Observance of Commencement committees.
The devoted class of 1972 member was its long-time secretary and a member of its quinquennial reunion-gift committees. He passed away on May 14.

Paul J. Finnegan ’75, M.B.A. ’82, of Evanston, Illinois, was elected to the HAA board of directors in 2004, and served as its president from 2006 to 2007, during the transitional period between the presidencies of Lawrence H. Summers and Drew Gilpin Faust. Elected to the Board of Overseers in 2008, he was named a Fellow of the Harvard Corporation in 2012, and was appointed Treasurer in 2014; he also chairs the board of the Harvard Management Company. A director of the Harvard Club of Chicago, he has served on various councils for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Kennedy, business, and public-health schools.

C. Ronald Ostberg, M.Arch. ’68, of Harvard, Massachusetts, remains linked to the University through his support of the Graduate School of Design (GSD) and the HAA. He chaired the GSD Alumni Council from 2010 to 2013, focusing on student and alumni outreach and ambassadorship, and introduced an alumni-mentoring program. His roles as an HAA board member included serving as member-at-large on the executive committee and appointed director for the GSD, as well as chairing the University-wide alumni outreach committee.

Harold I. “Harry” Pratt III ’59, LL.B. ’63, of Cambridge, is a resolve class leader, having served as ’59’s assistant treasurer since 1989, its John Harvard Society chair for nearly 20 years, and a faithful and diligent member of both the reunion-gift and -planning committees for decades. Appointed to the HAA board as a class representative in 1987, he joined the “Happy” committee and was an enthusiastic member for 25 years, long directing the cohort of alumni escorts for Harvard’s most distinguished guests at Commencement. He has also helped with fundraising for his Law School class.

Cynthia A. Torres ’80, M.B.A. ’84, of Los Angeles, has dedicated decades of service and leadership to different arenas of University work, including as HAA president from 2014 to 2015. As an HAA board member, she chaired the awards and clubs and SIGs committees and the Alumni Careers and Students Task Force and served on the committee to nominate Overseers and HAA elected directors. Extensive work with Harvard clubs in Hong Kong and Southern California led to her appointment as regional director for the Pacific Southwest. She has served on reunion-gift and -planning committees for her class and been vice chair of the Harvard College Fund West Coast Council.

### Changing the World

**Employing the mantra “It’s Not Too Late to Change the World,”** some members of the class of 1973 have formed a nonprofit organization to address important local, national, and international issues while simultaneously building relationships among classmates. ClassACT HR73 (“Achieving Change Together”) aims to leverage “classmates’ expertise, skills, time, and goodwill,” according to co-chair Jonathan Sprague, to form effective collaborations that support existing projects or develop new opportunities.

ClassACT’s largest project has been the establishment of the Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program (BBLP), which honors the prime minister of Pakistan assassinated in 2007, who was also their classmate. The program helps support “leadership development in predominantly Muslim countries,” says another co-chair, Marion Dry, and includes two fellowships at Harvard’s Kennedy School, in conjunction with the Edward S. Mason Program for mid-career graduate students. The BBLP is designed to advance peace and human rights in connection with principles espoused by Bhutto, Sprague notes, namely: “democracy, equality for women, reconciliation of religious and cultural differences, and education for all without gender or religious bias.” To date, about 125 classmates have participated in developing this project and more than $540,000 has been raised for the program. Inaugural fellows Natasha Jehangir Khan and Roohi Abdullah, both of Pakistan, matriculated in June.

The nonprofit is also spearheading more than a dozen “Bridge Projects.” These smaller endeavors match needs of socially responsible organizations founded or supported by classmates with classmate volunteers. So far, those versed in grant-writing and the arts have aided a Kenyan organization called Osiligi Hope, which provides educational and health services to Maasai communities. The classmate-founded JusticeAID, which holds concerts around the country to raise money for local justice organizations, has benefited from ClassACT help in promoting concerts and related events. Those included discussions on “Justice, Mental Health, and Incarceration,” moderated by Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* journalist Michael Winerip ’74, and on “The Criminalization of Poverty: 21st Century Debtors Prison,” hosted by former U.S. Solicitor General Seth Waxman ’73. The latter featured Harvard alumni Alec Karakatsanis, J.D. ’08, of the Civil Rights Corps (profiled in “Criminal Injustice,” September-October 2017, page 44), and Gina Clayton, J.D. ’10, of the Essie Justice Group. ClassACT is also working on a national project to support STEM education through the creation of sports analytics clubs for high-school and middle-school students interested in learning data-management and -analysis skills.

ClassACT HR73 has engaged about 250 classmates in these efforts, according to Dry, who adds, “We believe we are the first class [at Harvard] to ever organize ourselves to such an extent.” In coordinating the nonprofit and regional events, the group works cooperatively with the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA), which supports its aims, Sprague says. “One of the long-range goals is to share what we have learned with the HAA and to encourage them to adapt or adopt what we have done and potentially create a ClassACT-type structure, and ultimately connect inter-class endeavors.”

—NELL PORTER BROWN