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# THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

JULY/AUGUST 2021

## Upcoming Events

### Virtual Event (Radcliffe): Book Talk with Tiya Miles

TUE, JUL 20 @ 1:00PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required

### Virtual Event (Radcliffe): Book Talk with Daniel Carpenter

TUE, JUL 27 @ 1:00PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required

### A Lecture by *A Red Line in the Sand* author David A. Andelman

THU, JUL 29 @ 6:00PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required

### Unity Weekend: Celebrating Har- vard Alumni of Color Conference

THU, SEP 23 thru SAT, SEP 25

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required



## Welcome from Club President Joan Chu Reese

Some of you may notice that there is a new face adorning the cover of the Harvard Club of Southern California newsletter this month. More astute observers may notice that the announcement of your new president (me!) is happening in July, rather than the more traditional September announcement. Actually, probably no one noticed. In any case, as our fiscal year ended in June, and a new board is taking the reins in July, this month just seemed like a more suitable time.

I hope to meet many more of you in person but given the incredibly difficult 16 months and counting of the pandemic, it may be a bit longer. I'm a Class of 1985 graduate, Crimson business editor, with an A.B. Economics. Like my predecessor, I am married to a Harvard grad, (David Reese '85), whom I met because he conveniently lived across the hall from me in Leverett sophomore year (thank you Harvard Housing). I also have an MBA from Stanford, but enough about that. My tenure in the Club includes a stint as VP Finance and a year as your EVP, and I look forward to two more years of service leading this organization.

This letter would not be complete without noting the altogether impressive accomplishments of the outgoing president, Patric M. Verrone '81. Patric pivoted the Club seamlessly to a wide range of virtual events, established the Anti-Racism Committee (the ARC) which has injected a diverse set of voices into the Club's discourse by bringing new and thought-provoking speakers to share their perspectives, nurtured various front-line relief efforts during the darkest days of COVID-19, and grew

our membership substantially. Then, to top it off, the club was honored with the 2021 Harvard Alumni Association Alumni Community Award.

I look forward to building on these successes and working with the fabulously talented (they are Harvard grads, so it's no surprise) incoming board to continue to evolve our Club in service of its membership.

A fellow board member once told me we should do what we believe is right for the organization since "it is our Club, after all." I took this to mean the Club is really our responsibility to build and improve as members and stewards. I hope everyone does get involved in this collective effort, whether it is through interviewing for the College, seeking out a Shared Interest Group (there are dozens of Harvard-affiliated groups), organizing an event or panel on a subject that fascinates you, attending the Annual Dinner, mentoring Harvard students through "Wintersession" internships, providing club scholarships and financial aid, or something entirely new. It's really up to you, and to all of us, to create our Club.

Now, go enjoy summer and we'll see you soon!

## Maiya Williams Verrone '84 Elected to HAA Board of Directors



This May, the Club's own Maiya Williams Verrone '84 was elected to a three-year term as a director of the Harvard Alumni Association. Maiya was chosen from a slate of nine candidates, nominated by an alumni nominating committee. According to the *Harvard Gazette*: "The HAA Board of Directors is an advisory group that actively works to support Harvard alumni volunteers working on behalf of the HAA. The board's main work focuses on developing volunteer leadership and increasing and deepening alumni engagement through an array of programs that support alumni communities worldwide. In recent years, the board's priorities have been strengthening outreach to recent graduates; connection to graduate school students and alumni; public and community service; and alumni access to intellectual content."

### President

Joan Chu Reese '85

### Executive Vice President

Gary Barkin '86, JD '93

### Vice Presidents Communications

John McHugh MD '94  
Pooja Nair JD '11

### Vice Presidents Finance/Financial Aid

John Luna '03  
Corey Mazza '08

### 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  
Maiya Williams Verrone '84

### Vice Presidents Radcliffe

Elizabeth Gillis '82  
Kay Park '87

### Vice Presidents Schools

Harry Kim '86  
Eva Plaza '80

### Secretaries

Jennifer Hsu '95  
Lisa Watanabe-Peagler '02

### Past President

Patric M. Verrone '81

### HAA Regional Director

Kay Park '87

### BOARD MEMBERS

Steven M. Arkow '84  
Jonathan Aibel '91  
Joanna Chan '02  
Laura Gomez '86  
Karen Hernandez MBA '00  
Michael Kline '88  
Jade Le '10  
Maurice Levin '78, MBA '84  
Adia Matthews '10, MBA '15  
Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89  
George B. Newhouse '76  
E. Dryden Pence III '82  
Andy Riemer EdM '18  
Joe Rogers '86  
Ethel Seminario-Laczko EdM '84  
Peter Shimamoto JD '85  
Brittany Wang '17  
Kenneth S. Williams '78

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

## Recent [Virtual] Events

### The Legacy of Comfort Women: Objectification of Asian Women Then and Now

On May 25, the Club hosted a speaker event to present the difficult history of the so-called “Comfort Women.” The event outlined the connection between the abuses suffered by these women during WWII and the sexual objectification and violence towards Asian women today. The panel of experts included Phyllis Kim, the Executive Director of Comfort Women Action for Redress and Education; Professor Michael Che, the Department Chair of Political Science at UCLA; Da Hae Kim, Legal Advocacy and Judicial Strategy Manager at the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum; and Lee Yong-soo, “Grandma Lee,” a survivor of WWII Japanese military sexual slavery. The speaker panel was moderated by Joan Chu Reese ’85 and organized by Jai Roh ’80.



### The 151st Annual Meeting of the Harvard Alumni Association

On June 4, the 151st Annual Meeting of the Harvard Alumni Association was held virtually on Zoom. The meeting pre-show was hosted by 25th Reunion Chief Marshal Anurima Bhargava ’96, and featuring ways in which the alumni community creates a better tomorrow through community service. The program included remarks by President Bacow and Kevin Young ’92, the Andrew W. Mellon Director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture. The program also honored the 2020 and 2021 recipients of the Harvard Medal: David L. Evans; Leila T. Fawaz, AM ’72, PhD ’79; Joseph J. O’Donnell ’67, MBA ’71; Walter K. Clair ’77, M.D. ’81, M.P.H. ’85, Nancy-Beth Gordon Sheerr ’71, and Preston N. Williams, Ph.D. ’67.

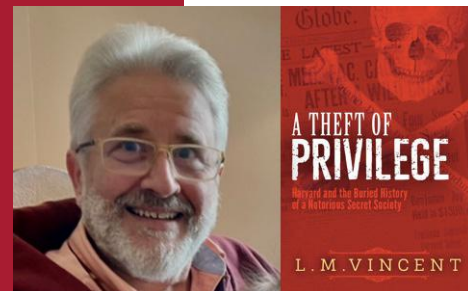


**ANNUAL MEETING 2021**



### *A Theft of Privilege: The History of “Med. Fac.”* Harvard’s Lost Secret Society

On June 9, self-proclaimed “Archive Rat” Larry Vincent ’73 regaled thirty Harvard alumni with a Zoom presentation about his most recent book, *A Theft of Privilege – The History of Med Fac, Harvard’s Lost Secret Society*. Larry detailed the society’s roots in Harvard’s Final Clubs, and how a theft of a plaque on the Philip Brooks House building was the beginning of the end of the society as administrators called upon them to disband. After the presentation Larry took questions from the audience. It was a fascinating, educational evening.



### Recent Grad Committee Get Together

On June 17, the Recent Grad Committee shared a meal in Culver City to celebrate the end of the Harvard Club of Southern California’s service year, Volunteers of the Stanford Young Alumni group and the Caltech Alumni Association were invited as we enjoyed collaborating with them on various events throughout the 2020-2021 year.





## More Recent [Virtual] Events

### The Harvard Club of Southern California's 120th Annual Meeting

On June 27, the Club held its Annual Meeting via Zoom. The meeting started with Zoomingling among Club members. The meeting was then called to order and past president Steven Arkow '84 announced the Board election results.

Patric Verrone '81, who has served as the Club President for a record three-year term, formally relinquished the Club presidency. Patric discussed the accomplishments of the Club and its members over the past year, particularly given the challenges of the pandemic. He focused on the Club's community service, and the efforts of the Anti-Racism Committee to promote thoughtful discussion and engage the community.

Joan Chu Reese '85 officially assumed the presidency. Joan presented Patric with a Harvard chair and a set of cufflinks as tokens of appreciation for his service to the Club. Joan expressed her enthusiasm to work with the incoming board members, and to continue the work of bringing the Harvard alumni community together.



### In Memoriam: Richard Cowan '86

by Matthew Stasior '87

In May, the Club lost one of its greatest champions, Richard Cowan '86. As chair of Orange County's Schools Committee, Richard coordinated undergraduate interviewing. Raised in Southern California, Richard left for Harvard College and studied classical literature. He loved theater and frequented San Diego's Old Globe with his wife Ziba and sons Jason and Dylan.

Members of the Harvard alumni community shared the impact Richard had on them:

- Richard was "a dedicated and tireless ambassador for Harvard for over twenty years." — Dan Medina '79, Former National Chair of Harvard Schools and Scholarships.
- "Richard was a good and kind man who devoted so much of his life to serving Harvard and the alumni interviewers of South Orange County. Interviewers have called him 'a great leader,' 'unflappable,' and 'someone with unflinching grace.'" — Patty Le-Narula '96, Richard's Orange County Schools Committee co-chair.
- "The passing of anyone reminds us how fleeting life is and the loss of one impacts us all. Especially the passing of someone like Richard who had such an impact on the Harvard Club of Southern California. We need to take better care of each other because we are all part of one big Harvard family." — Karen Hernandez '00, HCSC Director, President of HBS Association of Orange County.

The passing of Richard inspires me to continue my volunteering for Harvard and to develop even deeper relationships with my Harvard family. Richard, we will miss you.

## Upcoming [Virtual] Events

### Virtual Event (Radcliffe): Book Talk with Tiya Miles

This book talk will feature Tiya Miles, author of *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake* (Random House, 2021). Miles is a Radcliffe Alumnae Professor at Harvard Radcliffe Institute, a professor of history in the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the Presidential Committee on Harvard and the Legacy of Slavery, a University-wide effort anchored at Harvard Radcliffe Institute.

TUE, JUL 20 @ 1:00PM

No charge, registration required  
Harvard Radcliffe Institute



### Virtual Event (Radcliffe): Book Talk with Daniel Carpenter

The third installment in the summer series of Virtual Radcliffe Book Talks will feature Daniel Carpenter, author of *Democracy by Petition: Popular Politics in Transformation, 1790–1870* (Harvard University Press, 2021). Carpenter is the faculty director of the social sciences at Harvard Radcliffe Institute and the Allie S. Freed Professor of Government in the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

TUE, JUL 27 @ 1:00PM

No charge, registration required  
Harvard Radcliffe Institute



### A Lecture by *A Red Line in the Sand* author David A. Andelman '66

Please join us as we welcome veteran *New York Times* and CBS correspondent and CNN columnist David Andelman '66 for an evening lecture followed by a Q&A session. David is one of the most experienced national security journalists of our times. He draws upon original research, interviews with key players, previously classified materials and reporting from over 80 countries across five decades to help us understand the growth, successes and failures that have shaped our world today.

THU, JUL 29 @ 6:00PM

No charge, registration required  
Patric M. Verrone, pverrone@aol.com



### Unity Weekend: Celebrating Harvard Alumni of Color Conference

Join us for Harvard's inaugural Unity Weekend—a three-day virtual event led by, and in celebration of, alumni of color.

THU, SEP 23, 2021 thru SAT, SEP 25, 2021

No charge, registration required  
Harvard Alumni Association, haa\_unityweekend@harvard.edu



CELEBRATING  
HARVARD ALUMNI  
OF COLOR

Q&A from 02138:

## Itay Dvir '22



Itay Dvir, '22, a concentrator in Applied Math with Economics was born in Woodland Hills and graduated from Oak Park High School. There, he was the Co-President of the school's Peer Counseling Organization and spent time volunteering with the Anti-Defamation League. He also played Varsity Basketball and Volleyball with both teams winning respective CIF championships and worked as a Teaching Assistant in AP English, Spanish, and Math. He is a junior residing in Currier House. At Harvard, he is a Co-President of the Peer-Advising Fellows Program, a Project Manager for TAMID Consulting, and plays on the club volleyball team. He works as a teaching assistant for Principles of Economics and serves as a Co-Chair of the Currier House Committee. During his first-year summer, he worked as a mentor and counselor at the Youth Citizenship Seminar at Pepperdine University. His sophomore summer was spent completing a remote internship with REX Real Estate, a real estate technology start-up located in Southern California respectively. This summer, he is interning as a Summer Business Analyst at the Southern California Office of McKinsey & Company.

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

ID: I was pleasantly surprised by the overwhelmingly positive and welcoming student body and how warm the individuals on campus were. When I entered Harvard, though I was exposed to many rumors, I had no clear expectations. However, I have had incredibly positive experiences and have felt as though when I approach anyone with a smile, they return it right back, so I am beyond appreciative of the supportive and caring community that have helped make my Harvard experience great!

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

ID: The first time I visited Harvard it was a very cold, rainy, and windy day. I couldn't find where the classrooms were or what things there are to see on campus. Therefore, my family and I just entered the Yard, saw the John Harvard statue took pictures by Widener and Annenberg and spent most of our time in Tatte because we were all hungry and needed a warm place to sit in. Little did I know on that rainy day that Harvard would become such a home for me.

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

ID: Psychology of Close Relationships has likely been one of my favorite classes so far just because of the absolute breadth and depth of information. It was really interesting to be able to breakdown what makes up a close relationship whether that be friendships, family, romantic partnerships, and beyond and this experience was one that helped me understand what are important habits and relationship elements that bring people together.

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

ID: Too many to count! One memory that comes to mind that is very special to me was when my friends laid out on the hockey rink floor to pick up a puck that flew into the stands. They then proceeded to bestow upon me the puck in as grandiose a fashion imaginable leaving me and the surrounding crowd laughing.

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

ID: I would focus more energy towards mental health resources on campus. Though there are resources on cam-



pus create a solid support network, I think that the overall state of mental health for students on campus is not where it should be, affecting many people on a very personal level. I believe that investing more in professional mental health counselors will help ensure that students who need care and support will be able to get it and will also ensure that they have the resources necessary to achieve at their utmost potential while also feeling as happy and fulfilled as can be.

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

ID: Family dinners along with my grandma's cooking is definitely something that I miss about Southern California. My grandma cooks the best food out there and the warmth and laughter of a family dinner definitely brings a lot of joy and happiness to mind. (Though I have been very lucky to have been home and experience it this entire year)

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

ID: I can see myself coming back to Southern California in the future! I've been lucky enough to work in LA every summer of my college years. Out of college, I think it would be a very interesting experience to come back and live in the Southern California area just because I find the culture to be one that I mesh well with as well as it allows me to be close to my family.

*HCSC: How did you manage the transition to virtual classes?*

ID: I wanted to create some sort of opportunity to see my friends on a regular basis, so I made sure to do regular game-nights, watch parties, and even work-out sessions with friends to ensure that there is some sort of spontaneity every day. On the academic side, I tried to make sure to keep a good routine going and to make sure that I had my goals clearly listed so I knew what I was striving for.

*HCSC: How did you spend fall semester?*

ID: This fall I decided to stay in Southern California for the semester doing remote classes. I'm doing a combination of Applied Math classes, along with a variety of other interesting GENED courses including Conflict Resolution and Introduction to Photography. I am working part-time with REX, the company I worked for during the summer, and also tutoring. I've been able to find a lot of silver linings and learn a lot overall about myself through my coursework and through all the opportunities I've been able to take on since being home.

*HCSC: How did you spend spring semester?*

ID: This spring I decided to stay in Southern California for the semester doing remote classes. I took a tougher course load in order to hopefully make more time for myself to pursue extracurriculars on campus next year. This included Psychology, Math, and Economics classes that I found to be very enjoyable.

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## *Welcome to New Members...*

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

Min Tong Cai MBA '21

Marjorie Odegard '13

Margaret Canady '20

Michelle Straebler ALM '21

Deborah Liu MPP '96

Zindzi Hammond-Hanson '19

Francesca Malatesta '21



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

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## *Calendar of Upcoming Events*

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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
Tue, Jul 20 1:00PM	<b>Virtual Event (Radcliffe): Book Talk with Tiya Miles</b>	Virtual Event Online via Zoom	No charge, RSVP required
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Thu, Sep 23 thru Sat, Sep 25	<b>Unity Weekend: Celebrating Har- vard Alumni of Color Conference</b>	Virtual Event Online via Zoom	No charge, RSVP required