



NEWSLETTER – October 2021

WOMEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

Next meeting: **Tuesday, November 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 October
and the link to the Zoom meeting will be sent October 31, 2021.

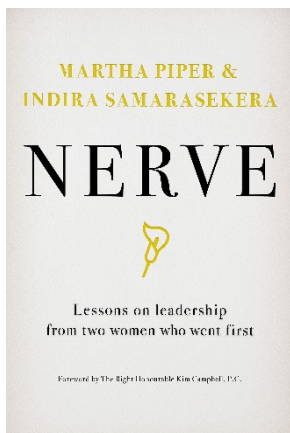
If you wish to join by telephone: please call Barbara Wynn for the number and ID #.

Speaker: MARTHA C. PIPER, O.C., O.B.C., Ph.D.

Topic: Lessons on Leadership

Dr. Martha Cook Piper was the Interim President and Vice Chancellor of The University of British Columbia from 2015-16. She also served as the 11th President of the University of British Columbia from 1997 to 2006 and during this time was instrumental in establishing the campus in Kelowna (UBC Okanagan).

Dr. Piper has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Montreal, Shoppers Drug Mart, TransAlta Corporation and Grosvenor Americas Ltd. She has also served as a board member of CARE Canada, the Dalai Lama Center for Peace and Education, and the Canadian Stem Cell Foundation. She was Chair of the Board of the National Institute of Nanotechnology and served as a member of the Trilateral Commission.



The recipient of 17 honorary degrees, Dr. Piper is an officer in the Order of Canada and a member of the Order of British Columbia. She was named Educator of the Year by the Learning Partnership in 2004, was appointed an Honorary Fellow of Merton College, Oxford University in 2007 and elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2008.

Dr. Piper has co-authored a book called *“Nerve: Lessons on Leadership from Two Women Who Went First”* with Dr. Indira Samarasekera, the first woman President of the University of Alberta (2005-2015). In the book, published on September 14, 2021, they share their insights and perspectives on the dilemmas and opportunities women confront as they take on leadership positions. For more info on the book, go to www.nerve2021.com.

A Message from President Leslie Chang

Dear Members:

The autumn change of seasons is upon us. Shorter days and longer nights have shifted my focus indoors with sadly less time in my garden. I am however resuming my invigorating daily outdoor walks where I can feel the crisp fall air and appreciate sunny skies or feel the raindrops on my face!

I am pleased to report that our Executive/Management Committee is working like a well-oiled machine. Each Committee has worked hard to bring us inspiring speakers, a user-friendly website, an engaging Newsletter, and in-depth information on past and present speakers. Our finances are also in good order.

Our newest venture was a special interest trip to the West Vancouver Art Museum. The talk was interesting and informative, and the venue was amazing and thought-provoking. Thank you to Barbara Kaiser for arranging this experience. We hope that this success will inspire other members to suggest future field trips of interest. If you have an idea for a field trip, please contact me or our Webmaster.



Our Executive/Management Committee met virtually on September 20th. I am impressed that our Committee remains focused and committed to serving our members during this pandemic. Several topics are under discussion. During my tenure, I intend to move back to in-person meetings as soon as safely possible following all the public health COVID-19 guidelines. The foundation of our Club is built on networking and direct personal contacts that are optimally fostered in-person. Our current plan is to re-open in-person meetings in February 2022 at the Shaughnessy Golf Club.

Updating our Club by laws aren't the most exciting part of my job but are essential to the continued existence and functioning of our Club. Revised by-laws will be coming in 2022 for your approval at our AGM meeting.

Stay healthy and keep safe.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie Chang



Thank you to Meredyth Kezar for the autumn pictures.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Activities:

TOUR - WEST VANCOUVER ART MUSEUM

On Wednesday, September 22, we found a tour of the West Vancouver Art Museum an enlightening experience. Although not large, the Museum had an amazing selection of the art at the Exhibit *Balanced Forms: the work of father and two sons Xwalactun, James Harry, and Austin Harry*. Hilary Litwen, the Curator, drew our attention to the circumstances of the creation of the art, understanding what we were looking at, where the art is normally located (many at schools in Langley) and how differently the three people approach their art: one carving on wood, the other using Architectural Software and the third creating animation. All were on exhibit at the Art Museum and we found ourselves talking about how the different forms of their art affected us.

Personal feedback from some of those who attended gives an example of the reaction to the artists' impressive/creative indigenous art.

"Today's visit was so interesting; the fusion of vision and spirit totems and culture an eye opener."

"Thank you so much to Barbara Kaiser for organizing the tour of this little gem of an art museum"

"Amazing!"



Submitted by Estelle Jacobson.

This was Women's PROBUS Club's first tour since Covid-19 hit and we hope to have many more tours in the future.

Would you help?

There are numerous tour suggestions listed under Membership Info – Events and Interest -- on www.probuswomen.com. After the organization is contacted, the date established, and the maximum number determined, Webmaster Estelle Jacobson will handle the rest; i.e., publicity, emails, registration, etc. Contact her at 604 259 1091 or probuswomen.news@shaw.ca.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION (continued)

Update Your Contact Information: Log on to the new website: <https://probuswomen.com>.

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

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

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.

Happy



Halloween

**JOKES**

~ Why did the policeman carry an umbrella? Because he was undercover.

~ I can't believe I got fired from the calendar factory. All I did was take a day off.

Don't forget to change
your clocks
on Sunday,
November 7!



OUR WEB SITE

www.probuswomen.com

Are you aware our website has a great deal of useful and interesting information?

Access it all by signing in with your email address and password by clicking the head and shoulders, top right. On your *first* visit select “forgot your password” and you will be prompted to create your member credentials.

You will have access to this Member Only information:

- Membership Directory
- Paying Dues On-line
- Registering for Events/Activities and Interest Groups
- Management Committee contact information
- ZOOM connection for the monthly meeting (posted day before meeting)
- Club documents and historical information
- Traveller's Insurance

Visitors to our website, and you, will see this information:

- About Women’s PROBUS Club of Vancouver
- Next meeting
- Membership Information
- Speakers -- future and past
- Special interest – Good Reads and Gardener’s Corner
- Newsletters
- Join Us – to request an application

October Speaker – Julie Veloo, Veloo Foundation ... making a difference one child at a time!



Julie spoke to us via Zoom from Ulan Bator (aka UB), Mongolia where it was 1:00 AM!

She was raised in northern BC, attended UBC for a degree in French, married Chelvan, and traveled and worked around the world as they raised their children. They lived in BC, Quebec, Irian Jaya, Australia, the USA and now Mongolia. While living in Salt Lake City, they started a small family foundation to formalize the good they had been doing during these overseas postings.

A few facts about Mongolia:

Mongolia is a Democracy and strategically important to the free world as it is surrounded by two Communist countries, Russia and China. It is 15% the size of Canada and 30% of the land mass is desert; the population is 3 million people, 40% are nomadic, and 50% live in UB, the coldest capital in the world. Buddhism is the prevalent religion with shamanism popular.

The Mongolians remain much the same after thousands of years, with a few modern additions. The nomads move four times a year to the best seasonal shelter and free-range grazing land for their animals but use pickup trucks to move their gers (what we might call yurts).

When Julie and Chelvan moved to Mongolia in 2010 for his work in the mining industry, their humanitarian gesture of taking a container of warm coats and blankets developed into a series of community projects as Julie discovered the dismal circumstances of people barely surviving by scavenging in the dumps of Ulan Bator. Most were nomads before a severe winter killed thousands of their animals and they could no longer survive on the land.



Some of their challenges were:

- Extreme poverty - 30,000 people living in abject conditions;
- Lack of hygiene – water must be bought and must be used for drinking and cooking;
- Lack of job skills for an urban environment;
- Lack of proper paperwork – Government registration is necessary to qualify for education, work or hospital access outside the District, as the government discourages nomads from moving to the city;
- Food and shelter inequity;
- Adjustment to city life.

Trash pickers exist all over the world but it is so cold in the winter (-40°C), 60% of their energy is used to find fuel. (Mongolia is virtually tree-less and the nomads use dung for their household fires.)

Julie began her, and the Veloo Foundation's, extraordinary story.

The Children of the Peak Sanctuary Project opened a kindergarten for the smaller children, left alone while their parents and older siblings scavenged for a meager living, giving them a warm safe place; two meals a day; dental/ medical care; fun with friends; and teachers emphasizing future education. Julie was astonished to see the immediate impact on the whole family, but parents want the best for all their children and the kindergarten created a place for families to discuss, and plan, for the future.

The Sanctuary Project continues to help in many ways:

- Enrollment in the kindergarten has increased with the addition of a new sustainable building.
- The Library and Community Centre is used by everyone and provides a welcome place for gathering, reading, computer access for teenagers and adults, space for dance and sports classes, and special interest clubs such as chess. A psychologist helps with social issues affecting everyone in the world.
- The Soaring Crane Summer Camp gives the 8 to 16-year-old children a week in the countryside to do career mapping, learn life skills, participate in lots of sports, and have the very important fun. The 40-meter-high statue of Genghis Khan, leader of the Mongol Empire in the 13th century, is nearby.
- The Backpack Program – most of these children continue in school and need supplies and snacks.
- Classes are held for older children and adults to teach new occupations such as; Cooks, Teachers, Social Work, Seamstresses, plus ESL classes. Another building offers other vocational training.
- Life-changing surgeries have been paid for, and the Foundation sent a speed skater to the Olympics, who did not win a medal but came back to a lot of national pride and much self-esteem.

Horses – A Unique Fundraiser

Julie discovered the joy of horseback riding when she moved to Mongolia and organized a major fundraiser, the Gobi Gallop, the longest charity ride in the world – 700 km in 12 days followed by the Gobi Gala to celebrate and acknowledge the riders. If you are interested, you must qualify for this arduous undertaking on unique trained-for-long-distances Mongolian horses, and pay a registration fee of USD 3,750 plus a minimum amount in pledges. There is always a waiting list for the 15 spots! Due to Covid, Julie rode by herself in 2020; the 700 km in 8 days (she does not recommend such a fast pace!) and in 2021 local people did the Gallop. In nine years over \$600,000 has been raised.



In May 2022, the Blue Wolf Totem Ride will begin at the Chinese border and end at the eagle hunters territory; 3,600 km in 84 days; a slower trip designed to visit historical points including unprotected Bronze Age stone monuments casually scattered around. Shorter rides are of great interest and will be organized via Horse Trek Mongolia who will donate 20% of profits to the Veloo Foundation.

Julie fell in love with Mongolia and its people, and her commitment to supporting a better lifestyle while preserving the ancient culture shines through everything she does. She is warm, down-to-earth, resourceful, energetic, has a lovely sense of humor and, most of all, is a very caring person with the philosophy “a little bit of good helps a lot”.

If her talk plucked at your heart-strings, a donation will be gratefully accepted, and a tax receipt issued:

Online: www.veloofoundation.com

Cheques: Veloo Foundation, 97 Surfside Drive, Campbell River, BC V9H 1H7

Weren't with us on October 5? Julie did a TEDX talk in May – Julie Veloo – Choose Your Own Adventure.

Jane LePorte, who was extremely lucky to have met Julie in Mongolia in 2016, introduced her and wrote this summary. President Leslie thanked her.

