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THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

APRIL 2026

Upcoming Events

Recent Grads - Happy Hour

THU, APR 2 @ 7:00PM

Tirebiter Brewery (Los Angeles)

No charge, cash food and bar

HarvardSpeak LA: "My Two Harvard Books" w/Prof. Harvey C. Mansfield

WED, APR 8 @ 5:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge

OC Coffee By The Sea

FRI, APR 9 @ 8:30AM

Philz Coffee (Huntington Beach)

No charge

Tuesday Breakfast Club - Melrose

TUE, APR 14 @ 8:15AM

Fratelli Cafe (West Hollywood)

No charge; discounted membership available

April Ivy x B1G Mixer

THU, APR 16 @ 7:00PM

The Whaler (Newport Beach)

No charge, cash bar

HCSC Book Club: Trust by Hernan Diaz

SAT, APR 18 @ 4:00PM

Private residence in mid-Wilshire (Los Angeles)

\$5, members; \$15, nonmembers



Global Networking Night Attracts Large Crowds in LA, Orange County

On March 25, the Harvard Club of Southern California hosted the annual Global Networking Night (GNN) events in two locations. Alumni connected at vibrant events in Los Angeles and Irvine.

Co-hosted by Harvardwood, the Harvard Latino Alumni Alliance, Harvard Alumni for Global Women's Empowerment (GlobalWE), and the Harvard Alumni Association, this year's GNN welcomed over 250 attendees in Los Angeles and 75 attendees in Orange County, making it a celebration of community and connection.

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

Jimmy Biblarz '14, JD '21, Ph.D.'23, Club board member and an event organizer, said, "With over 400 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 lively conversations that extended throughout the evening, spontaneous introductions across industries, and an energy that kept the room engaged and connected.

In Irvine, the casual Hangar 24 Craft Brewing venue encouraged easy conversations, and featured beer, nonalcoholic drinks, and food available for purchase. A significant number of first-time attendees remarked on how welcoming and engaging the events were, reflecting Harvard alumni's commitment to its community. (see page 5 for more)

Upcoming Harvard Elections:

Harvard Club Endorses Mia Alpert and Jimmy Biblarz For HAA Elected Director

For this spring's Harvard elections, the Harvard Club of Southern California's Board endorses Mia Esther Alpert '99 and James P. "Jimmy" Biblarz '14, JD '21, Ph.D. '23, for Harvard Alumni Association Elected Director.

The Harvard Club Board encourages all alumni to vote. Harvard is unusual among U.S. 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.



Mia Esther Alpert

Mia Alpert is an actress, producer, writer, and arts advocate whose credits include *The Mentalist*, *Leverage*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Capture*, and *Red Doors*. She is a founder and president

emerita of Harvardwood, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and HAA Shared Interest Group that includes more than 10,000 members worldwide and which provides educational and professional resources in the arts, media and entertainment. She has served on the Boards of UCLA Lab School and United Friends of the Children, working with foster youth in LA County. At Harvard, she participated in a cappella and theater, and she also ran the Mission Hills After School Program through the Phillips Brooks House Association, with which she continues to be involved. Mia and her family live in Brentwood.

"The Harvard alumni community has been one of the most meaningful constants in my life, and I believe this challenging moment calls for volunteers who will lean in to help strengthen the relationship between the global alumni network and the University," she said in a statement. "I am passionate about fostering spaces of belonging and hope to expand my community-building efforts as an HAA Elected Director — while also helping Harvard more effectively communicate its capacity to be a force for good to both our constituents and the wider world."



James P. "Jimmy" Biblarz

Jimmy Biblarz is a lifelong Angeleno, lawyer, civic leader, and instructor at UCLA School of Law. He attended K–12 LAUSD schools before earning his A.B. in Social Studies, J.D., and Ph.D. in Sociology and Social Policy at Harvard. As a student, he was active in the Institute of Politics and later served for seven years as the LGBTQ+ resident tutor in Eliot House, one of his proudest roles. From 2020–2022, he was a candidate for Los Angeles City Council in West LA and has previously worked at CNN and LA City Hall. He currently lives in Beverly Grove.

Jimmy has remained active in the Harvard alumni community since graduation, serving as an alumni interviewer for more than a decade and previously sitting on the board of the Harvard Gender & Sexuality Alumni Caucus. His desire to serve as an HAA Elected Director traces back to a Harvard Club of Los Angeles event he attended as a high school student. That event made Harvard feel real, accessible, and possible. It ultimately led to his applying and attending, changing the course of his and his family's lives. He hopes to help create those same moments of connection for future students and alumni.

Upcoming Events

Recent Grads - Happy Hour

Join fellow Harvard alumni for a Recent Grad happy hour at Tirebiter Brewery!! Whether you're new to LA or have been here for years, it's a great chance to meet other recent grads, catch up, and expand your network over drinks.

THU, APR 2 @ 7:00PM

Tirebiter Brewer (Los Angeles)

No charge, cash food and bar



HarvardSpeak LA: “My Two Harvard Books” with Prof. Harvey C. Mansfield

Prof. Mansfield's talk, “My Two Harvard Books,” will be an open discussion across a wide variety of topics – from current political events to the state of Harvard and America from his perspective of many decades.

WED, APR 8 @ 5:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

\$0, members; \$10, nonmembers



OC Coffee By The Sea

Join us for some casual Crimson camaraderie with coffee, conversation, and a stunning ocean view.



FRI, APR 10 @ 8:30AM

Philz Coffee (Huntington Beach)

No charge



Tuesday Breakfast Club - Melrose

While our usual host Denise Littlejohn will be away taping for a new game show, our VP of Programs Liz Ryan has graciously stepped in to host April's event. Join us for casual socializing and networking. Come when you can, leave when you have to!

TUE, APR 14 @ 8:15AM

Fratelli Cafe (Los Angeles)

No charge, discounted membership available



Upcoming Events

April Ivy x B1G Mixer



Our popular Ivy x B1G mixer series is back in OC! Join us at the Whaler in Newport Beach for a night of networking and karaoke! Our mixers regularly hit 200+ RSVPs, so register now to make sure you get a spot! Don't worry, singing is optional.

THU, APR 16 @ 7:00PM

The Whaler (Newport Beach)
No charge, cash bar

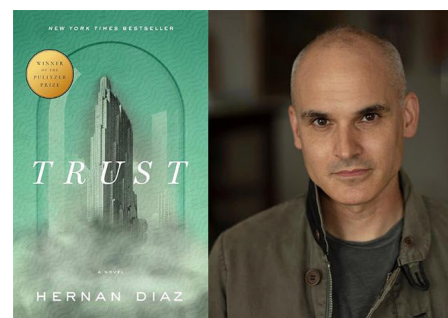


HCSC Book Club: Trust by Hernan Diaz

Join fellow alums for a book club located in the mid-Wilshire Beverly Grove neighborhood. We will be discussing Trust by Pulitzer Prize winning author Hernan Diaz. Future books will be decided by attendees.

SAT, APR 18 @ 4:00PM

Private residence in mid-Wilshire Beverly Grove neighborhood
\$5, members; \$15, nonmembers



Flights & Bites - Beverly Hills - Members Only

Join us as we are guided through a whisky tasting by a specialist at the Maybourne Hotel. Delicious bites with caviar will accompany the libations. This is a 21+ event. Seating is extremely limited.

FRI, APR 24 @ 7:00PM

The Whisky Bar (Beverly Hills)
\$148 per person



HarvardSpeak LA: Prof. Cass Sunstein: “Nudge: Past, Present, Future”

Prof. Sunstein's talk is part of the HarvardSpeak LA series of virtual talks that offer the opportunity to interact with some of the most illustrious faculty at Harvard. The talk will be moderated by Neil B. Morganbesser AB '86.

THU, APR 30 @ 12:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom
\$0, members; \$10, nonmembers





Save the Date - May 31st! 2026 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.

The 2026 John Harvard Award for Distinguished Community Service will be presented to Laurie Levenson, Professor, Loyola Law School and Founding Director of the Loyola Project for the Innocent.

The 2026 Excellence in Education Award will be presented to Educator of the Year: Nick Melvoin, Member, Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education

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, MAY 31 @ 5:30PM

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 2022-2026)

Recent Events

Global Networking Night - Orange County

A spirited crowd of 75 Harvard alumni gathered at Hangar 24 in Orange County for this year's Global Networking Night, proving that the Harvard connection knows no geographic bounds. The evening was cohosted by Matthew Stasior '87, Vice President of Orange County for the Harvard Club of Southern California, and Karen Hernandez MBA '00, President of the HBS Association of Orange County.

"We were so thrilled with how happy people were to get together," Hernandez shared. "Attendees even stayed for an hour and a half after the event ended, well after the bar had closed."

The evening brought together alumni from across schools, generations, and even neighboring institutions. Among the attendees were the President of the Stanford Club, the President of the MIT Club of San Diego, and a number of Penn alumni who also hold Harvard graduate degrees. One alumna made the drive all the way from Palm Springs and left so inspired that she joined the club and offered to help organize future events in the Coachella Valley.

Attendees expressed enthusiasm for more local gatherings, and several took time to thank club leadership for the distinctive "OC Orange" logo, which helps alumni easily identify Orange County-hosted events in the newsletter.

"This was an awesome event—even better than some weddings," joked Paul Bakota '87.





2026-2027 CLUB ELECTION SLATE

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of the Club By-Laws, the Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following nominations for officers and directors of the Harvard Club of Southern California for the year 2026-2027:

OFFICERS:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>
President	Gary Barkin '86, JD '93
Executive VP	John Luna '03
VP Communications	Aaron Blumenthal '15
VP Communications	Cynthia Torres '80, MBA '84
VP Finance	John Luna '03
VP Finance	Kristin Wadhwa '04
VP Membership	Jose Sanchez '89
VP Orange County	Matthew Stasior '87
VP Programs	Vien Nguyen '86
VP Programs	Liz Ryan '81
VP Schools	Harry Kim '86
VP Technology	Jade Le '10
VP Technology	Joseph Rogers '86
Secretary	Kimia Grigoriev ALB '23

DIRECTORS:

Term Ending 2027

Director	Joanna Chan '02
Director	Kenny Chung SM '13
Director	Billy Kimball '81
Director	Glenn Nano '98
Director	George Newhouse '76
Director	Eric Witt '95

Term Ending 2028

Director	James Biblarz '14, JD '21, PhD '23
Director	Paul Bokota '87
Director	Yule Caise '86
Director	Edward Chen OPM '19
Director	Jay Chen '01
Director	Denise Littlejohn '88

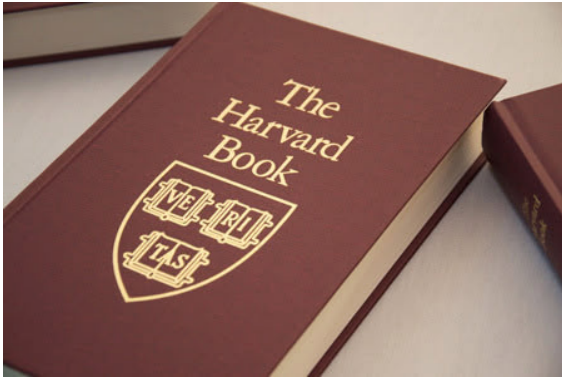
Term Ending 2029

Director	Sunha Paul Kim MTS '15
Director	Adia Matthews '10, MBA '15
Director	Madeleine Mejia EdM '00
Director	Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89
Director	Neil Morganbesser '86
Director	Kay Park '87

This slate of candidates has been approved by the Board of Directors. All candidates are running unopposed. On or before April 15, 2026, any 25 or more active members of the Club are entitled to file with the Club Secretary a nomination of any other eligible member for any office.

Please send your marked ballots to the Club Secretary by April 15, 2026:

*Harvard Club of Southern California
c/o Karen Hernandez
2855 East Coast Highway, Suite 102
Corona del Mar, CA 92625*



HCSC to Expand Prize Book Program

For decades, the Harvard Club of Southern California has bestowed the Harvard Prize Book to top high school juniors attending the region’s high schools. While a decade ago the Club donated over 150 books across the region as a top high school prize, in recent years the number of donated books has dwindled to 15–20.

In 2026–2027, HCSC Board member Neil Morganbesser plans to significantly expand the program. “We will link donors to specific schools, and invite hundreds of schools to participate,” he said.

Donated by Harvard Clubs, Prize Books are presented annually in more than 1,000 high schools around the world. The Prize Book program strives to inspire talented high school students to pursue future academic studies and introduce them to the opportunities available at Harvard.

The Harvard Prize Book program recognizes outstanding high school juniors who display excellence in scholarship and achievement in non-academic fields. Outstanding high school teachers who inspire curiosity and excellence in their students can also receive the award.

Interested alumni may participate this year by identifying and encouraging high schools in Southern California to participate in the program, and by donating the cost of one or more books. Donors can volunteer to present the award at high school award assemblies for the high schools that would like a representative of the Harvard alumni community to present the Prize Book.

For a limited time, alumni may donate \$35 on the Club’s website to contribute a Prize Book during the 2025–2026 school year. The Prize Book cost is slated to increase in the 2026–2027 school year to cover the program’s expanded programming.

For additional information, please contact Neil Morganbesser, Chair of the Club's Harvard Prize program, at socalharvardbookprize@gmail.com.

President

Gary Barkin '86, JD '93

Executive Vice President

Lisa Watanabe-Peagler '02

Vice Presidents Communications

Aaron Blumenthal '15
Cynthia Torres '80, MBA '84

Vice President Finance

John Luna '03

Vice President Membership

Jose Sanchez '89

Vice President Orange County

Matthew Stasior '87

Vice Presidents Programs

Vien Nguyen '86
Liz Ryan '81

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

James Biblarz '14, JD '21, PhD '23
Paul Bokota '87
Yule Caise '86
Joanna Chan MD '02
Kenny Chung SM '13
German Enciso HMS Research Fellow '07-'09
Kimia Grigoriev '23
Billy Kimball '81
Jennifer Lee '95
Denise Littlejohn '88
Adia Matthews '10, MBA '15
Neil Morganbesser '86
Pooja Nair JD '11
Glenn Nano '98
George Newhouse '76
Kristin Wadhwa '04
Eric Witt '95

CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE

Terry Nathan
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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



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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, Apr 2 7:00PM	Recent Grads - Happy Hour	Tirebiter Brewery Los Angeles, CA	No charge, cash food and bar
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Fri, Apr 10 8:30AM	OC Coffee By The Sea	Philz Coffee Huntington Beach, CA	No charge
Tue, Apr 14 8:15AM	Tuesday Breakfast Club - Melrose	Fratelli Cafe Los Angeles, CA	No charge
Thu, Apr 16 7:00PM	April Ivy x B1G Mixer	The Whaler Newport Beach, CA	No charge, cash bar
Sat, Apr 18 4:00PM	HCSC Book Club: Trust by Hernan Diaz	Private residence in mid- Wilshire neighborhood	\$5, members \$15, nonmembers
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