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THE HARVARD CLUB *of* SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

JUNE 2026

Upcoming Events

Ivy x BIG June Mixer

FRI, JUN 5 @ 6:00PM

Baja Sharkeez (Hermosa Beach)

No charge, cash bar

Tuesday Breakfast Club

TUE, JUN 9 @ 8:15AM

First of All (West Hollywood)

No charge

Tennis and Bagels #1

WED, JUN 10 @ 8:00AM

Ocean View Park Tennis Courts (Santa Monica)

No charge

OC Ivy+ Yacht Club Mixer

THU, JUN 11 @ 5:30PM

Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club (Corona del Mar)

\$30 per person

Inter-Ivy Mixer 2026

THU, JUN 11 @ 7:00PM

Private residence in Bel Air

\$35 per person

OC Coffee By The Sea

FRI, JUN 12 @ 8:00AM

Philz Coffee (Huntington Beach)

No charge

Harvard Club Celebrates Banner Year at Annual Awards Dinner on May 31

The Harvard Club of Southern California celebrated our record-setting year, with the most events ever scheduled during a 12-month period, at the Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner held on May 31. The event was held at the lovely Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino. A recap and photos of the event will be published on the Club's website.

All Club members were invited to spend an evening with the Harvard Club as the Board welcomed new members, presented the Club's main awards, and discussed the Club's accomplishments during the year.

Club President Gary Barkin '86, JD '93 said that the HCSC hosted or co-hosted more than 110 events for Harvard alumni and their guests over the past year. Averaging more than two events per week, he said that the Club offers "something for everyone."

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



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 high-profile legal commentator for national legal networks such as CBS, CNN, ABC, and NPR. She is the founding director of the Loyola Project for the Inno-

cent, where the clinic she leads investigates and litigates cases alleging wrongful conviction in Southern California and has successfully exonerated over 20 wrongly accused individuals.



Nick Melvoin '08, member of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education, received the Club's 2026 Excellence in Education Award. He has dedicated his career to expanding opportunities for students and strengthening public education as a teacher, civil rights attorney, and nonprofit leader. Mr. Melvoin, whose district includes Pacific Palisades, helped spearhead a \$604 MM recovery plan for three fire-ravaged public schools in that community; his efforts included swift relocation to ensure educational continuity, and mental health support for displaced students.

Harvard Elections:



Mia Alpert and Jimmy Biblarz Win Seats in 2026 Harvard Alumni Elections

The Harvard Club of Southern California is pleased to announce that **Mia Esther Alpert '99** of Brentwood and **James P. "Jimmy" Biblarz '14, JD '21, Ph.D. '23**, of Beverly Grove, each won seats in the 2026 spring elections as Elected Directors of the Harvard Alumni Association. Each will serve three-year terms. Elected Directors represent all alumni on the HAA Board and are often promoted to leadership roles.



Ms. Alpert is an actress, producer, writer, and arts advocate whose credits include *The Mentalist*, *Leverage*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Capture*, and *Red Doors*. She is a founder and president emerita of Harvardwood, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and HAA Shared Interest Group with more than 10,000 members worldwide.

Mr. Biblarz is a lawyer, civic leader, and instructor at UCLA School of Law. As a Harvard graduate student, he served for seven years as the LGBTQ+ resident tutor in Eliot House. From 2020-2022, he was a candidate for Los Angeles City Council in West LA, and he previously worked at CNN and LA City Hall.

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Gary Barkin '86, JD '93

Executive Vice President

Lisa Watanabe-Peagler '02

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

Vice President Finance

John Luna '03

Vice President Membership

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Liz Ryan '81

Vice President Schools

Harry Kim '86

Vice Presidents Technology

Jade Le '10
Joe Rogers '86

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Joan Chu Reese '85

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Denise Littlejohn '88
Adia Matthews '10, MBA '15
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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

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.

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

Recent Events

Harvard College Class of 2030 Reception

On April 12th, Harry Kim '86, Vice President, Schools and Kay Park '87 organized a reception for admittees to the Harvard College Class of 2030 and their families at the home of Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89. HCSC board members Neil Morganbesser AB '86 and Joanna Chan AB '02 also attended the event. "The gathering gives admitted students the opportunity to get acquainted with their classmates in an informal setting," said Mr. Kim. The event was attended by more than 30 admitted students. Final decisions on accepting Harvard's offer of admission were submitted May 1. Harvard will release information regarding the Class of 2030 in the fall. The application process for the Class of 2031 will begin in the late summer. Alumni interested in interviewing applicants in the fall of 2026 should email Harry Kim at areachairsfvarvard@gmail.com.



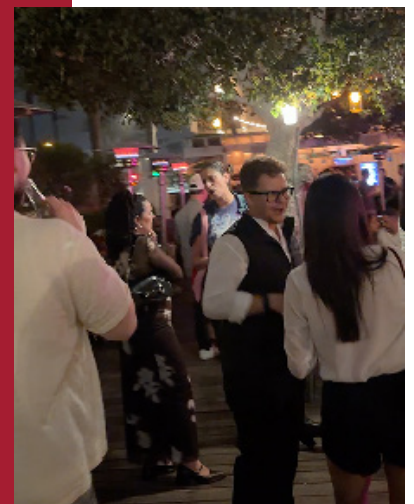
The Start of Something Amazing!

On May 17th, Aaron Blumenthal '15 held the first Harvard-Columbia AI Cowork at Stereoscope Coffee in Newport Beach. Alumni gathered on the outdoor patio with laptops in hand for three hours of building, debugging, and trading notes over coffee. Projects ranged widely — one attendee was working on a dyslexia app, while another was prototyping personalized chore widgets — and the loose, collaborative format gave everyone room to ask questions and offer a second pair of eyes. "It was amazing to see everyone's enthusiasm, whether they were building a dyslexia app or just dipping their toes into the water with personalized chore widgets," said Blumenthal. By popular demand, the AI Cowork is becoming a monthly series — the next session is already on the calendar for Sunday, June 14th, back at Stereoscope.



A Record-Breaker at Bungalow

On May 21st, Aaron Blumenthal '15, Jade Le '10, and Sunha Kim MTS '15 held an Ivy x B1G Mixer at The Bungalow in Santa Monica. Over 500 alumni across all Ivies, Big Ten schools, and peer institutions like MIT and Stanford packed the venue for a warm summer night of drinks and networking — yet another record-setting turnout for the series. Attendees spilled across the Bungalow's lounges, patios, and bar, discussing everything from real estate to the best place to grab Persian food. Even with the enormous crowd, there was ample room for tables, couches, bar seating, and even games. "This was the largest event I've ever been involved with organizing, and I'm so fortunate to be part of such a driven team of organizers," said Blumenthal. Our next Ivy x B1G mixer, on June 5th, is already open for registration!



Upcoming Events

Ivy x B1G June Mixer

Get ready for the next installment of our high-energy mixer series. Building on the momentum of our past events (which consistently draw over 200 alumni) this free gathering trades the formal ballroom for a quintessential SoCal beach vibe.

FRI, JUN 5 @ 6:00PM

Baja Sharkeez (Hermosa Beach)

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, June 5 at 5pm.

TUE, JUN 9 @ 8:15AM

First of All (West Hollywood)

No charge



Tennis and Bagels #1

What better way to get over hump day than with a morning of tennis by the ocean, and bagels too! All levels welcome, free of charge (bring your own coffee, we'll supply the bagels).

WED, JUN 10 @ 8:00AM

Ocean View Park Tennis Courts (Santa Monica)

No charge



OC Ivy+ Yacht Club Mixer

Join us for an Ivy+ Mixer! Meet new people and reconnect with old friends from across Southern California with over 100 local alumni from the Ivy+ schools. Ticket includes appetizers, complimentary valet parking, and a no-host bar.



THU, JUN 11 @ 5:30PM

Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club (Corona del Mar)

\$30 per person



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



LGBT Pride Pool Party

Celebrate Pride in style at our first annual LGBT Pride Pool Party! Join fellow Harvard Club members and friends for an afternoon of sun, good vibes, and great company. Whether you're cooling off in the pool or catching up poolside, this is the perfect way to kick off summer and show your true colors. All are welcome – come as you are and bring your pride!

SAT, JUN 13 @ 1:00PM

Private Home in the Hollywood Hills

\$25, members; \$35, nonmembers



June AI Cowork

Following a successful inaugural session in May and at the consistent request of attendees, AI Cowork is returning to Stereoscope on Sunday, June 14, and will continue as a recurring monthly gathering.

SUN, JUN 14 @ 12:00PM

Stereoscope Coffee (Newport Beach)

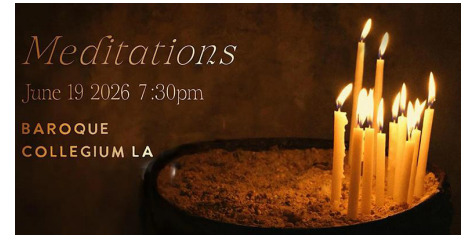
No charge



Upcoming Events

Meditations, a Baroque Collegium LA Concert

Join us in a concert presented by Baroque Collegium LA under the direction of Mike Raleigh '15. The concert features cantatas by the Bach family, with meditations on Love, Mercy, and Wisdom by the legendary 12th century mystic and nun Hildegard von Bingen and LA-based composer Zanaida Robles.



FRI, JUN 19 @ 7:30PM

St. Augustine By-the-Sea (Santa Monica)

No charge, but registration is required (donations encouraged)

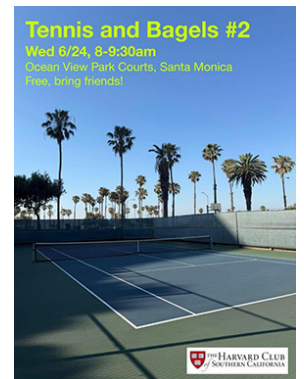
Tennis and Bagels #2

What better way to get over hump day than with a morning of tennis by the ocean, and bagels too! All levels welcome, free of charge (bring your own coffee, we'll supply the bagels).

WED, JUN 24 @ 8:00AM

Ocean View Park Tennis Courts (Santa Monica)

No charge



HarvardSpeak LA: “Not Born a Democracy” with HLS Prof. & Former Dean Martha Minow

Prof. Minow will discuss some of her insights from a new book that she is currently writing which addresses the preconditions needed for a sustainable constitutional democracy, and then participate in an open Q&A with alumni about this and other areas of interest.

THU, JUN 25 @ 5:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

\$0, members; \$10, non-members



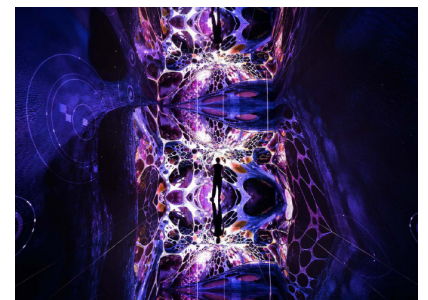
Tour of Dataland - World's First Museum of AI Arts

Located in The Grand LA, this groundbreaking museum invites viewers into a living, AI-generated rainforest. Artists, tech enthusiasts, and storytellers will be immersed in the dynamic, multisensory surroundings. Limited space!

SAT, JUN 27 @ 10:30AM

Dataland (Los Angeles)

\$61, members; \$66, non-members



Q & A from 02138:

Talia Natterson '26



Talia Natterson '26, a concentrator in History, was born in Los Angeles, California and graduated from Crossroads School for Arts and Sciences where she was Editor-in-Chief of her school's newspaper and co-President of the Gender Equality Club. She resided in Adams House. Her father is Paul Natterson '85, a former captain of Varsity Lightweight Crew, and her mother is Cara Natterson '92. At Harvard, she was a coxswain for the D1 Radcliffe Varsity Heavyweight Rowing Team, a board member of Undergraduate Women of Harvard Athletics, and a performer in Gunghoo. This past summer, Talia worked as a legal intern at Children's Hospital Los Angeles under the General Counsel.



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

TN: I was most surprised by how collaborative the students are! Coming into school, I had heard many stories about how cutthroat the culture could be, but I have been extremely fortunate to have been in classes with fellow students committed to lifting each other up.

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

TN: The first time I visited Harvard was for my dad's 25th reunion in May 2010. Though I don't remember many specifics, I have extremely fond memories of staying in Grays Hall and having amazing student-guides who made the week so much fun.

HCSC: What has been your funniest moment at Harvard?

TN: I lived in Cabot House my sophomore year, and my roommates and I all got to take turns wearing the fish mascot costume for the housing day music video that year. The suit was INCREDIBLY heavy, but we have some amazing photos (and video proof that we did it)!

HCSC: What were your favorite classes or professors?

TN: Alison Frank Johnson's courses, Austrian History in Literature and Religion and Popular Culture in Modern Europe, were two of the greatest classes I've been able to take here.

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

TN: I would make the dining hall options just a bit more flavorful (occasionally it gets pretty bland).

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

TN: I miss the relaxed energy that just lingers through everything back home. Even though Cambridge and Harvard aren't ALWAYS super frantic and speedy, it can be challenging to take a moment and rest, which I think Southern Californians are amazing at doing.

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

TN: Next year I will be attending USC Gould School of Law to pursue a JD and later practice as an attorney. Though I don't know whether I'll practice law in Southern California, I do know the next three years will be back in my favorite city.



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.

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	COST
Fri, Jun 5 6:00PM	Ivy x B1G June Mixer	Baja Sharkeez Hermosa Beach, CA	No charge, cash bar
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Wed, Jun 10 8:00AM	Tennis and Bagels #1	Ocean View Park Tennis Courts Santa Monica, CA	No charge
Thu, Jun 11 5:30PM	OC Ivy+ Yacht Club Mixer	Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club Corona del Mar, CA	\$30 per person
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Fri, Jun 12 8:30AM	OC Coffee By The Sea	Philz Coffee Huntington Beach, CA	No charge
Sat, Jun 13 1:00PM	LGBT Pride Pool Party	Private Home in the Hollywood Hills	\$25, members; \$35, nonmembers