



NEWSLETTER

WOMEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

Volume 17 Issue 14, July 2020

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 4, 2020
9:30 a.m. - you are welcome to log on to Zoom
10:00 a.m. Meeting online via Zoom

The link to Zoom will be emailed July 30 with a reminder August 3.



Speaker for August: Angela Elster

Topic: The Resilient Symphony: Transformative Opportunities Throughout a Global Pandemic

Angela Elster, one of Canada's preeminent arts and culture leaders, is President and CEO of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra & VSO School of Music. She brings to the sector demonstrated expertise and extraordinary vision in strategic planning, impact measurement, academic research, government relations, fundraising, and is known as an agent of change. Creativity, intention, values and vision are key drivers in all aspects of her life. Angela has been awarded one of Canada's highest honors - the Meritorious Service Medal by the Governor General of Canada, recognizing outstanding accomplishments that set an example and bring benefit to our country.



Angela and Otto Tausk, Maestro and Music Director, share a vision for an orchestra focused both on artistic excellence and integrity as well as deep engagement with our community.



Women's PROBUS of Vancouver: www.probusvancouverwomen.com
Contact us: probuswomen.news@gmail.com
PROBUS Canada: www.probus.org
PROBUS International: www.probusglobal.org



Membership Information

July 7 Meeting: Approximately 75 members Zoomed in to hear Anne Giardini, and enjoyed a "social" time between 9:30 and 10:00 AM. Thank you to Peter Scott, Men's PROBUS Club for "hosting" the meeting.

We will continue to meet online until Dr. Bonnie Henry gives us details of the next COVID-19 prevention stage and Point Grey Golf Club accepts large groups again.

Management Committee Contacts: This list is permanently the last page of every Newsletter and is for "Members Only"; please do not share this information. The complete member roster is on the website www.probusvancouverwomen.com in the password-protected Roster section . If you have forgotten the password, please ask someone on the Management Committee.

Annual Dues: We want to assure all of you that your membership remains in good standing during the pandemic. We have ample funds to continue Zoom meetings for however long it takes. Once we know when we can meet in person again, I will present a new budget and collect dues that will be reduced to reflect the "savings" of not having our regular meetings at Point Grey Golf Club. - Barbara Paterson, Treasurer.

Membership: Please update any changes to your postal and email addresses or phone number to ensure you continue to receive the Newsletter and emails with important information.

There are two ways of doing this:

1. Go to the foot of the password-protected roster on our website, www.probusvancouverwomen.com; select "Roster Change Button" and a form will pop up. Follow instructions including "Click this button" at the very bottom of the form.
2. Email Lois Lindsay with these changes.

Newsletter: Material to be included in the next Newsletter should be submitted to Jane LePorte by the 15th of the month.

Correspondence: If you know a PROBUS member who should receive a get-well or condolence card, please let Davinder Grewal know.

August Speaker: Anne Giardini

President Barbara Wynn introduced Anne Giardini who gave us many wonderful thoughts and stories about her topic: Women & Power. The following is a recap and, if you would like an audio recording of her entire talk, please contact Newsletter Editor, Jane LePorte.

In her first year at university, a Poli Sci professor announced that the planned curriculum would be replaced by the book *"Anatomy of Coup d'Etat"*, a "How To" for overthrowing the government of a small country . She realized how fascinated she was with power but assures us that she is not power hungry! At university she also learned critical thinking and the three legs

of power: critical, economic, and legal, encompassing What it is, Who has it, How it is maintained, How it is used, and How it is abused.

Anne absorbed more about power working in law, business, government and the arts community and knows wherever there is any human life, there is power; not always equal, as the people with power may not want to share.

She acknowledged the influence of Irene Spry, Carole Shields, Margaret Thatcher, Gloria Steinem, Betty Friedan, Carson McCullers, Arnold Dworkin, Krzysztof Pelc, and Dr. Bonnie Henry in telling her the benefits of vision, persuasion, and the soft use of power. Anne also used the U.K. SO's Ladybird children's books as an example of more women moving away from traditional roles. Stories are enormously important in sharing and understanding power.

Eventually joining Weyerhaeuser as a lawyer, she found herself in a "boy's world". Realizing that men are aware of where decisions are being made; i.e., where the power is, she found the way to join them. It was not easy; since ancient times history has viewed women as "less" than men. The challenge for all women is to eradicate "this enemy occupying our heads". One tool is the Harvard Implicit Association Test which determines hidden, often from ourselves, biases which affect day-to-day decisions. Early childhood can, and does, form these innate biases, but if we find them repugnant later in life, intellect will overcome them.

Anne took part in a Law Society's Retention of Women in Law Task Force which led to a "*tool kit*" of solutions to women leaving the profession after 10 or less years. The obvious: more mentors, more awareness of child care being the responsibility of both parents and not assuming women want to work less, and don't want stimulating, decision-making work (power).

Anne's observations:

- Women in leadership roles at an "older" age are dynamite at solving difficult and challenging problems and, whether we are famous or not, our influence is special and enduring.
- To succeed and go forward, prepare to be unsettled and embrace diversity.
- Power of One - the "first woman in the room" is first deemed odd but quickly becomes familiar.
- Power of Many- (cute story), Anne was told by a male board member "we have one woman on the Board and she is so good, we decided to get another".
- Power is choosing the most important thing(s) to consider, be inclusive with decisions, and delegate.
- Young women need to learn how to speak and be heard; with a slow delivery and lower tone.
- While women *still* do more traditional, unpaid work, and less than 20% of corporate board members are women, progress is being made - remember when the telephone was attached to the wall.

She ended by suggesting that we not consider control as equal to power, and detach control from that equation. By looking at what we really want and really need, we find the best possible solution is abundance rather than scarcity. Win, win makes everyone happier.

Barbara W. thanked Anne on our behalf. The honorarium will be donated to the SFU Scholarship program in her name.