


 @harvardsocal

 @harvardsocal

 facebook.com/groups/harvardsocal



# THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

SEPTEMBER 2020

## Upcoming Events

### HGSE Event - Summer Reading: *On Being Included* by Sara Ahm

THU, SEP 10 @ 3:00PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required

### Virtual Radcliffe: Nikole Hannah- Jones, Creator of “The 1619 Project”

TUE, SEP 15 @ 1:00PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required

### “A Third Reconstruction” with Professor Alan Jenkins ’85, JD ’89

WED, SEP 16 @ 12:00PM

Virtual Event

Free, members; \$5 non-members - RSVP required

### Puzzle Hunt with Magician/Puzzle Master David Kwong ’02

SUN, SEP 20 @ 5:00PM

Virtual Event

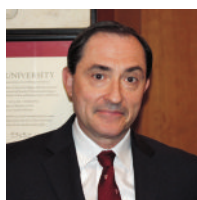
\$25, members; \$35, non-members

### Myron Kayton Science Pub #17: Empowering Patients through Lifestyle Medicine

SUN, SEP 27 @ 3:00PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required



## Emergency Response to SoCal Harvard Students in Need

by *Patric M. Verrone '81, Club President*

As many of you know, most Harvard undergraduates will be unable to study on campus in the upcoming school year. First year students (and some upperclassmen) may physically house on campus in the fall semester and seniors will be returning in the spring, but all other students will be taking classes remotely.

Last month, I reached out to these undergraduates to show our Club's support and to see if they had specific needs. I received responses from over 50 students, most offering their gratitude for our support, along with an interest in joining the SoCal Harvard alumni community (albeit ahead of schedule). Some students had other requests, like career advice and employment opportunities. A small number expressed genuine financial need.

The few students in the latter category have found themselves unable to afford computer equipment and WiFi; storage space and moving expenses; and even basic housing (especially if their high school home is no longer available or not conducive to quiet study). Although Harvard has provided some economic assistance for students on financial aid, gaps remain. Therefore, we are establishing the Harvard Student Emergency Fund specifically to assist current Harvard College students in need.

Although it is our intention to distribute any funds that we collect for immediate needs caused by the pandemic, we also intend this fund to exist in the longer term as dire student needs existed before COVID-19 and inevitably will exist after as well.

Continued on page 2

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution, please visit <http://www.HarvardSoCal.org>.

As I said, many students were also interested in career development, gap year experiences, and, to put it bluntly, work. For those of you who would like to help these students, the Harvard Office of Career Services has two career development programs:

**OCS Firsthand Advisers:** <https://harvardocs.firsthand.co>. Sign up for this advice-giving platform where you can offer students a resume review, a mock interview or just a simple career conversation.

**Crimson Careers:** <https://ocs.fas.harvard.edu/alumni-connect-students>. If your organization is hiring, has an internship opportunity, or a short-term project available, OCS maintains this database where alumni can post for free. In response to current conditions, remote and unpaid experiences are also welcome.

In normal times, I know our Harvard community to be generous with advice, time, opportunities, and money. And in these extraordinary times, I know we will be extraordinarily generous.



## Upcoming [Virtual] Events

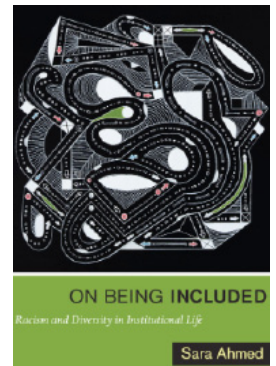
### HGSE Event - Summer Reading: *On Being Included: Racism and Diversity in Institutional Life* by Sara Ahmed

Please join Alex R. Hodges, Director of the Monroe C. Gutman Library and HGSE Lecturer on Education, for an interactive discussion of the book, *On Being Included: Racism and Diversity in Institutional Life* by Sara Ahmed.

**THU, SEP 10 @ 3:00PM**

No charge, registration required

Office of Dev. & Alumni Relations, [gse\\_alumni\\_services@harvard.edu](mailto:gse_alumni_services@harvard.edu)



#### President

Patric M. Verrone '81

#### Executive Vice President

Joan Chu Reese '85

#### Vice Presidents Communications

Jonathan Aibel '91

Pooja Nair JD '11

#### Vice Presidents Finance/Financial Aid

Gary Barkin '86, JD '93

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 Presidents Programs

Madeleine Mejia EdM '00

Lisa Watanabe-Peagler '02

#### Vice Presidents Radcliffe

Elizabeth Gillis '82

Kay Park '87

#### Vice Presidents Schools

Harry Kim '86

Eva Plaza '80

#### Secretaries

Jennifer Hsu '95

Maiya Williams Verrone '84

#### Past President

Steven M. Arkow '84

#### HAA Regional Director

Kay Park '87

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Chi H. Bui DMD '02

Joanna Chan '02

Karen Hernandez MBA '00

Shilla Kim-Parker '04, MBA '09

Jade Le '10

Maurice Levin '78, MBA '84

Corey Mazza '08

John McHugh MD '94

Jaime Mendez '04, MBA '09

Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89

George B. Newhouse '76

E. Dryden Pence III '82

Joe Rogers '86

Ethel Seminario-Laczko EdM '84

Peter Shimamoto JD '85

Ashley Turner '13

Brittany Wang '17

Kenneth S. Williams '78

#### CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE

Terry Nathan

(310) 546-5252

email: [HarvardSoCal@gmail.com](mailto:HarvardSoCal@gmail.com)

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: [HarvardSoCal@gmail.com](mailto:HarvardSoCal@gmail.com).

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

## Upcoming [Virtual] Events

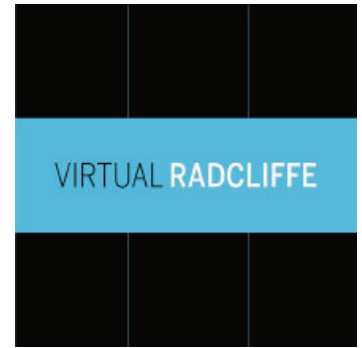
### Virtual Radcliffe: Conversation with Nikole Hannah-Jones, Creator of “The 1619 Project”

Nikole Hannah-Jones, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and creator of “The 1619 Project,” will engage in conversation with Tomiko Brown-Nagin, dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, about pressing issues of race, civil rights, injustice, desegregation, and resegregation.

**TUE, SEP 15 @ 1:00PM**

No charge, registration required

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University



### “A Third Reconstruction: Race, Reconciliation, and How Hollywood Can Help Make it Happen”

Join HCSC and Harvardwood for a timely discussion with Harvard Law professor Alan Jenkins '85, JD '89 on the need to fight racism and build a just society, emphasizing the role entertainment industry professionals can play. This event is brought to you by the Club's Anti-Racism Committee.

**WED, SEP 16 @ 12:00PM**

Free for members; \$5, non-members

Patric M. Verrone, pverrone@aol.com



### Puzzle Hunt with Magician/Puzzle Master David Kwong '02

Join HCSC and the Harvard Asian American Alumni Alliance for an online puzzle hunt with magician and puzzle master David Kwong, renowned magician, New York Times puzzle constructor and Harvard graduate '02. David's highly acclaimed show *The Enigmatist* ran in New York for approximately one year.

**SUN, SEP 20 @ 5:00PM**

\$25, members; \$35, non-members

Peter Shimamoto, pshimamoto2@gmail.com



### Myron Kayton Science Pub #17 - Empowering Patients through Lifestyle Medicine

Dr. John McHugh, MD, will focus on evidence based wellness, delving into the scientific basis for choices we make every day that can add years to your life, and, even better, life to your years.

**SUN, SEP 27 @ 3:00PM**

No charge, registration required

Ethel Laczko, etheledu@yahoo.com



## Recent [Virtual] Events

### Anti-Racism 101

On July 16, 170 alumni logged onto Zoom for the HCSC Anti-Racism Committee's premier event, Anti-Racism 101, a discussion about navigating difficult conversations about race. After an introduction by co-chair of the committee Maiya Williams Verrone '84, Tracie Jones ALB '11, the Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and Andy Riemer EdM '18, an independent consultant on mental health and diversity initiatives, gave their impressions about an article in *The Business Insider* that explained the difference between an "ally" and an "anti-racist." Tracie and Andy spent close to an hour answering tough questions posed by audience members about the article and about awkward personal situations for which audience members were seeking clarity. This event will be followed up with three racial affinity group events for alumni interested in participating in deeper discussions about dismantling racism.



### "Politics, Protests & Pandemics: What America Will Survive?" w/Professor Timothy McCarthy

On July 30, about 70 members of the Southern California Harvard Community heard Professor Timothy Patrick McCarthy '93 in conversation with Club president Patric M. Verrone '81. Professor McCarthy is an award-winning scholar and human rights activist who has taught at Harvard since 2005. Professor McCarthy began the talk with a moving story of the day he spent at Harvard with the Civil Rights icon and congressman John Lewis, whose funeral was held the morning of this event. Professor McCarthy spoke on topics ranging from the history of American protest movements through the prism of current events to "Trumps tweets" and the upcoming election. The interview took nearly an hour, then Professor McCarthy went overtime by a half hour to answer questions. The Club is looking forward to having Professor McCarthy eventually return in person for an encore event.



### *The Present* at the Geffen "Stayhouse"

On August 16, 24 Harvard Club members and guests were treated to a private performance of *The Present*, an interactive theatrical experience written and performed by master illusionist and storyteller Helder Guimarães. Presented by the Geffen "Stayhouse," the show is based on his own life experience with quarantine during childhood. Participants were sent a box ahead of time that could only be opened during the performance. The contents of the box will not be revealed in this newsletter.



### H4A Book Club with Eugenia Kim, author of *The Kinship of Secrets*

On August 1, members of the Harvard Asian American Alumni Alliance (H4A) and the Club met online with author Eugenia Kim to discuss her book *The Kinship of Secrets*. She spoke about the origins of the book, which tells the story of two sisters, one raised in the United States, the other in South Korea, separated during the Korean War, and how it was inspired by her own family's true story. Afterwards Jennifer Kim Zeller JD '93 moderated a Q&A with the participants.





*The Harvard Club of Southern California congratulates and welcomes:*

## **Southern California's Harvard Class of 2024**

### **Central Los Angeles**

- Julia Soledad Casas, Whittier High School
- Owen Stevenson Hale, Loyola High School
- Noa Dorff Kligfeld, Shalhevet High School
- Roxanna Mexicano, Downey High School
- Genesis Goeun Nam, John Marshall High School

### **West Los Angeles**

- David Arkow, Harvard-Westlake School
- Kevin Y Chen, Harvard-Westlake School
- Carli Rae Cooperstein, Harvard-Westlake School
- Matthew Henry Gross, Harvard-Westlake School
- Sophie Hanul Kim, Harvard-Westlake School
- Lauren Sara Morganbesser, Harvard-Westlake School
- Jaya Josephine Nayar, Harvard-Westlake School
- Lily Gail Richman, Brentwood School
- Austin Lucas Schwartz, Brentwood School
- Mot Harris Dunlop Stothart, Harvard-Westlake School
- Octavia Isabel Tyagi, Harvard-Westlake School
- Chase Todd Van Amburg, Harvard-Westlake School
- Griffin Hon-sing Wong, Brentwood School
- Elisheva Mina (Ellie) Zisblatt, Yeshiva University High School of Los Angeles - Girls Division

### **South Bay**

- Logan Aaron Bednar, Saint John Bosco High School
- Zachary Mather Foltz, Palos Verdes Peninsula High School
- Adin Lloyd Handler, Vistamar School
- Julian Edward Handler, Chadwick School
- Delaney Catherine Jones, El Segundo High School
- Ella M. Lee, Mira Costa High School
- Matthew Villaroman, Hawthorne Math and Science Academy

### **San Bernardino/Riverside**

- Matthew James (Matt) Fitch, Silver Valley High School
- Diana Laura Gandara, Don Antonio Lugo High School
- Edward Woosok Koh, Martin Luther King High School
- Abigail Mejia, Adelanto High School
- Egbe Raku G Ndip-Agbor, Corona High School
- Juan Angel Saucedo Ochoa, Jr., Palm Desert High School
- Samantha Marie Wilhoit, Victor Valley High School

### **San Fernando Valley**

- Corine Chung, Burbank Senior High School
- Gene Ho Lee, Cleveland High School
- Tyler N Nilson, Saugus High School
- Luciana Paola Soria-Robles, Van Nuys High School
- Alyssa Jean Toepfner Wagner, The Buckley School

### **North Orange County**

- Chrystal Omonzele Aluya, Valencia High School
- Soham Bose, Troy High School
- Sasha Romarei Constandse, Mater Dei High School
- Ashley Herrera, Los Alamitos High School
- Ellen Soorim Hwang, Sonora High School
- Hannah Hope Tsai Kim, Orange County School of the Arts
- Brandon Y Kwon, Valencia High School
- Justin Lee, Troy High School
- Isabella Dionne Madrigal, Orange County School of the Arts
- Allison Leeanne O'Heany, Mater Dei High School
- Adrian Emmanuel Pedroza, Los Alamitos High School

### **South Orange County**

- James William Bardin, Santa Margarita Catholic High School
- Mandalyn Brooke (Mandy) Brenner, Crean Lutheran High School
- Catherine Cui, Arnold O. Beckman High School
- Marbella Esther Marlo, Corona del Mar High School
- Ryan Patrick McCarthy, Newport Harbor High School
- Katherine McPhie, University High School
- Lauryn Juliette Wilson, St. Margaret's Episcopal School

### **San Gabriel Valley**

- Rachel Aileen Harris, Westridge School
- Charles William (Charlie) McCormick, Flintridge Preparatory School
- Cayla Alexis McFarlane, Polytechnic School
- Ogechukwu Chinelo (Oge) Ogbogu, Polytechnic School
- Shawn Pan, Temple City High School
- Daniel Zhao, La Canada High School

Q&A from 02138:

## Nicolas Medrano '22



Nicolas Medrano '22, a joint concentrator in History & Literature and Art, Film, and Visual Studies, was born in Pasadena, California. He graduated from Polytechnic School, where he ran varsity cross country and played baritone saxophone in the jazz ensemble. He was captain of the policy debate team, in which he was ranked nationally and attended the Tournament of Champions. He was the founder and president of the school's filmmakers' club, the Poly Cinema Guild, which involved workshops and curation of an interscholastic film festival. He is a sophomore residing in Quincy House. His family includes father Manuel Medrano '78, JD '81; mother Rosa Flores '80, JD '83; and brother Manuel Medrano '19. At Harvard, he is the associate multimedia editor at the *Harvard Political Review*, a Student Media Consultant at the Lamont Library Multimedia Lab, and a member of the Harvard Debate Council. As a film writer-director and documentarian since age 10, he spent his prior summer in Los Angeles completing his first narrative feature-length (123 pages) screenplay and other film projects.

*Note: This interview was conducted before Harvard decided to go virtual for the remainder of the spring semester.*

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

NM: The incredible diversity of course offerings. Since freshman fall, I have taken classes across many departments each semester to explore my numerous intellectual interests. Just last spring, I had courses covering a survey of the western literary canon, documentary film production, energy harvesting, and advanced feature-length screenwriting.

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

NM: I first visited Harvard with my family at age 10. Beyond shivering from the cold that winter, I remember feeling awestruck by the beautiful architecture. A burger from Bartley's rounded out my first trip nicely.

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

NM: One of my favorite classes so far has been Philosophy 3: The True and the Good, taught by Professor Bernhard Nickel. It was an excellent introduction to many of the central figures and issues of western philosophy. Professor Nickel situated readings and class discussions in contemporary academic debates, many of which involve scholars who currently work at Harvard. The course also emphasized clear and effective writing via its rigorous curriculum, a quality I appreciated very much.

*HCSC: What has been your funniest moment at Harvard?*

NM: My funniest moment was on Housing Day last spring. My blockmates and I sat in one of our common rooms in Mower Hall, waiting in nervous anticipation. We heard the door to our entryway, three flights below, slam open, and a loud voice chanted, "C-A-B-O-T, welcome to the family!" As the sound moved upstairs and closer to our suite, my friends and I looked around at each other nervously. The chant outside paused, and we heard a quiet rap at the door. After remaining still for several moments, one of us opened the door, and a swarm of upperclassmen charged inside, embracing us with hearty whoops and hollers. After 10 seconds, I scrutinized the red-wearing dorm stormers more closely and realized that one of them bore a Quincy flag! Many tears of joy were shed thereafter by all parties involved. The clever trick easily ranks as one of my most memorable Harvard moments to date.

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

NM: I would emphasize more opportunities for students to get outside and explore the beautiful places in New England. In Boston, we are surrounded by such picturesque locations; I want to visit even more sites throughout my remaining time at Harvard!

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

NM: I miss our avocados and food in general. Boston has some great eateries, but Los Angeles has a fantastic diversity of cuisines. Whenever I return home, I have a list of restaurants to which my parents and I go. Food probably tops the list of things that I miss most about Southern California, other than family and the weather.

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

NM: I am certain I would like to be involved in the film industry, particularly as a writer-director. I will thus be moving back to Los Angeles shortly after graduation.

*These follow-up questions were asked in August, 2020.*

*HCSC: How was your transition to remote online learning and the spring semester in general?*

NM: Although quite sudden, the transition, thankfully, was smooth. Three of my courses—a lecture class and two sophomore tutorials—worked perfectly via online learning, and I remained engaged in my coursework through the rest of the semester. My fourth class, a nonfiction filmmaking studio in which ten of us made a short documentary, was more of a challenge, but we adapted by completing principal photography before we had to vacate campus and editing the film remotely with Adobe Premiere Pro across six time zones. We proudly finished a 17-minute film!

*HCSC: What are your plans for the fall semester?*

NM: I am taking a gap year and will be living in Los Angeles, where I will be studying film directing at UCLA and working part-time as a film editor.

---

## *Welcome to New Members...*

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

Elizabeth Garcia EDM '04

Pak Chuen Lee ALM '20

Deborah Schoch NF '00

Maria Garcia EDM '02

Michael Martin ALM '20

Roohi Stack ALM '20

Jean-Luc Henraux '22

Carrington McDowell-Walsh '20

Kexin Sun '22

Sophie Kim '24

Allison Piper '20

Raymond Tang '19

Kyle Lee '23

Andrew Riemer EDM '18



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](http://www.harvardsocal.org).

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	COST
Thu, Sep 10 3:00PM	<b>HGSE Event - Summer Reading: <i>On Being Included</i> by Sara Ahm</b>	Virtual Event Online via Zoom	No charge, RSVP required
Tue, Sep 15 1:00PM	<b>Virtual Radcliffe: Nikole Hannah- Jones, Creator of the 1619 Project</b>	Virtual Event Online via Zoom	No charge, RSVP required
Wed, Sep 16 12:00PM	<b>“A Third Reconstruction” with Professor Alan Jenkins ’85 JD ’89</b>	Virtual Event Online via Zoom	Free for members; \$5, non-members
Sun, Sep 20 5:00PM	<b>Puzzle Hunt with Magician/Puzzle Master David Kwong ’02</b>	Virtual Event Online via Zoom	\$25, members; \$35, non-members
Sun, Sep 27 3:00PM	<b>Myron Kayton Science Pub #17 with John McHugh, MD</b>	Virtual Event Online via Zoom	No charge, RSVP required