HURA news
HARVARD UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION
VOLUME XLII, No. 2 NOVEMBER 2026 - JANUARY 2027

AROHE honors Malcolm Hamilton

for distinguished service to higher education retirees

The Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) is an international organization whose members include many major colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. Its mission is to provide resources and connections that increase retirees' value to their colleges and universities, communities, and professions through philanthropy, advocacy, volunteerism, and the sharing of institutional knowledge and experience.

HURA joined AROHE in 2012. HURA has focused on providing its members with opportunities for social engagement, cultural enrichment, educational experiences, and continuing relationships with the University through organizing programs and events and publishing print and online publications to keep its members engaged.

AROHE has established three awards recognizing contributions to the higher education retirement community: the Distinguished Leadership Award, the Distinguished Service Award, and the Innovation Award.

For 2026, AROHE has selected **Malcolm Hamilton** as the recipient of its **Distinguished Service Award**. Hamilton is a former HURA president and is the current managing editor of *HURA News* and the HURA E-list. The award recognizes his 23 years of leadership service to HURA and the higher education retirement community. Through his work, he has helped strengthen HURA and helped it maintain its connections with Harvard retirees.



Malcolm Hamilton is joined by AROHE Executive Director Valerie Sutton.

"Malcolm Hamilton is a tireless leader and innovator. His service to the Harvard University Retirees Association is monumental. He is the face, heart, and soul of HURA."

A HURA Colleague

According to AROHE, this year's selection process was highly competitive, with an outstanding pool of nominees from across the United States and Canada. Hamilton's sustained service, leadership, professionalism, and advocacy for retirees distinguished him among an exceptional field of candidates.

In notifying him of the award, AROHE Executive Director Valerie Sutton, herself a member of HURA, wrote, "Through your leadership and commitment, you have strengthened your organization, expanded opportunities for retirees, and exemplified the values of service and engagement the AROHE Awards were created to celebrate."

One of Hamilton's HURA colleagues summed up the sentiments expressed in their letter supporting his nomination, "Malcolm Hamilton is a tireless leader and innovator. His service to the Harvard University Retirees Association is monumental. He is the face, heart, and soul of HURA."

He responded to being singled out for this award by saying, "I am extremely honored and grateful. It is gratifying to be recognized by one's peers. Nonetheless, I must remind you that if you see a turtle sitting on a fence post, you know it didn't get there by itself."

HURA BOARD *of* DIRECTORS

OFFICERS
President: John Collins
Vice President: Steven O'Donnell
Treasurer: Victoria Johnson
Recording Secretary: Sandra Spanier
Membership Secretary: Coral Sullivan
Managing Editor: Malcolm Hamilton
Past President: Donna Chiozzi

DIRECTORS
Diantha Brown
Ellen Carpenter
Linda Collins
Ann Flentje
Jamie Hoyte
Daniel McCarron
Ann Marie Menting
Beverly Sullivan
Sarah Wood

DIRECTORS EMERITUS/A
Margaret Carayannopoulos
Jackie Benson Jones
Henry Terwedow
Ann Walter

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY EMERITA
Carleen Farrell

TREASURER EMERITUS
Paul Upson

HURA PRESIDENT
John Collins
508-243-2184
hurapresident37@gmail.com

HURA MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
Coral Sullivan
huramembership@gmail.com

HURA NEWS & E-LIST
Managing Editor
Malcolm Hamilton
781-641-2942
MCH12938@comcast.net

Editor: Ann Flentje
Editor: Ann Marie Menting
Editor: Ann Walter
Design/Production: Anne Parker
Printing/Mailing: Ken Toy

HURA WEBSITE
https://HURA.Harvard.edu

HURA FACEBOOK PAGE
Facebook.com/HUretirees

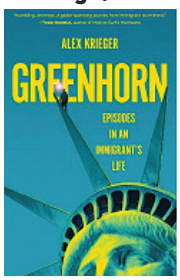
COMING EVENTS

Registration information will be sent to HURA members on the Association's E-list a few weeks prior to the event. Email your questions to steveodonnell44@gmail.com. If you do not have email, call Steve O'Donnell at 617-686-9038.

Thursday, November 12, 2026
10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
Museum of African American History
46 Joy Street, Beacon Hill. Visit the African American Meeting House that served as the African Baptist Church of Boston. Built in 1806, it is considered the oldest extant Black church building in America. $10



Wednesday, November 18, 2026
2:00-4:00 p.m. Alex Krieger, Professor Emeritus, Harvard School of Design, discussing his new book:



Greenhorn: Episodes in an immigrant's life. Phillips Brooks House on the Harvard Cambridge campus. $10.

Thursday, December 3, 2026
11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Holiday Luncheon. Oakley Country Club. After extensive rebuilding following a devastating fire, the Oakley is once more available to host HURA's elegant holiday luncheon. $35



Sunday, December 13, 2026
3:00 p.m. Boston Pops Holiday Concert. One of Boston's iconic holiday treats. Here Maestro Keith Lockhard greets Santa Claus who interrupts his busy season each year to visit the Holiday Pops. Symphony Hall. $80



Saturday, January 16, 2027
2:00 p.m. Women's basketball, Harvard vs. Princeton
Lavietes Basketball Pavilion at Briggs Athletic Center. $10 per adult, $5 per child 12 and under.



Being planned for 2027:
February: Hasty Pudding Theatricals
March 13: Boston Ballet: Coppelia

Wednesday, June 9, 2027
11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. HURA Annual Meeting. Loeb House was built before 1912 and served as the residence for Harvard presidents until 1971. Since then, it has housed the offices of Harvard's governing boards.



STATISTICS ON HARVARD RETIREES

The population being analyzed is based on August 2026 reporting from Harvard HR.

- Total living Harvard retirees: 6,334.
- HURA Members: 1,314 (20.7% of all retirees).

Geographic distribution of Harvard retirees nationwide

Harvard retirees remain overwhelmingly concentrated in Massachusetts, where 5,114 retirees–80.7% of the total–reside. The concentration of the Massachusetts retirees who are HURA members is even greater: 1,124, or 85.5%.

Outside Massachusetts, the largest concentrations of Harvard retirees are in New Hampshire (198), Florida (171), New York (116), California (110), Maine (108), and North Carolina (88). These six states account for a substantial majority of Harvard retirees living outside Massachusetts.

HURA membership outside Massachusetts is particularly concentrated in Florida (32), New Hampshire (27), Maine (26), and California (14). Maine has a notably high participation rate, with 26 of its 108 Harvard retirees belonging to HURA (24%), compared with approximately 6% in New York and 7% in North Carolina.

Summary of the geographic distribution of Harvard retirees in Massachusetts

- Percentage of all Harvard retirees who live in Massachusetts: 80.7%.
- Percentage of HURA members who live in Massachusetts: 85.5%.

Harvard retirees are concentrated in Cambridge, Boston, and the communities surrounding the University. Cambridge has by far the largest concentration, with 716 Harvard retirees, of whom 179 (25%) are HURA members. Other communities with substantial retiree populations include Arlington (231), Boston (214), Somerville (197), Brookline (180), Newton (174), Lexington (155), Belmont (144), Watertown (137), and Medford (134).

Arlington is particularly noteworthy. Its 75 HURA members represent 33% of its total Harvard retiree population, a substantially higher participation rate than Cambridge, Boston, or Brookline. Among other communities with larger retiree populations, Watertown (29%), Concord (29%), Lexington (28%), and Cambridge (25%) show substantial HURA participation.

Across the 84 Massachusetts communities where retirees live, there are approximately 4,200 Harvard retirees, of whom 956 are HURA members–an overall participation rate of 23%.

Communities with strong HURA membership

Among the 26 Massachusetts communities with at least 20 Harvard retirees, Cambridge has by far the largest population, with 716 retirees, including 179 HURA members (25%). Other major concentrations are Arlington (230 retirees), Boston (214), Somerville (197), Brookline (180), the Newtons (174), Lexington (155), Belmont (144), and Watertown (137).

Among communities with more than 100 retirees, Arlington has the highest HURA participation rate at 33%, followed by Watertown (29%) and Lexington (28%). Smaller communities with particularly strong participation include Stoneham (33%), Winchester (31%), Needham and Plymouth (30% each), and Concord (29%).

Harvard retirees by year of retirement

Of the 6,334 living retirees, the largest group, as measured in five-year periods, was 1,635 retirees, or 26% of the total, who left Harvard between 2016 and 2020. The most recent five-year period, 2021 to 2025, comes in second with 1,405 retirees, 22% of the total, followed by 1,013, or 16%, between 2006 and 2010, and 974, or 15%, between 2011 and 2015, for a total of 5,027, or 79% of the 6,334 total, for the twenty-year period of 2006 to 2025.

Since 2021, annual retirements have ranged from 221 to 334, averaging approximately 281 per year through 2025. In 2026, another 316 employees had retired by the end of September. October through December retirements were not available at the time of this writing.

IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened to report that Harvard Human Resources has notified us of the following deaths among HURA members during the past 12 months or more:

Paula Marie Alexander (October 12, 2025)
Maria H. Arnstein (November 14, 2025)
Robert L. Barringer (November 2, 2025)
Robert J. Blendon (June 17, 2026)
Nedra Compton (October 16, 2025)
Ann Corley (October 2026)
Edward Barry "Eddie" Doctoroff (July 23, 2026)
Charles Fineman (December 28, 2025)
Wallace Finley Dailey (December 20, 2025)
Donald B. Giddon (November 15, 2025)
Ray Allan Goldberg (February 16, 2026)
Bernard K. Keohan (August 9, 2026)
Timothy A. Keohane (October 14, 2026)
Carole A. Lee (February 22, 2026)
Edward Mesrobian (May 20, 2026)
Charles B. Millstein (June 21, 2026)
Joel Monell (April 5, 2026)
Rebecca Ramsay (May 31, 2026)
Sandra Rosen (July 15, 2026)
Ann Sicari (December 31, 2025)
Janet Whitla (March 2, 2026)
David T. Zmijewski (July 22, 2024)



IN BRIEF

Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment

The COLA increase for 2027 is 3.6%, the largest increase since the 8.7% COLA increase in 2022, when inflation reached a 40-year high.

Three levels of artificial intelligence

These definitions may help to put current discussions into perspective.

AI – Artificial Intelligence

Computer systems capable of performing tasks that ordinarily require human intelligence, such as understanding language, recognizing images, solving problems, and writing text. Today's AI is generally specialized and does not possess the full range of human intellectual abilities.

AGI – Artificial General Intelligence

A hypothetical form of AI capable of learning, reasoning, and performing intellectual tasks across virtually any field at a level comparable to that of human beings. Unlike today's AI, AGI would be able to apply knowledge and skills flexibly to unfamiliar situations. Forms of AGI are currently being tested in "sandbox" (restricted testing) environments. But a few have been getting out of the box.

ASI – Artificial Superintelligence

A hypothetical form of AI that would surpass human intelligence across virtually all intellectual domains, including scientific discovery, creativity, reasoning, and problem-solving. ASI could potentially develop knowledge and capabilities far beyond human understanding.

The term "artificial superintelligence" is most closely associated with philosopher Nick Bostrom, whose 2014, book *Superintelligence: Paths, dangers, strategies,* helped to popularize the concept. I.J. Good, working with Alan Turing, postulated the concept of "Ultra intelligent machines" as early as 1965. The 1920 science fiction play, *R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots)* by the Czech writer Karel Čapek first introduced the concept.

In a nutshell: AI performs intelligent tasks; AGI would match the breadth of human intelligence; ASI would exceed it. Neither AGI nor ASI has been conclusively demonstrated to exist yet. There is also no scientific consensus that either would necessarily possess consciousness or sentience.

Where do you fit in the political typology?

Are you Unconventional Right? Loyal Liberal? Or something else?

Take the Pew Research Center's surprisingly sophisticated quiz to find out which one of their nine political typology groups is your best match, compared with a nationally representative survey of more than 10,000 U.S. adults conducted by the Center. You may find some of these questions are difficult to answer. That's okay. In those cases, pick the answer that comes closest to your view, even if it isn't exactly right. https://tinyurl.com/5yxtzu7n

Harvard's loss of research scholars

Karin Fischer, reporter at *Chronicle of Higher Education* and author of the *Latitudes* newsletter, reported on LinkedIn (September 17, 2026) on Northern migration. Institutions including Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have each lost scholars to Canada, one of several countries that has sought to capitalize on a tough research environment in the U.S.

The Crimson reported (September 24, 2026) that the group includes Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Associate Professor Curtis Huttenhower, former Kennedy School Arctic Initiative Director Jennifer Spence, and Harvard Medical School Professor Peter Caravan.

Huttenhower said that the restructuring of the federal funding framework under the second Trump administration has had a more adverse effect on Harvard than people outside the affected labs might assume.

"Once the infrastructure for federal funding and the pipelines for things like trainees or incoming faculty is disrupted, it's difficult to recover from that institutionally," he said.

Huttenhower added that the disruption has fallen hardest on graduate students and postdoctoral researchers.

Disposal of unwanted medications

Before flushing unused meds down the drain or putting them into the trash, insert your zip code into this convenient Med-Project website. It will tell you where you can drop them off—usually at drugstores, hospitals, or police departments in your area. https://med-project.org/

New SSA audit: enumeration at birth

Social Security Administration correctly assigned one Social Security Number (SSN) to 99.997 percent of the approximately 13.9 million infants it reviewed.

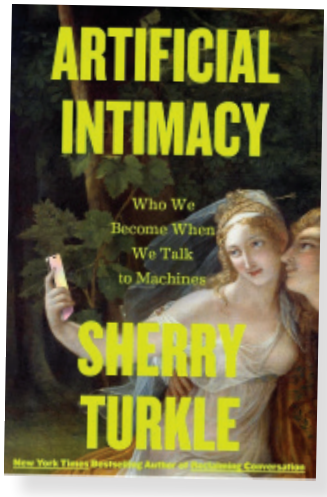
SSA Office of the Inspector General identified 420 infants—or 0.003 percent—who appeared to have received two or more SSNs without the associated records being cross-referenced. Assigning multiple SSNs increases the risk that individuals could improperly receive federal or state benefits under more than one identity.

SSA agreed to review the 420 cases and take appropriate corrective action.

Books for Retirees

Sherry Turkle, *Artificial Intimacy: Who we become when we talk to machines*. Little, Brown and Company, September 29, 2026. 288 pp. Hardcover, $30; Kindle, $15.99.

Sherry Turkle is the Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Professor of the Social Studies of Science and Technology at MIT and the founding director of the MIT Initiative on Technology and Self.

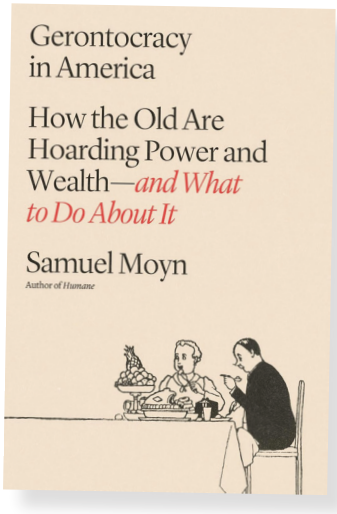


In *Artificial Intimacy*, psychologist Sherry Turkle warns that our growing reliance on human-like AI chatbots threatens our capacity for empathy, caring, and meaningful human relationships. Increasingly used as friends, romantic partners, and therapists, chatbots offer the appearance of intimacy without the demands of genuine relationships. Drawing on decades of research into digital culture, Turkle explores how AI companionship may deepen loneliness and diminish our willingness to navigate difficult conversations, uncertainty, and emotional vulnerability. While acknowledging AI's practical benefits, she argues that substituting machine relationships for human connections risks eroding the very qualities that make us human.

Samuel Moyn, *Gerontocracy in America: How the old are hoarding power and wealth—and what to do about it*. Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2026. Amazon: Hardcover, $24.88; Kindle, $15.99.

As Americans debate former President Biden's infirmities and President Trump's erratic behavior, we've neglected bigger problems before us: a massive transfer of power and wealth to the oldest among us and the curtailment of the prospects of the young.

In *Gerontocracy in America*, historian Samuel Moyn argues that older Americans increasingly dominate politics, business, and the courts, shaping public policy and the economy to protect their interests. He contends that this concentration of power limits opportunities for younger generations and departs from America's tradition of generational renewal. Moyn proposes reforms such as stronger social safety nets, mandatory retirement ages, earlier intergenerational transfer of wealth, and greater political influence for younger voters, arguing that these changes would benefit both younger and older Americans.



HEALTH MATTERS

Longevity research by Dr. William Li reveals a set of behaviors: six habits for healthy productive lives for those over 75 listed in reverse order of importance. Dr. Li is a physician and vascular biologist and the president, medical director, and co-founder of the Angiogenesis Foundation. A graduate of Harvard College, he trained with Dr. Judah Folkman at Children's Hospital Boston.

6) Drinking water strategically
Start with 12-16 oz. first thing in the morning.

5) Resistance-based movement
Grip strength is a powerful predictor of longevity.

4) A consistent sleep schedule

3) Eating protein
You don't need less just because you are old.

2) Daily intentional social engagement
The effect of social isolation is equal to smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

1) Daily purposeful cognitive challenge; the single greatest predictor of cognitive and physical independence after age 75.

Learn something: language or musical instrument, new cuisine, etc. Doing a crossword puzzle or reading a book doesn't count.

Listen to Dr. Li explain the six habits. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RATyjt9HA0E



Oakley Country Club: A brief history

The Oakley Country Club in Watertown, where HURA will gather for its annual Holiday Luncheon, occupies a site with a history extending back more than three centuries.

The original house on the property was built before 1715. In 1808, Harrison Gray Otis purchased and remodeled it, reportedly following designs by noted architect Charles Bulfinch, who had designed the Massachusetts State House. Otis named the estate "Oakleigh" and lived there until 1825, when he sold it to William Pratt, a successful Boston import merchant.

In 1897, members of the Cambridge Golf and Country Club acquired the former Pratt estate as the site for its new clubhouse. The property stood on Strawberry Hill, the highest point in Watertown, with sweeping views toward Boston and, on clear days, beyond to the Atlantic Ocean.

Scottish professional golfer Willie Campbell laid out the club's course, reportedly the first 18-hole golf course in Massachusetts. Campbell — who also did the country club in Brookline — passed away before completing the project. So, the job was given to Donald James Ross, Scottish professional golfer and course designer. Following extensive renovations to the old mansion, the club moved there in 1898. Cambridge Golf and Country Club subsequently changed its name to Oakley Country Club.





At left, the lobby of the Oakley Country Club clubhouse with a new front desk. *(Courtesy of Oakley Country Club).* Below, the approach to the Oakley Country Club. Above, sketch of the mansion when it first served as Oakley's clubhouse. *(Image from the Club's website).*



Among Oakley's better-known golfers were two future presidents. While a Harvard student from 1901 to 1904, Franklin D. Roosevelt played there regularly. In 1937, John F. Kennedy also played at Oakley as a member of the Harvard freshman golf team.

A fire consumed the original clubhouse in 1913. When rebuilt the following year, a third floor was added to the structure. A pro shop was added the next year.

During World War II in 1942, the U.S. Army installed an anti-aircraft battery on the hill near the fifth hole as part of the defenses protecting the nearby Watertown Arsenal.

In 1962, the clubhouse was once again destroyed by fire. A replacement opened the following year. In 1998, the clubhouse was extensively remodeled to reflect the architectural lines of the original Bulfinch-era building, and further expansion and renovations were completed in 2019. In 2023, Oakley celebrated the 125th anniversary of the club's incorporation and its move to Strawberry Hill.

After extensive rebuilding following another devastating fire in December 2024, Oakley is once again able to welcome HURA members for their traditional Holiday Luncheon.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

invites HURA members and their guests to



A Gala Holiday Luncheon

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2026

at the newly renovated

OAKLEY COUNTRY CLUB

410 Belmont Street, Watertown, Massachusetts 02472

Registration and Social Hour: 11:30-12:30

Luncheon: 12:30-2:00

Bar by credit/debit card only * Free non-alcoholic punch * Open seating

Questions or comments, contact Diantha Brown

DianthaBrown@verizon.net or 508-320-2778.

MENU

Attendees will make lunch selections
at the time of registration on EVENTBRITE link.

Information about registration by EVENTBRITE will be sent by email to each HURA member.

All members must register through Eventbrite regardless of method of payment by check or credit card.

HURA member and guest (one) $35 each.

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, November 25.

No registrations will be accepted after the deadline.
There are no refunds for cancelations after registration deadline.
Checks will be deposited after the event.

Free parking is available at the Club.
Find directions at http://www.oakleycountryclub.org.

Bring an Unwrapped Gift or a Toy

Please remember disadvantaged Boston and Cambridge children by bringing an unwrapped gift of toys, books, art supplies, games, stuffed animals, hats & mittens, or gift certificates. Students from Harvard's Phillips Brooks House will distribute your gifts during the holiday season.



HARVARD UNIVERSITY
RETIREES ASSOCIATION
c/o Membership Secretary
Coral Sullivan
P.O. Box 95
Wayland, MA 01778

First Class Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Boston, MA
Permit #1636

Words, words, words

Wi-Fi: Does not stand for anything specific. It was coined by the Wireless Ethernet Compatibility Alliance partly for its resonance with "hi-fi" (high fidelity) but does not represent "wireless fidelity" (whatever that might mean) as commonly believed. Wi-Fi is simply a name for a family of wireless networking standards.

Cringe: In slang, "cringe" describes something awkward, embarrassing, or painfully uncool that makes you cringe. In modern internet and youth culture, "cringe" is used to label moments, content, or behaviors that are socially awkward, forced, or trying too hard to impress others. It often conveys a mix of humor and mild social judgment, capturing the feeling of secondhand embarrassment when witnessing someone's awkward actions. For example, a poorly executed TikTok dance, or a cheesy pickup line might all be called "cringe."

ABBREVIATIONS

ASAP: As soon as possible.
BOGO: Buy one; get one (free).
BTW: By the way.
FOFL: Falling on the floor laughing.
FOMO: Fear of missing out.
G2G: Gotta go.
ICYMI: In case you missed It.
IMO: In my opinion.
IMHO: In my humble opinion.
LOL: Laughing out loud; or lots of love. Sometimes, for emphasis: LOLOLOL.
OMG: Oh, my god.
TTFN: Ta-ta for now.
TTYL: Talk to you later.
WTF: What the f**k; -or- Well, that's fantastic (*if your mother is watching*).

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