Harvard-Caltech Recent Grad
Holiday Mixer

One of the biggest challenges for recent graduates in Southern California is finding community, especially with a quarantined California. The Harvard Club of Southern California traditionally hosts networking events in the vibrant neighborhoods of our city throughout the year, and we’ve continued to do so virtually. A standard meeting on a virtual conference platform such as Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Blue Jeans, HouseParty, FaceTime (are there more?) only allows for one person to talk at once. That is hardly a replacement for a live networking event, don’t you think?

On December 3 at 7pm, the Recent Graduate Committee of the Club and the Caltech Alumni Association will partner up to try something different which will be aimed at creating spontaneous, simultaneous interaction. We will be hosting a virtual, team-based home scavenger hunt. We hope to spark friendly competition and send both Harvard and Caltech alumni into the new year with new friends.

If you’re a recent graduate (from the past ten years) please join us for a BYOB night of shameless, innocent fun!

Recent [Virtual] Event

Kurt Andersen ’76 and Lawrence O’Donnell ’74 Discuss Evil Geniuses

Southern California internet wires crackled with the witty repartee of author Kurt Andersen ’76 and MSNBC host Lawrence O’Donnell ’74 on October 4 when they came together to discuss Andersen’s New York Times bestselling book Evil Geniuses: The Unmaking of America. Andersen regaled the virtual viewership with stories of fifty years of political, economic, legal, and social re-engineering designed to serve big business and the well-to-do “at the expense of everyone else.” Signed copies of the book were made available to Club members who donated to the Club’s Harvard Student Emergency Fund. (One copy is still available.)

Countdown to Election Day 2020

In anticipation of last month’s election, members of the HCSC gathered on October 26 for an engaging discussion with two election experts, Madeleine Moore (deputy for special projects for supervisor Sheila Kuehl) and Alan Solomon (dean of the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University). Madeleine told us about the notable changes to California’s election laws since 2016, including updated technology, the addition of early voting days in L.A. County, and mailing every registered voter a ballot to encourage early voting and increase safety. Alan explained how young people are motivated to vote and participate politically. He dissected the data Tufts has collected, reporting that there is now a 35 point margin between young Republicans and Democrats, whereas in 2018 the vote was evenly split. Dean Solomon also made helpful recommendations for increasing student turnout.

Camp Nightmare Escape Room

On October 29, a dozen intrepid HCSC members participated in a Halloween-themed spooky escape room. The group was split (not literally) into teams, and tried to solve a variety of puzzles to solve the mystery of the killer at Camp Nightmare. The escape room was designed in the spirit of ’90s teen slasher films. Half the teams were successful... and the other teams were never heard from again. Some say they still haunt Camp Nightmare.

Suzanne Nossel ’91, JD ’96 Discusses Dare to Speak: Defending Free Speech For All

On November 12, Suzanne Nossel ’91 JD ’96 discussed her book Dare to Speak: Defending Free Speech for All with HCSC President Patric M. Verrone in a virtual event co-hosted by the Harvard Clubs of San Diego, Minnesota, and Phoenix. Nossel, the CEO of Pen America, emphasized the challenges facing free speech in an era of fake news, alternative facts, cancel culture, and corporate-controlled social media. Her work, a “how-to book for an open society” is available at https://linktr.ee/pen_america.
Harvard Speakers Bureau: Professor Martha Schwartz Discusses Sustainable Cities

Dive into a discussion with Martha Schwartz, Professor in Practice of Landscape Architecture, founding member of Harvard’s Working Group for Sustainable Cities, and internationally-renowned innovator in design and climate change mitigation.

SUN, JAN 10 @ 5:00PM
No charge, registration required
Kay Park, kayparkmd@yahoo.com

Myron Kayton Science Pub #18 - The Search for Life in the Universe

No topic is of greater interest to today’s astronomers – and the public – than the search for evidence of life elsewhere in our solar system and far beyond. Dr. John S. Mulchaey, Director of the Carnegie Observatories, will describe recent progress on the search for life beyond our home planet.

SUN, JAN 24 @ 3:00PM
No charge, registration required
Ethel Laczko, etheledu@yahoo.com or German Enciso, enciso@uci.edu
Continued on next page
**HCSC: How do you think Southern California will figure into your future after Harvard?**

FB: Who knows! I may move back after graduation, because it’s close to family and has all the career opportunities I would hope for.

The following two questions were asked after the pandemic:

**HCSC: How did you manage the transition to virtual classes?**

FB: I’m actually taking a gap semester right now, but I still have an online class as a TA. Teaching over Zoom is weirdly fun and challenging — there are features that add to the interactive experience, and talking to a screen makes you reconsider and adapt your teaching style.

**HCSC: How did you spend fall semester?**

FB: I found some fulfilling ways to spend my gap! I’m remotely interning for the Santa Monica-based Milken Scholars Program, doing correspondence work and writing features for their website. I’m also a Fellow in the Los Angeles Mayor’s Office Innovation Team, where I help address a variety of issues facing our city — including homelessness, gender inequity, and COVID-19.

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**Harvard Kennedy School Program:**

**Leadership, Organizing and Action: Leading Change (Online)**

This 15-week course supports participants in carrying out real world organizing projects, with coaching from a learning community of teaching staff and classmates from around the world, along with readings, discussions, reflection and skill practice. In the past 11 years, 1226 alumni from 81 countries have completed the course, working in a wide array of fields, including education, health care, immigrant rights, gender equality, workers’ rights and environmental justice.

For more information on program dates, tuition, and curriculum, please visit the Leadership, Organizing and Action: Leading Change website, https://tinyurl.com/HKSLOA.

If you have any questions, please contact the Program Director, James Brockman at James_Brockman@hks.harvard.edu.
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).

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