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Achieving Change Together

ClassACTions May Bulletin 2021

Here in the Northeast, the leaves and flowers have finally put in an appearance. One can feel summer is on the way. So, too, people are emerging from COVID bubbles. We're vaccinated, seeing family and friends, and beginning to feel that elusive sense of hope for a return to a better version of normal. ClassACT is appreciative of your continued interest in our activities and welcomes your involvement in any of our efforts.

FOUNDING CLASSACT BOARD MEMBER STEPS DOWN

It is with gratitude, admiration and deep affection that the ClassACT HR73 Board announces that a founding member, **Sallie Gouverneur**, has stepped down from the ClassACT Board.



*Sallie Gouverneur at our 2020 ClassACT Board Retreat, photo by **Rick Weil***

Sallie contributed in every way imaginable to the development of ClassACT, serving as the communications team of ONE for the first half of its existence;

as a core member of the [Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program](#) team; as a strong advocate for ClassACT's relations with the Radcliffe Institute; and as a wise counsel who joined in the creative thinking that led to the establishment of ClassACT and has kept it developing. Down the road, she found classmate **Barbara Lindsey '73** to help guide on nonprofit issues, and through Barbara's encouragement, she has become involved in healthcare equity in New Haven and surrounds. She says that the "start up" process is her passion. She currently serves as Secretary and Development Committee chair for [Project Access-New Haven](#), which enables doctors to donate their services to uninsured patients in the greater New Haven area; volunteers in the Branford [Community Dining Room](#), which serves 4500 meals a month to those in need; and spends as much time as possible at her loom. In leaving the board she reassured us all that she is not leaving ClassACT and we look forward to her continued engagement in our work.

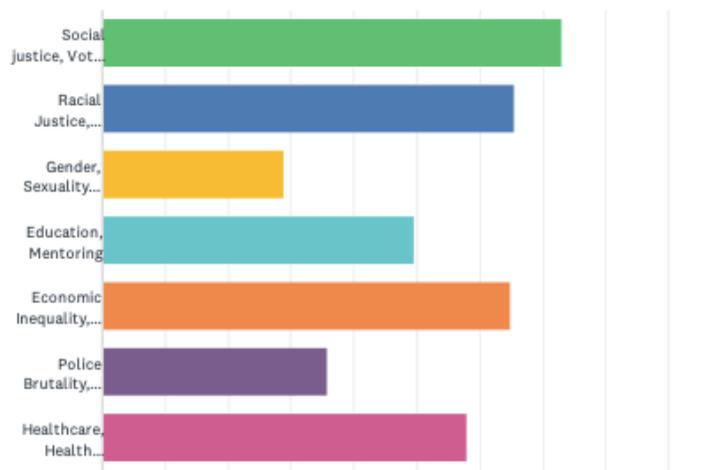
Sallie, thank you for your commitment to ClassACT, for your extraordinary work and leadership and for all you will contribute in the future. You are a marvel!

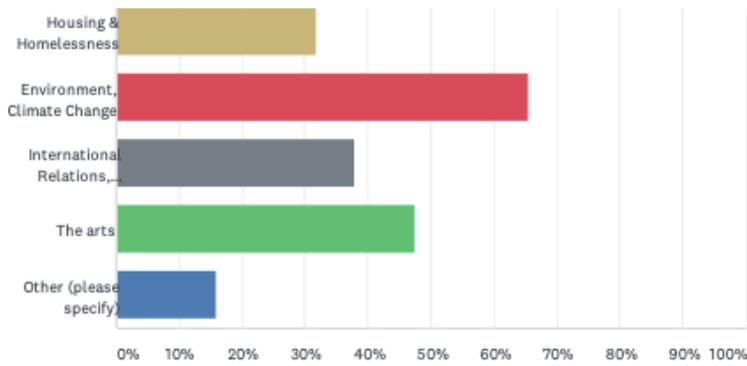
THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR CLASSACT SURVEY

If you are an HR73 classmate who filled out our survey in February, we would like to thank you, and share some of the results with the class.

Please visit www.classacthr73.org for more information or e-mail classacthr73@gmail.com to get involved. Don't hesitate...take the first step and become active. It is never too late to work together with fellow classmates to change the world.

1. What issues do you care about?



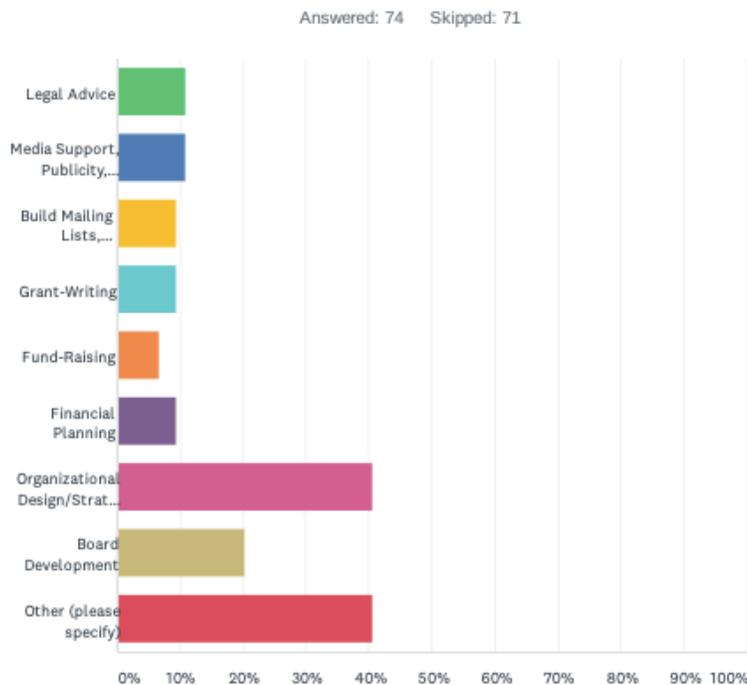


When we asked what issues do you care about? This is what you answered!
 We found that the most popular interest areas were:

- Social justice, Voter and Civic engagement, and Democracy
- Racial Justice, Equity, and Diversity
- Environment and Climate Change

We are keeping these statistics in mind as we plan for next year's activities.

2. What skills would you like to contribute?



ClassACT HR73 is working diligently to identify several classmate projects that need some additional help in the areas mentioned above. We are also looking to match specific skills and expertise of classmates who are willing to lend a hand. Through the survey you filled out, we heard about a number of amazing programs founded and run by classmates that could use a little extra

horsepower so we will continue to do our best to match committed

individuals to these projects and organizations.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GERRYMANDERING

NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE ACTION

Recently, ClassACT announced the availability of a [primer](#) on Gerrymandering that is written and produced by three members of our class. Thanks to **Jacki Swearingen '73** and **Rick Brotman '73** for providing summaries of the classmates' efforts. We urge you to watch Rick's short video and read Jacki's piece below, to read the primer and attend the upcoming ClassACT forum on gerrymandering in June.



Gerrymandering

By Jacki Swearingen

In this year of insurrection, gerrymandering threatens to weaken democracy even further due to the voter inequity and polarization it spawns. Gerrymandering buttresses a congressional system in which getting anything done is next to impossible. In state legislatures gerrymandering bolsters primaries where lawmakers flaunt dangerous conspiracy theories. As for individual citizens, a growing number feel their votes count for nothing.

“We think the problem is worse than we expected,” said **Ryan O’Connell ’73**, one of three Class ACT members who have just produced *Gerrymandering: Our Democracy at Risk*, a primer on redistricting reform. “It is a real threat to democracy. People’s votes don’t get equal weight.”

Gerrymandering too often remains hidden in back rooms where political operatives find ways to enhance their party’s political clout at the expense of

voters. “Gerrymandering occurs when the state legislature draws voting districts in a distorted manner,” O’Connell, **Jim Harbison ’73**, and editor **Sallie Gouverneur ’73** explain in their primer. Finding ways to give their parties as many victories as possible, these architects of gerrymandering have come up with ingenious methods to cram as many opposing voters into as few districts as possible while distributing their own voters in ways that allow them to capture slim majorities in the remaining districts.

Legislators who draw those maps have the most to gain from configuring the contorted districts. “The fox is guarding the chicken coop,” said O’Connell, who concludes that such a system shreds accountability. Those lawmakers then focus solely on the voters likely to reelect them while ignoring the rest and rendering their votes worthless. “It distorts the political process,” O’Connell said. “The forces of darkness are very strong.”

For the ClassACT team that created the primer, it is past time to break that web of secrecy and silence. Their five months of work has resulted in an incisive and detailed analysis of gerrymandering that inspires hope for change. Along with historical context that stretches back to 1788, they introduce readers to the latest mathematical tools used both to construct gerrymandered districts and to expose them. Most importantly, they provide pragmatic routes to reform already underway.

[Read Jacki's whole piece here](#)

JUSTICEAID FORUM: A CALL FOR AWARENESS AND ACTION



Photography by sheilapreebright.com

On Sunday, May 2nd, JusticeAid and Riverside Church presented this year’s JusticeAid Forum: [Safety for Whom? Racist Policing in Communities and Schools](#), bringing insight and awareness to the fiercely urgent issue of police accountability, racist policing and re-imagining public safety. The forum featured a keynote delivered by Sherrilyn Ifill, President and Director-

Counselor of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDF), a powerful statement by Rep. Cori Bush (Missouri, 1st district), a panel discussion by experts in the field, and performances by the Resistance Revival Chorus and jazz pianist Matthew Whitaker.

A shout-out to our ClassACT and HR '73 classmates involved: **Rick Brotman** edited the panel discussion and a wonderful promo, and four classmates joined the Host Committee: **Donna Brown Guillaume, Marion Dry, Henrietta Lodge, and Peter Mazareas. Steve Milliken** is the Founder & CEO of JusticeAid—which has been a sustained collaboration of ClassACT for seven years-- and **Therese Steiner** serves on the JusticeAid Board and was Co-Executive Producer of the Forum.

If you missed Forum, it's available anytime on the Riverside Church's [Youtube channel](#).

UPCOMING #CLASSACTFORUMS AND OTHER EVENTS

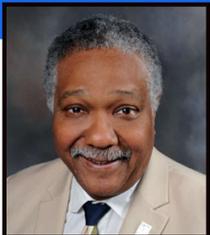
#ClassACTForum: Health Disparities and the COVID-19 Vaccine
May 20, 7-8:30 pm ET

[Register Here](#)

Health Disparities and the COVID-19 Vaccine

May 20, 2021
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (EDT)

A ClassACT Forum



Johnson B. Lightfoote '73, MD, MBA, FACR
Moderator
Chair, Commission for Women and Diversity,
American College of Radiology



Deborah Winn '73
Moderator
Retired Acting Director,
Division of Cancer Prevention,
National Cancer Institute



Uché Blackstock '99, MD '05
Founder and CEO
Advancing Health Equity
@uche_blackstock



Kenneth Chien '73, MD, PhD
Distinguished Professor
of Swedish Research Council
Karolinska Institutet and
Co-Founder Moderna, Inc.



Nina Schwalbe '88
Principal,
Spark Street Advisors
@nschwalbe

For the third time since the Covid-19 pandemic began, ClassACT examines the impacts of the virus on racial and ethnic groups and among under-served populations across the globe and within the United States. Our moderators and panelists, drawn from a broad spectrum of expertise in global health issues, will examine aspects of vaccine development, distribution and access that intensify health disparities and those that may promote health equity.

Dr. Johnson Lightfoote '73, Chair, Commission for Women and Diversity, American College of Radiology, and **Dr. Deborah (Debbie) Winn '73**, Retired Acting Director, Division of Cancer Prevention, National Cancer Institute, will co-moderate our distinguished panel, composed of leading experts on vaccine development, international health strategy and policy, and the elimination of racial health disparities: **Dr. Uché Blackstock '99, MD '05**, Founder and CEO of Advancing Health Equity; **Dr. Kenneth Chien '73**, Distinguished Professor of the Swedish Research Council, Karolinska Institutet and Co-Founder of Moderna, Inc; and **Dr. Nina Schwalbe '88**, Principal at Spark Street Advisors, a global health think tank.

JusticeAid Concert: A Change of Tone
May 27, 8pm ET

CALLING ALL JAZZ FANS. You are not going to want to miss JusticeAid's spring concert Change Of Tone, featuring multi-Grammy award-winning keyboardist Robert Glasper, one of the founders of a new sound that has changed the face of a genre—straddling the worlds of hip-hop, jazz, and Neo-soul.

[Register here to enjoy the concert](#)



This concert, a benefit in support of the work of NDS PACE, JusticeAid's 2021

grantee partner, is free and open to all. [Sign up](#) for JusticeAid's' mailing list to receive reminders and registration link for the concert.

Glasper will be performing with Terrace Martin, a multi-instrumentalist whose music production embodies everything from funk and jazz to classical and soul; Ben Williams on bass; Justin Tyson on drums; Jahi Lake (DJ Jahi Sundance) on turntables; and special guest trumpeter Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah.

It will be a night to rock on and remember!

**#ClassACT Forum: Gerrymandering: Our Democracy At Risk
June 10, 7-8:30pm ET**

[Register here](#)



On June 10, ClassACT will host a forum to accompany the primer on gerrymandering created by classmates **Ryan O'Connell '73** and **Jim Harbison '73**, and edited by **Sallie Gouverneur '73**. This forum was developed by our gerrymandering subcommittee, led by **Bahman Mossavar-Rahmani '73**, co-chair of ClassACT's Justice & Civic Engagement Initiative.

Ryan O'Connell '73 will be the moderator. He is the author of The Wall Street Democrat Political Newsletter and articles in Medium, Salon and The Globalist; with panelists **Alicia Bannon**, Managing Director, Brennan Center for Justice, New York University; **Brian Cannon**, Director of Campaigns at the Institute for Political Innovation and former Executive Director of OneVirginia2021; Jim Harbison '73, former physicist and computer scientist at Bell Labs and IBM, now focused on the mechanics and mathematics underlying gerrymandering; and **Michael Li**, Senior Counsel, Brennan Center for Justice.

#CLASSACTFORUMS WILL RE-ZOOM IN FALL 2021



Sylvester Monroe '73, Rick Jones, Christy Lopez, Gina Clayton-Johnson, and Jason Williams at our Racism and the Criminal System #ClassACTForum in March

Over the past 15 months, it has become clear that ClassACT's zoom forums have been a success. They have brought together not only experts from our class and other Harvard classes, but also renowned worldwide spokespeople to discuss the challenges of our times. True to ClassACT's focus on "achieving change together" the panelists' calls to action have provided audiences with concrete suggestions for ways to become involved individually and in their communities. After a summer break, ClassACT's forums will re-zoom!

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.](#)