

@harvardsocal

@harvardsocal

facebook.com/groups/harvardsocal



# THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

OCTOBER 2020

## Upcoming Events

### Partner Club Event (HLSAOC): Police Reform and Racial Justice

FRI, OCT 2 @ 12:30PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required

### Kurt Andersen '76 and Lawrence O'Donnell '74 Discuss *Evil Geniuses*

SUN, OCT 4 @ 5:00PM

Virtual Event

Free, members; \$5 non-members - RSVP required

### Partner Club Event (Brown OC): Coronavirus Broke the World: How Can We Build Back Better?

TUE, OCT 6 @ 6:00PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required

### Welcome to Your City

WED, OCT 14 @ 5:00PM

Virtual Event

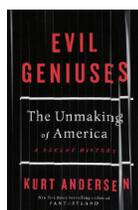
No charge - RSVP required

### Racial Progress in Education—The Next Generation

THU, OCT 15 @ 12:00PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required



## Kurt Andersen and Lawrence O'Donnell Discuss *Evil Geniuses*

Join us for an HCSC exclusive: Author Kurt Andersen '76 will be interviewed by MSNBC host Lawrence O'Donnell '74. They will discuss Andersen's recent *New York Times* bestselling book *Evil Geniuses: The Unmaking of America*, the story of how our political economy and society were re-engineered to serve big business and the well-to-do at the expense of everyone else. Although this is a virtual event, a limited number of signed copies of *Evil Geniuses* will be made available to HCSC members during the event.



**Kurt Andersen** is a writer whose nonfiction work includes *Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire*, a prize-winning history of America's defining weakness for entertaining falsehoods, and four critically acclaimed, bestselling novels; *You Can't Spell America Without Me*, *True Believers*, *Heyday*, and *Turn of the Century*. Andersen has also written for television and the stage; co-created and hosted the Peabody Award-winning weekly public radio program *Studio 360*; co-founded and edited *Spy* magazine; was a columnist and critic for *The New Yorker*, *New York*, and *Time*; and served as editor-in-chief of *New York* magazine. Born and raised in Omaha, he lives with his wife Anne Kreamer in Brooklyn, New York.



**Lawrence O'Donnell** is the host of *The Last Word* on MSNBC. An Emmy Award-winning executive producer and writer for *The West Wing*, O'Donnell served as senior advisor to U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) and as chief of staff to both the U.S. Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works and to the U.S. Senate Finance Committee. He is the author of *Deadly Force* and *Playing With Fire*, and his writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, and elsewhere.



# Update on the Harvard Student Emergency Fund

by *Patric M. Verrone '81, Club President*

As predicted, our community's response to these extraordinary times has been... extraordinary. As of newsletter publication, the fund is nearing its fundraising goals and the first batch of support checks have been distributed to local Harvard undergraduates who have expressed financial need. I want to extend special gratitude to Eva Plaza Mandel '80 who not only chairs the disbursement committee but who also made (with her husband Eric) a significant financial contribution. Other contributions of note came from - and thanks go out to - Sherwin Samuels '56, HCSC board member Dryden Pence '82, and, most especially, Stephen M. Hearst '88. Contributions are still welcome, are still tax-deductible, and can still be made at the Club website under the "Get Involved!" tab.



## Welcome to Your City!

Please join us on October 14 in welcoming our Harvard recent graduates from classes of 2011-2020 to Los Angeles. The Harvard Alumni Association, the Harvard Club of Southern California, and the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) of Los Angeles invite you for a night of networking and community building at our annual "Welcome to Your City" event. "Welcome to Your City" is our most widely attended networking event for recent graduates. This year it will be virtual, of course, but it will still provide a great opportunity for recent arrivals to Los Angeles to get to know other classmates in the area. The event will kick off at 5pm with

Zoommingling, followed by an official welcome from the Club and SIGs, and then breakout rooms for virtual networking, before concluding at 7pm. Please note you will need to provide your own cocktails. **Registration can be found at [tinyurl.com/WTYCLA](https://tinyurl.com/WTYCLA).**

### President

Patric M. Verrone '81

### Executive Vice President

Joan Chu Reese '85

### Vice Presidents Communications

Jonathan Aibel '91  
Pooja Nair JD '11

### Vice Presidents Finance/Financial Aid

Gary Barkin '86, JD '93  
John Luna '03

### Vice Presidents Membership

Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi EdD '81  
Matthew Stasior '87

### Vice Presidents Orange County

German Enciso HMS Research Fellow '07-'09  
A. J. Rogers MD '79

### Vice Presidents Programs

Madeleine Mejia EdM '00  
Lisa Watanabe-Peagler '02

### Vice Presidents Radcliffe

Elizabeth Gillis '82  
Kay Park '87

### Vice Presidents Schools

Harry Kim '86  
Eva Plaza '80

### Secretaries

Jennifer Hsu '95  
Maiya Williams Verrone '84

### Past President

Steven M. Arkow '84

### HAA Regional Director

Kay Park '87

### BOARD MEMBERS

Chi H. Bui DMD '02  
Joanna Chan '02  
Karen Hernandez MBA '00  
Shilla Kim-Parker '04, MBA '09  
Jade Le '10  
Maurice Levin '78, MBA '84  
Corey Mazza '08  
John McHugh MD '94  
Jaime Mendez '04, MBA '09  
Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89  
George B. Newhouse '76  
E. Dryden Pence III '82  
Joe Rogers '86  
Ethel Seminario-Laczko EdM '84  
Peter Shimamoto JD '85  
Ashley Turner '13  
Brittany Wang '17  
Kenneth S. Williams '78

### CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE

Terry Nathan  
(310) 546-5252  
email: [HarvardSoCal@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:HarvardSoCal@gmail.com).

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

## Recent [Virtual] Events

### Examining Structural Racism: Health Care, Education and Criminal Justice

On August 21, over a hundred Harvard alumni joined a Zoom webinar where experts representing several sectors of society talked about how structural racism had manifested itself in their institutions. Co-sponsored by the Harvard Law School Women's Alliance and the Los Angeles chapter of the Harvard Black Alumni Society, the event was moderated by the presidents of those two organizations, Harvard Law School grad Nancy L. McCullough and Maiya Williams Verrone '84. Speaking for the Health Care industry was Dr. Catherine James, Chief Medical Officer for Primary Care in the San Francisco Health Network. Representing education was CEO and founder of the George and Veronica Leadership Academy, HLS grad Earl Phalen. Criminal justice was covered by Gina Clayton-Johnson, founder and executive director of the Essie Justice Group, and Susan Mangold, CEO of Juvenile Law Center in Philadelphia. The panelists provided a short history of how racism has affected their various institutions in the past, the current state of affairs, and possible remedies, and then answered questions. It was truly an edifying experi-



### “A Third Reconstruction: Race, Reconciliation, and How Hollywood Can Help Make It Happen” with Harvard Law Professor Alan Jenkins

HCSC's Anti-Racism committee and Harvardwood produced a Zoom meeting on September 16 featuring Harvard Law School professor Alan Jenkins '85, JD '89 speaking on the topic “A Third Reconstruction: Race, Reconciliation, and How Hollywood Can Help Make It Happen.” Jenkins discussed the historic context of reconstruction in American history; the need for reform in the U.S. systems of justice, policing, education, healthcare, and elections; and ways in which the entertainment industry can help effectuate those changes. Over 45 participants viewed the event live and a recording can be found on the “Webinars, Podcasts, etc.” page of the Anti-Racism Resources section of the Club's website.



### Puzzle Hunt with Magician/Puzzle Master David Kwong '02

On September 20, approximately 80 members of the Club and the Harvard Asian American Alumni Alliance were treated to an online puzzle hunt specifically created for us by magician and puzzle master David Kwong '02. Attendees were split into groups and tried to solve a series of puzzles that had a Harvard/Boston theme. The answers to those puzzles led to a final answer that was the event's theme. It was a very challenging and fun evening. David will be doing an online show at Geffen Playhouse called *Inside the Box*. Tickets sold out within three minutes, but you can register with the Geffen to be notified if more shows are added.



# Upcoming [Virtual] Events

## Partner Club Event (HLSAOC): Police Reform and Racial Justice

The Orange County chapters of the Harvard Law School Association and the Harvard Law School Women's Alliance invite you to a panel discussion on police reform and racial justice in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement.

**FRI, OCT 2 @ 12:30PM**

No charge, registration required

Patty Le-Narula, [harvardinterviewer@gmail.com](mailto:harvardinterviewer@gmail.com)



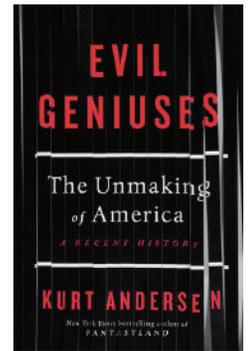
## Kurt Andersen '76 and Lawrence O'Donnell '74 Discuss *Evil Geniuses*

Join us for an HCSC exclusive: Author Kurt Andersen '76 will be interviewed by MSNBC host Lawrence O'Donnell '74. They will discuss Andersen's recent *New York Times* bestselling book *Evil Geniuses: The Unmaking of America*.

**SUN, OCT 4 @ 5:00PM**

Free for members; \$5, non-members

Patric M. Verrone, [pverrone@aol.com](mailto:pverrone@aol.com)



## Partner Club Event (Brown OC) - Coronavirus Broke the World: How Can We Build Back Better?

The Brown Club of Orange County invites members of the Harvard Club of Southern California to a conversation with CNN Commentator Jamie Metzl JD '97, on shared humanity in the Age of COVID-19. Space is limited.

**TUE, OCT 6 @ 6:00PM**

No charge, registration required

John McHugh, [jpmchugh1@yahoo.com](mailto:jpmchugh1@yahoo.com)



## Racial Progress in Education—The Next Generation

Join our dynamic panel of recent grads and college students as they discuss how unique aspects of the Millennial and Gen-Z generations may provide solutions for addressing racism and creating equal opportunity in higher education.

**THU, OCT 15 @ 12:00PM**

No charge, registration required

Maurice Levin, [maurice@cycads.com](mailto:maurice@cycads.com)



# Upcoming [Virtual] Events

## Welcome to Your City

Please join us on October 14 in welcoming members of the classes of 2011-2020 to Los Angeles. The Harvard Alumni Association, the Harvard Club of Southern California, and the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) of Los Angeles invite for a night of networking and community building at our annual “Welcome to Your City” event.

**WED, OCT 14 @ 5:00PM**

No charge, registration required

Brittany Wang, brittlynnwang@gmail.com



## Fair Play: Your Way to Work/Life Integration with Eve Rodsky JD '02

Working from home has become all of our new normal, and now more than ever, our homes have become our most important organization. Join *New York Times* bestselling author of *Fair Play*, Eve Rodsky, as she shares her sanity-saving methods to create balance in these novel times.

**THU, OCT 22 @ 11:00AM**

No charge, registration required

The Harvard Club of Dallas



## Welcome to New Members...

The Harvard Club of Southern California welcomes the following new members:

Diana Agdashian '22

Jayanti Bhatia EdM '20

Catherine Bond '20

Samuel Buckley-Bonanno '23

Felix Bulwa '22

Kelsey Chen '22

Campbell Dopke '21

Joao Daniel Fontes MPH '12

Daniel Gottesman '22

Lillian Gottlieb EdM '20

Joyce Kang '21

Heather Kenvin EdM '88

Bao Yi Lei '23

Harrison Ngue '23

Ilan Slovin MPP '20

Anwaar Spence ALM '20

Kevin Tan '23

Jiezhen Wu EdM '20

Mark Yetter '08

Q&A from 02138:

## Shirley Chen '22



Shirley Chen '22, a concentrator in History and Literature with a secondary in Theater, Dance, and Media, was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and graduated from the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. In her first year at Harvard, Shirley made history as one of the first six women to join the cast of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals. In 2019, Shirley was chosen by *The Los Angeles Post* as one of the “Top Ten Outstanding Chinese American Youth.” She starred as the female lead in *Beast Beast*, a feature film which recently debuted at Sundance Film Festival 2020. Shirley is a sophomore in Quincy House. At Harvard, she is an active member of the Asian Students Arts Project and Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club, having co-directed the play *M. Butterfly* this fall. Last summer, she attended Harvard Beijing Academy, during which she spent nine weeks in Beijing studying pre-advanced Mandarin. Her most recent internship was with Vanishing Angle, an independent film company in Atwater Village, CA.

*Note: This interview was conducted before Harvard decided to go virtual.*

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

SC: I expected that Harvard students were entirely bookish and type-A. As funny as it sounds, I didn't expect Harvard students to be so normal. Coming from an arts high school and applying to Harvard on a bit of a whim, I came to campus thinking students would be incredibly cutthroat. I think a lot of Harvard students learn how to flip the “Harvard switch” on, in that they're totally normal, offbeat, unique, and fun-loving 20-something-year-olds most of the time, but also juggle a ridiculously intense class schedule, job hunt, and extracurricular responsibilities like it's no big deal on the surface.

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

SC: I first visited Harvard on an admissions tour in March of 2018, a bit late for a high school senior. At the time, I thought that Harvard was incredibly old, historic, and, quite frankly, daunting. I thought, “There is no way actual eighteen-year-olds really go to this school.” My opinion completely changed when I came to Visitas that May, where I saw Harvard's campus come to life in a new and exciting way. I got a taste of Harvard's art scene, with my room host being a member of an a capella group on campus. Through her, I found the joy of Harvard and the promising friendships that awaited me on campus, and even got to meet the president of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals at the time— that meeting set me on a mission to join the company's first-ever co-ed cast even before I officially became a student there. Through that experience, I solidified my choice to go to Harvard, amazed by the vibrant art scene that existed in antiquated buildings.

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

SC: I absolutely loved taking “Acting Chekhov” with Remo Airaldi, one of the most beloved theater professors on campus. I joined the class as a freshman and because I was well aware of the highly selective and competitive nature of Remo's classes, I felt a lot of pressure to prove myself. Even though I went to high school for theater, I had never taken an acting class quite like Remo's. His charming, bubbly, ever optimistic attitude and in-depth approach to acting and character work taught me to love the “work” of acting that used to feel tedious and sometimes unnecessary. As one of two freshmen in the class, I felt incredibly humbled to have gotten the chance to

Continued on next page

work with some of the most talented and respected performers on campus and learned so much just by watching them work.

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

SC: When Bryce Dallas Howard, lead actress in the *Jurassic World* franchise, was honored as Hasty Pudding's 2019 Woman of the Year, I partook in her roast as a cast member with the Hasty Pudding. Since I was the smallest cast member, I got put in an inflatable T-Rex costume and had to shoot basketball hoops alongside Bryce from inside the suit. That was definitely one of the weirdest scenarios I've ever been in and I never thought I would do anything like that, let alone as a result of a college theater club I was in. Unbeknownst to me, *The Boston Globe* got a photo of this encounter and actually posted that photo of me in the T-Rex suit with Bryce the next day.



Photo Credit: Nathan Klima, *The Boston Globe*

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

SC: I would increase the number of social spaces for students on campus.

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

SC: I miss In-N-Out Burger! Shake Shack just isn't the same.

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

SC: Southern California will always be my home. By the last few weeks of the semester I can feel myself aching to come home. To this day I still respond "Los Angeles" to questions of where I come from or where my home is. After Harvard I see myself making frequent visits to Southern California, and potentially splitting time between Los Angeles and the city where I begin my career.

*HCSC: Any questions you want to pose to yourself to answer?*

SC: After Harvard, I plan on returning to Southern California to continue pursuing an acting career and further involve myself with the entertainment industry. I find it incredibly lucky that so many Harvard students end up moving to Southern California to work in the arts and entertainment world, so I hope to follow that path as well!

The following two questions were asked after the pandemic:

*HCSC: How was your transition to remote online learning and spring semester in general?*

SC: I took time off from school this past spring semester to perform in the play *Man of God* at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, a decision I made prior to any COVID-related disruptions. So, while my academic life wasn't disrupted by the transition to online learning, I was definitely disappointed when my show got cancelled before opening night because of COVID, right around the same time that Harvard students began to be sent home!

*HCSC: What are your plans for the fall semester?*

SC: I plan on staying at home in California and returning to Harvard via online classes in the fall. After a semester off from school, I'm super excited to start learning in an educational setting again, but I'm not sure what to expect at all in terms of the experience.



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](http://www.harvardsocal.org).

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	COST
Fri, Oct 2 12:30PM	<b>Partner Club Event (HLSAOC): Police Reform and Racial Justice</b>	Virtual Event Online via Zoom	No charge, RSVP required
Sun, Oct 4 5:00PM	<b>Kurt Andersen '76 and Lawrence O'Donnell '74 Discuss <i>Evil Geniuses</i></b>	Virtual Event Online via Zoom	Free for members; \$5, non-members
Tue, Oct 6 6:00PM	<b>Coronavirus Broke the World: How Can We Build Back Better?</b>	Virtual Event Online via Zoom	No charge, RSVP required
Wed, Oct 14 5:00PM	<b>Welcome to Your City</b>	Virtual Event Online via Zoom	No charge, RSVP required
Thu, Oct 15 12:00PM	<b>Racial Progress in Education— The Next Generation</b>	Virtual Event Online via Zoom	No charge, RSVP required
Thu, Oct 22 11:00AM	<b>Fair Play: Your Way to Work/Life Integration with Eve Rodsky JD '02</b>	Virtual Event Online via Zoom	No charge, RSVP required