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ClassACT

Achieving Change Together

October ClassACTions Bulletin

Fall is bittersweet. Here in the Northeast, cool, but glorious and colorful days replace the promise of barefooted, endless summer. Exciting new school years and challenging new work projects replace slower summer activities. Yet still, the clouds of climate change, COVID and contentious politics remain a focus of concern for all. We hope that you find some time and the inclination to carve a pumpkin, attend a show, read a novel, see a friend or otherwise provide yourselves the opportunity to escape (if only temporarily) the clouds.

OUR NEXT ZOOM FORUM: A DEEP DIVE INTO WATER

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

**Monday, October 25
7 PM-8:30 PM ET**

[Register here!](#)



**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 Hebert President HR&A @jeffhebert	 Kelsey Leonard Water scientist, Legal scholar, Policy Expert, Writer, Enrolled Citizen of the Shinnecock Nation @KelseyLeonard	 William Moonaw Emeritus Professor International Environmental Policy Tufts University
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Photo credit: Rick Brotman '73

What's in the water? Who owns the water?

Will there be water?

If Marvin Gaye were alive and singing, the theme of water might be his followup to “What’s Going On?,” given the way climate change has disrupted our seemingly reliable water cycle.

We have assembled a powerhouse panel of experts to discuss what’s going on, and to suggest possible solutions. In a prep session, each came at the various crises from different and provocative directions. They are:

[Erum Sattar](#), **Moderator**, is the Program Director of the multidisciplinary Sustainable Water Management Program (SWM) at the Friedman School and the Tufts Institute of the Environment.

[Andy Sawyer](#) ’73, Assistant Chief Counsel at California State Water Resources Control Board.

[Jeff Hébert](#), former First Deputy Mayor & Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Resilience Officer, and Executive Director of the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, and current President of [HR&A](#), a firm that aims to help more equitable, resilient and dynamic communities.

[Kelsey Leonard](#), water scientist, legal scholar, policy expert, writer and enrolled citizen of the Shinnecock Nation .

[William Moomaw](#), Emeritus Professor of international environmental policy and founding director of the Center for International Environment and Resource Policy at the Fletcher School of Tufts University.

During a stimulating prep session, panelist Jeff Hébert laid out the situation in stark terms: “It impacts everywhere. There’s the intersection of climate and equity...As we see the water crisis in the west, and the wildfires and the hurricanes and floods, not just in the context of the US but around the world, [we need to ask]: who can afford to adapt? Whose responsibility is it to pay? Who is most vulnerable? What are the other levels of vulnerability that those who are vulnerable to climate change face, and what responsibility do we have in thinking through this? And what are the levers of change? Those who are already left out will continue to be left out and climate is only exacerbating conditions that already exist, particularly as they exhibit themselves in cities and large population centers. As we go very far down into the science of climate and engineering, we may lose sight of the people who are going to be most impacted, if you look at Miami, New York, Los Angeles, Houston... anywhere.”

And everywhere. For that reason, this could turn out to be our most vital Forum. Do not miss it, and please invite your friends.

JUSTICEAID CONCERT WITH MAVIS STAPLES & AUTHOR TALK

JusticeAid’s mission is simple: Do good through music and the arts

Rock with Civil Rights and Social Justice Music Icon Mavis Staples

Oct. 19 @7:20pm ET, Lincoln Theatre, Washington, D.C.



Photo from justiceaid.org

[Click here to purchase tickets](#)

Join [JusticeAid](#) live in concert with Mavis Staples and Amy Helm at the historic Lincoln Theatre on U street on Tuesday evening, October 19th at 7:20pm ET. All proceeds from the show will benefit Neighborhood Defender Service in support of JusticeAid's 2021 issue: police accountability and community empowerment. It will be a fun evening supporting a pressing social justice cause---a great event to share with family, friends, colleagues or clients. Great seats available at an array of price points.

**Proof of vaccination, and masking will be required consistent with DC policy.*

Author Talk: Kristin Henning, *The Rage of Innocence: How America Criminalizes Black Youth*

A JusticeAid Facebook Live event Oct. 19 @5:00pm ET



Photo from justiceaid.org

Tune in at 5:00pm ET on JusticeAid's [Facebook Live page](#) for an important conversation on the intersection of race, adolescence and policing with Kris Henning, author of *The Rage of Innocence: How America Criminalizes Black*

Youth. Professor Henning serves as the Blume Professor of Law and Director of the Juvenile Justice Clinic and Initiative at Georgetown Law, and was previously the Lead Attorney of the Juvenile Unit at the D.C. Public Defender Service. For additional information, go to JusticeAid's [Facebook page](#).

Professor Henning will be in conversation with Angela J. Davis, Distinguished Professor of Law at American University Washington College of Law. Professor Davis is an expert in criminal law and procedure, with a specific focus on prosecutorial power and racism in the criminal justice system. Professor Davis previously served as director of the D.C. Public Defender Service, where she began as a staff attorney representing indigent juveniles and adults.

A FOLLOW-UP FROM THE CLASSACT JUSTICE & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

KEY VOTING LAWS UP FOR SENATE VOTE



Photo credit: Anna Stonehouse / The Aspen Times via AP

Building upon the concerns for a healthy democracy that we expressed in our [ClassACT HR73 Gerrymandering Primer](#), we have become increasingly alarmed by many states' moves to restrict voting rights. We urge you to contact your Senators and ask them to support two bills on voting rights that are coming up for a vote. The proposed laws are critical for defending voting rights against this onslaught and preserving our democracy.

1. The Freedom to Vote Act would ban partisan gerrymandering and unjustified purges of voters from the rolls. The Act would require states to provide mail-in ballots, early voting, and automatic voter registration. The proposed law would also help to protect state election officials from political interference, which has become a serious threat after the 2020 election. In a major concession, the bill would set a federal standard for voter identification, but it would allow a broad array of documents for voter ID.

2. The John Lewis Voting Rights Amendment Act would protect minority voters against discriminatory laws and regulations. This Act would supersede Supreme Court rulings that have gutted the two key provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The VRA required states with a history of racial discrimination to get pre-clearance of proposed voting laws from the

Department of Justice, and it also allowed plaintiffs to file suits challenging laws that disenfranchised minority voters.

3. We also urge you to call upon your Senators to support the creation of a limited carve-out to the Senate's filibuster rule. The carve-out would exempt proposed legislation that is intended to protect fundamental constitutional rights, such as the right to vote. The carve-out resolution would specifically refer to these two voting rights bills. If the Senate does not pass such an exemption, it is highly unlikely that these crucial bills will become law.

Modifying the filibuster rule only requires a majority vote, unlike proposed legislation, which must be passed with at least 60 votes.

To call: the main telephone number for the Senate is 202- 224-3121. Here is a [pdf](#) with extensions for each Senator - find your representative and give them a call!

To email: Click [here](#) to find your senator, sorted by state. The website will bring you through a set of forms that will create an email in which you can express your support of the actions we are suggesting.

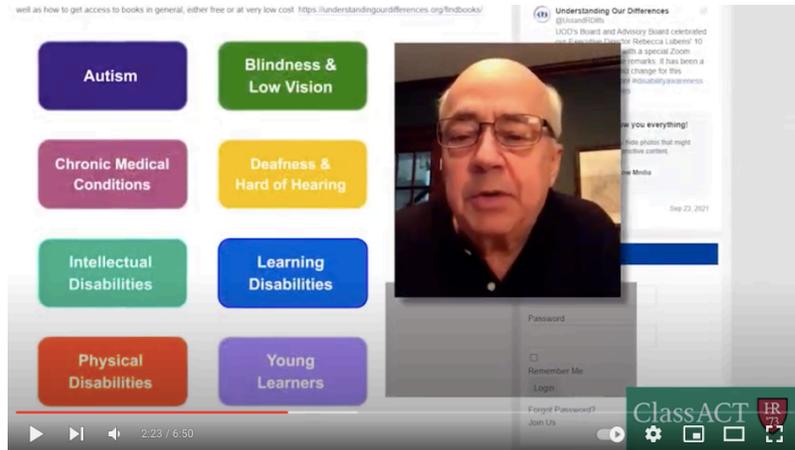
MEET OUR NEW BBLP FELLOW



Video credit: Rick Brotman

After a pause due to the pandemic, ClassACT's [Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program](#) fellowship is back! Our 2021/2022 BBLP fellow **Zeina Majdalani** hails from Lebanon. She is a civil engineer and has spent 10 years working for the Lebanese government in the water and energy sectors. In addition, in 2017 she founded an organization for women engineers and architects. Interested in sustainable practices and policy, she is taking five courses at HKS and MIT. Zeina is grateful for the fellowship and says her goal is to promote "positive change in Lebanon." Click on the image to view **Rick Brotman '73's** four minute video to learn more about Zeina.

BRIDGE PROGRAM UPDATE: UNDERSTANDING OUR DIFFERENCES



Video credit: Rick Brotman

[Understanding Our Differences](#), an award winning, nationally recognized program that helps students not only increase their knowledge and understanding of differences among people, but also provides practical skills, is one of ClassACT's Bridge Programs. Please click on the image above to view **Rick Brotman '73's** short video that explains in detail about the program and how ClassACT helped it move forward in its growth.

DISASTER RELIEF: HOW TO HELP

Bridge Program Children's Orchestra Needs Help Rebuilding



Photo from The Children's Orchestra

It was late summer when Hurricane Ida wreaked havoc in New York City. Classmate **Yeou-Cheng Ma** reports that five feet of flood water filled the basement headquarters of The Children's Orchestra, a ClassACT Bridge program. Instruments (including two pianos), sheet music and records were saturated and the program was in jeopardy. Luckily, they were able to begin

their fall classes for children 4 to 18 years old on time, but recovery and rebuilding from this devastating loss continues. Please click on this [link](#) to read more and donate to this worthy project.

Helping At Risk Afghans
Afghanistan Transit Initiatives



Photo credit: Marius Arnesen

Many classmates wonder how to help Afghan colleagues, activists, women, journalists, members of the LGBTQIA community, etc. reach safety outside of Afghanistan.

HR73 classmate **Alec Smythe's** daughter, Laura Sanders, is a cofounder of Afghanistan Transit Initiatives, an organization that has helped approximately 500 individuals flee from Afghanistan, and another 300 move to safer locations within the country. "We could take on more if we had more funding and volunteers," says Ms. Sanders, who lived and worked in Afghanistan. "A generation of Afghan leaders is in extreme danger as Taliban hunt and execute people they see as enemies--anyone who worked with the United States government, artists, activists, women who dared to take non-traditional roles, ethnic minorities, and LGBTQIA people." Afghanistan Transit Initiatives provides safe houses, passport facilitation, and communications for those in their care in hiding and waiting for opportunities to leave, and connects evacuees with flights and overland options to third countries, where they can safely stay while their visas for onward travel are processed. Transit Initiatives' support means the difference between safe escape and a life in hiding, or worse.

How you can help:

To donate: [Click here](#)

For wire transfers, etc. contact Laura Sanders, laurasandersnbo@gmail.com, or call 202-651-0609.

Volunteer assistance needs: Fundraising and grant writing expertise;
Editorial writing & advocacy; Drafting marketing materials/ build out website
Contact [Laura Sanders](#).

FROM AFGHANISTAN TO AUSTRALIA, '73 CONTRIBUTES TO THE HARVARD CLUB OF THE NORTH SHORE

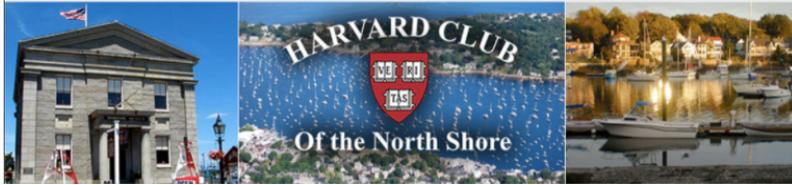


Image from HCNS

Members of the Class of 1973 have made significant and valuable contributions to helping **Peter Mazareas '73** revitalize the Harvard Club of the North Shore. Over the past 8 years, classmates have generously given their time and have been featured in nine different events ranging from lectures to rock and roll dance concerts.

Most recently, on September 11, **Peter Galbraith '73**, an author and diplomat with vast international experience in Afghanistan and Iraq, gave a thought-provoking presentation called “9/11 to Afghanistan: Why America lost its longest war” to members of the club and others from around the world.

**Please note that the link below only works if you are logged into zoom. Make sure you are logged in before viewing. If you're having problems, please email classacthr73@gmail.com.*

[Click here to watch the video](#)

Previously, **Marion Dry '73** in her role as Co-Chair of ClassACT had joined with Peter Galbraith to launch the first ClassACT education event for the Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program as a Harvard Club of the North Shore program. Marion presented and introduced Peter, who spoke on Isis, Iraq, and Syria. A group of 151 were in attendance.

Robert Booth '73, author and historian, spoke twice about his books, “Death of an Empire: The Rise and Murderous Fall of Salem,” “America’s Richest City” and “Mad For Glory; A Heart of Darkness in the War of 1812.”

Larry Vincent '73 zoomed in from Australia to lecture on his recent book “A Theft of Privilege,” about the secret Clubs of Harvard.

Multi-talented classmate **Thomas Cooper** leads the '73 contributors with three appearances. He presented twice on two books he authored, “Doing the Right Thing” and “Media Fast.”

In addition, Tom Cooper and our '73 reunion band, Sundance, gave a sold-out rock and roll concert and dance event. Tom, along with two '73 classmates, **Steve Madsen** and **Geoff Roever**, rocked a full house. Other former '73 members of Sundance are **Jerome Harris** and **Steve Bowman**.

Finally, leveraging classmate family members, classmate **Evan Thomas's** daughter Louisa Thomas '04 presented her book "Losers," an analysis of sports figures and the impact of winning and losing.

The Harvard Club of the North Shore thanks all of the classmates listed above for their contributions to HCNS.

In addition to revitalizing the activities for the HCNS, Peter Mazareas connected with **Bob Bowie '73**, founder of the HAA's Early College Awareness Program. Bob encouraged Peter Mazareas and provided the foundation for the Harvard Club of the North Shore's Early College Initiative. Peter Mazareas succeeded Bob and is now co-chair of the HAA's ECA initiative and public service program.

CLASSES COME TOGETHER



ClassACT was founded on the premise that alumni can and should organize to make substantial positive social impact. In a recent Harvard Gazette article, HAA Director Phillip Lovejoy discussed the many advantages of Harvard alumni connecting with the University and with each other. In that context, he mentioned ClassACTHR73 as a prime example of the good work that can result from a reunion. Please see the relevant Q&A taken from the Gazette article. The full article is included in this [link](#).

GAZETTE: What role does coming together through reunions play in Harvard's alumni community?

LOVEJOY: Reunions mean the world to our alumni, and it's amazing to me the amount of heart and soul that our volunteers put into creating these experiences for their classmates. Reunions bring them back to their student experience. I also hear many stories about alumni creating new friendships at their reunions with people in their class they had not met before, building lifelong relationships as a result.

Reunions are not just about strengthening connections to each other, but they also help alumni see and understand the Harvard of today — and the role that Harvard can and does play in our world. They see and hear from their classmates who are having an impact in their communities, and even on a global scale, doing really important work in a whole range of areas. That then drives action. Take, for example, ClassACT HR73, an alumni organization that addresses local, national, and international problems. That arose from members of the Class of 1973 after

their 40th reunion; they all got together and heard about the incredible work that people were doing around problems like hunger, women's rights, and other issues. They said, "We have a lot of potential within the context of this class to bond together and make connections," which is beyond the writ of what we in HAA could do, but it's exactly the kind of activity we want to see happen when alumni come together. ClassAct '73 is now taking root across the classes. There are always sparks like that.

As Lovejoy mentions, ClassACT has been active in helping other classes create their own groups. We have had discussions with ten other Harvard classes interested in ClassACT concepts, and several classes have moved to establish their own ClassACT models. For example, the Class of 1978 has created a model to link several classes with graduation years ending in "8."

[Click here to learn about the Class of 1978](#)

[Click here to learn about the Class of 1979](#)

Other classes have yet to develop ClassACT models but are interested in finding ways to engage classmates in collective action to create positive change. ClassACT HR73 will continue to develop a mutually supportive network of classes in order to share their experiences and the tools used to advance classmate engagement.

The group of collaborating classes has also been willing to promote the others' public educational forums. In this spirit, please read the information below about an HR85 forum on October 27th.

WILL GLOBAL HEALTH SURVIVE THE PANDEMIC TEST?

Presented by the Harvard Radcliffe Class of 1985

[Register here](#)



Dr. Madhukar Pai

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted and aggravated longstanding global health inequities. The Black Lives Matter movement as well as ongoing calls to decolonize global health have all created space for uncomfortable but important conversations that reveal serious asymmetries of power and privilege that permeate all aspects of global health.

On October 27 at 8:00 pm EDT, ClassACT HR85 will host a conversation between Dr. Madhukar Pai and Dr. Kevin Schwartzman '85. Dr. Pai will discuss fundamental flaws in the traditional conception and delivery of “global health.” Drawing on his experience in global health, he will suggest potential ways to rethink and redesign global health—building on approaches that are truly inclusive and effective.

Panelists:

Dr. Madhukar (Madhu) Pai is Canada Research Chair in Epidemiology and Global Health at McGill University, Co-Editor in Chief of PLOS Global Public Health, and associate director of the McGill International Tuberculosis Centre.

Dr. Kevin Schwartzman, AB'85, MPH'95, is director of the Respiratory Division at McGill University, and a clinician-scientist at the McGill International Tuberculosis Centre. Kevin will engage Madhu in conversation on these issues, followed by questions and discussion from the audience.

Crimson Goes Blue

Another example of multi-class alumni engagement is [Crimson Goes Blue](#), which has over 1,200 members. This organization seeks to mobilize Harvard alumni to secure a just democracy through political activism. While this is a more partisan approach than is taken by ClassACT, it may interest some of our classmates.



Image from Crimson Goes Blue

Crimson Goes Blue's mission is to harness the talents, passions and resources of the Harvard alumni community to forge a more just democracy. Founded in 2010 by a small group of Harvard '84 alumni after their 25th reunion to

take back the White House and turn the Senate Blue, Crimson Goes Blue fosters high-impact political engagement among the Harvard-Radcliffe alumni community by defending the Freedom to vote and supporting candidates in order to preserve and grow the Democratic majority.

To get involved or for more information contact Lisa Ulrich, Co-Founder & Managing Director, at lisa.ulrich@crimsongoesblue.org.

CLASSACT PANELIST IN THE NEWS



Photo from Dr. Mary Bassett

In July 2020 the pandemic was raging, and there was no vaccine. ClassACT sponsored a [forum](#) on healthcare disparities in the response to COVID-19. One of our panelists was **Dr. Mary Bassett '74**, who spoke on the many issues in the healthcare system that negatively impact populations of color. Little more than a year later we are delighted that Dr. Bassett has been appointed New York's Commissioner of the Department of Health. Mary's compassion and knowledge will be an asset to the whole state. Congratulations to Mary, who describes herself as an honorary member of the Class of '73!

You can read the whole article [here](#).

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.](#)

