

Please add [ClassACTHR73@gmail.com](mailto:ClassACTHR73@gmail.com) to your contacts so future messages don't end up in spam or some other odd spot in your inbox.



Achieving Change Together

## June 2020 ClassACTions Newsletter

### COMING THIS WEEK: CLASSACT ZOOM FORUM

**Game Changer: Sports in the Pandemic Era**

Thursday, June 18, 7pm EDT

Click here to register

#ClassACTForum



DICK FRIEDMAN  
@DickFriedman24



TOM VOLPE



KATHY DELANEY-SMITH  
@HarvardWBB



RICK WOLFF  
@askcoachwolff

**Game Changer: Sports in the Pandemic Era**

ClassACT

In a COVID-19 Forum event, author and former Sports Illustrated editor **Dick Friedman '73**, investment banker and minor-league baseball club owner **Tom Volpe '73**, and author and youth-sports expert **Rick Wolff**

'73 are joined by esteemed Friends of Harvard Women's Basketball Head Coach **Kathy Delaney-Smith** to discuss how the sports industry will be rearranged in the wake of the coronavirus.

[Click here for more information](#)

[Click here to share our Facebook event](#)

---

## SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING FORUMS

### **Whose Independence Day is This? Social Justice and Racism in America**

Tuesday, June 30, 7pm EDT



*Rep. Karen Bass, Chairperson, Congressional Black Caucus*

## **Panelists:**

- Moderator/commentator [Sylvester Monroe '73](#)
  - [Rep. Karen Bass](#)
  - [Soledad O'Brien](#)
  - [Steve Milliken '73](#)
- 

## **Health Disparities and COVID-19**

July 30, 7pm EDT



## **Panelists:**

- Moderator **Dr. Vivian Lewis, '73**
- Dr. Mary Bassett '74 (Harvard Public Health and former Commissioner of Health for NYC)
- **Dr. Prentiss Taylor '73** - telehealth expert
- **Sen. Al Franken '73**

# ELECTION PROTECTION



## LOOKING FOR LAWYERS

[Election Protection](#), a non-partisan organization that advises voters on their rights, is looking for lawyers to staff its hotlines on a remote basis. (You can take voters' calls at home.) **For further information and to sign up, please click [HERE](#).**

You can also contact **Ryan O'Connell '73** ([ryanoconnell2@gmail.com](mailto:ryanoconnell2@gmail.com)); please copy him if you sign up.

---

## PANDEMIC PROACTIVITY

“IT HAS COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY CHANGED EVERYTHING WE’VE  
BEEN DOING”

Despite the restrictions and frustrations the coronavirus has placed on travel and assemblies, two classmates are forging ahead to keep far-flung Bridge projects going.

---

**David Weeks '73** has three balls in the air. In the Rift Valley of Kenya, his organization [Osiligi Hope](#) is constructing a medical facility with spaces for a dentist, a pharmacy and a vision center. He estimates he needs nearly \$31,000 to complete the job. Down the line David hopes to construct a hospital ward, and eventually a center for the cultural arts (“If I live long enough,” he says drily). Because of the coronavirus, David has been unable to get to Africa to supervise. “I have a manager to keep it moving,” he says. He also is looking for a designer for the project’s website, which will aid in [fundraising](#).

In Kumasi, Ghana, David is supervising the [Salih Vocational Center](#), which trains 50 girls in sewing and computer design. But the pandemic has created a bigger priority.



### *Salih Vocational Center*

“Food scarcity was becoming a major issue and we wanted to address that,” says David. “So some of our funding went to buy bags of rice.” The same was true in the village of Camp Coq, Haiti, where workers have been trying to complete a well for a hospital facility. In addition to food shortages, travel restrictions have slowed progress. “We have funding for the installation of a well but we can’t get a drilling team in,” David says.

“We are trying to do as much as we can with what we have,” says David. “We are relying on folks with compassion to support what we have with the limited resources we have.”

---

**Dr. Ron Dieckmann '73** has experienced some of the same frustrations, particularly with travel restrictions. Ron’s organization, [Kids Care Everywhere](#), distributes software worldwide to help diagnose pediatric diseases and train local medical personnel.



The pandemic, he says, “has completely and utterly changed everything we’ve been doing.” For instance, “this year we were going to go to Nepal to train doctors in a med-school class. Instead, we have created a remote training model that we’ve delivered to the whole class. We think it’s the model we’re going to have to use until we can get boots on the ground again.”

---

## COMMUNITY, REIMAGINED



*Second line members in New Orleans parade*

The pandemic’s requirement to shelter-in-place has ripped many communities to tatters. But is there a chance that it also has helped knit new ones together? ClassACT board member **Rick Weil '73** wants to find out.

**Rick, who is a professor of sociology at Louisiana State University, has received a NSF grant for an in-depth study of “Community Cooperation in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.”**

Rick notes in his abstract, “In most major disasters, people come together to respond to the challenges....[But] a pandemic turns the usual face-to-face community cooperation itself into a source of threat, namely, the risk of infection. Thus, we address a novel question: What new forms of cooperation do people develop when they cannot easily come together in traditional ways? We conduct in-depth interviews with community leaders and members in New Orleans and Louisiana, places with (unfortunately) much experience in responding to disaster, but which have consequently developed significant traditions of innovation. We seek to identify (a) innovative strategies that community leaders are pursuing in response to the pandemic and economic dislocations – which, notably, emphasize synergies of mutual assistance under conditions of social distancing – and (b) the impact that the pandemic and the economic downturn are having on the general public.”

As Rick elaborates, “What I’m interested in is the synergies.” For instance, “in New Orleans, a club—the [Krewe of Red Beans](#)—ran a gofundme campaign to provide meals for hospital workers. They paid restaurants directly to prepare the meals. And they hired musicians to deliver them. So that killed three or four birds with one stone.”

---

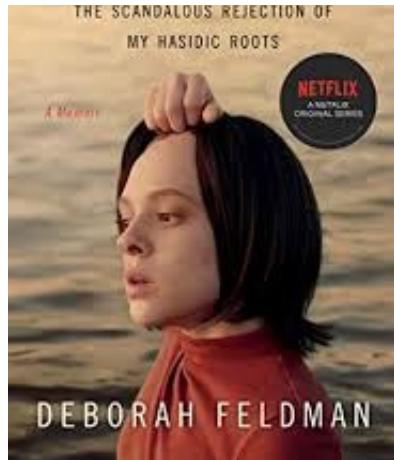
## WE GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM... JANE AUSTEN

During the London Blitz the British had an expression: “Keep calm and listen to Bach.” In that spirit, here are some recommendations from members of the ClassACT board and communications committee (plus a few friends) to soothe and stimulate while we shelter in place.

---

### TELEVISION





[Unorthodox](#) (Netflix). A young Hasidic wife leaves her sheltered Brooklyn community by escaping to (of all places) Germany.

—The Women of Whitman Hall

[The Big Bang Theory](#) (reruns on TBS, local Fox affiliates and streaming) and [Young Sheldon](#) (CBS). Two very funny, long-running, award-winning sitcoms that are helping us get through the Stay-at-Home, COVID-19 pandemic and everything else.

—Sandy Weissent

[Downton Abbey](#) (Amazon Prime). I watched all six seasons! I hadn't seen it when it came out. It was wonderful—a great escape.

—Henrietta Lodge

[Grace and Frankie](#) (Netflix). Brilliantly funny.

—Marion Dry

[Ozark](#) (Netflix). Intensely atmospheric crime series with sensational performances by Jason Bateman and Laura Linney.

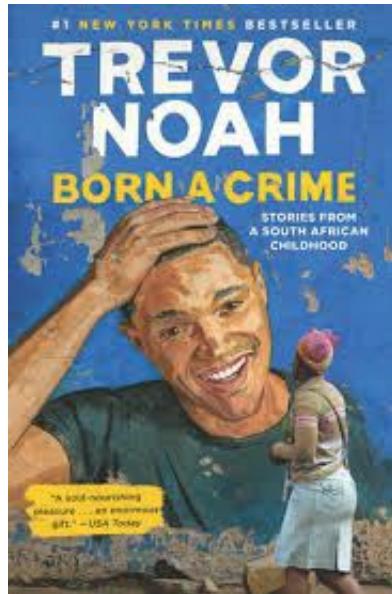
—Dick Friedman

[Sweet Magnolias](#) (Netflix). This is a Hallmark Channel kind of series, but I loved the characters

—M.D.

---

## BOOKS



[Born a Crime](#), by Trevor Noah. Fascinating perspective on apartheid.

—H.L.

[City of Girls](#), by Elizabeth Gilbert. NYC in the 1940s, theater, friendship.

—H.L.

[Inspector Gamache](#) series, by Louise Penny. Like “Sweet Magnolias,” the community of characters is reassuring, and who doesn't like a murder mystery?

—M.D.

[The Mirror & The Light](#), by Hilary Mantel. Finale of the acclaimed historical trilogy has Thomas Cromwell trying to keep his head while all around him are losing theirs.

—D.F.

[Persuasion](#), by Jane Austen. Her last novel and I have never read it.

—M.D.

[Small Great Things](#), by Jodi Picoult. A novel I read a while ago but despite its predictable, too-neat ending, a good way to look at all aspects of racism.  
—H.L.

---

## MUSIC



Mahler symphonies and song cycles. This is not escapism but his music expands my deepest emotions and lets me open up.

—M.D.

---

## PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO (VIRTUALLY)



[Getty Museum Art Challenge](#)

—Andrea Kirsh

[London Theatre](#)

—Janet Roen

[Get up and Dance video](#)

—Betsy Munnell

---

## 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\*\*](#)

*Please add [ClassACTHR73@gmail.com](mailto:ClassACTHR73@gmail.com) to your contacts so future messages don't end up in spam or some other odd spot in your inbox.*

Class Achieving Change Together (Class ACT), Inc.

[Website](#) | [Email](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)