



130 Years of Serving the Harvard Community of Northern California

# The Harvard Club of San Francisco

[www.harvardclubsf.org](http://www.harvardclubsf.org)

October 2007

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## Letter from the Incoming President Stephen Watkins, AM '96



It is a true honor to follow Spencer Rhodes, AB '00, MBA '04, as HCSF's new President. For the past three years, it's been my great pleasure to work alongside some of the most creative and dedicated Harvard alumni on the West

Coast. The remarkable successes that we have been able to realize during my time on the Board are a testament to the vision, talents, and strengths of my colleagues on the Board as well as those of the members of the Bay Area's Harvard alumni community.

Looking ahead, I welcome the challenges of helping the Club formalize some of the organizational and operational initiatives that were begun under the stewardship of Spencer and his predecessors, Gautham Reddy, AB '85, and Stephanie Evans, EdM '79.

It's my intention, for example, to help refine our committee structure, which channels so much of the energy and ideas necessary for meaningful events and creative internal governance. I'd like to see us continue to strengthen the Community Service Committee by enhancing current key relationships with the San Francisco Unified School District, Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco, and Habitat for Humanity San Francisco, to name but a few. I also look forward to helping the Club as it explores new directions in strategic partnerships, reaching out to leaders in business and government, to community service innovators, to our friends in education and philanthropy, and to luminaries of culture and the arts.

My goal is to keep HCSF vital, relevant, and above all, responsive to our membership's needs by reflecting the enduring, familiar themes that define the Harvard

## Annual Dinner

Friday, November 9, 2007  
Financial District Hilton  
Reception 6 pm  
Dinner 7 pm  
Register online or by phone

experience, and by finding new and different ways of expressing alumni affiliation.

If you are a current member, I'd like to thank you for your continued support and participation. Please let me know if there's anything that we might do to enhance your experience. If you have ideas about bringing a new event, activity, or benefit to the Club, I encourage you to share those thoughts with me and with my colleagues on the Board. If you are a prospective member, I invite you to explore the many events and activities we have to offer.

Here's to a great twelve months, here's to Harvard, and here's to you!

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## Letter from the Outgoing President

Spencer Rhodes, AB '00, MBA '04



It has been a great honor to serve as President of the HCSF for the past year, and I'm also honored and excited to be continuing with the club as Chairman. The HCSF has made a great amount of progress in the past year thanks to the efforts

of our fantastic group of officers, volunteers, and board members.

We organized 96 events in the past twelve months thanks to the large number of volunteers on our vibrant activities committee and to the tireless efforts of co-VPs of Activities Charlene Nee, EdM '95 and Sheela Zemlin, MBA '98. With the help of incoming President Stephen Watkins, AM '96, and co-VPs of Community Service Lara Fox, AB '99, Preston Dodd, EdM '94, and Ray Mertens, AB '94 MBA '03, we have had a tremendous increase in the number and variety of community service activities including a deepening of our relationship with the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco.

Marv Kasoff, AB '64 launched the wildly successful "Salon" speaker series which has held ten sold-out sessions in less than a year, and VP of Schools Bruce Jackson, AB '66 led the efforts of countless volunteers to interview over 800 applicants to Harvard College. Outgoing VP of Strategic Partnerships Lin Zhu, MPA '02 and Tania Condon, MTS '93 built out our new membership discount program, and we began providing credit card-sized membership cards as a benefit of membership.

Kirsten Pickford has continued to do a fantastic job running all of our administrative affairs as Executive Director. Stephanie Evans, EdM '79 and Gautham Reddy, AB '85, both past presidents of the HCSF, have continued to generously support the club in many ways. Anne Knight, AB '66, AM '71, HAA Regional Director, has been a great resource and friend to the club as have the HAA staff back in Cambridge including our primary contact Rachel Lamson.

Beyond our countless social and community service events, The HCSF continued to bring the best of

Harvard to the Bay Area with numerous events featuring professors and department heads. Most notably, we hosted both President Drew Faust and Provost Steven Hyman in separate events that were both sold out.

I'm happy to announce that Sean Jacobsohn, MBA '98, former President of the HBS Association of Northern California, has been elected to serve in the new role of Director of Revenue, and Elizabeth Cryer, AB '97 has been elected to serve in the new role of Director of Career Mentoring. Other new officers include Amy Hanson, AB '92, President-elect; Greg Groeneveld, MPP '88, Secretary; Kenneth Marshall, MBA '94, VP of Technology; and Jing Nie, AB '06, Director of Young Alumni.

We'd like to welcome recent graduates to the area and encourage them to join both the club and our Young Alumni Yahoo Group at: [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/hcsf-recentgrads](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/hcsf-recentgrads).

We have a new communication channel for those wishing to get intimately involved in our community service efforts. While all community service events and committee meetings will continue to go out to the whole club via our normal updates, this new yahoo group will serve as a community within which even more community service news can be shared among Harvard graduates in the area: [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/hcsf-communityservice](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/hcsf-communityservice).

Finally, I have the pleasure of welcoming Stephen Watkins AM '96 into the role of President. Stephen has contributed immeasurably to the club in recent years. He has served as VP of Community Service, helped found our community service committee, organized several successful events, served as a board member, and contributed significantly to our Early College Awareness Program and to our relationship with the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco. Time and time again, he has proven his desire to see Harvard's presence in the Bay Area be the best that it can be. The board and I are delighted that he has accepted the Presidency, and we look forward to helping him make his mark on the club.

Thanks for a great year, and thanks for your interest in the Harvard Club of San Francisco! We hope to see you at an event or at a committee meeting in the near future!

## HCSF: Committed to Community Service

Lara Fox, AB '99

Thirty Harvard Club volunteers. Sixteen middle schools. Twelve professional and student panelists. One school auditorium. More than 250 students and parents seated at 9:30 on a fogless Saturday morning. What brought them together? The Early College Awareness Program (ECAP), a hallmark event held annually by ten Harvard Clubs around the country.

In San Francisco, we've taken the ECAP mandate—to provide information about the college application and financial aid process to the families of eighth graders who will likely become the first in their family to attend college—to the height of our abilities. We piloted the program in April 2006 at Aptos Middle School, where thirty-two audience members joined a small group of Harvard Club organizers and a powerhouse team of speakers for a morning-long seminar. A year later, we increased our attendance almost tenfold. We had engaged the help of thirty Harvard Club volunteers, a group of dedicated Boys & Girls Clubs staff members, the office of the Superintendent of Middle Schools for San Francisco, and principals and counselors from schools around the city. To read the full story of ECAP '07 and the people who made it happen, visit: [www.harvardclubsf.org/community\\_service/early\\_college.html](http://www.harvardclubsf.org/community_service/early_college.html).

The Club's Community Service Committee also organizes numerous other projects. With Habitat for Humanity, SF Homeless Connect, and Boys & Girls Clubs events already under our belt this year, HCSF members have shown an ongoing desire to take part in community service. The CSC invites all members to attend our bi-monthly meetings or join one of our projects. Doing so offers you a meaningful way to engage with both the Harvard Club and the broader Bay Area communities.

## The Interviewing Cycle Begins Anew

Bruce E. Jackson, AB '66, VP for Schools

We are about to start another cycle of interviewing and wooing prospective candidates for admission to Harvard. The first part of the cycle is almost upon us—the interviewing process. We hope that some of you can find a few hours in your schedules this Fall to volunteer to interview a candidate or two, write them

up, and send the write-up to the admissions department. These kids, as you can probably imagine, are a truly exceptional lot. It is a very satisfying way to spend a weekend afternoon or weekday evening!

The wooing will continue once the Class of '12 is accepted later this year. The Club hosts two parties for all the admitted Bay Area students. The first (most recently hosted at the magnificent Chateau Tivoli by Steve and Geri Shohet, both AB '56) is in the late Spring, right after the students receive their notices of admission and just before many of them go off to Cambridge to spend several days at Harvard to see for themselves what the place is really like. The second (most recently hosted by Steve Senter, AB '68, and Debbie Hurst Senter, AB '68) is in mid-August, immediately after they receive their bulky envelopes full of Harvard's pre-enrollment material, e-mail addresses and dorm assignments. These parties are filled with the buzz of excitement as students begin to experience each other as future classmates. These are wonderful events; get involved at the very beginning!

## Young Alumni

Three ways to get involved!

1. Young Alumni (20s/30s) are encouraged to join our Young Alum Yahoo group at [groups.yahoo.com/group/hcsf-recentgrads/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hcsf-recentgrads/). This yahoo group has been around since 1998 and has over 815 members. Share party info. Stay in the loop!
2. Look for our regular Ivy League Young Alum Mixers that draw over 300 Ivy Leaguers from all 8 schools!
3. Join the Young Alum Committee, which meets on the first Sunday of every month at 7pm for dinner, drinks, and discussion. Come have dinner, meet new people, and share your ideas for young alum activities!

## Become a Member of the Harvard Club of San Francisco Today!

If you are not currently a paid member of the HCSF, we hope that you will consider joining—or re-joining—the Club. By doing so, you will receive the following:

- 1) The deeply discounted member price on all Club events; within as little as two events, the discount can pay for the membership
- 2) Special notices and access to members-only events
- 3) A hard copy of our newsletter in the mail to complement our electronic communication
- 4) NEW! A membership card entitling you to discounts at a variety of organizations and businesses
- 5) Access to the online searchable membership directory (coming soon)
- 6) Networking opportunities
- 7) The satisfaction of knowing that you've done your part to help support Harvard in San Francisco, our interviewing activities, and our community service work

Simply log on to [www.harvardclubsf.org/membership/membership\\_form.html](http://www.harvardclubsf.org/membership/membership_form.html) and register now!

We invite you to join the organization that brings together hundreds of your fellow alumni, who reflect the diversity of the Bay Area.

The Harvard Club of San Francisco offers a wide variety of activities and programs designed to capture your interest and take advantage of your talents and passions.

Our programs and projects include regular mixers for socializing and networking, community action activities of all kinds, lectures and meet-the-author events, opera/jazz/symphonic get-togethers, discounted theater opportunities, the chance to meet and become involved with other alumni engaged in world-wide programs, and fun events of discovery all over the greater San Francisco area.

Your membership brings to you the world of alumni from the College as well as the graduate schools, of grads recent and not-so-recent, of leaders from every facet and walk of life in the Bay Area—and it also helps us to support all those activities.

As a member of the Harvard Club of San Francisco, you will be eligible for discounted admission to our

events, receive the club newsletter, and be able to view our “members only” online directory (coming soon)!

Members can also participate in our undergraduate admissions interviewing program, the Harvard Book Prize program for high school students, and community service activities such as Early College Awareness and volunteering at the Boys & Girls Clubs.

Join us today—and join any of the committee activities that interest you. We welcome your participation!

Dues are what keep us going!

HCSF is a 501(c)3 organization, and membership dues and donations to the Club may be tax deductible.

Dues: September 2007 to December 2008

SPECIAL OFFER!

2007 Graduate: FREE!

Full-time Student (with student ID): FREE!

Recent Graduate (2005-2006): \$25

Regular Member: \$50

Supporting Member: \$150

Crimson Member: \$250 or more

Joint HCSF / Silicon Valley: \$75

Lifetime Member: \$1000 *NEW!*

Join online at [www.harvardclubsf.org/membership/membership\\_form.html](http://www.harvardclubsf.org/membership/membership_form.html)

Find out more at [www.harvardclubsf.org/membership/index.html](http://www.harvardclubsf.org/membership/index.html)

## Upcoming Events

We are adding new events each week! For the latest listing please visit [www.harvardclubsf.org/events/index.html](http://www.harvardclubsf.org/events/index.html). Unless noted otherwise, please register online at [www.harvardclubsf.org/events/index.html](http://www.harvardclubsf.org/events/index.html). Space is limited for many of these events, so register early!

### Ivy Primetime Alumni Mixer for Singles Ages 40–55

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

6 pm to 10 pm

Trader Vic's

555 Golden Gate Avenue (between Polk & Van Ness), San Francisco

No charge, no-host bar

RSVP required by Tuesday, October 16

The Harvard Club of San Francisco invites you to join us for a special Ivy Primetime Mixer for Singles Ages 40–55.

Primetime Alums (age 40–55) of all Ivy League colleges and grad schools are encouraged to join us for an evening of drinks and appetizers in a private room at Trader Vic's SF.

Sign up early! We have limited space and RSVPs are being taken on a first come, first served basis. We are also trying to create a balanced gender ratio for the event. You may bring a guest.

Spread the word to your Ivy League / Stanford / MIT friends!

Dress: Business casual

Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Penn, Princeton, Yale, Stanford and MIT

If you are interested in planning other singles events, including events for other age groups, please email [singlesevent@harvardclubsf.org](mailto:singlesevent@harvardclubsf.org) or attend the next Activities Committee Meeting on November 6, 2007.

## SFJAZZ: Django Reinhardt Festival Band featuring Dorado Schmitt with Paquito D'Rivera

Sunday, November 4, 2007

6:00 pm, Pre-show talk

7:00 pm, Performance

Herbst Theatre

401 Van Ness Avenue (at McAllister)

San Francisco

Cost: Varies with ticket type chosen; members receive 15% discount when registered with promo code below.

Space is limited!

Registration required by October 12, 2007

Gypsy guitar legend Django Reinhardt, perhaps considered Europe's first true jazz star, revolutionized the way guitarists interpret the instrument. His virtuosic style—especially noteworthy considering he had full use of only two left hand fingers—is still emulated today by “gypsy jazz” fans throughout the world. Join HCSF and SFJAZZ for an entertaining evening as guitar virtuoso Schmitt leads the swinging “gypsy jazz” group heard at the famed Django festival at NYC's Birdland—joined, in this very special evening, by Grammy-winning clarinetist D'Rivera, “one of the premier reed stylists of the last 30 years with the swinging.”

For those that are new to “gypsy Jazz,” Cory Combs, SFJAZZ Director of Education will lead a

pre-show talk exclusively for the HCSF members. The talk will begin at 6pm and will include discussion about the significance of Django and the main stage artists, Dorado Schmitt and Paquito D'Rivera, both of whom will pay tribute the great Django Reinhardt during the performance to follow.

PLEASE NOTE: the pre-show talk requires a minimum ticket purchase by HCSF members. So, to guarantee the pre-show talk, please purchase your tickets for this event by Friday, October 12.

To receive 15% off, please follow these steps:

1. Go to <http://www.sfjazz.org/tickets/account/>
2. Login or register for a new account and enter the promo code 219 (you must do this before you choose the seats to receive the 15% off)
3. From the calendar, go to November 4, 2007, and choose the 7:00 pm show with Django Reinhardt Festival Band & Pre-show lecture. The discounted price will appear.
4. If you have problem purchasing tickets online, please call 415-398-5655. Be sure to give them promo code 219 when purchasing tickets on the phone.

For more information about the show, please visit <http://www.sfjazz.org/concerts/2007/fall/artists/SchmittDRivera.asp>.

## HCSF Activities Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Offices of SMWM

989 Market Street (between 5th and 6th, closer to 6th, on the South side of the street), 3rd floor

San Francisco

Dinner will be served.

Free. RSVP required by November 4, 2007

Are there any events (or types of events) you like to see HCSF host? HCSF is a volunteer-run organization and all HCSF activities are organized by our members. How about organizing an activity around a topic of your expertise or passion?

Some suggestions for future events include social and cultural activities, lectures and panel discussions on current events and topical issues, book talk, book club, outdoor events, recreational and sporting events.

Bring your event ideas to this meeting!

Due to building security policies, you must RSVP by November 4 to enter the building. Your name must

be on the final RVSP list in order to enter the building. A final agenda will be sent out to all those who RSVPed by November 4. If you cannot attend the meeting, but would like to suggest a new event, please email, [activities@harvardclubsf.org](mailto:activities@harvardclubsf.org). Thanks!

## Hike: San Bruno Mountain State and County Park

Saturday, November 10, 2007

Meeting time 10 am

San Bruno Mountain State and County Park

555 Guadalupe Canyon

Brisbane, CA

Just south of San Francisco, find the beauty in our neighboring city Brisbane by enjoying a local hike atop the San Bruno Mountain. The 3.5 mile loop to the summit is suitable for beginners, follows well-graded but rocky trails, and features bushels of native vegetation.

Ascending through chaparral, the path (on a clear day) sports panoramas of Montara Mountain, the Farallones, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Other ridge vistas include downtown San Francisco, the East Bay hills, Mt. Diablo, and the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Bring your own water and food, and be prepared for wind and weather.

Directions:

- From US 101 in San Francisco County, exit #429B Cow Palace/Third Street. Drive south on Bayshore about 2 miles, turn right on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway and drive uphill about 2 miles to the park entrance on the right side of the road.

- From Interstate 280 in San Mateo County, exit #50 Mission Street, then take Market to Guadalupe Canyon Parkway and drive east to the park entrance on the left side of the road (it's about 3 miles from 280).

\$5 entrance fee (self-registration if kiosk is unstaffed). Maps available at the kiosk. Once past the kiosk, drive past the first lot, under the parkway to the trailhead on the south side of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. Parking for about 20 cars. Restroom and pay phone available near the trailhead on the north side of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. One designated handicapped parking spot, and trails may be wheelchair accessible with assistance. There is no direct public transportation to the park.

## HCSF and HBSANC at the Opera: Madama Butterfly

Saturday, December 8, 2007

7:15 p.m. No-host cocktail reception at North Box Bar

8:00 p.m. Performance

San Francisco Opera

301 Van Ness Ave at Grove, San Francisco

Cost: Varies with ticket type chosen; members receive 30% discount when registered with promo code below.

Space is limited!

Registration required by December 1, 2007

San Francisco Opera is pleased to offer HCSF and HBSANC members and their guests the opportunity to purchase discounted tickets for the most popular December performance of Madama Butterfly on Saturday, December 8 at 8 pm. A no-host cocktail reception will be available at 7:15 pm in the Opera House's North Box Bar, with short remarks by Opera management.

Set in late 19th-century Japan, Madama Butterfly is about a geisha who finds herself faced with a dreadful choice: life without dignity, or death with honor. Hear some of Puccini's most captivating music in this classic story of colliding hearts and cultures. Our very popular period production creates an alluring world, with a dynamic cast featuring soprano Marie Plette, whose previous portrayal of the heroine Cio-Cio-San was described by *The New York Times* as "a star turn."

Madama Butterfly is returning for only 5 performances in the December schedule of San Francisco Opera. These special performances are not part of the opera's regular subscriber series, but the opera is so beloved by fans worldwide that it has been added to the season's schedule.

To purchase tickets at the special 30% group discount, go to [www.sfopera.com/offer](http://www.sfopera.com/offer) and enter the promo code HARVARD8. Seats are available in the Orchestra, Grand Tier, Dress Circle and Balcony Circle to fit all ages and stages of opera goers, so do not hesitate. This will certainly be a sold out performance, so order early! Please email Barbara Keck at [bkeck@mba1976.hbs.edu](mailto:bkeck@mba1976.hbs.edu) if you are planning to attend the reception so we can have your name tag ready for Club meet-and-greet purposes.

## Current Board Members

### *Officers*

President	Stephen T. Watkins, AM '96	Elizabeth R. Cryer, AB '97
President-elect	Amy M. Hanson, AB '92	Kelly M. Gushue, AB '99
Immediate Past President	Spencer Rhodes AB '00, MBA '04	Cecil I. Hale, MPA '95
Treasurer	Andrew D. Cohen, AB '92	Sean W. Jacobsohn, MBA '98
VP, Activities	Charlene Nee, EdM '95	Paul D. King, AB '88
VP, Activities	Sheela G. Zemlin, MBA '98	John P. Lozano, EdM '94
VP, Communications	Katherine A. Rosenberg- Wohl, AB '83, JD '86	Christopher J. Nicholson, AB '97
VP, Community Service	Preston T. Dodd, EdM '94	Jing Nie, AB '06
VP, Community Service	Lara Fox, AB '99	Gautham P. Reddy, AB '85
VP, Community Service	Raymond J. Mertens, AB '94, MBA '03	Shelby J. Song, KSG '96
VP, Diversity	Alicia C. Wang, MPA '88	Paul R. Toulmin, AB '59
VP, Information Technology	Kenneth J. Marshall, MBA '94	Lin Zhu, MPA '02
VP, Membership	Marvin F. Kasoff, AB '64	
VP, Schools	Bruce E. Jackson, AB '66	

### *Directors*

Susan G. Alexander, JD '67  
Amanda H. Beck, AB '00  
Eric K. Behrens, AB '70  
Tania Condon, MTS '93

### *Ex Officio Directors*

Gary M. Arsham, AB '63  
Stephanie Evans, EdM '79  
Modesta Garcia, EdM '79  
Anne Knight, AB '66, AM '71  
David L. Ratner, AB '52, LLB '55  
Walter J. Sleeth, AB '65  
Michael J. Sears, AB '84-'85

### *Executive Director*

Kirsten Pickford

### **Who We Are**

The HCSF has three core missions: community service, interviewing candidates for admission to Harvard College, and organizing social and educational events. We serve all alumni of Harvard regardless of school or degree, and our board is composed of graduates from almost every school at Harvard, including the Law School, Business School, School of Education, Divinity School, Kennedy School, GSAS, and College. We also include former Harvard instructors, current students, and parents of current and past students.

Founded in 1874, The Harvard Club of San Francisco is the fourth oldest Harvard Club in the world. However, unlike Boston and New York, we do not have a physical location. Instead, we leverage venues all around the city for our events and charge a modest membership fee of only \$50 per year (\$25 or less for recent grads). This dues revenue is what keeps us going. Please see [www.harvardclubsf.org](http://www.harvardclubsf.org) for information on upcoming events or to renew your membership.

## Harvard Club of San Francisco

369-B Third Street, #306

San Rafael, CA 94901

**Return Service Requested**

### Membership Benefits

Dues-paying member benefits include:

- 1) The deeply discounted member price on all Club events; within as little as two events, the discount can pay for the membership
- 2) Special notices and access to members-only events
- 3) A hard copy of our newsletter in the mail to complement our electronic communication
- 4) A membership card (coming soon)
- 5) Access to the online searchable membership directory (coming soon)
- 6) Networking opportunities
- 7) The satisfaction of knowing that you've done your part to help support Harvard in San Francisco, our interviewing activities, and our community service work

Dues are what keep us going! Regular membership is only \$50; recent grad membership is only \$25.

To join or renew, please see:

<http://www.harvardclubsf.org/membership/>

**Join today!**