


 @harvardsocal

 @harvardsocal

 facebook.com/groups/harvardsocal



# THE HARVARD CLUB *of* SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

DECEMBER 2024 / JANUARY 2025

## *Upcoming Events*

### Annual Harvard-Yale Holiday Salon

**SAT, DEC 14 @ 6:30PM**

Home of a Club Member near Larchmont Village

\$25.00 per person

### Newport Beach Boat Parade 2024

**FRI, DEC 20 @ 6:00PM**

The Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club (Corona del Mar)

\$165, members; \$186, non-members

### Harvard SoCal Italian Christmas Party - Orange County

**SAT, DEC 21 @ 1:00PM**

Antonello Ristorante (Santa Ana)

\$26, members; \$36, non-members

### [Members Only] Stanford and Har- vard Club Golf Clinic

**SAT, JAN 11 @ 1:00PM**

Pelican Hill Golf Club (Newport Coast)

\$70 per person

### A Cappella Double Feature - The Din and Kroks Return to L.A.

**SAT, JAN 11 @ 7:00PM**

Westwood Presbyterian Church (Los Angeles)

\$25, members; \$35, non-members; \$65 to join  
the Club and attend the event



## Harvard Kroks and Din & Tonics Return to Southern California – January 11

One of the Club's most popular events, the a capella double feature of the Harvard Krokodiloes and the Harvard Din & Tonics, will take place in Los Angeles on Saturday, January 11 at Westwood Presbyterian Church.

This will be the groups' seventh Wintersession visit to Southern California. The past six concerts were sold out, so we encourage club members to buy their tickets now. All tickets **MUST** be purchased in advance.

The cost is \$25 for members, and \$35 for non-members. We invite eligible non-club members to join the Club **AND** purchase a ticket, at a low combined price of \$65.00. Annual membership in the Club is \$25 for recent graduates, and \$55 for regular membership. Tickets and Club membership can be purchased on the Club's website.



# President's Letter December 2024 - 'Tis the Season!

'Tis the season....for some of the Harvard Club of Southern California's most popular events! Last month's Harvard–Yale Game viewing parties attracted record crowds. Shockingly, we lost to the Bulldogs, but we still invited them to the upcoming annual Harvard–Yale Holiday Salon, which will showcase local Harvard and Yale alumni's talents.

If you prefer a Yale-free zone, you can register for HCSC's Orange County Christmas party, or celebrate the holidays at the Newport Beach Boat Parade, offering a dazzling display of marine vessels tricked out in stunning holiday lights.

And 2025 brings more Club events... The Din & Tonics and Krokodiloes will return to Los Angeles in January for a rousing a capella concert that always sells out. And if your New Year's resolutions include taking up golf or starting that novel, then check out January's golf clinic or fiction writing workshop. Details for these and other Club events can be found in the pages of this newsletter and on our website ([www.harvardsocal.org](http://www.harvardsocal.org)). Our Club offers over 60 educational, cultural, and social events each year. If you would like to plan an event for our alumni community, we'd love to hear from you.

Whatever holiday you're celebrating this season, the Harvard Club of Southern California wishes you much fun and happiness with family and friends, and we hope to see you at one of our events.

Gary Barkin '86, JD '93  
President, Harvard Club of Southern California

#### President

Gary Barkin '86, JD '93

#### Executive Vice President

Lisa Watanabe-Peagler '02

#### Vice Presidents Communications

Pooja Nair JD '11  
Cynthia Torres '80, MBA '84

#### Vice President Finance/Financial Aid

John Luna '03

#### Vice President Membership

Jose Sanchez '89

#### Vice President Orange County

Matthew Stasior '87

#### Vice Presidents Programs

Madeleine Mejia EdM '00  
Ashley Turner '13

#### Vice President Schools

Harry Kim '86

#### Vice Presidents Technology

Jade Le '10  
Joe Rogers '86

#### Secretary

Karen Hernandez MBA '00

#### Past President

Joan Chu Reese '85

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Steven Arkow '84  
Aaron Blumenthal '15  
Paul Bokota '87  
Yule Caise '86  
Joanna Chan MD '02  
Kenny Chung SM '13  
German Enciso HMS Research Fellow '07-'09  
Elizabeth Gillis '82  
Billy Kimball '81  
Jennifer Lee '95  
Adia Matthews '10, MBA '15  
Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89  
Neil Morganbesser AB '86  
Glenn Nano AB '98  
Vien Nguyen AB '86  
Marie-Christine Nizzi '16, PhD '20, GSA '21  
Kay Park AB '87  
Liz Ryan AB '81

#### 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

## Recent Events

### Inside the Company with Edwards Lifesciences – October 17

From doctors to CEOs, from students to private investors, more than 225 registrants attended the Edwards Lifesciences “Inside the Company” event. The event featured a fireside chat led by Harvard Business School Association of Orange County board member Mark Wilser and included presentations by Scot Ullem, CFO, and Daveen Chopra, Vice President. Nancy Fisher, Data Distributing CEO, said, “This is a very impressive event and interesting discussion. The Edwards campus is beautiful, and their team’s passion for their mission is inspiring.” With delicious appetizers and an open bar, guests were ready to mingle and trade contact information.



### Harvard Moves! – Orange County Crystal Cove Hike – November 10

On a crisp autumn day, about 25 Harvard graduates and their friends did an easy hike around Orange County’s Historic Crystal Cove State Park. With cliff vistas, sandy beaches, tide pools, and cottages restored to their 1930s glory, Crystal Cove is one of Orange County’s largest remaining examples of open space and natural seashore.

Harvard Moves was first staged by Harvard Clubs around the world two years ago as a way for Harvard alumni to spend time together while exercising. At the events, alumni run, walk, hike, bike, board, rollerblade, and even swim. More than 1,700 Harvard community members registered this year, from 74 countries and 49 states and territories.

Here in Southern California, we had the perfect day for exploring Crystal Cove and spending time with Harvard alums!



### “The Game” Viewing Party 2024 – Orange County - November 23

The Harvard Orange County faithful alumni gathered to watch this year’s Harvard–Yale Game, where Harvard clinched the Ivy League championship. The Game was a closely fought battle with an exciting fourth-quarter comeback. Thank you to all who made the event exceptional, especially Keith with the best donuts, Catherine with her homemade apple pie, and William with his homemade quiches. In attendance were previous and current board members AJ Rogers, Chi Bui, Betsey Gillis, German Encisco, Paul Bokota, Vien Nguyen, and Matthew Stasior.



# Upcoming Events

## Annual Harvard–Yale Holiday Salon

Join us for the liveliest Holiday Performance Party and Mixer in LA. Do you sing? Play? Perform? Dance? Or have another unique talent that would entertain others? This is your chance for fame—if not fortune!

**SAT, DEC 14 @ 6:30PM**

The Home of a Club Member near Larchmont Village  
\$25.00 per person



## Newport Beach Boat Parade 2024



Join us for an annual tradition of the Newport Boat Parade. Enjoy this one of a kind evening, as you sit in a private room atop the harbor and watch the boat parade go by within feet of your seats. Very limited space!

**FRI, DEC 20 @ 6:00PM**

The Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club (Corona del Mar)  
\$165, members; \$186, nonmembers



## Harvard SoCal Italian Christmas Party - Orange County



Join us for this special performance starring Harvard alum Daniel Passer ART '93. The two creators of the piece are graduates from the ART Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard. Limited seating! This event is being held in conjunction with the Cornell Alumni Club of LA.

**SAT, DEC 14 @ 1:00PM**

Antonello Ristorante (Santa Ana)  
\$26, members; \$36, nonmembers



## [Members Only] Stanford and Harvard Club Golf Clinic



Join alumni from the two alumni clubs for an afternoon of golf lessons on the beautiful grounds of Pelican Hill, followed by a no-host happy hour. This is a members-only event and is limited to 10 people total, and one guest per member.

**SAT, JAN 11 @ 1:00PM**

Pelican Hill Golf Club (Newport Coast)  
\$70 per person



The OC Orange logo designates a Club event in Orange County



# Upcoming Events

## A Cappella Double Feature - The Dins and Kroks Return to LA

Join the Harvard Club of Southern California in welcoming two of Harvard's most prestigious a cappella groups as they return to Los Angeles. The Harvard Din & Tonics and the Harvard Krokodiloes will be performing at the Westwood Presbyterian Church.



**SAT, JAN 11 @ 7:00PM**

Westwood Presbyterian Church (Los Angeles)

\$25, members; \$35, non-members; \$65 to join the Club and attend the event

## Fiction Workshop

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, JAN 26 @ 12:00PM**

Play Coffee (Orange)

No charge



## 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

Q & A from 02138:

## Salaidh Angelica Perez '25



Salaidh Angelica Perez '25, a concentrator in Bio-engineering on the Mechanical subtrack, was born in Gardena, CA, (in the South Bay area) and graduated from North High School in Torrance. She is a proud Dunster House moose and is excited to live in her spacious six-man suite overlooking the beautiful Charles River this upcoming year.

During her time at North, she served as president of her Key Club, completed the 2020 Los Angeles marathon, played singles for her school tennis team, and began what would become six years of taking Korean language courses both at North and Harvard.

Upon arriving in Cambridge in fall 2021, she joined Harvard Yearbook Publications (HYP), the news and blog (Flyby) board of The Crimson, and the Latina Empowerment and Development leadership team. Over the last three years, when not pset-ing at Lamont or spending time with friends, she has tried out the women's rowing team, researched foreign policy under the Harvard Kennedy School's Korea Institute's Public Policy fellowship, and served as HYP's Business Manager.

Currently, she is wrapping up an internship at Bank of America in New York City, serving as a Financial Technology Analyst under the Merrill Lynch Wealth Management division. She has divided her free time between doing reformer pilates, preparing for her senior thesis, awaiting the weekly House of the Dragon episode, and searching for the best iced almond milk latte.

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

SAP: The most surprising thing was how many opportunities became available to me as a student. Besides the fact that people tend to think I'm smarter than I am (definitely not true), I don't think I would have done things like spend summers interning in NYC or travel internationally as much as I have (I will be going on my fifth trip to Europe later this August!) had I not attended a school with as many resources as Harvard.

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

SAP: This probably wasn't the best idea, but my first time at Harvard was when I arrived for freshman year move in back in August 2021. In total honesty, I hated Harvard the minute I got off my plane at Boston Logan; I was super homesick and totally unprepared for the culture shock of the East Coast. However, over the semester, with the help of my amazing group of friends and campus support system, I slowly started loving the fall foliage, romanticized walks through the yard and by the Charles, and the memories I was making every day with my friends. I actually missed campus during winter break!

*HCSC: What was your funniest moment at Harvard?*

SAP: I've definitely had my share of both funny and embarrassing moments on campus, but one of my favorites was River Run freshman year. I remember running around the entire night with my blocking group and finding it hilarious when we ran into a group of guys who were walking around in front of Winthrop with STOP signs that they had somehow managed to find on the ground? I'm really not sure how that happened, but it was really funny to watch.

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

SAP: Honestly, this pretty much covers it! But if I had to choose, I would say downtown Manhattan Beach. I love going to The Kettle with my family and friends and snacking on their garlic french fries, washing it down with an iced latte from Hi-Fi or Verve, and taking a walk by the sand and imagining my future beachfront home. Respectfully, New York's Manhattan can never compare.

Continued on next page

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

SAP: Although I had the BEST math TF for my 21b class this past spring, I definitely think the math department could use some restructuring. I think most of the TFs are good teachers, but I think the current pedagogy—that exclusively emphasizes exploratory learning—doesn't take into consideration the backgrounds of many students from low income communities who didn't go to really good public/prep schools and thus have never been exposed to this learning style that is almost exclusive to better-funded institutions. I struggled a lot to adapt to this learning style, and I know a lot of my peers shared these issues, as it makes it easy for us to struggle and fall behind in subjects we could be doing well in if we had simply been exposed to these teaching methods before.



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

SAP: Even though I wanted to go to college out of state, I always knew for a fact that I would eventually settle in SoCal—ideally Manhattan Beach or Palos Verdes. My goals have changed a bit over the last three years, and one of my immediate goals post-grad now is to work in Germany at an automobile manufacturer like Porsche or Mercedes-Benz for a couple years. Additionally, I also hope to pursue a Masters of Engineering either at Oxford or Cambridge. However, after my series of European adventures, I hope to move back to SoCal and continue my career there, and eventually start up my own local cafe and buy my Manhattan Beach beachfront home.



## Got a Great Idea for an HCSC Event? Share It With Us!

We're always looking for new fun and educational events to give our members opportunities to get together and enjoy what Southern California has to offer! If you have an idea for an event, please email

Madeleine Mejia, EdM '00 at [madeleine\\_mejia@post.harvard.edu](mailto:madeleine_mejia@post.harvard.edu).

You can review the current Harvard Club of Southern California policies for events document, on our website at <https://hsc.clubs.harvard.edu/article.html?aid=106>.

### Send Us Your Event Photos!



Have photos from recent Harvard Club events? Share them with us by emailing them to [photos@harvard-social.org](mailto:photos@harvard-social.org) and include your name, the date and name of the event, and a description.

*\*Please note that any photos shared may be shared on our Club's social media channels and newsletter. Please receive consent from all photographed parties.*

### Stay Connected with The Harvard Club of Southern California



Stay up-to-date by following our Club on social media:  
**Instagram:** @harvardsocal  
**Twitter:** @harvardsocal

You can also find our Facebook group and LinkedIn page to follow - just search Harvard Club of 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](http://www.harvardsocal.org).

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	COST
Sat, Dec 14 6:30PM	<b>Annual Harvard-Yale Holiday Salon</b>	The Home of a Club Member near Larchmont Village	\$25 per person
Fri, Dec 20 6:00PM	<b>Newport Beach Boat Parade 2024</b>	Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club Corona del Mar, CA	\$165, members; \$186, non-members
Sat, Dec 21 1:00PM	<b>Harvard SoCal Italian Christmas Party - Orange County</b>	Antonello Ristorante Santa Ana, CA	\$26, members; \$36, non-members
Sat, Jan 11 1:00PM	<b>[Members Only] Stanford and Harvard Club Golf Clinic</b>	Pelican Hill Golf Club Newport Coast, CA	\$70 per person
Sat, Jan 11 7:00PM	<b>A Cappella Double Feature - The Dins and Kroks Return to L.A.</b>	Westwood Presbyterian Church Los Angeles, CA	\$25, members; \$35, non-members
Sun, Jan 26 12:00PM	<b>Fiction Workshop</b>	Play Coffee Orange Orange, CA	No charge
Sat, Feb 1 8:30PM	<b>Harvard - Stanford Lunar New Year Karaoke</b>	Moxie Lounge & Karaoke Arcadia, CA	\$45, members; \$55, non-members