

# Royalty Announced for Community Conscience 2016 Mardi Gras Ball!



Community Conscience is pleased to announce their selection for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Mardi Gras Ball royalty! The 2016 King and Queen to be honored for their many years of volunteer community activities in the Conejo Valley and as

individuals who have made a significant difference in the local community during the year 2015 are **Chuck and Eloise Cohen**.



**Eloise Olson Cohen** is a 52-year resident of Thousand Oaks, originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota, and is a graduate of the first class at Thousand Oaks High School. She has a B.A. from CLU in English and Art, an M.A. from Azusa Pacific University (now Philips Graduate Institute) and is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (Retired). Also a photographic artist, her work has been exhibited at the Civic Arts Plaza, Gardens of the World, Kwon Fong Gallery and in the LA Times. Her portrait of the late jazz musician Buddy Collette is on his CD cover Jazz for Thousand Oaks. Her parents, the late Rev. Dr. Raymond M. Olson, president emeritus of CLU and founding President of Conejo/Las Virgenes Foundation and the Alliance for the Arts, and the late Helen A. Olson were active community leaders and honorary founders of the Alliance for the Arts.

Eloise has extensive organizational and non-profit experience in the Thousand Oaks community and throughout Ventura County. Some of her achievements and activities are listed below:

## Community, Civic and Professional

- Board Member, Alliance for the Arts; Executive Committee; Founders Circle
- Commissioner, City of Thousand Oaks Cultural Affairs Commission;
- Chair, Theater Operations Committee
- City of Thousand Oaks 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Time Capsule Committee
- Trustee, Thousand Oaks Library Foundation
- California Lutheran University
- Advisor/Campaign Co-Chair KCLU FM
- Past member Alumni Board of Directors
- Past Chair, Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza Board of Governors
- Past Board Member, Museum of Ventura County
- Founder, VCCF Woman's Legacy Fund
- Press Photographer Association; Photojournalist, Photographic Artist
- AAUW and KCLU Jazz Concerts Chair
- Cornerstone Leadership Project, Ventura County Community Foundation
- Past President, American Association of University Women Thousand Oaks Branch

## Awards and Honors

- Woman of the Year 2012 Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Paul Harris Fellow 2012, Thousand Oaks Rotary
- Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award 2009, Alliance for the Arts
- Named Gift Honoree, American Association of University Women
- Service to Alma Mater Award; Career Excellence Award, California Lutheran University

**Chuck Cohen** graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles with B.A. and J.D. degrees and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1960. He has practiced law in Thousand Oaks since 1961 and formed the law firm Cohen and Alexander in 1963, which later, in 1972, became Cohen, Alexander and Clayton. He has specialized in land use and real estate law since 1972, and arbitrated real estate matters through the American Arbitration Association. He is known for representing public and private entities in the development of commercial, residential, industrial and institutional projects in numerous southern California cities and counties. He was a partner with Weston Benschopf, and the national law firm Alston & Bird prior to joining Jackson DeMarco Tidus & Peckenpaugh of which he is currently of counsel.

Chuck is one of Southern California's most well-known and well-respected land development specialists and has also been a highly involved citizen of Ventura County, as are evidenced by the list below:

## Community, Civic and Professional

- Board Member, and Past President Casa Pacifica
- Board member, McCrea Ranch Foundation
- Founder, Advisory Board & Campaign Co-Chair KCLU FM
- Advisory Council Community Conscience
- Past Chair Founders Circle Alliance for the Arts
- Board Member Emeritus Alliance for the Arts
- Chair Emeritus, Optimist Club of Conejo Valley
- Past Chair, Conejo Future Foundation
- Campaign Chair "We Need A Place" Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza/Alliance for the Arts
- Founding Board member New West Symphony
- Corporate Attorney and board member Conejo Symphony Orchestra
- Pro Bono legal counsel for Cabrillo Economic Development's Rancho Sespe Farm workers project
- Camelot Affordable Housing Task Force
- Advisor and incorporator Arts Council of the Conejo Valley
- Committee member for Under One Roof
- Legal Counsel, Renaissance Pleasure Faire
- Director and Legal Advisor Conejo Players
- Attorney, Conejo Valley Historical Society
- Manager Conejo Valley Little League
- Legal Advisor Horizon View Club
- Member Human Relations Council
- Ventura County Community Action Commissioner
- Ventura County Sanitation District Director
- Ventura County Association of Governments V.P.

## Awards and Honors

- Man of the Year 1990 Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award 2009, Alliance for the Arts
- Diversity Award

Eloise and Chuck have been married for 37 years and they have four children, four grand-children, and two great-grandchildren. Chuck also serves on the Community Conscience Advisory Council.

Please plan to join Community Conscience at the 2016 Mardi Gras Ball to honor **Eloise and Chuck Cohen** for their extensive contributions to the community. This annual fundraiser helps to support the Under One Roof Human Services Center where 14 non-profits are provided with rent-free office space.

The 24th Mardi Gras Ball will be held on February 20, 2016 at the Hyatt Westlake Plaza Hotel. The festivities will begin at 5:00 pm with a champagne reception and lively music by the Riverboat Dixie Jazz Band. The Silent Auction will be open until 6:30 pm with a wonderful array of items on which to bid. The Live Auction full of surprises! Dancing will start after dinner to the music of the acclaimed band of Captain Cardiac and the Coronaries. Their high voltage performances have been enjoyed worldwide. They will perform 1950's and 1960's classic party rock and roll, including tunes from Motown, British Invasion, Doo-Wop, Rockabilly, Surf, and more!



We are proud to announce our 2016 Mardi Gras Ball Title Sponsor is Union Bank. Other major sponsors to date include, Gold Sponsors: Manchester Financial, Bob & Suzy Beatty, Ashcraft Family; Silver Sponsors: California Lutheran University, Umpqua Bank; Bronze Sponsors: Custom Creations by Jonathan Flintoff.

For more information about buying tickets or hosting a table please contact us at 805 494-3543 or email [info@communityconscience.org](mailto:info@communityconscience.org). If you are interested in becoming a **Major Sponsor**, please call Robin at 805-494-3543. More information is also available at our web site: [www.communityconscience.org](http://www.communityconscience.org).