



# **WOMEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER**

Next meeting: **Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – AGM**

9:30 a.m. - Arrival                      Point Grey Golf Club  
10:00 a.m. - Meeting                    3350 S.W. Marine Drive

*We acknowledge that we meet on the unceded lands of the  
Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations*

**Masks are optional**

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## **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION - AGM**

The Annual General Meeting for the Women's PROBUS Club of Vancouver will take place on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 10:00am at the Point Grey Golf Club.

We will elect the Management Committee for the July 2023-June 2024, and the following names have been put forward. Note that further nominations made at the AGM must have prior approval of the nominee.

### Management Committee Slate 2023-2024

#### Executive

President: Heather (Hodie) Rondeau  
Past President: Leslie Chang  
Vice President: Meredyth Kezar  
Treasurer: Barbara Paterson  
Newsletter Editor:  
Webmaster: Hodie

#### Committees

Speakers: Sydney Hook, Meredyth Kezar,  
Jo-Anne Perley-McField  
Reporters: Volunteers needed  
Greeters Coordinator: Donna Battye  
Membership Services Coord: Mary Gillespie  
Membership Services: Pauline Dunlap, Michelle Gambrel, Dorothy Miller,  
Ann Williams  
Membership Coordinator: Janice Brown  
Members at Large: Donna Battye, Barbara Wynn, Helen Ballam  
Activity Coordinator: New position to be filled

New Members: A warm welcome to these new Women's PROBUS Club members; we look forward to meeting them at future meetings:

Guests: Invite your friends to be your guest at a meeting and to join Women's PROBUS. If they go to our website, [www.probuswomen.com](http://www.probuswomen.com), and click Join Us, they will see the application.

Communication: Various updates and reminders will be sent via brief emails and will also be in the Newsletter. The following items are in the Newsletter month after month and, repetitious as they are, they are Action Items and important:

Reminder: Please turn off your cell phones and, as a courtesy, no perfume at PROBUS meetings. The golf club has a defibrillator if anyone has a problem during a meeting.

Management Committee Contacts: Women's PROBUS members will find the confidential phone numbers and email addresses on the website – Members only page. Please contact them if you have any questions.

Update Your Contact Information: Have you moved, changed your email address or phone number? Please update your profile on the Club's website <https://probuswomen.com>.

Newsletter: Contributions of stories, poems, jokes and brain teasers are welcome. Please send them to the Newsletter Editor any time you wish.

Treasurer's Report:

Our year has gone well financially and we spent some of the money that we had saved during the pandemic on lunch at the last AGM, giving us an apparent loss this year. The need for Zoom meetings lasted longer than we had anticipated which gave us a gain last year. The most important part of the statement to look at is the left hand column, which gives this year's account. It can be compared with last year in the middle column. The budget for next year is in the right hand column. I have projected continuing collecting annual dues of \$80.00, which gives us a balanced budget. Any questions will be addressed at the AGM.

**WOMEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER**

Income statement for the years ended April 30

	2022-2023	2021-2022	Budget 2023 - 2024
<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>			
General Meetings	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$0.00
Membership dues	\$13,665.00	\$15,910.00	\$14,000.00
Interest	\$80.00	\$65.00	\$80.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$13,745.00</b>	<b>\$15,980.00</b>	<b>\$14,080.00</b>
<b><u>DISBURSEMENTS</u></b>			
General meetings	\$7,392.00	\$1,652.00	\$8,000.00
Speakers	\$2,200.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,200.00
Snacks at meetings	\$2,486.44	\$0.00	\$0.00
Membership (replacement badges)	\$0.00	\$1,145.29	\$100.00
Affinipay cost	\$435.51	\$357.42	\$450.00
Newsletter	\$2,090.63	\$2,877.67	\$100.00
Memorial gifts	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Probus Canada membership	\$498.00	\$597.00	\$500.00
Website (Two years paid in 2022)	\$101.01	\$2,561.10	\$2,500.00
Administration	\$129.19	\$151.98	\$150.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$15,332.78</b>	<b>\$11,842.46</b>	<b>\$14,000.00</b>
<b><u>NET INCOME (LOSS)</u></b>	<b><u>-\$1,587.78</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,137.54</u></b>	<b><u>\$80.00</u></b>
<b><u>ASSETS and LIABILITIES</u></b>			
Term deposit	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Bank account, year end	\$3,445.34	\$5,346.86	
Less - outstanding cheques	\$0.00	-\$313.74	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$13,445.34</b>	<b>\$15,033.12</b>	
Vancity membership shares	<b>105.90</b>	<b>100.91</b>	
<b><u>EQUITY</u></b>			
Balance April 30 previous year	\$15,033.12	\$10,895.58	
Net income year ended April 30	<u>-\$1,587.78</u>	<u>\$4,137.54</u>	
	<b>\$13,445.34</b>	<b>\$15,033.12</b>	

Presented by Barbara Paterson, June 6, 2023

## **JUNE SPEAKER**

Speaker:

**The Honourable  
Risa Levine**

Topic:

**Afghan Women Judges  
in Canada**



In August 2021, when the Taliban took over Kabul, the 260 Afghan women judges and their families became targets for harassment and assassination. The International Association of Women Judges started a rescue operation; so far about 170 of the Afghan women judges have escaped Afghanistan. After waiting for months in “lily pad” countries, many have found homes in the UK, Ireland, Germany, Australia, the US, and the largest number, 36, in Canada.

In December 2021 the Canadian Chapter of the IAWJ formed a Support Committee to help the Afghan women judges and their families who immigrated to Canada to resettle here. Over 160 Canadian judges have volunteered and have become partner judges, English language coaches, communication partners, friends, and supporters. A small group of retired judges and one legal academic contacted the deans of all the law schools in Canada to encourage and help them to develop positions in the legal community for the judges, tied in with professional-level English language training, and established a charitable fund to receive donations.

Risa Levine is a retired judge, having served as a justice of the Court of Appeal for British Columbia (2001-2014) and the Supreme Court of British Columbia (1995-2001). Before her appointment as a judge, she practised law in Vancouver for 17 years. Since retiring, Risa has been actively engaged in her community, sitting in the board of Rise Women’s Legal Centre, chairing a task force on Developing a Culture of Philanthropy for her synagogue, chairing the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver’s task force on Covid recovery, and for the last year and a half, sitting on the Support Committee of the Canadian Chapter of the International Association of Women Judges formed to assist Afghan women judges resettling in Canada after being forced to flee Afghanistan in 2021.

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Women’s PROBUS of Vancouver:

<https://probuswomen.com>

Contact us:

[probuswomen@gmail.com](mailto:probuswomen@gmail.com)

PROBUS Canada:

<https://probus.org>

PROBUS International:

<https://probusglobal.org>

## **MAY SPEAKER**

### **Sharon Davis**

#### **Philanthropy: Give and Take**

Sharon spoke to us about her interesting and varied career that took her from work in investment finance, to volunteer work in the non-profit sector, to her most recent career in philanthropy.

After becoming disillusioned with her work in the financial world and the direction it was taking, Sharon began to explore the non-profit sector by finding out how non-profits were funded and how they worked. She learned that the skills she gained in the corporate world were transferrable and liked the idea of effecting change. Passion for whatever work you are doing, creativity and being surrounded by good people and mentors are important components for all sectors. During the time that Sharon was looking for a non-profit that fit with her values, she gave her husband the book *Leaving Microsoft to Change the World* by John Wood. He loved it and when she read it, she realized that her current journey from business to non-profit was paralleling John Wood's. She felt that in his charity, Room To Read, she had found something that she would like to become involved with.

Room To Read is a 'global education charity' founded in 2000 by John Wood. The organization believes that 'World Change Starts With Educated Children'(R) . It has brought education programs to over 32 million children in 20 low income countries.

In 2005 Sharon called Room To Read and asked about starting a Vancouver Chapter. She gathered people who she knew would be interested, launched a fundraising campaign and opened the chapter in 2006. Hard work, tenacity and passionate people made it successful. After many years of volunteer leadership with the Vancouver chapter, Sharon

moved on to her next venture but continues to volunteer with Room To Read (as does our Probus member Meredyth Kezar).



Sharon took the skills she had learned about how a non-profit can be run effectively, combined it with her business acumen and, with her partner Christina, formed Giving Well, a company that focusses on enabling sustainable philanthropy. Today's individual donors are becoming more informed and businesses have become more targeted with their philanthropy. Employees want to know how their

company is giving back and want to be involved in the decision making. Giving Well works with both a company as donor and a charity as receiver, to guide the process of matching 2 entities so that both sides benefit from the partnership. Benefits of this approach include helping employees to learn about philanthropy, how to make it happen and the impact their gift of time or talent will have on the community. Once in place the goal is to have a partnership of 3-5 years between a charity and a company. Many continue much longer than that.

Sharon gave us a good explanation of the difference between CHARITY and PHILANTHROPY. We need both. Charity provides change for the moment. A hot drink or warm socks are necessities but do not last. Philanthropy finds answers to the problems and can work to make the change. We need the short-term fix of charity while we focus on the long-term solution that philanthropy can provide.

*Meredyth Kezar introduced Sharon. Wendy Baker thanked her and quoted Helen Keller: "The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves."*