



25th Annual

Southeast Ventura County YMCA

PRAYER BREAKFAST

Pray For Peace

CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY
GILBERT SPORTS CENTER

Thursday, May 2, 2024

7:30 am: Breakfast

8:00 am – 9:30 am: Program

PROGRAM

PROGRAM

8:00 Program Begins

OPENING

Rev. Dr. Gary Alan Dickey

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Cal Lutheran Kingsmen and Regals Quartets

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Gary Alan Dickey

WELCOME

Dr. Lori Varlotta, President, CLU

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS

Mary Olson

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Muhammed Shoayb Mehtar, Imam, Central Mosque in Thousand Oaks

PRAYER FOR WORLD COMMUNITY

Cantor Kenny Ellis, Temple Etz Chaim

PRAYER FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS

Mikey Taylor, Councilmember of Thousand Oaks

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Jim Walker

SILENT PRAYER

Mary Olson

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES & LOCAL CITIZENS

Stephen Rambo, Center for Spiritual Living

PRAYER FOR LOCAL BUSINESS

Vanessa Bechtel, CEO Ventura County Community Foundation

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Vanessa Bechtel & Bill Bartels

PRAYER FOR COMMUNITY RESPONDERS

Jeremy Paris, Chief of Police City of Thousand Oaks

CLOSING SONG

Cantor Kenny Ellis

CLOSING

Ronnie Stone, President/CEO Southeast Ventura County YMCA



REV. DR. GARY ALAN DICKEY was born in Santa Monica, and was raised and has lived his entire life in the Los Angeles area. He holds degrees from UCLA, Fuller Seminary, Claremont, and Oxford. He has served churches in the area for 48 years, lastly retired from the United Methodist Church of Westlake Village after 14 years as senior minister. He enjoys traveling, hosting travel groups to Europe and the Holy Land, and playing the bagpipes.



DR. LORI VARLOTTA, PhD has held educational leadership positions for 38 years. She was appointed President of California Lutheran University in 2020 being the first woman to hold that position. She leads a campus-wide effort to make CLU a vibrant and positive community and a leading institution in our area. Dr. Varlotta received her PhD in educational leadership from Miami University, her Master degree from Syracuse University and her undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame.



MARY OLSON is the general manager of KCLU Radio, 88.3 FM Ventura County, 102.3 and 1340 AM Santa Barbara, 89.7 FM Central Coast and 92.1 FM San Luis Obispo. Mary was part of the original team that signed KCLU on-air 29 years ago and has helped it grow into the number one news station in the tri-counties. She is an active member of the community, has served on many boards. Mary, her husband and twins live in Santa Rosa Valley where she dreams of sleeping in someday.



MUHAMMED MEHTAR is an imam at the central Mosque in Thousand Oaks, California. He is a regular guest speaker at local colleges and universities and works closely with police departments as part of information sharing on better understanding Islam. While in Utah, Muhammed had been a part of the yearly interfaith prayer session at the Utah senate, representing the Muslims of Salt Lake City as an honored guest of the various Mayors and the governor. He is active in presenting Islam in a mild and moderate manner.



KENNY ELLIS has been a cantor for 30 years in the Conejo Valley and is currently the cantor at Temple Etz Chaim in Thousand Oaks. His "claim to fame" has been his Hanukkah Swings! CD – the first ever big band Hanukkah album. His Listen, Laugh & Learn class was at the American Jewish University for nine years and he is a frequent guest lecturer at California Lutheran University and at Pepperdine University.



MIKEY TAYLOR, President of Commune Capital has had a remarkable career, spanning from professional athlete to a successful entrepreneur, and now includes his role as a City Council member in Thousand Oaks. His two decade journey in skateboarding not only showcased his talent but also honed his strategic thinking. This foresight led him to co-found Saint Archer Brewing Company, a San Diego-based craft brewery that rapidly grew and was eventually acquired by MillerCoors. Mikey's multifaceted career is a blend of passion, innovation, and community-focused leadership.



JIM WALKER graduated with honors from the U of Louisville and went on to play in the USMA Band, the Pittsburgh Symphony, NY Phil Tour of 1982, Los Angeles Philharmonic and has played in over 700 motion picture soundtracks. He is the Founder/Leader of Free Flight (16 CD's). Since 2007, is Prof of Flute at The Colburn School Conservatory of Music. He recently retired from the USC Thornton School of Music after 33 years of service. Jim is a recipient of the NFA Lifetime Achievement Award and his students hold many flute positions around the world.



REV. STEPHEN RAMBO the Spiritual Leader at the Center for Spiritual Living, Simi Valley. He previously was the assistant minister and administrator at Founder's Church of Religious Science in Los Angeles. Rev. Stephen serves on the Centers for Spiritual Living Re-Generation Committee and the newly established Camp Cedar Ridge board of directors in Vernonia, Oregon. He's participates with numerous Interfaith Councils and Associations. Rev. Stephen is guided by two mottos: "Be yourself 'cause everybody else is taken!" and "You are the garden... living in a field of infinite possibilities."



VANESSA BECHTEL, AIFA, CSPG, serves as President and CEO of the Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF). Vanessa has received numerous awards including Business Woman of the Year by the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce, Nonprofit Leader of the Year by the Ventura County Leadership Academy, Humanitarian of the Year by the Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation with her spouse, Jim and Woman of the Year by both the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce and the 19th Senatorial District and 37th Assembly District. In her spare time, Bechtel enjoys hiking, practicing the piano and violin, and is an avid reader.



BILL BARTELS has served as staff member, choral musician, assistant conductor, conductor, director of music, composer and artist in residence for the Bardsdale United Methodist Church. Previously he has been a member of several early music ensembles, several acoustic folk/rock bands, as well as church choirs, and local choral ensembles. He currently plays with the acoustic quartet Gathering. They have been playing together for over 20 years.



JEREMY PARIS Commander of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, began his career with the Ventura County Sheriff's Office in 1998 after attending Brigham Young University. Jeremy has worked a variety of assignments in investigative and tactical units including: the Camarillo Special Enforcement Detail, the Sheriff's Gang Unit, the Narcotics Bureau, SWAT team, Bomb Squad and Aviation Unit. Jeremy was promoted to captain in 2016 and worked as a watch commander and the assistant chief of police in the City of Camarillo. In 2021, Jeremy was promoted to the rank of commander and in June of that year he was selected to serve as the chief of police for the City of Thousand Oaks.

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PRAYER BREAKFAST COMMITTEE

John Bradley, *Chair*

Jerry Adams

Rev. Dr. Gary Alan Dickey

Fred Dunn

Dani Hutchison

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Rev. Steve Simpson

John Tolson