

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

November 2019

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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Monthly Meeting at the Capilano Golf and Country Club

420 Southborough Drive, West Vancouver, 604-922-9331

Coffee and Fellowship: 9:00 am, Club Business and Speaker: 9:30 - 11:15 am

Monday, November 4th

with speaker

Professor René Goldman

“ The Holocaust Memoirs and Reflections of a Child Survivor ”



Professor René Goldman is a survivor of the generation that experienced the gruesome years of the Holocaust (or Shoah) in their childhood. They are known as “child-survivor” or “hidden children”. Born in Luxembourg, where his parents emigrated from Poland, he was six years old when he witnessed the arrival of German troops come to occupy the Grand-Duchy in 1940. Soon the Jewish population of 5000 was ordered out of the country. Unable to afford joining the group that traveled with the rabbi to the distant Dominican Republic, René’s parents chose to settle in nearby Brussels, where René began his primary education in a Flemish school. By summer 1942 the situation of the Jews in Belgium grew untenable. Leaving all their possessions behind, the family escaped to France. Having suffered a humiliating defeat in 1940, France was divided mainly into two zones: the Occupied Zone in the North and the non-occupied so-called Free Zone in the South, which was under the sole authority of the French government, seated in Vichy and whose head was the Fascist dictator Marshal Petain, assisted by a ferociously anti-Semitic Commissariat for Jewish Affairs. Jews who had come to the Southern Zone for refuge were periodically subjected to “raffles”: round-ups by the police, interned, and deported back to the North, and from there to Nazi death camps like Auschwitz. René and his mother were caught in one of these round-ups in the city of Lons-le-Saunier. He was miraculously saved by a maternal aunt, but his mother perished in Auschwitz (*View René’s remaining bio on page 2*)

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Monday, December 9th

West Vancouver Yacht Club

With Special Guest - Dr. Jonathan Berkowitz (*see page 3...*)

Registrations and payments accepted by mail

You can also bring your payment of \$50 to the November meeting

Note: This luncheon is for MEMBERS ONLY



President's Notes



As you are reading this, the newly elected MPs, full of enthusiasm and expectations are in Ottawa to take up their positions. Drawing on my own experience, let me tell you what is before them.

The first evening, as they go to bed at 11, those from the West

Coast have their bodies tell them “what are you doing in bed, it is only 8 o'clock”. Getting up at 7 to make it to the House at 9, the body complains “but it is only 4 o'clock.”

On the Hill, they face an emotional swearing-in ceremony, which concludes with receiving a pin that opens the doors to capital buildings and the floor of the House, where they will vote in the only election where their vote truly counts, that of the Speaker of the House. They will stare at the impressive décor of the House and wonder which chair they will be assigned. They may even sit on one of them and play with the electronic gadgets they will use.

They attend briefings and caucus meetings to learn how parliament works and what is expected of them. Their minds will be on mundane but important logistics. Will I live in a hotel, apartment or house, with or without my spouse or colleagues, located within walking distance of the House or requiring the use of public transit, taxis or a private car? Where are restaurants and grocery stores serving food I like?

With some anxiety they will look for their offices. Will they be in Center Block or buildings some distance from the parliamentary chamber, have a view or look on dreary walls, what distance are they from stairs and elevators? These offices have to be staffed, equipped with electronic gadgetry and decorated to show taste and links to the home constituency.

One of the most important decisions they need to make concerns the choice of staff. There are the young, bright and enthusiastic people who helped with the election, but who know virtually nothing of how to maneuver the bureaucracy and get help for constituents. The alternative is hiring someone who has been doing the work for other MPs from their party for many years. Their choice will have much influence on their ability to serve constituents and get re-elected.

It will be some time before the newcomers know where the committee rooms are and, importantly, the nearest toilet is. Our sympathies should be with them.

Herb Grubel

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René Goldman Bio cont'd

and his father escaped to Lyon, where he joined the underground Resistance. The underground formed a network of volunteers, whose challenge-filled task was to find hiding places for Jewish children, notably among Gentile families in rural areas, and Catholic convent and monastery schools. In this search for safety René was moved from place to place. His longest clandestine sojourn, which lasted nearly 1 1/2 years, was in a Roman Catholic boarding school, under the identity of René Garnier, born in Chateauroux.

Following the liberation of Lyon in September 1944, René who had been hidden that summer with a farming family nearby, was returned to Lyon under the care of a maternal uncle and family. Thereafter, during the years 1945 to 1950 he was raised in a succession of children's homes created for orphans of the Holocaust. The Communist indoctrination dispensed in these orphanages inspired him to emigrate to Poland, where he finished high school in 1953. He next studied for five years at Beijing University as a Poland-China exchange student until 1958. Then followed one year at Warsaw University and one year at the Sorbonne in Paris, after which he won a Ford Foundation scholarship to begin graduate studies at Columbia University in New York. This eventually led to him becoming a professor of Chinese history in the department of Asian Studies of the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver.

Parking at CGCC

As the golf season is ending on October 20th, the upper parking lot at Capilano Golf and Country Club will be available for those attending our PROBUS meetings.

This facility will now be available for PROBUS members until the spring opening of the golf season. For those of you who struggle with the entrance steps, there is an elevator available with access by the pathway immediately to the right (west) of the entrance stairs.

Gary Sutherland



Special Events

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
Monday, December 9, 2019 - 11:00 AM TO 2:30 PM
at the West Vancouver Yacht Club

Our Special Guest will be The Puzzling Professor
Lovingly Referred to by his wife as her
“Semi-literate Statistician”



In his professional life, Dr. Jonathan Berkowitz is a statistician. He teaches at UBC's Sauder School of Business and consults in private practice. While numbers are his vocation, words are his avocation, and his passion for puzzles, words games, and puns have become an integral part of his many speeches.

Currently, he entertains and educates about wordplay as The Word Guy on CBC Radio's North by Northwest.

Come prepared for mouth-watering food, drink, fellowship, camaraderie, good cheer and have a hilariously good time as the Puzzling Professor presents.

THE WHIRLED OF WORDS

Wordplay is as old as language itself. From the Riddle of the Sphinx to the modern-day world of puzzles, we have been fascinated by the patterns in the letters and words in the English lexicon. We will take a whirlwind tour through the whirled/world of words, making stops along the way.

This will be a MEMBERS ONLY event.

Dress code: Business Casual.

Price \$50

To register send your \$50.00 cheque along with your name, phone number and e-mail address to:

The PROBUS Club of North Shore Vancouver,
P.O. Box 92042, West Vancouver BC, V7V 4X4
(Please mark “Christmas Lunch” on the envelope)

Gordon Cook



Remembering Members Who Passed

Each November our newsletter includes a column to remember our members who passed away this year:



October Greeters and Scribe



Greeters Barrie Gillmore and Bruce Jamieson



Our guest and scribe Darlene Dean

New Members Introduced and Welcomed at October Meeting



Ross Andrews (*member since October 2019*) Ross was born in North Vancouver and, for all but five years, has lived here all his life. He received a BA in Political Science at UBC and started work with Cominco, who then transferred him to Toronto.

After five years he came back to Vancouver and, making a career change, joined World Wide Shipping and Chartering here on the North Shore whose main focus is mineral concentrates. Having learnt the business, he became the owner and President until his retirement last year.

His main interests now are golf and genealogy (no doubt trying to find out the origins of his golf swing).



Roy Maguire (*member since October 2019*) Roy was born in Dublin, Ireland and came to Canada at the age of nine. Later he joined the Armed Forces as an Officer with the Governor Generals Foot Guards. From there he moved into the security business spending

his career with ADT Security Services Canada where he became President and CEO.

Having retired, his interests are woodworking, fishing, golf, travel. He is involved in Certified bike riding safety. He was President of The Crime Stoppers Foundation of BC – raising money to support Crime Stopper services and he is a Board Member of the WV Seniors Centre.



Bill Lloyd-Jones (*member since October 2019*) Bill was born in Vancouver, received a degree in Applied Science and got his P.Eng. shortly after that. It led to a career in the Forest Products industry both in Engineering and marketing in positions that ranged from management of engineering

and construction to Director of Process Engineering. Now his activities are hiking, swimming, skiing, snorkeling and travel. Hobbies are woodworking, gardening, electrical, mechanical, economics and capital markets



Dan London (*member since October 2019*) Dan was born in St. Hyacinthe in Quebec but got his Business Management degree at UBC. He has practiced business development with Chrysler Canada, Schenley Canada, the BC Pavilion Corporation and

Sunrise Solutions, a consulting company and worked in Canada, the USA, UK, Europe and China.

His current interests are still a bit of consulting, travel and car building, which includes fund raising events such as the Drive the Shore LGH promotion six weeks ago.

Special thanks to photographer Darryl Stodalka

Past-President Jim Grey welcomes our new members



Last Month Speakers - North Shore Mayors Forum



**Speakers Mayor Mike Little and Councillors
Craig Cameron and Don Bell**

Our speakers were:

Mr. Don Bell, Councillor, City of North Vancouver (on behalf of Mayor Linda Buchanan). The City completed a survey of residents on what their wants and needs are to support purpose and enjoyability of living on the North Shore. Three main themes emerged – Passion for Place; Connections; and Industry and Enterprise. The Council’s 3.5 year Strategic Plan was then developed which is focused on development of the Lonsdale waterfront including the “Shipyards District”, Polygon Gallery, the Entrance Pavilion, Presentation House and North Vancouver Museum and Archives. Thoughtfully incorporating the history flowing from the 3 themes, we will see an emphasis on educational programs and mobile exhibits detailing the history of city development since the early 1800’s, through the years of the booming shipyard industry, to the present day and what’s in store for the future. Of special interest is the fully restored 1908 Streetcar 153 which used to service Lonsdale Avenue, and the Sisters Carving representing the Lions Mountains which are said to guard the Peace of the Pacific Coast, both of which can be seen in the new Entrance Pavilion. The development project is \$10 million, with 80% of the funds already in place.

Mr. Mike Little, Mayor of District of North Vancouver. Although all three speakers stated that traffic was a huge issue, Mr. Little cited this as the #1 issue his council is facing. He and Mr. Cameron (WVan) sit on the Mayors Council for Translink. He referenced the \$189 million project at the foot of the Cut aimed at reducing accidents and increasing access for residents, which has doubled Mountain Highway, added 2 new side bridges as well as

collector and distributor lanes. 1963 was the last time that there was a lane increase to the North Shore when the toll booths on the Lion’s Gate Bridge (which were situated in the middle lane) were removed, even though the population has grown from about 80,000 residents to 195,000 residents since then. Phibbs Exchange (Charles Phibbs was the first Mayor of North Vancouver District) is redesigned to provide added lighting and washrooms, express to Metrotown, and direct to Capilano University. Studies have been done over the last 10 years contributing to these changes and more to come including modernizing the transit system (3rd SeaBus; B-Line across North Shore) and consideration for a bridge replacement for the Iron Workers Memorial, Gondola to SFU, and light rail across North Shore. In the short term all drivers can do their part to help make the commuting better by chilling out and putting their phones down!

Mr. Craig Cameron, Councillor of West Vancouver (on behalf of Mayor Mary-Ann Booth). He referenced West Vancouver Foundation’s publication called “Vital Signs” which he had available at the meeting and is available on their website. The 2019 Vital Signs report builds upon earlier work identifying trends along with existing and emerging areas of need in the community. The report covers 10 key themes, consolidating a vast array of research into one thoughtful community-centric report. Of note is that the population in WVan has been declining over the last 5-7 years particularly in the youth category (from 28% in 1979 to 21% today), and that 1/6th of WVan population has shifted to Chinese in 3 years. 70% of WVan’s workforce commutes to WVan for their work. 93% of property taxes are residential. The Council’s Strategic goals are stated to be: Housing Supply – purpose built rentals and adding the missing middle housing needed; Economic Development – visitor strategy and local area plans for centres; Environment and Climate Change; Transportation (talked about pilot project on Bowen Island for ‘transit on demand’ through an app); and Municipal Services – main issue is attracting and retaining employees.

Editorial note: The City of West Vancouver Strategic Plan and Balanced Scorecard were developed in 2010 and the milestones developed have not reported on since then. The Vital Signs Report, using lenses of Belonging, Liveability, and Welcoming, examines key factors that are critical to ensuring a healthy and vibrant West Vancouver where everyone is valued, contributes, and feels they belong.

Scribe Darlene Dean

Meeting Guest and wife of Darryl Stodalka