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# THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

MARCH 2025

## Upcoming Events

### L.A. Fires: Practical Strategies for Home Reconstruction & Resilience

THU, MAR 6 @ 6:30PM  
Virtual event via Zoom  
No charge

### Harvard Men's Tennis Visits Southern California

TUE, MAR 18 through SUN, MAR 23  
SDSU, USD, and UCI  
Check event sites for pricing

### Harvard Global Networking Night - Los Angeles

WED, MAR 19 @ 6:00PM  
All Season Brewing Company (Los Angeles)  
No charge, cash bar

### Harvard Global Networking Night - Orange County

WED, MAR 19 @ 6:00PM  
Tommy Bahama (Newport Beach)  
No charge, cash bar

### HarvardSpeak LA: A Conversation with Harvard Law School Professor Randall Kennedy

THU, MAR 20 @ 5:00PM  
Virtual event via Zoom  
No charge



## Fire Recovery Assistance Tops Harvard Club Agenda

In the aftermath of the devastating fires affecting large swaths of Southern California in January, the Harvard Club is focusing on providing key assistance, tips, and events aimed at providing support to our members and the greater community.

Paul Bokota '87, one of the organizers of the Club's fire recovery events, said that it is important the Club offer "practical and timely information to those in our community who have been affected by the devastating fires." He added that the Harvard community "fortunately has access to incredible talent, and we felt it was critical to leverage that talent to provide help in any way we can."

The Club is hosting several upcoming events in March focused on providing practical suggestions for home reconstruction and resilience, hiring a rebuilding team, providing a deep dive into insurance, and guidance on how to hardening homes against future fires.

In February, the Club sponsored five fire-related events for the community, two of which featured Harvard faculty.

# Recent Events

## Early Action Reception

On January 25, 2025, Harry Kim '86 VP of Schools, Kay Park '87 and Neil Morganbesser '86 hosted a reception for the Early Action admits to the Harvard Class of 2029 at the lovely Santa Monica home of Neil Morganbesser and Ellen Liao. Also in attendance was Steven Arkow '84. Approximately 18 admitted students, and their family members, spent the afternoon meeting future classmates while playing Harvard Jeopardy! — with buzzers! — Regular Action decisions will be announced at the end of March. In a departure from past practice, Harvard will make a single, annual admissions data release regarding the Class of 2029 in the fall of 2025.



## OC-HYSC Trivia Night



The inaugural OC-HYSC Trivia Night was held on February 20, 2025, at the beautiful Newport Coast home of Jane Buchan (GSAS PhD '97), bringing together alumni from Harvard, Yale, Stanford, and Cal for an evening of friendly competition. Guests enjoyed dim sum and drinks while taking in a beautiful sunset before the main event began. The competition featured questions about the geography, history, traditions, and notable alumni from each school. The Harvard Crushers beat Yale, Stanford, and Cal after several rounds of high-energy competition. It was an evening filled with fun and some serious school rivalry. Plans are already being discussed for a potential rematch next year.



## February Fiction Workshop

On February 23, 2025, six fiction writers gathered at Sip & Sonder to drink great coffee and discuss drafts of stories featuring topics from Russian émigrés to cities in the clouds. The HCSC writing community, now 35 strong, is active on Discord. Email Aaron to join at [aaronblumenthal21@gmail.com](mailto:aaronblumenthal21@gmail.com).



## Harvard Chan School Public Health Event: February 25

The T.H. Chan School of Public Health hosted a panel of experts from Harvard and other research universities to discuss what we can do to protect our health and understand the long-term health implications of urban fires. They presented the groundbreaking L.A. Fire HEALTH Study, a new 10-year research initiative examining the short-term and long-term health effects of urban wildfire exposure. They described the wildfire air pollution as “10 times above normal levels” and said, “we don’t know what it means for people’s health,” comparing it to the World Trade Center disaster.





# Upcoming Events

## L.A. Fires: Practical Strategies for Home Reconstruction and Resilience

Join us for this timely discussion led by architect Ed Ogosta, AIA (GSD March '01), Principal at Edward Ogosta Architecture in Los Angeles, specializing in the design of well-crafted, site-sensitive dwellings rooted in California's climate and culture.

**THU, MAR 6 @ 6:30PM**

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge



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

Join fellow Harvard Club members for an elegant evening of magic and mystery at the world-famous Magic Castle, the most exclusive and renowned private club for magicians and supporters of magic in the world!

**SUN, MAR 16 @ 6:00PM (doors @ 5:00PM)**

The Magic Castle (Hollywood)

\$198 per person



## Harvard Men's Tennis Visits Southern California

Come cheer on the nationally ranked #11 Crimson as they take on some of the nation's best tennis competition in Southern California.

**TUE, MAR 18 through SUN, MAR 23**

SDSU, USD, and UCI

Check event sites for pricing



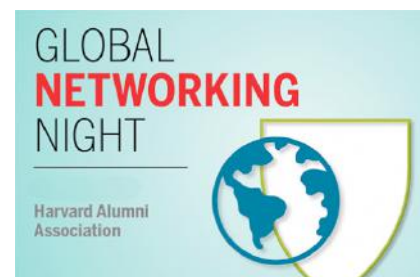
## Harvard Global Networking Night - Los Angeles

Please join us for this live event, sponsored by the Harvard Club of Southern California, Harvardwood, Harvard Latino Alumni Alliance, Harvard Black Alumni Society of SoCal, H4A, Harvard Alumni for Education, First-Generation Harvard Alumni, HBSASC and the Harvard Alumni Association.

**WED, MAR 19 @ 6:00PM**

All Season Brewing Company (Los Angeles)

No charge, cash bar



# Upcoming Events

## Harvard Global Networking Night - Orange County



Please join us for this live event in Orange County, sponsored by the Harvard Club of Southern California, Harvardwood, Harvard Latino Alumni Alliance, Harvard Black Alumni Society of SoCal, H4A, Harvard Alumni for Education, First-Generation Harvard Alumni, HBSASC and HAA.

**WED, MAR 19 @ 6:00PM**

Tommy Bahama (Newport Beach)

No charge, cash bar



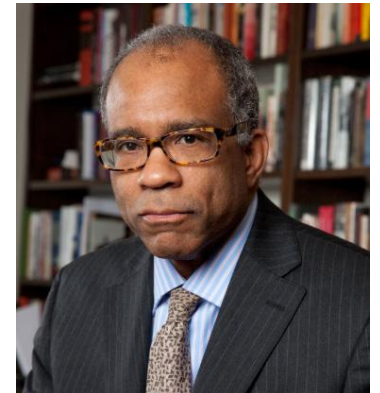
## HarvardSpeak LA: “How We Overcame: Protest, Law, and the Demise of Jim Crow” – A Conversation with Harvard Professor Randall Kennedy

Prof. Kennedy will discuss his forthcoming book, “How We Overcame: Protest, Law, and the Demise of Jim Crow.” The event will be moderated by Neil B. Morganbesser '86.

**THU, MAR 20 @ 5:00PM**

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge



## Breakfast Networking Event at Leora Cafe

Join us for networking at the charming Leora Cafe, nestled in the UTA building in Beverly Hills. Enjoy coffee or breakfast and network with fellow alumni on the patio. Feel free to bring along a friend or colleague who might benefit from this event.

**WED, MAR 26 @ 8:00AM**

Leora Cafe (Beverly Hills)

No charge



## Harvard Author Book Talk with Siri Chilazi: Make Work Fair

Want to make sure your workplace is as fair as it gets? Join us on March 27th for an eye-opening conversation with Harvard researcher Siri Chilazi '10, MPA '16, MPP '16, co-author of Make Work Fair: Data-Driven Design for Real Results.

**THU, MAR 27 @ 6:30PM**

A private residence in Pasadena

\$35, members; \$45, non-members (ticket price includes an autographed book, soft drinks, and light hors d'oeuvres)



# 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



## 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



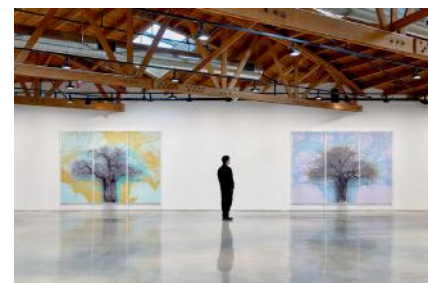
## Hauser & Wirth: Tour of Charles Gaines' Numbers and Trees - A Members-Only Event

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



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### CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE

Terry Nathan

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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



*Interview with:*

## Alejandro G. Zepeda '24



The Harvard Club of Southern California launched the Harvard Community Service Fellowship Program in 1991 as a trial program in conjunction with the university. Each year since then, the Club has funded from one to four summer community service fellows who are undergraduates spending their summers working for a Southern California nonprofit organization. George Newhouse '76, a former Club president who founded the Community Service Fellowship Program, said, "The Club sponsors these service opportunities using scholarship funds that it holds with Harvard University, and we have been delighted to do so."

Inspired by our Club's example, over 25 Harvard Clubs around the world now sponsor community service fellowships to promote public service by undergraduates who work in nonprofits in their local area.

Each year, the Club invites our Summer Fellows to attend our August board meeting and to discuss their community service program. We share with you an interview with Alejandro Zepeda '24, a Harvard Club Community Service Summer Fellow, who last summer worked with the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles on a public service project he launched in high school focused on assisting immigrants.

*HCSC: Tell us about your project: What motivated you to pursue it, and how long have you been engaged with it?*

AGZ: This project has become intertwined with who I am as a person.

I come from a family of immigrants. I grew up on both sides of the border. I've seen what life is like through a multicultural lens, not just in the sense of being Mexican-American, but also as a member of an immigrant community whose parents don't speak English and couldn't provide a stimulating educational setting because they had other priorities on their mind, which were — I guess you could quite frankly say — survival and making sure that I grew up in a comfortable, family-centered environment.

I understood early on what it was like to have to work hard in an environment that sometimes felt alien without direction.

Ultimately, my project has to do with the fact that we have a major community of immigrants in Southern California who are trying to pursue something beyond what they've seen and grown up with.

I started off as a tutor, and I slowly took more ownership of what is now my project. I thought, why not expand it to create programs and partnerships with local high schools? My project focused on facilitating connections between local students and students seeking refuge, where the latter could feel like they were being stimulated intellectually, where they could engage with a curriculum and peers who pushed them and guided them, and included them in a community and culture that might be foreign.

Los Angeles might be a momentary pit stop, or it might be a future home. I wasn't simply tutoring; I was helping to facilitate relationships and community engagement so that what they were learning could be applied to their own assimilation.

*HCSC: Do you have a success story you want to highlight?*

AGZ: There was a student I worked with since my junior year. During the weekdays, he worked at his family's car wash, but he wanted to be a mechanical engineer. His uncle worked at a car-repair shop; he would go there on the weekends to make more money.

He found out I had gotten into college. He was thinking about the next steps in his life as well. And through the program and these conversations, he got a full ride to Cal State Northridge for mechanical engineering. I'm in contact with him, and he told me that he is applying for a few masters degree programs. That moved me.

*HCSC: What is your advice for future undergrads who are thinking of applying for this summer fellowship?*

AGZ: If you have an idea of what your project looks like, write it down and create an outline. Think carefully about what your project would look like in practice. Really get into that imagery of, "I'm interacting with X-Y-Z doing X-Y-Z thing." What does that actually look like? Then, create an overarching mission statement. You need to really understand the work that you're going to be engaging in.

*Q & A from 02138:*

## Brianna Carbajal '26



Brianna Carbajal '26, a concentrator in Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology, was born in Bellflower, California and graduated from South East High School in South Gate, California, where she founded and led the school's first Medical Club. She was also the President of MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement). She is a junior residing in Kirkland House. At Harvard, Brianna is the co-president of Latinos in Health Careers, a case analyst for the Harvard Biotechnology Club, and a researcher in the Wang Lab at MGH. She also holds the assistant director position for the Latina Empowerment and Development (LEAD) Conference, focusing on workshops and speakers.

This past summer, Brianna studied abroad in Greece through the College Year in Athens program, where she explored Cycladic islands and ancient healing sanctuaries. She completed two courses: Greek Island Architecture, Culture, and Identity and Health and Healing in the Ancient Greek World.

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

BC: How friendly and welcoming the student body is, and how much faculty and staff truly care about us.

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

BC: I first visited during Visitas, which was also my first time flying alone. Although it was gloomy and rainy in late April, the campus felt alive, and the beautiful architecture stood out. I had never seen so many brick buildings in one place before!

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

BC: My roommate and I spontaneously signed up for a couples-oriented game at our cultural organization's event—and ended up winning! The game tested how well we knew each other, and we beat couples who had been together for years. It was a hilarious and bonding experience for us both.

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

BC: If I were President of Harvard, I would increase support for first-generation, low-income students, including more mentorship programs and expanding funding for summer opportunities. I'd also focus on enhancing mental health resources and making them more accessible to students across all class years, ensuring that well-being is prioritized alongside academic success.

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

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

BC: I plan to return to Southern California to work in a lab or biotech company, especially focusing on health equity and research within underserved communities. If that doesn't work out, I still see myself moving back long-term to be close to my family and eventually start one of my own in the area.



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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, Mar 6 6:30PM	<b>L.A. Fires: Practical Strategies for Home Reconstruction &amp; Resilience</b>	Virtual event via Zoom	No charge
Sun, Mar 2 6:00PM	<b>SOLD OUT - An Evening at the Magic Castle - Members-Only</b>	The Magic Castle Hollywood, CA	\$198 per person
Tue, Mar 18 through Sun, Mar 23	<b>Harvard Men's Tennis visits Southern California.</b>	SDSU, USD, and UCI	Check sites for pricing
Wed, Mar 19 6:00PM	<b>Harvard Global Networking Night - Los Angeles</b>	All Season Brewing Company Los Angeles, CA	No charge, cash bar
Wed, Mar 19 6:00PM	<b>Harvard Global Networking Night - Orange County</b>	Tommy Bahama Newport Beach, CA	No charge, cash bar
Thu, Mar 20 5:00PM	<b>HarvardSpeak LA: A Conversation with Harvard Law School Professor Randall Kennedy</b>	Virtual Event via Zoom	No charge
Thu, Mar 20 5:00PM	<b>Breakfast Networking Event at Leora Cafe</b>	Leora Cafe (UTA Plaza) Beverly Hills, CA	No charge, cash coffee bar