



# THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

NUMBER 11

WWW.HARVARD-LA.ORG

(310) 546-5252

DECEMBER 2016

## Upcoming Events

### Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016 @ 2:00 P.M.

*Los Angeles Master Chorale - Festival of Carols*

**Location:** Walt Disney Concert Hall (Los Angeles)

**Cost:** \$56 per person

### Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016 @ 5:00 P.M.

*Ivy Pride Alliance LA... LGBT Legendary Bingo*

**Location:** Hamburger Mary's (West Hollywood)

**Cost:** \$20 suggested donation at the door

### Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016 @ 6:00 P.M.

*Book Signing and Discussion: BIG: Beginnings*

**Location:** O'Melveny & Myers - Century City Office

**Cost:** \$10, members; \$15, nonmembers

### Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016 @ 7:00 P.M.

*Holiday Dinner at the Forster Mansion*

**Location:** Forster Mansion (San Juan Capistrano)

**Cost:** \$50, members; \$75, nonmembers

### Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016 @ 5:00 P.M.

*Annual Harvard-Yale Holiday Salon*

**Location:** The Home of a Club Member (Los Angeles)

**Cost:** \$30 per person

### Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016 @ 6:00 P.M.

*President's Circle Holiday Party*

**Location:** Casa Romantica (San Clemente)

**Cost:** \$15 per person

### Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016 @ 6:30 P.M.

*Ivy Pride Alliance LA... Improvisational Insanity*

**Location:** The Groundlings (Los Angeles)

**Cost:** \$18 per person

### Monday, Dec. 18, 2016 @ 7:30 P.M.

*Messiah Sing-Along*

**Location:** Walt Disney Concert Hall (Los Angeles)

**Cost:** \$45 per person

## Follow the HCSC



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*Pictured (left to right): Shelley Arakawa (Jarrid's wife), friend of Kalia Whitney, Kalia Whitney, Jarrid Whitney, EdM '06*

## A Hair-Raising Marquee Event

On Sunday, October 30th, the Harvard Club of Southern California hosted its first Marquee Event, a private pre-release screening of the movie *Trolls*, which was co-written by Jonathan Aibel AB '91. With a theater filled with over 200 alumni and their children, all wearing *Trolls* wigs, Club President Steven Arkow AB '84 kicked off the event and shared that it is "gratifying to know that one of our Club of ficers, Jon Aibel, when he is not busy editing the alumni newsletter and handling member communications, uses his down time to write a hit movie for DreamWorks."

After the movie, Ken Williams AB '78 led a conversation with Jon Aibel in which Jon shared his journey from Harvard to Hollywood, before discussing how he and his partner Glenn Berger wrote the *Trolls* screenplay, worked with the artists at DreamWorks to create the film, and collaborated with the movie's co-star, Justin Timberlake.

The Q&A was mostly directed by the children who lined up to ask Jon their questions. Christina Arenas (age 9), niece to Daniel and Denise Payan (both AB '08 and MPP '10) stated, "I learned that it takes 2 to 3 years to make a movie, and I thought it only took like 2 months to make one."

*Continued on Page 2*

## *Trolls Marquee Event, Continued from page 1*

Kalia Whitney (age 6), daughter of Jarrid Whitney EdM '06, said, "I was a bit scared in the beginning but it had a happy ending. I really liked hearing from the guy who made it and how he answered questions from children, including his own son. That was funny!" Kalia's reactions to the movie were also shared by Andrea Robles, age 8, another niece to Daniel and Denise Payan, who said, "The best part of the movie was when the trolls helped the monsters to be happy without having to eat a troll... sorry if I am giving the ending away." Ken Williams shared that it was an "unexpected bonus when the kids got their courage and lined up to ask questions. That was one of the cutest things ever." It wasn't only the kids who had fun. Jarrid Whitney EdM '06 said, "I really appreciated the opportunity to attend an event that was certainly a Harvard program but one that was also family friendly. It was so great to hear from Jon and his honest take on how he got to where he is now, and the background story of making *Trolls*. So much fun!"

The Q&A was only supposed to last 30 minutes, but the enthusiasm of the children's questions extended this portion of the event to over an hour.

"I would really like to thank Jon Aibel for his generosity with his time and for sharing his talent with our community," said Madeleine Mejia EdM '00, who collaborated with DreamWorks, 21st Century Fox, Jon Aibel and Ken Williams to organize the event. "This was a great kick off for our Marquee Event series and I am glad to see so many of our alumni and their families join us."

At the end of the event, there were opportunities for autographs, selfies and group pictures with Jon, all of which were posted on our social media channels. Stay tuned for future Marquee Events.



*Pictured (left to right):  
Back row - Jon Aibel AB '91,  
Denise and Daniel Payan AB '08,  
MPP '10; Andrea Robles, and  
Christina Arenas*



*Pictured (left to right)  
Elizabeth Gillis AB '82, Kevin  
Wegener MBA '08, Ken Williams,  
AB '78, Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi,  
EdD '81; Steven Arkow AB '84, Jon  
Aibel AB '91, John Wang AB '88,  
Madeleine Mejia EdM '00, Chi Bui  
DMD '02, Eva Plaza AB '80*

## **HARVARD CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

### **OFFICERS**

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Steven M. Arkow AB '84

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### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

#### ***Harvard College Recent Graduates***

Tomi Adeyemi AB '15  
Lindsay Louie AB '11

#### ***Asian-Americans Outreach***

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#### ***Prize Book***

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#### ***Latino Graduates***

Ethel Seminario-Laczko EdM '84  
Gus Frias EdM '94

#### ***Early College Awareness***

Gus Frias EdM '94  
John Wang AB '88

### **CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE**

Terry Nathan

(310) 546-5252, email: HarvardSoCal@gmail.com

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: HarvardSoCal@gmail.com

# RECENT EVENTS...



## Harvard-Yale Football Game Telecast

Over seventy Harvard and Yale alumni attended the Harvard Club of Southern California's annual Harvard vs. Yale football telecast on November 19th at Busby's East. At stake for Harvard was a possible share of the Ivy League championship, as Harvard entered the game in a three-way tie with Penn and Princeton. Meanwhile, Yale was foundering in the middle of the league standings. Harvard was favored to win and extend its nine-year winning streak over Yale in this year's 133rd edition of The Game.

A closely fought first half resulted in a 7-7 tie at halftime, and Harvard fans were concerned. A well-executed onside kick by Yale to start the second half put Harvard on its heels. Yale scored a touchdown to take the lead 14-7 but Harvard advanced right back and tied the score at 14-14, entering the fourth quarter. But Yale put together a 14-play drive starting from its own 20-yard line to go ahead 21-14 with 4:10 to play in the game. Harvard had several possessions in the final minutes but was unable to advance past the 50-yard line and the Yale Bulldogs beat Harvard for only the second time this century.

Although it was not the outcome for which the Harvard alumni had hoped, the 2016 edition of The Game was a nail biter and both sets of alumni had a terrific time at Busby's East. Please plan on joining us next year if you can't attend The Game in person.



## Early College Awareness Program

More than one hundred students and parents gathered at Eastmont Intermediate School in the Montebello Unified School District on November 14 to learn how to plan, prepare, and succeed in college. Principal Cecilia Ramirez welcomed members of the Harvard Club of Southern California and the Harvard Latino Alumni Alliance, who organized the event. Students were encouraged to develop good study habits to excel in their challenging class work, to take preparatory Scholastic Aptitude Tests, and to apply for scholarships, grants, loans, or work/study programs to pay for college. Students were also informed about Harvard's financial aid policy that provides generous financial assistance to its admitted undergraduate students.

The program also included a session on "parents as partners" led by Harvard alumni Maria Covarrubias, John Rodarte, and Gloria Gonzalez, which shared information that parents can use to help their students prepare and succeed in college. A panel of college graduates that included Madeleine Mejia from Harvard Graduate School of Education, Octavio Gonzalez from Harvard Kennedy School, Karina Lopez from Cal Poly Pomona, and Rudy Torres from Brown University then shared their personal experiences and advice in applying to, attending, and graduating from college.

Before the program ended, all middle school students recited an oath committing themselves to prepare for and attend college, and to use their education to help themselves, their families, and their communities. Parents and educators made a similar oath committing themselves to help students realize their academic dreams.

For information about future Early College Awareness Programs, please contact Dr. Gus Frias at [dr.gfrias@gmail.com](mailto:dr.gfrias@gmail.com).



## Book Signing and Discussion: *Big Beginnings*

A reception, reading and book signing with HLS alumni Greyson Bryan in conversation with Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Virginia Keeny '83.

**Date:** Wednesday, December 7, 2016  
**Time:** 6:00 P.M.  
**Cost:** \$10, members\*\*; \$15, nonmembers  
**Location:** O'Melveny & Myers (Century City)  
**Contact:** Lisa Watanabe-Peagler,  
lisawatanabe@post.harvard.edu  
**Register:** <http://www.Harvard-LA.org>

\*\* HCSC Members will receive a free copy of the book with the price of admission (a retail value of \$15.95). Light refreshments will be served.



## Holiday Dinner at the Forster Mansion

Join Harvard alumni for this dinner event, which promises to throw you back in time to a bygone era of Californian Spanish splendor. Food and alcoholic beverages are included, and parking is freely available at the venue.

**Date:** Thursday, December 8, 2016  
**Time:** 7:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Forster Mansion (San Juan Capistrano)  
**Cost:** \$90 for all after December 1st  
**Contact:** Betsey Gillis, [newport1@flash.net](mailto:newport1@flash.net)  
**Register:** <http://www.Harvard-LA.org>



## Annual Harvard-Yale Holiday Salon

Join us for the liveliest Holiday Performance Party and Mixer in LA. Do you sing? Play? Perform? Dance? Or have another unique talent that would entertain others? This is your chance for fame, if not fortune!

**Deadline to register is December 6, 2016.**

**Date:** Saturday, December 10, 2016  
**Time:** 7:00 - 11:00 P.M.  
**Cost:** \$30 per person  
**Location:** The Home of a Club Member in LA  
(Address to be sent after registration)  
**Contact:** Sonia Molina, [soniamolin@aol.com](mailto:soniamolin@aol.com)  
**Register:** <http://www.Harvard-LA.org>



## President's Circle Holiday Party at Casa Romantica

Join fellow Harvard alumni at this rare opportunity to visit Casa Romantica, an historic Spanish revival home on a bluff overlooking the Pacific, majestically decorated for the holidays. The exclusive President's Circle holiday party hosted by Berenika Schmitz, promises a festive evening with drinks, delicious hors d'oeuvres and live music. Don't miss this exquisite event of the year.

**Deadline to register is December 9, 2016.**

**Date:** Thursday, December 15, 2016  
**Time:** 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.  
**Cost:** \$15 per person  
**Location:** Casa Romantica Cultural Center  
(San Clemente)  
**Contact:** A.J. Rogers, M.D., [rxsurgeon@aol.com](mailto:rxsurgeon@aol.com)

# Messiah Sing-Along at Walt Disney Concert Hall

**Date:** Sunday, December 18, 2016  
**Time:** 7:30 P.M.  
**Location:** Walt Disney Concert Hall  
111 South Grand Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
**Cost:** \$45 per person  
(Prime group seating in Orchestra West)  
**Register:** <http://www.Harvard-LA.org>  
**Questions?** Ken Williams, [kenneth\\_s\\_williams@hotmail.com](mailto:kenneth_s_williams@hotmail.com)



Now in its 36th year, the Master Chorale Messiah Sing Along is more popular than ever, with full orchestra and talented soloists on stage, under the direction of Master Chorale Artistic Director Grant Gershon. The full Master Chorale will also be on stage to lead an audience of over 2,000 singers in this Holiday classic. Bring your own score or buy one in the lobby and join the chorus. Hallelujah! Special Club group ticket price of \$45.00 in the desirable Orchestra West Section of Disney Hall.

**Deadline for ordering seats is December 4, 2016.** Order tickets through the Master Chorale box office. More details can be found at [www.Harvard-LA.org](http://www.Harvard-LA.org).

The Grammy-nominated Los Angeles Master Chorale, led by Music Director Grant Gershon, is recognized as one of the city's cultural treasures and one of the world's premier choruses.

## Upcoming LGBT Events by Ivy Pride Alliance LA



**December 4, 2016 at 5:00 P.M. - LGBT Legendary Bingo**

Celebrity Guests! Fabulous Prize Packages! Join us for what Los Angeles Magazine calls the "Best Gay Bingo!" We have reserved a table so we can all sit together, so please RSVP in advance.



**December 15, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. - LGBT Improvisational Insanity**

The Groundlings is an improvisation and sketch comedy theater that has been entertaining LA audiences for over 40 years. Come with us for a fantastic evening of good laughs and good company.

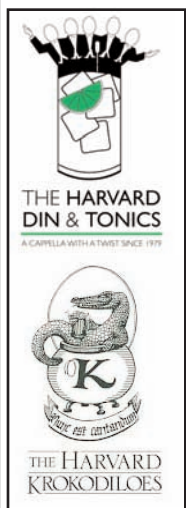
For more details, please contact Kevin Wegener at [kevin.wegener@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.wegener@gmail.com).



## Harvard Global Networking Night

Twice a year, thousands of Harvard alumni make new connections at Global Networking Night (GNN) events in cities across the globe. The last GNN drew more than 5,000 alumni in 85 cities worldwide! The next opportunity to tap into your Harvard Network is on Wednesday, January 11, 2017. Attendance is free.

**Date:** Wednesday, January 11, 2017  
**Time:** 6:00 - 9:00 P.M.  
**Cost:** No charge  
**Location:** The Parlor on Melrose (Los Angeles)  
**Contact:** Madeleine Mejia,  
[Madeleine\\_Mejia@post.harvard.edu](mailto:Madeleine_Mejia@post.harvard.edu)  
**Register:** <http://www.Harvard-LA.org>



## A Cappella Double Feature - The Dins and Kroks Hit L.A.!

The Din & Tonics and the Krokodiloes will be visiting Los Angeles on their Wintersession tours, and the Club is sponsoring a concert featuring both groups. Join us for an amazing opportunity as we present two of Harvard's most prestigious a cappella groups in concert, right here in Los Angeles.

**Date:** Saturday, January 14, 2017  
**Time:** 7:00 P.M.  
**Cost:** \$15 members, \$25 non-members  
**Location:** Westwood Presbyterian Church (LA)  
**Contact:** Ken Williams,  
kenneth\_s\_williams@hotmail.com  
**Register:** <http://www.Harvard-LA.org>



## Members Only! Private tour of Pop for the People: Roy Lichtenstein in Los Angeles

Dig up some Pop Art fashion and join fellow Harvard Club members for an exclusive tour with Skirball Curator Bethany Montagano of this special exhibition on the art and impact of Roy Lichtenstein. We encourage you to dress up in Pop Art fashion for this event. Door prizes will be available for best dressed and most dramatic photo pose.

**Date:** Saturday, January 28, 2017  
**Time:** 10:00 A.M.  
**Cost:** \$15, members and their guests only  
**Location:** Skirball Cultural Center (Los Angeles)  
**Contact:** Madeleine Mejia,  
Madeleine\_Mejia@post.harvard.edu



## Harvard Winternships: Host a Harvard Student in Your Workplace This January

For the fourth consecutive year, the Club is coordinating opportunities for alumni to connect with undergraduates as part of the 2017 January Winternship Program, through Harvard's Office of Career Services.

A Winternship is essentially an externship, an unpaid job-shadowing experience in the workplace, lasting anywhere from one to 15 days during the January winter break (January 2-20). Winternships allow students to observe and ask questions, receive hands-on experience, learn about particular organizations or industries, and build relationships. An essential part of a January Winternship is alumni willingness to share their career pathway with current Harvard students.

Proposals for Winternships should be submitted to OCS at <http://ocs.fas.harvard.edu/wintersession>. Proposals will be reviewed to gauge student interest and potential learning outcomes. Students begin searching for Winternships in mid-October. Though they are generally responsible for their own travel and housing, OCS does provide some funding to cover the travel costs for students needing financial assistance.

As in years past, there will also be a mixer held in early January, 2017 to allow local undergraduates and alumni to arrange last-minute Winternship experiences and discuss career paths and industry trends in various fields. **For more information about attending that event or the Winternship Program in Southern California in general, please contact HCSC board member Patric M. Verrone at [pverrone@aol.com](mailto:pverrone@aol.com).**



## Q&A from 02138... Michael Rothberg '17

**Michael Rothberg '17**, a concentrator in Cognitive Neuroscience & Evolutionary Psychology living in Kirkland House, was born in Santa Monica and graduated from Harvard-Westlake High School. Back in high school, he took part in a random assortment of activities, including track & field (focusing on the pole vault), volunteer work at an animal shelter, journalism, sculpture and ceramics. At Harvard, he leads backpacking trips with the First-Year Outdoor Program and additional outdoor excursions with the Harvard Outing Club. He also serves as an EMT with CrimsonEMS and as a peer counselor for Room 13. In his free time, he plays guitar, writes, and spends as much time as possible in the great outdoors. This past summer Michael worked to develop immunological therapies for lymphoma in a lab at UCLA.

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

**MR:** Especially as a pre-medical student, I was expecting an air of competition and dog-eat-dog intensity. However, Harvard proved to be exactly the opposite—the culture was collaborative and supportive. The degree of attention and thoughtful mentorship from advisors was remarkable, and in all aspects of Harvard life, academic or otherwise, I felt that my efforts were backed by a number of really caring people.

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

**MR:** I first visited Harvard when my older brother Daniel was in high school and touring a handful of east coast colleges. After a couple tours, most schools blended together seamlessly—their curricula, campuses, and liberal arts philosophies—but Harvard definitely stuck out in my mind. In addition to the centuries of history embedded in its gates and grounds, I remember being particularly struck by the sheer enthusiasm shown by the student tour guides for the school and their respective pursuits.

**HCSC: What was your favorite class (or professor) and why?**

**MR:** After three very full years of classes taught by incredible professors, how in the world do you single out just one? Still, last year, I took a bioethics class with Steven Hyman that focused on the implications of modern neuroscience on law and public policy. In class and during office hours, Professor Hyman posed fascinating questions and helped me expand the ways I think about tough dilemmas that face the world. The conversations I shared with him about the role of medicine and science in society were some of the most thought-provoking I've ever had.

**HCSC: What has been your funniest moment at Harvard?**

**MR:** Last year, during Junior Parents' Weekend, our blocking group threw a party for our friends...and their respective parents. Needless to say, it was pretty hilarious (and somewhat surreal) to watch as everyone's parents let loose and partied with us students.

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

**MR:** There would be an organized day off devoted to physical activity in the outdoors, a "mountain day" so to speak. The goal would be to give students an opportunity to explore the abundance of wilderness and natural beauty surrounding Massachusetts and its neighboring states.

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

**MR:** I miss the food! I'm a big fan of the Kirkland House dining, but there's nothing that draws me back home like the idea of a hearty meal from a local food truck or some tacos.

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

**MR:** Though it's tricky to say where I'll end up because I plan to apply to medical school the year following graduation, I've always been drawn to Southern California—the people, the weather, the proximity to the ocean, the exposure to countless artistic and cultural voices. Whether during medical school or at some other point in my life, I'll try my best to return and give back to the communities where I grew up.



c/o Membership VP  
 1020 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Suite 204  
 Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**ANNUAL HARVARD-YALE  
 HOLIDAY SALON  
 ~ DECEMBER 10, 2016 ~**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EVENTS AND GENERAL CLUB NEWS, VISIT THE CLUB WEB SITE AT  
[www.harvard-la.org](http://www.harvard-la.org)

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

To recommend an event or volunteer for one, contact one of our Programs VPs. Contact information can be found on page 2.  
 \*All checks for events are non-refundable unless explicitly stated otherwise. Unless specifically noted, RSVPs are not confirmed.

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	COST*	CONTACT
Dec. 3, Saturday 2:00 P.M.	L.A. Master Chorale: Festival of Carols	Walt Disney Concert Hall Los Angeles	\$56 per person	Ken Williams, kenneth_s_williams@hotmail.com
Dec. 4, Sunday 5:00 P.M.	Ivy Pride Alliance Presents... LGBT Legendary Bingo	Hamburger Mary's W. Hollywood West Hollywood	\$20 at the door	Kevin Wegener, kevin.wegener@gmail.com
Dec. 7, Wednesday 6:00 P.M.	Book Signing and Discussion BIG: Beginnings	O'Melveny & Myers Los Angeles	\$10, members \$15, nonmembers	Lisa Watanabe-Peagler, lisawatanabe@post.harvard.edu
Dec. 8, Thursday 7:00 P.M.	Holiday Dinner at the Forster Mansion	Forster Mansion San Juan Capistrano	\$50, members \$75, nonmembers	Betsey Gillis, newport1@flash.net
Dec. 10, Saturday 5:00 P.M.	Annual Harvard-Yale Holiday Salon	The home of a club member Los Angeles	\$30 per person	Sonia Molina, soniamolin@aol.com
Dec. 15, Thursday 6:00 P.M.	President's Circle Holiday Party at Casa Romantica	Casa Romantica San Clemente	\$15 per person	A. J. Rogers, M.D. rxsurgeon@aol.com
Dec. 15, Thursday 6:30 P.M.	Ivy Pride Alliance Presents... Improvisational Insanity	The Groundlings Los Angeles	\$18 per person	Kevin Wegener, kevin.wegener@gmail.com
Dec. 18, Monday 7:30 P.M.	Messiah Sing-Along	Walt Disney Concert Hall Los Angeles	\$45 per person	Ken Williams, kenneth_s_williams@hotmail.com
Jan. 11, Wednesday 6:00 P.M.	Harvard Global Networking Night	The Parlor Los Angeles	No charge	Madeleine Mejia, Madeleine_Mejia@post.harvard.edu