



Upcoming Events

Art Beyond the Edge - Author Book Talk Followed by Q&A

TUE, SEP 1 @ 6:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge

Pacific Symphony's Tchaikovsky Spectacular w/Fireworks - VIP Tix

SAT, SEP 5 @ 6:00PM

Great Park Live (Irvine)

\$65, members; \$85, nonmembers

Tuesday Breakfast Club

TUE, SEP 8 @ 8:15AM

First of All (West Hollywood)

No charge

Partner Club Event: The Unspoken Rules of Career Advancement

THU, SEP 10 @ 7:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge

Members Only: Visit to the Aerospace Corporation

WED, SEP 16 @ 9:00AM

The Aerospace Corporation (El Segundo)

\$25 per person



President's Message

by Gary Barkin '86, JD '93

This year marks the 125th year of the Harvard Club of Southern California. When the Club was founded in 1901, Teddy Roo-

sevelt was president, the population of Los Angeles had just surpassed 100,000 residents, and the city was in the midst of a real estate speculation frenzy and oil boom. Huge tracts of land were purchased and sub-divided, and downtown-adjacent neighborhoods like Echo Park and Westlake were packed tight with over 1,000 oil derricks operating right in people's backyards, filling the air with LA's first smog and the lovely scent of sulfur.

A revolution in transportation was simultaneously taking place. An extensive network of electric streetcars moved people between neighborhoods. The first automobiles with no mufflers were also making their debut on city streets, many of which were still dirt roads shared with thousands of horses pulling wagons and delivery carriages, creating massive sanitation issues and leaving roads choked with manure and mud.

And in the midst of all this, a group of Harvard alumni formed the Harvard Club of Southern California which, according to its original articles of incorporation, was founded:

- "To foster and increase social and fraternal intercourse among Harvard men and to promote the welfare of Harvard University
- To increase the knowledge of the members by instructive lectures, speeches and discussions
- To accumulate funds for educational and scientific purposes

- To raise, receive, and distribute funds to provide scholarships at Harvard University for promising and capable young men who may be worthy and needy, but who are financially unable otherwise to attend Harvard University
- To purchase or lease real property for the purpose of establishing a clubhouse."

While today our alumni and our membership are far more diverse and have included women for multiple generations, it's gratifying to see that 125 years after its founding, our Club has stayed true to most of these initial goals – we still offer instructive lectures and discussions, we still provide scholarships, and we continue to engage in intercourse of the social and fraternal variety.

But what about that clubhouse we were supposed to erect? Given that so many of our Club's original members were fantastically wealthy figures of the Gilded Age, several of whom had made or inherited vast fortunes in oil and real estate, it's amazing that they never got their act together to buy or build a Harvard clubhouse. For example, one of the early presidents of our Club was Frederick Hastings Rindge, a huge outdoorsman who purchased a Spanish land grant of over 13,000 coastal acres that later became Malibu. Surely, he could have deeded HCSC a measly acre on the beach for our clubhouse.

But no.... we had to wait until 1946, when a private residence was donated to our Club. Located at 234 Loma Drive, just east of downtown and across the street from what is now the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, this residence became our first and only clubhouse. Unfortunately, as the years passed, many of the surrounding homes were torn down and replaced with apartment buildings and industrial spaces. I can only surmise that as the neighborhood became grittier, our board no longer deemed it a fitting home for our venerable Club.

In 1960 the property was sold for a whopping \$21,637 to a developer, who promptly tore it down and erected a commercial building. It is now home to a daycare and family center. With the benefit of 20-20 hindsight, most would say it was insane for our Club to sell this property. But the funds from this sale became the principal for the Harvard Club of Southern California Scholarship Trust Fund which was established in 1970 and is now administered and managed by Harvard University.

As we all know, Harvard is good at managing money, and that fund has grown to over \$2.5 million today. The fund's income currently provides financial aid grants to over 30 Harvard students from our region each year. It also provides funding for our Summer Community Service Fellowships which make it possible for current undergrads to participate in unpaid summer internships with California non-profits. So while we lost a clubhouse, we gained a scholarship fund that has provided support to many hundreds of Harvard students over nearly 50 years. Not a bad trade after all.

If any of you have historical information or memorabilia relating to the Harvard Club of Southern California that you would like to share, please reach out to us at info@harwardsocal.org.

President

Gary Barkin '86, JD '93

Executive Vice President

John Luna '03

Vice Presidents Communications

Aaron Blumenthal '15

Cynthia Torres '80, MBA '84

Vice Presidents Finance

John Luna '03

Kristin Wadhwa '04

Vice President Membership

Jose Sanchez '89

Vice President Orange County

Matthew Stasior '87

Vice Presidents Programs

Vien Nguyen '86

Liz Ryan '81

Vice President Schools

Harry Kim '86

Vice Presidents Technology

Jade Le '10

Joe Rogers '86

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Kimia Grigoriev '23

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Billy Kimball '81

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Madeleine Mejia EdM '00

Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89

Neil Morganbesser '86

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George Newhouse '76

Kay Park '87

Eric Witt '95

CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE

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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: info@harwardsocal.org.

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

Recent Events

Private Tour of the New Geffen Galleries at LACMA Sells Out!

On August 8, Dr. David P. Bardeen '96, Assistant Curator of European Painting and Sculpture hosted 25 members of the Harvard Club of SoCal at a private tour of the new Geffen Galleries at LACMA. "Dr. Bardeen's presentation of the galleries, the first view of art work previously in storage, and their fascinating backstories were riveting," said Liz Ryan '81, event organizer. Ryan added that because the wait list was so long, a second tour will be added shortly.



Harvard Club Hosts Sendoff Reception for New Harvard Undergraduates

On August 9, the Harvard Club of Southern California hosted 20 incoming first-year students at a sendoff party before their departure to Cambridge for pre-frosh orientation events.

Harry Kim '86, HCSC Vice President, Schools, organized and attended the event, which was held at the home of Club member Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89. Students acquainted themselves with each other and compared notes about their Harvard Yard housing assignments, which they received in early August.

The Club is seeking alumni now who wish to get involved with interviewing applicants this fall for Harvard College. Interviewer training will take place in the coming weeks. Both undergraduate and graduate alumni of Harvard University are eligible to serve as interviewers. Interviews may be conducted in person or through Zoom. Please contact Harry at areachairsfvharvard@gmail.com if you are interested in interviewing, and include your Harvard degree and year, and an address for area assignment purposes.



Upcoming Events

Art Beyond the Edge - Author Book Talk Followed by Q&A

Art Beyond the Edge is not just a title: it's a designation, a call to action, and a means to achieve enduring impact. Join us for this special book talk followed by a Q&A with author Bryan Reynolds AM '91, PhD '97.

TUE, SEP 1 @ 6:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge



Pacific Symphony's Tchaikovsky Spectacular with Fireworks - VIP Tickets



Experience Tchaikovsky's brilliance in one unforgettable night at the Irvine Great Park amphitheater, featuring acclaimed violinist Randall Goosby. The concert includes Tchaikovsky's beloved Violin Concerto and ends with the explosive 1812 Overture—fireworks included!

SAT, SEP 5 @ 6:00PM

Great Park Live (Irvine)

\$65, members; \$85, nonmembers



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 Monday, September 7 at 9am.

TUE, SEP 8 @ 8:15AM

First of All (West Hollywood)

No charge



Partner Club Event (FGHA and H4A): The Unspoken Rules of Career Advancement

In this interactive session, Gorick Ng '14 deconstructs the intentional but invisible work that insiders do and what you can do right now to apply their lessons to your own career and life.

THU, SEP 10 @ 7:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge



Upcoming Events

Visit to the Aerospace Corporation

On our visit, we will tour the Corporation's offices and laboratories and hear a presentation on the Corporation's history and mission, as well as from individual researchers on some of the specific projects currently underway. This event is open to members only - limited space!

WED, SEP 16 @ 9:00AM

The Aerospace Corporation (El Segundo)

\$25 per person (members only)



Ivy x B1G September Mixer

Our monthly mixers bring together alumni from across the Ivy+ and Big Ten communities, and this one returns the series to a Long Beach favorite that alumni have been asking about since our last visit.

SAT, SEP 26 @ 6:00PM

The Auld Dubliner (Long Beach)

No charge, cash bar



Wine Tasting at Angeleno Wine Company

We will enjoy flights of Angeleno Wine Company's organically grown local wines as well as beers and non-alcoholic bubbly, open bar style during this 2-hour private event. Light bites will be included. Space is limited, so RSVP early.

THU, OCT 1 @ 6:00PM

Angeleno Wine Co. (Los Angeles)

\$55, members; \$65, nonmembers



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, OCT 11 @ 6:00PM (doors open @ 5:00PM)

The Magic Castle (Hollywood)

\$220 per person



Q & A from 02138:

Joey Cano '28



Joey Cano '28 is a Mathematics concentrator affiliated with Adams House at Harvard College. Born and raised in Southern California, he graduated from Upland High School in Upland, California. After high school, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on a five-year contract, serving primarily as an Air Traffic Controller in San Diego.

At Harvard, Joey has immersed himself in pure mathematics while also pursuing coursework in philosophy and psychology. He is preparing for a senior thesis and considering graduate study in pure or applied mathematics, while also exploring professional opportunities after Harvard. This summer, he studied combinatorics and topology in Hungary through the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics program, which was co-founded by the renowned mathematician Paul Erdős.

In his free time, Joey enjoys exploring small shops, watching documentaries, keeping in touch with his military colleagues, and reading about animals and history.

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

JC: I have been most struck by the quality of instruction in Harvard's Mathematics Department, particularly in foundational courses such as the calculus sequence, linear algebra, and Math 101: Sets, Groups, and Real Analysis. Under the leadership of Director of Introductory Mathematics Brendan Kelly, Senior Preceptor Janet Chen, and others, these courses are taught with exceptional clarity and rigor.

The department's emphasis on conceptual depth, active learning, and carefully structured materials helps students develop genuine mathematical maturity from the outset. Supported by that foundation, students can then flourish in applied fields such as physics and statistics, both of which also interest me.

HCSC: What were your favorite classes or professors?

JC: It is difficult to identify a single favorite, so I will highlight three courses that have influenced me in different but lasting ways.

First, Math 101: Sets, Groups, and Real Analysis, taught by Senior Preceptor Janet Chen in the Mathematics Department, fundamentally reshaped how I reason—not only about mathematics, but also how I structure logical arguments in everyday life. Janet's teaching provided excellent illustrations and intuition when needed while maintaining the high standards of rigor necessary to prepare students for future coursework in pure mathematics.

I also greatly valued Expos Studio 20: The Successful Life, taught by Taleen Mardirossian. The course challenged me to think deliberately about ambition, purpose, and what it means to define success on one's own terms. I continue to return to ideas from the course as I think about my future. Dr. Mardirossian has remained a wonderful mentor and collaborator. We have worked on out-of-class programs designed to bring students from different backgrounds together to discuss real-world issues, including topics on which disagreement can be difficult.

Lastly, Psychology 1: Introduction to Psychological Science, taught by Professor Jason Mitchell in the spring of 2026, had an enormous impact on me. I particularly enjoyed the course textbook, *Psychology* (2022, 6th edition) by Schacter, Gilbert, and Nock, and I greatly appreciated the patience and teaching ability of Preceptor Dr. Nicole Noll during our many office-hour sessions.

I am deeply grateful for all three of these courses. Both the material and the people involved have permanently influenced how I understand and navigate the world.

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

JC: I first visited Harvard through the Warrior-Scholar Project, which hosts intensive academic programs for service members preparing to transition from military service back into academic life.

The experience was both intimidating and motivating. The faculty and staff created an environment in which service members were intellectually challenged while also being reminded that our perspectives and experiences belonged in academic spaces. That experience gave me the confidence to apply to several highly selective colleges that I might otherwise never have considered.



HCSC: What has been your funniest moment at Harvard?

JC: As mentioned above, I served in the United States Marine Corps as an Air Traffic Controller. Within this military occupational specialty (MOS), we were trained to write according to conventions intended to maximize clarity under Federal Aviation Administration standards.

For example, when writing a zero on a document—perhaps as part of an altitude—we often wrote it in a form resembling the empty-set symbol. While that convention worked perfectly well in air traffic control, the symbol carries a very different meaning in mathematics.

Some of my funniest moments at Harvard have involved my friends catching me unconsciously slipping back into that habit. After years of using it in the military, it has proven remarkably difficult to unlearn.

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

JC: I would strengthen the role of pure mathematics and formal logic within the College's distribution requirements. Regardless of concentration, students benefit from structured training in rigorous reasoning.

I would particularly emphasize pure mathematics rather than mathematics taught solely as a computational tool. There is a distinctive beauty in learning to reason abstractly, construct arguments, and understand why something must be true rather than simply learning how to calculate an answer.

Likewise, the structures of formal logic can become intuitive with sufficient practice, but that kind of reasoning should be deliberately cultivated. Integrating coursework in mathematics or logic more deeply into the undergraduate curriculum would reinforce analytical clarity as a shared intellectual foundation across disciplines and equip students with tools that extend far beyond any single field.

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

JC: Southern California will always be home. I hope to remain connected to the region both personally and professionally, and I am strongly considering graduate study or professional opportunities on the West Coast after Harvard.

Having now experienced a New England blizzard, I have also developed an even greater appreciation for Southern California's climate.



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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.

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	COST
Tue, Sep 1 6:00PM	Art Beyond the Edge - Author Book Talk Followed by Q&A	Online via Zoom	No charge
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Tue, Sep 8 8:15AM	Tuesday Breakfast Club - West Hollywood	First of All West Hollywood, CA	No charge
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Sat, Sep 26 6:00PM	Ivy x B1G September Mixer	The Auld Dubliner Long Beach, CA	No charge, cash bar
Thu, Oct 1 6:00PM	Wine Tasting at Angeleno Wine Company	Angeleno Wine Co. Los Angeles, CA	\$55, members; \$65, nonmembers