

# Conejo Valley Study Groups

## ART GROUPS

**Antique Browsers** (1<sup>st</sup> W 11:45) **Women**

We go to art museums and homes of art collectors and enjoy lunch together. About four times a year we go to antique areas to look for that hidden treasure.

**Art and About** (4<sup>th</sup> TH 10:00) **Women**

We satisfy our curiosity of the visual arts by attending museums, private homes, artist studios, and galleries; all followed by lunch.

**Gallery Girls** (1<sup>st</sup> F 10:30) **Women**

We visit artist studios, people's home art collections, and sometimes, museums. Then we go out to lunch.

## BOOK GROUPS

**Book Brothers** (2<sup>nd</sup> T 10:30) **Men**

The host selects a book for the group to read. Usually it is fiction one month and nonfiction next. Our discussion is usually continued over lunch.

**Book Ends** (4<sup>th</sup> M 12:00) **Women**

The host chooses our book. We bring our lunch and socialize for an hour and discuss the author, characters, cultural setting, and any philosophical and/or moral questions raised by the book.

**Book Markers** (2<sup>nd</sup> T 11:00) **Women**

We loosely choose books for three to five months ahead. We bring our lunch and chat as we eat. We read mostly fiction.

**Book Thieves** (2<sup>nd</sup> T 10:00) **Women**

We all choose books, six at a time for half the year. The hostess leads the discussion. We read fiction, including one classic a year.

**Brandeis Players** (4<sup>th</sup> T 1:30) **ALL**

Sid Wilner, a professional actor, leads Brandeis Players. Scripts are distributed a month in advance and the roles for the reading are assigned one week prior to the meeting via e-mail. Everyone will read about the same amount of lines.

**Literary Potpourri** (1<sup>st</sup> T 10:00) **Women**

Books are chosen and read in advance. The hostess facilitates the group. She generally has book revues and questions from the internet. We usually go for lunch at a local restaurant after the meeting.

**Monday Book Tribe (1<sup>st</sup> M 12:00) Women**  
Our group discusses books that we have all read the month before. We bring our own lunch, and discuss the characters and best and worst of the book. We read mainly fiction.

**Mystery Mavens (3<sup>rd</sup> F 10:30) Women**  
Each member takes a month and picks the book and runs the meeting, always mystery books.

**Tuesday Afternoon Readers (2<sup>nd</sup> T 1:00) Women**  
Every August we get together to choose our books for the year. We try to choose books of different genres, and our October selection is usually the Thousand Oaks, 'One City One Book'.

**Village Readers (3<sup>rd</sup> M 2:00) ALL**  
We take turns hosting the meetings in our homes. The hostess chooses the book to be read (either fiction or non-fiction) and leads the discussion.

### **CURRENT EVENT GROUPS**

**Breaking News (2<sup>nd</sup> F 10:30) Women**  
Each month, one member hosts the meeting and selects the topics for discussion and our lunch spot after the meeting. Members are encouraged to bring articles and items of interest to the meeting for further discussion.

**CE Mavens (2<sup>nd</sup> T 9:30) Men**  
The host emails ahead of the meeting to give the time and location, and three or four discussion topics from current news. We start with regional and national announcements. The discussions are informative, lively, respectful of individual opinions, congenial and polite, and everyone gets a chance for input.

**Current Events Newsroom (3<sup>rd</sup> M 9:30) Women**  
We all bring articles to discuss current issues. A computer is available if necessary to help discussion details. We all go for lunch after.

**Headliners (2<sup>nd</sup> W) ALL**  
We discuss any topic currently in the news. We meet in the evenings in our members' homes.

**Hot Topix (3<sup>rd</sup> W 9:30) Men**  
Our study group is a discussion group. Our host picks the venue and topic.

**Men's CAD (3<sup>rd</sup> TH 9:00) Men**  
We meet once a month to discuss current events. We meet at Pickles restaurant, and usually have breakfast while we are discussing the world problems.

**Monday Newsers (3<sup>rd</sup> M 10:00) Women**

We discuss Current Events. Our Leader will bring in a list of subjects to discuss and our members share their ideas and opinions.

**Women in the Know (2<sup>nd</sup> T 1:00) Women**

Each month a different member selects two topics for our focus. She researches information on these topics and leads our discussion. Individual group members can also do their own independent research. We are a blend of both registered Democrats and Republican members and we respectfully share our opinions.

**DINING GROUPS**

**Dine and Discover (4<sup>th</sup> W 12:00) Women**

We meet at Rustico's Restaurant in Westlake. We have a planning meeting in November once a year where two people choose a month to provide a speaker for that month. The speakers vary on many topics.

**Knosh and Knowledge (4<sup>th</sup> T 12:00) Women**

Lunch is always at Rustico Restaurant in Westlake Village. All members take turns each month to arrange for a speaker.

**Pro Fressers (2<sup>nd</sup> TH 11:30) Men**

This is a men's Lunch and Learn group. We meet monthly at Mimi's Cafe in Thousand Oaks and listen to scheduled speakers.

**DISCUSSION GROUPS**

**Health and Happiness (2<sup>nd</sup> TH 2:00) Women**

Each month, a different healthy lifestyle topic is presented by a member of the group, followed by a lively group discussion. Examples of topics have included: healthy eating, the role of exercise & women's heart health. This group also has two annual outings to healthy lifestyle-related venues.

**Monday Life Issues (4<sup>th</sup> M 9:30) Women**

The hostess for the month selects the topic, ranging from anything that causes interest and or concern, excluding politics and religion.

**Our Views (1<sup>st</sup> T 10:30) Women**

We take turns choosing women's issues topics. We all present our personal opinion about the topic chosen.

**The First Ladies (2<sup>nd</sup> TH 10:00) Women**

We discuss the women behind the presidents. We discuss the first ladies in chronological order.

**The Salon (3<sup>rd</sup> M 11:00) Women**

We talk about life, our experiences, and our joys and challenges. We take turns determining the topic for the month.

**Thursday Life Issues (4<sup>th</sup> TH 9:30) Women**

The hostess for the month selects the topics. Our topics range from anything that causes interest and or concern; excluding politics and religion.

**White House Women (2<sup>nd</sup> M 10:00) Women**

Each month the person who is hosting researches information on the President's wife. Members can also add their own research. We also discuss the President's accomplishments and what is happening in the world during his administration. Then we all go to lunch.

**Women in Transition (2<sup>nd</sup> M 10:00) Women**

This group offers a unique opportunity to shape a "feminine forum." It offers a safe environment to foster a healthy exchange of ideas and perspectives, on issues impacting women and their relationships. Our leader is our facilitator, who fosters a thought-provoking discussion of women's issues.

**GAMES GROUPS**

**Canasta Club (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> M 1:00) Women**

We meet the first and third Monday of each month at 1:00 pm at the Goebel Senior Center. We teach our members who are new to the game.

**Canastaristas (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> F 10:30) Women**

We are a group of six women. We meet twice a month and we rotate hosting in our homes. We bring our own lunches, chat, and of course, play canasta!

**Clueless Players (4<sup>th</sup> Sat 7:00 PM) ALL**

We play table games like Cards, Boggle, Rummicube, Phase 10, Sequence, Yatzee, etc. For the first part of the evening, we usually play a group game, a Men vs. Women type of game like the Newlywed Game, Guesstures, Family Feud, etc. Sometimes we have "assignments." like performing a magic trick and then teach it to everyone. We also do outside activities at times.

**Hot Mama Mahjers (Every M 1:00) Women**

We play Mah Jongg together once a week and rotate houses. We are a group of six women, with two of the women rotating as a fifth.

**Hunger Games (3<sup>rd</sup> F 7:30 PM) ALL**

We are a games group that meets at member's homes. We play a variety of games that are chosen by the host couple.

## **JEWISH GROUPS**

**Family Finders (3<sup>rd</sup> T 10:00) ALL**

We meet every other month to discuss genealogy and how to do research. The off month we have one-on-one meetings to get into personal research help. When we meet we discuss our genealogy research successes, and we also try to help less experienced members with their research.

**Ivrit (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> T 9:30) ALL**

The Ivrit Study Group has been learning to read many Hebrew prayers and learning to sight read in Hebrew.

**Mystic Mavens (3<sup>rd</sup> W 1:00) Women**

We attempt to understand the nature of God and find new ways of thinking about our world and our place in the world. We all share our thoughts and are not afraid to question anything, which leads to terrific discussions.

**Red Tenters (1<sup>st</sup> W 1:00) Women**

This ongoing study group covers all the women and their men throughout the Old Testament from the beginning of creation. Classes are led by Rabbi Lisa Bock who hands out specific packets for us to read aloud at our meetings. We also listen to "Midrash", making connections between new Jewish realities and the unchanging biblical text.

**Sarah's Sisters (4<sup>th</sup> F 10:30) Women**

This ongoing study group covers all the women and their men throughout the Old Testament from the beginning of creation. Classes are led by Rabbi Lisa Bock who hands out specific packets for us to read aloud at our meetings.

**Shabbatniks (3<sup>rd</sup> F) ALL**

We go out to dinner and then attend Friday night Sabbath services. We visit various temples and tend to look for services that have some musical component. This year we will also be attending traditional services. We also occasionally discuss topics related to Judaism in someone's home.

**Women of the Bible (1<sup>st</sup> TH 1:30) Women**

This ongoing study group covers all the women and their men throughout the Old Testament from the beginning of creation. Classes are led by Rabbi Lisa Bock who hands out specific packets for us to read aloud at our meetings. We also listen to "Midrash", making connections between new Jewish realities and the unchanging biblical text.

## **LEGAL PUZZLER GROUPS**

### **12 Angry Women (4<sup>th</sup> T 10:00) Women**

The hostess leads the meeting and the discussion of cases. Sometimes we discuss news articles or legal books that we have all read. We have also watched legal movies on our own and then come together to discuss.

### **Hang Em All (4<sup>th</sup> TH 4:00) ALL**

The host for that month has the responsibility for selecting the topic for discussion, either ahead of the meeting and we all do our own research, or the host prepares handouts and we learn about the issue at the meeting. After our discussion, we go to dinner at a local restaurant.

### **Legal Eagles (2<sup>nd</sup> TH 1:00) Women**

The host discusses a legal topic, either a court case or a current legal issue providing documentation and lots of discussion. We also have speakers that detail legal issues... lawyers, grand jury volunteers, Immigration personnel, etc.

### **Scales of Justice (1<sup>st</sup> F 7:30 PM) Women**

We discuss a legal case or ethical situation or two from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. The topic is the hosting couples' choice.

### **We the People (1<sup>st</sup> T 1:00) Women**

We delve into various kinds of legal issues: studying parts of the Constitution, discussing historic trials, selecting and discussing legal topics of the day. The hostess has selected the topic, prepares it for discussion, and then leads this discussion including questions and answers.

### **Legal Eyes (3<sup>rd</sup> T 10:30) Women**

The hostess presents one or two legal cases or issues to discuss. We analyze and debate all the relevant points and try to learn a little about the law at the same time.

## **MOVIE GROUPS**

### **Cinema Gals (2<sup>nd</sup> W 1:00) Women**

We pick two movies each month. We go on our own to see them. We take turns being the hostess and we all discuss the movies over lunch.

### **Cinemaddicts (2<sup>nd</sup> TH 7:30 PM) Women**

The movie is chosen at a meeting and we go see it on our own. The next month the hostess leads the discussion using a rather detailed format.

**Cinnabunch (4<sup>th</sup> Sun 5:00 PM) ALL**

Each couple takes a turn to host and lead the discussion. At the end of our discussion, we vote on the next movie. We then go out to dinner to a restaurant that has been selected by the host.

**Flick Chicks (1<sup>st</sup> TH 1:00) Women**

The host chooses the movie two weeks before we meet. First we meet for lunch, and then the person who is in charge leads the discussion.

**Front and Center (4<sup>th</sup> Sun 5:30) ALL**

The host couple selects the movie as well as the dinner destination before the meeting. We return to the host couple's home for dessert and discussion.

**Les Sunday Cinema (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun 4:00) ALL**

The movies are selected by the couple hosting. We see the movies on our own time. We meet and discuss movies until 6:00 pm and then dine at a restaurant of the hosts' choice.

**Saturday Night Movie Critics (4<sup>th</sup> Sat 5:45 PM) ALL**

We select and see a movie (on our own) and then meet at a member's home monthly to critique the movie. We rate it and then dig deeper into the movie and discuss plot, writing, directing and acting.

**Movie Mavens (4<sup>th</sup> Sun 6:30 PM) ALL**

The host couple chooses the movie and a restaurant to meet at first for dinner. The movie is followed with background information and discussion, led by the host couple, along with dessert and coffee.

**Reel Men (1<sup>st</sup> W 4:30) Men**

Once a month, we go to movies together, choosing ones that our wives would not want to see! Every member takes a turn selecting the movie and we all meet at the theatre. The member also chooses the place for dinner after the movie. We discuss the movie over dinner.

**Sunday Movies & Shakers (2<sup>nd</sup> Sun 4:00) ALL**

We meet together to discuss the two movies we've selected from the previous month. We discuss how we rated them and any interesting themes of the movies, acting, photography, background music, and also our reactions to the messages etc. We then vote on one movie and the host for the next month selects the second movie. We then go to dinner after in a local restaurant.

## **ON THE TOWN GROUPS**

### **Daytime Divas (3<sup>rd</sup> TH) Women**

Each month we visit a different venue, whether it is in Los Angeles or Ventura County. We plan our schedule a year in advance and each member is responsible for planning an event. We all vote on places to visit.

### **Daytime Trotters (3<sup>rd</sup> TH) Women**

In December at a planning lunch, we choose our venues for the year. It could be a museum or an art gallery or gardens in the valley or beyond. This gives us all an opportunity to visit venues we might not go to ourselves.

### **Daytrippers (2<sup>nd</sup> TH 10:00) Women**

We get together once a month as a "Ladies on the Town" type of group. However, we also do a lot of charity work in our community. We help out with Toys for Tots, the Foodbank, Ronald McDonald House, etc.

### **Gadabouts (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun) ALL**

We meet to explore local attractions like museums, shows, exhibits, game parks, eateries, historical events, historical homes, architectural homes and anything we can do as a group.

### **Happy Wanderers (1<sup>st</sup> Sun 10:00) ALL**

We are a couples on-the-town group. We meet at different venues each month.

### **Just 4 Fun (4<sup>th</sup> W ) Women**

All members take turns arranging for us to travel to an event.

### **Let's Go (1<sup>st</sup> T) Women**

Each member arranges the outings, taking turns. We go all over Conejo Valley, San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles. We meet to carpool, so no member houses are involved. We also do lunch or brunch depending on the outing.

### **Men Unlimited (4<sup>th</sup> W) Men**

We plan a destination we will visit. Our destinations have included museums, auto exhibits, various governmental agencies such as the National Weather Service, special exhibits sponsored by the Reagan Museum and the Skirball Museum. After our activity, we meet to have lunch.

### **Sunday Funday (4<sup>th</sup> Sun) ALL**

We visit and tour places of interest in and around the Southern California area. We have toured Dodger Stadium, the Japanese-American Museum, the Holocaust Museum, etc. All tours are led by docents (if possible). After our tour we go out to lunch at a restaurant selected by the host & hostess.

**The Sociables (3<sup>rd</sup> in December for planning) ALL**

In December we meet at someone's home and choose partners and pick different months to get together. We go to museums, musicals, plays, events, and dinners together as a group. We also do day trips.

**Tuesday Travelers (3<sup>rd</sup> T) Women**

We meet in December to make the yearly schedule. Two hostesses decide and then plan each event.

**POTPOURRI GROUPS**

**Bits n' Pieces (3<sup>rd</sup> TH 10:00) Women**

Each month a member is selected to choose the event, either in the members' houses or an outside trip. We have had discussions on a wide variety of subjects, book exchanges, making glass dishes, various arts and crafts projects, a High Tea, etc. We follow the activities with lunch.

**Life and Times (3<sup>rd</sup> T 10:00) Women**

We meet to discuss both notable women in history and topics of interest to all of us. Each month the person who is hosting the meeting does a short bio on a woman she admires, followed by a report on a topic of interest to her. Our presentations are followed by lively discussions. We avoid political and personal topics.

**Monday Morning Quarterback (1<sup>st</sup> M 10:00) Men**

We meet at a restaurant or someone's house. We try to get speakers or we show films on sports. It is up to the person who hosts that month. We also meet on Monday night to watch the March Madness basketball finals.

**Saturday Night Live (1<sup>st</sup> Sat) ALL**

This is a diverse mixture of many different activities both in the home and out of the home. The activities are generally left to the couple planning the month's event. For example, we might have a game night, go to the movies and out to dinner, or we could discuss activities the members have participated in.

**Think Tank (4<sup>th</sup> TH 10:00) ALL**

Think Tank is a discussion group that meets once a month in participants' homes. It is about challenging our thinking by critically examining different topics. For example: limitations and challenges of free speech, what Art is, the Trolley Dilemma, etc.