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(310) 546-5252

SEPTEMBER 2025

Upcoming Events

Pasadena Brunch Event with Harvard & Stanford

SUN, SEP 21 @ 10:00AM

True Food Kitchen. (Pasadena)

Members: \$0; Non-Members: \$5

Welcome To Your City LA 2025!

TUE, SEP 30 @ 6:00PM

All Season Brewing (Los Angeles)

No charge, cash bar and food

Someone's Gotta Give: Book Conversation with Alisha Fernandez Miranda & Gloria Calderón Kellett

MON, OCT 6 @ 5:00PM

Zibby's Bookshop (Santa Monica)

Members: \$25; Non-Members: \$30

HarvardSpeak LA: "Dancing with the Devil" with Prof. Stephen Greenblatt

TUE, OCT 7 @ 4:30PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

Members: \$0; Non-Members: \$10

Ivy @ The Woods

THU, OCT 16 @ 6:00PM

The Woods (Los Angeles)

No charge



Harvard Club Hosts Send-off Reception for New Harvard Undergraduates

On August 10, the Harvard Club of Southern California hosted 25 incoming first-year students at a sendoff party before their departure to Cambridge for pre-frosh orientation events.

Harry Kim '86, HCSC Vice President, Schools, organized and attended the event, which was held at the home of Club member Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89. Students acquainted themselves with each other and compared notes about their Harvard Yard housing assignments, which they received in late July.

The Club is seeking alumni now who wish to get involved with interviewing applicants this fall for Harvard College. Interviewer training will take place in the coming weeks.

Both undergraduate and graduate alumni of Harvard University are eligible to serve as interviewers. Interviews may be conducted in person or through Zoom.

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"I would like to thank our area chairs and all the alumni interviewers for their hard work in administering and participating in the interviewing process," Mr. Kim said. "We had more than 2,500 applicants this past cycle and approximately 320 active interviewers, over a geographic area that ranges from the San Fernando Valley in the north, the Pacific Ocean to the west, Orange County to the south, and Riverside County to the east."



Volunteer to Serve as a Harvard Alumni Interviewer!

The Harvard Club of Southern California invites interested alumni to serve as Harvard alumni interviewers for the 2025-2026 admissions season.

Each year, Southern California high school students apply by the thousands for admission to Harvard College.

The alumni interview serves as an important part of the admissions process, according to Harry Kim, chair of the Harvard Club of Southern California's Schools Committee. "The Admissions Office views the alumni interview as a critical component of a candidate's application," he said. "This makes it crucial for our area to have sufficient numbers of interviewers to meet the demands of the applicant pool," he added.

Mr. Kim said that the Southern California Schools Committee continued to receive a high volume of alumni interview requests this past year.

New interviewers will receive support through Zoom events with admissions officers, pre-recorded training videos, an extensive interviewer handbook, and templates for contacting applicants and writing interview reports. New interviewers can also reach out to area chairs from the local area who have extensive experience with the interviewing process.

Mr. Kim urges alumni interested in serving as alumni interviewers to contact him at areachairsfvarvard@gmail.com. Both undergraduate and graduate alumni of Harvard University are eligible to serve as interviewers. Interviews may be conducted in person or by Zoom, at the option of the interviewer and the applicant.

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CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE

Terry Nathan

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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: info@harvardsocal.org.

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

Recent Events

Chocolate Dreams Can Come True

On July 26, the Harvard Club sponsored a chocolate crawl through Beverly Hills. Between bites of cocoa goodness from some of the finest chocolatiers, participants also took in sculptures (including, for a limited time, elephants!) that dot the city. The tour ended with a 'chocuterie' board of single-origin chocolate along with chocolate-covered fruit. While the crawl in August is already sold out, there will be another one later this year.



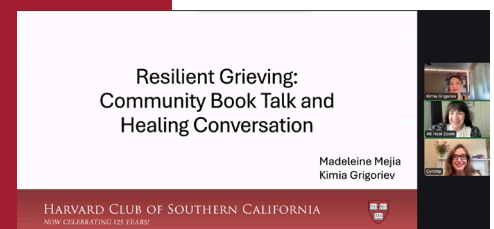
Alumni Book Talk with Elizabeth R. Ricker '16 – BRAIN: An Owner's Guide

On July 27, the Harvard Club of Southern California partnered with the MIT Alumni Association to hold an alumni book talk event with Elizabeth R. Ricker '16, featuring her book *BRAIN: An Owner's Guide*. Ricker shared insights from her research on neuroplasticity, offering practical strategies for improving focus, memory, and learning. Attendees engaged in a lively discussion about the science of self-directed brain training and its relevance to everyday life. "This event brought together curious minds," said Madeleine Mejia, the event's organizer. "Elizabeth's approach made neuroscience accessible, inspiring, and deeply personal."



Resilient Grieving: A Community Book Talk & Healing Conversation

On August 19, the Harvard Club hosted a community event, *Resilient Grieving: A Community Book Talk & Healing Conversation*. The program was facilitated by Madeleine Mejia, EdM '00; Dr. Cynthia Meyersburg, PhD '10; and Kimia Grigoriev, ALB '23, ALM '25. Participants engaged in a healing conversation and worked together to create an actionable list of practices to support well-being. Reflecting on this shared work, Madeleine Mejia noted, "The steps we created together are more than a list. They are gentle reminders that resilience is built in community, and that each of us has ways to nurture healing every day." We look forward to continuing these conversations and offering future opportunities for members to gather, reflect, and support one another in healing and growth.



Upcoming Events

Pasadena Brunch Event with Harvard & Stanford

Join fellow Harvard alumni for Sunday brunch in Old Town Pasadena. Meet old friends and make new ones! All alumni welcome. We will pay for our own meal(s) and split the check. Space is limited so please cancel if you cannot attend.



SUN, SEP 21 @ 10:00AM

True Food Kitchen (Pasadena)

Members: \$0; Non-Members: \$5

Welcome To Your City LA 2025!

Join us for this special event for alumni who live in Los Angeles or have plans to move here. The evening will offer new arrivals a welcome to Los Angeles while providing an opportunity for alumni in the area to connect.

TUE, SEP 30 @ 6:00PM

All Season Brewing (Los Angeles)

No charge, cash food and bar



Someone's Gotta Give: Book Conversation with Alisha Fernandez Miranda & Gloria Calderón Kellett

Join us for a conversation with award-winning Cuban-American author Alisha Fernandez Miranda '04, about her debut novel, *Someone's Gotta Give*, which takes you inside the world of extreme wealth and charitable giving. Space is limited!



MON, OCT 6 @ 5:00PM

Zibby's Bookshop (Santa Monica)

\$25, Members; \$30, Nonmembers; \$70, to attend the event and + 1-year Harvard Club membership

Upcoming Events

HarvardSpeak LA: “Dancing with the Devil” with Prof. Stephen Greenblatt

Join us for a talk by national bestselling author and Pulitzer Prize winner Prof. Stephen Greenblatt. Prof. Greenblatt is Cogan University Professor of the Humanities at Harvard University. His research focuses on Shakespeare and Renaissance literature.

TUE, OCT 7 @ 4:30PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

Members: \$0; Non-Members: \$10



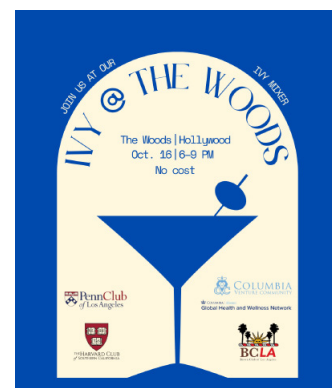
Ivy @ The Woods

Talk about fall foliage! This Ivy mixer at The Woods in Hollywood is perfect for that itch to mix and mingle or even just imbibe craft cocktails in the vicinity of other alumni. FYI, the event is free, but the drinks are not.

THU, OCT 16 @ 6:00PM

The Woods (Los Angeles)

No charge



Harvard & Stanford Wine Tasting Event

Please join us for wine tasting and meeting new friends. We will enjoy flights and glasses of their organically grown local wines as well as beers and non-alcoholic bubbly, open-bar-style during this 2-hour private event just for our group.

WED, NOV 5 @ 7:00PM

Angeleno Wine Co.(Los Angeles)

Early Bird Pricing (thru 10/13): \$55, members; \$65, nonmembers;

\$100, to attend the event and + 1-year Harvard Club membership;

\$160, to attend the event and + 3-year Harvard Club membership



Q & A from 02138:

Kareem Ansari '25



Kareem Ansari '25, a concentrator in Economics, was born in Pasadena, CA, and graduated from Polytechnic High School, where he was a school newspaper editor and tennis player. He is a senior residing in Quincy House with one semester remaining before his graduation. His brother is Mustafa Ansari '23, and his father is Mohsin Ansari, HBS '00. At Harvard, Kareem is a member of the Varsity Tennis Team, which he joined as a walk-on, as well as a member of the Charles River Growth Fund, a student-run investment fund. Last year, he spent one semester away from Harvard working full-time in Singapore as a consultant and strategist at Marriott International. While he was there, he learned about corporate strategy and the hospitality business as well as travel around Asia. This summer he was an intern in the U.S. House of Representatives, focusing on his congressman's technology and economic policies.

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

KA: Funnily enough, I was surprised by the quality of Harvard students. I knew that Harvard students were impressive, but the sheer breadth and depth of students' achievements were a surprise. Everyone you meet has one or multiple extraordinary qualities.

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

KA: I first visited Harvard as a sophomore in high school, tagging along on my older brother's college visits. The architecture of the campus stood out to me, and I wanted to be immersed in the campus for my four years of college. I thought that studying in a place with such great history and beauty would be a special experience.

HCSC: What was your funniest moment at Harvard?

KA: I have a few funny memories from the tennis team. One of my favorites took place during one of our always passionate Ivy League matches. In the middle of one particularly heated away match, the opposing coach turned his attention away from the actual match toward my teammates and me on the sidelines, eating the pizza the home team had bought for public consumption. He seemed to take huge issue with us having the pizza, and we found his reaction hilarious, but I think competition can sometimes bring about moments like that.

HCSC: What were your favorite classes?

KA: I really enjoyed my economics tutorial. The tutorial is the culminating class of the Economics concentration and typically focuses on a specific theme. My class focused on economic history mysteries. I enjoyed discussing themes like the Industrial Revolution, the Great Depression, and economic inequality with the knowledge and skills I had gained throughout my time at Harvard. I also really enjoyed the Spanish classes I took. The classes were always very well taught, and I really enjoyed improving my Spanish as well as my historical and cultural knowledge.

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

KA: I would add Humanities courses that give students a broad introduction to a discipline. I found that when I wanted to take introductory classes in areas like history or literature, for example, the available courses were often too narrow in scope.

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

KA: I miss our sports. Boston has some great teams, but I think SoCal's sports culture is unrivaled.

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

KA: I loved growing up in Southern California and still love it. It will always be home, so I can't imagine having no connection to SoCal. I can definitely see myself living there again in the future.

Welcome to New Members...

The Harvard Club of Southern California welcomes the following new members:

Chidimma Adinna '25	Jacqueline Hayes '89, JD '92	Andy Lopez-Lara ALM '23	Josephine Lillian Roberts '25
Zeyad Almajed MRE '25	Yassine Hilmi MBA '25	Raphael Maarek MBA '25	Tatiana Rosenblatt
Shelbi Augustus MPH '25	Vincent Hock '25	Margaret Mahboubian MAR '89	David Santoro ALM '25
Saghar Bagheri	Annika Huprikar '24	Tyler Malka ALB '23, ALM '25	Maria Semerdzhian MPP '14
Trevor Beauchamp ALM '25	Miles Jefferson MBA '25	Allison Matthews PLDA '25	Shantanu Sharma SM '26
Alexander Bell '25	Nathan Johnson '09	Sahand Moarefy '10, JD '16	Keith Stahl EdM '25
Lydia Browning MAR '07	Joslin Joseph ALM '25	Andrew Murray '13	Edward Story MBA '73
Joshua Bryant MBA '25	Sky Jung '25	Yxta Murray RF '25	Paul Taylor MPA '14
William Candelaria JD '95	Han Na Kim MAUD '25	Miriam Nelson '25	Charles Wallace ALM '25
Yvonne Chang	Kenneth Kim SM '25	Saidutt Nimmagadda MBA '25	Yulei Wang SM '17
Brandon Cheng '29	Ofir Koren HMSEE '25	Emily Orr '21	Dennis Wong ALB '25
Jorge Colon MDS '11	An-Hsuan Lai MMS '25	Joyce Park '25	Mark Wright PhD '25
Ross Fleischman '00	Iman Lavery '22	Michael Pena '13	Timothy Wu '11
Matthew Foreman MBA '13	Olivia Leskinen '02, MBA '12	Elyzabeth Perales EdM '24	Matthew Yan MPH '26
Leslie Goodman KSGF '96	Yu Jun Li '25	Carlos Prieto SM '27	Wenhai Zhang AMP '25
Noor Haideri '28	Biyonka Liang '25, PhD '25		



THE HARVARD CLUB
of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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
Sun, Sep 21 10:00AM	SOLD OUT - Pasadena Brunch Event with Harvard & Stanford	True Food Kitchen Pasadena, CA	Members: \$0; Non-Members: \$5
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Wed, Nov 5 7:00PM	Harvard & Stanford Wine Tasting Event	Angeleno Wine Co Los Angeles, CA	Members: \$55; Non-Members: \$65 thru Oct 13