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# THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

FEBRUARY 2024

## Upcoming Events

### Book Talk with Alison Dundes Renteln '81

**FRI, FEB 9 @ 7:00PM**

Vroman's Bookstore (Pasadena)

No charge

### The Impact of the SFFA Decision on Private Sector DEIA Initiatives and Grant-Making Decisions

**THU, FEB 15 @ 12:00PM**

Online via Zoom

No charge

### Recent Grads Hike - Old Towne Orange

**SUN, FEB 18 @ 10:00AM**

El Modena Open Space in Old Towne Orange

No charge

### Breakfast Networking Event at LaLa Land Cafe - in Santa Monica

**THU, FEB 22 @ 8:00AM**

LaLa Land Cafe (Santa Monica)

No charge

### Science Pub #25 - A Tour of 3D Printing

**SUN, FEB 25 @ 3:00PM**

Online via Zoom

No charge



## Class of 2028 Early Action Admits Reception

On January 14, 2024, Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi EdD '81, VP Membership & Schools, and Eva Plaza '80, VP Schools, hosted a reception for the Early Action admits to the Harvard Class of 2028 at the lovely Pasadena home of board member José Sanchez '89 and his wife Elisa Fernández '88. Also in attendance were Kay Park '87, VP Radcliffe; Steven Arkow '84; Harry Kim '86; and Yule Caise '86. Admitted students and their family members spent the afternoon meeting future classmates over freshly made "taco truck" tacos. Thirty-five Early Action applicants were accepted from Southern California out of 259 applicants, an acceptance rate of 13.5%. Nationally, Harvard College accepted 692 out of 7,921 Early Action applicants, an acceptance rate of 8.74%.

"It's exciting to see that so many of the nation's and the world's most promising students have been admitted early to the Class of 2028," said William R. Fitzsimmons, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at Harvard College. "Their extraordinary range of talent and many contributions to their communities will add immeasurably to Harvard over the next four years and beyond," he added.

Alumni interviewers should submit their interview reports quickly to enable the Admissions Office to assess applicants on a timely basis. Interviews will be ongoing until the end of February. Alumni who are interested in interviewing should e-mail [areachairsfvarvard@gmail.com](mailto:areachairsfvarvard@gmail.com).



# Message from Club President Gary Barkin

The last few months have been rough – there’s no other word for it. The brutal October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas and the ensuing Gaza War have roiled the world and also hit the Harvard community with violent demonstrations, congressional testimony, and the resignation of Harvard president Claudine Gay. As president of the Harvard Club of Southern California, I am often asked by alumni to make statements and circulate petitions on behalf of the Club supporting varying positions about the recent turmoil in Cambridge. However, our region is home to 16,000+ alumni with viewpoints and opinions that are incredibly diverse. As a non-profit organization, our Club is firmly apolitical - we do not take partisan positions or endorse political candidates. However, we do encourage productive interaction and discussion among alumni about major issues that have captured the attention of so many of us.

Unfortunately, in the pursuit of such interactions and discussions, I have sometimes witnessed a deterioration of civil discourse. This is somewhat understandable given the gravity of recent events and the feelings of anger and sadness that they have evoked in so many of us. The last few months in my role as Club president have reminded me of the importance of actively listening to what others are saying. As Harvard alums we’re pretty good at getting our points across, but in heated conversations it’s easy to forget to actively listen. And before launching into a counterargument, a simple acknowledgment can often go a long way: “I understand what you’re saying, and I’d like to offer another perspective...”

While it is unlikely that any single conversation will change firmly held beliefs, that doesn’t mean we should stop engaging with people who hold opposing views. Conversations with like-minded individuals are comforting and reinforcing, but they do not foster understanding across a larger community. Uncomfortable conversations are important, but they don’t have to be combative. If tensions rise, often the simple but meaningful acknowledgment of others’ anger or frustration can de-escalate those emotions so that a more productive dialogue can occur.

In closing, I would like to commend the Board of the Harvard Club of Southern California. Comprised of 34 volunteer alumni with diverse views and strong opinions, our Board has nonetheless worked collaboratively to host a multitude of Club events, coordinate interviewing of our area’s thousands of College applicants, and productively engage the alumni in our area. I feel honored to work with such a great team, and the experience keeps me hopeful for the future.

## President

Gary Barkin '86, JD '93

## Executive Vice President

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Madeleine Mejia EdM '00

## Vice Presidents Radcliffe

Elizabeth Gillis '82  
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Eva Plaza '80  
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Jose Sanchez '89  
Ethel Seminario-Laczko EdM '84  
Ashley Turner '13  
Kenneth S. Williams '78

## 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

## Recent Events

### A Cappella Double Feature - The Dins and Kroks Return to L.A.

More than 250 enthusiastic Harvard alumni and guests packed the Westwood Presbyterian Church on Saturday, January 6 to enjoy performances by two of Harvard's most prestigious a cappella groups. The Din & Tonics and The Krokodiloes wowed the capacity crowd with their impeccable musicianship and irrepressible humor. This was the groups' sixth Wintersession visit to Los Angeles, making this one of the Harvard community's most cherished and long-standing traditions, second only to the Harvard/Yale Game at 139 years. We look forward to welcoming the Dins and Kroks back next year for what is sure to be another fantastic show.

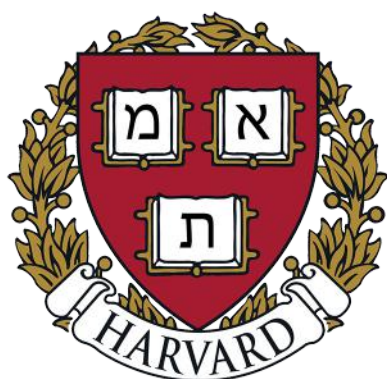


### Harvard Men's Volleyball Visits Southern California (January 11-12, 2024)

On January 11 and 12, local alumni cheered on the nationally competitive Harvard Men's volleyball team as they faced off against USC and CSUN. The Crimson lost hard-fought battles to No. 12 USC in their season opener on January 11, and to No. 18 CSUN in their second game of the season.



*Volleyball photos courtesy of Katie Chin, USC Athletics*



### Harvard's Shared Interest Groups

Harvard's newest Shared Interest Group (SIG) is the Harvard Jewish Alumni Alliance (HJAA) which was founded to create a spirit of community among alumni of Jewish heritage, identity, affiliation, and interest. HJAA aims to establish a social and professional network for SIG members worldwide, strengthen ties to Harvard and to each other, combat anti-semitism and champion a pluralistic university culture. Eric Fleiss AB '97, MBA '03 is HJAA's president. For more information, please contact: [info@harvardjewishalumni.org](mailto:info@harvardjewishalumni.org)



# Upcoming Events

## Everything You Wanted to Know About International Human Rights... But Were Afraid to Ask

Why doesn't the US government fully support human rights? USC political science, anthropology, public policy, and law professor Alison Dundes Renteln '81 will discuss her book, which provides a sweeping study of all aspects of international human rights, from genocide to gendercide.



**FRI, FEB 9 @ 7:00PM**

Vroman's Bookstore (Pasadena)

No charge.

## The Impact of the SFFA Decision on Private Sector DEIA Initiatives and Grant-Making Decisions

Join Michaele Turnage Young (JD '06), Senior Counsel and Co-Manager of the Equal Protection Initiative at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. for this virtual discussion on the impact of the Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard decision on private sector DEIA initiatives and grant making decisions.



**THU, FEB 15 @ 12:00PM**

Online via Zoom

No charge, but pre-registration is required

## Recent Grads Hike - Old Towne Orange

Join us as we spend the morning hiking the El Modena Open Space in Old Towne Orange! Kick-off your weekend meeting new friends and gathering with fellow alums from Harvard with a beautiful hike followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant.



**SUN, FEB 18 @ 10:00AM**

El Modena Open Space in Old Towne Orange

No charge.

## Breakfast Networking Event at LaLa Land Cafe - in Santa Monica

Join us for breakfast and network with fellow alumni. Feel free to bring a friend or colleague who might also benefit from this event. Don't miss out!

**THU, FEB 22 @ 8:00AM**

LaLa Land Cafe (Santa Monica)

No charge, but pre-registration is required



# Upcoming Events

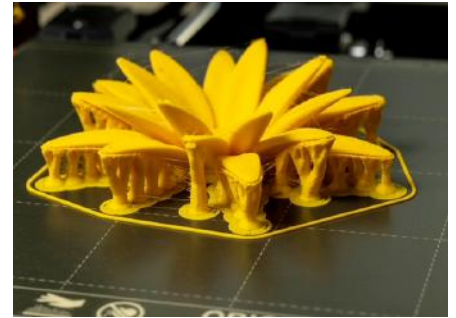
## Myron Kayton Science Pub #25 - A Tour of 3D Printing

Join us on an introduction to 3D printing by subject matter expert, published author and former JPL engineer Joan Horvath, cofounder of Non-scriptum LLC

**SUN, FEB 25 @ 3:00PM**

Online via Zoom

No charge, but pre-registration is required



## 2024 Harvard Varsity Club California Golf Tournament

The Harvard Varsity Club is returning to the West Coast for the 4th HVC California Golf Tournament on Monday, March 11 at the beautiful Strawberry Farms Golf Course in Irvine, CA.

**MON, MAR 11 @ 10:00AM**

Strawberry Farms Golf Club (Irvine)

Prices starting at \$200 per person



## Harvard Men's Tennis Visits Southern California

Come watch and cheer on the nationally ranked #10 Crimson, their highest preseason ranking in history, as they take on some of the nation's best tennis competition in Southern California. There is no cost to attend.

**TUE, MAR 12 thru SUN, MAR 17**

Santa Barbara, Pepperdine and UCLA

Check event sites for pricing



## Grandi Voci Concert Event at Soka Performing Arts Center

Join the alumni of Harvard, Princeton and Stanford for an afternoon of vocal splendor at the Soka Performing Arts Center in Aliso Viejo, followed by a reception in the Soka Founders Art Gallery.

**SAT, MAR 23 @ 3:00PM**

Soka Performing Arts Center (Aliso Viejo)

\$60 club members; \$70 non-members; \$85, to join the Club AND attend the event



Q & A from 02138:

## Charlie McCormick '24



Charlie McCormick '24, a concentrator in Social Studies with a secondary in Human Evolutionary Biology, was born in Pasadena and graduated from Flintridge Preparatory School where he served as the senior class president, captained the football team, and performed in the school musical. He is a senior residing in Cabot House, and his father is class of '73. At Harvard, he is the president of the men's club rugby team and an editor-at-large for the Arts Board of The Harvard Crimson. He spent this past summer conducting thesis research and working for the Advanced Leadership Institute in Cambridge.

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

CM: I've seen Mark Zuckerberg casually walking around campus twice now. I expected to challenge myself academically and make lifelong friends, but not to use Facebook, watch a movie about its creator, and meet him all in the same day.

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

CM: My dad graciously gave me a tour of campus over spring break one year in high school. It was hard not to feel enamored with the cobbled, crimson streets, even if a few building names got mixed up here and there. He insists the snow disoriented him, but I don't know if a sunny day would have made Weld look any less like Thayer in his eyes.

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

CM: The Social Studies 10 curriculum is a journey in every sense of the word, rife with ups, downs, and world-shattering insights. Between the brilliant texts and the brilliant professors teaching them, it's impossible not to learn something. Just figuring out how to pronounce "Foucault" was a transformative intellectual experience.

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

CM: My freshman fall took place entirely on Zoom. Attending class by joining a meeting with hundreds of people is itself kind of hilarious, but also a daunting introduction to collegiate academic life. I was terrified of speaking unmuted or otherwise being the first to embarrass myself on camera, but one of my professors took that honor by falling asleep during a guest lecturer's presentation. And with no means of alerting him, a teaching fellow had to take over the rest of class. I guess we were all a little computer-fatigued.

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

CM: Involvement in geopolitics aside, I think the dining hall selections could use a bit of a facelift.



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

CM: You don't find too many people willing to surf New England during the school year. It's not like the water's that much warmer back home, but East Coasters hear "cowabunga" and refer you to the campus mental health services.

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

CM: I'm incredibly grateful for the chance to explore another part of the country for college, and while I'm excited to keep adventuring for a little while, Southern California will always be home. I can only ignore the call of the beaches, mountains, and pace of life here so much before it's time to come back.

*HCSC: How do you intend to spend the summer?*

CM: The current plan is to celebrate graduation with a little travel, a little family time, and, of course, a little Southern California. The real world can wait for the fall.

## Upcoming Harvard Elections:

# Nworah Ayogu '10, MD '15, MBA '15 Runs for Harvard Overseer, Madeleine Mejia EdM '00 Runs for HAA Director

Two Southern California alumni are candidates in the upcoming Harvard elections.



Nworah Ayogu '10, MD '15, MBA '15 has been nominated to serve a six-year term as a Harvard Overseer. Nworah is the General Manager and Chief Medical Officer of Amazon Clinic. If elected, Nworah would join one of the two governing bodies of Harvard University. Harvard Overseers provide counsel to the University's leaders on a wide range of concerns including strategic direction and review of the University's schools, departments, activities, and programs. "Harvard is an institution that has given me so much, and I'm honored to have the opportunity to give back to it," he said.



Madeleine Mejia, Ed.M. '00, a long-time HCSC board officer, has been nominated to serve a three-year term as a Harvard Alumni Association Elected Director. If elected, Madeleine would serve on the HAA Board, an advisory board that aims to foster a sense of community, engagement, and University citizenship among Harvard alumni around the world. HAA Elected Directors provide leadership for the HAA and its various committees, a capacity often demonstrated by a record of service to Harvard and an ability to communicate widely and effectively with other alumni.

Voting begins April 1. Eligible voters will have the option of voting either online or by paper ballot. Completed ballots must be received by 5 p.m. (EDT) on May 14. All holders of Harvard degrees may vote.



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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
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Mon, Mar 11 10:00AM	<b>2024 Harvard Varsity Club California Golf Tournament</b>	Strawberry Farms Golf Club Irvine, CA	Starting at \$200 per person
Tue, Mar 12 thru Sun, Mar 17	<b>Harvard Men's Tennis visits South- ern California.</b>	Santa Barbara, Pepperdine and UCLA	Check sites for pricing