



# ClassACT Bulletin

April 2017

*As we hope you know, ClassACT is the 501(c)3 nonprofit established by HR 73 classmates after our last reunion to support nonprofit activities classmates carry out, and to set in motion nonprofit initiatives we feel are worth classmates' attention and involvement. Some of the nonprofits we have worked with have been identified formally as ClassACT Bridge Projects-you can see descriptions of them on [our website](#). We continue to learn about new examples of ventures that classmates have started, are running, or are helping with volunteer time.*

We send bulletins like this one to share news about both the Bridge Projects and those that we've learned about since we started, in order to highlight chances to help each other-where mutual support has worked so far, and where help might be needed now. We'd love to hear from you if there are efforts we should know about, whether you or another classmate you know is engaged. We also always like to call your attention to opportunities to get together connected to any of these initiatives; and, we always like a party!

*In this installment:*

A Botanical garden with the capacity to provide jobs, sustain the environment and boost tourism  
A children's orchestra travels from New York to China  
The Corner Project moves  
We think about a universal declaration of human rights, and ask for tech assistance  
Bob Dylan celebrates a birthday and Justice Aid puts on a forum and a concert

## Trees in Haiti

In addition to working on Bridge projects in Ghana and Kenya (we will update you on those in the next Bulletin), **David Weeks** has been focused on Haiti, specifically Cap Haitien, the second-largest city there. Working with the community, the Cap Haitien tourist authority and a locally-based environmental group, the initiative called Camp Coq Botanical Garden envisions a model for Haitian village engagement using a garden intended as a tourist destination and a teaching vehicle to educate visitors on the many uses of native Haitian trees (like the one below). **The project will need consultants who can help with grant writing, mapping and tourism brochures. Can you help? If so, email [David Weeks](#).**



## Andrea Kirsh steps up:

Our classmate, with her expertise in arts and museum administration, spent time advising both David-Weeks on how to clarify his mission in seeking to set up a museum in the Rift Valley of Kenya and Yeou-cheng Ma, redoubtable leader of the Children's Orchestra Society of New York.

You can read about Andrea's contributions in her own words [here](#). Yeou-cheng reports that while the orchestra still struggles for funding, they plan the bold step of a tour in July to Shanghai, Ningbo and Hangzhou, and that thanks to Andrea's encouragement, "we are starting to rebuild our board, and new members are working hard on getting the word out about us, and helping us reach foundation sources that were not available to us previously." Nice work, all!



Click [here](#) to check out The Children's Orchestra Society's website!



## Corner Project

We don't have a lot of new news about **Ellen Calmus's** *Corner Project* but that is partly because they are in the midst of moving their office, "which in combination with our ongoing crisis work has made for an inordinately busy time!," Ellen writes. "Our work has been intensified by the anti-migrant developments [in the US]. But sad as these developments are, there's some real satisfaction in being well-positioned to be able to help some of the people affected."

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## Human Rights and Party for Humanity



In the realm of classmate cross-pollination, we asked **Helen Hershkoff** if her Party for Humanity needed some help, and also put her in touch with ClassACT Board members Bahman Mossavar-Rahmani and Therese Steiner in connection with a project in the works on human rights. Helen's *Party for Humanity*, a web-based nonprofit aimed at encouraging children to celebrate a birthday or other happy event by donating to a local child-based charity, needs **"tech/programming assistance**, at least in a first stage." **If you can assist with this, contact [Helen Hershkoff](#).**

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## Therese Steiner brings us up to date on JusticeAid



*JusticeAid is a ClassACT Bridge Project founded by **Steve Milliken**; it puts on concerts with first-rank musical performers and donates 100% of the gate to selected nonprofit organizations working toward criminal justice reform. ClassACT has been able to share information about concerts in New Orleans and Washington D.C., getting classmates together and involving other nonprofits--like New Orleans' Roots of Music, a Bridge project **Rick Weil** has been deeply involved with--where there is a natural connection. ClassACT Board member **Therese Steiner** also helped the nonprofit develop its social media presence and eventually joined the Board of JusticeAid, so she serves as our liaison with Steve and his crew.*

Therese reports: the spring JusticeAid concert and panel will take place in New York during the week of May 22nd. This year's beneficiary: the Mental Health Project of the Urban Justice Center, a nonprofit whose mission is to advance the rights of New Yorkers facing mental illness through direct legal and legislative advocacy, education and coalition building. Did you know? the three largest mental health facilities in the US are all jails: Los Angeles County, Cooks County and Rikers in NYC.

On Tuesday, May 23, JusticeAid is also hosting a forum at the NY City Bar Association Library from 6-8 pm. **Steve Milliken** will host a dinner after the panel at the Harvard Club of New York, for panelists, dignitaries, and the JusticeAid Board; members of the class of '73 are encouraged to come!

The concert will be Wednesday, May 24th at the City Winery, 155 Varick St in Manhattan. That is Bob Dylan's birthday, so look for female vocalists to perform Dylan's civil and human rights songs in a concert/ gala melange, in an intimate venue with dinner served as part of the evening. HR '73 classmates coming can share a 'ClassACT table.' As a reminder, 100% of ticket sales go to support the beneficiary. We will be sending another email newsletter with details when we get closer to the event.

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**Join the Dialogue:**

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