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ClassACT

Achieving Change Together

ClassACTions August Bulletin

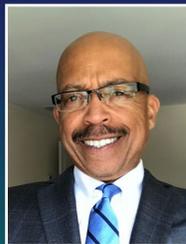
ClassACT hopes that you and your family and friends remain safe and healthy. In addition, we hope that the events of the past few weeks have encouraged you to re-examine ways to “achieve change together” in your neighborhood, state and country.

CLASSACT "IN THE AGE OF COVID-19 FORUMS"

#ClassACTForum



DR. MARY BASSETT '74
@DrMaryTBassett



DR. PRENTISS TAYLOR '73



VIVIAN LEWIS '73



AL FRANKEN, '73
@alfranken

Health Disparities: Lessons from COVID-19

ClassACT 

Health and health care inequities across racial and economic lives have leaped to the forefront of discussions during the COVID-19 pandemic. This was the focus of ClassACT's 6th forum, "Health Disparities: Lessons from COVID-19."

In a lively exchange, HR73 classmates **Dr. Vivian Lewis**, **Dr. Prentiss Taylor**, and **Senator Al Franken**, along with Dr. Mary Bassett '74, brought to light issues such as the large racial disparities in disease and medical outcomes, physician bias that begins in medical school, and the social/economic dimensions of health and health care. The overarching umbrella of politics and policy, both past and present, was woven into the fabric of the conversation. Please follow this [link](#) to see videos from the forum, resources from the chat section, and the panelists' calls to action.

All of ClassACT's past six "In the Age of COVID-19" forums, along with a host of ways to explore the issues in more depth can be accessed through our [website](#).

ClassACT's monthly forums will resume in September with topics including "Kids, Education and COVID-19," "Is Fascism on the Rise in America?," "The Impact of COVID-19 on the Arts," and "Pandemic Election Challenges." Information regarding the fall forums will be sent in the coming weeks.

HR73 CLASSMATES IN THE NEWS

Donna Brown Guillaume





Donna Brown Guillaume with Rep. John Lewis

Donna Brown Guillaume is a consulting producer for a PBS documentary about John Lewis entitled [***John Lewis: Get In The Way***](#). The hour-long documentary chronicles the Civil Rights era through John Lewis' story, exploring the complexities and difficult choices of the time and the key decisions he made. Donna helped secure funding for the film and moderates panels and discussions at screenings throughout the country. She says, "The resurgence of racial and ethnic prejudices and polarization in our current society adds an urgency to re-examine the movement in the humanities context and call attention to the meaning and legacy of the Civil Rights Movement, particularly with young people." The film tells John Lewis' story in an engaging manner for audiences of all ages.

Tom Cooper





Tom Cooper

Tom Cooper's just released new book, ***Doing the Right Thing: Twelve Portraits in Moral Courage***, features the lives and decision making processes of twelve people, including well known leaders such as Gandhi, Mandela and Truman, as well as less recognized people including William Wilberforce, Queen Esther, and Rachel Carson. Tom writes, "When our choices are not between clear cut good and evil, but are instead between two good, two evils or two (or more) unknowns, what do we do?" Written for both general interest and the classroom, Tom helps the readers gain insight into their own ethics examining how moral and ethical decisions are made. Through these "moral exemplars", he identifies ten crucial factors in ethical decision making. "I looked for aggregate patterns among the twelve profiles to find out what we may learn when making our own ethical decisions." Tom indicates that his book is available "in all the usual places." He welcomes feedback and questions at twcooper@comcast.net.

LET'S GET SOCIAL!



Our social team has been working hard to increase our online presence and we need your help!

Follow us on LinkedIn

Follow us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter

Follow us for updates, events, and resources, use [#ClassACTForum](#) to share your thoughts, and share/retweet with abandon!

TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION TO BE GLOBAL CITIZENS

—United Nations Association of Greater Boston, a ClassACT Bridge

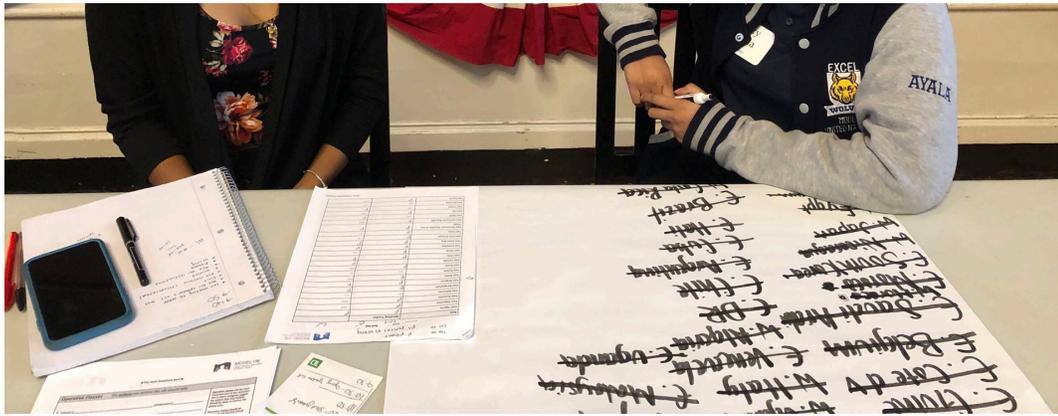
Our classmate, **Richard Golob '73**, is the sponsor for our Bridge relationship with UNAGB.

Their Executive Director, Caitlin Moore, sent us this message and invitation:

At this current political moment we recognize that support for human rights, multilateral institutions, and moral leadership is crucial for peace, wellbeing, and justice in this country and in the world. That is why we are committed to building a strong network of globally-aware citizens in the Greater Boston area who support the vision and work of the United Nations. The United Nations Association of Greater Boston (UNAGB) would be honored for members of ClassACT to support us in reaching our mission. Please consider joining us in one of the following ways:

1. Encourage the next generation of global citizens to act with courage, empathy, and a global perspective. One of the best ways to learn the skills and values of global citizenship is by taking on the role of a diplomat in a Model UN conference. There, students will collaborate with other young people from around the world to address an important global issue, like health, or climate change.





Two Participants in UNAGB's Model UN competition

UNAGB's fall Model UN conferences have gone virtual and we are welcoming registration at this time. Registrants should sign up as a team of 2-30 students and have a teacher or parent advisor. UNAGB conferences welcome a range of Model UN experience levels from beginner (no Model UN experience required) to advanced. (We also provide guidance advisors, so they do not need to have previous Model UN experience themselves.) We are excited that virtual conferences will make it possible for students from around the world to connect, so please help us spread the word to any and all who might be interested. Registration can be found [here](#).

2. Work toward achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by joining a UN Perspective Series event. Our next (virtual) event will take place on September

2nd, 5pm-6pm and focus on [SDG 4: Quality Education](#). You'll leave with a deeper understanding of the connection between local and global trends and with a short list of advocacy actions that you can take from home. If you feel particularly inspired, please consider joining our [SDG Committee](#) to help plan future programs. Learn more about our local and global speakers and register [here](#).

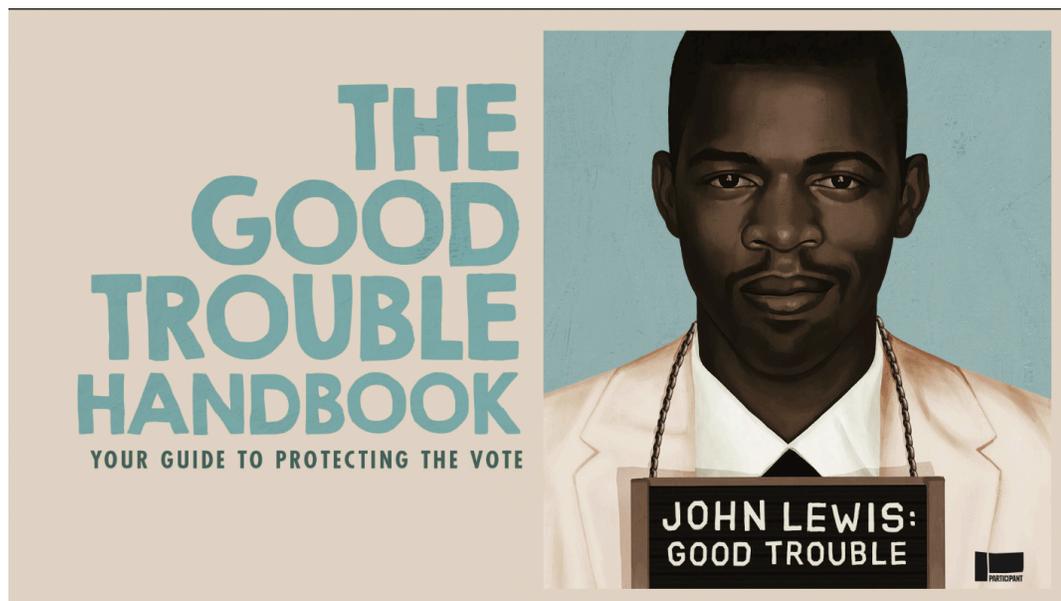
3. Celebrate BostUN75 with us. Join and follow the BostUN75 campaign -- UNAGB's thought provoking (virtual) celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the UN Charter entry into force. More information to come and will be updated [here](#).

4. Learn more about UNAGB's work and other opportunities for involvement. We'd be honored if you'd consider joining our newsletter by filling out your email address [here](#). We send a monthly email with information about all upcoming UNAGB events. We hope that one, (or more!) of our educational events capture your interest.

VOTE, VOTE, VOTE

The upcoming federal election on November 3rd is one of the most consequential in the history of our country. For that reason, everyone eligible must exercise their right to have a voice in this history. Here are some ways you can take action as compiled by ClassACT's Voter & Civic Engagement Initiative.

Call to Action: Vote! Vote! Vote!



Did you know that your voter registration may be inactive and your polling place may have changed? ClassACT, the Voter & Civic Engagement Initiative and JusticeAid encourage all classmates to **Make a Plan to Vote**. Find out deadlines and laws for voter registration, mail in ballots and voting in your state by going to the website of JusticeAid's 2020 beneficiary [Election Protection](#).

Check out the [John Lewis Voting Handbook](#), with "Make a Plan to Vote" steps and guidelines, forwarded by classmate **Donna Brown-Guillaume**. Classmate **Andrea Kirsh** recommends the [League of Woman Voters 100 Day Countdown](#) to the election.

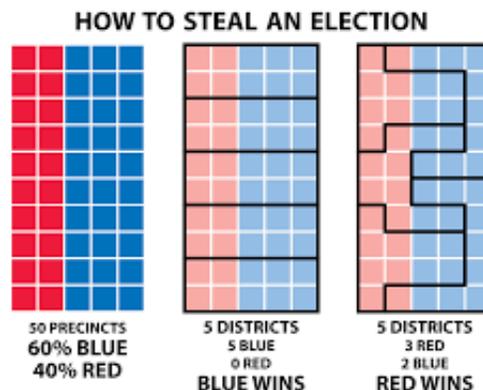
Contact V & CE co-chair [Therese Steiner](#) to get involved with a ClassACT Voter Registration drive.

Calling all HR '73 Lawyers

Anne MacKinnon '73, a lawyer and consultant who lives in Wyoming, participated in the training provided by Election Protection and advised voters in several states on their voting rights as part of Election Protection's voter hotline. Anne says, "I really enjoyed my first shift for Election Protection. They've got a good system. You help people with questions about getting their vote in, and at the same time document what may be problem trends in obstacles to voting at the local, state and national levels. It is great to field calls from people asking for help, so different from cold-calling people for a campaign. I'm eager to do it again. It was invigorating which is a rare thing in a pandemic."

Interested? Contact [Ryan O'Connell '73](#) for information on training and the program.

Everything you wanted to know about Gerrymandering and were afraid to ask



The Voter & Civic Engagement long term initiative is developing a primer about gerrymandering with state by state guidance for action to be made available to classmates. More to come! Contact V&CE co-chair [Bahman Mossavar-Rahmani](#) if you'd like to get involved.

JusticeAid

What issues are important to youth in the upcoming election? Join JusticeAid and young film makers and social media influencers for the JusticeAid Film Forum on Thursday, September 17th at 7pm, where winners of the JusticeAid prize of Civic Life Project's [Democracy 2020 Youth Film Challenge](#) in the mini-documentary and social media categories will be announced and screened, with an accompanying call to action to vote. Special guests to be announced!

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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