

Community Conscience is proud to announce the 2017 Mardi Gras Ball King & Queen - Hugh & Keets Cassar

Husband and wife Hugh and Keets Cassar will be honored for their years of public service during the 25th annual Community Conscience Mardi Gras Ball in March.



The Cassars have been named king and queen of the ball, the annual fundraiser for Community Conscience Human Services Center on East Hillcrest Drive where 13 non-profits are provided rent-free office space.

The next Mardi Gras Ball will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at a new location, North Ranch Country Club, 4761 Valley Spring Drive, Westlake Village.

As part of the annual gala, two people from the community who have made a significant difference are chosen as king and queen and the Cassars certainly fit the bill.

Keets and Hugh Cassar are being honored as individuals and as a team for their extraordinary community involvement and the significant difference they have made in our community with their time, talent and treasure.

The Cassars are compassionate, dedicated, loving and generous partners and friends who are known throughout the county for their generosity and passion for a variety of local organizations. For the past several years they have been ardent supporters of Casa Pacifica, a non-profit organization that aids abused children by raising funds for the organization. In addition to their personal donations, they have hosted events in their home to raise funds for this cause.

Hugh and Keets focus their philanthropic efforts in the Conejo Valley where they reside, as well as many other communities. Together they were honored in 2015 by the Alliance for the Arts for their support of the Kids and Arts program. In November 2016, the Association of Fundraising Professionals announced the National Philanthropy Day honoring Hugh and Keets Cassar as the *Philanthropists of the Year - Ventura County*. The Cassars were also recognized for their work by the Moorpark Chamber of Commerce in 2012 when they were named as Philanthropists of the Year, and in 2010 they were given the Guardian Angel Award at the Casa Pacifica Angel's Ball.

For the past 15 years they have been involved in fundraising efforts for the Boys & Girls Club in Moorpark. Other local charities they have donated to include New West Symphony, Cabrillo Music Theatre, Alliance for the Arts, Best Friends Animal Society, Thousand Oaks Senior Center, Cancer Support Community, Senior Concerns, Food Share Ventura County, Community Conscience and many others with outreach going even beyond the Conejo Valley.

Through the Cassar Family Foundation and an annual charity golf tournament, sponsored by their business, the couple has donated to the American Red Cross, Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Tri Counties, and the Cancer Support Community. In 2008 and 2009 Casa Pacifica was the tournament recipient, receiving a \$40,000 donation each year, and in 2015, through their foundation, they raised \$75,000 for Skid Row Housing.

In 2010 they donated to UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases; they hosted the 2016 Cal Lutheran School of Management event for the Betterment of Students; and they were donors to Blind Children Foundation in 2015 and 2016. The Cassars are co-chairs for Cancer Support Community's 25 Years of Hope event celebrating 25 years of providing inspiration to the local community.

King & Queen - (Continued on page 4)

25th Annual Mardi Gras Ball 2017!
March 4, 2017 at North Ranch Country Club
Title Sponsor: Union Bank



Looking for solutions....

It is part of our mission to increase maximum coordination among agencies and raise awareness of the need for assistance not presently being provided in our community. Since September 2016, Community Conscience has been hosting a bi-monthly meeting with our tenants to increase networking and communications. There is something very powerful about getting these talented, caring people in the same room to talk about helping each other and their clients more effectively. During the meeting they share volunteer information, fundraising ideas and events, staff needs, board member needs and new services they are offering. They ask for suggestions from each other about how they may increase productivity. Between meetings they email and call each other to find assistance with client needs and organizational wishes.



During one of these meetings, our tenants brought up a tremendous need for a volunteer transportation network in the Conejo Valley. This would involve volunteers who could drive seniors or disabled persons, who are unable to wait for a bus, to the market and medical appointments. Many of our tenants have clients that would benefit from such a service. It is a very complex problem, and there is a tremendous need. This incredible group is willing to take on the possibilities of such a program. If you have any suggestions or solutions, please contact me and I will share them at the next meeting.

I would like to share our wish list with you:

- We have open space in our building. We are looking for 501(c)(3) human service organizations that would benefit from free rent.
- We need a defibrillator. Recently a client's heart had stopped and he was not breathing. CPR was performed, but he went without oxygen for too long and passed away in the hospital the next day. We may be able to save a life next time.
- I am looking for opportunities to be a guest speaker. There are an overwhelming amount of exceptional services offered in our building. I am always pleased to spread the word about how to find assistance, what is offered, and the importance of partnerships in the community.

We need support for our Mardi Gras Ball fundraiser. In 2016 the costs to maintain the building were \$129,275.00. To continue providing free-rent to our tenants, we depend on support from the community. Please contact me to become a major sponsor, table sponsor, or to donate an item or service to our live or silent auction. We would be delighted to see you at the Mardi Gras Ball and tickets are on sale now!

Please contact me at 805 494-3543 or robin@communityconscience.org for help with anything on our wish list or to have a tour of our building.



Message from the President - Phyllis Rickert

What's New?

**COMMUNITY
CONSCIENCE**
SUPPORTING HUMAN SERVICES UNDER ONE ROOF



I am really excited to announce that Community Conscience has redesigned its logo!

Last spring Robin, our Executive Director, received information on a program called *Design For Good* co-sponsored by the Taproot Foundation and CLU. Taproot connects nonprofits with skilled, professional volunteers who share their expertise pro bono. The business volunteering its time and talent for *Design For Good* was the *American Institute of Graphic Art (AIGA), Los Angeles*. Community Conscience submitted an application and was accepted into the program. Initially we worked with 3 CLU students and Jason Adam, President, AIGA Los Angeles. Our proposal to them was to create a new, updated graphic look and possibly a logo. After Jason and the students presented their ideas to several Executive Board members, the Board of Trustees continued working with Jason for a couple months. Once both Jason and our Board felt we were ready to move along on our own, we formed a Branding Committee chaired by Fran Brough. The most important and surprising change suggested by *Design For Good* was to choose a single name and delete the other – Community Conscience or Under One Roof. After much discussion and many ideas, we are excited to share our new name and logo: **COMMUNITY CONSCIENCE** with a tag line **SUPPORTING HUMAN SERVICES UNDER ONE ROOF**.

President's Message - (Continued on page 4)

Community Conscience Installs Officers and Welcomes New Board Members!

Installation of New Officers and Board members was held on December 13, 2016 at the CLU Lundring Center with the activities handled by Installing Officer Ricki Mikkelsen. President Phyllis Rickert was pleased to welcome two new Trustees to the Board of Community Conscience, both who bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to our organization. She shared many of the successful accomplishments over her past term as President. Executive Director, Robin Britt, provided an update on tenants and building improvements, which will also be included in the 2016 Annual Report. Returning officers included President Phyllis Rickert, Treasurer Ed Sahakian, 1st Vice President Fran Brough, Secretary Ricki Mikkelsen, and Assistant Secretary Luayne Valestrino (not pictured). Larry Marquart (not pictured) will fill the position of Assistant Treasurer that was vacated when Jerry Miller moved from the Board of Trustees to our Advisory Council. We also are happy to announce two new Advisory Council members who will join Community Conscience: Frank Bellinghiere, former Mardi Gras Ball King, a Past President of Community Conscience, and Attorney at Law Offices of Frank Bellinghiere; and Jill Lederer, *President / CEO* Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce. Ricki presented a single rose to each person installed from an elegant bouquet. Alone the rose is beautiful, but when it is combined into a bouquet it becomes an exquisite arrangement - which she compared to each Trustee's contribution in making a wonderful Board of Trustees!



Ricki Mikkelsen,
Installing Officer
and Secretary



Trustees Sal Sandoval & Judy Friedman;
Advisory Council member Jerry Miller



Fran Brough, 1st VP; Ed Sahakian,
Treasurer; and President Phyllis Rickert

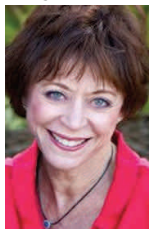


Jill Lederer



Frank Bellinghiere

Judy Friedman is Owner and President of Boomer-Life, a community where those 55+ discover ways to maintain youth, vitality and zest for life with others seeking the very same. Boomer-Life members get together on a monthly basis to discover the treasures of living life to the fullest.



Prior to creating Boomer-Life, Judy designed, marketed and conducted personal and professional development programs, including health and wellness, career to retirement transitions and work-life balance. She provided one-on-one coaching and classes for individuals experiencing career and life choice dilemmas.

Judy is involved in a variety of charitable causes, including the one that brings her heart the greatest joy...the National Search Dog Foundation, an amazing group that rescues dogs and trains them to be the rescuers who are dispatched with their firefighter handlers to emergency situations all over the world. She is also on the Advisory Council of Conejo Senior Volunteer Program which oversees 1000+ volunteers who help out in our hospitals, schools, libraries, etc. A member of Assistance League of Conejo Valley for 12 years, Judy has been both a grant writer and head of business development. Additionally, she and her husband Harry support those groups that enhance quality of life for children in need, provide assistance to veterans and those that foster the humane treatment of pets. We extend a very warm welcome to Judy who brings many diverse talents to our board!

Sal Sandoval delivers over 25 years of financial experience serving commercial and retail clients and currently specializes in small business and commercial relationships for Montecito Bank & Trust. He spent 5 years as a mortgage broker in Ventura County and was instrumental in the formation of a new savings and loan entity with Central Coast and South Bay area locations. He is also a Board Member for Housing Opportunities Made Easier (HOME).

Sal received his Bachelor's Degree from California Lutheran College and currently serves on the Board of Directors for Boys and Girls Club of Moorpark, and was chair for the past 3 years. He is actively involved throughout the Conejo Valley, where he currently lives with his family. In his free time he enjoys spending time with family and friends, watching any sporting events and cheering on his daughters softball games.

Sal is enthusiastically involved in giving back to the local community and brings a lot experience and great new ideas to the Board of Trustees. Community Conscience is indeed fortunate to have Sal as one of our newest Board of Trustees members.



Welcome Sal!

(Continued from page 1) - King & Queen

Keets comes from a military family, growing up across the country and in the Philippines and Japan. She is an interior designer by trade. In addition to giving thousands of dollars in financial support to Casa Pacifica, Keets also serves on the organization's board of directors, assists as a volunteer in various capacities, and was a Past President of the Board of Directors. Other community involvements include member of the Advisory Board for Senior Concerns, Board of Directors and Founders Circle for Alliance for the Arts, and she supports the New West Symphony and Cabrillo Music Theater.

Hugh, a native of Malta, started his successful tobacco importing business in 1982 in Moorpark. He is a life-long entrepreneur, a Chartered Accountant, and business graduate from the University of Toronto. Hugh is the founder and Chairman of Kretek International, Inc. with corporate offices located in Moorpark, California. For the past 14 years Hugh has served as the Honorary Consul General of Malta. He is on the board for Channel Islands University and CLU's Board of Business Management and is a supporter of UCLA School of Medicine, as well as local charities and foundations.

Hugh is a member of the donor adviser board for UCLA Foundation's Dream Fund, where he was instrumental in obtaining a \$25,000 grant that was awarded to Casa Pacifica. Earlier in 2016, Hugh was named to the Dean's Executive Council for the School of Management at California Lutheran University, and is on the Executive Board of Directors for California State University Channel Islands. He also serves on the advisory board of The Cabrillo Music Theatre.

The Cassars are Thousand Oaks residents (since 1970). Hugh and Keets have been married 37 years, and between them they have six adult children and 11 grandchildren.

The festivities for the 25th Silver Anniversary event 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, including a Mystery Wine Auction. The Live Auction will be full of surprises! Dancing will start after dinner to the energetic music of The Hodads, one of Southern California's most versatile theme party bands.



Black tie or costume optional. For more information about buying tickets or hosting a table, please contact us at 805-494-3543 or email 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.

(Continued from page 2) - President's Message

Along a completely different line – the Ventura County Sheriff's Office has started a new homeless project. Senior Deputy, Jason Louis, gave a short presentation at our January bi-monthly meeting we hosted for our tenants regarding this program. The Sheriff's Department has been working with human service agencies to understand exactly what services are available in the Conejo Valley to help those who are homeless. Members of the Task Force are now visiting homeless encampments in Thousand Oaks offering assistance. They are hoping to encourage these people, including those living in cars, to seek help and make changes in their lives. Denise Cortes, Area Director of LSS Community Care, has been riding along with Senior Deputy Louis one night a week. We hope this program is successful. Community Conscience is here to ensure services are accessible and available to anyone needing aid.

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Conscience• Conejo Free Clinic• Conejo Pregnancy Center• Conejo Youth Employment Service• County of Ventura - Human Services Agency• Fit 4 The Cause• Holy Family Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hospice of the Conejo• Interface Children & Family Services• Kids & Families Together• Life After Brain Injury• LSS Community Care Centers• Senior Concerns Bargain Boutique• Villa Esperanza Services |
|---|---|

Thanks to our **2016** Mardi Gras Ball Major Sponsors!



TITLE **Union Bank**

PLATINUM

Montecito Bank & Trust

GOLD

Ashcraft Family:
In Loving Memory of Mel Ashcraft
Robert & Suzy Beaty

Hutchison, Mikkelsen & Prescott
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SILVER

California Lutheran University
Hugh & Keets Cassar

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Umpqua Bank

BRONZE

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Sunset Hills Women's Golf Association
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2016 In-Kind Sponsors - Thanks for your Support!

FB Productions - late Frank Barbarino
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Tim Cooley's General Pest Control
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Opolo Vineyards - Rick Quinn & David Nichols
Multiscreen by George Hutchison
Photography by Janett Perez
Society Social Calendar - Rhonnie Curt
Thousand Oaks Youth Commission



OUR MISSION

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.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Communicator Editor: Jacque Turner



2017 Mardi Gras Ball - New Location and New Dance Band!

2017 New location: North Ranch Country Club



We are excited to have The **Hodads** as our dance party band this year! They have been thrilling audiences with Classic party music from every era at special events since 1989. Their energetic performance will get everyone up and dancing immediately! And of course, The **Riverboat Dixie Jazz Band** will be returning to provide lively music during the champagne reception!



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

Tickets & Table Sponsors

For more information about buying tickets or hosting a table, please contact us at 805 494-3543 or email info@communityconscience.org

Community Conscience Launches Commemorative Brick Campaign



**Do you know someone you would like to recognize
with a once in a lifetime donation?**



Please support the Commemorative Bricks Project from Community Conscience. With the words you choose to have engraved on these bricks, you can **honor and remember ones you love and celebrate those who are important to you**. They also make great holiday and birthday presents. By purchasing an engraved brick, you will be leaving a highly visible legacy at our building, The Human Services Center, located at 80 E Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks.

Net proceeds from your purchase go directly to operating and maintaining our building where we provide rent free office space to 13 non-profit human service agencies. It is our mission to ensure these organizations will always have a facility to provide their exceptional services to those in need. Many thousands of lives in our community have been changed and touched by the efforts of the agencies in our building. Community Conscience receives funding for the building through fundraisers such as our Commemorative Bricks and public and business donations.

We will permanently place each of these 200 engraved bricks in the garden around the memorial flag pole in front of our building. **The bricks are 4" x 8" and cost \$100.00, each with 3 lines and 18 characters per line.**

Help us pave the way to a better future for members of our community who are in need.

**There is a link on our website to order bricks.
Visit us at: www.communityconscience.org**

Mardi Gras Ball 2017 *Live Auction Offerings will include:*

**Live
Auction**

- ♦ **Helicopter Ride of a Lifetime**
- ♦ **Luxurious 12-Day Cruise for Two on Holland America Line**
- ♦ **Chef's Table for 10 Guests**
- ♦ **Hawaiian Royal Kona Resort Hotel Package for 7 Nights for 2 Guests**
- ♦ **CLU Comedy Improv Troupe Performance for up to 75 Guests**
- ♦ **"Keep the Lights On" Fund-a-Need Donation**

For more details and additional offerings, contact Ricki Mikkelsen at (805) 469-3323





2017 Mardi Gras Ball Major Sponsors

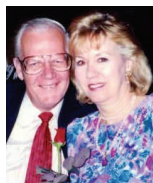
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TITLE SPONSOR



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**Ashcraft Family
In Loving Memory
Of Mel Ashcraft**



GOLD



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SILVER



**Ventura County
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Tom & Cara Cohen

BRONZE



**Custom Creations by
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IN-KIND SPONSORS



**Conejo Valley Chapter
Military Order of
the World Wars
Colonel Jerry Knotts**



Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce Jumpstart Networking Breakfast Co-sponsored by Community Conscience and Conejo Free Clinic

Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce Jumpstart Networking Breakfast was held on Friday, January 13, at Palm Garden Hotel, and was co-sponsored by Community Conscience and Conejo Free Clinic. Community Conscience Executive Director, Robin Britt, gave a brief presentation about what we do and how others could support Community Conscience through donations, sponsorships or buying a brick. Robin related the need for free dental services in the community, which led to the introduction of Susan Murphy, Development Director of Conejo Free Clinic. Susan presented the plans about the new Dental Clinic which is scheduled to open in 2017. There were 100 chamber members and 10 board members in attendance. Each of our board members shared something unique about Community Conscience. Brick Campaign flyers and Community Conscience brochures were available for all in attendance. It was a wonderful opportunity to get the word out about Community Conscience. As a result we have already received one silent auction donation from a business and learned about a charity interested in occupying the vacant space in our building.



Trustee Dee Crawford is currently serving as the Consul General Ambassador and represents Community Conscience at Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Donate to Community Conscience by Shopping through Amazon Smile

Are you an Amazon shopper?

Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to **Community Conscience**. It costs you nothing and helps us with funds to support our cause of providing RENT-FREE space to thirteen non-profit organizations. It is really easy! *If you need assistance, please contact Robin for more information at 494-3543.*

Shop at AmazonSmile
and Amazon will make
a donation to:
**Community
Conscience**

Get started

amazonsmile

Don't forget to bookmark Amazon once you are there. You have to login through this special link to credit Community Conscience.

Using the link provided below you may select **Community Conscience** as the charity to receive proceeds when you shop at Amazon.com. When you are shopping on Amazon please remember to start by using this link.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-3310410>

Once you have selected **Community Conscience**, Amazon will begin donating 0.5% of your purchases to our organization when you shop.



Community Conscience
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Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

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E-mail: info@communityconscience.org

Web: www.communityconscience.org



CONEJO FREE CLINIC DENTAL CLINIC CONSTRUCTION PLANS ARE UNDERWAY!



I am thrilled to give an update on our upcoming new Conejo Free Clinic Dental Clinic now being developed with our caring partner, Community Conscience.

- We are working on the finalization of architectural plans and City permitting, and look forward to starting construction soon. We will be able to provide a better projection of our exact opening date in the coming weeks.
- Special thanks to our outstanding Dental Leadership Team: John Graeser, DDS; Suzanne Berger, DDS; and Teri Bianchi, DDS. We are beyond grateful to each of them for their dental program development, guidance, passion for this cause, deep compassion and their willingness to treat our patients when we open.
- We continue to build our all-important Volunteer Dental Team. If you know of a dentist, dental hygienist or other dental professional who would like to join with us, please contact me at 805-551-5266.
- We are taking reservations for beautiful donor tiles that will have the inscribed names of the donor or honoree on our Dental Clinic wall in perpetuity. All proceeds will support the construction and on-going purchase of dental supplies - both critical to our success.

For more information on Dental Clinic Donor Tiles, including sponsorship prices and available sizes, please contact Teresa Seeley at 805-444-6746.

The new Dental Clinic will be as first-class and top-quality as any private practice dental office to be found in our Conejo Valley!

Please call me if there are questions you may have or you would like to tour our construction site.

Teresa Seeley, Executive Director

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

2017 Title Sponsor



Save the Date!

MARDI GRAS BALL

Saturday, March 4, 2017

**New location:
North Ranch Country Club**

***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.***

only by
GIVING
are you able
to receive
MORE
than you
already have

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