



HURAnews

HARVARD UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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SELECTING A New President

Penny Pritzker '81, Senior Fellow of Harvard University and chair of the Presidential Search committee, has recently announced the launch of a search for a new Harvard leader.

President Lawrence Bacow wrote in a letter to the community of his intention to step down at the end of the current academic year, after twelve years of service as a member of the Corporation and five years as Harvard's president.

Unlike most universities, Harvard has two governing boards. The principal fiduciary board is the President and Fellows of Harvard College (established in 1650) that is responsible for exercising the traditional powers of a private university's board of trustees. Known as The Corporation, it is composed of the University's president, its treasurer, and eleven others known as fellows. The Corporation's role is to work closely with the University's leadership to chart institutional strategy and policy on various matters. It reviews and approves annual budgets and major capital projects, oversees the University's finances and

endowment, and plays the lead role in appointing the president of the University. The current senior fellow and chair of the search committee, Penny Pritzker, is a former U.S. secretary of commerce, civic and business leader, nonprofit trustee, and philanthropist, who has served on the Corporation since 2018.

The Board of Overseers, Harvard's other governing board, was established in 1642. It plays a complementary and integral role in Harvard's governance. Most notably, it has chief responsibility for the "visitation" process, Harvard's primary means for periodic external review and assessment of the academic departments of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard College, the University's various graduate and professional schools, and other major units such as the Harvard Library, the Harvard University Art Museums, athletics, and information technology. The Board directs the visitation process through the work of its standing committees and through an array of some fifty visiting committees that report to the Board.

In addition, the Board provides confidential counsel to the University's leaders on a range of initiatives, priorities, and plans. It also has the power of consent to certain actions of the Corporation, including the election of new Corporation fellows and Harvard's president.

In a message to the community,* Pritzker outlined aspects of the search process and encouraged faculty, staff, students, alumni, and others to convey their views to the committee on opportunities, challenges, and priorities ahead, as well as key qualities and experience to seek in the University's next president. She said that the committee also invites nominations of individuals who warrant serious



HURA vice president John Collins and past president Donna Chiozzi chat with Harvard president Larry Bacow at a HURA event in the Faculty Club.

consideration for the role. "Important to our process of finding the University's next president is hearing diverse views from across the Harvard community and beyond. We hope that many of you will share your thoughts."

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HURA PRESIDENT

Karen Davis
617-965-5911
KarenLDavis4@gmail.com

HURA MEMBERSHIP

Secretary: Carleen Farrell
617-285-9390
huramembership@gmail.com

HURA NEWS & E-LIST

Managing Editor: Malcolm Hamilton
781-641-2942
MCH12938@comcast.net

Editor: Ann Flentje
Editor: Ann Walter

Design/Production: Anne Parker

HURA WEBSITE

<https://HURA.Harvard.edu>

HURA FACEBOOK PAGE

Facebook.com/HUretirees



Selecting a New President

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She noted that advice and nominations may be sent to the search committee in any of three ways: by email to psearch@harvard.edu, by answering a set of questions posted online,** or by sending a letter to the Harvard Presidential Search Committee, Loeb House, 17 Quincy St., Cambridge, MA 02138. Responses will be held in confidence.

The search committee will appoint and work with advisory committees of faculty, students, and staff, who will include representatives from across Harvard's Schools. It also plans to consult with various alumni groups, leaders in higher education, and others in a position to offer thoughtful counsel. The broad outreach is intended to elicit a wide range of perspectives on Harvard and its future and to ensure an inclusive pool of nominations.

"In this search, we will seek a person of high intellectual distinction, with proven qualities of leadership, a devotion to excellence in education and research, a capacity to guide a complex institution through times of change, a talent for advancing progress and collaboration across a wide span of domains, a commitment to embracing diversity along many dimensions as a source of strength, and a dedication to the ideals and values central to our community of learning," Pritzker wrote. "We aim to identify a president who, like past Harvard leaders, will bring not only a deep devotion to Harvard's excellence, but also a passion for how Harvard—through its myriad programs and extraordinary people—can be a force for good in the world."

* <https://www.harvard.edu/presidential-search>

** https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dn8BnHk2wqCLQfc

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, September 21, Fruitlands Museum Ramble and Tour

The Fruitlands Museum is a 210-acre Trustees property in Harvard, Massachusetts. It is a small collection of buildings and museums including a short-lived utopian-community farmhouse, a Shaker Gallery, a Native American Gallery, and an art gallery. This event is full. You can go at any time on your own.
<https://thetrustees.org/place/fruitlands-museum/>



Saturday, October 1, Football: Crimson vs. Holy Cross, Harvard Stadium, 1:00 p.m. Details will be sent to the HURA E-list.

Thursday, October 20, Fall Welcome Reception

Faculty Club, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Details on the HURA E-list. President Bacow will stop by to say a few words.

Thursday, December 8, Holiday Luncheon

Oakley Country Club, 11:30-2:30 p.m. Details will be in the Nov/Dec/Jan newsletter and the HURA E-list.

Saturday, December 17, Holiday Pops

3:00 p.m. Options will be tables on the floor or second balcony center seating. Masking is recommended, but no longer required at Symphony Hall. Details will be in the Nov/Dec/Jan newsletter and HURA E-list.

For announcements that are sent only to the E-list, interested HURA members who do not have email should contact Malcolm Hamilton at 781-641-2942 to request a printed flyer be mailed to them.

Village Movement celebrates 20th anniversary

Aging-in-community model of neighbors helping neighbors transforms the experience of aging.

AARP's 2021 "Home and Community Preferences Survey" found that nearly 80 percent of adults aged 50 and over prefer to stay in their homes rather than move in with relatives or into senior communities, a consistent finding for over a decade. The Village Movement began as a do-it-yourself effort to address service issues that would allow seniors to do just that.

AARP estimates that barely one percent of U.S. homes are built or refitted to incorporate design elements to accommodate seniors who may have mobility issues or impaired eyesight, such as improved lighting or wide doorways for walkers or wheelchairs.

Cambridge Neighbors is one of more than 300 nonprofit, community-based organizations, commonly known as villages, that are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the movement. From its beginnings when a small group of Beacon Hill neighbors established the first village in Boston, Massachusetts in 2002, to a thriving network of community-based villages today serving older adults across the country and internationally, the model is established as a cost-effective, sustainable solution for healthy, vibrant aging at home.

Last winter, the U.S. Congress marked the anniversary with a proclamation in the House of Representatives designating February 15 as National Village Day, sponsored by Congressman Stephen Lynch of Massachusetts.

In 2007, a group of Cambridge residents, including Steven Stadler, Harvard Class of 1948; Dr. Jay Lorsch '64; and Victor McElheny '57, established Cambridge Neighbors, then known as Cambridge at Home. In 2010, Cambridge Neighbors expanded to include Arlington, Belmont, Somerville, and Watertown. Tremendous growth followed, making it clear that there was great enthusiasm for the concept of a community-based, member-driven nonprofit supporting aging in place.

models vary, villages share certain features. As nonprofit, grassroots initiatives, they are volunteer-based, member-driven, and self-governing. Villages mobilize volunteers to provide programs and services that older adults need to remain safe and independent in their homes, such as transportation, light home maintenance, tech support, friendly visits, and check-in calls. Villages also offer social and educational activities that reduce isolation and create interpersonal connections and social support.



Celebrating a friend's 90th birthday at Cambridge Neighbors.

Jan Latorre-Stiller, executive director at Cambridge Neighbors, promises that "Closer to home, we will make sure to find meaningful ways to celebrate this important milestone. At our most optimistic, we hope to be able to gather in person at the end of this year at our annual holiday gala."

Villages are caring communities of neighbors helping neighbors. Each village reflects the community it serves and responds to the needs of its members. While their business

Kim Grier, president of Village-to-Village Network, the national association that champions them, says, "Villages are a cost-effective care model for our rapidly aging society that increasingly recognizes the benefits of home- and community-based care for older adults. We

celebrate the positive impact villages are having on the lives of an estimated 40,000 older adults today, even as we work toward a bright future in which village membership is an option for every older American, regardless of where they live or who they may be."

For more information about Cambridge Neighbors, contact Jan at 617-864-1715, info@cambridge-neighbors.org, or visit the website at <https://www.cambridgeneighbors.org/>.

Cancer FactFinder

Harvard and Dana-Farber researchers have launched a website called Cancer FactFinder, which aims to provide vetted information about the causes of cancer. It synthesizes “the best scientific evidence-based information available from studies in humans” to remedy misconceptions about cancer.

The project—led by Harvard Chan School of Public Health professor Timothy R. Rebbeck—began as a joint effort between his school’s Zhu Family Center for Global Cancer Prevention and the Center for Cancer Equity and Engagement at the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center.

The Cancer FactFinder provides accurate and reliable information about what does and does not cause cancer. It is achieved by sharing this research with the public.

<https://cancerfactfinder.org/>

Medicare problem? Medicare Rights Center can fix it

The Medicare Rights Center is the largest and most reliable independent source of Medicare information and assistance in the United States.

The Center is a national, nonprofit consumer service organization that works to ensure access to affordable health care for older adults and people with disabilities through counseling and advocacy, educational programs, and public policy initiatives.

Since 1989, it has been helping people with Medicare to understand their rights and benefits, navigate the Medicare system, and secure the quality health care they deserve. The Center is the largest and most reliable independent source of Medicare information and assistance in the United States. <https://www.medicarerights.org/>

Source: Squared Away Blog: Boston College Center for Retirement Research

Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act: July 26, 2022

On July 26, 1990, then President George H.W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodations, commercial facilities, telecommunications, and state and local government services.

The following statistics for the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population come from various U.S. Census Bureau censuses and surveys.

The total population with a disability during the five-year period from 2016 to 2020 was 40.8 million or 12.7%.

The percentage of West Virginia’s population with a disability during the five-year period from 2016 to 2020, the highest share of any state in the nation, was 19.3%. Utah, at 9.7%, had the lowest share.

The total population ages 18 to 64 with a disability employed from 2016-2020 was 7.7 million.

Median earnings (in 2020 inflation-adjusted dollars) of the population ages 16 and over with a disability during the previous 12 months from 2016-2020 was \$25,162.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ poverty level for a household of four in 2020 was an annual income of \$25,750. In 2022, it is \$27,750.

Tinnitus: Do you hear what I hear?

Do you hear sounds that no one else can hear? It might be a ringing, a clicking, or maybe a buzzing, hissing, or humming. Hearing such noises can be

disconcerting—especially if they don’t go away. Some people hear these noises for a few hours at a time. Others may hear them nonstop for a lifetime. This condition is called tinnitus.

About 10% of U.S. adults have experienced tinnitus that lasted for at least five minutes in the past year. Most of the time, tinnitus isn’t a sign of a serious health problem. But if it doesn’t go away or gets worse, tinnitus can make it hard to hear, concentrate, or even sleep.

Ageing and more than 200 drugs, including aspirin, increase your risk of tinnitus. There’s no test to diagnose it, but your doctor can check for possible causes. They can see if anything is blocking your ear canal. They can also look for medical conditions or medications that may be causing it.

Ear, nose, and throat doctors or audiologists can determine if you need to be tested for hearing loss. Many people with hearing loss experience tinnitus, but it’s not clear why.

In certain cases, tinnitus may help protect the brain. Some brain areas may no longer be active after hearing loss, which may lead to brain cell loss. One study found that people with both hearing loss and tinnitus are less likely to have cognitive decline than those who had hearing loss alone.

There is currently no cure for tinnitus. But some treatments can help you cope.

- Protect your hearing from loud noises.
- Try sound therapy. Background noise machines, fans, or quiet music can help mask tinnitus.
- Talk with a cognitive behavioral therapist.
- Use your hearing aids or cochlear implants. For people with hearing loss and tinnitus, hearing aids or cochlear implants may help with both.

Find more information at <https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2022/05/>.

HURA Board of Directors Annual Planning Session

After two years of Board meetings via Zoom, the HURA Board held its first hybrid meeting on June 8, 2022. Two members attended via Zoom with the rest of the Board attending in person at the Harvard Faculty Club. This hybrid arrangement was made possible by our recent purchase of two Meeting Owls, electronic devices that allow those attending remotely to see, hear, and converse with those attending in person. We hope to be able to use this technology to support future HURA events.

Programs and services

As incoming president, Karen Davis presided at the meeting, most of which was devoted to planning for 2022/23. Assuming public health conditions remain favorable, all Board members agreed that we want to resume in-person events beginning this fall. At the top of our list are our “big” annual events—the Fall Welcome Reception in the Faculty Club, Holiday Luncheon at the Oakley Country Club, and the Annual Meeting in the late spring—location to be announced.

We also began planning for other possible events—some new, some old—and assigned individual Board members to follow up. As always, the Board welcomes event ideas from HURA members.

Ideas for 2022-2023

The list of events under consideration includes the following possibilities.

- Sports events such as Harvard football (already announced) and hockey
- Holiday Pops (already announced) and Spring Pops
- Christmas Revels
- Handel and Haydn Society concert
- Private tours of exhibits at the MFA, Isabella Stewart Gardner, or the new Museum at Mass Art, possibly including a meal at the museum or nearby
- Bus trip to an interesting location, possibly combined with lunch and shopping
- Guided tour of the Nichols House Museum in Boston or properties managed by Historic New England or the Trustees
- Tour of the Royall House and Slave Quarters in Medford
- Tour or ramble at Mt. Auburn Cemetery
- Film discussion group

Communications technology and support for business functions

The rest of the meeting was devoted to a wide-ranging discussion of our current use of technology to support communications and business processes. We reviewed our existing

online offerings and tools such as the HURA E-list, website, and Facebook page and how to maximize our use of them. There was general agreement that the website needs to be visually more appealing and provide incentives for members to return after their first visit. If possible, the Board would like to see the website transformed to support communications about HURA events as well as offer membership renewals, program registrations, payments, and possibly ticketing.

Regarding our Facebook page, the discussion centered on trying to define its purpose and how it could be used in partnership with the website and newsletter. How do we drive more traffic to it? Is there a way to make it more interactive? What about chat groups? Should HURA provide access for members who want to interact with each other on topics of mutual interest? What are the management issues related to such a HURA function?

After a lively discussion of these ideas and questions, the Board concluded that our next step should be to engage a consultant for help with developing a vision and plan for the website and Facebook page. We agreed to make technology a major priority with the goal of making significant progress during 2022-23.

HUHS Flu Clinics, Fall 2022

For the up-coming flu season, flu clinics at University Health Services will be every Monday and Tuesday from Sept. 19 to Dec. 6 (No clinics on Monday holidays), from Noon to 3:00 p.m. in the Smith Campus Center. More information at www.huhs.harvard.edu.

COVID-19 vaccinations or boosters will not be available at the seasonal flu clinics.

Appointments must be made through the HUHS Patient Portal (<https://huhs.harvard.edu/patient-portal#gsc.tab=0/>) similar to this

past year. Everyone in the Harvard community with a Harvard ID or HUGHP card is accepted, regardless of their insurance plans. Spouses and qualified domestic partners who do not have their own cards are not eligible for these clinics. Remember to bring your card with you.

These clinics will offer the high-dose flu vaccine to those who are over age 65, as well as the standard vaccine. The CDC does not

recommend or advocate for any particular vaccine, so if there are questions, HUHS staff suggest that those over age 65 discuss with their primary care provider whether they should have the high dose vaccine or not.

Clinics will be offered at other Harvard locations, including the Law, Business, Education, and Medical schools, and the Kresge Cafeteria. Exact dates and times are not yet available. Available information about clinics will be posted at www.huhs.harvard.edu.

IN BRIEF

Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery

On April 26, 2022, Harvard President Larry Bacow released the Report of the Committee on Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery, accepted the committee's recommendations in full, and announced a historic commitment of \$100 million to fund their implementation.

The initiative's first phase, which began in December 2019, was an effort to uncover in Harvard's past the University's links to slavery. This phase was guided by a committee of distinguished faculty from across Harvard, chaired by Radcliffe Dean Tomiko Brown-Nagin, who is also the Daniel P.S. Paul Professor of Constitutional Law at Harvard Law School and a professor of history in Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences. With the report's release, the focus turns to the critical work of remedy.

Martha L. Minow, the 300th Anniversary University Professor and former dean of the Law School, will lead the process of implementing the committee's recommendations.

Go to <https://legacyofslavery.harvard.edu/> to read

- The Report and its recommendations
- President Bacow's message to the community
- About the initiative
- Presidential committee membership

Meredith Weenick '90, takes over as Executive Vice President

Harvard's chief administrative officer since 2009, Katie Lapp, has passed the reins to Meredith Weenick, vice president for campus services since 2014. Weenick previously had been chief financial officer for the city of Boston. She graduated from Harvard College in 1990 and earned her M.B.A. from Harvard Business School in 2002. Read the full *Gazette* article at <https://tinyurl.com/24w8uzdw>.

Harvard in Massachusetts: Facts & Impact

Harvard's office of Public Affairs and Communications publishes an annual report to highlight the ways that the University's mission of teaching and research impacts Massachusetts communities. The report for 2021 was recently released and covers education, research, innovation, employment, impact, and community engagement. Find it at <https://tinyurl.com/2p9xkzsz>.

Harvard Health Letter

The former offer of free subscriptions to Harvard retirees was withdrawn when HR had to stop paying for them. You can now purchase a subscription for just \$20 a year when you identify yourself as a Harvard retiree. The published rate is \$48.

Harvard Health Publishing
Subscription Services Dept.
PO Box 9341

Big Sandy, TX 75755-9319

You can also subscribe by email at HarvardHL@strategicfulfillment.com. You will be billed with your first issue. If you would like to call instead of emailing, the customer service number is 1-877-649-9457.

Social Security Trust Fund Report

The Social Security Board of Trustees released its annual report on the long-term financial status of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Funds—i.e., Social Security.

Based on the current Report, the combined trust funds are projected to become depleted in 2035, with 80% of benefits payable after that time. The DI Trust Fund itself is not projected to become depleted during the 75-year projection period covered by the report.

There were about 65 million beneficiaries who received benefits of \$1.133 trillion by the end of the fiscal year ending on September 30, 2021. Once the Trust Funds are depleted, payments from Social Security will depend solely upon net payroll tax contributions.

The last 11 Trustees Reports have indicated that Social Security's Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) Trust Fund reserves would become depleted between 2033 and 2035 under the intermediate set of assumptions provided in each report. If no legislative change is enacted, scheduled tax revenues will be sufficient to pay only about three-quarters of the scheduled benefits after trust fund depletion. Policymakers have developed proposals and options that have financial effects on the OASDI Trust Funds. Many of these proposals have the intent of addressing the long-range solvency problem. Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren have proposed a bill to extend Social Security's solvency for 75 years and increase benefits by \$2,400 per year.

For more information, visit www.ssa.gov/news/press/releases/2022/#6-2022-1.

Sign up for Coldwell Banker Realty Real Estate Webinar on

September 21, 2022, 12:00 p.m.

<https://tinyurl.com/4947evca>.

Join the webinar team and special guest Lauren Rabb, Vice President and Managing Broker for CB Realty Brookline, for an inside track discussion on home selling. Lauren will talk about trends in the current seller's market and share ways to successfully market and sell your home in this evolving environment.

Find all upcoming guest speaker series Home Selling Sessions at <https://www.huhousing.harvard.edu/>

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home-buying/webinars.

Zillow, which is not affiliated with CB, last summer posted median home sales prices in major metropolitan areas. Boston, at \$619,423, was surpassed only by Los Angeles at \$915,310. New York was \$553,322; Dallas \$405,813; Atlanta \$370,436; and Chicago \$301,177. The U.S. median overall was \$360,781. *Source: Boston Globe, Business Section, July 15, 2022.*

Passwords to be obsolete

Apple, Google, and Microsoft have announced they will soon support an approach to authentication that avoids passwords and instead requires users to merely unlock their smartphones to sign in to websites or online services. Experts say the changes should help defeat many types of phishing attacks and ease the overall password burden on Internet users, but caution that a true passwordless future may still be years away for most websites.

The tech giants are part of an industry-led effort to replace passwords, which are easily forgotten, frequently

2023 Benefits Open Enrollment

October 26-November 3

The announcement postcards are scheduled to be mailed in early September.

stolen by malware and phishing schemes, or leaked and sold online in the wake of corporate data breaches.

The sign-in standard was crafted by the FIDO (“Fast Identity Online”) Alliance and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), groups that have been working with hundreds of tech companies over the past decade to develop a new login standard that works the same way across multiple browsers and operating systems. Under the new system your phone will store a FIDO credential called a “passkey,” which is used to unlock your online account. It’s based on public key cryptography and is only shown to your online account when you unlock your phone. To sign into a website on your computer, you’ll just need your phone nearby, and you’ll simply be prompted to

unlock it for access. Once you’ve done this, you won’t need your phone again and you can sign in by just unlocking your computer.

Gender identity in Harvard Peoplesoft

Some people are using non-traditional pronouns when referring to themselves. To change how Harvard refers to you, select PeopleSoft on the HARVie homepage and click on “My Self Service.” From there, go to “My Personal Details,” and you’ll find a new tile “Gender Identity.” There, you can add gender details, including gender pronouns, gender marker, and gender identity by which you prefer to be identified. Prefixes are located where they have always been under the “Names” tile where nonbinary options are now included.

Regardless of how individuals self-identify, everyone should review and update their information, when there are changes.

<https://tinyurl.com/yfuwxub7>

HURA membership renewal, 2022-2023

Your annual HURA renewal is due by **October 31, 2022**. At that time if you haven’t sent your membership dues (\$20 check payable to HURA), you will no longer receive *HURA News*, E-list notices, or invitations to events being planned during 2022-23.

Please look at your checkbook register before asking us to remind you whether you have already paid your dues, which most members have done.

Carleen Farrell
HURA Membership Secretary
1 Atlantic Court
Mashpee, MA 02649
617-285-9390
huramembership@gmail.com

Create Your Own ‘Green Roof’

With so much recent talk of biodiversity loss and climate change, green roofs have forged a reputation as one of many strikingly simple ways to push back.

Green roofs are nothing new. Traditional turf roofs were commonplace in many Nordic countries and the go-to roofing choice of Vikings!

Here is a sample found at the Garden in the Woods tour and instructions on how to build your own. <https://www.growveg.com/guides/how-to-plant-a-green-roof-on-your-shed/>



**HARVARD UNIVERSITY
RETIRES ASSOCIATION**

c/o Membership Secretary
Carleen Farrell
One Atlantic Court
Mashpee, MA 02649

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HURA members are out and about



Tour guide Tom Coppeto from Boston by Foot led a HURA tour of the Fort Point Channel in Boston on June 7.



HURA members enjoyed a late June walk at Garden in the Woods.

HURA is a tax-exempt 501 (c) 7 all-volunteer organization. Membership is open to benefits-eligible retirees of Harvard University and is complimentary until the renewal period the following June 30. Thereafter dues are \$20 annually. Visit HURA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HUretirees or at www.HURA.harvard.edu.