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Achieving Change Together

October ClassACTions Bulletin

As the frenzy of news events increases each day, we return to the basics. The importance of family and friends, the desire for good health and safety, belief in democracy and the passion to achieve change together continue to provide a compass in these unsettling times. With the election finally upon us, ClassACT urges you to vote in the safest and best way possible but do **VOTE!**

CLASSACT WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

The Board of Directors of ClassACT is pleased to announce that **Dr. Vivian Lewis '73** has agreed to join the Board. You may remember that Vivian moderated our recent #ClassACTForum on Health Disparities. She brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership skills to our organization. **Marion Dry '73** says “A leader, doctor, professor, university administrator, scholar, and mentor to many, Vivian will bring her wisdom, experience and expertise to the ClassACT board and we will be stronger for it! Welcome, Vivian!”



Vivian Lewis M.D. (HR '73) is a professor emerita of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the University of Rochester's School of Medicine and Dentistry, where she has served in several leadership roles in the medical school and the university focused on promoting a more diverse and inclusive faculty and future healthcare workforce. She has numerous publications in medical literature and has held leadership roles in the National Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and has been part of advisory panels for the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Lewis is also a certified leadership coach whose current research focuses on mentoring and professional development – especially for underrepresented minorities and women in the sciences. She is a graduate of Columbia University's Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, and a current member of their alumni association board of directors. She also does volunteer work for the Harvard Club of Rochester and the Black Physicians Network of Greater Rochester.

#CLASSACTFORUMS CONTINUE

The #ClassACTForums are an ongoing success. Attended virtually by hundreds of classmates and guests, the Forums provide up-to-date information, stimulating ideas, and lively discussion. Forum topics have included COVID 19's impact on health disparities, sports, justice and voting, and mental health. Recordings and resources for all our forums are located on our [#ClassACTForum webpage](#). If you haven't joined us for a #ClassACTForum yet, please do so. ClassACT will continue to present these forums in 2021. **We would like to hear from you with ideas!** Please email us [here](#) with any suggestions. Here's what's ahead:

1. Fascism: Are we there yet?

October 20

7 p.m.-8:15p.m. ET

[Register here](#)

#ClassACTForum

A'LELIA BUNDLES '74
@aleliabundles

WILLIAM KRISTOL '73
@BillKristol

NADINE STROSSEN '72, J.D. '75

DR. CHAD WILLIAMS, RI '17
@Dr_ChadWilliams

Fascism: Are We There Yet?

ClassACT

Moderator **A'Lelia Bundles '74**, award-winning journalist, writer and historian, will lead panelists **William Kristol '73**, political analyst; **Nadine Strossen '72, J.D. '75**, the first female President of the ACLU; and **Dr. Chad Williams, RI '17**, Chair of African and Afro American Studies, Brandeis University, in an enlightening and engaging discussion of racism and its presence in America's past, present, and future.

2. School + COVID = Inequity Amplified

November 17

7 p.m.-8:15p.m. ET

A conversation among leading educators moderated by **Rebecca Sykes '73**, former President of the Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation and former Associate Head of School, Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass. Panelists include: **John B. King, Jr.**, former Secretary of Education under President Barack Obama; **Nick Melvoin, '08**, District 4 representative on the Los Angeles Unified School District school board; and **Angela Sims**, Principal, Chicago Public Schools Lenart Regional Gifted Center.

3. COVID and the Performing ARTS

December/January

Moderator **Marion Dry '73**, Co-Chair of ClassACT, former Director of the Wellesley College Music Performance Program and opera singer; **Jerome Harris '73**, jazz bassist and recording artist; **Peter Kazaras '73**, leading opera director and Director of Opera UCLA and the Inaugural Susan G. and Michel D. Covell MD Chair at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music; **Emily Mann '74**, former artistic director and resident playwright of the McCarter Theatre Center, Princeton University; and **Charlene Jones Marchant '73**, faculty member at Music Academy of North Carolina and member of the board of the Greensboro Opera, will explore the impact of the pandemic on performing artists and arts organizations and what the future may bring.

MORE CLASSACT AFFILIATED EVENTS IN OCTOBER

1. Climate, Government, and the Economy: Reform or Transformation?

Thursday, October 15, 2020 | 1:00-2:15 PM ET

[Register here](#)



ClassACT HR'73 is a co-sponsor of a series of Zoom webinars on climate, hosted by the Harvard Class of '69 and the HAA. Here is the notice on the next one and the link for registration.

Public policies and the marketplace have shaped global dependence on fossil fuels, the extraction of natural resources in the service of economic growth, and the widening inequality of health and quality of life outcomes. Will incremental reform of government and business be enough to forestall accelerating crises along these dimensions? Or is an agenda of more rapid and transformational change required?

Join Harvard faculty, students, and fellow alumni for a cross-disciplinary conversation about their respective experiences with these systems and where they see opportunities for change.

Moderator: **Miles Rapoport, AB '71**, Senior Practice Fellow, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, HKS

Speakers include:

Danielle Allen PhD '01, James Bryant Conant University Professor and Director, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics

Connor Chung COL '23, Student, Harvard College

Philip Duffy AB '74, President & Executive Director, Woodwell Climate Research Center

Ken Moraff JD '86, Environmental Protection Agency Region 1, Water Director



2. JusticeAid Voting Double Feature

Dance Party with DJ Suss One

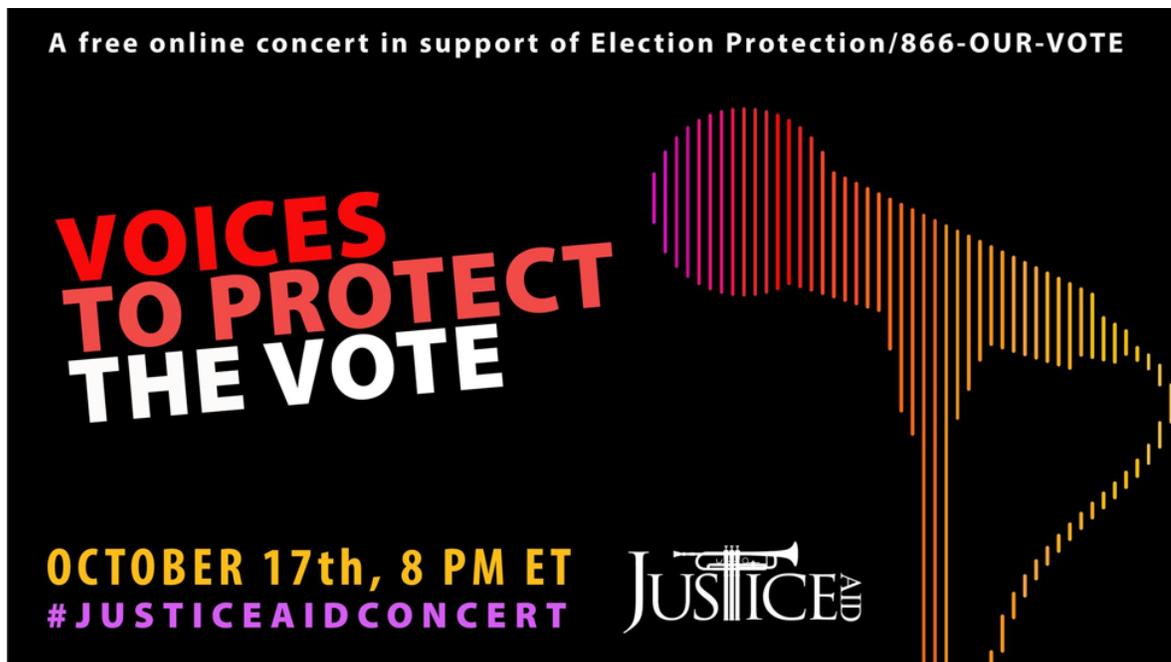
Friday, October 16th, 7pm EDT

JusticeAid is partnering with DJ SussOne to help get out the vote! Well recognized DJ Suss One will spin tunes for voter empowerment. To listen, go to your Instagram feed and follow [@djsussone](#), and get on your dancing shoes!

Saturday Night Fever!

JusticeAid Concert: Voices to Protect the Vote

Saturday, October 17th, 8pm EDT



Join [JusticeAid](#) and musical artists Rosanne Cash, Tom Morello, Regina Carter, Lila Downs, and Ivan Neville to rock for justice and voting rights in JusticeAid's fall concert **VOICES TO PROTECT THE VOTE**. 100% of the money raised during the concert will go to support JusticeAid's 2020 grantee-partner [Election Protection](#), and their work fighting voter suppression and guaranteeing that every American of voting age has access to the polls on November 3rd.

The concert will be live streamed on JusticeAid's [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#)

channels.

Tune in. Have fun. Make a difference.

UNDERSTANDING OUR DIFFERENCES NEEDS VOLUNTEERS



UOD Speaker in an elementary school classroom

ClassACT has recently added Understanding Our Differences to our growing list of [Bridge projects](#).

Understanding Our Differences (UOD) is a nationally recognized non-profit organization whose mission is to educate communities to value and respect people of all abilities, through school-based interactive disability-awareness programs. **Jeff and Marcia Herrmann ('73/'74)** have been passionate volunteers and supporters of UOD and its mission for decades.

UOD is attempting to adjust to the extreme challenges of the COVID-19 educational environment. The organization has been developing online versions of its 10 program units to present to students remotely, whether in hybrid or distance-learning models. This pivot to online education is critical to ensure continued successful delivery of the program to the greater Boston

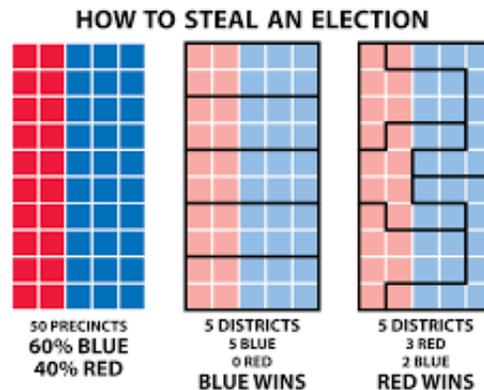
area and beyond.

Here's how you can help. Understanding Our Differences needs individuals who have:

- Expertise in marketing for educational programs and products
- Expertise in creative educational uses of the Zoom environment
- Connections with the disability community, so that we can feature speakers in presentations to students and/or to adults at special events, without geographical limits
- Expertise in producing effective and powerful virtual events
- Connections to foundations interested in incorporating a disability lens across their grant making

Contact [Marcia Herrmann](#) to help out.

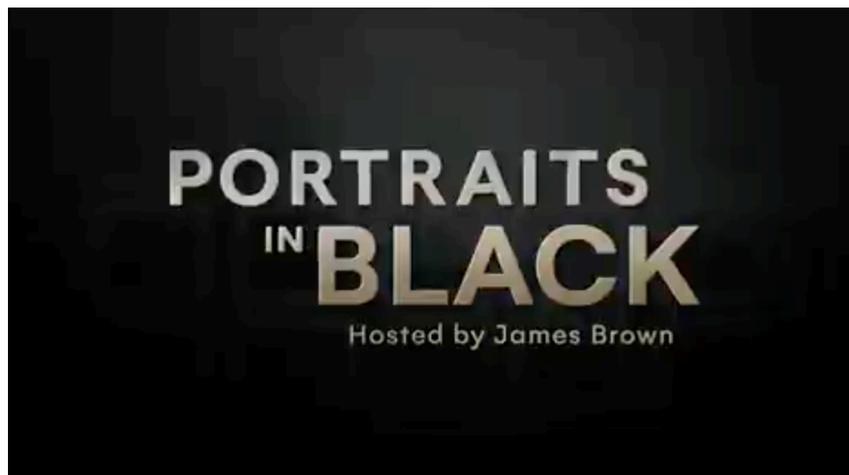
A PRIMER ON GERRYMANDERING



ClassAct's [Voter & Civic Engagement](#) group is working on a long-term project focusing on the issue of gerrymandering—the redrawing of voting district lines for certain desired outcomes. They are at work on a primer illustrating what gerrymandering is and what people can do in districts where it has been used to minimize the value of some votes. It's a complicated topic and the rules vary from state to state. Yet it is timely, as redistricting will begin again as a consequence of the data drawn from the 2020 census.

The group at work on the project—which includes **Nini Cohen '79**, and classmates **Sallie Gouverneur, Sara Greenberg, Jim Harbison, Andrea Kirsh** and **Ryan O'Connell**—is headed by ClassACT Board Member **Bahman Mossavar-Rahmani**. They aim to have the primer available by the end of the year.

PORTRAITS IN BLACK



Classmate **James Brown** has hosted a series for CBS on the Black Athlete in America. From Arthur Ashe and Althea Gibson to diversity hiring practices, the five episodes feature aspects of the Black professional athlete experience. You can watch each of the 5 parts at this [link](#).

Interested in helping ClassACT?

ClassACT is built on classmate participation and we are interested in having every classmate as a member of our ClassACT community. If you are interested in learning more about ClassACT and how you can be involved, please visit our [website](#) or send us an [email](#).

While encouraging the sharing of time and willingness to work together, ClassACT also welcomes financial support. To support our work in this way you can donate below.

[Donate Here](#)

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[Class Achieving Change Together \(Class ACT\), Inc.](#)

