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# THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

JULY/AUGUST 2026

## Upcoming Events

### Ivy x B1G July Mixer

MON, JUL 6 @ 6:00PM

The Whaler (Venice)

No charge, cash bar

### Tuesday Breakfast Club

TUE, JUL 14 @ 8:15AM

First of All (West Hollywood)

No charge

### Members Only: Visit to the Salk Institute

THU, JUL 23 @ 11:00AM

Salk Institute (La Jolla)

No charge

### Vine & Dine - Members Only

SAT, JUL 25 @ 8:00AM

Los Olivos, CA

\$140, inc. transportation & lunch without wine;

\$175, inc. transportation & lunch with wine

### Private Tour of the New David Geffen Galleries at LACMA

SAT, AUG 8 @ 10:00AM

Los Angeles County Museum of Art,

While the tour is free, you are required to purchase tickets to enter the museum

### Ivy x B1G August Mixer

THU, AUG 13 @ 6:00PM

Zebulon (Los Angeles)

No charge, cash bar

## Harvard Club Honored Laurie Levenson, Nick Melvoin at Annual Dinner Gala



*Professor Laurie Levenson is honored with the Club's John Harvard Award by former Club President Steven Arkow '84.*

The Harvard Club of Southern California's Annual Dinner on Sunday, May 31 was one of our most successful ever, held at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. A capacity crowd of members and guests mingled and celebrated at the storied site.

The 2026 John Harvard Award for Distinguished Community Service was presented to Professor Laurie Levenson of Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. She

is widely recognized as a prominent legal commentator for national legal networks including CBS, CNN, ABC, and NPR.

Nick Melvoin '08, member of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education, received the Club's 2026 Excellence in Education Award.

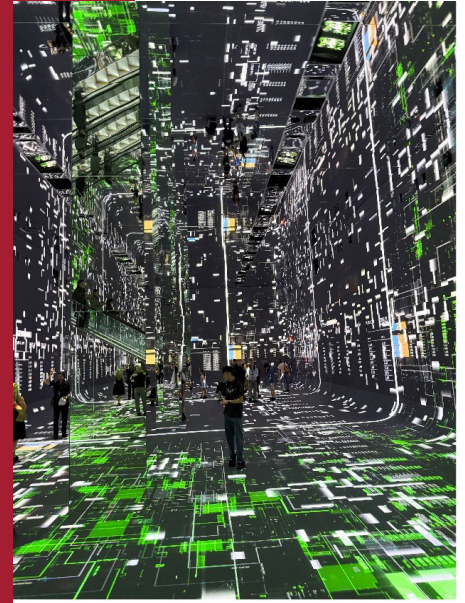
Club President Gary Barkin '86, JD '93 provided remarks on the Club's accomplishments during the year and announced the election of the Club's new slate of directors and officers who took office on July 1.

The Annual Dinner is one of the signature events of the Club's annual calendar and is always one of our most popular, welcoming all local Harvard community members from current students through our most senior alumni.

# Recent Events

## Dataland Museum Event June 27 Featured Immersive, Responsive AI Art

Harvard Club members and guests received an early peek at the Dataland Museum at Frank Gehry's the Grand in Downtown LA. Dataland, an immersive multi-sensory experience, uses AI and vast large nature datasets to create dynamic artworks that respond to visitors' biofeedback, emotions, and environmental data. Dataland, which opened in late June, bills itself as the world's first AI arts museum, unfolding across five large galleries of public space. Club members were fascinated by the inaugural exhibition, "Machine Dreams: Rainforest," which uses data sourced from institutions including the Smithsonian, Getty, iNaturalist, and London's Natural History Museum to create a responsive environment. Visitors received unique art generated from their own biometric data at the end of the visit.



## Tennis and Bagels Event A Smash

Harvard Club members and guests enjoyed a morning of tennis on Saturday, June 10 at the Ocean View Park Tennis Courts in Santa Monica with bagels as the fun snack inducement. All levels of play were welcome. The event was free of charge. Members were invited to bring their own coffee.



### President

Gary Barkin '86, JD '93

### Executive Vice President

John Luna '03

### Vice Presidents Communications

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

### Vice Presidents Finance

John Luna '03  
Kristin Wadhwa '04

### 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

Kimia Grigoriev '23

### BOARD MEMBERS

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Paul Bokota '87  
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Joanna Chan MD '02  
Edward Chen OPM '19  
Jay Chen '01  
Kenny Chung SM '13  
Sunha Paul Kim MTS '15  
Billy Kimball '81  
Denise Littlejohn '88  
Adia Matthews '10, MBA '15  
Madeleine Mejia EdM '00  
Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89  
Neil Morganbesser '86  
Glenn Nano '98  
George Newhouse '76  
Kay Park '87  
Eric Witt '95

### CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE

Terry Nathan  
(310) 546-5252  
email: [info@harvardsocal.org](mailto:info@harvardsocal.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@harvardsocal.org](mailto:info@harvardsocal.org).

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

# Upcoming Events

## Ivy x B1G July Mixer

Following the success of our coastal gatherings, we're taking our popular mixer series to the iconic Venice Beach boardwalk for an evening at The Whaler. Known for hosting over 200 alumni from across the Ivy+ and Big Ten networks, these free events have become a staple for those looking to blend high-level networking with a relaxed, sunset backdrop.

**MON, JUL 6 @ 6:00PM**

The Whaler (Venice)

No charge, cash bar



## 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, July 10 at 5pm.

**TUE, JUL 14 @ 8:15AM**

First of All (West Hollywood)

No charge



## Members Only: Visit to the Salk Institute

The event will begin with a tour from a docent and then continue with a hosted lunch during which we will hear from Salk's scientists on subjects of interest to members including research into aging, diabetes, Alzheimer's Disease, and Parkinson's Disease. This event is open to members only - limited space!

**THU, JUL 23 @ 11:00AM**

Salk Institute for Biological Studies (LA Jolla)

No charge



# Upcoming Events

## Vine & Dine - Members Only

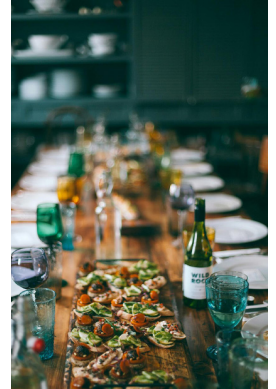
You are cordially invited to join us and the Harvard Club of Santa Barbara for an excursion to the Santa Ynez Valley wine country. Ticket price includes round-trip charter bus transportation and a "farm-to-fork, vine-to-glass" lunch at Roblar Winery & Vineyards. After lunch, we will have about 3 hours to explore the many boutique tasting rooms, unique shops, and art galleries in the town of Los Olivos. This event is open to members only.

**SAT, JUL 25 @ 8:00AM**

Los Olivos, CA (details sent after registration)

\$140, includes transportation and lunch without wine;

\$175, includes transportation and lunch with wine



**SOLD OUT!**

## Members Only - Private Tour of the New David Geffen Galleries at LACMA

Be among the first to view the new David Geffen Galleries at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) in this members-only private tour with Dr. David P. Bardeen '96, Assistant Curator of European Painting and Sculpture at LACMA. The tour is scheduled to last 75-90 minutes.

**SAT, AUG 8 @ 10:00AM**

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (Los Angeles)

No charge



## Ivy x B1G August Mixer

Following a string of standout gatherings at the Bungalow in Santa Monica, Baja Sharkeez in Hermosa Beach, and The Whaler on the Venice boardwalk, our August mixer continues a series that regularly draws more than 200 alumni from schools across both conferences.

**THU, AUG 13 @ 6:00PM**

Zebulon (Los Angeles)

No charge, cash bar



Q & A from 02138:

## Jack Burghardt '27



John ("Jack") Burghardt '27 resides in Quincy House. He is from Manhattan Beach, California, and graduated from Harvard-Westlake School. In high school, he was a captain of the Men's Water Polo team. At Harvard, he is the Director of Recruiting for the Harvard Investment Association and the Chief Marketing Officer of the Men's Water Polo team. He is also a member of the Harvard Financial Analyst Club and the Harvard Surf Club. His concentration is Economics with a secondary in Statistics, and this upcoming summer he will be interning in New York as a consultant at Accenture.

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

JB: One thing that surprised me most about being a student at Harvard is how supportive my teammates have been, especially when it comes to choosing classes and working through challenging material. It often feels like every upper-classman on the team is willing to walk me through homework problems or share study tips, no matter the time of day. One of my favorite classes has been Making Change, which explored the obstacles to shifting long-standing beliefs and opinions.

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

JB: My funniest moment at Harvard was when the Brown water polo coach, Felix Mercado, yelled at me for shaking the referee's hand after our game and accused me of colluding with them. What made it especially funny was that he ended up getting red-carded and was still on the pool deck, even though he wasn't supposed to be.

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

JB: One of my favorite classes has been Making Change, which explored the obstacles to shifting long-standing beliefs and opinions.



1020 Manhattan Beach Blvd., #204  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

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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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