



# VOTER IMPACT

March, 2020 Vol. XXXII Issue 6

## Lunch with the League

The Fight for a Just Democracy: 100 Years and Counting

**Presenter: Jaclyn Maffetore, Staff Attorney, ACLU North Carolina**

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

**Holy Trinity Haywood Duke Room**

**607 N. Greene Street, Greensboro, NC 27401**

**Doors open at 11:30**

**The program is free and a buffet Lunch is \$12.00.**

**Make reservations with Bonnie Kristoff by phone (336-547-0824) or send email to**

**Reservations@lwvpt.org by March 11. Contact Bonnie for special needs.**

Lunch is to be prepaid. To make reservations by mail, send your check made out to the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad with the date of the lunch on the memo line. Mail to LWVPT, PO Box 9721, Greensboro, NC 27429. You may also use our website and PayPal or your credit card to make reservations. To attend the program without lunch, please let Bonnie know by phone (336-547-0824), email (bbklunch@gmail.com), or via the website (lwvpt.org). If you need the form to send in your reservation, contact Bonnie with that request.

## About the Program

As evidenced by the founding of both the League of Women Voters and the ACLU in the very same year, the fight for equality did not end with the 1920 ratification of the 19th Amendment. Join us in remembering the ACLU's past victories on behalf of women's rights as well as ACLU-NC's current work addressing systemic and social barriers that women still face today, and receive an update on continued barriers that all North Carolinians face in exercising their right to vote.

### Jaclyn Maffetore

Jaclyn Maffetore joined the ACLU of North Carolina in December 2019. As a staff attorney, she engages in community advocacy and litigation to protect and promote the civil rights and liberties of all North Carolinians from all walks of life. Prior to joining the ACLU of North Carolina, Jaclyn spent three years as a staff attorney at the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, engaging in litigation, outreach, and policy advocacy to advance the voting rights of communities across the south. A life-long North Carolinian, Jaclyn attended New Hanover County public schools before earning her B.A. in Political Science from Wake Forest University in 2013. She received her J.D. with honors from Elon University School of Law in 2016.



### Message from the President – March 2020

As I write this, the NC primaries are underway and will be over by the time you read this. I am grateful for the many faithful League members who work hard, year after year, on voter registration, voter service, and fair elections. The League was founded 100 years ago to register and educate voters, and we are still doing that – 100 years later. Talk about faithful! So thank you to those of you who have helped this year, in the years past, and who will help in the years to come.

Voter Service has put forth lots of effort to get the LWVPT portion of **Vote411.org** up and running before the primaries. Candidates who do not win the primary will have their data removed and contenders for the November general election will have the opportunity to enter or update their information. We need volunteers to help with making Vote411 relevant for the general election in November. If you are interested in helping contact [VoterService@lwvpt.org](mailto:VoterService@lwvpt.org). Voter registration will resume after the primary focusing on registering voters for the general election. To volunteer contact [VoterRegistration@lwvpt.org](mailto:VoterRegistration@lwvpt.org).

League members redesigned The Voter Survival Kit (<https://votersurvivalkit.org/>). It is beautiful and useful throughout the election cycle.

We will also be conducting a forum for those running for office. This takes place at our October Lunch with the League. If you are interested in helping with that, contact [president@lwvpt.org](mailto:president@lwvpt.org).

Your participation matters.

*Ann Shaw*

## Thanks to the Contributors of 2020

From the Treasurer:

I hope that many of you had the opportunity to see the Solar Rose Garden while it was on display at the History Museum and, most recently, Triad Stage. Special thanks go out to the donors who have made the Solar Rose Garden possible:

Margaret Arbuckle	Barbara Carter	Kay Cashion
Frances Doost	Peggy Ferebee	Lisa Fullington
Lynn & Mario Grigni	Lynn & Wayne Hale	Elizabeth G. Harrington
Jane Harris	Anne Hummel	Rodna Hurewitz
Judith Hyman	Gary Kenton	Bonnie Kristoff
Catherine Magid	Mary E. Miller	Elizabeth Moser
Tracy Nash	Marlene Pratto	Sylvia Samet
Ann Shaw	Mary Ellen Shiflett	Mary N. Smith
Laurey Solomon	Willie Taylor	Whitney Vanderwerff

## IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT VOTER IMPACT

Voter Impact will be formatted in this simpler format for the foreseeable future. We need someone to edit and format Voter Impact. If you can use Word or another word processor you can do this. Please consider it and send email to [lwvptmail@gmail.com](mailto:lwvptmail@gmail.com) and volunteer. If two or more persons volunteer, no one will need to do all issues.

## Welcome

We would like to welcome the new members who joined us in February:

Ellen Kay Endress, Marie Brown and Tomakio Gause. We are so glad you chose to join us and hope we will see you at one of our activities in the near future.



*Peggy Ferebee checking her cell phone and Bonnie Kristoff getting ready to greet attendees at Lunch with the League on February 18.*

*Thanks to Mary Coyne Wessling for the photo.*

## A Special Connection

Over the weekend of February 29 – March 1, LWVPT co-sponsored the performances of *The Life and Times of Fannie Lou Hamer* at Triad Stage. Preceding each performance, LWVPT Co-President, Ann Shaw, Project 2020 Chair, Willie Taylor, and Fair Elections Roundtable member, Lyn McCoy took turns giving a moving account of the final vote in Tennessee on August 18, 2020, which ratified the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment. Before and after the play, LWVPT volunteers informed theatre-goers about the League, the celebration of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, and the activities of Fair Districts NC, collecting over 400 endorsements of the 5 principles for reasonable redistricting reform. For more information on Fair Districts NC, go to: [Fairdistrictsnc.org](http://Fairdistrictsnc.org). The table that Barbara Carter set up was both attractive and informative.

## Immigration Policy Reform Roundtable

### Immigration Policy Reform Roundtable

By *Whitney Vanderwerff*

As anti-immigration measures proliferate, take heart from a **recent success story**, realized after years of courageous effort and a precedent-setting Fourth Circuit Court ruling.

**Rosa Ortez-Cruz** fled Honduras 18 years ago after her partner, Jose Genaro Aceda, stabbed her in the stomach and threatened to kill her, telling her, "If you're not mine, you're not going to be anyone else's." Jordan Greene's detailed report in *Triad City Beat* describes Aceda's violence and threats, and Rosa's coming to Richmond and Washington to live with her cousins after surgery to repair her stomach wound and an eight-month recovery with her sister in Tegucigalpa. She eventually lived in Sanctuary and received support from the Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship and Church of Reconciliation. She applied for "withholding of removal" described by her law firm, McKinney Immigration, as "a type of protection available for those ineligible for asylum who demonstrate a 'clear probability of persecution' in their home country."

A U.S. Department of Justice administrative body, the Board of Immigration Appeals, is responsible for interpreting and applying immigration laws. This Board upheld an immigration judge's ruling against Ortez-Cruz, therefore denying her request.

In 2013, Ortez-Cruz was cited by Homeland Security with being in the country without authorization. Among the **Board of Immigration Appeals** findings in her case:

- That the government had successfully refuted the presumption that her life or freedom would be threatened if she returned to Honduras;

- That the burden of proof was on *her* to prove her former partner's 'dangerousness' and that he "may have been rehabilitated through numerous experiences...including reflecting, repentance, and maturation or some other life-changing development."

On February 26, a panel of judges in the **Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals** in Richmond vacated the decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals and ordered the agency to grant Ortez-Cruz's application. The order was written by Judge Albert Diaz, a North Carolina jurist appointed by President Obama, and unanimously joined by Judge Allison Jones Rushing, a recent Trump appointee, and Judge Pamela Harris, a second Obama appointee.

**Julie Owens**, a domestic violence and post-traumatic stress disorder expert, testified that this case "demonstrated the extreme threat and potential for ongoing threat...because domestic violence is a pattern of increasing frequency and severity over time" and that "the only place for this to go would be murder."

**Jeremy McKinney** credits Ortez-Cruz with continuing to fight her deportation these past six years, stating to *Triad City Beat*, "Rosa's persistence not only saved her own life but the lives of future survivors seeking protection...**Her case is now legal precedent.** Today is a win for domestic violence survivors. After fighting for decades to extend asylum protection to victims, this administration has done everything in its power to turn back the clock, including the political manipulation of the immigration courts. However, an independent judiciary continues to give voice to victims."

The **need for independent courts** is the topic of this Roundtable's first program for the public in 2020, "**U.S. Immigration Crisis: The Courts.**" Immigration courts are different from other courts, and they are broken. Learn why and how dysfunctional immigration courts impact immigrants, U.S. citizen families and their children, and violate their constitutionally guaranteed due process rights. The program will be moderated by Ann Marie Dooley, LWVPT member and immigration attorney who has worked with Jeremy McKinney on the Rosa Ortez-Cruz case for the past six years.

**Speakers: Immigration attorneys Jessica Yanez and Helen Parsonage**

**Tuesday, March 31, 6-7:30 PM, Congregational United Church of Christ, 400 W. Radiance Drive, Greensboro NC 27403**

## **Officers or the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad**

**Co-President: Vicki White-Lawrence** (2018-2020), 336-324-7267, [President@lwwvpt.org](mailto:President@lwwvpt.org)

**Co-President: Ann Shaw** (2019-2021), 765-520-5939, [President@lwwvpt.org](mailto:President@lwwvpt.org)

**Vice-President: Anna Fesmire** (2019-2020), (Chair, Social Justice RT), 336-457-7165, [vicepresident@lwwvpt.org](mailto:vicepresident@lwwvpt.org)

**Secretary: Ellen Weiner** (2019-2021), 336-317-3423, [sec@lwwvpt.org](mailto:sec@lwwvpt.org)

**Treasurer: Sandra Colyer** (2018-2020), 336-991-1173, [treasurer@lwwvpt.org](mailto:treasurer@lwwvpt.org)

The co-presidents have the same email address. A message sent to [President@lwwvpt.org](mailto:President@lwwvpt.org) will go to both Vicki and Ann.

## **Submissions to Voter Impact**

If you have something to share with other members of the LWVPT, please send your information to [webvi@lwwvpt.org](mailto:webvi@lwwvpt.org) on or before the first Tuesday of the month.

**Volunteering to register people to vote and urging them to be informed voters is one of the most important things you can do to make democracy work!** Please volunteer by contacting the coordinator via email [VoterRegistration@lwwvpt.org](mailto:VoterRegistration@lwwvpt.org) or phone 336-210-7763.

## **How to Give to the LWVPT**

Donations to all LWVPT funds can be made via the website, [http://www.lwwvpt.org/donate\\_form.html](http://www.lwwvpt.org/donate_form.html) or by mail to: LWVPT , P O Box 9721. Greensboro, NC 27429