

# HCNJ Newsletter 2021-22

A highlight of the events of the past year.

## The Annual Dinner



On Wednesday May 18, 2022, the Harvard Club of New Jersey had their first in-person Annual Dinner since 2019 with over 100 guests in attendance at the Basking Ridge Country Club. We welcomed Prof Martin Puchner, the Byron and Anita Wien Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Harvard, who spoke on the topic of his recent book, "The Written World: The Power of Stories to Shape People, History, and Civilization."



## A Selection of Events



### **Storm King Art Center Private Tour**

Last October, the HCNJ enjoyed an early autumn day at Storm King Art Center, a 500 acre outdoor museum for large scale sculpture. Our guide, Harvard alum Ellen Grenley, led the tour around the spectacular grounds where the group viewed art in nature in a unique and unforgettable experience. – Hosted by Wendy Livingston

### **Downtown Newark Tour**

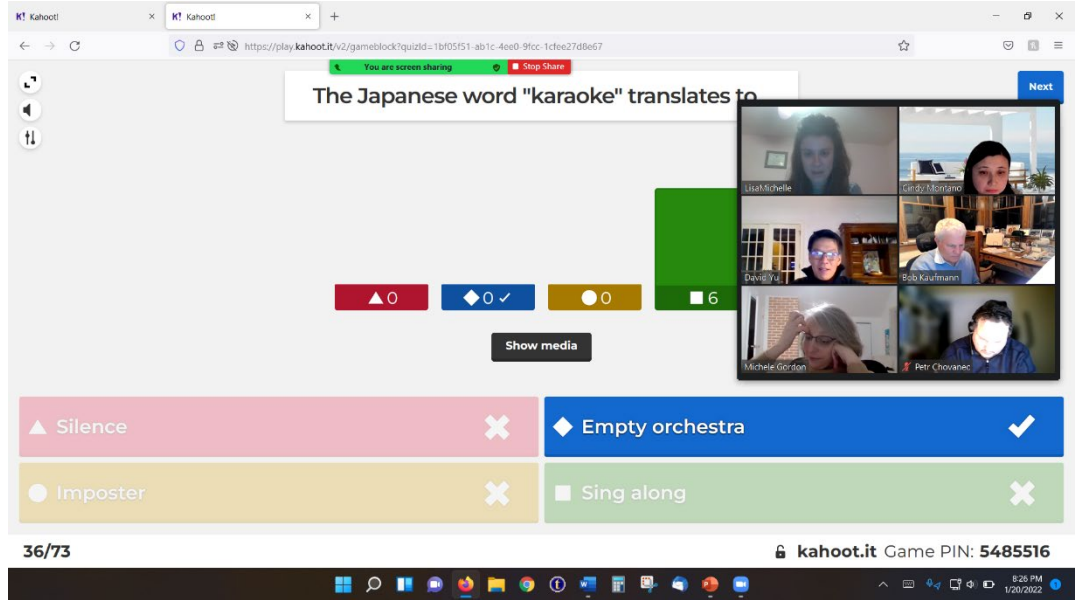
In mid-October of last year, Emily Manz of Have You Met Newark? (and partner of Antonio Valla [GSD '08]) led the Club on a tour of the historic sites of Downtown Newark, with a focus on the architectural, cultural, and retail treasures of the area. The tour left from Military Park and brought participants to Halsey Street (Newark's vibrant shopping neighborhood), the plethora of public art that has come up in recent years, the headquarters of Audible, the Historic James Street District, and the newly renamed Harriet Tubman Square. The tour ended with some light treats at the local coffee shop. – Hosted by Manny Antunes



### **Virtual Talk by Wendy Perrin '87: Travel Tips for the End of COVID**

On November 10, 2021, travel expert Wendy Perrin '87 spoke in a webinar and provided tips on traveling domestically and internationally in anticipation of the gradual removal of Covid restrictions. – Hosted by Warren Hrung

The **HCNJ Virtual Trivia Night** brightened the Omicron days of January this year. The event was held on Kahoot! with topics ranging from Harvard history to science to food. Our very own HCNJ president, Dr. Mona Karim, was the winner of the event! – Hosted by LisaMichelle Pecaro



**A Day's Labor with Habitat for Humanity**

On Saturday April 30 2022, HCNJ organized a volunteer event at a Habitat for Humanity site in Roxbury NJ. Our primary task for the day was to help install a foundation and sump pump which involved a lot of shovels, metal rakes, dirt and rocks! The weather was beautiful that day. – Hosted by Brenda Pagán and Bob Howard





**Summer Evening Social**

On June 23, 2022, we had a Summer Evening Social kindly hosted by our Executive Committee member Agam Sharma and Zoey Shalita. 35 people attended and enjoyed conversation, food and drinks on a lovely summer evening.

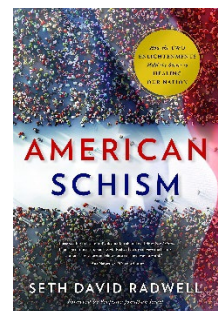
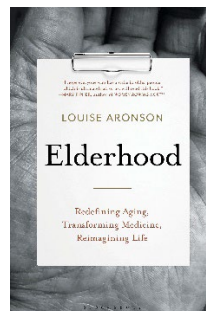
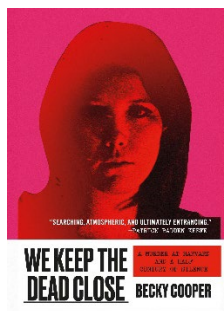
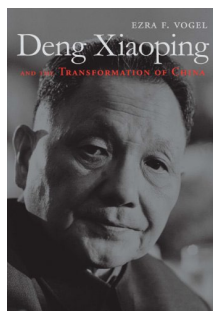
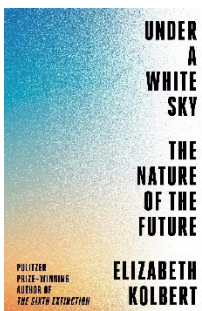


**HCNJ Book Club**

Do you enjoy lively discussions of books with fellow avid readers? The HCNJ Book Club is for you. We meet on ZOOM bi-monthly on Thursday evenings from 7:30pm to 9pm. We read primarily non-fiction.

The books we read are selected by the members. Books we’ve read have included “The Code Breaker” by Walter Isaacson, “How to Avoid a Climate Disaster” by Bill Gates, and “How to Hide an Empire” by Daniel Immerwahr. We also had a spirited discussion with author Becky Cooper, a Harvard graduate, on her book “We Keep the Dead Close: A Murder at Harvard and a Half Century of Silence”.

Looking forward to new members!



## Scholarship Fund

The Harvard Club of NJ Scholarship Fund assisted 45 NJ undergrad students during the 2021-22 academic year. Supporting this fund has long been a central part of our club's mission. Since its founding in 1954, our fund has amassed close to one million dollars in direct donations; over the nearly seventy years since its inception, the fund has grown in size such that in recent years, several hundred thousand dollars in yearly assistance has been provided to several dozen students. For the current academic year, Harvard has approved \$315,008 to be spent from our fund on assistance programs for NJ Harvard students.

Please consider making a donation ([https://hcnj.clubs.harvard.edu/store.html?show\\_item=1016](https://hcnj.clubs.harvard.edu/store.html?show_item=1016)) to help deserving NJ students during their journey through Harvard College.

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## Winter Internships

Each year the HCNJ funds 4-8 interns to work at NJ nonprofits for 3 weeks in January. NJ nonprofits send us potential projects and the students apply for the ones they would like to do. Last year, the interns gave the program rave reviews, saying: "Working at the Asian Cultural Council was a wonderful experience learning how a nonprofit runs and ... it made me excited to work in the nonprofit sector." And "The J-term internship with STC Newark was a valuable experience in understanding... the vital role that nonprofits have in improving education in Newark." A third said "I still keep in touch with my mentor at Read Works and I hope to continue to do nonprofit consulting work in the future!"

If you are involved in a nonprofit that would like to host a Harvard undergrad for 3 weeks in January, please contact Beth Chalom ([bethchalom@gmail.com](mailto:bethchalom@gmail.com)) or Lisa Michelle Pecaro ([lisamichellepecaro@alumni.harvard.edu](mailto:lisamichellepecaro@alumni.harvard.edu)) ASAP.

Please consider making a donation ([https://hcnj.clubs.harvard.edu/store.html?show\\_item=1015](https://hcnj.clubs.harvard.edu/store.html?show_item=1015)) to help us fund more internships.

Richard Kim - Let's Go Boys and Girls

"During my time at this nonprofit organization, I worked on managing and tidying their database. I just want to take this time to thank you once again for this opportunity as I found it to be a very helpful and rewarding experience. "

Jason Lam - Habitat for Humanity

"As an intern for Morris Habitat for Humanity, I assisted the Chief Financial Officer with analyzing employee compensation levels and standardizing job descriptions. I look forward to continuing to work at nonprofits and hope to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity on a construction project in the future!"

Angela Lin - The Jed Foundation

"I... learned about the many challenges different states were facing...in securing funding to prepare the necessary crisis infrastructure and to staff crisis centers. I am so grateful to have been able to be an intern at Jed... and I sincerely hope that I will get the opportunity to work with them again."

Saddat Nazir - Center for Citizenship/Legal Immigration

"I was shocked by the newfound perspective I was provided in regards to the Morris County community. I feel more emboldened to engage in civil advocacy and legal work. I thank the HCNJ for supporting such an experience, one that will remain with me for years to come."

## First-Year Welcome Picnic

On Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, HCNJ members welcomed eleven of the northern New Jersey students admitted to Harvard College Class of 2026 at its annual First-Year Welcome Picnic. This year's event was hosted by alums Brenda Pagán '93 and Bob Howard '93, seen here with fellow alum Bennett Ruiz '93.

Smiles abounded between and among the first years becoming acquainted, sharing their stories, and expressing hopes for what would be awaiting them on campus in just a few short weeks ahead.

These highly accomplished students are ready to make a positive impact on their Harvard experience, but first – a chance to enjoy all the sweet treats and Welcome Cake on a beautiful summer day!



**Back row:** Shane Brosnan, Molly Malague, Jack Martin, Christopher Ruiz, Iman Handy, Thomas King, Andrew Zhang, **Front row:** Sanjna Rajagopalan, Hannah Park, Briana Howard, Abigail Loeb

Chapter President David Yu '88 spoke about the HCNJ activities and what it was like for him to be a student at Harvard. In addition, he imparted a caring message about the alumni role in being supportive of student life and our HCNJ's regional role in fostering connection with alma mater.



Carole Reading '74 spoke about HCNJ's commitment to bringing area nonprofits and NJ-based Harvard College students together for January term internships – colloquially referred to as “Winternships” – to learn about the nonprofit world and engage in meaningful skills-based projects during the January break.

Kevin Chen '23 spoke to the first years about tips to balance the academic experience with campus and community engagement as well as sports and co-curricular clubs.

Participation in The Harvard Club of New Jersey is one of many ways to keep the shared experience of Harvard active in your life with alumni and students. The First Year Welcome Picnic is a joyous first introduction to Harvard's reach and support in one's geographical area.



**To join or renew your membership, please go to**  
<http://hcnj.clubs.harvard.edu/memsub.html>