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(310) 546-5252

MAY 2025

## Upcoming Events

### Leadership in the Face of Attacks on Harvard: A Conversation with HAA's Sarah Karmon

TUE, MAY 6 @ 1:00PM

Virtual event via Zoom

No charge

### HarvardSpeak LA: Intellectual Vitality at Harvard with Prof. Ned Hall

THU, MAY 15 @ 5:00PM

Virtual event via Zoom

No charge

### Fiction Workshop - May 2025

SAT, MAY 17 @ 1:00PM

Sweetsalt (Toluca Lake)

No charge

### HarvardSpeak LA: A Conversation with Government Prof. Theda Skocpol

THU, JUN 5 @ 5:00PM

Virtual event via Zoom

No charge

### Alumni Book Talk and Signing with Dr. David I. Sandberg '93

THU, JUN 19 @ 6:00PM

HKjar, McKenna & Stockalper, LLP (El Segundo)

No charge



## Harvard College Class of 2029 Welcomed at Club Reception

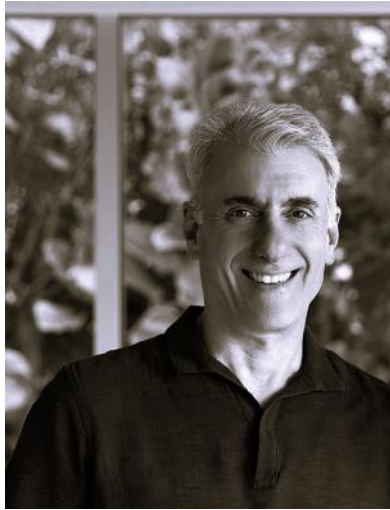
Harvard College's Class of 2029 admittees from Southern California were welcomed and celebrated at the Los Angeles home of Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89.

Harry Kim '86, Vice President, Schools, and past HCSC Club President Kay Park '87, organized the in-person reception for admittees and their families. More than 40 admitted students and their families attended.

HCSC board members Steven Arkow '84, Neil Morganbesser '86, Glenn Nano '98, and Joanna Chan '02 were also on hand to congratulate the newly admitted students.

Final decisions on accepting Harvard College's offers of admission are due on May 1. Harvard will release the demographic details regarding the Class of 2029 in the fall. The application process for the Class of 2030 will begin in August.

The Club seeks alumni who wish to get involved with interviewing applicants. Interviewer training will take place in the fall. Alumni who are interested in interviewing applicants to Harvard College should email Harry Kim at [areachairsfvharvard@gmail.com](mailto:areachairsfvharvard@gmail.com).



## President's Letter – May 2025

Well, April was quite a month for Harvard. I'm writing this message after reading Harvard's lawsuit against the federal government arising out of the illegal freezing of billions of dollars in federal funding to our alma mater. By the time this newsletter goes to press, you will have undoubtedly been bombarded by news coverage and op-eds about this important lawsuit. But if you have not read Harvard's original legal complaint, which was emailed to all alumni on April 21, I implore you to read it now. I know it's 50 pages—but they're double-spaced with wide margins, so it's not as time-consuming as you might think! And nothing else will give you a better understanding of what's at stake as Harvard defends its institutional and academic freedom in the face of unprecedented government overreach.

As most of you know, the federal government has claimed that freezing Harvard's funding is necessary to curb antisemitism on campus. I share many people's concerns about the rise of antisemitism among students and faculty at many universities, including Harvard, and I have been shocked and dismayed as Jewish and Israeli students have been targeted and harassed. But make no mistake—the federal government's latest gambit has nothing to do with stopping antisemitism. Curbing hate will not be accomplished by terminating the funding of ground-breaking research at hospitals, laboratories, and think tanks in the areas of medicine, public health, technology, and national security... research that continually leads to advancements that improve the well-being of our country and our planet. So no, the federal government's actions are not about curbing antisemitism but rather about taking down higher education. And what better place to start than Harvard.

So what do we do now? First, read Harvard's lawsuit (really, it's not that long). Second, think about donating to Harvard. Even a modest donation at this time shows that you support academic freedom. Third, stay informed so that you can defend Harvard against those who would like to see Harvard "taken down." To that end, the Harvard Club of Southern California is working with the Harvard Alumni Association to provide forums in which you can hear directly from the University and alumni leaders about the latest developments in the current litigation and ways to support Harvard through these unprecedented times. By the time you read this message, the first of these events should already be posted on our Club's website.

But if you do nothing else, please read Harvard's lawsuit. You'll be glad you did. You will never feel prouder of our alma mater or fear more for its future.

Gary Barkin '86, JD '93

President, Harvard Club of Southern California

### President

Gary Barkin '86, JD '93

### Executive Vice President

Lisa Watanabe-Peagler '02

### Vice Presidents Communications

Pooja Nair JD '11

Cynthia Torres '80, MBA '84

### Vice President Finance/Financial Aid

John Luna '03

### Vice President Membership

Jose Sanchez '89

### Vice President Orange County

Matthew Stasior '87

### Vice President Programs

Madeleine Mejia EdM '00

### Vice President Schools

Harry Kim '86

### Vice Presidents Technology

Jade Le '10

Joe Rogers '86

### Secretary

Karen Hernandez MBA '00

### Past President

Joan Chu Reese '85

### BOARD MEMBERS

Steven Arkow '84

Aaron Blumenthal '15

Paul Bokota '87

Yule Caise '86

Joanna Chan MD '02

Kenny Chung SM '13

German Enciso HMS Research Fellow '07-'09

Elizabeth Gillis '82

Billy Kimball '81

Jennifer Lee '95

Adia Matthews '10, MBA '15

Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89

Neil Morganbesser AB '86

Glenn Nano AB '98

Vien Nguyen AB '86

Marie-Christine Nizzi '16, PhD '20, GSA '21

Kay Park AB '87

Liz Ryan AB '81

### CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE

Terry Nathan

(310) 546-5252

email: [info@harwardsocal.org](mailto:info@harwardsocal.org)

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@harwardsocal.org](mailto:info@harwardsocal.org).

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

## Featured Event - Sunday, June 29th



# Harvard Club Annual Meeting & Awards Dinner

The Harvard Club of Southern California's Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner once again will be held at the lovely Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. Please join us on Sunday, June 29 as we honor distinguished members of our community.



**The 2025 John Harvard Award for Distinguished Community Service** will be presented to Senator Ben Allen '00. Senator Allen is in his eleventh year in the State Senate, representing the Westside, Hollywood, and South Bay communities of Los Angeles County. He won election and reelection by wide margins in 2014, 2018, and 2022.



**The 2025 Excellence in Education Award** will be presented to Mike Romero, Los Angeles Unified School District. For the past 36 years, Mike Romero has served the LAUSD in a wide range of leadership roles as a teacher, principal, Director of District Reading Programs, Director of Elementary Schools, Executive Officer - Office of Educational Services, Chief Strategy Officer, Local District Superintendent, and and Chief of Transitional Programs overseeing the Early Education Division, Division of Adult and Career Education, Educational Options and the Virtual Academy.

The event price includes a three-course meal with dessert and coffee. There will be a cash bar. Admission to the Huntington Library and Gardens during its operating hours is not included. Parking is available at no charge.



**Date:** Sunday, June 29, 2025

**Location:** Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108

**Time:** 5:30 PM reception. 6:30 PM dinner and awards ceremony.

**Event Pricing:** \$150.00 (Members and their guests); \$175.00 (Non-Members); \$190.00 to join the Club AND attend the Annual Dinner, eligible non-members only; \$80.00 (Recent Graduates, Classes of 2021-2025 from Harvard College and current students)

**Purchase Tickets:** See the Club's website at <https://hcsc.clubs.harvard.edu/>

**Contact:** Sonia Molina, [soniamolin@aol.com](mailto:soniamolin@aol.com)

## Welcome to New Members...

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

Mecca Billings '92	Katherine Faulkner '10	Maria Ratanova '10, PhD '16	Lara Teich '21
Alycia Cary '25	Nicholas Gannon MBA '24	Dustin Rhue CM '09	Alison Ullendorff '88
Kalos Chu '22	Nicholas Melvoin '08	Jacob Roberts '19	
Tiana Clark MBA '25	Emily Pate '16	Jasmin Salazar '17	
Thomas Colocci MBA '24	David Percelay MBA '76	Muriel Samuels MPH '24	
Jessie Dominguez '24	Nestor Pimienta MDV '17	Peter Solmssen '52	

## Upcoming Events

### Leadership in the Face of Attacks on Harvard: A Conversation with HAA's Sarah Karmon

Harvard made headlines in recent weeks as it took a stand defending academic freedom. What is the current situation, and what actions is Harvard taking to navigate the unprecedented challenges ahead? Join us for an off-the-record perspective and Q&A on these pressing issues.

**TUE, MAY 6 @ 1:00PM**

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge



### HarvardSpeak LA: How to Build a Culture of Intellectual Vitality at Harvard with Prof. Ned Hall

Prof. Edward J. Hall is the Norman E. Vuilleumier Professor of Philosophy, Director of Undergraduate Studies and former Chairman of the Philosophy Department at Harvard University. The event will be moderated by Neil B. Morganbesser '86.

**THU, MAY 15 @ 5:00PM**

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge



### Fiction Workshop - May 2025

Writers of all skill levels are welcome! After you RSVP, email Aaron directly to submit your draft prior to the workshop. Contact Aaron to join the Discord for draft submission! Waitlisters are welcome to join the Discord, too.

**SAT, MAY 17 @ 1:00PM**

Sweetsalt (Toluca Lake)

No charge



### HarvardSpeak LA: A Conversation with Harvard Government and Sociology Prof. Theda Skocpol

Prof. Theda Skocpol is the Victor S. Thomas Professor of Government and Sociology at Harvard University. At Harvard, she has served as Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (2005-2007) and as Director of the Center for American Political Studies (2000-2006).

**THU, JUN 5 @ 5:00PM**

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge





## Upcoming Events

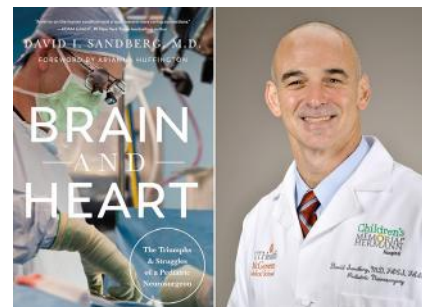
### Alumni Book Talk and Signing with Dr. David I. Sandberg '93, Author of *Brain and Heart*

Join us for this book launch event featuring David I. Sandberg '93 in conversation with Robert McKenna. They will discuss Dr. Sandberg's latest book, *Brain and Heart*, a warm and brilliant memoir that captures the medical and emotional intensity of pediatric neurosurgery.

**THU, JUN 19 @ 6:00PM**

Kjar, McKenna & Stockalper, LLP(El Segundo)

No charge



## Recent Events

### “Make Work Fair” Harvard Author Siri Chilazi Calls for Workplace Changes

On March 27, with an enthusiastic alumni audience, Harvard researcher Siri Chilazi '10, MBA '16, MPP '16 discussed the science of redesigning workplaces to increase fairness at work. She suggested that finding, developing, and rewarding talent fairly is best considered an essential core goal of every organization – and that fairness in the workplace is an attainable goal that can be measured. The Pasadena-area salon engaged participants in a vibrant conversation. Participants received an autographed copy of the book, co-written by Chilazi with Harvard Kennedy School Professor Iris Bohnet: *Make Work Fair: Data-Driven Design for Real Results*.



### Fiction Workshop - April 2025

On April 13, six writers gathered at Play Coffee in Orange to discuss each other's drafts and drink excellent single-origin coffee and matcha. Drafts ranged in genre from fantasy to experimental and covered topics from traditional animism to technological posthumanism. The broader Harvard Club of Southern California Writing Workshop community has now surpassed 40 members and is active on Discord with monthly readings and writing challenges. Aaron Blumenthal '15, the organizer, said, "I'm truly grateful to our regulars and newcomers for making this writing community so special. Through these workshops, I have not only been exposed to new perspectives on fiction writing but also made wonderful friends. Shoutout to Ben and Dara for being pillars of the community." Monthly workshops, alternating between Orange County and Los Angeles, will continue.



*Q & A from 02138:*

## Avery Hansberger '25



Avery Hansberger '25, a double concentrator in Economics and Theater, Dance & Media, was born in Redlands and graduated as valedictorian from John W. North High School (Riverside, CA). In high school, he founded the Environmental Science Club/Team, was on Varsity Swim, starred in nine Theater Productions and a local TV show, and was a National History Day, National Silver Medal. Now a senior in Mather House, Avery is a member of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals Business Staff and a former-President of the Asian Student Arts Project. Last summer, Avery was a recipient of an Artistic Development Fellowship (awarded by the Harvard Office For the Arts) and spent his time doing thesis research at the Stella Adler: Art of Acting Studio in LA. His thesis, a play written and performed by himself, explores 20th Century Realism Acting techniques and paints a picture of what it is like to train as an actor today.

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

AH: I was most surprised by how easy it is to cater your academics at Harvard to your wants and needs. As a double concentrator, I was able to study in two very different fields while making my journey in each unique to me. This flexibility was a reason I decided to attend Harvard, and it far exceeded my expectations.

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

AH: I visited Harvard for the first time when I was a sophomore in high school. I remember being surprised about how cold it was, even in late spring. The campus also felt so large and confusing compared to how familiar it feels now. As an eager student, I purchased "50 Successful Harvard Application Essays" from the COOP and began dreaming of my future at Harvard.

*HCSC: What was your funniest moment at Harvard?*

AH: It's hard to pick a funniest moment but my suite-mates and I get weekly lunches and dinners that are habitually filled with laughter.

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

AH: As a proud Mather House resident, who has grown to love it, I would renovate the house as soon as possible.

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

AH: I miss having my car and getting to drive places listening to music. I'd love to get the chance to sing in the car with my Harvard friends.

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

AH: I will be moving to LA following my graduation in the spring to pursue acting! I am beyond excited to escape the cold and get back to some familiar surroundings.



# 2025-2026 CLUB ELECTION BALLOT

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of the Club By-Laws, the Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following nominations for officers and directors of the Harvard Club of Southern California for the year 2025-2026:

## OFFICERS:

<u>Yes/No</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	President	Gary Barkin '86, JD '93
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Executive VP	Lisa Watanabe-Peagler '02
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Communications	Aaron Blumenthal '15
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Communications	Cynthia Torres '80, MBA '84
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Finance	John Luna '03
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Membership	Jose Sanchez '89
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Orange County	Matthew Stasior '87
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Programs	Vien Nguyen '86
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Programs	Liz Ryan '81
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Schools	Harry Kim '86
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Technology	Jade Le '10
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Technology	Joseph Rogers '86
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Secretary	Karen Hernandez MBA '00
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Past President	Joan Chu Reese '85

## DIRECTORS:

### Term Ending 2026

<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Joanna Chan '02
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	German A. Enciso, HMS Research Fellow '07-'09
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Jennifer Lee MAR '95
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Adia Matthews '10, MBA '15
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Neil Morganbesser '86
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Pooja Nair JD '11

### Term Ending 2027

<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Kenny Chung SM '13
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Kimia Grigoriev ALB '23
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Billy Kimball '81
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Glenn Nano '98
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Eric Witt '95

### Term Ending 2028

<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	James Biblarz '14, JD '21, PhD '23
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Paul Bokota '87
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Yule Caise '86
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Denise Littlejohn '88
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	George Newhouse '76
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Kristin Wadhwa '04

*This slate of candidates has been approved by the Board of Directors. All candidates are running unopposed. Members may vote for every candidate on the Election Ballot should they choose to do so.*

Marked ballots must be delivered to the Club Secretary by May 26, 2025:

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



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
Tue, May 6 1:00PM	<b>Leadership in the Face of Attacks on Harvard: A Conversation with HAA's Sarah Karmon</b>	Virtual Event via Zoom	No charge
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Thu, Jun 19 6:00PM	<b>Alumni Book Talk and Signing with Dr. David I. Sandberg '93, Author of <i>Brain and Heart</i></b>	Kjar, McKenna & Stockalper El Segundo, CA	No charge