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(310) 546-5252

APRIL 2025

## Upcoming Events

### HarvardSpeak LA: A Conversation with Harvard Government Prof. Harvey C. Mansfield

**TUE, APR 8 @ 5:00PM**

Virtual event via Zoom

No charge

### Fiction Workshop - April 2025

**SUN, APR 13 @ 1:00PM**

Play Coffee (Orange)

No charge

### High Tea to Celebrate Spring

**SAT, APR 19 @ 2:30PM**

A Private Home in Larchmont

\$35, members; \$45, nonmembers

### Hauser & Wirth: Tour of Charles Gaines' Numbers and Trees

**THU, APR 24 @ 4:00PM**

Hauser & Wirth (West Hollywood)

No charge (members only)

### US Courthouse Tour with Judge John Holcomb MBA '91, JD '93

**THU, APR 24 @ 4:00PM**

Ronald Reagan Federal Building (Santa Ana)

\$16, full event; \$0, tour only (members only)



## Global Networking Night Attracts Record-Breaking Crowds in LA, Orange County

On March 19, the Harvard Club of Southern California hosted the annual Global Networking Night (GNN). Alumni connected through two vibrant events in Los Angeles and Newport Beach. Co-hosted by Harvardwood, Harvard Latino Alumni Alliance, Harvard Black Alumni Society of SoCal, Harvard Asian American Alumni Alliance, Harvard Alumni for Education, First-Generation Harvard Alumni, Harvard Business School Association of Southern California, Harvard Business School Association of Orange County, and the Harvard Alumni Association, this year's GNN welcomed over 400 attendees in Los Angeles and 150 in Orange County, making it an unparalleled celebration of community and connection.

Attendees enjoyed exchanging stories, sharing professional insights, and exploring opportunities to collaborate across industries.

Madeleine Mejia EdM '00, VP of Programs for the Harvard Club and the event organizer, said, "With over 550 alumni gathering across two locations, this year's Global Networking Night was an undeniable success. The enthusiastic turnout underscored the strength of the Harvard community in Southern California."

In Los Angeles, standout moments included enjoying Skee-Ball and arcade games that captured the spirit of the evening. In Newport Beach, the elegant venue encouraged intimate conversations and fostered deeper connections. A significant number of first-time attendees remarked on how welcoming and engaging the events were, reflecting Harvard alumni's commitment to its community.

## Upcoming Harvard Elections:

# Harvard Club Endorses Courtney Vance for Overseer, Nick Melvoin for HAA Director

In this spring's Harvard elections, The Harvard Club of Southern California's Board endorses Courtney B. Vance '82 for the Board of Overseers and Nick Melvoin '08 for Harvard Alumni Association Elected Director.

The Harvard Club Board encourages all alumni to vote. Harvard is unusual among US universities in that the members of one of its two governing boards are directly elected by the alumni. Information about each of the candidates may be found on Harvard Magazine's website and on the Harvard Alumni Association website.



**Courtney B. Vance: Candidate for Harvard Board of Overseers**

Courtney Vance is a distinguished actor, director, and producer, and is an Emmy, Tony, and Critics' Choice award recipient with films including *The Hunt for Red October* and television shows such as *The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story*. He delivered the keynote address at Harvard Alumni Day last year. He and his wife, actress Angela Bassett, jointly received the 2025 Hasty Pudding's Order of the Golden Sphinx Award in recognition of their extraordinary contributions to the performing arts.

"Harvard is where I found myself," said Mr. Vance in a written statement to this newsletter. "I will always be eternally grateful for the space it afforded me to grow. Harvard's recent struggles are but a microcosm of what the United States has struggled with since its inception - bringing the ideal of freedom together with the reality of freedom. And just because we are going through challenging times, just because we don't completely agree on a way forward, doesn't mean that the baby goes out with the bathwater. It simply means we work harder at this grand experiment called a democracy, to bring it into the 'marvelous light.' Anything worth doing, is worth fighting for! And Harvard is worth fighting for."



**Nicholas J. Melvoin: Candidate for HAA Director**

Nick Melvoin is a civic leader, teacher, and attorney with a deep commitment to public service and education. Mr. Melvoin is his eighth year as an elected board member and past vice president of the Los Angeles Unified School District, the second-largest school district in the U.S. Prior to his election, he was an adjunct faculty member at Loyola Marymount's School of Education and served as a consultant to nonprofits. As a middle school English teacher in LA's Watt's neighborhood, he joined a lawsuit arguing that teacher layoffs violated students' civil rights. He is a member of a Harvard Kennedy School Board of Advisors and has lectured at both the Kennedy School and the Graduate School of Education. As a student, he was a Class Day speaker and an editor of *The Harvard Crimson*.

"I'm driven by the Jewish idea of *tikkun olam*, or repairing a broken world, and have dedicated my entire career since Harvard to public service," he said in a statement. "One of my guiding philosophies is that there is more that unites most people than divides them. My professional background has prepared me well to build consensus across lines of difference, including in the alumni community."

# Upcoming Events

## HarvardSpeak LA: A Conversation with Harvard Government Prof. Harvey C. Mansfield

Join us for a special opportunity to engage with Prof. Harvey C. Mansfield in an open discussion – ranging from current political events to the state of Harvard and America, to hear his perspective of many decades.

**TUE, APR 8 @ 5:00PM**

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge



## Fiction Workshop - April 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.

**SUN, APR 13 @ 1:00PM**

Play Coffee (Orange)

No charge



## High Tea to Celebrate Spring

Join us for this special event to celebrate spring at high tea. Enjoy exotic teas and sundries al fresco in scenic Larchmont. Come meet old friends and make new ones! Reservations will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

**SAT, APR 19 @ 2:30PM**

A private home in Larchmont (address shared after registration)

\$35, members; \$45, nonmembers



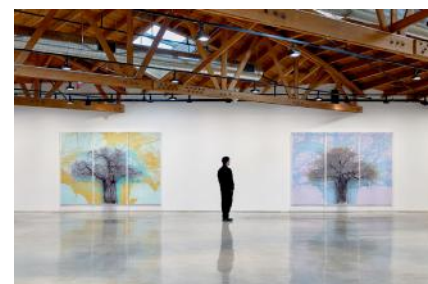
## Hauser & Wirth: Tour of Charles Gaines' Numbers and Trees - A Members-Only Event

Join us for a members-only free visit to Hauser & Wirth gallery in West Hollywood. We will view artist Charles Gaines' new sequence of his signature Plexi-glass works at Hauser & Wirth in West Hollywood. This is the most elaborate treatment yet of his ongoing Numbers and Trees series.

**THU, APR 24 @ 4:00PM**

Hauser & Wirth (West Hollywood)

No charge



## Upcoming Events

### 2025 US Courthouse Tour: Behind the Scenes with Judge John Holcomb MBA '91, JD '93



Please join US District Court Judge John W. Holcomb (MBA '91, JD '93) for an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of Judge Holcomb's courthouse and chambers followed by a group happy hour. Limited capacity. This is a members-only event!

**THU, APR 24 @ 4:00PM**

Ronald Reagan Federal Building (Santa Ana)

\$16, full event; \$0, tour only



## Recent Events

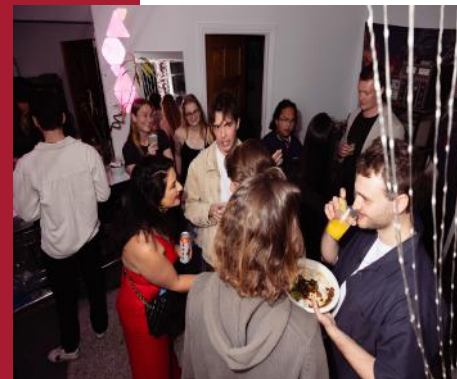
### ANHW Wine Tasting

On February 27, the Alumnae-i Network for Harvard Women (ANHW) hosted a wine tasting at Angeleno Wine Company, where locally grown wines and a light buffet were enjoyed by all. This well-received event will be repeated in the future.



### Inter-Ivy Recent Alumni Mixer

On March 1, 320 recent graduates from all Ivy League schools gathered at a private residence in Bel Air. Guests mingled across multiple floors, enjoyed KBBQ and refreshments, and danced to music provided by live DJs. Aaron Blumenthal '15, a co-organizer, said, "Getting to meet people from so many different backgrounds in such a fun atmosphere made me feel like I'd stepped back into Annenberg as a freshman. I'm grateful to Andrew and the entire Princeton Club of Southern California for spearheading this incredible event."- Expect more events like this to come.



### An Evening at the Magic Castle: A Members-Only Event

On March 16, over 60 Harvard Club members and their guests enjoyed an evening of magic and mystery 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 astounding magic show featuring renowned illusionists Stuart MacDonald, Eric Buss and Takamitsu Uchida. Afterwards, guests explored other amazing shows in the Parlour of Prestidigitation, the Peller Theatre and the Close-Up Gallery, as well as additional performances in cozy lounges and bars. If you missed out on this fun evening (which sold out in just a few days), we will repeat this event next year.



# Harvard Club Board Annual Election!



In early April, the Club's Board will send an e-mail to our members with our election slate of officers and directors. The Board expresses gratitude to many club members who expressed interest in serving on the Board. Ballots will be included in the Club's May newsletter. Our new board will be installed at our Annual Dinner on Sunday, June 29.

## Harvard Men's Tennis Aces Southern California Tournament



The Harvard Men's Tennis team, led by Head Coach Andrew Rueb '95, stormed the courts in Southern California during their spring break in March, as the No. 10 team defeated other ranked opponents.

For the second year in a row, the squad has more SoCal graduates than from any other region: Kareem Ansari '25 (Pasadena, Polytechnic High School); Masato Perra '26 who is rated #18 in doubles (Santa Barbara, San Marcos High School); James MacDonald '27 (Santa Monica, University High School in Irvine); and Rohan Murali '27 (San Diego, Santana High School), and

team manager Andrew Arkow '27 (Los Angeles, Harvard-Westlake High School).

To kick off their annual West Coast trip, making the adjustment from the indoor season to the outdoor courts, the Crimson scored its eighth straight win in its opener on the road in a decisive 7-0 decision against San Diego State. Later in the week, the netmen fell to No. 7 San Diego, 5-2, in a competitive contest that went to the third and final sets of the singles contests. In its final match hours before boarding the Sunday red-eye to Logan, Harvard defeated No. 45 UC Irvine, 6-1, improving to 13-4 on the year.

The netmen begin conference play to defend their Ivy League title for the fourth-straight season starting against Dartmouth.

*Q & A from 02138:*

## Edwin Dominguez '25



Edwin Dominguez '25, a concentrator in Mechanical Engineering, graduated from Ramona High School in Riverside, California where he ran multiple clubs, including the Physics Club. He was a section leader in the school's inaugural mariachi band, where they played all over the Southern California region to help jumpstart mariachi bands at other public schools. He was the sergeant-at-arms of the school's public service club.

Edwin is a senior residing in Mather House. At Harvard, he is the chassis lead for the Harvard Undergraduate Automotive Society, where he is working on designing and fabricating a chassis for a formula-styled car to compete in the FSAE competition. Edwin is a part of the Harvard Men's Varsity Soccer team as well, where he plays center back. He is an active member of Harvard College Christian Students. Last summer he worked at CalPortland Company in Oro Grande, California as a mechanical engineering intern, leading teams in their repairs around the plant while also creating computer-aided design drawings for industrial equipment.

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

ED: What surprised me the most about being a student at Harvard was the amount of aid each course provides. I always thought that we would be on our own and never really get to know our professors on a personal level, but that was not the case. I actually felt like I got to know each professor and each course provided more than enough assistance to help each student do well.

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

ED: The first time I visited Harvard was actually during soccer pre-season during my freshman year in 2021. I was completely awe-struck by the whole campus, especially since all of the buildings were of older architecture, which is something we do not see in Southern California. I had also never seen pictures of Harvard, so it was all completely new to me, and I was excited to get started.

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

ED: My funniest moment at Harvard was definitely while working one of the on-campus grilles, specifically Quincy Grille. All of the students that came along to the grille in the late hours always had funny stories to tell. I always enjoyed talking to students, especially since these conversations allowed me to meet new people from all over campus.

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

ED: If I were President of Harvard, I would immediately make changes to the dining hall. Although the people are great and the food is sometimes good, it definitely needs a rehaul to provide more, healthy alternatives in addition to the already warm, home comfort foods.

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

ED: Beyond the obvious, I miss everyday life's close-knit sense of community and diverse cultures. Southern California has this unique blend of people and experiences that makes you feel connected to everyone around you. I also miss the mountains and the ability to easily go hiking or enjoy nature just a short drive away.

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

ED: What I miss most about Southern California is being central to everything. Living in Southern California means that in less than two hours, at least from Riverside, I can drive out to the beach, to Mexico, to the mountains, to a lake, to Disneyland, or to the big city of Los Angeles. Boston is based more on public transportation and the roads are designed in such a way that a 5 mile drive can take up to 30 minutes. Southern California, although notorious for traffic, is much better for this and is what I miss most.

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

ED: After Harvard, I hope to return to Southern California to start my career as a mechanical engineer. I am definitely open to living outside of Southern California, but I would hope to raise my family here, if possible.



## *Save the Date!* **2025 Harvard Club Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner**

Our Annual Dinner is always one of our most popular events, where we bestow the John Harvard Award and our Club's Educator of the Year Award, install our new board members, and recognize alumni who have contributed to our vibrant community. Event attendees are welcome to tour the Huntington on their own in the hours prior to our event's start at 5:30 pm (note: you will need to purchase a separate ticket through the Huntington website if you wish to do this).

**SUN, JUN 29 @ 5:00PM**

Huntington Library (San Marino)

\$150, members; \$175, non-members;

\$190, to join the Club AND attend the Annual Dinner, eligible non-members only;

\$80, recent grads (classes of 2021-2025)

### **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

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Paul Bokota '87

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

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

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## *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, Apr 8 5:00PM	<b>HarvardSpeak LA: A Conversation with Harvard Government Prof. Harvey C. Mansfield</b>	Virtual Event via Zoom	No charge
Sun, Apr 13 1:00PM	<b>Fiction Workshop - April 2025</b>	Play Coffee Orange, CA	No charge
Sat, Apr 19 2:30PM	<b>High Tea to Celebrate Spring</b>	A Private Home in Larchmont Los Angeles, CA	\$35, members; \$45, non-members
Thu, Apr 24 4:00PM	<b>Hauser &amp; Wirth: Tour of Charles Gaines' Numbers and Trees</b>	Hauser & Wirth West Hollywood, CA	No charge
Thu, Apr 24 4:00PM	<b>US Courthouse Tour with Judge John Holcomb MBA '91, JD '93</b>	Ronald Reagan Federal Building Santa ANa, CA	\$16, full event; \$0, tour only