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THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG (310) 546-5252 NOVEMBER 2026

Upcoming Events

Night Window: David Smith Spray Paintings, 1958 - 1964

WED, NOV 4 @ 3:30PM
Hauser & Wirth (West Hollywood)
No charge

Live Your Best Financial Life, with Anne Lester

SAT, NOV 7 @ 2:00PM
Roxbury Community Center (Beverly Hills)
$15, members; $25, nonmembers

Tuesday Breakfast Club - West Hollywood

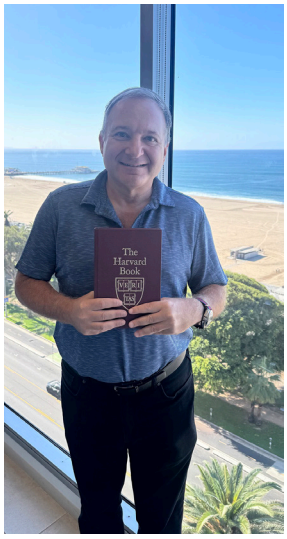
TUE, NOV 10 @ 8:30AM
First of All (West Hollywood)
No charge, cash bar

Ivy x B1G November Mixer

FRI, NOV 13 @ 6:00PM
The Holloway (Los Angeles)
No charge, cash bar

Creative Cowork

SUN, NOV 15 @ 12:00PM
Stereoscope - Bayview (Newport Beach)
No charge



HCSC Expands Harvard Book Prize Program

The Harvard Club of Southern California is seeking donors to contribute to the expansion of the Harvard Book Prize Program, in recognition of the many hundreds of high schools in our Club's geographic area.

HCSC is one of numerous Harvard alumni clubs that have been sponsoring the Harvard Prize Book program for decades. Under the recent leadership of Harvard Club Board member Neil Morganbesser AB'86, the program is set to expand significantly.

"This year, the goal is to more closely align donors with specific recipient schools, to recognize them individually on the Harvard Book Prize certificates, and to invite them to participate in a celebratory gathering of donors and recipients during the summer," Morganbesser said.

The Harvard Prize Book program recognizes outstanding juniors who display excellence in scholarship and achievement in non-academic fields. Outstanding high school teachers who inspire curiosity and excellence in their students can also receive the award.

Donated by alumni in Harvard Clubs around the world, Prize Books are presented annually in more than 1,000 high schools globally. The Prize Book program strives to inspire talented high school students to pursue future academic studies and introduce them to the opportunities available at Harvard, and to recognize excellence in teaching at the high school level.

Continued on page 2

Participating high schools nominate a talented student or teacher to receive the award. Prize Books are awarded without regard to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, or political beliefs, and it is at the discretion of the high school to determine the recipient of a Prize Book. Selection cannot be done through an application process.

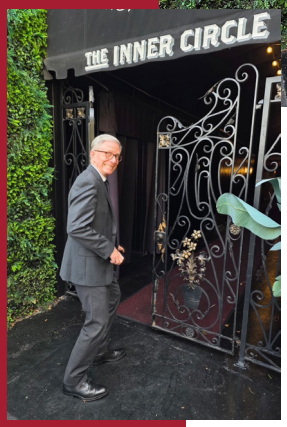
A student recipient must be a junior who embodies the qualities of scholarship and has demonstrated high achievement in non-academic areas. While most Harvard Book Prize awards are given to students, some schools have recently chosen to honor exceptional teachers in their community instead. In each case, the presentation of the prize is conducted at a school event or ceremony, and it can often involve the participation of a Harvard Club member or donor.

Recent Events

An Evening at the Magic Castle

As the Halloween season approached, over 60 Harvard Club members and their guests enjoyed an evening of tricks and treats at the historic Magic Castle in Hollywood. After a delicious meal in the Castle's dining room, guests were ushered to the Palace of Mystery theater for an amazing show with an international vibe featuring Uruguayan magician/comedian Daniel K and award-winning Dutch illusionists Niek Takens & Guy Wibowo. Afterwards, guests explored other astounding shows in the Parlour of Prestidigitation, the Princess Irene Theatre and the Close-Up Gallery, as well as additional performances in cozy lounges and bars throughout the sprawling Castle. If you missed this sold-out evening, don't despair... we will repeat this event next year.





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CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE

Terry Nathan
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This newsletter accepts items for publication. Materials must be submitted by the 12th of the prior month to appear in the following newsletter. Please include a phone number or email address with all submissions. Email submissions to: info@harvardsocal.org.

Harvard Club of Southern California
1020 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Suite 204
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A Great Day for a Hike!



On the unseasonably warm day of September 26, 15 alumni gathered to share scenery, sun and fun on the halcyon Ferndell/Observatory Trail. Over 2.6 miles, we talked, laughed, and stopped to admire the views. Due to the overwhelming enthusiasm, more club hikes will be coming.

The Future of Learning – A Conversation with Dean Nonie Lesaux and Anne Sweeney



On September 24, 2026, the Harvard Club of Southern California hosted The Future of Learning: A Conversation with Dean Nonie Lesaux (Ed.M.'80) and Anne Sweeney (Ed.M.'80) at The Sun Rose in West Hollywood. The evening explored the future of education, the importance of early childhood, public education, and the evolving role of AI in learning. Dean Lesaux and Anne Sweeney shared insights drawn from their leadership in education, media, and innovation. Reflecting on the evening, Madeleine Mejia, Ed.M. '00, shared, "What made this conversation so meaningful was the opportunity to bring our Harvard community together to think collectively about the future of learning and how we can create a more equitable, human-centered future in which all learners can thrive."

Crimson Tide Hits Huntington Beach



On Friday October 13th, 2026, Alumni Ashley Furst '03 and Harvard VP, Programs Vien Nguyen '86 held another fun OC Coffee by the Sea gathering outside Philz Coffee at Pacific City Shops overlooking the iconic Huntington Beach Pier. It was the fourth event in this series thanks to the success of the inaugural event in February of this year. "What started with a simple dream to meet local alumni in Orange County at a relaxed, free setting has blossomed into a genuine camaraderie among new and returning faces. It's more than a coffee table outside by the beautiful beach – it's our Think Tank and intellectual family room! I am so grateful to Denise Littlejohn '88, Matthew Stasior '87 and Vien Nguyen for letting us create this smart, witty, safe place" added Furst. What happens at the OC Coffee by the Sea table STAYS at the table- join us next year to see for yourself... (or host one in your OC town!)

Upcoming Events

Night Window: David Smith Spray Paintings, 1958 - 1964



Please join us at Hauser & Wirth West Hollywood for an exhibition walk-through of 'Night Window: David Smith Spray Paintings, 1958 - 1964. Limited space.

WED, NOV 4 @ 3:30PM
Hauser & Wirth. (West Hollywood)
No charge

Live Your Best Financial Life, with Anne Lester



Anne Lester is a media commentator and speaker who's on a mission to help Americans of all walks of life to achieve a safe and secure retirement. Anne encourages us to bring our high-school aged children to the talk!

SAT, NOV 7 @ 2:00PM
Roxbury Community Center (Beverly Hills)
$15, members; $25, nonmembers

Tuesday Breakfast Club - West Hollywood



Join us for a casual morning of socializing and networking. Come when you can, leave when you have to! Registration for this event will close Monday, November 9 at 9am.

TUE, NOV 10 @ 8:30AM
First of All (West Hollywood)
No charge, cash bar

Ivy x B1G November Mixer

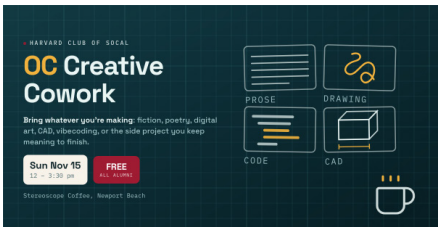


The Ivy x B1G Mixer series heads to Echo Park this November for a Friday evening at The Holloway, the neighborhood bar on Echo Park Avenue known for its cold beer, good eats, and a covered patio strung with lights.

FRI, NOV 13 @ 5:00PM
The Holloway (Los Angeles)
No charge, cash bar

Upcoming Events

Creative Cowork



This creative cowork session will be held at the atrium adjacent to the Bayview Stereoscope Coffee. All creative projects are welcome: fiction and poetry, digital art, CAD, vibecoding, a pitch deck, etc.

SUN, NOV 15 @ 12:00PM
Stereoscope - Bayview (Newport Beach)
No charge

What We Carry: Understanding Trauma and Finding Paths to Healing



What We Carry was created to help us better understand how trauma can affect people of all ages and, most importantly, what we can do to help children and adults cope, heal, and move forward.

FRI, NOV 20 @ 2:00PM
Virtual Event via Zoom
No charge

"The Game" Viewing Party 2026 – Orange County



Come watch Harvard beat Yale again at the 141st version of "The Game." Enjoy fellow Harvard alumni and cheer our Crimson on to Victory.

SAT, NOV 21 @ 12:00PM
The Elks Club (Costa Mesa)
Members: $10; Non-Members: $20

Harvard Night Out at Love Isn't Blind Live Comedy & Interactive Dating Show



Four men. One bachelorette. The twist? The men can't speak. Instead, show host Allison calls their moms and searches their phones. Come out for a night of laughter, connection, and live entertainment.

FRI, DEC 4 @ 7:00PM
The Pico Union Project (Los Angeles)
$25, members; $35, nonmembers

The OC Orange logo designates a Club event in Orange County

Q & A from 02138:

Bradford Dickson ’27



Bradford Dickson ’27 is a double concentrator in Economics and Music, and in the Harvard-Berklee Joint Studies Program where he studies cello performance at Berklee College of Music. He is a walk-on to the water polo team, and he is looking forward to his senior season in the fall. He was born in San Diego and graduated from Mar Vista High School, where he was the salutatorian. A resident of Quincy House, he is a member of the Crimson Cellos, an all-cello contemporary performance group, and recently performed at Boston Symphony Hall with the group. Bradford has been playing cello since the 3rd grade. He currently plays in multiple ensembles and he teaches students of all ages. He also plays the national anthem on his cello at water polo games on campus at Blodgett Pool. Last summer Bradford worked at Mckinsey & Co as a summer business analyst in the Austin, TX office. After graduation he plans to move to New York City to work at Bain & Co.

HCSC: What surprised you about being a student at Harvard?

BD: I experienced culture shock coming from my home town of Imperial Beach and arriving at a place like Harvard. The students' attitude of always saying “yes” and thinking anything is possible was not something I was used to. Many students have high expectations and seemingly impossible goals, but they have the work ethic to achieve those goals. Being in an environment like this has stimulated incredible growth in myself, and I hope to carry this throughout my life.

HCSC: When was the first time you visited Harvard and what were your impressions at that time?

BD: In the spring of my senior year of high school I participated in “Visitas.” Most of my time that weekend was spent with the Water Polo team. That weekend was when I knew the place and the amazing people I was about to spend the next four years of my life with. One of the most impactful people I met on that trip was Owen Hale ‘24.5, who invited me to an athlete bible study at the Harvard Catholic Center at St. Paul’s Parish during my freshman season. That one moment led to me joining the Catholic Church last Easter. I am truly grateful for the men on the team and their influence and support. My Harvard Water Polo teammates support me unconditionally in every way - academically, spiritually, athletically and musically. My teammates are always in the front row of my cello performances, and support my passion for music.

HCSC: What has been your most fun moment at Harvard?

BD: My water polo teammates and coaches truly make up one of the most supportive communities on campus. They support me as I incorporate music into different aspects of the water polo team and my life. Whenever I have concerts, they show up and cheer the loudest. One of my most memorable and favorite moments of sharing music with the team was on a road trip back from playing Princeton. I brought my guitar on the bus and we all, including coach Ted, started singing songs while I played. Coach Ted insisted I play Free Bird, however I am still working on that, but will definitely play it for him before I graduate.

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HCSC: What were your favorite classes or professors?

BD: My favorite classes have been the diverse selection of music classes I have taken. I learned to play the Viol Da Gamba, composed classical sonatas, completed interdisciplinary projects, and played free-style improv on my cello. Professor Claire Chase has had one of the greatest impacts on my music studies at Harvard. Her class on Contemporary Chamber Music enabled one of my greatest periods of musical growth since coming to Harvard.



Bradford Dickson '27 played at Boston Symphony Hall with a group of Harvard cellists.

HCSC: If you were President of Harvard, what would you change?

BD: As an athlete who practices in the evening I have run into many challenges with the structure of dining on campus. As president of Harvard, this would be one of the first things to be improved.

HCSC: What do you miss most about Southern California (other than the weather, food and family)?

BD: The access to the diverse natural beauty of California is something unmatched. I do love Massachusetts, besides the winter, but it is impossible in New England to experience the lifestyle of being on a warm Southern California beach and to ski on the same day. I miss that lifestyle so much in fact, that I spent my freshman year spring break on a road trip from Santa Barbara down to San Diego with several other water polo teammates. It was one of the most enjoyable and memorable trips I have ever taken, from riding electric bikes at Rincon to going out on San Diego Bay.

HCSC: How do you think Southern California will figure into your future after Harvard?

BD: I am currently exploring ideas of attending graduate school for cello performance, moving abroad to study music, building a startup, or going directly into industry after college. I am not exactly sure how Southern California will fit into my future, but with my friends and family in California, it will always be home.



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Saturday, November 21st:

Harvard-Yale Game Will Start Three Hours Later than Normal - Kickoff is at 12:30pm

Club members and their guests are invited to cheer on the Harvard Crimson as they take on the Yale Bulldogs on Saturday, November 21, in the 142nd version of the Game. The event will be telecast live to a viewing party in Costa Mesa and will also be on ESPN-U.

We are looking for a venue for a viewing party in the Los Angeles area now, and if successful, will post details on our website. Please visit https://hcsc.clubs.harvard.edu/.

THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
1020 Manhattan Beach Blvd., #204
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Upcoming Events

For more information on events and general club news, visit the club website at **www.harvardsocal.org.**

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	COST
Wed, Nov 4 3:30PM	**Night Window: David Smith Spray Paintings, 1958 - 1964**	Hauser & Wirth West Hollywood, CA	No charge
Sat, Nov 7 2:00PM	**Live Your Best Financial Life, with Anne Lester**	Roxbury Community Center, Beverly Hills, CA	$15, members; $25, nonmembers
Tue, Nov 10 8:30AM	**Tuesday Breakfast Club - West Hollywood**	First of All, West Hollywood, CA	No charge, cash bar
Fri, Nov 13 6:00PM	**Ivy x B1G October Mixer**	The Holloway Los Angeles, CA	No charge, cash bar
Sun, Nov 15 12:00PM	**Creative Cowork**	Stereoscope (Bayview) Newport Beach, CA	No charge
Fri, Nov 20 2:00PM	**What We Carry: Understanding Trauma / Finding Paths to Healing**	Virtual Event via Zoom	No charge
Sat, Nov 21 12:00PM	**142nd Harvard-Yale Football Game - Orange County**	The Elks Club Costa Mesa, CA	$10, members; $20, nonmembers