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# THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

JUNE 2025

## Upcoming Events

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

THU, JUN 5 @ 5:00PM

Virtual event via Zoom

No charge

### SO BABY - a comedy exploring growing up and our obsession with higher education

MON, JUN 9 thru SUN, JUN 29

Broadwater Mainstage (Los Angeles)

\$25 per person

### After the L.A. Fires: Understanding and Coping with Grief and Emotional Recovery

WED, JUN 11 @ 4:00PM

Virtual event via Zoom

No charge

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

THU, JUN 19 @ 6:00PM

Kjar, McKenna & Stockalper, LLP (El Segundo)

No charge

### Fiction Workshop - June 2025

SUN, JUN 22 @ 1:00PM

Play Coffee (Orange)

No charge



## Harvard Club Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner To Be Held at the Huntington June 29

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. All members are invited to spend an evening with the Harvard Club as we install our new board, present the Club's main awards, and discuss the Club's accomplishments during the year.

Our Annual Dinner is the signature event of our event calendar and is always one of our most popular events.



The 2025 John Harvard Award for Distinguished Community Service will be presented to California State Senator Ben Allen. Senator Allen is in his 11th year in the State Senate, representing the Westside, Hollywood, and South Bay communities of Los Angeles County.

Senator Allen chairs the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Resources, Environmental Protection, and Energy and serves as vice chair of the Legislature's Joint Committee on the Arts, in addition to serving on standing committees focused on elections, energy and utilities, judiciary, and natural resources and water.

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The 2024 Excellence in Education Award will be presented to Mike Romero of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Mr. Romero has served in LAUSD for 36 years 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 chief of transitional programs responsible for early education, adult and career education, educational options, and the Virtual Academy.

Event attendees are welcome to tour the Huntington on their own in the hours prior to our event's start at 5:30 pm; those tickets must be purchased separately through the Huntington's website.



**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)

## Send Us Your Event Photos!



Have photos from recent Harvard Club events? Share them with us by emailing them to [photos@harvard-socal.org](mailto:photos@harvard-socal.org) and include your name, the date and name of the event, and a description.

*\*Please note that any photos shared may be shared on our Club's social media channels and newsletter. Please receive consent from all photographed parties.*

## Stay Connected with The Harvard Club of Southern California



Stay up-to-date by following our Club on social media:

**Instagram:** @harvardsocal

**Twitter:** @harvardsocal

You can also find our Facebook group and LinkedIn page to follow - just search Harvard Club of Southern California.

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Gary Barkin '86, JD '93

### Executive Vice President

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### Vice Presidents Communications

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Cynthia Torres '80, MBA '84

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Jose Sanchez '89

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### 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



# Harvard Navigates Attacks By Federal Government, Clouding Its Future

As most of you already know, the Trump administration is waging an aggressive campaign against Harvard by threatening Harvard's tax-exempt status; freezing \$3.2 billion in federal grants and contracts; and working to revoke the visas of international students, who constitute 27% of Harvard's students.

The pretext for these unprecedented attacks is Harvard's alleged failure to curb antisemitism on campus, and the University's refusal to comply with the overreaching demands of the federal government relating to Harvard's admissions, hiring, and international student enrollment. In a letter revoking Harvard's ability to enroll foreign students, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem claimed the school is "perpetuating an unsafe campus environment that is hostile to Jewish students, promotes pro-Hamas sympathies, and employs racist diversity, equity, and inclusion policies."

In a May 27 interview with NPR, Harvard President Alan Garber said that the federal government's decision to freeze billions in federal grants due in part to antisemitism on campus was "perplexing" because the measures taken by the federal government to address these concerns "do not even hit the same people that they believe are causing the problems." He added that cutting off research funding hurts Harvard, but it hurts the nation as well, since research funding is given to universities to conduct work that the federal government designates as high priority. He added, "It is hard to see the link between that and, say, antisemitism."

Harvard has initiated multiple lawsuits against the federal government related to the cuts in federal funding and the attempted infringement of academic freedom. Garber said in the NPR interview that he views the actions against Harvard as a warning to other higher education institutions. "We need to be firm in our commitments to what we stand for: education, pursuit of the truth, and helping to educate our students for a better future. In the end, we are about producing and disseminating knowledge and serving our nation and our world."

Gary Barkin '86, JD '93, president of the Harvard Club of Southern California, urges members to stay informed about the current litigation. "There is a lot of disinformation about the government's battle with Harvard," he said. "As Harvard alums, you will likely have friends and colleagues ask you about the conflict. Staying well-informed is the best way to explain Harvard's position and win over those who don't understand what's currently at stake for all higher education."

For those who would like to get more involved in Harvard's fight to maintain academic freedom, please visit Crimson Courage ([www.crimsoncourage.com](http://www.crimsoncourage.com)) for more information and resources.

## Upcoming Events

### 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



### SO BABY - a comedy exploring growing up and our obsession with higher education

Talisa Friedman AB '10, winner of the National Jewish Playwriting Competition, premieres her newest play at the Hollywood Fringe Fest this June!

**MON, JUN 9 @ thru SUN, JUN 29**

Broadwater Mainstage (Los Angeles)

\$25 per person



### After the L.A. Fires: Understanding and Coping with Grief and Emotional Recovery

In the aftermath of the devastating LA fires, many are struggling with feelings of loss, uncertainty, and overwhelming grief. Join us for a compassionate virtual event dedicated to understanding the emotional impact of such disasters and exploring paths toward healing and recovery.

**WED, JUN 11 @ 4:00PM**

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge



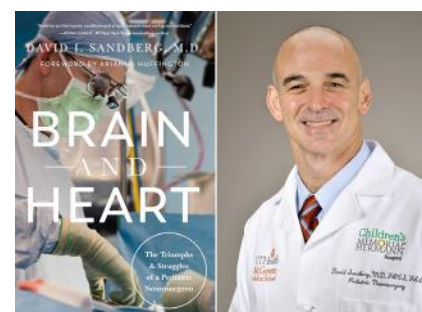
### Alumni Book Talk and Signing with Dr. David I. Sandberg '93, Author of *Brain and Heart*

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(EI Segundo)

No charge



# Upcoming Events

## Fiction Workshop - June 2025



Submit a draft, meet new writers, and join our writing community! Writers of all genres, backgrounds, and skill levels are welcome.

**SUN, JUN 22 @ 1:00PM**

Play Coffee (Orange)

No charge



## 2025 Harvard Club Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner

Spend an evening with the Harvard Club at our Annual Awards Dinner. All club members and their guests are invited to attend the club's Annual Dinner on Sunday, June 29, at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

**SUN, JUN 29 @ 5:30PM**

Huntington Library, Art Collection, & Botanical Gardens (San Marino)  
\$150 club members; \$175 non-members; \$190, to join the Club AND attend the event; \$80 recent grads ('21 -'25)



## Recent Events

### Fiction Workshop - May 2025



On May 17, four writers gathered at Sweetsalt in Toluca Lake to discuss each other's drafts. This workshop showcased Dara Emery's debut in a moderating and organizing role, and she did an excellent job. Aaron Blumenthal '15, the organizer, said, "This was a wonderful workshop, even if we had to compete not to be drowned out by a birthday party! I'm excited to have Dara and Ben on board to expand the WW community's offerings in LA and OC." Expect a greater frequency and variety of events going forward.



*Q & A from 02138:*

## Cameron MacDonald '25



Cameron MacDonald '25, a concentrator in Applied Mathematics and Economics, graduated from Brentwood School in Los Angeles. He was captain of the varsity basketball and baseball teams and earned First Team All-Conference in both, while also being named Athlete of the Year at his high school. He was the president of the school's Asian Student Alliance. At Harvard, he resided in Cabot House. His mother is Elissa Kao '94, and his brother is James MacDonald '27. He was the captain of the Classics club basketball team and served as a teaching assistant for math and economics courses. This past summer, Cameron interned at Jane Street in New York City in the Sales and Trading group and will be returning there full time upon graduation.

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

CM: While I expected my peers to be smart and talented, I was surprised by how humble and kind the students were. My classmates have always been willing to help and great to work with.

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

CM: The first time I visited Harvard was during the summer before my junior year of high school. My first impression was that the campus was beautiful and that Harvard Yard and the Square seemed full of tourists. I also enjoyed exploring Boston and loved visiting Fenway Park stadium.

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

CM: My funniest moment was during an intramural volleyball game where my friend got a block with his face to score a point enroute to a Cabot victory.

*HCSC: What were your favorite classes or professors?*

CM: My favorite classes were STAT 110 (Introduction to Probability) and Capital Markets. My favorite professor was Eli Tzipperman who teaches Applied Math 120.

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

CM: I would try to fix the software of the Harvard Shuttle app so that tracking shuttle locations would be more accurate and efficient. It would certainly save students in the Quad a lot of time and effort.

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

CM: I miss being able to have easy access to beaches and the ocean. I miss being outside playing sports all year round.

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

CM: Though I plan to work in New York after graduation, I am looking forward to visiting my family in Southern California as often as I can.

## Harvard Elections:

# Courtney B. Vance '82 and Nicholas Melvoin '08 Win Seats in 2025 Harvard Alumni Elections

The Harvard Club of Southern California is pleased to announce that **Courtney B. Vance '82 of La Canada Flintridge** was elected to the **Harvard Board of Overseers** in the 2025 spring elections. Mr. Vance will serve a six-year term. The Board of Overseers is one of two governing boards of Harvard University and plays an integral role in the University's governance.

Mr. Vance is a distinguished actor, producer, and writer. He is the president and chair of the SAG-AFTRA Foundation. He has received Emmys for his roles in *Lovecraft Country* and *The People v. O.J. Simpson*. He has also won a Tony Award and a Critics Choice award, and he has been nominated for a Grammy, Golden Globe, and Screen Actors Guild Award. He served as the 2024 Harvard Alumni Day keynote speaker.

**Nicholas J. Melvoin '08 of Los Angeles** will serve as a **Harvard Alumni Association Elected Director** for a three-year term. Mr. Melvoin is a civic leader, teacher, and attorney with a deep commitment to public service and education. He is in his eighth year as an elected board member of the Los Angeles Unified School District. He served as a past vice president of the LAUSD Board of Education, which is the second-largest school district in the U.S. He is a member of the Harvard Kennedy School Board of Advisors, and he has lectured at both the Kennedy School and the Graduate School of Education.



Courtney B. Vance '82  
Harvard Board of Overseers



Nicholas J. Melvoin '08  
Harvard Alumni Association Elected Director



## Got a Great Idea for an HCSC Event? Share It With Us!

We're always looking for new fun and educational events to give our members opportunities to get together and enjoy what Southern California has to offer! If you have an idea for an event, please email Madeleine Mejia, EdM '00 at [madeleine\\_mejia@post.harvard.edu](mailto:madeleine_mejia@post.harvard.edu). You can review the current

Harvard Club of Southern California policies for events document, on our website at <https://hcsc.clubs.harvard.edu/article.html?aid=106>.



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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
Thu, Jun 5 5:00PM	<b>HarvardSpeak LA: A Conversation with Harvard Government and Sociology Prof. Theda Skocpol</b>	Virtual Event via Zoom	No charge
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Sun, Jun 22 1:00PM	<b>Fiction Workshop - June 2025</b>	Play Coffee (Orange) Orange, CA	No charge