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Achieving Change Together

December ClassACTions Newsletter

ClassACT HR73 sends warmest wishes to you and your family. During this holiday season, with more reason for optimism in the air, ClassACT HR73 invites you to appreciate and celebrate differences, understand other viewpoints, and promote positive change.

OH, WHAT A YEAR IT WAS!



As we near the end of 2022, ClassACT HR73 is proud of our continuing (and enhanced) programs and new initiatives. Among the year's highlights:

- **We appointed three world-changing members to our Board: Ron Dieckmann, M.D., Daniel Hoffheimer, and Henrietta Wigglesworth Lodge.** You can read more about them, and our other 10 Board members, [here](#).
- **We welcomed our fifth BBLP fellow, Laila Khondkar** from Bangladesh. With two decades of experience in international development, Laila arrived with sterling credentials: she has completed

an MSc Control of Infectious Diseases from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and has received her Post Graduate Diploma: Children, Youth and Development from the Institute of Social Studies, the Netherlands. Laila is spending 2022-23 studying in the Mid-Career Master in Public Administration/Mason Fellows Program at Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. To learn more about Laila and what she hopes to accomplish during this academic year, click [here](#).

- **We revamped our Bridge program** to more clearly spell out each organization's vision. Just as important, we have identified the skills that each Bridge needs from classmates. To find out how you can help, go to <https://www.classacthr73.org/bridges> and click on "Learn more."
- **We kept a watchful eye during this election year on issues relating to democracy, voter empowerment, voting rights, civil rights and civics education.** At the forefront were JusticeAid, whose founder and CEO is classmate **Steve Milliken** and with whom ClassACT HR73 has a Sustained Partnership; and our Justice & Civic Engagement Committee, co-chaired by **Therese Steiner** and **Bahman Mossavar-Rahmani**, which shined a spotlight on voter suppression and produced a definitive report on gerrymandering co-written by classmates **Ryan O'Connell** and **Jim Harbison**, with editing by classmate **Sallie Gouverneur**. We also began planning programs in this area for the 50th Reunion, including a possible presentation on Harvard's legacy of slavery.
- **We continued to produce our enthralling and timely Zoom Forums**, which originated during the pandemic (and perhaps are one of its few upsides). This year there were four—bringing the number to 19 overall—on diverse topics, with discussions by a mix of erudite classmates and distinguished outside experts, plus resources for further study. The '22 Forums were: [A Conversation on Russia's War on Ukraine](#); [LGBTQ Youth Rights: Protecting the Queer Frontier](#); [Voter Suppression: A Cancer in our Body Politic](#); and [Half Earth: Conserving Biodiversity from the Deep Sea to Mt. Everest](#). (The last, we are proud to say, spotlighted an all-classmate panel co-moderated by **Jesse H. Ausubel** and **W. John Kress**.) Even better, they are preserved on our website [here](#)!
- **We expanded the ClassACT concept to other Harvard classes.** Thirteen have engaged with us and/or established ClassACTs and we are working in concert as we can. A resource "tool kit" is available and (bringing us into the 21st century!) there will soon be a ClassACT app

that will have several features to simplify collaboration and communication among ClassACTs.

Now...what is on tap? Recently our Board held a retreat (see below) to brainstorm ideas. Moreover, we are creating an advisory council (see below) to help us move forward and expand our networks. So, we have seen the future and it is...busy! We welcome your help.

TO 2023, OUR 50TH REUNION, AND BEYOND!



L-R: Bahman Mossavar-Rahmani, Vivian Lewis, Stanley Mark, Henrietta Wigglesworth Lodge, George Putnam, Marion Dry, Leigh Hafrey, Ron Dieckmann, Therese Steiner, and Jonathan Sprague

After enjoying the company of 70 plus other classmates at the pre-reunion dinner hosted by **George** and **Kathy Putnam** in Boston on Friday, November 11, the Board of ClassACT HR73 met together for the rest of the weekend to plan for both the long- and short-term future of the organization. Eleven of 13 members were able to attend along with our intrepid assistants, Diana Lobontiu and Kate Freed. (Kudos to **Rick Weil '73** who attended two full days via Zoom.) Restricted to Zoom meetings over the past few years, several new Board members were able to meet the Board in person for the first time. Our gracious hosts, **Leigh Hafrey '73** and Sandra Naddaff, opened their beautiful home to allow for lively discussion, connection,

collaboration and really good food!

The first day of the retreat on Saturday, November 12, was run by skilled facilitator and organizational consultant, Jay Vogt, founder of Peoplesworth (peoplesworth.com). Having done some individual “homework” prior to the gathering, Jay helped us to reaffirm ClassACT’s mission, values and vision, decide on a new governance structure, establish long- and short-term goals for ClassACT’s programs, suggest 50th reunion activities and focus on a ClassACT legacy for future alumni.



*Board members **Leigh Hafrey** and **Vivian Lewis***

On Sunday, the Board resumed the conversation and established specific action items for ClassACT HR73 programs, collaborations and initiatives. With our 50th reunion approaching, it is hoped that ClassACT HR73 will provide significant opportunities for more classmates to connect with other classmates and make positive change.

Believing that “it’s not too late to change the world” and valuing community, collaboration, respect, equity, inclusion, teamwork, service, and commitment, ClassACT HR73 hopes to change individual lives and the world through its programs and initiatives and leave a legacy through replication of the ClassACT model in other Harvard classes as well as other institutions. With other Harvard classes already in various stages of ClassACT development, several collaborative meetings have been held.

Meet the New Executive Committee

Chair: Marion Dry

Vice-Chair: Stan Mark

Treasurer: George Putnam

Secretary: Bahman Mossavar-Rahmani



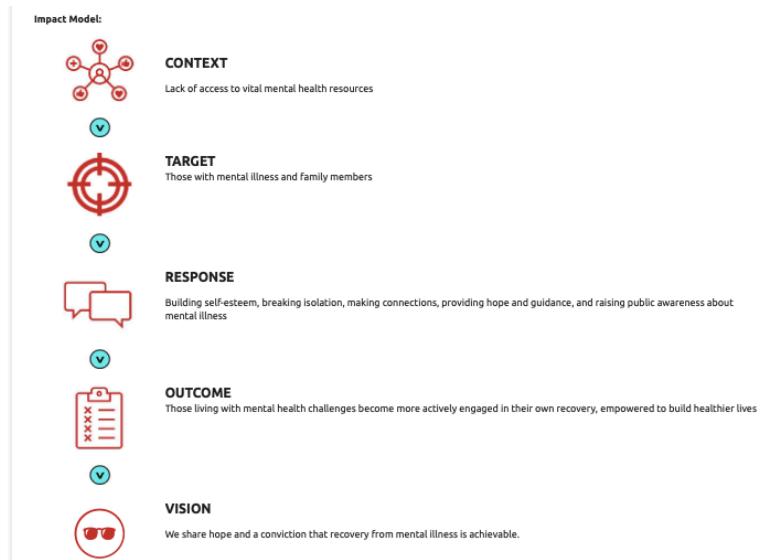
Board members in small group conversations during the Retreat

ClassACT HR73 Programs and Initiatives

- **Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program**, HKS fellowship for leaders in Muslim majority countries.
 - **Board contacts:** Carl Muller, George Putnam, Marion Dry
- **Multi-class working group**, promotes the ClassACT concept to other classes.
 - **Board contact:** Jonathan Sprague, Stanley Mark
- **Justice & Civic Engagement working group**, education and action.
 - **Board Contacts:** Therese Steiner, Bahman Mossavar-Rahmani
- **Environment and Climate working group**, promotes EO Wilson's Half-Earth concept.
 - **Board contact:** Marion Dry
- **Communications working group**, promotes awareness of ClassACT activities.

- **Board Contact:** Henrietta W. Lodge
 - **Bridges**, supports classmate affiliated non-profit organizations.
 - **Board Contact:** Leigh Hafrey
 - **Healthcare working group**, current focus on mental health.
 - **Board Contact:** Stanley Mark
 - **Arts working group**, to be formed
 - **Zoom forums**, opportunity to learn more from classmates and others and take action on timely topics.
 - **Board Contact:** Marion Dry
 - **Advisory council**, classmates and others provide suggestions/advice to ClassACT HR73.
 - **Board Contact:** Vivian Lewis
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BRIDGES: IT'S ALL ABOUT CONNECTIONS



Many of our classmates have relationships with non-profit organizations that are responding to needs throughout the world. Often these non-profits operate on a shoestring budget and have needs they cannot fulfill. While we do not fundraise for our Bridges, ClassACT HR73 offers to help by providing expertise, skills and advice to further the mission of organizations. Whether you have time for a brief consultation or an ongoing commitment, **please look through the [Bridge page](#) to see if you can help.**

As you click “learn more” under each bridge there’s info about skills they’re looking for from classmates, as well as a context --> target--> response--> outcome→ vision structure.

PLEASE GIVE US FINANCIAL SUPPORT!



ClassACT HR73 can do all of the great things we do because classmates volunteer many hours of their time. But we need financial help as well. We incur numerous expenses, including those for administrative support, production costs for the Zoom Forums, software and database subscriptions and many other charges. Please help us with these costs. You can donate online here:

[Donate Here](#)

Or you can send a check to:

ClassACT, c/o George Putnam, Treasurer
13 Elm Street, Suite 2,
Manchester, MA 01944

If you would like to give securities, please contact George at
gputnam@turnarounds.com.

Because ClassACT HR73 is an IRS approved 501(c)(3) organization, your contribution is tax deductible to the full extent provided by law.

**MEET THIS MONTH'S CLASSACTOR CHANGING THE WORLD:
NATALIE SHIRAS**



*Click above to view video, and whole ClassACTors Changing the World Playlist, created by **Rick Brotman '73***

Click for our 50th reunion webpage with more info!

Did you know that during our Freshman year **Natalie Shiras '73** was one of a small group of students who successfully demanded to be a part of the process that decided on naming Derek Bok as the President of Harvard? An activist since high school and now a retired pastor, Natalie has continued to be a catalyst for positive change. With the focus on improving racial relationships, Natalie's "Circle of Chairs" discussions are designed to promote learning, communication and deep understanding between participants. It has grown from a beginning group of people in her retirement community, to groups in the local police department, college classes, religious institutions and other community organizations. Natalie is proof that "it's not too late to change the world."

CLASSACT HR73 FORMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

To help the ClassACT HR73 Board and volunteers intensify their efforts to address challenges on the local and international level and to work toward positive change, the organization launched an Advisory Council at a virtual meeting on December 13th. The council will meet twice a year to help the ClassACT HR73 Board identify opportunities and strategies to expand its impact and the relationships essential to successes, like Bridges and Zoom Forums. At a time when ClassACT HR73 is growing in terms of participation, projects and influence, Board members hope the council can serve as a sounding board for new ideas and as a source of new collaborations with other experts and activists.

“The new Advisory Council will provide fresh perspectives for the ClassACT HR73 Board as we continue to develop work within our class and work to promote the ClassACT model to other classes at Harvard and other universities,” said **Marion Dry**, ClassACT HR73 chair. “As the Advisory Council develops, its members will include not only HR73 classmates but also members of the greater Harvard community and beyond, providing us with multi-generational and diverse perspectives and connections beyond our current reach.”

The idea to establish an Advisory Council came from Advisory Council member **Donna Brown Guillaume**, and grew thanks to a task force comprised of **Charlene Jones Marchant**, **Sylvester Monroe** and **Stephen Milliken** to bring diverse voices into ClassACT discussions. A committee of Board members led by **Vivian Lewis**, and including **Bahman Mossavar-Rahmani**, **Leigh Hafrey**, and **Stanley Mark** developed a charter for the council. The new ClassACT group that resulted offers an opportunity to help all of us work toward ClassACT HR73’s vision of a more just and equitable world whose plants and animals are less threatened than at present.

“I believe that the Advisory Council members will be a source of additional expertise, connections and creativity that will inspire greater engagement of those who are eager to join the Class ACT movement so that we can indeed ‘change the world,’ said **Vivian Lewis**.



Another hope for the new Advisory Council is that it will encourage other Harvard classes to join the ClassACT movement. The efforts of Board members to help other alumni start their own ClassACT initiatives have already inspired 13 other classes to launch their own projects on the environment, the preservation of democracy and other important topics and to present educational Zoom forums modeled on the ClassACT HR73 Forum Series. Advisory Council members hope they can assist in ways such as reaching out to other classes and offering their expertise to help set up new ClassACTs.

The Advisory Council's initial team includes classmates ad alumni who have remarkable achievements in the spheres of economics, education, government, law, journalism and the arts. They include **Donna Brown**, **Guillaume**, **Kimball Chen**, **Peter Galbraith**, **Marilyn Go**, **Sallie Gouverneur**, **Helen Hershkoff**, **Charlene Jones Marchant**, **Rick Melvoine**, **Sylvester Monroe**, **Roger Myerson**, and **Esmeralda Santiago**. Its two Co-Chairs are **Becky Sykes** and **Jacki Swearingen**. Together the council looks forward to their first face-to-face meeting at the 50th Reunion in May.

"As the Class of 1973 nears our 50th reunion and ClassACT HR73 nears its 15th anniversary, our collective potential continues to grow," said **Becky Sykes**. "The Advisory Council members are eager to leverage our experience, perspective and connections to contribute to sustained change in the communities in which we live and in the world at large."

Interested in helping ClassACT HR73?

ClassACT HR73 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 HR73 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 HR73 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.](#)

