

ClassACT



News — August 2020

Welcome to the Inaugural ClassACT HR79 Newsletter

You're receiving this either because you received our email and signed up on the [ClassACT HR79 website](#) or because you signed up at a meeting in Sever Hall last September. **If you've already signed up on the website, thank you for joining nearly 130 other classmates.**

If you haven't yet signed up, **you're invited to visit the website [to create a password and log in today](#)** — and while you're there, explore the website to become familiar with the work we can do together.

The purposes of ClassACT HR79 (CA79) are to bring together Harvard-Radcliffe Class of 1979 classmates to address — in a respectful and nonpartisan manner — local, national, and international problems, to create and support positive change, and to nourish relationships among classmates. We began to organize ourselves at our 40th Reunion, inspired by ClassACT HR73 and [HR79's Initiative for Investigative Journalism](#).

Most important, CA79, and the work we engage in, is a process that will evolve and be determined based on how you believe we should move forward together.

In This Newsletter

Below, you'll see some of the ways CA79 initial leadership is starting out and how you can join the greater effort — now and later.

Is your email inbox already overflowing? Ours are. Still, we hope you'll find these brief monthly newsletters informative and a reason to check out the website and learn [about initial CA79 projects](#), see what you can do, and learn how you can contribute.

We hope you'll stay with CA79 to see what we can accomplish together. If you don't wish to receive this newsletter, please see the link at the bottom.

What's ClassACT HR79 up to?

Connecting With ClassACT Groups

Over the summer we participated in a call with other ClassACT groups: a chance to connect, pick up tips, and see how ClassACT is gaining momentum — with over 20 classes interested in efforts of this kind.

You may already know ClassACT started as an initiative of the Class of 1973, and ClassACT HR73 has sponsored several online forums and other successful initiatives. **We invite you to check out their website to see what they've worked on:**

CA73 website

We invite you to take a look at our website as well to see what our initial projects are. We may be the new kid on the block, but we've got ambitions!

CA79 website

Personal Outreach

To gauge what interests you and other classmates and to see what you'd like to

accomplish with CA79, we'll be contacting people one-on-one in coming months. We've found engaging in personal conversation, even in the internet age, works wonders.

Conversations Across Divides

What tools can we develop to listen to and speak with others who don't share our experience or viewpoint? Peter Kelley and Gwill York are working on **a CA79 project to investigate the ways we might have respectful conversations across the divides we find in our nation:** political, racial, and urban/rural, among others. An initial online forum on this topic is planned for early October, moderated by classmate Michael Skoler of the Aspen Institute's Weave project. Stay tuned for details, and please let Peter or Gwill know if you have a good example of work that bridges divides.

What you can do now

Join a Committee

Other Forums: Along with the Conversations Across Divides project, we're looking at other topics for upcoming online forums. Our goal is for these forums (using Zoom) to be **a place where classmates and others who are experts or thought leaders in their field can share their expertise and opinions in relevant, enlightening conversation**, and where viewers will have a chance to ask questions, give feedback, and participate in an after-event social hour with classmates if they choose.

As CA79 gains momentum, we look to you for help in setting up how we work, what projects we take on, and how we get the word out. Look for more details about this in next month's newsletter.

Speak to Classmates

When you look **on our website, you'll be able to see who else has signed up**. Please share this newsletter with classmates, and then log on today and invite others to join CA79.

We'll share more about outreach projects in our next newsletter. The more people who sign up, the more we can draw from the talents and resources of our amazing classmates.

Stay In Touch

If you're interested in joining a committee to make CA79 start humming, please click on the contact button or call us at the phone number below.

Contact Us

If you prefer, leave us a message at (617) 299-6411.

We look forward to working together with you.



ClassACT HR79
Achieving Change Together

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