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# THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

JUNE 2020

## Upcoming Events

### June 9 at 5pm - Harvard Across America Series: Inequality in the U.S.

Join us for an interactive discussion with Harvard Professor David Deming PhD '10 from the Kennedy School of Government and the Graduate School of Education. This is part of the Harvard Club of San Francisco's Harvard Across America Series. This free webinar is open to members only. Visit [HarvardSoCal.org](http://HarvardSoCal.org) to register.

### June 16 at 12:00pm - COVID-19: Public Health and Private Choices

This roundtable will focus on coping with COVID-19 in our homes and offices; our communities and country; and the world at large. Tune in for a presentation followed by Q&A with Harvard Medical School faculty members Daniela Lamas '03 and Paul Sax '82, MD '87 who have been working both on the front lines and in the laboratory during the pandemic. This event is free and open to members only. Visit [HarvardSoCal.org](http://HarvardSoCal.org) to register.

### Aug 16 at 4:30pm - *The Present* at the Geffen Playhouse (aka the Geffen Stayhouse)

The Harvard Club of Southern California has arranged a private performance of *The Present*, an interactive theatrical experience written and performed by master illusionist and storyteller Helder Guimarães, based on his own life experience with quarantine during childhood. See page 3 for details.



## President's Message

To My Fellow Alumni,

The COVID-19 pandemic continues and so does the Club's commitment to help. Last month, our call to alumni to suggest ways to give provided a plethora of causes. An overwhelming number focused on food insecurity and feeding frontline health-care workers. Allow me to highlight four of those.

**Off Their Plate:** Founded by Harvard Medical School student Natalie Guo MBA '18, this is a grassroots movement to feed frontline COVID-19 healthcare workers nutritious meals while restoring the jobs of restaurant employees. The L.A. chapter is run by Serrena Iyer MBA '18 with a staff of exclusively volunteers, so nearly 100% of your donation goes directly to those who need it at 25 hospitals. Further, at least 50% of the money spent on restaurant partners goes directly to their employees' economic relief. In its short, two month existence, Off Their Plate has raised over \$3.8 million, translating to over 380,000 meals. You can donate at [tinyurl.com/offtheirplate](http://tinyurl.com/offtheirplate) and get further info from Serrena at [serrena.a.i@gmail.com](mailto:serrena.a.i@gmail.com) or Ruchi Desai JD '13 at [ruchi@offtheirplate.org](mailto:ruchi@offtheirplate.org).

**Frontline Foods:** For Orange County residents looking to impact first responders in their area, this is another grassroots organization, which has distributed over 275,000 meals in its first twelve weeks in partnership with chef José Andrés's World Central Kitchen. Tax deductible donations may be made at <https://www.frontlinefoods.org/orange-county> and further info is available from Jorge Castellanos MD '07 at [jcastel8@gmail.com](mailto:jcastel8@gmail.com).

**HopeNet Los Angeles:** This organization stocks and supports 12 different food pantries across L.A., serving thousands of food-insecure Angelenos. The COVID-19 crisis has seriously compromised its ongoing work, most notably due to the cancellation of its annual fundraiser, the Taste of Larchmont. HopeNet is actively soliciting donations at <http://www.hopenetla.org/donate> to help keep it afloat, but there are also volunteer opportunities for those not in a position to give money at this time here: <http://www.hopenetla.org/contact>. For further info, contact board member Alison Brown EdM '05 at [alibrown23@yahoo.com](mailto:alibrown23@yahoo.com).

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**Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County:** According to its website, the face of hunger in Orange County is varied and includes the young and old, along with hard-working parents who struggle to provide food for their families. Second Harvest has been the leading O.C. affiliate of the Feeding America food bank program and now, during the pandemic, it has been laser-focused on an 8-week food crisis plan in light of school closures, quarantined seniors, and reduced grocery supply. Simply put, they need funding to purchase truckloads of shelf-stable food as they are committed to keep "food flowing." Donations can be made at <https://www.feedoc.org/donate-now/>.

The Club is also trying to be attentive to Harvard undergrads, especially the Class of 2020 who are about to graduate into "the fellowship of educated (but unemployed) persons." Two programs are being promoted by the Harvard Office of Career Services to support them during this time of historic difficulty:

**Crimson Careers:** This is the centralized hub for jobs and internships available to Harvard students. If your organization is hiring, has an internship opportunity or a short-term project available, please post it on the Crimson Careers Job and Internship Database at <https://ocs.fas.harvard.edu/crimson-careers>. Alumni can post openings for free and there is an option to promote remote work. Questions should be directed to [ocsjobs@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:ocsjobs@fas.harvard.edu).

**Firsthand Advisers:** The OCS Firsthand Advisers platform provides scheduling and connection tools to facilitate "flash mentoring." Alumni can offer 30 to 60 minutes to engage in a mock interview, review a resume or CV or have a career chat. Public service mentors are in particular demand. Need help registering? Email [ocsrecep@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:ocsrecep@fas.harvard.edu).

Thank you again for your ongoing generosity. We will highlight more opportunities for giving in the days ahead, but if you know of other programs that could use our support, please let us know by contacting me at [pverrone@aol.com](mailto:pverrone@aol.com) or filling out our online form at <https://tinyurl.com/HarvardSoCalSurvey>.

While we're apart, let's keep it together.

Patric M. Verrone '81  
President, Harvard Club of Southern California



*Myron Kayton (left) pictured with astronaut Buzz Aldrin.*

## Remembering Myron Kayton MS '56

The Harvard Club of Southern California mourns the passing of Myron Kayton MS '56. Myron was deeply involved in the Club, having served on the board from 1974 to 1983 in a variety of roles including president, membership committee chair, first and second vice president, and computerization committee chair. Born April 26, 1934 in New York City, Myron received a BS in mechanical engineering from Cooper Union, an MS in electrical engineering from Harvard, and a PhD in philosophy with a concentration in instrumentation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was one of the more brilliant minds that walked this earth. And BEYOND...

That's because from 1965 to 1968 Myron served as Deputy Manager for Lunar Module Guidance and Control at NASA's Johnson Space Center. His office directed the contractors designing two inertial navigation systems, an alignment telescope, the flight controls, crew station, and two radars. He next worked at TRW, where he served as chief engineer for spacelab avionics, head of system engineering for space shuttle avionics, and project engineer for the electronics of the inertial upper stage and a nuclear power plant.

Myron was a Life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and served two terms as president of its Aerospace and Electronics Systems Society. He was an IEEE Distinguished Lecturer and the author of numerous papers and of the standard reference text *Avionics and Navigation Systems and Navigation: Land, Sea, Air and Space*. In addition, he was an avid tennis player. We at the Harvard Club of Southern California will miss him greatly.

## Madeleine Mejia EdM '00 Wins HAA Award



*Madeleine (center) with members of the Harvard Club of Southern California.*

On February 4, at the annual Harvard Alumni Association Alumni Leadership Conference in Cambridge, the HAA presented Madeleine Mejia EdD '00 with the Outstanding Volunteer Leadership Award.

Madeleine is currently one of the Club's Program Vice Presidents, a position she has held for the last eight years. She has tirelessly organized and helped plan many of our Club's events, including chairing or co-chairing the Annual Dinner Committee several times.

Madeleine was an HAA Regional Director from 2015 to 2018, taking it upon herself to plan and execute several InstaHarvard events to welcome graduate students to our community. In addition, she was recognized with the Excellence in Education Leadership Award by the Harvard Latino Alumni Alliance.

Madeleine's big, genuine smile and warm personality have no doubt encouraged alumni to come to our Club events again and again, because they know they will see a familiar, friendly person who will be just as happy to see them. We are so grateful for Madeleine's dedication to our SoCal community, and we cannot think of a more deserving volunteer to receive this award!

## *The Present* at the Geffen Playhouse (aka the Geffen Stayhouse)

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**SUN, AUG 16 @ 4:30PM**

\$88, members; \$98, non-members (one ticket is good per household)

John Luna, [john.luna@gmail.com](mailto:john.luna@gmail.com)



## The Harvard Club of Southern California's Annual Meeting Moves Online - June 14th @ 5:00PM



The Harvard Club of Southern California's Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner has been postponed until a future time when we can all gather together safely. However, we will be holding a virtual Annual Meeting on June 14 at 5pm. All current members of the Club will receive an electronic invitation to attend, and those who RSVP will be sent a Zoom link.



THE HARVARD CLUB  
of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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**CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE**

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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).

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