



# NEWSLETTER

## WOMEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

Volume 18 Issue 89, February 2021

Next meeting: **Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

9:45 a.m. - You are welcome to log on to Zoom

10:00 a.m. Meeting online via Zoom. Please be on time.

A reminder of the meeting will be sent last week of February and the link to the Zoom meeting will be sent March 1, 2021.

If you wish to join by telephone: please call Barbara Wynn for the number and ID #.

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**Speaker: Egan Davis, Horticulturist**

**Topic: Container Gardening**

Egan Davis is an award-winning gardener with a lifelong passion for horticulture. His diverse background includes garden design, landscape construction, botanical garden operations and greenhouse and nursery production. He managed collections at VanDusen Botanical Garden and was the foreman at Park & Tilford Gardens. Through his outreach activities such as television, radio, print and lectures at conferences and garden clubs, Egan has been a strong advocate for the horticulture industry. By serving on the board of directors of HEBC, Egan has been involved with developing industry standards and policies. He has been a leader in the industry for many years by participating in senior roles at BC Landscape & Nursery Association events. Egan has taught horticulture in botanical garden, college and university settings and he brings the same passion and infectious enthusiasm for gardening to his teaching. When Egan is not teaching or working in the garden, he loves to explore the natural world by hiking and travelling to exotic ecological destinations.



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Women's PROBUS of Vancouver:

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PROBUS Canada:

[www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org)

PROBUS International:

[www.probusglobal.org](http://www.probusglobal.org)

### A Message from President Barbara Wynn

Dear Members:

As the dark days of Winter are banished by approaching Spring, hopes are being lifted by expectations of increased vaccinations. Still it seems unlikely that “in-person gatherings” at Point Grey Golf Club will resume any time soon. It has been nearly a year since we had our last “in-person’ talk”, with meetings resuming online for the AGM on June 2020. Since then we have had interesting Zoom talks, and our Club managed to become “virtual” relatively quickly.

Earlier this month we had an enlightening presentation, with record attendance, from Valerie Jerome speaking of her experience as a Black woman teaching in the Vancouver school system. A lively discussion followed in the “breakout rooms”.

Our next speaker will be the knowledgeable and respected horticulture expert and garden design specialist, Egan Davis. Egan has inspired many gardeners with his enthusiastic talks, and this will be a timely event as the gardeners among us look to improve, plan and start planting up our pots and gardens.

For many of you these last months have been an exercise in frustration. I have found comfort in reading, and look forward to your contributions for the new Book Nook section which will be compiled by Newsletter Editor, Jane LePorte. Virginia Woolf once said, “*Books are the mirrors of the soul*”, and I hope that each of you might find something on this list that reflects your interests and lifts your spirits.

Please take care and stay safe everyone.

#### **A Message concerning our long-time Membership Services Chair Dorothy Joplin**

Initially, and until Tuesday, February 16, this space would have contained a message from Dorothy saying how much she was enjoying her move to Amica and was looking forward to seeing her PROBUS friends when it was safe to do so.

Sadly, Dorothy did not survive a sudden severe stroke and we have lost someone who has contributed so much to Women’s PROBUS over the years, especially her effervescent personality conveying how glad she was to see us all at our meetings.

She did know we planned to make her an Honorary Lifetime Member.

In these Covid times, a Celebration of Life cannot be held, although it would be difficult to find a room large enough to hold friends from her many interests and connections throughout the years. Also, Dorothy would not have wanted to miss the party!

## Membership Information

**Management Committee Contacts:** Please see the last page of this Newsletter for confidential telephone or email contacts when you need or want to send information.

**Zoom Meetings:** We are becoming more comfortable with Zoom meetings, but if you need help, please do not hesitate to email or call Barbara Wynn or Jane LePorte. Please mute yourself between 9:45 and 10:00, if you are talking with people in your home; everyone's sound will be muted during the meeting. Please turn your video off if you are moving around or eating breakfast during the meeting. If you don't want to Zoom, you may join the meeting via telephone; Barbara Wynn will give you the number and ID number to use.

The new breakout rooms after the meeting in January were well received and will be continued for about 15 minutes at the end of future meetings.

**New Members:** There are no new members to welcome this month; if you know someone who would like to join, the dues and initiation fee are currently \$40.00. The application is on the website [www.probusvancouverwomen.com](http://www.probusvancouverwomen.com) under Membership.

**Future Dues:** Treasurer Barbara Paterson is monitoring our finances and will let us know when dues will be assessed again. They were last collected in September 2019.

**Update Your Contact Information:** To ensure you continue to receive the Newsletter and emails with important information, update any changes to your postal and email addresses or phone numbers in one of these two ways.

1. Email Membership Chair Lois Lindsay any changes.
2. Go to the foot of the password-protected Roster on our website, select "Roster Change Button" and a form will pop up. Follow the instructions, including "Click this button" at the very bottom of the form.

**Newsletter:** Material to be included in the next Newsletter should be submitted to Editor Jane LePorte by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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

## Jottings and Jokes

Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on clothes and leave the house.



I am a reasonably competent adult woman, but I still believe that if there are only two cookies left, you've got to eat both of them or the one remaining will be lonely.

Doing nothing is very hard to do, because you never know when you're finished.



*A view of our dramatic city from Spanish Banks*

Courtesy of Meredyth Kezar



*New*

## **Book Nook**

Let's share our favorite books – contributions are most welcome; please send them to Newsletter Editor Jane LePorte via email.

Until your contributions roll in, here are a few recommendations:

*"Frangipani"* by Celestine Hitiura Vaite is a lighthearted look at another culture; set in Tahiti, Barbara Paterson recommends this book, especially for these chilly days.

*"The Giver of Stars"* by Jojo Moyes – Jane LePorte and Lois Lindsay liked this fictionalized true story of the Packhorse Librarians, a U.S. WPA program in eastern Kentucky 1935-1942.

*"All the Devils are Here"* by Louise Penny – Barbara Wynn mentioned it first, but this mystery seems to be very, very popular.

Recent speakers have also written books:

*"How Will You Be Remembered"* by Robb Lucy – about Creating and Sharing Life Stories; many of us had the author sign our books at the January 2020 meeting.

*"Amazon Woman"* by Darcy Gaechter, who spoke in November 2020 – kayaking the Amazon River, Source to Sea, available in our local bookstores.

*"Show Me the Honey"* by Dave Doroghy – spoke about beekeeping on a float home in Ladner in January 2021; this book is also in our local bookstores.

In the works – Scott McIntyre, co-founder of Douglas and McIntyre publishing, in December 2020 he told us he is currently writing his own book.

*"When I get a little money, I buy books; and if any is left, I buy food and clothes".* Erasmus

Question: What small island nation has more writers, readers and books published per capita than anywhere else in the world? Answer: dnaleci

## **February Speaker – Valerie Jerome**

Valerie opened our eyes to the racism in our backyards, our communities, and our country. Valerie spoke of the racism in every level of our educational system; grades K to 12 and our universities. She spoke of incidents that impacted her from early days in North Vancouver from her first day of school when she was pelted with stones and only one other child objected. Different, although non-violent, incidents continue during her 36 years of teaching in elementary school, and today in our community.

She depicted the structure of racism in our schools, through the image of layers of gatekeepers - in the Ministry of Education, the Faculties of Education, the local School Boards, principals, and teachers - illustrated by shocking personal stories.

While the curriculum is beginning to change, what is more important are the attitudes and what is in the hearts and minds of those in charge of delivery. It takes the will of everyone to see, to acknowledge and to stand against racism at every level in the educational system. Bullying for any reason, and towards any person, is totally unacceptable in a country which embraces diversity.

Thanks to Valerie's long-time friend, Lucile Flavelle, for writing these key points:

YouTube has a one-hour talk Valerie made to the Vancouver Historical Society, where she included more personal family history. Search for *Valerie Jerome: An Engaged Life*. Note: Enjoy the music for one minute and then the talk begins.

Two quotes which you may agree relate to Valerie's message:

*"Beneath our differences, we are all human beings, and entitled to be treated as such."*  
Beverley McLachlin, *"Truth Be Told; My Journey Through Life and Law"*.

*"Let's invite one another in. Maybe then we can begin to fear less, to make fewer wrong assumptions, to let go of the biases and stereotypes that unnecessarily divide us. Maybe we can better embrace the ways we are the same. There's grace in being willing to know and hear others."* Michelle Obama, *"Becoming"*.

Non-members may contact us at [PROBUSwomen.news<at>gmail.com](mailto:PROBUSwomen.news@gmail.com)