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Achieving Change Together

December 2023 ClassACTions Newsletter

ClassACT HR73 has always been about making connections with classmates and others in order to promote positive changes. During this holiday season, no matter what you celebrate, we hope that you are able to find joy and connection with the people you love.

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Welcome To Three New Bridges!

ClassACT HR73 is thrilled to announce that there are three new classmate-sponsored Bridges, bringing the total to 14. Take a look at what good works they are doing and how you might be able to help

Bridge Partners and projects occur in a variety of ways. These new additions came from conversations at our reunion, but often a Bridge comes from personal connections within the Class of '73, or recommendations from classmates who have a roommate or close friend who is doing good work and could use some extra help. The initial connection could be with the founder of the Bridge organization, or via a Bridge Board member, advisor or supporter. ClassACT loves working closely with the Bridges, and we welcome the connection in whatever form it takes. ClassACT HR73 continually seeks to improve how it operates and the three recent Bridge additions illustrate this. A ClassACT HR73 Board member has been assigned to provide onboarding and support to maximize effectiveness and impact for all three of these new projects. Board members **Leigh Hafrey**, **Rick Weil**, and **Stan Mark** oversee the Bridge Partners Program and not only seek new relationships, but also welcome your ideas and expertise to support this key initiative.

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FoolProofMe



[FoolProofMe](#), sponsored by classmate **Hamilton Fish**, is a foundation with bipartisan leadership whose mission is to teach people to have a healthy skepticism when it comes to anything impacting someone's personal finances or well-being. Several curricula, provided free of charge and without advertising, are designed for everyone from middle school students to adults. The lessons teach the power of independent research, critical questioning and awareness. FoolProofMe is trying to identify people to help with the goal of expanding into all 50 states.

Editorial Freelancers Association



The [Editorial Freelancers Association](#), sponsored by **Andy Huston '73**, is an organization that provides two Ruth Mullen Memorial Scholarships annually to an undergraduate attending an HBCU (historically Black college or university) and a HBCU alum attending graduate school who are pursuing careers in publishing or communications. African Americans are underrepresented in these important fields. EFA needs people with fundraising expertise and connections to help them continue these scholarships.

CommUNITY Cares Health, Inc.



[CommUNITY Cares Health, Inc.](#), sponsored by **Tom Schneider '73**, is a Cambridge/Boston based organization that envisions a future where health and well-being are central to the Black American experience. CommUNITY Cares focuses on bringing young Black people to gatherings such as music

festivals, where there is also direct access to preventive healthcare, good nutrition and education. By fusing medical education and access to healthcare with cultural resonance, they are a gateway to consistent high-quality healthcare. This small organization is hoping to expand into other states and needs guidance and consultations on strategic planning, communications, legal work, board development and fundraising.

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Case History: How the ClassACT HR73 Bridge Program works

Cole Resource Center



In a wonderful example of how the ClassACT HR73 Bridge Program works, The Cole Resource Center (CRC) announced that **Mary Lyons-Hunter, PsyD**, has joined its Board of Directors. Lyons-Hunter is Unit Chief of the Behavioral Health Department at the MGH Chelsea Health Center and Instructor at Harvard Medical School. CRC leadership first "met" Mary through ClassACT HR73 in March 2023 when she spoke as a panelist at its online forum "[Addressing Anxiety & Depression in Young Adults](#)." Through conversations this fall, we discovered common interests and a shared commitment to supporting community mental health. Mary officially joined the CRC Board in November 2023.



Mary Lyons-Hunter, PsyD

CRC recently adopted a new mission statement: "We partner with individuals and family members on their mental health journeys." This simple pledge

affirms our belief in the power of sharing both knowledge and lived experience with others, and the importance of meeting people where they are. Two strategic planning sessions of the CRC Board earlier this fall yielded this revised mission statement, among other insights that will guide our future planning. We are grateful to ClassACT HR73 for its recommendation of our talented facilitator, Jay Vogt of Peoplesworth. More information about CRC [here](#).

ClassACT HR73 is proud to have played a role in helping with the growth of the CRC.

Ole & Nu Fellas Social Aid And Pleasure Club

Coats, Coats and More Coats!



Sue Press at the Ole & Nu Fellas Coat Drive

Sue Press from the [Ole & Nu Fellas Social Aid And Pleasure Club](#) reports that as a result of ClassACT HR73 responses, 34 children from the Treme section of New Orleans have new winter coats. This is the fourth consecutive year that we have participated in this effort. Thank you.

Sports Analytics Club Program



Participants in the SACP Simon Conference

The Simon Conference for Young Researchers in Risk Management and Insurance hosted at Michigan State University is a destination event that aims to amplify the work of undergraduate, graduate, and early-career researchers.

This year, the program expanded to incorporate sports analytics research from the perspective of high-school students and their mentors. The inclusion of these young people further energized the conference, and set the foundation for years to come in terms of how the conference will recruit speakers.

[Sports Analytics Club Program](#) (SACP) students from Nogales High School (Arizona) and Fordham Prep (New York) made an impressive showing with the quality of their presentations. This was the first of what they hope to be many presentations from SACP clubs at the Simon Conference.

The mission of the Simon conference is to provide a platform for young researchers who are looking for a supportive and welcoming place to exchange ideas as well as to network. The patrons for whom the conference is named, Ronald H. and Mary Simon, are dedicated to the promotion of actuarial science at Michigan State University as well as helping young people achieve their dreams here in mid-Michigan and beyond.



Panelists in the U.N. Perspective Series

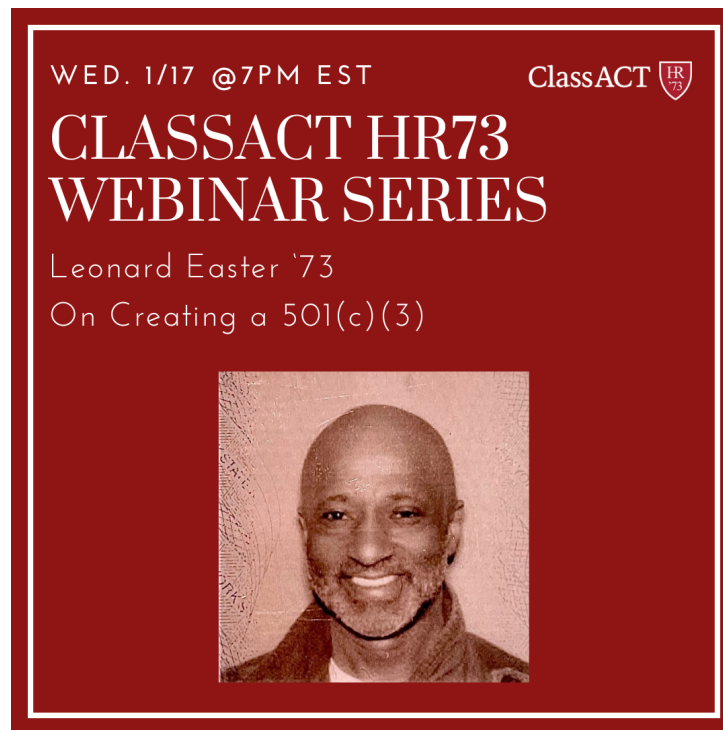
The [United Nations Association of Greater Boston](#) hosted their November U.N. Perspective Series at The Foundry, in the heart of Cambridge. The event brought together community members and leaders to discuss the U.N. Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production through the lens of food waste. During the program, panelists engaged with the audience in an insightful discussion on food waste from local, national and global perspectives and the entire group was inspired to take actions within their own communities.

"We were so glad to convene another U.N. Perspective Series event at The Foundry. It's important for community members to feel educated, engaged, and inspired when it comes to complex global issues, and through this program, we were able to do just that. Come join us next time!" – Emily Miga, Senior Manager of Programs and Communications at UNAGB.

In addition, the UNAGB reports that they had very successful results from Giving Tuesday. They are also looking forward to hosting their Diplomatic Year-In-Review Holiday Gathering on December 18th with Charter Circle Members and guest speaker Gina McCarthy. Finally, they are beginning the

planning process for International Women's Day 2024 - sure to be another great event with UNAGB.

ClassACT HR73 Launches a New Webinar Series for Bridges



[Register here](#)

ClassACT HR73 is excited to announce a new webinar series designed to meet the common organizational needs of many of our Bridges. Providing a general overview of each subject, the 45 minute programs will include a short presentation, followed by a Q and A period. On December 12, classmate and ClassACT HR73 board member **Ron Dieckmann** presented the [first](#) in this series. Ron gave his thoughts and answered questions regarding the development and maintenance of an active and involved Board of Directors.

The next webinar will focus on the process for setting up a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. On January 17th, **Leonard Easter '73**, a lawyer who specializes in non-profit organizations, will present the basics and answer questions.

Future webinar topics include grant writing, fundraising, social media and communications. All webinars will be recorded and available on the ClassACT HR73 website.

Sylvester Monroe, Classmate and Journalist

Two Steps Forward



Click above to watch video, created by **Rick Brotman '73**

This month's [@50 Video Project](#) features **Sylvester Monroe**, one of the 139 Black students who arrived at Harvard in September 1969. In this powerful video, produced and edited by classmate **Rick Brotman**, you hear Vest's discussion of how he ended up at Harvard and his journey in his successful career as a Black journalist, always with an undercurrent of the "dull pain of cultural isolation." Vest covered stories about such major figures as Rodney King, OJ Simpson and Barack Obama for Newsweek, Time and Ebony, but there were also important stories that were never brought to light. He provides thoughts on how journalism as "the first draft of history" has omitted the Black perspective.

Update on Ukraine: Issues and Analysis

Thanks to all who attended our ClassACT HR73 Forum [Update on Ukraine: Issues and Analysis](#) on November 13, 2023.

Timothy Snyder, the esteemed historian of modern Eastern Europe and the Richard E Levin professor at Yale University, said at the end of last year:

"Americans (and many others) owe Ukrainians a huge debt of gratitude for their resistance to Russian aggression. For some mixture of reasons, we have difficulty acknowledging this. To do so, we have to find the words. Seven that might help are: security, freedom, democracy, courage, pluralism, perseverance, and generosity."

[Click here for more information](#)



*Click above to watch the forum. Video created by **Rick Brotman '73***

Moderator **Bill Kristol '73**, a widely respected analyst of global affairs and founding director of [Defending Democracy Together](#), led a discussion on the current state of the war in Ukraine, the stakes for the international security system as well as for U.S. global leadership, and the urgent need for increased funds for weapons and training for Ukrainian troops. Joining him was an eminent panel that included Nobel Prize-winning economist **Roger Myerson '73**; former U.S. Ambassador to Croatia **Peter Galbraith '73**; and international security expert and retired Marine Colonel **Mark Cancian '73**.

“This is the largest war in Europe in eighty years,” said Bill Kristol. “There are tactical and strategic ups and downs. But in terms of the big picture, Putin invading a neighbor and attempting to conquer it and destroy its people as an autonomous people in Europe, on the border of six NATO countries, is a pretty astonishing thing to happen.”

A consequence of Putin’s victory would be the huge diminishment of U.S. leadership in a troubled world, Peter Galbraith said. “What is at stake is the entire international system since 1945,” said Galbraith, pointing to the multilateral consensus that once a nation becomes a member of the United Nations, it does not have the right to invade another member’s territory. “If Russia gets away with it, it opens the door to others.”

In their calls to action the panelists urged the audience to contact members of Congress to ask them to support the recent request for additional assistance to Ukraine. Mark Cancian reminded his listeners that 60 percent of the U.S.’s money for Ukraine is spent in this country, particularly for the procurement of weapons. Finally, Roger Myerson asked for support for the [KSE Foundation](#) at the Kiev School of Economics, which has been raising funds for

charitable assistance to Ukrainians since the start of the conflict.

At the forum's end, **ClassACT HR73 Chair Marion Dry** called upon the audience to donate to non-profits like [Save the Children](#) or the [International Rescue Committee](#), which have been providing food and medical supplies to the Ukrainian people.

ClassACT HR73 has compiled a video of the forum Update on Ukraine: Issues and Analysis, above:

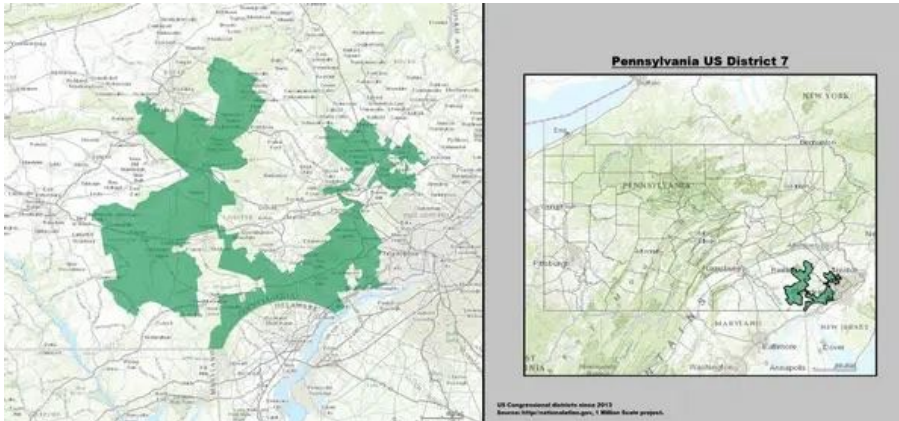
- **Please share the video** with others to deepen awareness of the status and the stakes of this war.
- **Please send it to House representatives and Senators** in Washington who are now debating whether to extend aid to the Ukrainian forces and citizens.
- **Please share ClassACT's list of [resources](#)** on Ukraine as well.
- **A more complete summary of the forum Update on Ukraine: Issues and Analysis can be read [here](#).**

Thank you to our extraordinary panelists Mark Cancian, Peter Galbraith, and Roger Myerson as well as to our moderator Bill Kristol for their commitment to the people of Ukraine and to the preservation of democracy everywhere.

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Keeps Gerrymandering At Bay

Written by **Jim Harbison**

Edited by **Marilyn Go, Ryan O'Connell and Jacki Swearingen**



A gerrymandered district in Pennsylvania

In our recent articles, we have focused on voting rights issues in the battleground states that may be key to the outcome of the 2024 Presidential Election. We have covered developments, some of them adverse, in Georgia, Ohio, North Carolina, and Virginia. This month we turn to Pennsylvania, where the outlook for fair elections is more promising.

[Click here for full list of voter protection articles](#)

Courts have often played an important role in the protection of voting rights and fair elections. As a result, judicial elections have become significant contests in the struggle over voting rights. In the November 2022 elections, when Dan McCaffery won his race to become a Pennsylvania State Supreme Court Justice, the Court swung to a 5-2 Democratic majority. Had the Republican candidate won, the Democratic majority would have remained 4-3. Given the stakes, out-of-state political groups funneled large amounts of money into the race.

Election-reform advocates hailed McCaffery's election as an important defense against potential gerrymandering and limitations of voters' rights in the state. To understand why, we need to review some of the history of gerrymandering in Pennsylvania, a state that is split nearly 50-50 between Republicans and Democrats. We also discuss steps the PA Supreme Court has taken to counter gerrymandering and other legislative acts that might limit voter's rights.

It is essential for classmates who reside in Pennsylvania to remain vigilant and follow developments in the run-up to the 2024 election. There are still many politicians who, if left unchecked, would seek to enact legislation limiting voting access. You can read about more specific things to look for in our more in-depth account below.

[Click here for full article](#)

Healthcare Update



Debbie Winn and **Stan Mark** have been working diligently to create a worthy project(s) for 2024 for the Healthcare Working Group to manage. A number of working group members met and brainstormed a couple of

months ago and decided upon six areas of interest in healthcare from which to choose a project. These areas are:

- Vaccines/Pandemics
- Global Health Concerns
- Reproductive Issues
- Mental Health Problems
- Aging Challenges
- Inequities in Healthcare

Co-Chairs for each of these topics have been identified and work has begun on narrowing to specific topics that could be worthy projects. Several of these subgroups have proposed concrete projects for the upcoming year. The Healthcare Working Group plans to meet and decide on the most appropriate project sometime in early January so the actual work can begin immediately. Please note that it is not too late to volunteer and join the group; in fact, the group welcomes your thoughts and ideas for possible projects. If interested, please contact ClassACT HR73 at: classacthr73@gmail.com.

Multi-Class Update



Jonathan Sprague and **Stan Mark** have been working to engage other Harvard classes to join the ClassACT Movement. So far there are approximately 14 other classes that have either set up a structure or are in the process of doing so. Most recently, there have been detailed discussions with the HAA to work with Reunion classes every year, so ClassACT gets on their radar. There have been several meetings with representatives from interested classes and the concept is gaining some momentum. In addition, ClassACT HR73 has met a couple of times with Travis Lovett, the Assistant Dean of Civic Engagement and Service, and his team to further engage other Harvard alumni and undergraduate students. Most importantly, there is a pilot program underway whereby a few classes have identified the environment and climate change as a hot topic, and have already begun to work together

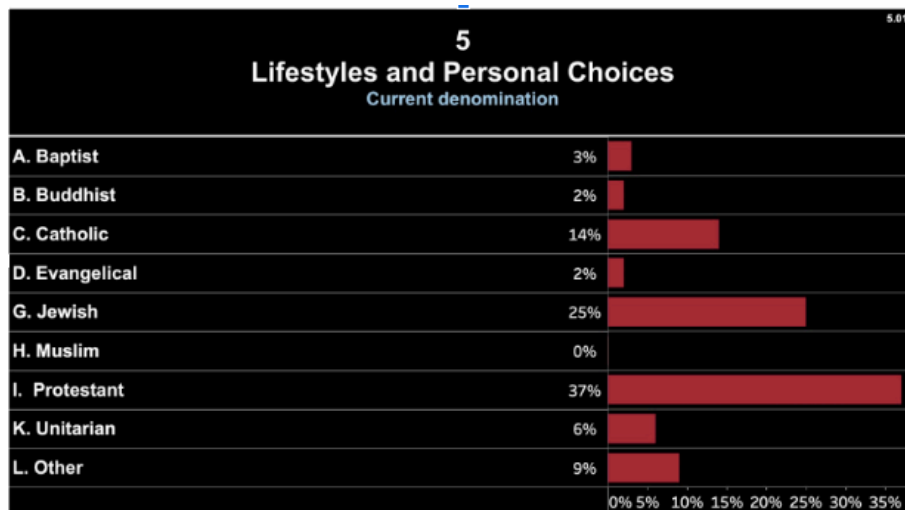
An update meeting is scheduled for December 15th and plans are progressing to host a forum on environmental issues in the spring. Concurrently, there is interest in doing the same in the justice and civic engagement arena. If interested in volunteering or helping with our multi-class initiative, please email us at: classacthr73@gmail.com.

And The Survey Says...

The Class of 1973 survey was sent to all classmates prior to the reunion. Asking about everything from demographics to hobbies to the Harvard experience, it provides insight into our classmates, both funny and poignant.

Now, every month we will send out aggregated, anonymous results to one question from the survey so you can see how you stack up compared to your classmates!

This month's question: **What is your current denomination?**



*If you would like to view all the aggregated results, click [here](#).

Have You Downloaded the ClassACT App Yet?

ALL of ClassACT HR73's events, publications and other activities can be in the palm of your hand! Did you know that you can find your HR73 classmates, watch a forum that you missed, read a past bulletin you meant to get to, volunteer your talents for a Bridge program or ClassACT itself, or even donate funds? These options and more are now accessible through your cell phone, smartphone, or tablet. Join our growing number of users and download the ClassACT HR73 mobile App today! Just scan the QR code

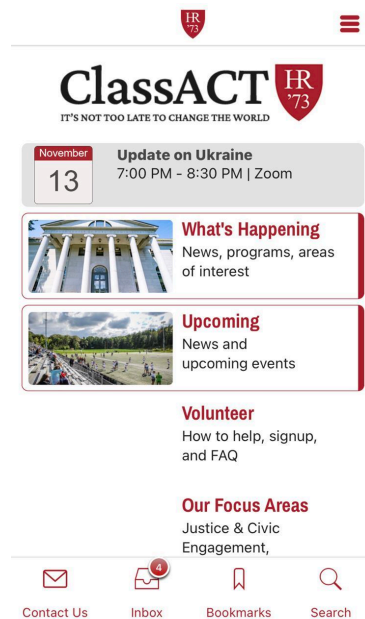
below.



If you are already a member of ClassACT HR73, log in to the app with the same username and password that you set up for our [website](#).

If you are a new user, you can register on either the app or the website and be registered for both.

Need help? Or want to provide us with feedback/suggestions for the app?
Email: classacthr73@gmail.com



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.

ACT now or before 12/31 and get a 2023 tax deduction.

To support our work in this way you can donate below.

[Donate Here](#)

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