

November 16, 2015

## Greetings!

*The ClassACT 2015 Newsletter update for all HR73 classmates works in Reverse Chronological order, starting with the FUTURE:*

**November 21:** For all Bay Area classmates, family, friends, and other Harvard-connected folk, there will be a **Work and Play Day** for the benefit of the **White Pony Express** (sponsored by volunteer **Emily Fields Karakashian**) which collects and distributes food, clothing and toys otherwise going to waste. The event will be from 9-11:30 -- contact **Emily** for details on where to go and what to expect: [emilytheok@gmail.com](mailto:emilytheok@gmail.com) - 925-451-5241-- and will be followed by lunch together. ClassACT co-founder **Marion Dry** will also be in attendance.



**WHITE PONY EXPRESS**  
relaying food and goods to those in need in Contra Costa County

**October 16-18: Marion** can regale anyone who asks about the fantastic **ClassACT NOLA event** when **Steve Milliken's JusticeAID** project put on a concert at the House of Blues to raise funds for the Innocence Projects of Louisiana and the Mid-Atlantic.



The concert, headlined by Ani DeFranco, opened with a performance by some of the wonderful middle school-musicians from the Roots of Music, sponsored by **Rick**

**Weil** (who also served as our distinguished tour guide and photographer). Learning about these nonprofits and thinking of ways to help them, combined with spending time together, eating well and talking nonstop, made for very good times.

In addition to **Marion**, board members **Sallie Gouverneur**, **George Putnam** and **Therese Steiner** were joined by **Charles Bush**, **Holly Weeks**, and spouses Cathy Putnam and John Riley; we joined a Second Line parade, prowled for beignets, helped **Milliken** scout talent for future concerts and contributed to the memorable



**The ROOTS OF MUSIC**

Twitter campaign #whatjusticemeans to benefit JusticeAID, launched by **Therese** with the help of social media maven **Betsy Munnell**. The **White Pony Express**, **JusticeAID** and **Roots of Music** are all Bridge projects which ClassACT sponsors.

**Recently**, a request to classmates for sewing machines and/or funds to underwrite them for the **Salih Self-Development Center** in Kumasi, Ghana, one of the ClassACT Bridge projects sponsored by **David Weeks**, has resulted in the delivery or promise of 5-7 machines, and several donations. The

Salih center plans to create sewing-based businesses for making school uniforms and, in time, fashions suitable for export to the US and Europe. Calling all HR73 clothing designer/importers! if you know of anyone who could advise the Salih group through David, find his contact info on the ClassACT website [classacthr73.org](http://classacthr73.org).

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### August - October and beyond:



Before, during and after the planning around the NOLA event, ClassACT has been hard at work getting our first stand-alone Class Act off the ground: the creation of an **endowed leadership fellowship at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government** in honor of **Benazir Bhutto**. The intent of this work is to identify young leaders willing to take risks, to arm them with targeted education, a network of peers, and a broad array of tools so they can lead in their countries. In conjunction with the fellowships

we plan to fund public education addressing strategies to strengthen leadership within the Muslim world consistent with Bhutto's principles on democracy, women's equality, reconciliation and education. For this effort we are drawing on the wisdom and ideas of classmates such as **Peter Galbraith, Kimball Chen, Holly Weeks, and Bahman Mossavar-Rahmani**.

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**July 12-13:** The Board got together in Maine to have a **Board meeting retreat**. It was quite productive as well as fun (you can see some party photos on our Facebook page). We had great lobster, joined by classmate **Ben Edes** and Lynne Jackson, and in a classic ClassACT moment, classmates **Steve Milliken** and **Steve Wessler**, who live on the same island, had the chance to meet for the first time and to share some of their good work with the rest of us.

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At our Board retreat we made a long list for ourselves of things we hope to accomplish. We're thinking about **economic and social injustice, ecological degradation, creating opportunities and improving living conditions** for people at home and abroad. We know we're just getting started tapping the concerns and harnessing the skills of the group -- **you** -- we strive to represent.

But we're here to say, it's a lot of fun! and feels good -- an interesting mixture of confronting challenging and stimulating issues, sharing comfort in our common experience and good fortune, pleasure in getting to know people we may not have known when we were all in school together; **just having a common goal**. It's pretty great.

So, **join us!** Register on [classacthr73.org](http://classacthr73.org) (set up and sustained by **Alec Smythe**), join **Emily** and San Francisco-area classmates and Harvard Club members on November 21, get in touch if the Bhutto project interests you or you want to let us know about nonprofit ventures you're involved in.

### We want to hear from you!

**Marion Dry, Co-Chair**  
**Jonathan Sprague, Co-Chair**  
**George Putnam, Treasurer**  
**Robert Adams**  
**Sallie Gouverneur**  
**Carl Muller**  
**Therese Steiner**



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**Twitter:** [@classacthr73](https://twitter.com/classacthr73)

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