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(310) 546-5252

FEBRUARY 2025

Upcoming Events

Harvard - Stanford Lunar New Year Karaoke

SAT, FEB 1 @ 8:30PM

Moxie Lounge & Karaoke (Arcadia)

\$45, members; \$55, non-members

HarvardSpeak LA: Wildfires in the West with Dr. Loretta Mickley

THU, FEB 6 @ 5:30PM

Virtual event via Zoom

No charge

Trivia Night w/Yale, Stanford, & Cal

THU, FEB 20 @ 6:00PM

Private residence of an alum (Newport Coast)

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

Fiction Workshop - February 2025

SUN, FEB 23 @ 1:00PM

Sip & Sonder (Inglewood)

No charge

HarvardSpeak LA: Evidence of Extraterrestrial Intelligence? with Harvard Astronomy Prof. Avi Loeb

THU, FEB 27 @ 3:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge



Photo credit: Getty Images

Harvard Club in Southern California Provides L.A. Wildfire Online Hub

The Harvard Club of Southern California, in recognition of the devastating impact of the wildfires on many of our members and the greater community, has compiled an online hub that provides our latest vetted resources, references, links, and expertise.

Organizers Glenn Nano '98 and Paul Bokota '87 have formed a Wildfire Assistance Committee to aid those in need of assistance. They and their group have worked with the Club's board and Harvardwood, the Shared Interest Group, to identify crucial resources to aid community members requiring financial assistance; temporary housing; and help with property loss, damage, and recovery.

The team aims to add additional experts and resources in the coming weeks. Club members will be informed via email of added assistance. "This will be an ongoing and iterative initiative to help folks over time," said Glenn Nano.

The group is planning to build on the existing resources and to host video chats and Q&As led by experienced experts.

The LA Wildfires – Harvard Community Assistance Hub can be reached at bit.ly/LAFiresHarvardHelp.

An Evening at the Magic Castle - *A Members-Only Event!*



Date: Sunday, March 16, 2025

Time: Come as early as 5:00PM; dinner begins @ 6:00PM

Place: Hollywood Magic Castle

Cost: \$198 per person (includes dinner and all shows)

Contact: Gary Barkin, garybarkin@gmail.com

Parking: Valet parking \$30

Join fellow Harvard Club Members for an elegant evening of magic at the world-famous Magic Castle!

Operated by the Academy of Magical Arts and housed in an authentic Victorian mansion in Hollywood, the Magic Castle is the most exclusive and renowned private club for magicians and supporters of magic in the world. Enjoy a three-course meal in the dining room with fellow Harvard Club members followed by a magic show on the main stage. Then spend the rest of the night enjoying additional magic performances in smaller theaters and parlors. You will also be free to explore the historical castle, visiting unique bars, seeing rare memorabilia, and perhaps encountering a few surprises!

This is a members-only event limited to two tickets per member. Must be over 21 to attend.

Register at hsc.clubs.harvard.edu now.

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CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE

Terry Nathan
(310) 546-5252
email: 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.

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

Upcoming Events

Harvard - Stanford Lunar New Year Karaoke

Celebrate Lunar New Year in a joint event with Harvard Club of Southern California & Stanford Club of Pasadena. Enjoy sushi, drinks, and karaoke in a private room with your fellow alumni.



SAT, FEB 1 @ 8:30PM

Moxie Lounge & Karaoke (Arcadia)

\$45, members; \$55, nonmembers

HarvardSpeak LA: Wildfires in the Western US – A Conversation with Harvard Scientist Dr. Loretta Mickley

Our inaugural HarvardSpeak LA event will be with Dr. Loretta Mickley, a Senior Research Fellow at Harvard. Her ongoing work centers on the impact of climate change on wildfires and smoke exposure.



THU, FEB 6 @ 5:30PM

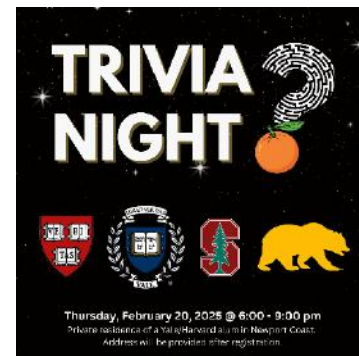
Virtual event via Zoom

No charge

Trivia Night with Yale, Stanford & Cal



Join friends from Yale, Stanford, and Cal for the inaugural HYSC-OC Trivia Night. All questions will be HYSC-related! There will be drinks and heavy appetizers. Brush up on your HYSC trivia, and don't forget to wear your Harvard gear. Limited space!



THU, FEB 20 @ 6:00PM

Private residence of a Yale/Harvard alum (Newport Coast)

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

Fiction Workshop - February 2025

Exchange feedback with other fiction writers! Any genre and level of experience is welcome. This workshop is capped at six people. Contact Aaron to join the Discord for draft submission! (Waitlisters are welcome to join, too.)



SUN, FEB 23 @ 12:00PM

Sip & Sonder (Inglewood)

No charge



Upcoming Events

HGSE Education Now Event: Confronting Our Epidemic of Loneliness

This session will dig into new research investigating the underlying causes of loneliness, including the relationship between mental health challenges and loneliness, and share ideas for beating it on college campuses and in many other communities.

THU, FEB 22 @ 12:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge



HarvardSpeak LA: Evidence of Extraterrestrial Intelligence? A Conversation with Harvard Astronomy Professor Avi Loeb

Prof. Avi Loeb will discuss his current research on recently discovered anomalous interstellar objects. Is space trash from extraterrestrial technological civilizations lurking among natural interstellar rocks?

THU, FEB 27 @ 3:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge



ANHW Wine Tasting at Angeleno Wine Co.

Join ANHW (Alumnae-i Network for Harvard Women) for this private event. Angeleno will serve flights and glasses of their organically grown local wines as well as beers and nonalcoholic bubbly, open bar style. Light buffet dinner included

THU, FEB 27 @ 6:30PM

Angeleno Wine Co. (Los Angeles)

\$65, members; \$75, non-members



An Evening at the Magic Castle - A Members-Only Event

Join fellow Harvard Club members for an elegant evening of magic and mystery at the world-famous Magic Castle, the most exclusive and renowned private club for magicians and supporters of magic in the world!

SUN, MAR 16 @ 6:00PM (doors at 5:00PM)

The Magic Castle (Hollywood)

\$198 per person



The OC Orange logo designates a Club event in Orange County



Upcoming Events

Save the Date!

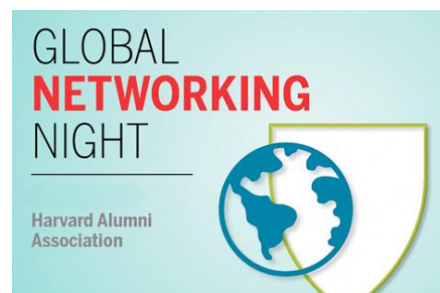
Harvard Global Networking Night - LA and OC

Twice a year, thousands of Harvard alumni make new connections at Global Networking Night (GNN) events in cities across the globe. The last GNN drew more than 5,000 alumni in 85 cities worldwide! Join us.

WED, MAR 19 @ 6:00PM

Two Locations TBA - Los Angeles and Orange County

No charge



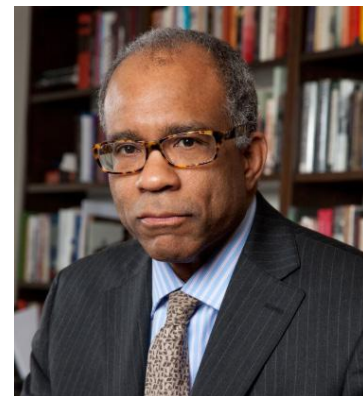
HarvardSpeak LA: “How We Overcame: Protest, Law, and the Demise of Jim Crow” – A Conversation with Harvard Professor Randall Kennedy

Prof. Kennedy will discuss his forthcoming book, “How We Overcame: Protest, Law, and the Demise of Jim Crow.” The event will be moderated by Neil B. Morganbesser '86.

THU, MAR 20 @ 5:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge



Recent Events

Harvard Moves - November 2024

In early November, 2024, the Harvard community worldwide celebrated Harvard Moves. Here in SoCal, we did, too! On Friday, November 8th, several alumni joined together to walk the Marina del Rey jetties, an excursion that will return in the spring due to popular demand. On Saturday, November 9th, 15 alumni joined together to bikeride on the Venice Bike Path from Washington Boulevard to brunch and back. Some who had lived in LA for years learned of this scenic (and flat) bike route for the first time and loved it! As enthusiasm was so high, the club will sponsor more athletic excursions in the year to come. Watch the newsletter and website for more information.



January Fiction Workshop

In late January, 2024, four new and returning fiction writers met for a fiction workshop at Play Coffee in Old Towne Orange. Alumni discussed each other's drafts and authors from Jane Austen to Isaac Asimov. Drafts ranged in genre from young-adult fantasy to semi-autobiographical epistolary. The HCSC fiction community has expanded to over 20 members since the first workshop in October and currently offers asynchronous monthly reading discussions and writing challenges in addition to in-person workshops. Look out for the next fiction workshop in February!



Q & A from 02138:

Sophia Madrigal '26



Sophia Madrigal '26 is pursuing dual concentrations in English and Psychology at Mather House. She is an enrolled member of the Cahuilla Band of Indians with Turtle Mountain Chippewa heritage. Originally from San Diego, Sophia graduated from the Orange County School of the Arts, where she was a member of the El-Erian Acting Conservatory. In 2023 Sophia received the Yale University Misty Upham Award for Young Native Actors and was a finalist for the Orange County Artist of the Year in Theater in 2022. In high school, she founded the Luke Madrigal Indigenous Storytelling Nonprofit and now co-directs it alongside her sister, Isabella Madrigal (Harvard '24), reflecting their shared dedication to preserving Indigenous narratives. Sophia additionally received the Ms. Foundation Free to Be You and Me award in 2024, further acknowledging this commitment.

Passionate about revitalizing Cahuilla and Ojibwe (Anishinaabe) stories, Sophia began her journey in storytelling at 16 with her first screenplay, "Wildflower: Indigenous Spirit." Inspired by her father and Anishinaabe traditions, the film received the top Girl Scouts USA Gold Award in Orange County in 2021.

Since she was 14, Sophia has co-directed and produced the original Cahuilla play "Menil and Her Heart," written by her sister. This play addresses the global epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women and two-spirit people. Some of the play's most notable performances occurred at Yale University and the California State Capitol in 2023 in an event that culminated in \$12 million in program funding to address this issue. Sophia is currently co-directing the feature-film adaptation of the play with her sister.

Sophia interned with Assembly Member James Ramos (D-San Bernardino) this last summer, contributing to a bill named in her father's honor that aims to protect Native American children. She also received funding to study Shakespearean acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London.

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

SM: Among the many revelations I encountered at Harvard, the remarkable diversity within each classroom was particularly striking. The wide range of ages and varied backgrounds among my peers offered a breadth of perspectives that consistently expanded my understanding of the world. My time at Harvard has been an invaluable opportunity for profound engagement, where each interaction facilitated new experiences and deepened intellectual connections, uncovering insights and viewpoints that expanded my previous understanding.

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

SM: The first time I visited Harvard was to see my older sister, who was already enrolled as a student there. I was deeply impressed by the campus and the intellectual vitality that Harvard prides itself on. Witnessing my sister's achievements at such an institution filled me with a sense of admiration and pride.

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

SM: If I were President of Harvard, my foremost priority would be to cultivate a more inclusive environment, with a particular emphasis on enhancing access to the arts and acting. Acting, in my view, is an exploration of our shared humanity and a profound means of understanding our place in the world. My aspiration is that every student would have the opportunity to engage with the arts in an intellectual way, as it is through this engagement that we gain deeper insights into ourselves. During my time at Harvard, I have been committed to advancing an Indigenous arts and careers pathway, fostering opportunities that bridge cultures and perspectives through the transformative power of the arts!

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

SM: I really miss the fact that I could drive an hour and end up at the beach, then turn around and be at the snowy mountains, and if I felt adventurous, head off to the desert. I also have a soft spot for those drives in my family's gray truck, where I'd spoil my golden retriever with a pup cup.

HCSC: What was your funniest moment at Harvard?

SM: So, I thought I was having a severe allergic reaction—classic me, always turning a sneeze into a medical emergency. I called for help in a panic, and the paramedics showed up like they were defusing a bomb. My proctor, bless his heart, was in training to become a doctor, so he barged into my room and started spinning around like he was conducting an emergency orchestra, barking orders for the medics to give me oxygen, as if I were seconds away from ascending to heaven. Then, as the paramedics started prepping me for transport, they said I needed to go with them. Cue the dramatic exit: I was wheeled out on a stretcher like a VIP at the Oscars, right through the middle of Harvard Yard. My face turned so red I looked like a human stop sign. And here's the kicker: After all that, it turned out I wasn't having an allergic reaction at all, just a minor itch. So, I got to make a grand exit and come back to campus as the poster child for 'How to Turn a Minor Issue Into a Major Scene.' Mortified? Sure. Hilarious? Absolutely. It's a good thing I can laugh about it now—because everyone else definitely is!



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

SM: Southern California is my home and the ancestral homeland of my tribe, the Cahuilla people. Following my time at Harvard, I intend to return to California to pursue a career in the arts, as it stands as a vibrant epicenter of artistic expression. My aspiration is to elevate Native representation in cinema, contributing to a more nuanced and authentic portrayal of Indigenous experiences on the screen.

Welcome to New Members...

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

Amy Aldana EdM '18	Holly Gilani LLM '93	Kira Mengistu '11	Kevin Sohn '27
Jose Avonce '19	Minji Jeon MPH '24	Edward Merguerian FAS '02	Sumin Sohn MBA '10, MPP '10
Samuel Brown '97	Yu Jin Jeong JD '24	Peter Ocko '88	Olga Tsokova GMP '16
John Byrd '91	Matthew Jones JD '24	Chi Young Park MRE '24	Edward Ussery MD '06
Constance Chen '97	Richard Kelly '85	Ripsime Paronikyan MPA '24	Vince Wang GMP '22
Zhaoxi Cheng SM '24	Andrew Kim '99	Sushil Pramanick AMP '24	Ryan Ward '18
Grace Cho JD '24	Amy Koid MPH '26	Samuel Pun MDS '18	Alexander Woodman '23
Paul Chung '92, MD '96	Bomie Lee JD '24	Brendan Quinn '12	Riva Yeo JD '25, MPP '25
Xenia Dela Cueva MEN '26	Caleb Lee '24	Kim Roberts-Hedgpath '78	Linzi Yu MBI '23
Dylan Driscoll '24	Yiyue Lin EdM '24	Elodie Saint-Louis '18	Chunyu Zheng SD '04, JD '17
Lucy Dyke MPP '88	Jessica Liu JD '24	Gina Sanchez '94	
Brandy Figueroa '28	Nancy Martin '82	Joanna Schaezman '92	and the entire class of 2024
Michael Fitzgerald '81	Gabriel Maxemin '24	Evelyn Shan JD '24	living in southern california



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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
Sat, Feb 1 8:30PM	Harvard - Stanford Lunar New Year Karaoke	Moxie Lounge & Karaoke Arcadia, CA	\$45, members; \$55, non-members
Thu, Feb 6 5:30PM	HarvardSpeak LA: Wildfires in the Western US w/Dr. Loretta Mickley	Virtual event via Zoom	No charge
Thu, Feb 20 6:00PM	Trivia Night with Yale, Stanford, and Cal	Private residence of an alum Newport Coast, CA	\$20, members; \$30, non-members
Sun, Feb 23 1:00PM	Fiction Workshop - February 2025	Sip & Sonder, Inglewood, CA	No charge
Thu, Feb 27 12:00PM	HGSE Education Now: Confronting Our Epidemic of Loneliness	Virtual event via Zoom	No charge
Thu, Feb 27 3:00PM	HarvardSpeak LA: Evidence of Extraterrestrial Intelligence?	Virtual event via Zoom	No charge
Thu, Feb 27 6:30PM	ANHW Wine Tasting at Angeleno Wine Co.	Angeleno Wine Co. Los Angeles, CA	\$65, members; \$75, non-members