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THE HARVARD CLUB *of* SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

DECEMBER 2020

Upcoming Events

[Virtual] Radcliffe: 2020 Visions

TUE, DEC 3 @ 1:00PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required

Harvard-Caltech Recent Grad Holiday Mixer

THU, DEC 3 @ 7:00PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required

[Virtual] Radcliffe: The Future of COVID-19 Epidemiology

TUE, DEC 8 @ 1:00PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required

Harvard Speakers Bureau: Professor Martha Schwartz Discusses Sustain- able Cities

SUN, JAN 10 @ 5:00PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required

Myron Kayton Science Pub #18 - The Search for Life in the Universe

SUN, JAN 24 @ 3:00PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required



Harvard-Caltech Recent Grad Holiday Mixer

One of the biggest challenges for recent graduates in Southern California is finding community, especially with a quarantined California. The Harvard Club of Southern California traditionally hosts networking events in the vibrant neighborhoods of our city throughout the year, and we've continued to do so virtually. A standard meeting on a virtual conference platform such as Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Blue Jeans, HouseParty, FaceTime (are there more?) only allows for one person to talk at once. That is hardly a replacement for a live networking event, don't you think?

On December 3 at 7pm, the Recent Graduate Committee of the Club and the Caltech Alumni Association will partner up to try something different which will be aimed at creating spontaneous, simultaneous interaction. We will be hosting a virtual, team-based home scavenger hunt. We hope to spark friendly competition and send both Harvard and Caltech alumni into the new year with new friends. If you're a recent graduate (from the past ten years) please join us for a BYOB night of shameless, innocent fun!

Register now at <http://www.HarvardSoCal.org>.

Recent [Virtual] Event

Kurt Andersen '76 and Lawrence O'Donnell '74 Discuss *Evil Geniuses*

Southern California internet wires crackled with the witty repartee of author Kurt Andersen '76 and MSNBC host Lawrence O'Donnell '74 on October 4 when they came together to discuss Andersen's *New York Times* bestselling book *Evil Geniuses: The Unmaking of America*. Andersen regaled the virtual viewership with stories of fifty years of political, economic, legal, and social re-engineering designed to serve big business and the well-to-do "at the expense of everyone else." Signed copies of the book were made available to Club members who donated to the Club's Harvard Student Emergency Fund. (One copy is still available.)



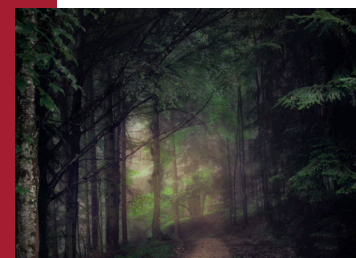
Countdown to Election Day 2020

In anticipation of last month's election, members of the HCSC gathered on October 26 for an engaging discussion with two election experts, Madeleine Moore (deputy for special projects for supervisor Sheila Kuehl) and Alan Solomon (dean of the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University). Madeleine told us about the notable changes to California's election laws since 2016, including updated technology, the addition of early voting days in L.A. County, and mailing every registered voter a ballot to encourage early voting and increase safety. Alan explained how young people are motivated to vote and participate politically. He dissected the data Tufts has collected, reporting that there is now a 35 point margin between young Republicans and Democrats, whereas in 2018 the vote was evenly split. Dean Solomon also made helpful recommendations for increasing student turnout.



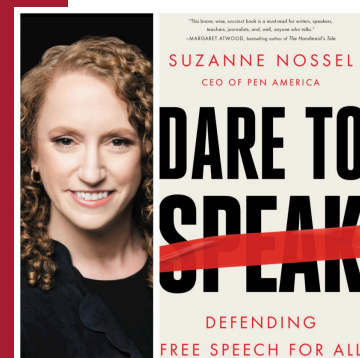
Camp Nightmare Escape Room

On October 29, a dozen intrepid HCSC members participated in a Halloween-themed spooky escape room. The group was split (not literally) into teams, and tried to solve a variety of puzzles to solve the mystery of the killer at Camp Nightmare. The escape room was designed in the spirit of '90s teen slasher films. Half the teams were successful... and the other teams were never heard from again. Some say they still haunt Camp Nightmare.



Suzanne Nossel '91, JD '96 Discusses *Dare to Speak: Defending Free Speech For All*

On November 12, Suzanne Nossel '91 JD '96 discussed her book *Dare to Speak: Defending Free Speech for All* with HCSC President Patric M. Verrone in a virtual event co-hosted by the Harvard Clubs of San Diego, Minnesota, and Phoenix. Nossel, the CEO of Pen America, emphasized the challenges facing free speech in an era of fake news, alternative facts, cancel culture, and corporate-controlled social media. Her work, a "how-to book for an open society" is available at https://linktr.ee/pen_america.



Upcoming [Virtual] Events

Harvard Speakers Bureau: Professor Martha Schwartz Discusses Sustainable Cities

Dive into a discussion with Martha Schwartz, Professor in Practice of Landscape Architecture, founding member of Harvard's Working Group for Sustainable Cities, and internationally-renowned innovator in design and climate change mitigation.

SUN, JAN 10 @ 5:00PM

No charge, registration required

Kay Park, kayparkmd@yahoo.com



Myron Kayton Science Pub #18 - The Search for Life in the Universe

No topic is of greater interest to today's astronomers – and the public – than the search for evidence of life elsewhere in our solar system and far beyond. Dr. John S. Mulchaey, Director of the Carnegie Observatories, will describe recent progress on the search for life beyond our home planet.

SUN, JAN 24 @ 3:00PM

No charge, registration required

Ethel Laczko, etheledu@yahoo.com or German Enciso, enciso@uci.edu



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CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE

Terry Nathan
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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

Q&A from 02138:

Felix Bulwa '22



Felix Bulwa '22, a concentrator in Social Studies with a potential focus in Government and Education, was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley and graduated from North Hollywood High School. He was a captain of the speech and debate team, a finalist in the annual Duke Moot Court competition, and a member of the varsity cross country and soccer teams. He also served as the parliamentarian for the East Valley YMCA's delegation of California's Youth & Government program. He is a junior residing in Currier House. When at Harvard, he performs improv comedy, captains the Harvard Horntails Quidditch team, teaches elementary-school civics through the Institute of Politics, and works as a course assistant for a GenEd class on K-12 education. Felix spent this last summer taking an online course on COVID-19 and global health and assisted teaching a constitutional law class for high schoolers. He currently is on a gap semester working remotely from Cambridge for the Innovation Team of the Los Angeles Mayor's Office.

Note: This interview was conducted before Harvard decided to go virtual.

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

FB: I remember being most taken aback by the extreme flexibility in the classes I could take. In my first year, I tried out archaeology, acting, social psychology, historical linguistics... I even took a studio course on clowning last semester! I didn't expect to be able to try out interests so thoroughly.

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

FB: I actually first visited campus the day I got accepted. I remember going on the tour and thinking it was a waste of time, because I'd find out in a few hours I didn't get in. I'm lucky that wasn't the case!

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

FB: I really liked this GenEd class on Conflict Resolution. We analyzed how best to approach negotiation and compromise, from game theory to family squabbles to full-blown international war. Classes like that offer both critical framework and useful everyday application.

HCSC: What has been your funniest moment at Harvard?

FB: Having never sang in an organized group before, I auditioned for the first year musical on a complete whim. I miraculously got a part in the show, where I had to rap as a TSA agent and tango as a co-pilot. Thinking back at that experience always makes me chuckle, and I'll never forget the power of trying new things at Harvard.

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

FB: I'd focus efforts on building enthusiasm around the school's sports teams. It's a shame we have the largest D1 program in the nation yet never get close to filling stadiums (with the sole exception of the Harvard-Yale Game).

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

FB: I miss the crazy diversity of people, food, and cultures. I sometimes get a glimpse of it within the Harvard bubble, but it's never at the level of Los Angeles.

Continued on next page

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

FB: Who knows! I may move back after graduation, because it's close to family and has all the career opportunities I would hope for.

The following two questions were asked after the pandemic:

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

FB: I'm actually taking a gap semester right now, but I still have an online class as a TA. Teaching over Zoom is weirdly fun and challenging — there are features that add to the interactive experience, and talking to a screen makes you reconsider and adapt your teaching style.

HCSC: How did you spend fall semester?

FB: I found some fulfilling ways to spend my gap! I'm remotely interning for the Santa Monica-based Milken Scholars Program, doing correspondence work and writing features for their website. I'm also a Fellow in the Los Angeles Mayor's Office Innovation Team, where I help address a variety of issues facing our city — including homelessness, gender inequity, and COVID-19.



Harvard Kennedy School Program: Leadership, Organizing and Action: Leading Change (Online)

This 15-week course supports participants in carrying out real world organizing projects, with coaching from a learning community of teaching staff and classmates from around the world, along with readings, discussions, reflection and skill practice. In the past 11 years, 1226 alumni from 81 countries have completed the course, working in a wide array of fields, including education, health care, immigrant rights, gender equality, workers' rights and environmental justice.

For more information on program dates, tuition, and curriculum, please visit the Leadership, Organizing and Action: Leading Change website, <https://tinyurl.com/HKSLOA>.

If you have any questions, please contact the Program Director, James Brockman at James_Brockman@hks.harvard.edu.



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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.harvardsocal.org.

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