
Please add ClassACTHR73@gmail.com to your contacts so future messages don't end up in spam or some other odd spot in your inbox.

ClassACT

Achieving Change Together

October 2023 ClassACTions Newsletter

As we are confronted with the tragic and horrific violence perpetrated by Hamas in Israel ten days ago along with the drawn-out war in Ukraine as well as the many injustices in the US and throughout the globe, it is hard to overcome feeling overwhelmed and discouraged. It is the hope of ClassACT that our classmates, friends, and families can take care of themselves, help others, and strive towards peaceful resolutions of conflicts, large and small.

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What Is ClassACT HR73?



As we move into a new season of activities, whether you are new to ClassACT HR73 or have been involved since the beginning, take the next 6 minutes, **click above, and check out our video**, "ClassACT HR73 Then and Now", created by videographer and classmate **Rick Brotman**. It captures where we came from and where we are going.

Meet & Greet with '23-24 BBLP Fellow Nazmul Haque

*Friday, November 10th, 5:30pm - 7:30pm
St. Botolph Club
199 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston, MA, 02116*

[Register Here](#)



Leigh Hafrey '73, Marion Dry '73, Nazmul Haque, and George Putnam '73

The ClassACT HR73 Board and the Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program Steering Committee invite you to join us in person for a social gathering introducing this year's Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program Fellow, **Nazmul Haque** of Bangladesh. This reception will begin with social time, wine, beer, soft drinks and delicious food, followed by a conversation between Nazmul and ClassACT HR73 Board member **Leigh Hafrey**, during which they will discuss Nazmul's past work, his time at HKS so far, and his hopes for the future. [Find more info about Nazmul here.](#) We will plan time for questions from those attending. This is a great opportunity to meet our wonderful fellow and to share time together in a relaxed and beautiful setting. Those who attended the event for last year's fellow, **Laila Khondkar**, at the St. Botolph Club can attest to the delight in being together and the grace of the setting.

ClassACT HR73 Forum Update

After a busy spring developing online forums and the work to create the two ClassACT 50th Reunion Symposia, the ClassACT Forum teams took the summer off! As our forums resume, please see below to register for the first one which is a follow up to last March's conversation about Ukraine. There are more forums in development, so look for more announcements soon.

#ClassACTHR73Forum: Update on Ukraine

Monday, November 13th, 7-8:30pm ET

[Register Here](#)



More than a year after the Russians launched a massive brutal assault against the sovereign nation of Ukraine, ClassACT HR73 once again invites you to a wide-ranging discussion about this war. Moderator **Bill Kristol '73**, a widely respected analyst of global affairs and founding director of Defending Democracy Together, will lead a discussion with 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**. Drawing on their knowledge of Ukraine's past tragedies, these panelists will analyze the current state of the war from military, political

and economic perspectives. Questions they are likely to consider include: How can the Ukraine's counter-offensive succeed? Will the support of Ukraine and unity among its European allies remain strong? How does the current turmoil in the U.S. House of Representatives threaten funding and support for Ukraine? What are the best ways to continue humanitarian relief for the civilians under attack in Ukraine?

Please share this invitation with anyone you know who is deeply concerned about the fate of the Ukrainian people and global stability.

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Want an easy way to register for the forum on Ukraine and upcoming forums and events?

Download the ClassACT HR73 mobile App!



Scan the QR code above – it will know if you are an Apple (MAC/iOS) or Android user – and follow the instructions to download, install, and open the ClassACT HR73 app.

If you are already a member on the ClassACT HR73 website, log in to the app with the same username and password that you set up for the website. If you are unable to log in to the app, try logging into our website, classacthr73.org first. If that doesn't work, send us an email at classacthr73@gmail.com and we'll help.

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

We welcome feedback, both positive and negative. Any suggestions regarding its features, graphics or its "user friendliness" would be appreciated. Please contact us at classacthr73@gmail.com.

How Do You Interact With ClassACT?

Facebook? LinkedIn? X (Twitter)? Our newsletters? How do you interact with us? We want to know! Take 1 minute and answer our 1 question survey!

[Click Here for Survey](#)

ClassACT HR73 @50 Video Update

Advancing Science: Debbie Winn '73



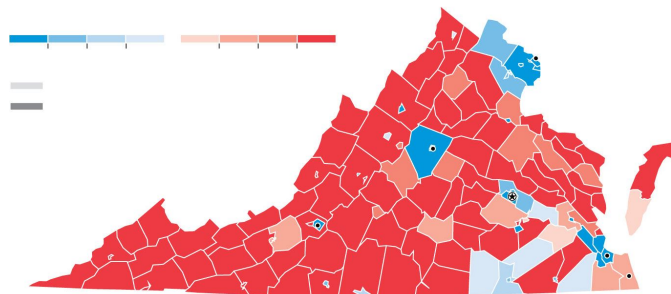
*Click above to view video, created by **Rick Brotman '73***

This month's [ClassACT HR73@50 Video](#) features classmate **Debbie Winn '73**. Debbie has spent her career in national government service at NIH and the CDC with specific focus on epidemiology research. Valuing collaboration and communication, she has increased cooperation in and among science research professionals throughout the United States and academic institutions. She describes being “at the edge of science” and working to “move it forward.” Take a look at this video and learn the ways Debbie’s work has changed the world of epidemiology and science research for the better.

Virginia 2023 Elections Will Be a “Bellwether”

By **Jacki Swearingen '73**

Edited by **Ryan O'Connell '73**, **Jim Harbison '73**, and **Marilyn Go '73**



As anxieties grow for the 2024 Presidential elections, Virginia voters are

preparing for a state legislature election next month observers have deemed a “bellwether.” The outcome not only will determine who controls Virginia’s House of Delegates and Senate, but also the fate of the state’s policies on abortion, gun control and climate change. In addition, winning Republican majorities in both chambers could jump-start the presidential campaign of Governor Glen Youngkin as a possible GOP alternative to Donald Trump.

This November all 140 seats in Virginia’s legislature will be up for grabs. The Republicans have a four-seat majority in the House of Delegates as well as the governorship. Democrats, who won the Senate in 2019, hold a two-seat majority that has allowed them to stop Republican efforts to weaken abortion rights and impose restrictions on some voters. This past August the Democrats’ majority in the Senate also enabled them to halt Youngkin’s proposal that would reduce taxes on corporations and high income individuals.

If the Democrats lose the Virginia Senate this fall, Republicans will have a “trifecta” that will allow them to limit or even ban abortion rights and to overturn the gun control measures like background checks that Democrats established in 2020. In contrast, winning both the upper chamber and the House of Delegates would give Democrats new leverage in budget negotiations with the state’s Republican governor.

If Republicans retake the Senate and hold onto the House of Delegates, Youngkin and GOP legislators would have the ability to enact previously unsuccessful legislation to oppose Medicaid expansion, to allow religious organizations to deny services to LGBTQ citizens, and to eliminate strict emissions controls. Republicans need to win only one additional seat to tie the Senate, an outcome that would permit the Republican lieutenant governor to cast a tie breaker vote.

[Click For Full Article](#)

WHAT TO KNOW/HOW YOU CAN HELP

The massive and small contributions to both parties will fund the canvassing and ad buys designed to drive the voter turnout key to victory in this election. Early voting began on September 22 and will run through 5:00 PM on November 4. Like his Democratic rivals, Youngkin is urging GOP voters to [cast their ballots in advance](#) at an early voting location.

Registered voters in Virginia can also [request a mail-in ballot](#) before 5:00 pm on October 27. They can check their registration, locate their polling place and request an absentee ballot.

All voters need a valid driver’s license or other ID in order to vote in this critical election.

It is not too late to help register voters and facilitate voting for all citizens, regardless of political affiliation. Residents of Virginia as well as other states and the District of Columbia can volunteer for or contribute to one of the following non-partisan organizations:

- The [League of Women Voters](#) protects and expands voting rights through advocacy and education.
- [Virginia Legislative Elections Guide](#) provides a nonpartisan guide to key votes.
- [Virginia Civic Engagement Table](#) supports non-profit organizations that assist at polling sites and provide voter protection hotlines.
- [WorkElections](#) recruits poll workers.
- [VoteRiders](#) offers Voter ID assistance.
- [BigTentUSA](#) gets out the vote through phone banking, post card writing, registration drives.
- [BlackVotersMatter](#) increases the voter engagement of Black citizens. Black Voters Matter is this year's Justice Aid 2023 Grantee Partner.
- [Rideshare2Vote](#) increases voter turnout through providing transportation.
- See also other organizations listed in the [Voting Activism Opportunities](#) posted on the ClassAct HR '73 website.

JUSTICE & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Tickets Still Left for JusticeAid Fall Benefit Concert



Don't miss dinner/drinks/dessert and an evening of **music for justice with Tank and the Bangas**, your new favorite band that you've never heard of!

There are a few tickets left for the JusticeAid concert later the evening of October 16th at 6pm at the Hamilton, 600 14th street NW, featuring Tank and the Bangas. 100% of ticket sales go to support the work of Black Voters Matter.

[Purchase Tickets Here!](#)

Justice & Civic Engagement Committee Update

The Justice & Civic Engagement Committee is actively involved in three major initiatives dedicated to protecting our democracy: The State Voting Protection Project, JusticeAid's voting rights and empowerment initiative with Black Voters Matter, and a new project in development on Civic Education.

1. The State Voting Protection Project

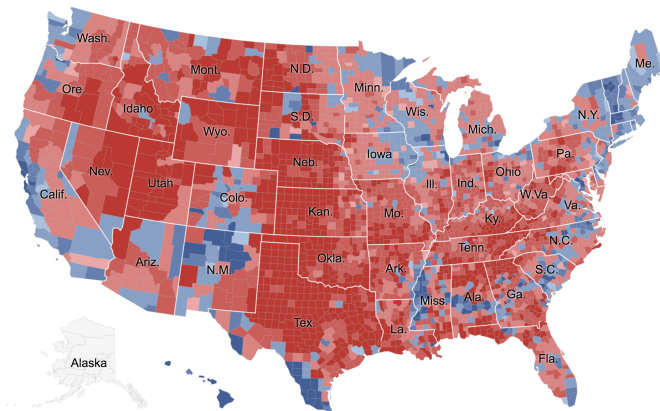


Photo from the NYT

This project (scroll down to see it on our [Justice & Civic Engagement Page](#)) features a series of monthly articles leading up to the 2024 elections that focus on issues and challenges relating to voter suppression, policies and access to the polls in the following states: Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin. The goal is for these articles and the issues they raise to have wide distribution among classmates, the ClassACT multi-class effort, and other non-profit groups. (See this month's article on Virginia above.)

The Committee is looking to identify a classmate in each of the ten states, to be the main contact for creating outreach and distribution strategies in their state.

If interested, please contact State Voting Project leaders Marilyn Go ricmarsus@aol.com, Jim Harbison jim.harbison@gmail.com, Ryan O'Connell ryanococonnell2@gmail.com, or Jacquelyn Swearingen walker1991@aol.com.

For previous articles on North Carolina, Ohio, Wisconsin and Latino Voters, click [here](#).

2. In Development: Civics Education Project



There is a concerning lack of Civics Education in this country, leaving many high school graduates without basic knowledge of the principles that are at the core of our democracy or how our government works at the federal, state, and local levels. As a result, far too many young people are not being prepared to participate in an informed and meaningful way in our democracy.

HR'73 classmate **Andy Marks** is reaching out to classmates with a goal of setting up a 6-9 person think tank representing diverse backgrounds, viewpoints and expertise to debate and propose a potential ClassACT Civic Education initiative. If you have experience in this area, or would like to learn more, contact Andy amarks@markslawoffices.com.

Update on ClassACT's Healthcare Working Group



Debbie Winn '73 and **Stan Mark '73** met in August with about 8 other classmates, most of whom came on board as a result of indicating interest during the reunion, to determine next steps for the ClassACT HR73 health focused group. Other group members, including board member **Ron Dieckmann '73**, welcomed the new participants. At the meeting, the group determined that the areas of interest were:

- Global Health
- Pandemic Issues and Vaccines
- Reproductive Issues
- Healthcare Inequities
- Mental Health

- Aging and Chronic Diseases

It was decided to create subgroups for each area of interest. Debbie and Stan are currently soliciting chairs for these groups--a task they hope to have accomplished by the end of October.

Once leadership for each subgroup is established, anyone interested in joining one or more of the health focused working groups will be welcomed. Stay tuned for more information as plans and projects develop. **If you are interested in becoming involved in one or more of these topic focused subgroups, please let us know at classacthr73@gmail.com.**

Progress on the Multi-Class Movement



Recognizing the need to build sustainability and legacy, ClassACT HR'73 continues to meet with several other Harvard classes to explore opportunities for building ClassACT initiatives in individual classes, as well as a multi-class collaborative. Some of these classes have developed their own ClassACT structures or similar approaches and a multi-class leadership group is evolving. In September, leaders from six classes met with Kristin DeAmicis, Senior Director of College Alumni Programs for a conversation about how HAA and ClassACT can best support each other, including options for introducing ClassACT to major reunion classes. HAA continues to be strongly supportive of ClassACT development and it is anticipated that the ClassACT model will be discussed with reunion committee chairs and committees over the next several months. Discussions with Travis Lovett, Harvard's Assistant Dean, Civic Engagement and Service, are expected later this fall.

UPDATES FROM OUR BRIDGE PARTNERS

[The Cole Resource Center](#)



Classmate **Ellen Faran** reports that in June, the [Cole Resource Center](#) took the major step of adding the new position of Program Manager. Our new staff member is focused on growing CRC's Workforce Development Program which supports job seekers living with mental health conditions. CRC's Board of Directors is now engaged in a strategic retreat where they will refresh CRC's mission and values statements, and prioritize the many opportunities it faces. Thanks to a recommendation from ClassACT73, CRC is using the services of Jay Vogt, an experienced facilitator with deep experience in the nonprofit sector.

[Osiligi Hope Foundation](#) + [The Salih Self Development Center](#)



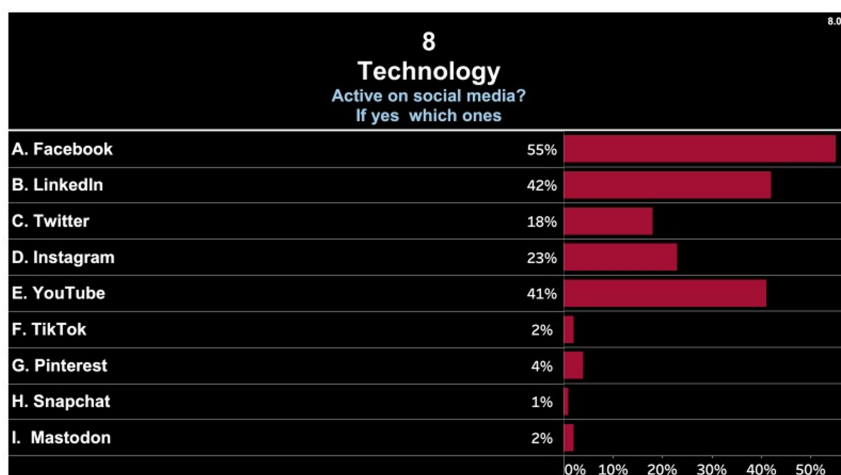
Classmate **David Weeks** updates us on the following: "I have been working on my website for my nonprofit Wings of Hope Global Cooperative. My vision is "to live in a global community where resources are more equitably distributed to maximize human potential and purpose in addressing social, economic and environmental challenges." To move towards this vision, I have stated my mission as "The Wings of Hope Global Cooperative seeks to provide resources to promote good health, education, and economic growth that will empower people in need. In addition to my bridge projects in Kenya and Ghana, I will seek resources to support projects in Guinea, Myanmar and Pakistan. Resources Give Lift!

The website: www.SupportWingsofHope.org is presently under construction. Check back on it soon!

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: Are you on social media? Which platforms?



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

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](#)

Please add ClassACTHR73@gmail.com to your contacts so future messages don't end up in spam or some other odd spot in your inbox.

[Class Achieving Change Together \(Class ACT\), Inc.](#)