

Fix Democracy First / Inter-Movement Community Forum

“REQUIRED READING” for the INTER-MOVEMENT COMMUNITY FORUM

- *Caleb Christen is a lawyer, a senior officer in the Navy Reserve JAG Corps, a seminarian, and a member of an independent Critical Connections team catalyzing inter-movement community and capacity building among democracy and civic health-promoting organizations to achieve collective impact. This is the first 3 in a series of articles analyzing how the ecosystem / community of democracy-promoting organizations and movements can prepare to support and facilitate a mass movement.*
- [1\) Organizing for collective impact: The making of a mass pro-democracy movement](#)
- [2\) Organizing for collective impact: Transforming American democracy together](#)
- [3\) Organizing for collective impact: It takes an \(inter-movement\) community](#)
- [Related\) Growing a movement: The return of in-person convenings](#)
- [Building A United Front](#) The Horizons Project

Rachel Kleinfeld's Five Strategies to Support US Democracy

- This working paper is/will be important to those who are working to build (or be ready for) a pro-democracy mass-movement.
 - As [Rachel Kleinfeld](#) points out, "The community supporting U.S. democracy needs a better strategy.
 - **Strategy #4 “Build a broad-based, multistranded, prodemocracy movement around a positive vision concretized in locally rooted action”**
 - The Inter-Movement Community Forum is about helping the "community supporting US democracy" to:
 - 1) experience and express itself as a community and
 - 2) to help democracy community organizers develop synergistic strategies, projects, actions and infrastructures more effectively and efficiently.
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Inter-Movement Monday Community Meeting #3 11/14/2022

Monday, November 14, 2022 / 11:00AM - 12:30PM PM Eastern / [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

FRAMING / PURPOSE

To a large extent the purpose of the Inter-Movement Monday Strengthening Democracy Community Forum is to socialize the idea, across the ecosystem of strengthening democracy movements, that (among other things) "[It Takes a Community](#)" to save and strengthen our democracy.

This Inter-Movement Community Forum is about discovering together how to best work across the many boundaries between the many strengthening democracy and civic health "movements" to achieve the collective relevance, influence and impact that is needed to get the strengthening democracy job done.

With that, this forum is about discerning and supporting what is needed for each person, organization and coalition to make the most of the attention being given to America's political system failures and to the fragility of our democratic republic so to better fulfill their missions while at the same time contributing strategically and meaningfully to the collective effort to strengthen and improve our democracy and civic health.

As [Rachel Kleinfeld](#) points out in her [Five Strategies to Support US Democracy](#) working paper: "The community supporting U.S. democracy needs a better strategy."

This Inter-Movement Community Forum is about helping the "community supporting US democracy" to:

- 1) experience and express itself as a community and
- 2) to help democracy community organizers develop the democracy community's connective strategies, projects, actions and infrastructures more effectively and efficiently.

INFO SHARING ZONE

- FORUMS / CONVENINGS / SUMMITS (Participant Shared)
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- GOOD IDEAS / CRITICAL CONNECTIONS / STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES
 - Egoless leadership mentality: Working towards individual org goals while also working towards greater movement goals
 - Principled Citizen: Choices based on principles vice party
 - Need to keep digital communities strong but need to also have people in real-life, boots on the ground
 - Need to identify how many movement-wide members we have—as we work towards the 3.5%/12 million Americans goal
 - Need to incorporate policy makers into the movement (at least build feedback loops between the constituency groups and the policy makers)
 - Citizen Connect: Important sensemaking for citizens to recognize they are joining a greater inter-movement community

- Unifying around positive narrative (e.g. “pro-democracy”) or negative narrative (e.g. “anti-authoritarianism”)?
- Need for “bridge-shrinking”
- Not enough to say “stop belonging to what you have been belonging to”...need to provide new places for them to belong to (e.g. Forward Party)...joining us is an “identity decision”
 - A lot of people are bailing from the two parties
- Community building: Wrong time to build community is when you need the community
- Need: Inter-movement community-wide sensemaking
- 12 Year Funding Plan: Are we factoring in countering political parties’ opposition into the total amount that we need?
- MATERIALS / RESOURCES / LINKS / ETC
 - Bridge Alliance: Upcoming data project to understand who we are reaching and how to reach those we are not
 - FORTHCOMING ON 11/19: 40+ federal agencies will publish recommendations for Equitable Long-Term Recovery and Resilience.
 - This remarkable interagency effort has been gaining traction over several years. It is the federal companion to the “Thriving Together Springboard” (<http://Thriving.US>), which combined views from 100+ contributors across the country. Note that the “thriving together ethos” concentrates on expanding “belonging and civic muscle” as the main capacity to become better stewards of our lives together. Below are *preview drafts* of the interagency report and recommendations, which will be published on Wednesday at <http://www.health.gov>
 - DRAFT REPORT: https://www.dropbox.com/s/cp9mudgn2tnc02h/ELTRR-Report_220127a_ColorCorrected_2.pdf?dl=0
 - RECOMMENDATIONS: https://www.dropbox.com/s/hw830ja74556c2q/ELTRR%20Recommendations_FINAL-ColorCorrected_2.pdf?dl=0
 - Need: Would be helpful to have a map/document that showed who has chapters in which locations (NANR Summit: place to discuss this (Mike Kenig))
 - Possibly Citizen Connect
 - NANR: State/regional coordinators that can make the right connections locally
 - Possibly set up a state/local meeting between the different org’s coordinators
 - Made need to better define which buckets there are
 - AA may provide lessons learned
- FORUMS / CONVENINGS / SUMMITS
 - National Association of Nonpartisan Reformers Summit, San Diego, Dec. 7-9
Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summit-tickets-275251493627?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

About Caleb and Walt

Caleb Christen is a lawyer, a senior officer in the Navy Reserve JAG Corps, a seminarian, and a member of an independent Critical Connections team catalyzing inter-movement community and capacity building among democracy and civic health-promoting organizations to achieve collective impact.

- Served in the Navy JAG Corps since 2007, including two deployments to the Middle East. Transferred to the Reserves in late 2020.
- Received BA in Poli Sci, JD, and (Graduate-level) Capstone Certificate in Int'l Politics and Practice from the University of WI-Madison.
- Completed an executive education degree in Organizational Leadership from the University of Oxford, Said Business School.
- About to complete a Masters in Christian Practice from the Duke University Divinity School.
- Specialty is leading complex organizations...now focused on applying those concepts to systems-level transformation and preparing the inter-movement community for collective impact.
- Currently authoring an "Organizing for Collective Impact" article series in The Fulcrum.

Walt Roberts is an independent actor and co-creator of the "Critical Connection Forum" that offers diverse leaders and stakeholders in the Cross-Partisan Reform / Bridge / Solutions (Healthy Democracy) Ecosystem the opportunity to explore and develop inter-movement "key lever endeavors" that include strategies, communication campaigns, conferences, infrastructure, coordinated actions and programs This "Forum" serves to foster the creative integration of diverse efforts and achieve the collective impact needed to effectively reform, renew, Revitalize and innovate our evolving American Democratic Republic. Walt's recent and most relevant experiences include:

- Sustainability Movement (The Natural Step, SCAA Coffee Industry, NW US + Canada Salmon Fisheries),
- Transpartisan Alliance / Movement (2008-2012, a Transpartisan Alliance founding team member)
- Living Room Conversations (chief process designer and pilot project co-lead)
- InterOccupy.net (intra-movement communication infrastructure and convening for Occupy nationally).
- ListenFirst, National Week of Conversation (Pearce Godwin supporter and thinking partner)
- Supporter and Thinking partner with Debilyn Molineaux (a Bridge Alliance co-founder among many other things)

