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May 2023 ClassACTions Newsletter

THIS MONTH:

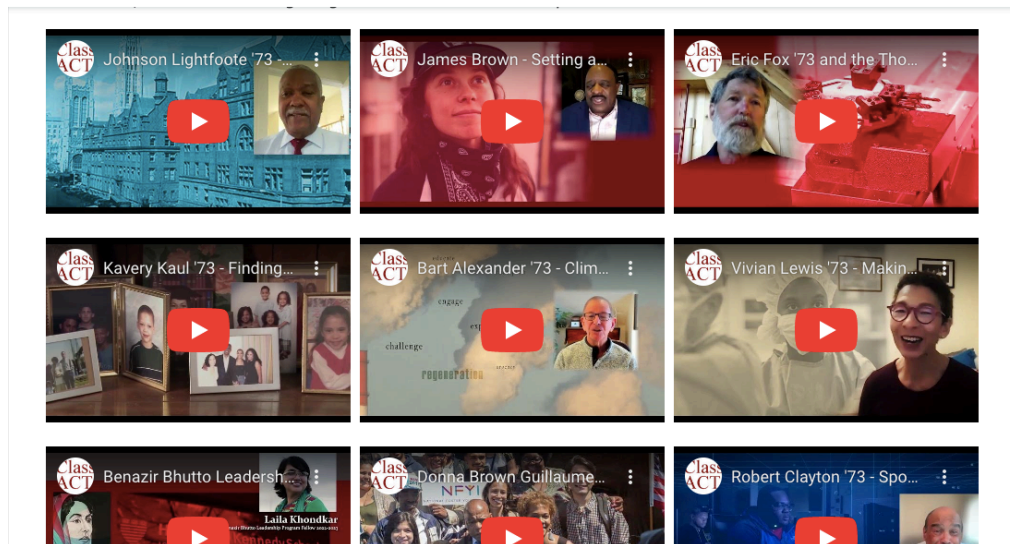
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It is said that “April showers bring May flowers.” True to the adage, here in the Northeast, there have been many rainy days in the past few weeks. But now, the sun is out, the flowers are blooming everywhere, the fruit trees are spectacular and there seems to be more energy all around. ClassACT HR73 is no exception. There is a great deal of hard work and planning happening as we approach our 50th Reunion. At our gathering there will be many opportunities through individual conversation, symposia, and videos and reading materials to learn more about our work and how to get involved.

Through our collective efforts, it's not too late for us to foster positive change in our world.

Getting To Know Classmates and Their Work:

ClassACT HR73@Video Project



Since our commencement in June 1973, many of our classmates have carried on with what we began in college; compassion, caring and activism locally, nationally and worldwide. The [ClassACT HR73@Video Project](#) seeks to highlight those efforts. We have introduced the work of men and women in the Class of '73 in previous newsletters and present several more here. Hear from **Eric Fox** who found a way to give back to his hometown, working-class high school and **Kavery Kaul** who has spent her career finding human connections through films. Listen to **Vivian Lewis** and **Johnson Lightfoote** discuss how their parents led to their commitment to making a difference to today's medical students. See how **James Brown** presents a positive example through his work that is visible to millions and how **Bart Alexander** works to promote climate-change leadership. ClassACT celebrates these and other classmates. We intend to continue this project beyond the reunion.

So if you want to share what you've been doing to change the world, or want to recommend a classmate to be interviewed, fill out the nomination form on our [website page](#)!

Voting Suppression Maneuvers in North Carolina

By Jim Harbison '73



Photo from democracynyc.org

The battleground states -- those with relatively even numbers of Republican and Democratic voters --- are often key to both winning the electoral college and the presidency, as well as controlling the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. We begin this month a series of articles highlighting concerns about voting laws and practices in these states. We focus first on North Carolina, where a change to a Republican majority in the State Supreme Court after the 2022 elections, plus the recent transition to a veto-proof Republican legislative supermajority, could foreshadow the passage of more laws restricting voting rights.

[Click here for full article](#)

Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program Updates

[Learn more about BBLP Here](#)

Report on Meet & Greet with Laila Khondkar

Getting to Know Our BBLP Fellow



Laila Khondkar

On May 2, members of the HR Class of '73 gathered at St. Botolph's Club in Boston to meet and hear from **Laila Khondkar**, this year's Benazir Bhutto Fellow for ClassACT HR73. In memory of our late classmate Benazir Bhutto, who served twice as Prime Minister of Pakistan, ClassACT has funded five mid-career students in the Mason Fellows Program at HKS. The BBLP initiative primarily supports women leaders in the Muslim world: a native of Bangladesh, Laila specializes in child rights and advocacy; she has worked with international development and public health organizations in multiple settings and launched her own child awareness website, Shishurai Shob, in 2020. In a lively hour-long exchange, Laila spoke with ClassACT Board member **Leigh Hafrey** and other classmates about her mission and her time at HKS, as well as her hopes for an ongoing collaboration with the BBLP Fellows' network and ClassACT HR73.

Join the Conversation:

BBLP Fellows Reflect on Lessons Learned

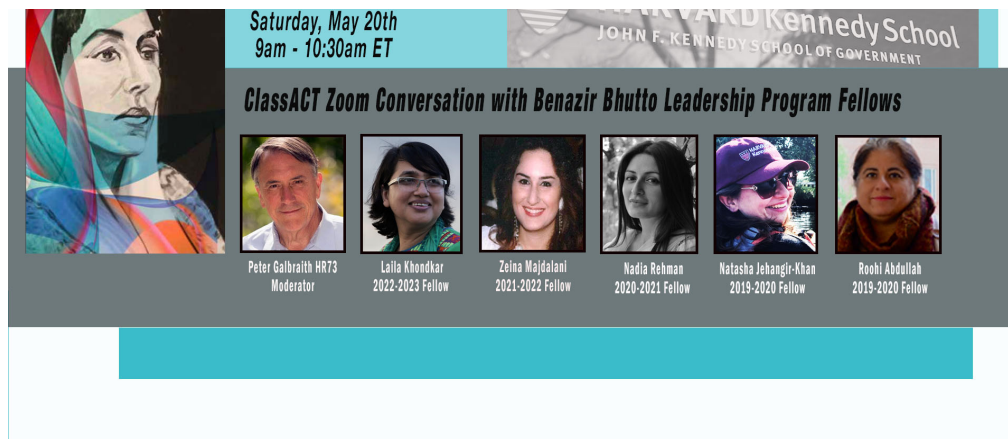
Saturday, May 20th, 9am - 10:30am ET

[Register Here](#)



A ClassACT Forum





On Saturday morning May 20 from 9-10:30 am ET, former US Ambassador to Croatia, classmate and BBLP Steering Committee Member **Peter Galbraith** will lead a Zoom discussion with all five of the fellows: **Roohi Abdullah**, **Natasha Jehangir Khan**, **Zeina Majdalani**, **Nadia Rehman** and **Laila Khondkar**. They will speak about their work in legal reform, pandemic relief, and infrastructure improvement, and will provide their thoughts on women's leadership in nations that stretch from the Mediterranean to the Bay of Bengal. Attendees will be able to ask questions about the successes to date of the BBLP as well as its goals for the future.

Help Keep BBLP Fellows Coming to Cambridge



The Benazir Bhutto Fellowship Program needs additional funding. You can help keep bringing these potential leaders of the Muslim world to

Cambridge by designating a portion of your 50th reunion gift for the Bhutto Fellowship fund.

Remember that you can designate up to one-half of your reunion gift to the Benazir Bhutto Fellow Fund and get “Class Credit” for it. (The other half must go to the Harvard College Fund or some other program under the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.)

Our Fellows are committed to advancing the core principles that **Benazir (Pinky) Bhutto** stood for: democracy, equality for women, reconciliation of religious and cultural differences, and education without religious or cultural bias.

If you have questions about giving to the Bhutto Fellowship Fund, please contact classmate **George Putnam**, gputnam@turnarounds.com, or Abby Fischer of the Harvard College Fund, abby_fischer@harvard.edu.

REUNION UPDATES

May 31 - June 2

[Register here](#)

And, click [here](#) to view the schedule, pricing packages, and the list of attendees!



50th Reunion Symposia

1. Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century
Where: 50th Reunion--Science Center, Harvard University

When: Thursday, June 1, 9-10:15am

Presentation by: [Danielle Allen](#)

Moderator: **E. J. Dionne**

Panelists: **Roger Ferguson, Al Franken, Bill Kristol, Patti Saris**

The 75-minute symposium will feature a presentation by Harvard professor **Danielle Allen**, James Bryant Conant University Professor at Harvard University, Director of Harvard's Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics, and Co-Chair of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences initiative, *Our Common Purpose: Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century*, which proposes specific recommendations and reforms to insure our democracy.

The presentation will be followed by a discussion by the panel and Prof. Allen, led by E. J. Dionne.

- [Link](#) to full report
- [Summary of Key strategies](#) and recommendations in the report

2. From the Charles River to Half-Earth: 50 Years to 50 Percent

When: Thursday, June 1, 10:30-11:45 am (Sanders)

Convenor: **John Kress**

Participants: **Jesse Ausubel, John Adams, Kimball Chen, Lindsay Clarkson, Robert Dreher, Henrietta Wigglesworth Lodge, Michael Mayer, Ann MacKinnon, Roger Myerson, Sharon Tisher (all HR73)**

As undergrads we associated the Charles River and Boston Harbor with tetanus and sewage. **Jesse Ausubel** will report on surprisingly diverse and abundant aquatic life discovered in a slurp of water with modern genomics near the Boat House and USS Constitution and look back nostalgically on the fear of falling off a shell, raft or dinghy.

John Kress will then lead a conversation among classmates engaged in the ClassACT HR73 Environment and Climate Change Working group. The late Harvard biologist Edward O. Wilson, in his 2016 book *Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life*, 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. With participants' backgrounds in environment, law, government, medicine, business, and academics, discussion will focus on

action that can be taken through ratification of international biodiversity treaties and local to global land trusts as vehicles for species and ecosystem protection.

Reports from Pre-Reunion Events: Only the beginning of the fun!

Charleston, SC, April 22nd, 2023



Classmates at the the pre-reunion event in Charleston

Fun was had by all at the Class of 1973 Pre-Reunion Event in Charleston, SC on April 22nd and 23rd hosted by **John Hagerty** and Susan Simons, and Allison and **Carl Muller**. The kickoff was a behind-the-scenes tour of the new, not yet opened, International African American Museum attended by almost 20 classmates and spouses. The tour was followed by an impromptu lunch and viewing at an artist's home and studio in the heart of the historic district in downtown Charleston. The group was then treated to a wonderful and delicious catered event at the Spoleto Festival offices housed in a renovated historic building also in the Historic District. The evening might have lasted well into the morning as the conversation never wavered, but the caterers needed to close down and get home to their families. The glorious

weekend ended on yet another high note with a fabulous brunch on the balcony of hosts John Hagerty and Susan Simons' home overlooking the marsh in Mt. Pleasant, about 20 minutes from downtown Charleston. Hosts Allison and Carl Muller manned the kitchen and served up a scrumptious meal that left the group wishing for more as the magical weekend had come to its end.

Washington, D.C., April 25, 2023



Classmates at the Cosmos Club

On Tuesday, April 25, classmates met in Washington, DC, for two pre-reunion events.

At 2 p.m., 20 of us gathered in front of the National Portrait Gallery for a ClassACT sponsored tour led by our brilliant art historian classmate **Andrea Kirsh**! We started out with a look at the portrait of Barack Obama and those of all the presidents nearby. From there we moved to the gallery that features Michelle Obama's portrait. Andrea asked us all to think about which artist (dead or alive) we would wish to have paint our portraits. At the end of the tour we moved on to Brian Lankar's portraits of remarkable black women. It was a wonderful afternoon.

At 6 p.m. at the Cosmos Club, hosted by a large number of DC HR '73 classmates, over 60 of us (classmates and guests) enjoyed cocktails in the garden, dinner in a private dining room and an extraordinary talk by classmate **Seth Waxman** about the Supreme Court college admissions case for which he is representing Harvard.

It was great to see old friends and meet new folks and do some serious learning and laughing in the mix.

More wonders are promised when we are together for our 50th from May 30-June 2. See you there!

CLASS SURVEY UPDATE


Harvard-Radcliffe Class of 1973

50th Reunion

****Confidential****

Class Survey

Results to be presented
on Wednesday, May 31, 2023
9:00 am - 10:30 am
Sanders Theatre



We currently have 470 completed surveys, but we are waiting for close to 170 people who have partially filled out their surveys. To complete your survey, please go to the last screen and click on Submit to have your voice heard. Please click on [this link](#) to reach the survey. Learn about the survey results on Wednesday morning, May 31st at 9am in Sanders Theater.

Multi-Class Update



The Multi-Class Initiative continues to gain steam as members from approximately 14 Harvard classes have shown interest or have already begun their own version of ClassACT. A working group will soon be established to develop a plan to set up a separate governing body to manage and grow the many versions and models of ClassACT as well as have classes work together. The key to success is for each participating class to have a strong, committed group of individuals who are willing to do the work necessary to achieve a critical mass. The up-and-running classes each have members who have committed themselves to work on important topics such as the environment. This multi-class collaboration is showing positive signs of making an impact within the community. The hope is that this type of organizational structure can lead to sustained efforts in addressing important issues.

Volunteer Opportunities and Bridge Updates

Help CRC Support Mental Health



[The Cole Resource Center](#), a Bridge Partner of ClassACTHR73 sponsored by **Ellen Faran '73**, seeks support for its work providing non-clinical, custom guidance to those facing mental- health challenges. Our current requests for your pro bono engagement include **Board development** (the CRC Board has openings for members with clinical expertise, fundraising experience, and/or business skills) and Communications (many exciting opportunities

to improve CRC's outreach; help us tell our impact stories). CRC welcomes the support already received from several classmates, and its ongoing partnership with the ClassACTHR73 Health Working Group. All CRC programs and services are provided free of charge through philanthropic support; your financial donations are always greatly appreciated. **Please email Ellen Faran at ellenf@coleresourcecenter.org to get in touch!**

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Osiligi Medical Center Update in Kenya



Osiligi Medical Dispensary

Maasai patients continue to receive medical care in the [Osiligi](#) Medical Dispensary from the medical staff assigned by the Narok Health Department in Kenya. Construction on the second Osiligi Medical Center housing a pharmacy, medicinal lab for traditional medicine, a dentist's office and vision care office has been completed by a local contractor and the facility awaits the installation of a dentist's chair along with dentistry, pharmaceutical and vision equipment. **David Weeks '73** will be traveling to Kenya in July and looks forward to securing an updated MOU with the Narok Health Department to attract the medical staff to sustain this new facility. In the original arrangement between the Osiligi Medical Complex and the Narok Health Department, staff housing has been included in a two-story residential building that will double as a small hospital ward with a few rooms for

patients needing extended medical treatment. Architectural plans have been created for the hospital residential building and have been presented to a contractor for a construction estimate. In addition to funding for the equipment in the Osiligi Medical Center, David Weeks hopes to attract financial support for the construction of the Osiligi Hospital Ward with its residential accommodations for medical staff. In addition to funding, present needs from classmates include consultation for dentist and pharmaceutical equipment as well as guidance in public health, especially in relationship to family planning. Consultation on essential medical equipment needs in a small hospital facility and solar panel energy would also be greatly appreciated. **Please email David Weeks at weeks@glenelg.org to get in touch.**

Salih Self-Development Center Update in Ghana



Salih Self-Development Center

The Salih sewing vocational training center in Kumasi, Ghana continues to empower girls and young women with valuable skills. In addition to this vocational training that has improved the quality of life for its recipients, there has been a need to educate youth to embrace construction skills in

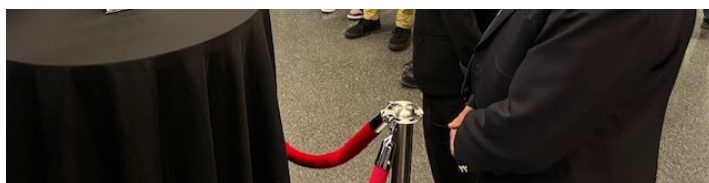
carpentry, plumbing and electrical work. To prepare for establishing vocational training in these skills, the [Salih Self-Development Center](#) has purchased two acres of land in Kumasi, installed a well, constructed a modest caretaker cottage and hired a local person to protect its investment. Plans have been created for the construction of a vocational training facility. President Ibrahim Salih of the Salih Self-Development Center will travel to Ghana this summer and discuss vocational training for youth with Kumasi government officials as well as partner with educators presently involved with vocational training in construction skills. From his research, there is a dearth of skilled vocational training teachers in Kumasi and a need for teacher training and financial support for their education. **David Weeks** seeks support from classmates familiar with vocational training in the construction skills associated with carpentry, plumbing and electrical work. He also hopes to collaborate with a classmate who has experience in vocational training curriculum development. Consultation on solar panel energy for the planned Salih Vocational Center as well as financial support for its construction are also desired. **Please email David Weeks at weeks@glenelg.org to get in touch.**

Wings of Hope: Global Cooperative

David Weeks is planning to establish a 501c3 nonprofit entitled Wings of Hope: Global Cooperative in order to further the development of the Osiligi Medical Complex and the Salih Self-Development Center. He seeks classmate support in the development of his website for this new nonprofit. **Please email David Weeks at weeks@glenelg.org to get in touch.**

Sports Analytics Club Program Update





Bobby Clayton and the members of the Fordham Prep Club

Classmate **Bobby Clayton's** [Sports Analytics Program](#) continues to be recognized. On March 30, 2023, The SACP Fordham Prep Club was celebrated by the NBA Brooklyn Nets at the game vs. the Houston Rockets. Nets great and SACP Club Sponsor Charles "Buck" Williams joined in the celebration. Bobby asked Harvard/Radcliffe classmates in the New York area to attend the event and will extend invitations to future SACP events across the country. **Please email info@sacpinc.com to get in touch!**



Bobby Clayton and Charles "Buck" Williams

JusticeAid Celebrates Nina Simone

May 22, 6:30pm at City Winery, NYC

"I believe that it is an artist's duty to reflect the times. How can you be an artist and not reflect the times?"

-- —Nina Simone, 1968

Buy your tickets here!



**JUSTICEAID CELEBRATES
NINA SIMONE!**

A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR
BLACK VOTERS MATTER.
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO BVM.

**JOIN
US!**

MAY 22
6:30 pm

CITY WINERY NYC
25 11th Ave at Hudson River



PURCHASE TICKETS
justiceaid.org

Graphic by Pamela Garlick

The JusticeAid family invites the ClassAct HR'73 family to join us for an evening to remember: A celebration of the music of Nina Simone, all in service to fighting voter suppression. LAST CALL for [tickets](#)! The concert is Monday, May 22, 2023, 6:30 PM, at City Winery, NYC. You'll enjoy a 3-course dinner and performances by some of the finest vocalists today: *Lisa Fischer, Corey Glover, Jennifer Hartswick, Jazzmeia Horn, Shenel Johns, Alicia Olatuja, Scott Sharrard, Vuyo Sotashe, and Brianna Thomas.*

100% of ticket revenue will provide unrestricted funds for JusticeAid's grantee partner, [Black Voters Matter](#). Thank you for considering a [donation](#).

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.](#)