



THE HARVARD CLUB OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

FALL NEWSLETTER '23

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2023-24 year of the Harvard Club of Fairfield County!

I hope you had a wonderful and restful summer. We had a great season last year with a variety of events around our county, including a festive Holiday Party at the Country Club of Darien and our Annual Dinner with Red Sox general counsel David Friedman at the Country Club of New Canaan. We partnered with other local Ivy League alumni clubs to present a Recent Grads summer cocktail party and a fall singles mixer, and we co-hosted a Game watch party at the Field Club with the Yale Alumni Association of Greenwich. We worked with the Harvard Club of Southern Connecticut and other area Harvard Clubs to co-host or publicize one another's events. And, thanks to the HAA, we continue to offer unique learning opportunities via Zoom with local alumni experts and Harvard faculty.

All of us on the Board are grateful to the membership for re-electing us at the Annual Dinner. We express deep gratitude to Kim Blank, who has stepped down from the Board, for her years of service and numerous contributions to the Club, including her tenure as Vice President for Membership last year.

If you have not already done so, I invite you to join the Club or renew your membership. Members receive significant discounts to most events. Our Board is working very hard to deliver another year of exciting programs, including Harvard athletics, interesting speakers, exciting concerts and delicious dining events.

We are committed to presenting our fellow Harvard alumni with opportunities to connect with one another, have fun, learn and maintain ties to the University. For upcoming events, check out our website, <https://hcfairfieldcounty.clubs.harvard.edu/>, or follow us on Instagram [@harvardclubfairfield](https://www.instagram.com/harvardclubfairfield). We love to hear from our members, so if you have feedback, ideas or suggestions, or if you would like to get involved in helping to organize activities, please reach out to anyone on the Board or email us at info@harvardcluboffc.org.

All of us on the Board look forward to seeing you soon at a Club event!

Warmest wishes,

Karen Kim '91, President

Harvard Club of Fairfield County

ACTIVITIES

Your Club is committed to providing a wide variety of welcoming, community-oriented events for alumni/alumnae. If you are not receiving event invitations or have programming ideas, please email us at: info@harvardcluboffc.org.

Last year, we had many great in-person events (and some virtual events) including:

- Our annual Holiday Party in December at the Country Club of Darien featuring a performance from Acabella, an all-female a capella group where we collected gifts for students at the Norwalk Housing Authority.
- Athletic events including a Harvard-Yale football game watch party, a game/dinner event for the H-Y basketball game in New Haven plus both Women's and Men's Hockey events.
- A special breakfast meeting with Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons ('08).
- An Orchestra Lumos concert - conducted by Miachael Stern ('81) - with a post-concert reception.
- Dinner and talk with Harvard Prof. William Kaelin, a 2019 Nobel Prize Laureate in Medicine
- Our Annual Meeting where we both welcomed the Harvard class of 2026 from our area and heard from the Red Sox EVP David Friedman ('93 and Law '96) about how Harvard alumni have shaped the world of baseball.
- Two all-Ivy cocktail parties: One for recent grads at the Crab Shell in Stamford and one for singles in Darien.

This year we are thrilled to offer another great slate of fall events including:

Copps Island Oyster Farm Tour

September 22, 2023



Join us for this fun and educational boat tour on the last day of summer with Copps Island Oysters. Visit an oyster bed, learn about the ecology of oysters and see how they are harvested and sorted.

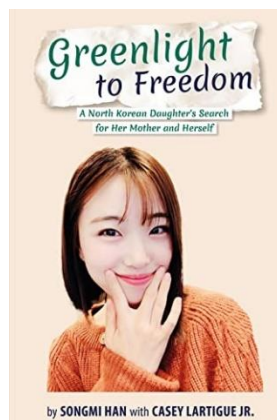
Dinner at Chef Prasad's Indian Kitchen

October 5, 2023
in New Canaan
Renown Chef Prasad will be preparing an extravagant five-course interactive meal at his private dining room featuring cooking demonstrations and Q&A with Chef Prasad.



Talk by Casey Lartigue, Jr., at Grace Farms

Sept. 27, 2023



Casey is co-author of "Greenlight to Freedom", the harrowing story of Songmi Han, a North Korean refugee. Casey is also co-president of Freedom Speakers International.

Holiday Party

December, 2023
Date/Location TBD

Celebrate the Season at our annual Holiday Party, a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and reconnect with other alumni over hors d'oeuvres and cocktails.



IMPORTANT: MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Now is the perfect time of year to renew your membership to the Harvard Club of Fairfield County for the 2023-2024 program year. Your \$50 membership dues support HCFC School and Scholarship work, hosting incoming students at our annual meeting, organizing, planning and running events for alumni/alumnae plus the administrative costs of the club. **Dues-paying member receive discounted pricing on HCFC events.** Please renew/register online at harvardcluboffc.org, or mail a check to: Harvard Club of Fairfield County, 16 Welwyn Road, Riverside, CT 06878

SCHOOLS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

This year, 50 alumni members of the Schools and Scholarships Committee interviewed over 200 applicants from Fairfield County. With 17 total admitted students, we had a 7% admit rate which is slightly over double the national admit rate of 3.4% (1,942 out of a total of 56,937 applicants); 11 applicants were admitted in December, and an additional 6 students were admitted in the March. All 17 students enrolled for this fall, a very impressive 100% yield for the second year in a row. Schools represented include Brunswick School, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Darien High School, Greenwich Academy, Greenwich High School, New Canaan High School, Pierrepont School and Wilton High School.

This year, we were able to return to in person interviewing, and all interviewers and interviewees also had the option to meet by Zoom. We are grateful for all the interviews and write-ups that our members eagerly completed, with many handling several students. We were delighted to invite the incoming first year students and their parents to the Harvard Club of New York City's reception for admitted students on April 17, 2023 and then again to our Club's Annual Meeting at the Country Club of New Canaan on June 15, 2023. The students and their families seemed to have a great time connecting with each other, and they enjoyed a hearty welcome to the community from our Club members. They also enjoyed meeting our keynote speaker, David Friedman '93, who spent some time with them separately. The students themselves also met for an informal gathering in late August. We eagerly welcome them to the Harvard community and congratulate each of them on their acceptance.



Norwalk Housing Authority Tutoring Program:

HCFC has supported the NHA since 2018. For several years we have facilitated "Zoom tutoring" of at-risk students. The program has been a huge success with 84% of the students showing progress in math. NHA staff report that our 12 volunteers this summer are "beyond amazing" Congratulations and a sincere thank you to our volunteers and look for information about fall tutoring program opportunities.

PRIOR EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS



Our annual dinner featured David Friedman ('93, Law '96), general counsel for the Boston Red Sox and introduced local members of the class of 2027.

All-Ivy Young Alumni Event



On a beautiful August evening, over 45 recent Ivy alums gathered at the Crab Shell overlooking Stamford Harbor.