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# THE HARVARD CLUB *of* SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

MAY 2026

## Upcoming Events

### Crystal Cove Hike

**SUN, MAY 10 @ 10:00AM**

Crystal Cove State Park

No charge

### Tuesday Breakfast Club

**TUE, MAY 12 @ 8:15AM**

First of All (West Hollywood)

No charge

### Laguna Canyon Hike

**SAT, MAY 16 @ 8:30AM**

Laguna Canyon (Orange County)

No charge

### Ivy x BIG May Mixer

**THU, MAY 21 @ 6:00PM**

The Bungalow (Santa Monica)

No charge, cash bar

### 2026 Harvard Club Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner

**SUN, MAY 31 @ 5:30PM**

Huntington Library (San Marino)

\$150, members; \$175, non-members;

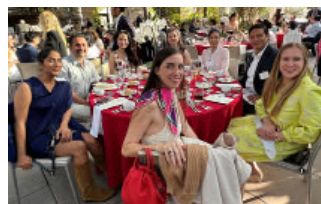
\$80, recent grads (classes of 2022-2026)

### Inter-Ivy Mixer 2026

**THU, JUN 11 @ 7:00PM**

Private residence in Bel Air

\$35 per person



## Harvard Club Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner To Be Held at the Huntington May 31

The Harvard Club of Southern California's Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner once again will be held at the lovely Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. All members are invited to spend an evening with the Harvard Club as we install our new board, present the Club's main awards, and discuss the Club's accomplishments during the year.

Our Annual Dinner is the signature event of our event calendar and is always one of our most popular events.



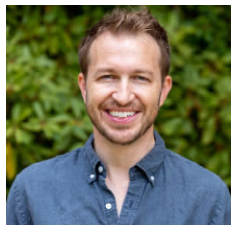
**The 2026 John Harvard Award for Distinguished Community Service will be presented to Professor Laurie Levenson.**

Professor Laurie Levenson is the David W. Burcham Chair in Ethical Advocacy at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, California, where she teaches evidence, criminal law, criminal procedure, ethics, white collar crime, and trial advocacy. While at Loyola Law School, Laurie founded Loyola's Project for the Innocent, which has exonerated 22 wrongly convicted individuals. She has taught regularly for the Federal Judicial Center, served on numerous legal reform commissions, and authored more than 250 articles and 13 books. For the last 30 years, she has been a commentator on high-profile legal matters, including for CBS News, ABC News, NBC News, NPR News, the LA Times, and many other national and international media

Continued on page 2

outlets. As a community volunteer, she co-founded Girl Scout Troop 1085 for unhoused children, actively volunteers with the St. Francis Food Pantry, and has served on the Board of Directors for Hillel at UCLA and the University of Michigan.

Laurie attended Stanford University and UCLA School of Law, where she was the Chief Articles Editor of the UCLA Law Review. She clerked for the Honorable James Hunter III of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Laurie also served as an Assistant United States Attorney, holding the positions of Chief of Appeals, Chief of Training, and Assistant Division Chief.



**The 2026 Excellence in Education Award will be presented to Nick Melvoin '08, member of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education.**

A Los Angeles native, Nick Melvoin has dedicated his career to expanding opportunities for students and strengthening public education as a teacher, civil rights attorney, nonprofit leader, and elected member of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education. He began his career with Teach For America teaching middle school English in Watts, where his firsthand experience with systemic inequities led him to pursue civil rights litigation and public interest law, including work with the ACLU, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the Obama White House.

Since first being elected to the LAUSD Board in 2017, Nick has helped lead the district through some of its most challenging periods while driving historic progress, including rising student achievement, record graduation rates, the largest expansion of preschool, passage of the largest school bond in history, and the nation's most comprehensive school cell phone ban, among other major initiatives. He also serves as the director of Camp Harmony, a nonprofit supporting homeless and underserved youth, and remains deeply engaged in civic and educational leadership. A proud Harvard alumnus, Nick serves as an Elected Director of the Harvard Alumni Association and on the board of the Harvard Program on Education Policy and Governance.



**Date:** Sunday, May 31, 2026

**Location:** Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108

**Time:** 5:30 PM reception. 6:30 PM dinner and awards ceremony.

**Event Pricing:** \$150.00 (Members and their guests); \$175.00 (Non-Members); \$190.00 to join the Club AND attend the Annual Dinner, eligible non-members only; \$80.00 (Recent Graduates, Classes of 2022–2026 from Harvard College and current students)

**Purchase Tickets:** See the Club's website at <https://hcsc.clubs.harvard.edu/>

**Contacts:** Gary Barkin, [garybarkin@gmail.com](mailto:garybarkin@gmail.com); Sonia Molina, [soniamolin@aol.com](mailto:soniamolin@aol.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  
(310) 546-5252  
email: [info@harwardsocal.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@harwardsocal.org).

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

# Upcoming Events

## Crystal Cove Hike



Join us for a walk around the beach side of this beautiful state park. Our meeting point will be sent to registered participants, and the hike will include a walk along the beach as well as the cliffs overlooking the ocean.

**SUN, MAY 10 @ 10:00AM**

Crystal Cove State Park

No charge



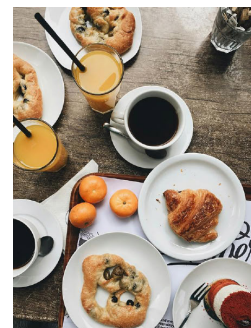
## Tuesday Breakfast Club - West Hollywood

Join us for a casual morning of socializing and networking. Come when you can, leave when you have to! Registration for this event will close Friday, May 8 at 5pm.

**TUE, MAY 12 @ 8:15AM**

First of All (West Hollywood)

No charge



## Laguna Canyon Hike (Laurel Canyon, Laurel Spur, Willow Trail Loop)



Join us for a beautiful family-friendly hike in Laguna Canyon, with a variety of terrain and amazing views.

**SAT, MAY 16 @ 8:30AM**

Laguna Canyon, Orange County (Laguna Beach)

No charge



## HCSC Book Club: *Pomegranate* by Helen Elaine Lee

Join fellow alums for a monthly book club at a private residence in the mid-Wilshire Beverly Grove neighborhood. We will be discussing the book *Pomegranate* by author Helen Elaine Lee (College, HLS '85), Professor Post-Tenure in Comparative Media studies and Writing at MIT.

**SAT, MAY 16 @ 4:00PM**

Private residence in mid-wilshire Beverly Grove neighborhood

\$5, members; \$15, non-members



# Upcoming Events

## AI Cowork

Let's build together! Join the Harvard Club of SoCal and Columbia SoCal for a casual AI Cowork Session. Whether you're deep into development, just starting a project, or exploring new ideas, bring your laptop and work alongside fellow alumni.



**SUN, MAY 17 @ 12:00PM**

Stereoscope Coffee (Newport Beach)

No charge



## Poker For Fun - Studio City

This is tournament-style Texas Hold'em just for fun! There is no risk as no money will be wagered. If you do not know how to play, we will teach you. Come on down for a couple of hours to practice your poker face. First prize is bragging rights!

**SUN, MAY 17 @ 7:00PM**

Brews Brothers Studio City (Los Angeles)

\$5, members; \$10, non-members



## Ivy x B1G May Mixer

Our popular Ivy x B1G mixer series is heating up for summer! Join us at the Bungalow in Santa Monica for a warm night of drinks and networking. Dress code: stylish, fashionable attire is encouraged; gym wear and flip-flops are not permitted.

**THU, MAY 21 @ 6:00PM**

The Bungalow (Santa Monica)

No charge, cash bar



## 2026 Harvard Club Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner

Spend an evening with the Harvard Club at our Annual Awards Dinner. All club members and their guests are invited to attend the club's Annual Dinner on Sunday, May 31, at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

**SUN, MAY 31 @ 5:30PM**

Huntington Library, Art Museum, & Botanical Gardens (San Marino)

\$150 club members; \$175 non-members; \$190, to join the Club AND attend the event; \$80 recent grads ('22 -'26)

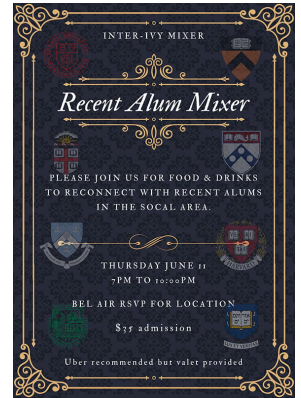


# Upcoming Events

## Inter-Ivy Mixer 2026

Elevate your networking experience at our premier annual Inter-Ivy Mixer, hosted this year at an elegant private estate in the hills of Bel Air. This sophisticated evening features professional catering and a curated bar for a truly polished social atmosphere. This collaboration between all Ivy SoCal clubs is a networking highlight each year.

**THU, JUN 11 @ 7:00PM**  
Private residence in Bel Air  
\$35 per person



## OC Coffee By The Sea

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

**FRI, JUN 12 @ 8:30AM**  
Philz Coffee (Huntington Beach)  
No charge



## Recent Events

### Orange County Admit Party

Over 25 new admits attended our Orange County Harvard Admit / Alumni Interviewer party, held at Phil Stump's beautiful waterfront home on Balboa Peninsula in Newport Beach, co-organized by Neil Morganbesser '86 and Patty Le-Narula HLS '96.



### HAA Speakers Bureau: Professor Daniel D'Oca - The Future of Housing in Los Angeles

This year's Harvard Speakers Bureau event featured a fascinating presentation by Associate Professor Daniel D'Oca about innovative ways to address Los Angeles' housing shortage. Professor D'Oca's insights come from years of leading an annual studio course at Harvard's Graduate School of Design that is exclusively focused on ways to affordably and sustainably increase Los Angeles' housing stock. His presentation and the ensuing discussion were lively and informative with no shortage of opinions from the over 50 attendees.



Q & A from 02138:

## Fiene Oerlemans '26



Fiene Oerlemans '26, a concentrator in Cognitive Neuroscience and Evolutionary Psychology with a secondary in Economics, was born in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and graduated from Harvard-Westlake High School in Los Angeles, where the team won the Los Angeles Field Hockey Association Championship (2018-2021) and where she developed her passion for leadership and team culture. She was the Sunset League Most Valuable Player in 2021 and named a Max Field Hockey Top 50 player for the class of 2022. A first-generation college student now living in Leverett House, Fiene served as captain of the Harvard Field Hockey team, leading the Crimson to an Ivy League Championship and a Final Four appearance. On campus, she is involved in Harvard Women in Business and works at CGM Sports, a sports-tech startup integrating wearable technology and AI into athlete performance. She previously interned at Creative Artists Agency (CAA) within CAA Sports and with the New York Giants' Integrated Marketing Department. She hopes to build a career at the intersection of sports, technology, and leadership.

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

FO: The first time I visited Harvard was during a field hockey tournament hosted on campus, where I met several members of the team. That experience was a huge part of my first impression; seeing the team culture firsthand made Harvard feel immediately welcoming. Separately, I was struck by the history everywhere on campus, and I admired that the gyms, classrooms, and facilities felt historic rather than modern. I saw it not as a setback athletically, but as an honor to train and study in a place with so much legacy.

*HCSC: What were your favorite classes or professors?*

FO: Two of my favorite classes have been Sports Economics with Professor Cramer and Biotech Ethics with Professor Imparato. Professor Cramer brings data and real-world sports markets together in a way that feels both analytical and creative, while Professor Imparato challenges us to think deeply about how emerging biological technologies shape society. I really enjoy the large debates he encourages in Sanders Theater, and his dancing introductions in every class. Both classes have pushed me to think more critically about the intersection of science, ethics, and industry.

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

FO: Southern California will absolutely remain part of my future. With its strong presence in sports, entertainment, and technology, it's an ideal place to build a career at the intersection of those industries. Separately from my career, I believe people in Southern California are the most happy and I love being energized and surrounded by these passionate, kind people.

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

FO: I miss the culture of ambition in Southern California, especially in Los Angeles, where creative industries, sports, and entrepreneurship are constantly evolving. Growing up there exposed me to people building companies, producing media, and reimagining industries. That energy shaped how I think about career and impact.



# 2026-2027 CLUB ELECTION BALLOT

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>Yes/No</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	President	Gary Barkin '86, JD '93
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Executive VP	John Luna '03
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Communications	Aaron Blumenthal '15
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Communications	Cynthia Torres '80, MBA '84
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Finance	John Luna '03
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Finance	Kristin Wadhwa '04
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Membership	Jose Sanchez '89
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Orange County	Matthew Stasior '87
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Programs	Vien Nguyen '86
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Programs	Liz Ryan '81
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Schools	Harry Kim '86
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Technology	Jade Le '10
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	VP Technology	Joseph Rogers '86
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Secretary	Kimia Grigoriev ALB '23

## DIRECTORS:

### Term Ending 2027

<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Joanna Chan '02
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Kenny Chung SM '13
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Billy Kimball '81
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Glenn Nano '98
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	George Newhouse '76
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Eric Witt '95

### Term Ending 2028

<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	James Biblarz '14, JD '21, PhD '23
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Paul Bokota '87
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Yule Caise '86
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Edward Chen OPM '19
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Jay Chen '01
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Denise Littlejohn '88

### Term Ending 2029

<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Sunha Paul Kim MTS '15
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Adia Matthews '10, MBA '15
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Madeleine Mejia EdM '00
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Neil Morganbesser '86
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	Director	Kay Park '87

*This slate of candidates has been approved by the Board of Directors. All candidates are running unopposed. Members may vote for every candidate on the Election Ballot*

Marked ballots must be delivered to the Club Secretary by May 26, 2026:

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



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
Sun, May 10 10:00AM	Crystal Cove Hike	Crystal Cove State Park	No charge
Tue, May 12 8:15AM	Tuesday Breakfast Club - West Hollywood	First of All West Hollywood, CA	No charge
Sat, May 16 8:30AM	Laguna Canyon Hike (Laurel Canyon, Laurel Spur, Willow Trail Loop)	Laguna Canyon Laguna Beach, CA	No charge
Thu, May 21 6:00PM	Ivy x B1G May Mixer	The Bungalow Santa Monica, CA	No charge, cash bar
Sun, May 31 5:30PM	2026 Harvard Club Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner	Huntington Library San Marino, CA	\$150, members \$175, non-members \$80, recent grads
Thu, Jun 11 7:00PM	Inter-Ivy Mixer 2026	Private Residence Bel Air, CA	\$35 per person
Fri, Jun 12 8:30AM	OC Coffee By The Sea	Philz Coffee Huntington Beach, CA	No charge