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# THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARD-LA.ORG

(310) 546-5252

FEBRUARY 2017

## Upcoming Events

### *The Lion* plus Special Q&A with Playwright and Performer

TUE, FEBRUARY 7 @ 8:00PM

Geffen Playhouse LA

\$68.80 per person

### Rock Climbing with MIT

WED, FEBRUARY 8 @ 6:30PM

Rockreation

Beginners: \$30 members; \$40 non-members

Experienced: \$70 members; \$80 non-members

### Inter-Ivy+ Mammoth Ski Trip

FRI-SUN, FEBRUARY 10-12

Mammoth Mountain

\$329 / person

### *Phalaris's Bull* in Santa Monica

FRI, FEBRUARY 17 @ 8:00PM

Santa Monica Playhouse

\$25 per person

### HDS Bicentennial Celebration

THU, FEBRUARY 23 @ 5:00PM

Royce Hall Room 351 at UCLA

\$10, members; \$15, non-members;

\$40, optional dinner

### All-Bach Piano Concert

SUN, FEBRUARY 26 @ 4:00PM

Steinway Gallery in Beverly Hills

\$15, members; \$25, non-members



## A Cappella Double Feature

Nearly 300 enthusiastic Harvard alumni and guests packed the Westwood Presbyterian Church on Saturday, January 14 for a rare treat: a chance to see two of Harvard's most prestigious a cappella groups in concert.

The Din & Tonics and the Krokodiloes, visiting Los Angeles on their Wintersession tours, wowed the capacity crowd with their impeccable musicianship and irrepressible humor. The concert was hosted by professional magician David Kwong '02, who amazed the audience with his card tricks and ability to pull a dollar bill out of a Chinese gooseberry (also known as a kiwi.) Proving that one's a cappella career needn't end after graduation, the Harvard Yardbirds (a group composed of a cappella alumni) opened the concert with a well-received set.

A post-concert wine and cheese reception gave the crowd a chance to meet these talented undergraduates, and purchase copies of the groups' latest CDs. We hope this concert can become a new January tradition here in Southern California!



## Recent Events

### Kings' Day Inter-Ivy Happy Hour - Jan 6, 2017

According to tradition, families and friends gather on "Kings' Day" to honor the Three Wise Men of the Feast of Epiphany, and they eat a sweet cake/bread with a hidden plastic figurine baked inside. If your slice of the sweet bread has the hidden figurine, then you have to host the next party. In keeping with that tradition, the Harvard Club of Southern California hosted about 80 alumni from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Cornell and MIT at Spring restaurant in downtown Los Angeles for the 3rd Annual Inter-Ivy Kings' Day Happy Hour. After partaking of this year's sweet bread, it was a Princeton alumnus who found the figurine, and thus the 4th Annual happy hour will be hosted by the Orange and Black.

### Global Networking Night - Jan 11, 2017

The Harvard Club of Southern California kicked off 2017 with a successful attendance rate of over 400 alumni at the Global Networking Night. Although it was a rainy day in Los Angeles, Harvard alumni, friends and current students came together to network, meet new friends and enjoy breaking some bread together. The event was co-organized with Harvardwood and it was held at The Parlor, located on Melrose Ave. The Harvard Varsity Club and members were also present and gave away some goodies.

The next Global Networking Night will be in June. Please check our website for the date and location.

### Early Admits Party - Jan 14, 2017

Dr. Miguel Palos '76, and his wife Claudia hosted a reception at their Pasadena home for the newest admitted Harvard students. Forty early action students spent a beautiful afternoon meeting future classmates and asking questions of current students and alumni, joined by their parents, alumni interviewers, and area chairs. Approximately 320 students from the greater Southern California area applied for admission for the Class of 2021, of whom 45 were accepted.

### HCSC Visits *Doug Aitken* Exhibit at MoCA

On January 14th, a group of twenty Harvard Club of Southern California members and their guests toured the exhibition *Doug Aitken: Electric Earth* at the MoCA Geffen Contemporary in downtown LA. The retrospective exhibition featured numerous large-scale immersive videos and installations of the Venice Beach-based Aitken, an established star in the international art world. Guided by our MoCA docent Bonnie Mathews Porter, the group experienced several walk-through pavilions housing room-sized video projections, with narratives touching on nature, urbanity, and technology.



## GLOBAL NETWORKING NIGHT

JANUARY 11, 2017  
Harvard Alumni Association



## Upcoming Events

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### HCSC & Harvardwood Present: *The Lion* + Q&A with Benjamin Scheuer '04 & Robert Kraft '76

Join us to see the award-winning musical *The Lion*, written & performed by Benjamin Scheuer '04, in its LA premiere at Geffen Playhouse! The performance will be followed by a Q&A session with Benjamin and songwriter/composer/producer Robert Kraft '76.

**TUE, FEBRUARY 7 @ 8:00PM**

Geffen Playhouse LA

\$68.80 per person

Lisa M. Watanabe-Peagler,

[lisawatanabe@post.harvard.edu](mailto:lisawatanabe@post.harvard.edu)



### Rock Climbing with Harvard and MIT Alums

Join us for a fun evening and try out your rock-climbing skills. All levels welcome. Lessons on belaying and lead belaying will be offered. Cost includes day pass, lesson and equipment (except for shoes, which can be rented).

**WED, FEBRUARY 8 @ 6:30PM**

Rockreation

Beginners: \$30, members; \$40, non-members

Experienced: \$70, members; \$80, non-members

Chi Bui, [orthochi@yahoo.com](mailto:orthochi@yahoo.com)



### 2017 Inter-Ivy+ Mammoth Ski Trip

Enjoy a fun-filled weekend of snow sports with alumni and friends from the Ivies, the Seven Sisters, and other top colleges. Note that this is an adults-only trip but all skill levels - from absolute beginner to advanced - are welcome.

**FRI-SUN, FEBRUARY 10-12**

Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort

\$369 per person

Chi Bui, [orthochi@yahoo.com](mailto:orthochi@yahoo.com)



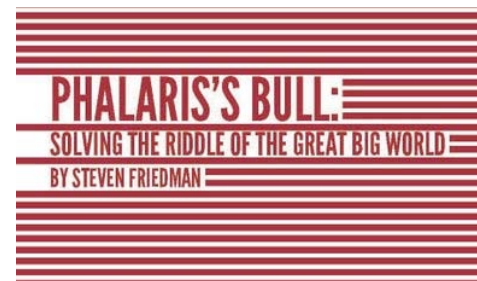


## Upcoming Events

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### Phalaris's Bull: Solving the Riddle of the Great Big World

Harvard-educated molecular biologist, visual artist, and provocative underground philosopher Steven Friedman has the answers to life's big questions. Part of the Santa Monica Playhouse Benefit Series.



**FRI, FEBRUARY 17 @ 8:00PM**

Santa Monica Playhouse

\$25 per person

Steven Friedman, s.friedman@post.harvard.edu

### Harvard Divinity School Bicentennial Celebration

Join us as we celebrate the HDS Bicentennial with a special reception and lecture featuring Charles Hallisey, Yehan Numata Senior Lecturer on Buddhist Literatures at Harvard Divinity School. Optional dinner to follow.

**THU, FEBRUARY 23 @ 5:00PM**

Royce Hall Room 351 at UCLA

\$10, members; \$15, non-members; \$40, optional dinner

Albert Chang, AlbertChang@charter.net



### An All-Bach Piano Concert Featuring Dr. D. Alan Shewmon, MD

Dr. Shewmon '75 will treat us to an all-Bach program, beginning with the D Minor Concerto, and followed by transcriptions of Bach works by Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Busoni, and others.

**SUN, FEBRUARY 26 @ 4:00PM**

Steinway Gallery

\$15, members; \$25, non-members

Ethel Laczko, etheledu@yahoo.com



## Upcoming Events

### Los Angeles All-Sport Reception

Join alumni and friends of Harvard Athletics at the first-ever All-Sport Reception in Los Angeles! Eat, drink, mingle, and get the inside scoop from special guest speakers Bob Scalise and Chris Hamblin.

**THU, MARCH 2 @ 6:30PM**

The Griffin Club

\$20, members; \$30, non-members

George Newhouse, [george.newhouse@dentons.com](mailto:george.newhouse@dentons.com)



### 2017 Lunar New Year Dinner

Join the Harvard Club of Southern California, along with the Wellesley Club of LA, at our annual Lunar New Year dinner event, welcoming the Year of the Rooster. Celebrated author Gish Jen '76 will be our guest speaker.

**FRI, MARCH 10 @ 6:00PM**

Golden Dragon Restaurant

\$30, members; \$35, non-members

Albert Chang, [AlbertChang@charter.net](mailto:AlbertChang@charter.net)



### LA Opera: Jacques Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann*

Join the Harvard Club of Southern California at the Los Angeles Opera for this very special performance of Jacques Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann*. Also attend an optional pre-performance lecture about the opera one hour prior.

**THU, APRIL 6 @ 7:30PM**

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

\$93, members; \$105, non-members

Kay Park, [kayparkmd@yahoo.com](mailto:kayparkmd@yahoo.com)



Q&A from 02138:

## Jamasb Joshua Sayadi '17



Jamasb Joshua Sayadi '17, a concentrator in Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology with a secondary in Neurobiology, was born in Orange, grew up in Aliso Viejo, and graduated from Aliso Niguel High School. In high school he was president of the Science Olympiad team, a Varsity tennis player, a National Merit Scholarship Finalist, and a National AP scholar. He resides in Dunster House, is a member of the men's club tennis team and plays the electric guitar in a 90's/2000's cover band called Black Tie Affair, composed entirely of Harvard undergraduates. The band performed over thirty shows across campus the past two years, including opening for Jessie J at Yardfest in 2015. Jamasp is a John Harvard Scholar and member of Phi Beta Kappa's Senior 48. This past summer he worked as a research intern at Vaxess Technologies, a biotechnology startup founded by a group of Harvard graduate students in 2011, where he helped conduct experiments for the company's latest venture: a silk-based microneedle patch capable of sustained intradermal vaccine release. Jamasp has also conducted research on hypoparathyroidism at Massachusetts General Hospital under Dr. Michael Mannstadt and on creating a cellular model for autism spectrum disorder at the RIKEN Brain Science Institute in Tokyo.

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

**JJS:** I have consistently been surprised by how supportive Harvard's faculty and staff are to students like myself on a daily basis. Nearly every professor I have had during my three and a half years has been willing to meet one-on-one, whether to talk about coursework or simply get to know me. It is great to attend an institution where professors are truly mentors for their students despite everything they have going on behind the scenes.

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

**JJS:** My first time visiting Harvard was during Visitas in 2013. Although Visitas was technically cancelled that year and Cambridge was on lockdown due to the Boston Marathon tragedy, I remember arriving at Boston Logan airport to be immediately greeted by a group of prospective Harvard students and representatives from Harvard's Office of Student Life. Someone from OSL arranged for us to stay at a hotel in Somerville that night and catered in dinner for our group. When the citywide lockdown ended the next morning, we rode shuttles into campus and were dropped off in the square. As an OC native, I was mesmerized by the Yard's red brick buildings and Annenberg's striking architecture. With a staff so dedicated to its prospective students and a campus that beautiful, I knew Harvard would be my home for the next four years after that weekend.

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

**JJS:** It's difficult to settle on a single favorite class, but I can try to narrow it down to two! One of the most interesting courses I've taken at Harvard has been "California in the 60's." Taught by Professor Kate van Orden, the course examines the landscape of American society in the 1960s through the lens of music being produced in California at the time. As a guitarist, I was excited to learn about influential musicians like Jimi Hendrix, The Doors, and The Beach Boys and how they influenced events ranging from the Free Speech Movement to the Summer of Love in my home state. Another great class I took at Harvard was "Repair and Regeneration in the Mammalian Brain." The course is taught by one of my closest mentors, Dr. Jeffrey Macklis, and examines molecular and cellular strategies to treating neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS). I have been interested in

Continued on next page

pursuing a career as a movement disorders physician for many years, so it was an honor to learn about cutting edge approaches to treating and slowing the progression of neurodegenerative diseases from a pioneering researcher in the field.

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

**JJS:** During my sophomore year, I had the opportunity to perform with my band, Black Tie Affair, in Cabot House for a House Committee event. All the members of the band received an email the following morning from Dean Rakesh Khurana, the Faculty Dean of Cabot House. We were afraid that he was reaching out to chastise us for waking up his family, but he actually just wanted to let us know that he had stayed up to listen to us from his room and thought we sounded good!

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

**JJS:** I would make sure to fund more inclusive social events and spaces that are open to individuals from a variety of backgrounds. Although Harvard's student body is diverse, I often find that students tend to spend most of their time outside of class with individuals from a similar background as themselves. I think it would be invaluable if Harvard's administration could find an effective way to encourage more interaction between different types of students in social settings. After all, much of the learning in college is done outside of the classroom.

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

**JJS:** I really miss being able to walk around Laguna Beach. Although my home is in Aliso Viejo, I routinely make the ten-minute drive down to Laguna with my family and friends. The city is truly one-of-a-kind with its bucolic hills on one side and Pacific Ocean on the other. While in Laguna, I especially enjoy walking around the Montage resort beach and playing tennis at the courts near the "Top of the World" park.

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

**JJS:** I have to admit that the East Coast has really grown on me during my time at Harvard. I am always discovering something new in Boston and actually enjoy experiencing the seasons as they come and go now. I have spent two summers in Boston, and they certainly make up for the extra layers I have to wear in January. That being said, I hope to eventually move back to California, whether for medical school, residency, or work in the future, but in the meantime I plan on enjoying my time on the East Coast to the fullest extent.

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**CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE**

Terry Nathan  
(310) 546-5252  
email: 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.

Harvard Club of Southern California  
c/o Membership VP  
1020 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Suite 204  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

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 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.harvard-la.org](http://www.harvard-la.org)  
 To recommend an event or volunteer for one, contact one of our Programs VPs.

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	COST
Tue, February 7 8:00PM	<b>THE LION + Q&amp;A with Benjamin Scheuer '04 &amp; Robert Kraft '76</b>	Geffen Playhouse LA	\$68.80 per person
Wed, February 8 6:30PM	<b>Rock Climbing with Harvard and MIT Alums</b>	Rockreation	varies based on experience
Fri-Sun, February 10-12	<b>2017 Inter-Ivy+ Mammoth Ski Trip</b>	Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort	\$369 per person
Fri, February 17 8:00PM	<b>Phalaris's Bull: Solving the Riddle of the Great Big World</b>	Santa Monica Playhouse	\$25 per person
Thu, February 23 5:00PM	<b>200th Anniversary Celebration of Harvard Divinity School</b>	Royce Hall Room 351 at UCLA	\$10, members; \$15, non-members \$40, optional dinner
Sun, February 26 4:00PM	<b>An All-Bach Piano Concert Featuring D. Alan Shewmon MD</b>	Steinway Gallery Beverly Hills	\$15, members; \$25, non-members