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THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

JULY/AUGUST 2023

Upcoming Events

Breakfast Networking Event in Santa Monica

THU, AUG 11 @ 8:00AM

Tartine (Santa Monica)

No charge, cash coffee bar

Harvard Club Beach Party

SAT, AUG 12 @ 10:00AM

Huntington Beach (details sent after registration)

\$25, members; \$35, non-members; Free, children 12 and under

Sold Out! - Les Misérables at the Hollywood Pantages

THU, AUG 17 @ 7:30PM

Pantages Theater (Los Angeles)

\$80, members; \$95, non-members

Save the Date! - Recent Grads Event: Welcome To Your City LA 2023!

WED, SEP 27 @ 5:30PM

Location TBA

Price TBA



New HCSC President Gary Barkin '86, JD '93 (left) with outgoing Club President Joan Chu Reese '85 (center) and HAA Director for Southern California and Hawaii, Veronica Wong '88 (right).

Harvard Club Annual Dinner a Huge Success

On June 25 the Harvard Club of Southern California held our most successful Annual Dinner ever at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. Over 170 members and guests mingled and celebrated at the storied site.

Steven M. Arkow '84 and Gary Barkin '86, JD '93, announced the board of directors election results.

Gary Barkin is the new Harvard Club of Southern California Board President. Lisa Watanabe-Pegler '02 is the new Executive Vice President. The Club's board welcomed several new members, including Paul Bokota '87, Yule Caise '86, Billy Kimball '82, Jennifer Lee '95, Vien Nguyen '86, Marie-Christine Nizzi Ph.D. '20, and Ashley Turner '13. The new board took office on July 1.

Outgoing Club President Joan Chu Reese '85 provided remarks concerning the state of the Club, which she said is strong. Reese reviewed the Club's finances ("healthy"), the varied 80+ events held by the Club over the past year, membership ("growing nearly 10% last year"), and how positive it was to be able to gather in person again. Reese reminded the audience that "the Club has thrived for 122 years, thanks to all of us – the members of the Club and our community."

Brianna Carbajal COL '26, a recipient of the Harvard Club's 2023 Summer Fellowship, spoke about her undergraduate experience and her gratitude to the Club.

Continued on page 2

Veronica Wong '88, Harvard Alumni Association Director for Southern California and Hawaii, was welcomed at the event, having flown in from her home in Honolulu.

The Club bestowed the John Harvard Award for Distinguished Community Service to Antonia Hernández, in recognition of her accomplishments as a longtime community leader and President and CEO of the California Community Foundation, one of the region's largest and most active philanthropic organizations, with assets of more than \$2.3 billion.

Entrepreneur, philanthropist, former superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, and founder of non-profit Vision to Learn, Austin Beutner received the Club's Excellence in Education Award.

Patric Verrone '81 and Maiya Williams Verrone '84 received the Club's Fred Smith Award for their outstanding service to the Harvard Club of Southern California. Patric is a past president of the Harvard Club, serving for three terms and in various roles as a board member since 2012. Maiya is an Elected Director of the Harvard Alumni Association and served in various roles including as the board's Secretary, Vice President of Membership, Vice President of Programs, and as a founding co-chair of the Club's Anti-Racism Committee.



Antonia Hernández, recipient of the John Harvard Award for Distinguished Service, addresses the crowd.



Patric Verrone '81 and Maiya Williams Verrone '84 proudly accept the Fred Smith Award for outstanding service to the club.



VP Membership Matthew Stasior '87 catches up with longtime board member and past president Albert Chang MD, AB '63



Board member Steven M. Arkow '84 and VP Programs Madeleine Mejia EdM '00 enjoying conversation with fellow alumni.



Former Superintendent of the LAUSD, Austin Beutner, celebrates receiving the club's Excellence in Education Award.

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 Presidents Membership

Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi EdD '81
Matthew Stasior '87

Vice Presidents Orange County

German Enciso HMS Research Fellow '07-'09
A. J. Rogers MD '79

Vice President Programs

Madeleine Mejia EdM '00

Vice Presidents Radcliffe

Elizabeth Gillis '82
Kay Park '87

Vice Presidents Schools

Harry Kim '86
Eva Plaza '80

Secretary

Karen Hernandez MBA '00

Past President

Joan Chu Reese '85

BOARD MEMBERS

Steven M. Arkow '84
Paul Bokota '87
Joanna Chan '02
Yule Caise '86
Billy Kimball '82
Jade Le '10
Jennifer Lee '10
Adia Matthews '10, MBA '15
Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89
Glenn Nano '98
George B. Newhouse '76
Vien Nguyen '86
Marie-Christine Nizzi PhD '20
Joe Rogers '86
Jose Sanchez '89
Ethel Seminario-Laczko EdM '84
Ashley Turner '13
Kenneth S. Williams '78

CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE

Terry Nathan
(310) 546-5252
email: 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.

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

Recent Events

HCSC Beverly Hills Power Lunch

On June 29, 20 alumni gathered for a networking lunch at Gourmando restaurant in Beverly Hills. The sold-out event featured great conversation over a delicious meal. Event organizer Pooja Nair 'JD '11 observed that "Harvard alumni from many different schools gathered with a common purpose of connecting with each other." If you have ideas for other venues for similar events around the city, please let us know by sending an email to harvardsocal@gmail.com with the subject line "Event Idea."



Critical Race Theory (CRT): What It Is, What It Isn't, and What You Need to Know

On June 29, Club Board Members Jose Sanchez '89 and Madeleine Mejia EdM '00 led a zoom conversation with CRT experts Taifha Alexander, UCLA Law CRT Forward Project Director, and Laura Gómez '86, UCLA professor and co-founder and past director of UCLA's Critical Race Studies Program. The discussion focused on the founding and contributions of and recent attacks on Critical Race Theory (CRT). Sponsored by the HCSC's Anti-Racism Committee (ARC), this event sold out with almost 100 registrations. After making introductions and setting the stage, our experts fielded many comments and questions from the virtual audience. Fellow Board Member Eva Plaza '80 commented that the "discussion was excellent and timely." ARC's purpose is to educate Harvard alumni about racial inequalities, to engage with each other on these issues, to dismantle systemic racism in all its forms, and to support the Black community.



More Photos from the 2023 Annual Dinner



Brianna Carbajal COL '26, recipient of the Harvard Club's 2023 Summer Fellowship shared her undergraduate experience .



VP of Programs, Madeleine Mejia EdM '00 and event organizer, Cynthia Torres '80, MBA '84 enjoyed a quiet moment as the guests arrived.



Joan Chu Reese '86 provided a glowing report and a positive outlook for the Harvard Club of Southern California.



Steven M. Arkow '84 and Gary Barkin '86, JD '93 announced the board election results.

Upcoming Events

Breakfast Networking Event in Santa Monica

Join us for a casual networking event at Tartine in Santa Monica. Bring a friend and/or a colleague.

THU, AUG 10 @ 8:00AM

Tartine (Santa Monica)

No charge, cash coffee bar



Harvard Club Beach Party

The Harvard Club of Southern California together with the Harvard Business School Associations of Orange County, band together to bring you a very special summer celebration: a beach party in Huntington Beach!

SAT, AUG 12 @ 10:00AM

Huntington Beach (specific location sent after registration)

Members, \$25; Non-Members, \$35; Children 12 and Under: Free



Sold Out!

Les Misérables at the Hollywood Pantages

Join your fellow Harvard alums and guests for the touring production of Les Misérables at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre. Our seats will be in the center left orchestra, rows Q-U.

THU, AUG 17 @ 7:30PM

Pantages Theater (Los Angeles)

\$80, members; \$95, non-members



Recent Grads Event: Welcome To Your City LA 2023 - *Save the Date!*

Join us for this special event for alumni who live in Los Angeles or have plans to move there. The evening will offer new arrivals a welcome to Los Angeles while providing an opportunity for alumni in the area to connect. Attendees will also learn about the many Harvard Clubs and Shared Interest Groups available. Harvard alumni who graduated between 2013 and 2023, from the College or any of the graduate schools, are invited to participate.

WED, SEP 27 @ 5:00PM

Time, Location and Cost: TBA

Contact: Madeleine Mejia, Madeleine_Mejia@post.harvard.edu



Q & A from 02138:

Brenda Ceja '23



Brenda Ceja '23 is a concentrator in Folklore & Mythology with a special field in Visual & Music Cultures, and a secondary in Ethnicity and Migration Rights. She was born in Glendale and graduated from Cornelia Connelly School in Anaheim. In high school she was an active Mock Trial member, served as a founding editor of the student newspaper, played varsity soccer, and ran cross country. She is now a senior residing in Adams House. Her father is Ben Ceja '96. At Harvard, Brenda can be found sifting through the record collection at Harvard Radio Broadcasting where she is an administrative board member, former artist relations director, and former department director of The Darker Side (the station's department for Hip-Hop/R&B/Electronic/World Music. Ceja previously served as an arts & entertainment committee member of the College Events Board, as associate director of workshops and speakers for the Latina Empowerment and Development Conference (LEAD), and as a member of the First-Year Social Committee. She recently completed her creative senior thesis, "And the Beat Goes On: Collaging the Connections Among Vinyl Records and Vinyl DJs," which consisted of a series of 45 collages on vinyl 45s.

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

BC: I was pleasantly surprised by the collaborative and encouraging relationships I had with students. Coming into Harvard, I had negatively assumed that Harvard students would be overly competitive with each other. But I have cultivated a community of care where students support one another.

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

BC: I first visited Harvard with my dad the summer before my senior year of high school. I was very intimidated by the aesthetics and history of Harvard, but was excited to apply later that year.

HCSC: What was your favorite class (or professor) and why?

BC: - My favorite professor is Dr. Shamell Bell of the Theater, Dance & Media department. She is a radical Black feminist inspired by the teachings of bell hooks. I deeply appreciate her commitment to creating an inclusive classroom where all students feel heard.

HCSC: What has been your funniest moment at Harvard?

BC: My funniest moment at Harvard was having my 10 family members come to Commencement.

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

BC: If I was President of Harvard I would call upon the Dean of FAS to create an Ethnic Studies department.

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

BC: While at Harvard, I missed Mexican food the most!

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

BC: I am excited to return home to Los Angeles County. Hopefully I will find a job in the music business.



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.

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	COST
Thu, Aug 10 8:00AM	Breakfast Networking Event in Santa Monica	Tartine Santa Monica, CA	No charge, cash coffee bar
Sat, Aug 12 10:00AM	Harvard Club Beach Party	Huntington Beach, CA	\$25, Members \$35, Non-Members \$0, 12 and under
Thu, Aug 17 7:30PM	Les Misérables at the Hollywood Pantages	Pantages Theater Los Angeles, CA	SOLD OUT!
Wed, Sep 27 5:30PM	Recent Grads Event: Welcome To Your City LA 2023!	Location TBA	Cost TBA