

**16th Annual
Lifetime Achievement Award Luncheon**
Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Celebrating
Sharon Streater
Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree



Sydney & Thalia Potter Civic Leadership Award
Honoree
Carlton Ward Jr.





The League of Women Voters of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, FL., a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League is nonpartisan in that it does not support or oppose any political party or candidate; it is political in that it takes positions on selected governmental issues.

We are one of 29 Leagues in Florida and more than 750 state and local Leagues across the U.S. Our primary goal is to protect, extend and encourage voting by all sectors of the public with an emphasis on underserved communities to ensure that all residents exercise their power to make positive change. We advocate for voters' rights by monitoring local, state and national legislation and share information on how to reach out to municipal, county, and state policymakers.

Areas of focus include healthcare, transportation, gun violence prevention, education, immigration, and environment and climate.

Our members meet frequently, often virtually. Member meetings include two monthly Issues Update Meetings on the 1st Monday at 6pm and the 1st Wednesday at 9am. Other groups meet as needed for specific projects. See our website for full details.

We also participate in community events, and will be especially busy during this 2024 election season. Please join us!

Visit HCLWV.org or scan the QR Code below for more information





16th Annual Lifetime Achievement Award Luncheon

Welcome & Introductions
Teresa Potter, President

Program
Liana Fernandez Fox, PhD

Congratulatory Remarks
Mayor Jane Castor

Sydney & Thalia Potter Civic Leadership Award
Introduction
Molly James, CEO,
Metropolitan Ministries Foundation
Acceptance
Carlton Ward Jr.

Lifetime Achievement Award
Introduction
Rev Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson
Acceptance
Sharon Streater

Sponsor Recognition / Closing Remarks
Teresa Potter

Lifetime Achievement Award

Past Recipients

2006 Senator Helen Gordon Davis
2007 Congressman Sam Gibbons
2008 Governor Robert “Bob” Martinez
2009 The Honorable Betty Castor
2010 The Honorable Jan Kaminis Platt
2011 The Honorable Dottie Berger MacKinnon
2012 The Honorable Frederick B. Karl
2013 The Honorable T. Terrell Sessums
2014 The Honorable Donald Castor
2015 The Honorable Mary Figg
2016 Doris Weatherford
2017 The Honorable Arthenia Joyner
2018 Geraldine McKinnon Twine
2019 The Honorable Fran Davin
2020 Liana Fernandez Fox, PhD

Sydney & Thalia Potter Civic Leadership Award

Past Recipients

2008 Sydney and Thalia Potter
2009 Roger P. Stewart
2010 Alan “Mr. River” Wright
2011 Delia P. Sanchez
2012 Dana L. Shires M.D.
2013 Matilda Garcia
2014 Evangeline Best
2015 Jan Tomlinson Smith
2016 Dr. Rick Garrity
2017 Holly Greening
2018 Joe Guidry
2019 Jane & Gary Gibbons
2020 Dena Gross Leavengood

The 2024 Sydney & Thalia Potter Civic Leadership Award Honoree

Carlton Ward Jr.

Carlton Ward Jr is a conservation photographer and National Geographic Explorer whose mission is to inspire appreciation of the endangered wild places that are often hidden in plain sight but very much need our attention to be saved.

Carlton began his career working with the Smithsonian Institution in Central Africa, leading to his first book, *The Edge of Africa*. In 2004, he retrained his focus on his native Florida, motivated by eight generations of family heritage and a drive to bring new attention and protection to the state's under-appreciated wild heart.



*Working on our camera traps in the Kissimmee Billie Strand near
Big Cypress National Preserve. Photo by Malia Byrtus.*



Deep in the heart of the Shark River Slough, Carlton Ward Jr, left, and Joe Guthrie travel by push-poling their kayaks through the shallow sawgrass. The Shark River Slough is the largest aquatic artery in the Everglades ecosystem and the primary source of water for Everglades National Park. Water from the slough drains into a web of mangrove-lined creeks that converge to form the Shark River.



In 2009, Carlton published the award-winning book, *Florida Cowboys*. In 2010, he founded the Florida Wildlife Corridor project, which led to two National Geographic supported expeditions, award-winning books, PBS films and widespread outreach for the statewide vision to keep Florida wild.

Carlton currently leads a conservation and media company called Wildpath that uses storytelling to protect land, water, and wildlife and achieve conservation policy. In 2015, Wildpath launched the Path of the Panther project, which inspired the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act of 2021 and has helped achieve nearly 2 billion dollars in new funding for land conservation. In 2023, the award-winning film, *Path of the Panther*, featuring Carlton's work, was released for streaming on Disney+ and Hulu, alongside a new National Geographic book of the same title.



When I came back in the summer of 2018, I was armed with three camera trap systems hoping to improve my odds. Hurricane Irma had devastated South Florida in September 2017, snapping limbs and trees throughout the Fakahatchee. But Irma also brought record rainfall, which I believe the swamps enjoyed. When I paddled out for the first time the following summer, I noticed more light shining through the wind-shaken canopy, but was relieved that my favorite ghost orchids were thriving. I glided through lanes of cypress and beneath twisted arches of pond apples and pop ashes, excited to continue my summer ritual and motivated to complete my mission.



In addition to ongoing work to protect the remaining 8 million acres in the Florida Wildlife Corridor, Wildpath is leading new campaigns advocating for the protection of wildlife corridors in the Gulf of Mexico, throughout the Americas, and beyond.

While Carlton's work was originally inspired by wild places and conservationists before him, his biggest motivation is now the three beautiful children he shares with his wife, Suzie – Eldridge Ann (10), Patricia Nell (7), and Carlton III (6) – and the need to sustain the balance of life on Earth for their generation.



Left to right: Carlton Ward Jr., his children Eldridge Ann (10), Nell (7) Carlton III (6), and his wife Suzie Ward.



Learn more and support Carlton's work at Wildpath.com. To see Carlton's fine art photography available for purchase, please visit CarltonWard.com.





The 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree

Sharon Streater

Sharon grew up in Texas, Florida and California, the sixth of seven children. Her parents were missionaries in China before she was born so international visitors were always in their home. After earning a zoology degree at Humboldt State University, she attended the American Baptist Seminary of the West, part of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, and interned at Allen Temple Baptist Church in East Oakland.

Sharon was curious to see Christianity outside western culture so she transferred to a seminary in South India for two years. During her studies, she traveled in India every holiday and spent several days at Mother Teresa's Home for the Destitute and Dying. Years later she also visited Zimbabwe, Namibia and Mozambique. Several times in these travels she was told to go home and work on the poverty and racism in the US.



After graduation from seminary Sharon spent seven years with the National Farm Worker Ministry (NFWM), including one year working and walking with Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, and the United Farm Workers. She learned that servanthood theology could mean poverty wages and long hours, but she also learned organizing can create positive, long-term changes in thousands of peoples' lives.

Sharon's longest NFWM position was with the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, working in Oakland, Chicago, Toledo and the tomato fields in NW Ohio. FLOC asked Jesse Jackson to mention their Campbell Soup boycott in his 1984 Democratic Convention speech. When he mentioned the struggles of the farm workers in NW Ohio, FLOC supporters held up boycott signs while Sharon danced in front of the convention in a tomato soup "can" made from hula hoops and a sheet. The soup label was "Cream of Exploitation" with low wages, child labor and pesticides as ingredients. The consumer boycott took seven years, but in 1986 Campbell signed an historic contract with the growers and the field workers represented by FLOC.

Sharon moved back to Florida in 1990 to be near her parents and to work as the lead organizer for the newly created HOPE, the Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality. For 34 years until her retirement last November, Sharon was teaching, training, coaching and organizing as HOPE grew to 26 member congregations. Sharon is married to Joseph Buczek and they enjoy biking, hiking and visiting their two sons and five grandchildren in upstate New York.



The Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality, HOPE, a direct action community organization, unites diverse congregations to improve the quality of life in Hillsborough County. Based on shared values of justice, fairness, love of neighbor and the dignity of all people, HOPE trains members to identify common community problems, research long-term systemic solutions, create issue campaigns, and build the collective power needed to hold systems accountable to implement those solutions.

Once an identified community problem was approved for action by membership, Sharon organized a committee to research solutions and strategize a campaign. She coordinated the committee with leaders and helped prepare for research meetings with institutional leaders and elected officials. She trained members to respond to deflections, denial, and division, to evaluate the meeting, and to plan future steps.

Every spring HOPE organizes a large public action, the Nehemiah Action, with over 1000 community members and the officials who can implement solutions. HOPE leaders will have met or tried to meet with all relevant officials, discussed the community problem and possible solutions, and invited them to the action months in advance.



The power of over 1000 community members united in one place is the cumulative and essential step in HOPE's process to achieve justice. Sharon created action program booklets with issue reports and proposals, a roster of member congregations, and an agenda facilitated by leaders. This booklet reminds members and teaches visitors what "people power" looks like and what it has accomplished.



HOPE's major community accomplishments since 1990:
Education: School district's alternative to out-of-school suspension program, so students stay on track for graduation.

Employment: Revised City of Tampa job applications to give people with arrest records a chance for employment.

Health: Increased dental services for low income residents and increased county funding for needed senior homecare services.

Homeless: County program to help people get birth certificates, official identifications, and access to services including housing and jobs. Expedited rental assistance checks to landlords.

Housing: County Ordinance to put \$10 million annually in county budget to develop affordable housing for residents with low and very low incomes.

Mental Health: Establishment of ACTS Clubhouse for people with mental illness to gain job training, employment, peer support and community. Crisis Intervention Training for Tampa police officers.

Neighborhoods: Improved East Tampa with sidewalks, demolition of dangerous buildings, and improved drainage. Change in zoning in West Tampa Dobyville to preserve housing.

Transportation: HART extended hours on late-night and weekends on eight major bus routes. HART established 30 more bus shelters.

Youth: Civil citations for children committing misdemeanor offenses to prevent lifelong arrest records, increase public safety, and save taxpayer money.

Find more on HOPE at
<https://hopehillsborough.squarespace.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/HillsboroughHOPE/>
https://www.instagram.com/hillsborough_hope/

The LWV of Hillsborough & Pasco Counties is especially grateful to these extraordinary individuals and organizations.

200 Muslim Women Who Care
Community Stepping Stones
E. Corwin

Linda Martel D'Aquila & COL (Ret) Anthony J. D'Aquila
Florida Museum of Photographic Arts
Girl Scouts of West Central Florida
HCLWV

Lenora Lake Guidry & Joe Guidry
Pasco Action Group of the HCLWV
Tampa Bay Sierra Club
Tampa Bay Tech High School
USF Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Women's Council of NAREB



Raffle prizes generously provided by:

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Ida Williams Campbell
Daydreams Day Spa
East Madison Salon
Joe & Sons
Leonora Lake Guidry



Door prizes generously donated by:

Laurie Potier Brown & Rich Brown, Lisa & James Custer,
Linda Martel D'Aquila, Lenora Lake Guidry & Joe Guidry,
Stacy & Richard Gervais, Julie Jenkins, Teresa Potter,
Patti Watkins, Cindy Wilson

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16th Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards

Luncheon Committee

Angela Birdsong, Ida Williams Campbell,
Johanne Castagan, Linda Martel D'Aquila,
Teresa Potter, Sandra Sroka, Cindy Wilson,
Laurie Winkles



The Florida Museum of Photographic Arts is a museum dedicated to exhibiting important photographic art as central to contemporary life and culture.

FMoPA collects, preserves, and exhibits historic and contemporary works by nationally and internationally known photographic artists.

FMoPA also enriches the community by operating outreach programs to educate children and adults.



Congratulations
to the 2024
League of Women Voters
of Hillsborough & Pasco
Counties Honorees!



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was only ...

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May 8 & 9, 2024

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***Congratulations, Carlton,
for your outstanding
contribution to the
preservation of wildlife
and our wonderful natural
resources in Florida.***

***With love and admiration,
the Kennedy family***

Sulphur Springs
MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTER

1101 E. River Cove St, Tampa, FL 33604
www.sulphurspringsmuseum.org

**Voices and Votes:
Democracy in America**

March 23 – May 19, 2024

This multi-media exhibition, created by the Smithsonian, explores the 250-year-old American experiment of a government "of, by and for the people," from revolution and suffrage, to civil rights and protest.

Grand Opening

Saturday, March 23, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Art and poetry from youth groups Community Stepping Stones and Battleground Poets.
League of Women Voters; Hillsborough County Election Supervisor; elected officials, and community partners.

Sunday Speakers: 2 p.m.

April 7: Dr. David Ponton, USF:

"Racial Subordination & the Meaning of Democracy."

April 21: Dr. Kimberly Voss, U of Central Florida:

"Politicking Politely: Women Making a Difference in the 1960s and 1970s."

May 5: Dr. Philip Levy, USF:

"The Act that Ruined America, and How to Fix It."

May 19: Dr. Elizabeth Aranda, USF:

"Contemporary Challenges to Im/migrant Rights."



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF FLORIDA



Smithsonian



Voices and Votes: Democracy in America" is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and state humanities councils nationwide. Support for local exhibitions and programming has been provided by Florida Humanities with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities.





We support her dream to become a farmer, a princess , and a legislator.