch

Senior Policy Advisor · Governor's Office
Housing and Community Revitalization



Emma Corrado

Deputy Chief Operating Officer · Governor's
Office Government operations





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Theresa Dowd

Manager, Public Relations & Communications ·
Hackensack Meridian Health Public relations



Hannah Doherty

Founder and CEO · areweinloveprod
Creative production



Athina Fassu

Director of Legislative Affairs · Department of
State Policy and legislation



Alyia Frisby

Owner · Miss Frisby Haircare
Entrepreneurship





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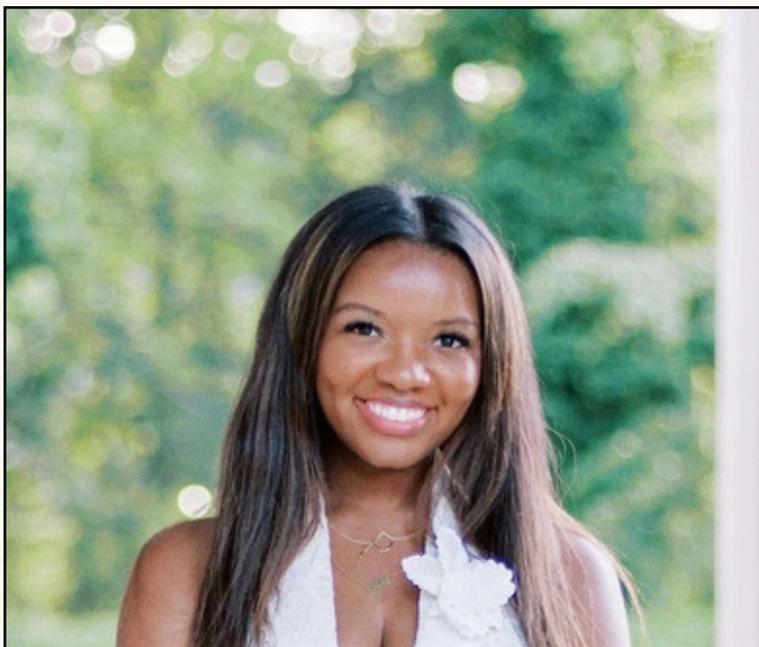
Fatima N. Heyward

President · Young Democrats of America
Political leadership



Siming Hsu

Principal of Client Engagement · Moxie
Strategic communications



Paige Johnson

Account Manager · BASF
Corporate leadership



Parul Aneja Khemka

Chair · South Asians for America NJ
AAPI political and civic leadership



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Elena Laughton

Public Information Manager · NJ Alliance for
Action Public affairs



Krishna Martes

Chief of Staff · Assemblyman Kearney
Legislative leadership



Anna Martinez

Director · NJ Division on Women
Women's policy



Emy Quispe

Chief of Staff · Department of Labor
Workforce development





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Thalia Sirjue

Chief of Staff · Department of Health
Public health



A'Dorian Murray-Thomas

Founder and CEO · SHE Wins Inc.
Women's empowerment



Daniela Carolina Velez

Director · NJ Division on Women
Women's policy



Lana Vercellino

Outreach Specialist · Port Authority
Public service

