

# PROBUS Club of Oshawa Newsletter: February, 2021



**2020 - 2021  
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**Al Sawtell,**  
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**Vacant,**  
Vice President

**Maria de Jong,**  
Past President

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Pat Bayus,**  
Secretaries

**Garry  
Christenson,**  
Treasurer

**Marilyn Thaxter,**  
Social Committee

**Elaine Lopes  
Anne MacKay,**  
Special Interest  
Groups  
Coordinators

**Sheila Leonard,**  
Speakers  
Committee

**Connie Nelson,**  
Membership  
Chair

**Maria Upton,**  
House  
Committee

**Jacqueline  
Frank,**  
Archivist

**David Hardy,**  
Web Master

**Cindy Fleming,**  
Newsletter Editor

Our PROBUS Club of Oshawa will start to hold VIRTUAL GENERAL MEETINGS as of September 2020. As Provincial Health Regulations evolve, these may include a combination of in person and virtual meetings until we can all meet again in person.

## President's Message

We're now officially one year into the Covid - 19 pandemic. Frankly, I'm more than tired of picking up the newspaper or listening to television news to learn more about the current state of Covid affairs. I'm a "news junkie" during normal times, but I find myself turning pages and channels to avoid more Covid information. I don't feel I'm sticking my head in the sand, but rather dodging more news that threatens to depress me even more. Most likely, many of you share my sentiments.

However, I am a positive person who thinks we'll "soon" be past this life experience: The vaccine is coming, longer daylight is coming, spring is coming, and most importantly, meaningful social interactions with family and friends are coming.

Our Management Team will be discussing some possible ways we can provide Zoom and outdoor events that will serve to bring us together as we approach February and ultimately spring. If you have any suggestions please pass your thoughts on to any member of the Management Committee who will present your idea at a Management Team meeting.

We look forward to you joining us on February 9<sup>th</sup> at our next General Meeting.

Stay safe.

*Al Sawtell.*



## FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Our next **ZOOM Virtual General Meeting** will be on **Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM.**



## EASY STEPS TO PARTICIPATING IN OUR GENERAL MEETINGS VIA ZOOM

- Use your browser to go to the website, **[www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)**
- At the top right corner of the screen that opens up, click on the button, that says **JOIN A MEETING**
- Enter the **Meeting ID code** sent to you by email a day or so before the meeting date.
- Enter the **Passcode** as directed.
- You will be put into a Waiting Room, until you are admitted by the Host.
- Once in the meeting check the toolbar at the bottom of your screen to see that your **Video** is on. If not, click it to on.
- You can also check that your **Audio** is on the same way. You will be asked to **Mute** your audio during the Speaker sections of our General Meeting.

If you need further assistance getting familiar with getting on and using ZOOM, please contact Maria de Jong at [mariska578@gmail.com](mailto:mariska578@gmail.com).



## FEBRUARY SPEAKER – Dr. David Chandross – Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Mankind

Dr. David Chandross (M.Sc., M. Ed., Ph.D) will be speaking to us about Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Mankind. Dr. Chandross is currently a senior scholar in residence at The Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University. He has done pioneering work on the role of learning in the prevention of dementia in seniors and the use of technology, such as virtual reality.

Follow this link for information on last month's speaker Author [Terry Fallis](#).



Current membership stands at 257 as reported in the January newsletter.



To follow the links within this Newsletter, don't forget to "Ctrl + Click".

## **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

**Lockdown 2.0**

**"Social Distancing"**

**I hope all members have signed up!**

**Location: Your Home**  
**Time: 24/7**  
**Cost: Priceless**



### **BOOKWORMS - Bernice Burke and Judy Bell**

Bookworms will hold a Zoom meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 AM. Each member will recommend a book and a podcast they have enjoyed. A master list will be typed up and shared.

### **PROBUS BOOK CLUB - Mary Kelcey**

The PROBUS book club will meet virtually on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM. Barb Jones will lead the discussion on "Blueprints" by Barbara Delinsky.



### **BRAIN GAMES – Jackie Frank**

The brain games have gone “online”. Two to three times a week, members get a puzzle to solve. The solution is sent to them the next day. If you are interested in receiving these puzzles, contact Jackie Frank.



### **MOVIE GROUP – Mary Gibson**

As you already heard the theatres are closed again for now. So the movie group is not meeting up at the theatre. There has been some sharing in emails - talking of online movie watching we've done. But for now that is it.

### **URBAN POLE WALKING - Maria de Jong**



For now, since we are still in lockdown, we are walking by ourselves or with one other group member already in our bubble. Looking forward to walking together as a group again soon!



## YARN DIVAS - Barb Jones

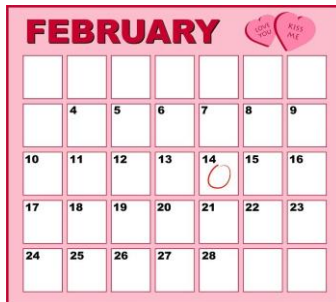
The Yarn Divas are continuing to stay connected over Zoom. We look forward to even more of our members joining the meeting on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 10 AM.

Our group will make another donation of sensory lap blankets and twiddle muffs to the Continuing Care Unit of Lakeridge

Health Whitby in February.

# TidBITS

If any of our members have a favourite recipe, puzzle, photos of previous events, ideas on how interest groups are staying connected or any other information that might be of interest to others in our Club, please submit them to our newsletter editor, Cindy Fleming, ([clf0808@yahoo.ca](mailto:clf0808@yahoo.ca)) for inclusion in the newsletter.



## February Facts

February is mostly recognized for Valentine's Day flowers, and depending on where you are, being incredibly cold!

The name February comes from the Latin word "februum" which means purification and was named after a purification ritual which was like an early Roman spring cleaning festival.

February fluctuates between having 28 and 29 days per year. The 29<sup>th</sup> day only occurs every 4 years during leap years. Over time, the length of February kept changing. At one point, it had as little as 23 days.

The length of February was finalized when Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar and assigned the month 28 days and 29 days. In 713 B.C., February was officially added to the Roman calendar.

If you were born in February, your birthstone is an amethyst and your flower is a primrose.

The odds of being born on February 29<sup>th</sup> are about 1 in 1,461. Those born on a leap day can be called a "leaper" or "leapling".

The western zodiac signs in February are Aquarius which is until February 19<sup>th</sup>, and Pisces, which starts February 20<sup>th</sup>.

In the Northern Hemisphere, February is the third month of winter. Meanwhile in the Southern Hemisphere, February is the last month of summer. Between the North and South Hemispheres, February is the equivalent of August.



## SOLUTION

**Luckily nine out of ten people improve once you get to know them.**



**What is a New Year's resolution?** Something that goes in one year and out the other.

They say New York City has the best New Year's celebration, but I say it's overrated. Every year they drop the ball.

My New Year's resolution is to procrastinate. I'll start tomorrow.

I was going to give up all of my bad habits for the New Year, but then I remembered that no one likes a quitter.

**A man tells his doctor, "Doc, help me. I'm addicted to Twitter!"** The doctor replies, "Sorry, I don't follow you ..."

**What do you call a parade of rabbits hopping backwards?** A receding hare-line.

**What does Charles Dickens keep in his spice rack?** The best of thymes, the worst of thymes.

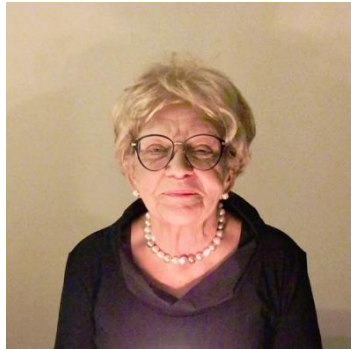


### Member Care

With a Club such as ours, we need your help to let us know if one of our members is experiencing a serious illness or is hospitalized. Our Club would like to let our ill members and their families know that they are in our thoughts as they deal with their illness with respect to the family's wishes for privacy.

In the same way, we need you to let us know if you become aware that a member, their spouse or close family member has passed on. Often the family does not think to contact our Club, or know who to contact under these difficult circumstances. We would like to respect the wishes of family and give our members the opportunity to express their condolences to the bereaved. Please let us know so we can respond appropriately. Email [mariska578@gmail.com](mailto:mariska578@gmail.com) or [oshawaprobustclub@gmail.com](mailto:oshawaprobustclub@gmail.com).

IN MEMORIUM  
Nancy Byers



Nancy Byers joined our PROBUS Club of Oshawa, with her husband Doug, in 2014, and both took on very active roles. Nancy was Co-Chair of the Social Committee for three years. She will be missed by her PROBUS friends.



**Scam Alert**

Just a reminder not to open any email that sounds like it might be a scam. Here's a link to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre. The Centre collects information on fraud and identity theft and provides information on past and current scams affecting Canadians. If you think you're a victim of fraud, [report it!](#) [RCMP Official Website - How to Protect Yourself](#)



**Bernie is patiently waiting until we can all meet in person again.**



**PROBUS Club of Oshawa Website:**

[www.oshawaprobus.com](http://www.oshawaprobus.com)

**PROBUS CANADA Website:**

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

### **PROBUS GLOBAL**

There are over 4,000 clubs worldwide with over 350,000 members. Of those there are over 260 clubs operating in Canada. What you may not know that PROBUS also has a **Global Club.**

PROBUS GLOBAL is open to any member of a PROBUS Club and provides an on-line forum to make connections to PROBUS members around the world.

<https://probusglobal.org>

