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**Achieving Change Together**

## August 2022 ClassACTions Bulletin

Tempus fugit. What happened to the elusive endless summer? Despite record high temperatures, floods, fires and flight delays, for most of us summer means that we take some time to move at a slower pace, renew and regroup. However, the month of August, like one long Sunday night, reminds us that a new season of activity is on the horizon. ClassACT HR73 is gearing up for attending fall zoom forums, planning pre-reunion activities and focusing on the future while celebrating our many accomplishments.

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### **CLASSACT HR73 LEADERSHIP CHANGE**



It has been nine years since our 40th Reunion when **Jonathan Sprague '73** and **Marion Dry '73** proposed to classmates that it was "not too late to change the world" and presented ideas for "creating change together." After the Reunion, a small group of classmates got together and created ClassACT HR73. Since then, Jonathan and Marion have served as Co-Chairs for ClassACT, devoting themselves to leading a growing community of HR73 classmates working to make a positive impact on our world. Jonathan's personal impact on the organization has been immeasurable. He has now decided the time has come for him to step down from his role as Co-Chair. He will remain on the Board, which will discuss the organization's leadership model in the coming months.

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### CALLING ALL CLASSMATES!



*Click the image above to see what these videos might look like!  
Created by Rick Brotman '73*

For almost 50 years many in the Class of '73 have taken our college passions and continued to work, in ways large and small, towards a more equitable, responsible and engaged community. This pursuit has taken on many forms. Over the next several months, with **Rick Brotman '73** at the helm, ClassACT HR73 intends to create a series of videos illustrating the stories of how our classmates are working towards positive change in their communities, the nation and the world.

In addition to honoring classmates we already know, we hope to discover the good works of others. As we approach the 50th reunion, the project will help

us learn more about the Class of '73 and focus our conversation to how ClassACT can support these types of activities. Our Bridge program has provided a starting point for this project, but we know there are more classmates out there who are promoting positive change.

**If you would like to be interviewed about a project you are doing or an organization you are affiliated with, please fill out the form below** and someone from the ClassACT HR73 team will get back to you. Let's celebrate the work we've been doing to change the world!

Fill out the self nomination form here!

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### CLASSACT HR73 WELCOMES NEW BRIDGE



*Click the video above to learn more about the Cole Resource Center  
Created by Rick Brotman '73*

ClassACT HR'73's newest Bridge is the [Cole Resource Center](#), a non-profit in Belmont, MA. Classmate **Ellen Faran** is the CFO and president of the non-profit organization devoted to helping those with mental health issues and their families. With a small group of volunteers who have had personal experience with mental health challenges, the Cole Resource Center provides clients with referral resources, runs various peer support groups and has a successful Workforce program. People who reach out to the CRC for help find comfort and inspiration from the others they meet there.

Please click above to view a short video, and read more about the CRC and how members of ClassACT HR73 and others can provide needed expertise to the organization in the article by **Jacki Swearingen '73** below!

Read about CRC in this article by Jacki Swearingen '73!

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## **CLASSACT HR73 SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY**

With the 2020 midterm elections around the corner and voter suppression on the rise, ClassACT HR73, spearheaded by our Justice & Civic Engagement Committee, encourages classmates to get involved to make a difference in elections, election protection and organizations that are important to them. See below to register for the September Forum and to view and post the first in our series of animated videos depicting the ways states are suppressing votes.

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### **SEPTEMBER FORUM UPDATE VOTER SUPPRESSION: A CANCER IN OUR BODY POLITIC**

September 12, 2022 @7pm EDT

[Click here to register!](#)



The elimination of many polling places. The cancellation of early voting. The intimidation at the polls of voters and election workers. These are just a few of the signs of voter suppression that have sprouted in recent years as some members of the electorate attempt to attain or to hold on to power by preventing those they regard as potential opponents from voting.

As the nation gears up for the 2022 midterm elections in November,

ClassACT HR73 is hosting the forum “[Voter Suppression: A Cancer on the Body Politic](#)” on September 12 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm EDT. The forum will bring together journalists, activists and experts concerned with election integrity to discuss how repressing voting threatens our democracy. Class of 1973’s own [E.J. Dionne](#), the renowned Washington Post columnist, will moderate a panel that includes [Cecile Scoon '81](#), President of the FLA League of Women Voters, and [Michael Waldman](#), President of the Brennan Center.

ClassACT HR73 invites everyone to register below for this crucial forum. We also urge all of you to become involved in efforts to register new voters, to inspire those registered for all parties to cast their ballots, and to help safeguard the right of everyone to free and fair elections.

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### CLASSACT'S SOCIAL MEDIA FOCUS ON VOTER SUPPRESSION



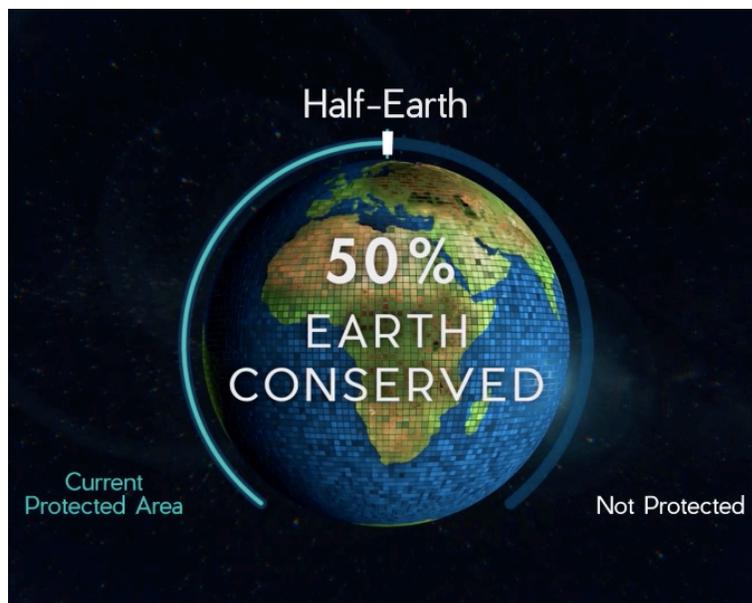
*Video outlining which states have restricted voting access since 2020  
Created by Rick Brotman '73*

As a supplement to the [voter suppression](#) work by classmates **Ryan O’Connell**, **Jim Harbison**, and **Marilyn Go**, ClassACT HR73’s video guru **Rick Brotman** has created an engaging and powerful animated video that, in less than two minutes, illustrates the many ways states are thwarting voting rights. Please download or share it from our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) pages, and do all you can to ensure people exercise their right to vote in November.

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### UPDATE ON CLASSACT'S ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

## CHANGE WORKING GROUP



*Graphic from <https://www.half-earthproject.org/>*

Led by classmates **Jesse Ausubel** and **John Kress**, ClassACT HR73's working group on the environment and climate change met in the spring to discuss how we could best approach this huge, multifaceted problem. It was decided it would be most helpful to take a bird's-eye view of the issue and highlight the work of Harvard biologist Edward O. Wilson.

In his 2016 book [Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life](#), Wilson (1929-2021) proposed the designation of half of Earth's surface, both terrestrial and marine, as a natural reserve to safeguard the remaining biodiversity of the planet, including ourselves. At present only about one-sixth of land and one-twelfth of marine areas receive (on paper) protection of the kind Wilson envisioned. Tough economic, social, and psychological forces work to impede this drastic expansion of protection. Solutions to preserve and restore biodiversity must fully take into account the factors arrayed against such changes. These forces range from competing values and ignorance to criminal behavior and the Seven Deadly Sins.

To achieve the goals of "Half-Earth" will require not only a major boost in land and sea protection, but also significant changes in our lifestyles, utilization of natural resources, economies, cultural practices, and political priorities. These changes depend in large part on progress and diffusion of science, technology, and education. The range of strategies and outcomes could result in highly contrasting benefits and harms to societies and the planet.

During the coming year ClassACT HR73 will sponsor several online forums

that will feature classmates who have worked for environmental conservation and related fields along with current Harvard faculty. These forums will discuss the merits and feasibility of “Half-Earth” from varied scientific, geographical, disciplinary, professional, and ethical perspectives. The first will highlight the biological reality of Half-Earth – biodiversity across forests, mountains, rivers, and oceans. The second will discuss the feasibility of Half-Earth – what it will take to preserve Nature and human societies.

These will lead, we hope, both to collective action and exciting activities at our 50th Reunion. Look for more information in future ClassActions bulletins.

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## JUSTICEAID UPDATES

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### JUSTICEAID & RIVERSIDE CHURCH PUBLIC FORUM ERASURE: THE OTHERIZATION OF QUEERNESS

September 18th, 4pm EDT, The Riverside Church, New York

[Click here to register and learn more!](#)



JusticeAid, founded by classmate **Stephen Milliken**, continues its 2022 focus on LGBTQ human and civil rights and its four-year partnership with The Riverside Church of New York to present Erasure: The Otherization of Queerness. TransLash Media creator, award winning journalist and LGBTQ activist [Imara Jones](#) will set the stage for a panel discussion on how discrimination of LGBTQ individuals/Queerness can lead to disenfranchisement and criminalization: from a LGBTQ youth’s experience in school, rejection to homelessness and its impact, and potentially to

interaction with the criminal system and prison.

Freedom to Be Queer: Overcoming Marginalization, Criminalization, and Erasure confirmed panelists include Adrian Mora, a Trans youth member of Riverside Church; [Charles King](#), CEO of Housing Works fighting to ensure access to housing and medical services for individuals with HIV/AIDs; and [Ceyenne Doroshow](#), performer, public figure in the trans and sex worker rights' movements, and Founder and Executive Director of G.L.I.T.S.

The Forum, which will take place in the nave at Riverside Church and be live-streamed , will feature musical performances by the Resistance Revival Chorus and conclude with a Call to Action to Vote and a voter registration drive.

**Classmates interested in serving on the host committee or helping to promote the event and aiding with the voter registration effort please contact Therese Steiner [tsteiner@thereseiteiner.com](mailto:tsteiner@thereseiteiner.com).**

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**JUSTICEAID ROCKING WASHINGTON,  
D.C. CONCERT WITH KANDACE SPRINGS**

October 11th, 7 PM, City Winery, Washington, D.C.

RSVP or reserve a table as a sponsor here!



Her idol is Nina Simone. Her voice, according to the London Jazz News, is “stunningly good -very pure and controlled, soaring and dipping with no apparent effort.” As reported by the LA Jazz Scene review, “she prowls across the stage like a lioness...her voice is husky and rooted in gospel.”

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, JusticeAid will present an intimate evening with Nashville-based pianist and vocalist Kandace Springs. Known for her lithe and smoky voice and an intensely expressive mastery over the piano, Springs melds soul, jazz, and pop from years of musical traditions, and yet somehow her sound is still distinctive.

One hundred percent of ticket sales and sponsorships will provide unrestricted funds to support JusticeAid's 2022 grantee partner, [SMYAL](#) (Supporting Mentoring Youth Advocates and Leaders), for programs that lift up and empower LGBTQ youth.

A shout-out to the many HR73 classmates who have attended JusticeAid concerts and forums and supported JusticeAid grantee-partners!

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### **BRIDGE PARTNER ROOTS OF MUSIC IN THE NEWS!**



*Imand Peterson, 15, takes a break with his friends during rehearsal at the Roots of Music in New Orleans, Monday, July 25, 2022. (Sophia Germer/The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate via AP)*

[Click to read the article!](#)

Congratulations to our Bridge partners at the [Roots of Music](#)! They were featured in an article by the Associated Press (spotted by classmate **Tom McNamara '73**). Click above to learn about their work empowering the youth of New Orleans through music education, academic support, and mentorship.

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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.](#)