



# HURAnews

HARVARD UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Interim Harvard President Alan M. Garber.

## The Freedoms of a University, a statement of principles

On January 31, 2024, the University-wide Council on Academic Freedom at Harvard said the University ought to resist outside influence on its scholarship and recommit to a defense of controversial speech.

The Council's leaders include psychology professor Steven A. Pinker, former Harvard Medical School Dean Jeffrey S. Flier, former dean of the college Harry R. Lewis '68, Harvard Law School professor Jeannie Suk Gersen, and philosophy professor Edward J. "Ned" Hall, who have emerged as prominent commentators on the University's path out of its gravest crisis

in more than half a century.

The group now includes more than 170 Harvard faculty members and is seeking to influence the direction of the University under interim President Alan M. Garber. On January 31, 2024, the Council adopted **The Freedoms of a University**, a statement of principles:

A university has two great obligations to society: to foster the discovery and dissemination of knowledge and understanding, and to prepare students for lives of meaning, purpose, and service.

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## Institutional neutrality or institutional restraint?

Interim President Alan M. Garber announced recently that John F. Manning, dean of Harvard Law School since 2017, will serve as interim provost and will oversee University-wide academic priorities and activities, including an initiative concerning institutional neutrality on public issues and continued focus on academic freedom and civil discourse.

The *Crimson* reported that "In Manning's appointment, Harvard has gained an interim provost who is not only an accomplished scholar and respected administrator known for his ability to steer his HLS through challenges but was also an internal finalist in the last presidential search.

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John F. Manning will oversee academic priorities and activities.

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## Institutional neutrality

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“While Manning graduated from both Harvard College and the Law School, he is a conservative, an anomaly among Harvard’s largely liberal faculty.”

A formal stance of neutrality would permit Harvard to avoid taking positions on social and political issues as an institution. It would be a marked

shift from the University’s current approach to politics. But it would also, in theory, help the University avoid the pressure it has faced in the past to take political positions on contentious issues—such as the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Even the policy’s most ardent supporters acknowledge that its

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## COMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, April 30, 10:30-12:30. Tour of the Boston Athenaeum.** Registration will be on Eventbrite emailed to HURA members in early April.



The Boston Athenaeum is a member-supported library, museum, and cultural

center that everyone is invited to join. It is one of the oldest independent libraries in the United States, founded in 1807, located at 10½ Beacon Street on Beacon Hill near the State House. Over the past twenty years it has undergone renovations to modernize its services and provide more space for its growing collections and users.

**Wednesday, May 15; rain date May 16. Tour of the Arnold Arboretum.** Registration will be on Eventbrite sent by email closer to the event.



A 281-acre preserve in the heart of Boston, the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University stewards one of the world’s most comprehensive and best documented

collections of temperate woody plants, with particular focus on the floras of eastern North America and eastern Asia. This jewel in the Emerald Necklace park system was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.

**Wednesday, May 29, 7:30 p.m. Boston Pops. The Eyes of the World: From D-Day to V-E Day.** Boston Symphony Hall, Keith Lockhart, conductor.



Registration information will be sent by email closer to the event date.

Through music, archival photos, video, and a collection of rare American flags that were carried into battle, “The Eyes of the World” tells the dramatic story of the final 11 months of World War II in Europe through the words and images of Ernest Hemingway, LIFE magazine war photographer Robert Capa, Vogue model-turned-photojournalist Lee Miller, and a young soldier named Jerry, who lands on Utah Beach on June 6, 1944.

**Wednesday, June 5, 11:30-2:00. Annual Meeting,** Loeb House. Former provost, Harvey Fineberg, featured speaker. Find registration and an article on the speaker (opposite).

# Harvey Fineberg to speak at Annual Meeting

**H**arvey V. Fineberg will be our guest and featured speaker at HURA's Annual Meeting on June 5. He is president of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, which fosters scientific discovery, environmental conservation, and preservation of the San Francisco Bay Area.

He previously served as president of the U.S. National Academy of Medicine, provost of Harvard University, and dean of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He received his BA, MD, MPP, and PhD in government from Harvard University.

His academic career has been dedicated to the fields of health policy and medical decision-making. His research has focused on global health, medical technology assessment, vaccine evaluation and use,

pandemic response, and the dissemination of medical innovations.

He is the co-author of *Clinical Decision Analysis, Innovators in Physician Education*, and *The Epidemic That Never Was*, an analysis of the controversial 1976 swine-flu immunization program. He has co-edited books on AIDS prevention, vaccine safety, understanding risk in society, and global health and has published widely in professional journals.

Among other awards and prizes, Fineberg is the recipient of several honorary degrees, including one from Harvard, and he was awarded the Harvard Medal by the Harvard Alumni Association.

A member of the editorial board of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Fineberg chairs the board of



## – 2024 ELECTIONS –

The HURA Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of officers and directors for membership approval, to be voted on at the HURA Annual Meeting in Loeb House on June 5, 2024.

### Three-year terms expiring June 30, 2027

Membership Secretary: Coral Sullivan

Treasurer: Vicki Johnson

Director: Daniel McCarron (2nd term)

Director: Sarah K. Wood (2nd term)

Direct your questions and comments to nominating process facilitator Diantha Brown at [dianthabrown@verizon.net](mailto:dianthabrown@verizon.net) or call 978-465-2262.

### Board Actions

At its Annual Meeting on June 5, 2024, the HURA Board of Directors will appoint Carleen Farrell as Membership Secretary Emerita and Paul Upson as Treasurer Emeritus. Henry Terwedow will be appointed Director Emeritus.

the Science Philanthropy Alliance and previously chaired the boards of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. He is a member of the China Medical Board, and served on the boards of the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation and the Association FXB. He co-founded and served as president of the Society for Medical Decision Making and serves on the foresight committee of the Veolia Environment Institute and scientific advisory board of the Singapore National Research Foundation. Fineberg also chairs the advisory board of the Peterson Center on Healthcare, co-chairs the inaugural international advisory board of Tsinghua University Vanke School of Public Health, and chairs the U.S. National Academies' standing committee on emerging infectious diseases and twenty-first century health threats.



## IN BRIEF

### HURA's doing what?

"Harvard proctors and tutors plan to launch unionized push." This was the headline in the *Crimson* on February 26. They have a right to do that, but they are calling themselves the Harvard Union of Residential Advisors. That's HURA! And they are planning to file a representation petition with the National Labor Relations Board.

So, if you hear that HURA is picketing against the University on issues of workload, compensation, job protection, and overall transparency, be assured that's not the Harvard University Retirees Association (HURA) gone crazy.

This group is within Harvard College. So why not call themselves HCURA? The University's Trademark Office staff are looking into this problem of naming.

### Create a Snapshot of Your Community in a Narrative Profile

The Census Bureau will show you how to create a Narrative Profile of any community or town using American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Narrative Profiles are short, analytic reports that provide highlights of selected social, economic, housing, and demographic estimates for a selected geographic area. These profiles contain commonly used community statistics and have downloadable charts that are useful for presentations and available for a number of past years.

For some purposes, this will be an easy way to compare communities of similar size on issues of households and family composition, native and foreign born, disability and employment status, geographic mobility, education, occupations, commuting, income, health insurance, poverty levels, population median age, housing inventory, and many other topics. <http://tinyurl.com/bddtczwh>

### Has Boston Ever Had An Earthquake?

There were damaging earthquakes near New York City (magnitude 5.0 in 1884), Boston (magnitude 5.6 in 1727 and magnitude 6.2 in 1755), Buffalo, NY (magnitude 5.6 in 1929), and Hartford, CT (magnitude 5.0 in 1791).

There are fault lines throughout Massachusetts, but most of them are likely inactive due to the number of earthquakes in the last 300 years.

Fortunately, the risk of an earthquake in Massachusetts is still extremely low. Experts say that there is a 2% chance of a potentially damaging earthquake shaking in Massachusetts in the next 50 years. Such an event occurs in northeastern U.S. on average once every 200-300 years.

Read more on the current earthquake risk at <https://tinyurl.com/bddwdbrk>.

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## The Freedoms of a University, a statement of principles

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To discharge the first obligation, a university must ensure that the work of its scholars receives robust, informed, and impartial appraisal that applies the best truth-seeking standards appropriate to their discipline—without pressure to bow to the opinions of the state, a corporation, a university administrator, or those (including students) who express feelings of outrage or harm about ideas they dislike.

When it comes to the university's research mission, academic freedom exists to enable discovery without fetters. So, a university must stead-

fastly advance academic freedom and resist all manner of encroachment upon it. It must operate with full transparency as to sources of funding; push back against attempts to use state power to curtail academic freedom; and, when necessary, issue firm reminders that extending the frontiers of knowledge inevitably risks offense.

To discharge its second obligation, a university must train students and teachers to engage across disagreement, learning to treat with intellectual seriousness and honesty the wide range of ideas and perspectives that live within our diverse

community. We all suffer from blind spots and a dangerous if natural resistance to considering the full range of what is possible. A university education targets this resistance, developing in students (and faculty) the habits of mind crucial to a self-governing people. In our teaching, academic freedom exists first and foremost to oppose the oppression and poverty of ignorance.

So, a university must safeguard two essential freedoms. Every member of the academic community should be free from fear of reprisal for positions they defend, questions they ask, or

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## HARVARD UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

# Annual Meeting and Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024

– Featuring –

**HARVEY V. FINEBERG**

Former Dean of the Harvard School of Public Health and Provost of Harvard University  
President of the Institute of Medicine, now the National Academy of Medicine

**“The University as an Institution of Learning and as a Learning Institution”**

LOEB HOUSE, 17 QUINCY STREET

Across the street from the Faculty Club • Free parking in the Broadway Garage

### AGENDA

11:30-12:00 Registration  
12:00 Welcome—President John Collins  
12:15 HURA Business Meeting  
Treasurer's Report  
Election of Officers & Directors  
12:30 Lunch  
1:15 Remarks—Prof. Fineberg  
2:00 Adjourn

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Registration deadline, Monday, May 20.
- The luncheon is \$30 for members; \$35 for guest (just one, please).
- Checks are deposited after the event.
- No acknowledgement of this registration will be sent.
- Make your check payable to HURA and send with registration form to:  
Diantha Brown, 257 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950  
Information at 978-465-2262 or dianthabrown@verizon.net.

### REGISTRATION FORM

Member name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Menu choice: Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Guest name \_\_\_\_\_

Menu choice: Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

HURA member at \$30; guest at \$35. Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Parking at Broadway Garage? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

## HEALTH MATTERS

### Medicare/Medicaid enrollment

Every day the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid ensures that 158.2 million people in the U.S. have health coverages that works.

Over 66.7 million individuals are enrolled in Medicare, including 32.6 million in Medicare Advantage plans. There are over 80.2 million individuals enrolled in Medicaid.

Altogether there are 170.2 million enrolled in these programs. This number is adjusted for about 12 million who are eligible for both programs.

<https://tinyurl.com/ycymfx44>

### Affordable Health Coverage Enrollments (Obama Care)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reports that over 20 million more Americans have signed up for 2024 individual market health insurance coverage through the marketplaces since the start of the 2024 Open Enrollment Period. This is a record number.

Find more information about Affordable Care Act Marketplace at <http://tinyurl.com/2p9ubavc>.

### Drug Take-Back Day

April 27, 2024 is Drug Take-Back Day. Various agencies will set up medical waste sites where unused medications can be deposited. This initiative keeps them out of the landfills and water systems. The *Harvard Health Letter* recommends that you “weed out unneeded medications...hanging on to them is risky, since outdated medicines lose their effectiveness or can even harm you. You might think you’ll need them one day, but you shouldn’t take them if expired.” Toss them now.

Take-back sites may be found in local drug stores, hospitals, health departments, law enforcement agencies, and Councils on Aging. Some of these sites have year-round drop-off locations.

Call them about used or unused needles and other medical paraphernalia.

### Dementia Caregiver Guide

A resource available through the Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Caregiving, A Guide on Advanced Care Planning Resources: For People Living with Dementia and Their Care Partners has been updated. The guide contains a range of tools, materials, and information related to advanced care planning, including financial, housing, medical, legal, and palliative/hospice care assistance. This resource is the result of a comprehensive environmental scan of available resources.

The section titled “Advanced Care Planning Resources” is a comprehensive list of various dementia-specific resources intended to be utilized by people living with dementia, their care partners, and the care team.

The section titled “Considerations and Resources to Support Decision-Making throughout the Dementia Journey” showcases information about the different stages of cognitive impairment and dementia, options for planning ahead and choosing the right level of care, as well as caregiver role and self-care.

To view the updated guide, visit <https://bit.ly/GuideonACP>.

### Care Compare

With Medicare’s Care Compare tools you can find and compare different types of Medicare providers. Use the maps and filters to help you identify

providers that are right for you.

Separate tools cover these:

- Doctors and clinicians
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes, including rehab services
- Home health services
- Hospice care
- Inpatient rehabilitation facilities
- Long-term care hospitals
- Dialysis facilities
- Medical equipment and suppliers

Go to <https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/>.

### Effects of the Inflation Reduction Act

The Inflation Reduction Act was signed into law on August 16, 2022. This new law provides meaningful financial relief for millions of people with Medicare by expanding benefits, lowering drug costs, and strengthening Medicare for the future.

Medicare has begun its long-awaited negotiations with drugmakers, an effort aimed at getting them to reduce the costs of the first ten Part D drugs, with more to come in future years.

<https://www.hhs.gov/inflation-reduction-act/index.html>

### COVID Boosters

Recognizing that COVID-19 is not seasonal, CMS now recommends that persons over 65 should get a booster every six months, at least four months after the last shot or three months after the last infection, as protection wears off every 180 days.

CMS doctors noted that for most people currently in hospital for COVID, this is not their first infection. The extra booster, they said, is most urgent for people who are 75 and older.

*Boston Globe, 2/29/2024*

# Institutional neutrality

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implementation would require a significant conceptual shift. However, a growing number of faculty members including some of the University's most prominent scholars—say they believe it should.

**History as teacher:** In February 1967, the president of the University of Chicago convened a faculty committee to produce a recommendation on how the institution should approach “political and social action.” The United States was on fire—literally and figuratively—with protest, generational upheaval, and civil unrest.

The committee's answer was simple: **The university must remain neutral.**

View Manning's website at <https://hls.harvard.edu/faculty/john-f-manning/>.

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On March 5, **Harvard Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study** hosted a discussion on “Institutional Neutrality in a Polarized World: What

Should Harvard and Higher Education Do?”

The question was about whether institutions of higher education, including Harvard, should take a stance on public issues—and, if so, what they should say. Four leading legal scholars brought different perspectives and experiences to the conversation and engaged in Q&A with one another and the audience.

The panel was introduced by **Edward “Ned” Hall**, Norman E. Vuilleumier Professor of Philosophy, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences; also co-president, Council on Academic Freedom at Harvard. The participants were **Tomiko Brown-Nagin**, dean of Harvard Radcliffe Institute; Tom Ginsburg, Leo Spitz Distinguished Service Professor of International Law, University of Chicago Law School; Janet Halley, Eli Goldston Professor of Law, Harvard Law School; and Robert C. Post, Sterling Professor of Law, Yale Law School.

They talked in the context of the

two primary missions of the university: the research mission and the teaching mission and the complexity of taking stands on controversial public issues.

There seemed to be some agreement among the panel that it might be more achievable if institutional restraint were the goal. Restraint, being less strict and more dependent on the judgment of university leaders, is a more appropriate stance. They pointed out that some departments and student groups could not avoid expressing their opinions, and their lobbying efforts were incompatible with the practical problems of remaining neutral.

As a contributing opinion writer, Janet E. Halley had already expressed her views about the difficulty in achieving institutional neutrality in a recent *Crimson* article at <http://tinyurl.com/5cwmmpea>.

The program, which was recorded, has been posted to the Radcliffe Institute website at <https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/>.

## Language, lingo, and words in the news

**DOMICIDE** The widespread or systematic destruction of homes, often during conflict. U.N.'s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says as of early February more than 70,000 housing units in Gaza have been destroyed and nearly 300,000 have been damaged.

**GREEDFLATION** A rise in prices, rents, or the like, that is not due to market pressure or any other factor organic to the economy but is caused by corporate executives or boards of directors, property owners, etc.,

solely to increase profits that are already healthy or excessive. Sen. Elizabeth Warren says she is fighting back by reintroducing her Price Gouging Prevention Act.

**HILL SWIFTIES** A group chat of congressional worker bees who adore the pop star Taylor Swift and who occasionally let their fandom out at work by sneaking Swift references into their bosses' press releases—or, conversely, talking those bosses out of posting cringeworthy Taylor content.

**HURKLE-DURKLE** [Scots] To lounge or laze about in bed when it's time to get up and go to work.

**PSYOP** Spy-world shorthand for a psychological operation.

**SWATTING** A hoax in which a caller lies about an emergency to draw a massive police response. There have been over 500 incidents at U.S. schools in the past year.

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

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## The Freedoms of a University, a statement of principles

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ideas they entertain. We should all welcome thoughtful critique—and be able to engage with each other confident that neither attacks on our character nor the threat of institutional sanction will take its place.

Second, every member of our community should enjoy full standing to speak and be heard, regardless of background or social position. It's not enough that we refrain from threatening those whose ideas we don't like. We also have a moral duty to listen, and to approach

disagreement in a spirit of genuine curiosity, motivated by the desire to learn from each other, and open to the possibility that any of us, at any time, might be wrong.

In living up to these values, many parts of our university play a critical role:

- the administration must set the tone with a full-throated endorsement of academic freedom, and by adopting and enforcing rules that safeguard the freedoms we should all enjoy;
- the faculty should recognize the singular role that their position

and expertise give them in creating educational settings that promote these freedoms and their responsible exercise;

- the students, joining other members of the campus community, should embrace the challenge of responding to unsettling ideas with an ethic of compassion, courage, and curiosity.

It is the embracing of these freedoms that allows a university to push back the frontiers of knowledge and equip its members to serve with wisdom.

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](http://www.facebook.com/HUretirees) or at [www.HURA.harvard.edu](http://www.HURA.harvard.edu).