

Community Conscience Honors Chuck & Eloise Cohen as King & Queen of the 24th Annual Mardi Gras Ball 2016

The 2016 Mardi Gras Ball Queen and King, Eloise and Chuck Cohen, were honored for the significant difference they have made in the quality of life in our community.



Eloise Olson Cohen moved to Thousand Oaks in 1963 from Minneapolis and is a graduate of the first class at Thousand Oaks High School. A licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, she earned a B.A. from CLU in English and Art and an M.A. from Philips Graduate Institute. She is an exhibiting photographic artist. Her father, the late Rev. Dr. Raymond M. Olson was one of the initiators of Community Conscience. Both her parents (Helen A. Olson) inspired her commitment to family, faith and community.

Her awards and honors include the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year, Paul Harris Fellow from Thousand Oaks Rotary, Alliance for the Arts Lifetime Achievement in the Arts, AAUW Named Gift Honoree and California Lutheran University Service to Alma Mater and Career Excellence.

Her community involvement centers on the Alliance for the Arts Board of Directors and Founders Circle, City of Thousand Oaks

Cultural Affairs Commission and 50th anniversary Time Capsule Committee, Thousand Oaks Library Foundation, KCLU FM Founder and station building campaign co-chair, Ascension Lutheran Church and Assistant Director of the Harold Stoner Clark Lectures at CLU. She previously served on the board of the Museum of Ventura County, VCCF Women's Legacy Fund and was president of the Civic Arts Plaza Board of Governors and AAUW Thousand Oaks.

Chuck Cohen is a Los Angeles, California native son. He graduated from UCLA 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 in 1963 formed the law firm Cohen and Alexander with his life long friend Leonard Alexander. Since year 2000 he partnered with Weston Benshoof, the national law firm Alston & Bird, and Jackson De Marco. He is currently a partner at Cohen, Begun and Deck. Chuck is one of Southern California's most well-known and well-respected land development specialists.

Chuck's awards and honors include: Alliance for the Arts Lifetime Achievement in the Arts, Casa Pacifica Guardian Angel, Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year, and Honoree of the Diversity Council of Ventura County for his legal services to Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation in bringing the Rancho Sespe Farm Worker housing to Ventura County.

His civic and professional activities include Chair and board member of Casa Pacifica, McCrear Ranch Foundation Board, KCLU FM founding Advisory Board member and Capital Campaign Co-Chair, Community Conscience Advisory Council, Alliance for the Arts Founders Circle Chair, Board Member Emeritus and Campaign Chair for "We Need A Place." He is also an emeritus member of Conejo Valley Optimist Club, founding capital committee member of Under One Roof, past Chair of Conejo/Las Virgenes Future Foundation, board member of the Conejo Symphony and founding member of the New West Symphony. He served as a Thousand Oaks Planning Commissioner, Councilmember and Mayor from 1967-72. He served in the campaign to bring the Metropolitan Water District to the Conejo Valley, the formation and first counsel to the Conejo Players and the Arts Council of the Conejo Valley.

Eloise and Chuck have been married 38 years. Together they have four children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



What are Matching Gifts?

Extensions of corporate philanthropy, matching gift programs are designed to be the means by which companies support employee charitable giving. Donations made by employees and retirees to the charitable causes about which they are passionate are matched by their companies.

Matching gifts elevate the capability of donors' contributions. One donation is always welcome. Two donations seems too good to be true! It's not. Matching gifts give nonprofits and their supporters that exact opportunity. Companies big, small, and everything in between, match gifts. Most programs are not only generous about giving money, but are willing to donate to a broad spectrum of organization types.

To find out if your company participates in matching gifts, contact the Human Resources Department. They will provide the forms or links needed to submit your matching gift. The entire matching gift process can be completed by a donor in less than five minutes.

Next, contact Community Conscience to notify us of your matching gift. We must verify your donation with the company to complete this important step. That's it! You have doubled your donation!

Different companies have different deadlines. Generally it takes 3 to 12 months. We will keep track of your matching gift deadline. When the matching gift donation is received by Community Conscience, we will notify you by sending a thank you letter to both you and your company. An estimated \$6-10 billion in matching gift funds goes unclaimed per year. Many past donors are still eligible to submit matching gift requests to their employers. This includes donations made to the "Keep the Lights On" portion of our live auction at the Mardi Gras Ball.

For more information about matching gifts, or if you need help looking up eligible companies, please contact Robin Britt by phone at 805 494-3543 or email robin@communityconscience.org.



Message from the President - Phyllis Rickert



I began my term as President with the trustees and volunteers preparing for and carrying out an extremely successful Mardi Gras Ball in February. You will see an article regarding this later in this issue, but I want to express my appreciation to the Ball Co-Chairs, Fran Brough and Luayne Valestrino. They led the trustees, our staff and a large group of community volunteers to again create a magical evening of fundraising for Community Conscience Under One Roof Human Services Center. I also want to thank all those who attended and generously bid on our auction items as well as donating to "Keep the Lights On."

The Mardi Gras Ball has been our major fundraiser in the past. This year, due mainly to rising utility bills, we hope to be able to do more. We call our fund-a-need portion at the Mardi Gras Ball "Keep the Lights On" because that is exactly what we continue to do. Our job as Community Conscience continues to be maintaining the building, grounds and paying a major portion of utility fees for the non-profit organizations Under One Roof.

Last year we reviewed the use of space in our building. As a result, we were able to welcome three new non-profits to our building by allowing them to "share" space. We will continue to maximize the office space at Under One Roof to serve the needs of our community in the most beneficial way possible. As you will see in this newsletter, the Conejo Free Clinic is ready to begin plans for a free dental clinic in an available office in our building. We are excited to support them in this very important endeavor to provide a much needed service in the community. We encourage you to call Robin Britt, Executive Director, to schedule a tour. We are proud to show off what is accomplished within these walls.

Fun at the 2016 Mardi Gras Ball - Conejo Photobooth provided by Thousand Oaks Youth Commission



Community Conscience "Under One Roof" Tenant Updates

Introducing Susan Murata, the new Executive Director of Hospice of the Conejo!

Susan Murata recently retired from the auto industry after 40 years. She began her career in June of 1976 as a service and parts cashier/receptionist for Al Piano Honda/Nissan. In the mid 80's she became an executive manager for Al Piano helping operate his dealerships in Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley and Palm Springs California.

Susan was Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for the Silver Star Automotive Group for 23 years. The Silver Star Automotive Group consists of six dealerships housing 12 franchises located in the Thousand Oaks Auto Mall (the largest auto mall in the world).

Her final position in the automotive industry was working as the Chief Strategy Officer for the O'Gara Coach Company in Thousand Oaks, Beverly Hills, and La Jolla California. She has a passion for giving back to her community and has served on several community and nonprofit boards.

Susan joined Hospice of the Conejo as their Executive Director in January, 2016. The services provided by this Under One Roof charity include non-medical hospice care, over 50 grief support groups per month, and an information center for those seeking assistance with end of life care and grief. Another of their programs is NODA (No One Dies Alone). Hospice of the Conejo partners with Los Robles Hospital to provide volunteers who sit vigil with patients who are in their final hours when no family members are able to be there. In 2016 this program will be expanding to other hospice and board and care facilities.

Hospice of the Conejo started a new program in 2016. PET/Patient Support helps terminally ill patients keep their beloved pet at home with them during their illness. Many times these patients do not have the means to care for their pets and they are tragically removed from their homes. This program partners with Assisted Home Hospice and Conejo Valley Vet to provide volunteers who will walk, feed and bathe the pet, and offer minor veterinary care and supplies when needed. In addition, grief support groups have been added for people who have lost a beloved pet.



Hospice of Conejo's service area includes Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village, Newbury Park, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Simi Valley and Moorpark. For more information about their programs please visit www.hospiceoftheconejo.org or call 805 495-2145.



Fit 4 The Cause is diving into 2016 head first, expanding its fitness education programs to benefit those with mental health challenges. The medical professionals sitting on the organization's board of directors whole-heartedly agree that physical exercise and proper nutrition mitigates depression, anxiety

and addiction. The community partnership with Community Conscience/Under One Roof accelerates Fit 4 The Cause's ability to expand its wellness education programs to many local underserved constituents.

Housed in the Under One Roof building in Thousand Oaks, Fit 4 The Cause provides fitness and nutrition programs to those who cannot afford or attend gyms under normal circumstances. Fit 4 The Cause is deliberately expanding its board presence with medical professionals, providing up-to-date, top-tier wellness curricula for fragile seniors, at-risk youth and special populations with limited motor skills affected by injury or illness. Most relevant to our consideration of mental health benefits are our newest board members, Dr. Lester Summerfield, Licensed Psychologist (Conejo Valley based since 1979) and Dr. Jill Stocker, a longevity specialist with The Body Well, USA. Fit 4 The Cause veteran Dr. Lorne Label (neurologist) is a strong proponent of the benefits of mental health through physical activity. Dr. Label also volunteers with our co-tenant The Free Clinic.

Complementing these new developments, F4TC Founder, Cindy Rakowitz will join Casa Pacifica's impact committee. This year's annual Fit 4 The Cause Zumbathon® (October 22 in Camarillo) will benefit Casa Pacifica, a local organization serving abused and neglected children/adolescents with emotional, social, behavioral and mental challenges throughout California's Central Coast. Additionally, William A Powell, Vice President of Casa Pacifica's Board of Directors, will receive our Mentor of the Year Award at the second Miracle of Movement Gala set for January 21, 2017 at North Ranch Country Club.

Tirelessly raising funds and awareness, Fit 4 The Cause organizes fun, diverse fitness events. Upcoming events include: Boot Campaign Push-up for Charity assisting our veterans, June 25th and 26th (Stevenson Fitness & Kids World respectively) and Summer Splash Relay at the Miller Family YMCA in Newbury Park on Saturday, Aug. 20th. Please visit www.Fit4TheCause.org for more information on how you can support our rapidly growing programs—providing movement, health and hope for those souls crying out for more out of life.

24th Annual Mardi Gras Ball 2016 - Another Success!
February 20, 2016 at Hyatt Westlake Plaza
Title Sponsor: Union Bank



MARDI GRAS BALL 2016 - THE GOOD TIMES ROLLED!

Once again the Mardi Gras Ball, Community Conscience's major annual fundraiser, did not disappoint! It was a success in every sense of the word.

To set the mood, guests were greeted by the sounds of the Riverboat Dixie Jazz Band as they entered the atrium of the Westlake Hyatt on February 20th and perused the many items offered at the silent auction. Nearby was a photo booth where they could dress up in different masks, hats, beads and other festive paraphernalia to take home a photo as a souvenir of their evening. Following was dinner and dancing to the energetic music of Captain Cardiac and the Coronaries.

Shortly after everyone entered the ballroom, the King and Queen were ushered to the podium where Mardi Gras Ball Chairpersons described the many accomplishments of Chuck and Eloise Cohen who were selected as the 2016 recipients of this prestigious honor. Their many accomplishments are enumerated in the cover story of this issue. Taking the microphone, both Eloise and Chuck turned the kudos around to the community at large for its role in making the Conejo Valley region such a desirable place to live, work and play, as well as taking care of its citizens who may have special needs.

Kenny Shirey of California Coast Auctions conducted the live auction and "Keep the Lights On" segment of the program and helped raise an unprecedented amount of money which will assure that the tenant charities can continue to operate rent free at the Under One Roof building.

An event of this magnitude would not be possible without the generous donation of time and energy from an army of volunteers, a dedicated board of trustees, major sponsors, live auction and in-kind donors, and the many goods and services donated from friends in the community to create the silent auction. Please take note of them on other pages in this issue.

Mark your calendars! We look forward to doing it all over again in 2017 at North Ranch Country Club on **March 4th**.



*Chuck & Eloise Cohen
photo credit: Society Magazine*



*Mardi Gras Ball Co-Chairs:
Fran Brough & Luayne Valestrino*



**Occupants of the Community Conscience
 "Under One Roof" Human Services Center**

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Community Conscience | • Hospice of the Conejo |
| • Conejo Free Clinic | • Interface Children & Family Services |
| • Conejo Pregnancy Center | • Kids & Families Together |
| • Conejo Youth Employment Service | • Life After Brain Injury |
| • County of Ventura - Human Services Agency | • LSS Community Care Centers |
| • Fit 4 The Cause | • Senior Concerns Bargain Boutique |
| • Holy Family Services | • Villa Esperanza Services |



Exciting News from Community Conscience and Conejo Free Clinic!

The Conejo Free Clinic announces plans to open a Dental Clinic!

The Conejo Free Clinic is very pleased to announce that plans are underway to open a free dental clinic in rent-free space at the Community Conscience Human Services Center building. With so many changes to the health care landscape, and dental services still too costly and out of reach for many, the dental clinic could not come at a better time.

- According to the California Dental Association's CDA Cares/CDA Foundation website, an estimated 10 million Californians experience barriers to dental care. Although Dental-Cal benefits eliminated by the state in 2009 were partially restored in 2014, the state's program remains chronically underfunded and leaves many, including the working poor, without access to care.
- The Denti-Cal system is falling disastrously short in providing dental care to a third of California's population and half of its children, per the 2016 Little Hoover Commission report, "Fixing Denti-Cal". About 13 million people are currently stuck and not receiving care in this underfunded state program.
- California ranks a shocking 47th in the nation in oral health care.
- Over 25,000 children have dental-related hospital emergency room visits.

The concept for a free dental clinic was presented to the Conejo Free Clinic's Executive Director, Teresa Seeley, by Robin Britt, Executive Director of Community Conscience. "It seemed like a natural fit," said Robin. The original idea had been suggested at the Community Conscience's strategic planning meeting in October 2014 by Dr. Frank Dawson, Conejo Free Clinic's Volunteer Medical Director, and it was enthusiastically supported.

Villa Esperanza was previously located in the suite directly adjacent to the Conejo Free Clinic. When they re-located to the building's second floor, the Community Conscience Board of Trustees began discussing how much they would love to see an organization provide services that were deeply needed by our community to fill that space. Dental care was foremost.

Teresa agreed the timing and location were perfect. "Providing access to dental cleanings, x-rays and simple fillings is a huge part of preventable care, the bedrock on which the Conejo Free Clinic stands," said Teresa. "We want to catch dental problems as early as possible before they become serious, and prevent the heartbreaking dental tragedies that can develop."

A further CDA study explained how periodontal diseases are linked to a variety of health conditions with systemic implications and diseases that can seriously impact oral health. An association has been linked between periodontal diseases and cardiovascular disease, stroke, respiratory infections, diabetes, osteoporosis, HIV, and adverse pregnancy outcomes.

Project construction will begin in the upcoming weeks, and the clinic is projected to open in late 2016 or early 2017. The Conejo Free Clinic and Community Conscience are reaching out to dentists and hygienists who would be interested in volunteering some of their lifesaving skills and time. Please call Teresa Seeley, CFC Executive Director, (805) 551-5266, for more information on joining our volunteer family. Meaningful donor participation opportunities will be available, including patient room and chair sponsorships, donor tiles, individual, family, and civic giving.

To be added to the *Conejo Free Clinic* mailing list to receive the *Dental Clinic* e-newsletter, please send your name and email address to lisaconejoofreeclinic@gmail.com. This newsletter will be updating our dental clinic friends and supporters throughout construction with project updates and donor acknowledgements. Our project will also appear online at www.conejoofreeclinic.org.



OUR MISSION

Ensuring that public assistance programs are available and accessible for the basic relief of those in need in our community.

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and Kiwanis Club of Thousand Oaks
Helicopter Ride of a Lifetime: Jim Magglos
An Evening with Royalty: Eloise and Chuck Cohen, Boccaccio's, Opolo Winery
Hyatt Chef's Table for Ten: Hyatt Westlake Plaza

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Photography by Janett Perez
Society Social Calendar Magazine – Rhonnie Curt
Thousand Oaks Youth Commission

"Keep The Lights On" Live Auction Donations

\$1500

Wayne and Phyllis Rickert

\$1000

Kathy Lippman, Pierce Bros. Valley Oaks
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Thanks To Our Many Volunteers

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We acknowledge the following for their contributions:

Cindy Brand and Robin Britt, Community Conscience staff, for their tireless efforts; Rachel Kramarchek – Catering Manager; Daniel Buss - Executive Chef; David Kirken – General Manager, and the staff of Hyatt Westlake Plaza; the late Frank Barbarino of FB Productions; the Marine Corp League President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597; and Michael Savin of PSVA.



Our Appreciation to our Generous Donors

If you are the lucky winner of an auction item, please thank the donor when you use it.

Chriss & Gary Alwood
Ameci Pizza
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Arthur Murray Dance Centers
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Frank Bellinghiere
Blush – A Trendy Boutique
Bogey Bob's Golf Center
Mark Brandes
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Community Conscience offers fundraising opportunities at the Thousand Oaks Rotary Street Fair - October 16, 2016

Visit Community Conscience's booth at the Street Fair where you will have an opportunity to participate in two fundraising events to benefit Community Conscience.



Brick Campaign: For a donation of \$100 you can have a personalized brick placed at the bottom of the flagpole in front of the Community Conscience Human Services Center building. Only 200 bricks will be available, so reserve yours now! Once all 200 have been sold they will be permanently set in concrete. This is a great way to honor or remember someone special!

Conejo Valley Corridor Card: This card offers discounts at local businesses all across the Conejo Valley and beyond. You can easily save hundreds of dollars per year on tickets to movies & theme parks, dining, entertainment, recreation, golf, dry cleaning, spas, services, automotive, fitness and more! Even better, Community Conscience will keep \$15 for every \$25 card purchased. So you get all your money back (and more) in discounts, while supporting our team, helping our local businesses, right here in the Conejo Valley. Take advantage of this opportunity to support Community Conscience and make a difference! **Both items will be available for purchase at the October 16th Street Fair and also at the Community Conscience office. You can contact Robin Britt, Executive Director, for more information, 805-494-3543.**



Community Conscience Volunteers are named as 2016 Don & Doña of La Fiesta del Triunfo

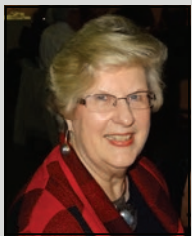
The Conejo Valley Historical Society proudly announced their selection for the 2016 Doña & Don of La Fiesta del Triunfo. Each year since 1965, the Conejo Valley Historical Society has recognized a Don and Doña del Triunfo, a man and a woman from the Conejo Valley who have provided exceptional volunteer service to the Conejo Valley. This year the honors go to a present and past Community Conscience volunteer! *Doña* Margaret Fieweger is a current Trustee on the Board of Community Conscience and *Don* Frank Bellinghiere was a Community Conscience Past President and

2007 King of the Mardi Gras Ball. Margaret and Frank have made great contributions to the Conejo Valley community through their numerous volunteer activities.

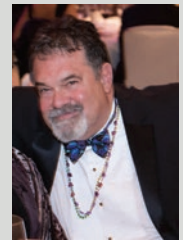
They will be honored on July 16, 2016 at The Gardens at Los Robles Greens. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend this special event.

For information, contact Joanne: joanne69642@yahoo.com or (805)375-0459.

Congratulations to Margaret and Frank, who have both been very involved with Community Conscience!



Margaret Fieweger



Frank Bellinghiere

Monetary Donations from Supporters of Community Conscience - Thank You!

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\$10 - \$99

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Frank & Cecilia Bellinghiere
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Donald & Jane Chapman
Bryan Doherty &
Marilyn Zick
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Margaret Fieweger
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Linda Organ
Muriel Rosenkranz
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Annual Spring Luncheon for Presidents and Executive Directors



On May 11th, the Community Conscience Board of Trustees hosted the Annual Spring Luncheon for Presidents and Executive Directors of the organizations that are located at the "Under One Roof" Human Services Center. The representatives from each organization shared information about the services they provide and how the various groups can work together to form relationships that will benefit their clientele. It was exciting to hear news about our three newest tenants (Kids & Families Together, Fit 4 The Cause and Life After Brain Injury) and their latest community activities! We were also pleased to have several Community Conscience Advisory Board members and Past Presidents in attendance. Community Conscience President Phyllis Rickert welcomed all and expressed her appreciation for the support they provide to the community and for their relationship with Community Conscience.



Seated: Kids & Families Together - President/CEO David Friedlander; Hospice of the Conejo - Executive Director Susan Murata; LSS Community Care Center - Denise Cortes, Area Director; Fit 4 the Cause - Christen Berman, Board of Trustees.



Life After Brain Injury - Executive Director Cherie Phoenix; Interface Children & Family Services - Victoria Fridman Dougherty, Clinic Service Manager



Villa Esperanza Services - Aaron Kitzman, Vice President Adult Programs and Megan Green, Manager of Employment Services



Andrea Gallagher, Senior Concerns President



John Havey, President Conejo Youth Employment Services (CYES); Pat Grant - CC Trustee; Leanne Petras, CYES Volunteer Director

Community Conscience Installs 2016 Officers, Incoming Board & Welcomes New Trustees Jean Saunders, Pat Grant and Don Phillipson



Immediate Past President Ricki Mikkelsen (second from right) presided over the installation and welcomes New Trustees: Jean Saunders, Pat Grant and Don Phillipson.

The annual installation dinner was held at CLU Lundring Center in December 2015. The 2016 Executive Board was installed along with returning and new trustees.

We are privileged and excited to have three new active community volunteers join the Community Conscience Board of Trustees.

Welcome Pat Grant, Don Phillipson and Jean Saunders!



Thank you gift for Outgoing President Cheryl Klepper in appreciation for her extraordinary service and guidance during the last two years!

COMMUNITY CONSCIENCE

UNDER ONE ROOF
HUMAN SERVICES CENTER

Community Conscience

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Save the Date!

MARDI GRAS BALL

Saturday, March 4, 2017

New location:

North Ranch Country Club

2017 Mardi Gras Ball Sponsorships

If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor

for the 2017 Mardi Gras Ball,

please contact Robin at 805.494.3543

or email at Robin@communityconscience.org

*Ensuring that public assistance/
welfare programs are available and
accessible for the basic relief of
those in need of such services in the
Greater Conejo Valley.*

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