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# ClassACT

## Achieving Change Together

### November ClassACTions Bulletin

Do you remember when holiday decorations went up and the shopping day countdown started AFTER Thanksgiving? Now that Halloween is over, we already see Christmas trees on sale and on display! ClassACT HR73 urges you to pause and remember the traditional spirit of Thanksgiving, and focus on what gives you a healthy feeling of gratitude. We are grateful for your ongoing participation, consistent enthusiasm, and your many meaningful actions, large and small, that help us all “Achieve Change Together!”

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**#CLASSACTFORUMS**

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**Can 21st-Century Capitalism Reverse School Failure, Climate Change, and Income Inequality?**

**December 16th, 2021, 7pm - 8:30pm ET**

[Register here](#)



A ClassACT Forum  
Can 21st Century Capitalism Reverse School Failure, Climate Change, and Income Inequality?  
Thursday, December 16, 2021  
7:30-8:30pm ET

  
Leigh Hafrey '73, Moderator  
Senior Lecturer  
MIT Sloan School of Management

  
Roger Ferguson '73  
Past President & CEO  
TIAA

  
Natasha Lamb  
Managing Partner and Co-Founder  
Arjuna Capital  
@ArjunaCapital  
@nllamb

  
Tracy Palandjian  
CEO and Co-Founder  
Social Finance  
@SocialFinanceUS

As business increasingly funds solutions to educational shortfalls, climate change, and income inequality in today's divided America, the boundaries among public-, private-, and civil-sector engagement are blurring. Can stakeholder capitalism take us beyond shareholder primacy to inclusive and informed social and material well-being? Come hear ClassACT HR73 board member and Senior Lecturer at the MIT Sloan School of Management, **Leigh Hafrey** moderate a panel of experts including **Roger Ferguson '73**, Immediate Past President & CEO of TIAA and former Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve; **Natasha Lamb**, Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Arjuna Capital; and **Tracy Palandjian**, CEO and Co-Founder of Social Finance. Our panelists will speak to the promise of and risks inherent in an evolving capitalism, and the governmental and citizen-based responsibility that a functional democracy requires.

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### October's #ClassACTForum

#### Water: Its Future is on the Line

[Click here for videos and resources from the forum](#)

Climate Change and Water Crises:  
Drought, Flood, Contamination  
...and What We Can Do About It

A ClassACT Forum Monday, October 25th, 7-8:30pm ET

 Erum Sattar, Moderator Program Director Sustainable Water Management Program Tufts University @erumsattar	 Andy Sawyer HR '73 Assistant Chief Counsel California State Water Resources Control Board	 Jeff Hébert President HR&A @jeffhebert	 Kelsey Leonard Water scientist, Legal scholar, Policy Expert, Writer, Enrolled Citizen of the Shinnecock Nation @KelseyLeonard	 William Moomaw Emeritus Professor International Environmental Policy Tufts University
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*Graphic from Rick Brotman '73*

W. H. Auden, the great English poet who understood both the human heart and the existential crises we share, wrote:

“Thousands have lived without love, not one without water.”

Moderator **Erum Sattar**, Program Director of the Sustainable Water Management Program at Tufts University, led a moving discussion about the threats of water scarcity, the escalating inequities surrounding water access, and the ways we might halt this slide into collective tragedy. The distinguished panel included **Jeff Hébert**, President of HR&A Advisors and

former First Deputy Mayor of New Orleans; **Kelsey Leonard**, Assistant Professor of Environment at the University of Waterloo and an enrolled citizen of the Shinnecock Nation; and **Andrew Sawyer '73**, Assistant Chief Counsel of the California State Water Resources Control Board. **William Moomaw**, Emeritus Professor of international environmental policy and founding director of the Global Development and Environment Institute at Tufts University, participated in the planning of the forum but was unable to join the Zoom panel on October 25, 2021.

Together the panelists examined crises like the catastrophic storms that hit cities like New York in the last year, the unprecedented peril the current drought poses for California and the Southwest, and the plight of Indigenous peoples, who are denied adequate use of the lakes and water systems their ancestors protected for centuries. In their calls to action, the panelists pointed not only to policy and regulatory changes that might preserve water sources and strengthen equitable distribution, but also to changes in cultural conceptions of rivers, lakes and oceans as autonomous beings with rights that might inspire greater stewardship.

At the forum's end, ClassACT Co-Chair **Marion Dry '73** called upon the audience to help ClassACT develop a concrete project that would promote the fair and just use of water systems, as well as their preservation. Please send project suggestions to [classacthr73@gmail.com](mailto:classacthr73@gmail.com).

ClassACT is pleased to share videos of the complete forum, shorter topical segments, and relevant audience questions. To broaden your understanding, we also share an extensive list of resources, organized by topic. Please take the time to review this material with care and share it with others.

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### COATS FOR KIDS



*Kids participating in the coat drive in New Orleans. Photo from Sue Press*

[Click here to donate a coat!](#)

ClassACT impacts individual lives in the US by participating in the annual coat drive sponsored by ClassACT's Bridge, The Ole & Nu Style Fellas Social Aide & Pleasure Organization. The organization was founded by the extraordinary leader and activist, Sue Press. In the past, members of the Class of '73 have donated more than 100 coats that have helped keep kids--toddlers to teens--from the Tremé section of New Orleans, warm and dry in the winter. Sue has told us that our donations have been extremely helpful and appreciated. Again this year, we ask that you consider donating a coat by going to the Amazon wish list link below! The coat give away event will take place around December 15, so please order your coat(s) soon.

To learn more about this organization and other Bridges, click [here](#).

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### CLASSACT HR73 RESPONDS TO AFGHAN REFUGEES



*Photo credit: Pradeep Gaurs/Shutterstock.com*

ClassACT is dedicated to “achieving change together.” While our efforts often focus on national and global changes, the connections made through ClassACT create ripple effects that result in positive change for individual lives. We are delighted to share another such example.

Our classmate **Jeremy Bluhm** lives in Sydney, Australia and has attended some of ClassACT HR73's virtual events. When the tailor on Jeremy's street, Reza Nikan, asked for help, Jeremy thought of ClassACT. Reza, who is “a wonderful Hazara man who has lived in Australia for about 15 years,” asked for help for his aunt, Hanifa (52), and cousin, Sabera (24). In October, Hanifa and Sabera were able to escape from Afghanistan to Islamabad, Pakistan, with a goal of resettlement in the US, Canada, Australia, or New Zealand. Reza reported that they landed in a foreign country as unaccompanied women and felt very vulnerable and afraid.

Upon Jeremy's request for assistance, we reached out to two of our former Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program fellows, Natasha Jehangir Khan and Nadia Rehman, and one BBLP Associate (and Natasha's husband), Muhammad Ali, who all live in Islamabad. The three immediately responded and have begun connecting with the women. Natasha and Ali are contacting the Afghan Representative in Islamabad to find out how the women can be helped. In addition, Natasha is helping Sabera, a fledgling dressmaker, connect with vocational training to improve her skills. Nadia is in the process of reaching out to Hanifa and Sabera to offer her assistance as well. Jeremy has been told to reassure Reza that they are living in a "fairly safe" neighborhood and that there are other Afghans living in the area. We are following these ongoing efforts and will provide updates in future communications.

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## JUSTICE & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATES



*Graphic from Rick Brotman '73*

The [Justice & Civic Engagement](#) Steering Committee has selected two compelling initiatives that it considers critical to the future of our democracy: a long term initiative focused on Civics Education and a short-term initiative centered on Voter Rights leading up to the 2020 midterm elections.

**Civics Education.** Our overarching goal is the preservation of democracy. It is believed that fewer than 30% of 4th, 8th and 12th grade students are proficient in civics. We will pursue strategies to raise awareness about how the U.S. government works, including use of social and traditional media and joint ventures with other organizations focused on the same goal.

**Voter Rights.** A natural extension of the Justice & Civic Engagement Committee's 2021 Gerrymandering project, the Voting Rights project has two goals:

1. Promote, educate and inform divergent local and national communities on the importance of voting rights, and free and open access to voting for all American citizens as critical to the future of our democracy.
2. Identify potential partnerships and work with these organizations to

help with getting out the vote and voter registration for the 2022 midterm elections.

**Join in!** Our next committee meeting will be in early December. If you are interested in joining the discussion and working on the development of these initiatives, please contact Co-Chairs: Bahman Mossavar-Rahmani [bahmanmr@aol.com](mailto:bahmanmr@aol.com) and/or Therese Steiner [tsteiner@therese Steiner.com](mailto:tsteiner@therese Steiner.com).

Special thanks to our steering committee members: Donna Brown Guillaume, Nini Cohen, Marion Dry, Boris Furman, Marilyn Go, Richard Golob, Sallie Gouverneur, Sara Greenberg, Jim Harbison, Helen Hershkoff, Daniel Hoffheimer, Nancy Irving, Hugh Kelleher, Andrea Kirsh, Jean Leventhal, Vivian Lewis, Johnson Lightfoote, Ryan O'Connell, Anne MacKinnon, Peter Mazareas, Stan Mark, Terrence McNally, Stephen Milliken, Sylvester Monroe, Patrick Tchou, Sarah Ulerick, Rick Weil and Merry White.

We are especially pleased that several members of our group come from other Harvard classes.

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### **JUSTICEAID FALL CONCERT: MAVIS STAPLES & AMY HELM**



*Mavis Staples and Amy Helm. Photos from [JusticeAid](#)*

[Learn more about the concert here](#)

Music and social justice are inextricably linked in American history. On October 19th at the Lincoln Theatre the two converged once more for JusticeAid's fall concert featuring Mavis Staples and special guest Amy Helm.

Music and civil rights legend Mavis Staples literally rocked the house through several standing ovations; singing classics such as Martin Luther King's favorite "Why (Am I Treated So Bad)" plus fan favorite "I'll Take You There," in addition to a range of gospel classics and newer songs. Amy Helm, known for her powerful vocals and eclectic range of Americana roots music (soul, rock, gospel, rock, blues), also took the stage with her all-star band, and played several instruments showcasing her mastery of these musical styles. "Breathing" and "Cotton and Cain" (just submitted for a Grammy!) from her recent album, *The Flood Leaves Behind*, energized the crowd, as did Bruce Springsteen's "Atlantic City," a moving tribute to the artists' late father and

drummer Levon Helm, who covered the song in the early 90s on the Band's album, *Jericho*. Mavis worked closely with Levon Helm in the 1970's, and Amy paid tribute to Mavis in her set, describing how Mavis often kept her company while Helm's father was performing.

Donations earlier this year from JusticeAid's virtual concert with Robert Glasper, plus ticket sales, donations, and sponsorships for the Fall concert, together garnered a total of \$421,242 that JusticeAid is contributing to its 2021 grantee-partner, the [Neighborhood Defender Service](#), to expand its Police Accountability/Community Empowerment (PACE) program.

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### **Author Talk with Kristin Henning**



[Click for a video of the discussion](#)

*Photo from [JusticeAid](#)*

JusticeAid also sponsored an in-person (proof masks on!) Author Talk with Kristin Henning, spotlighting her new book: *The Rage of Innocence: How America Criminalizes Black Youth*. This provocative conversation between Georgetown Law professor Kristin Henning and American University Washington School of Law Professor Angela J. Davis focused on the trauma experienced by Black youth resulting from racism, discrimination, and failures of the juvenile justice system. Above is a link to a video of the discussion, which was held at Busboys and Poets in Washington, D.C, October 19, 2021.

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### **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.](#)



