

Jan 12, 2024

'89 Classmates,

It has been a difficult time for the Harvard Community over the past several months. Many of us are questioning our connection to Harvard as we grapple with the decisions the University has made and the barrage of negative media coverage. Rest assured that we are taking all of this into consideration and advocating for engagement on these important issues.

We believe the role of our '89 Reunion Committee is to serve as conveners and facilitators. We will not formulate a central "message" given the diversity of views and opinions among our classmates. Our hope is to bring everyone together and offer opportunities for positive interaction.

We invite your leadership and participation as we:

- explore options for pre-reunion events to discuss key topics including free speech at the University, the resignation of President Gay, anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim activity, and affirmative action in higher education. We welcome suggestions about classmates and Harvard faculty who might be resources or speakers.
- form a reunion subcommittee to address current controversial topics before and during the reunion. The reunion schedule is tight and Harvard spaces are scarce - the Science Center is closed due to renovation, and all reunions are happening at the same time. Bring your leadership and creativity to this subcommittee by emailing us (see below.)
- advocate to the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) to encourage a reimagining of Harvard Alumni Day on Friday, May 31 to allow space for constructive discussions about the challenging issues facing the Harvard community.

We hope to bring classmates together at the 35th to renew old connections, form new friendships, and deepen our understanding about our journeys and the changes at Harvard over the last 35 years. Our loyalty is to each other and we are grateful for many aspects of our shared college experiences.

Here are a few recent relevant links to some official Harvard Responses:

[Harvard Magazine's Coverage of Interim President Alan Garber's recent community message](#)

[HAA Director Sarah Karmon Discusses some of these issues in the first 10 minutes of this video](#)

We appreciate the 150+ classmates volunteering hundreds of hours to create a memorable reunion. If you have questions or concerns to share with us (reminder: we are not employed by Harvard!) please reach out via our emails linked below.

Looking forward to seeing you in May or sooner!

[Jeff Behrens](#)

[Jonathan Fernandez](#)

[Lisa Hampton](#)

[Carolyn Magnani](#)

[Lori Rutter](#)