



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

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Clubs for retired and semi-retired professional and business persons, former executives and others

www.probusvancouver.com

February, 2014

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Next Meeting: February 11, 2014

Time: 9:30 am

Location: H.R. MacMillan Planetarium and Space Centre, Lower Level

Speaker: Dr. Jaymie Matthews, UBC Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics

Topic: "Exploring planets far, far away... without hyperdrive:

The real science of real alien worlds"

Future Speakers

March 11th Jock Findlayson—Topic: The BC Economy in 2014

April 8th Peter Armstrong—Topic: TBA

DR. JAYMIE MATTHEWS



Dr. Jaymie Matthews is an internationally recognized space scientist. His leading contributions to the study of space were cited in 2006 when he was admitted as an Officer of the Order of Canada. Born in Chatham, Ontario, Dr. Matthews obtained higher degrees in Astronomy and Astrophysics first from the University of Toronto, then an MA and Ph.D from University of Western Ontario. Holding a Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship from 1988 to 1990 at UBC and a Research appointment at University of Montreal from 1990-1992, he then joined UBC where he has been a Full Professor since 2008.

Dr. Matthews describes himself as “an astro-paparazzo who unveils the hidden lifestyles of stars by eavesdropping on ‘the music of the spheres’”. His areas of research include Stellar astrophysics, asteroseismology and exoplanetary science. He has made multiple appearances on all the major Canadian television channels, CNN, Discovery Channel and Space: The Imagination Station.

Dr. Matthews worked on designing Can-

ada's first space telescope (MOST), and is the lead scientist for the Canadian Space Agency's MOST project. He is an advisor to the Canadian Space Agency on exploration projects. Dr. Matthews served on the board of the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre and continues to sit on its Programming and Education Committee. He is the recipient of several awards, including: The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012, The Canadian Association of Physicists Education Medal in 2002, The Just Desserts Award from the UBC Alma Mater Society & Alumni Association, also in 2002 and the UBC Killam Faculty of Science Teaching Award in 1999. Dr. Matthews has co-authored several publications.

Upcoming Events

March 19th—Guided Tour of Vintage

Car Collection (see page 4 for details)

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES TEAM

Greeters – Chuck Lew & Carl Jonsson

**Cashiers – Brian Lahiffe &
Chandran Thiruchittampalam**

Member Services Desk - Tony Weall

Report of the January 14th Meeting
Attendance: 202 Members and Guests

President Jon Collins called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, welcoming all and particularly guest speaker Dr. Andre Gerolymatos, whose impressive biography is set out in the January newsletter. **Ken Yule** acted as secretary. **Norm Leach** introduced new members (see "Welcome New Members"). **David Scott**, chair of the Strategic Planning Review, invited suggestions for additions to, or subtractions from, our program.

Brian Maunder introduced Dr. Gerolymatos, who spoke on "The Struggle for Power in the Middle East: From World War to the War on Terror", describing the last century in the mid-East from the Muslim point of view and detailing decades of western ignorance and misjudgement of the Muslim world. The Ottoman Empire, extending over most of the Middle East, was a tolerant, prosperous, cohesive Muslim community whose sultan, the caliph (descendant of Mohammed) exercised moral religious authority. In 1914 he made the mistake of siding with the central powers. The British were afraid he might call for a jihad (massive uprising against the enemies of Islam), particularly in India, and made a secret pact with the governor of Mecca and Medina, who feared the sultan would topple him. The sultan raised funds from Muslims to build a railroad from Damascus to Mecca. When T. E. Lawrence blew up trains, he antagonized all Muslims and the Arab world remained loyal to the sultan. The Balfour Declaration, promising a Jewish homeland, was massively denounced throughout the Muslim world. Postwar, the Ottoman Empire was reduced to Turkey, with France and Britain controlling mandated territories. Iraq was created out of three provinces, two Shiite and one Sunni. Ibn Saud conquered Arabia, and Saudi Arabia became the centre of the austere, conservative Wahabe religion. In Turkey, Ataturk abolished the sultanate and caliphate. There were many attempts to restore Islamic unity under one leader, including the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt which became popular because the mosques were the source of food and medicines. In World War II Britain entered a secret pact with the Muslim Brotherhood to prevent nationalists seizing power in Egypt. 1945 saw the end of the age of colonies and its replacement by rising nationalism. Britain needed oil, which was transported through the Suez Canal, which the Egyptians wanted to nationalize. Britain supported the monarchy in Egypt, but the United States, believing that General Nasser was the key to Middle Eastern stability, backed him and the C.I.A. imported ex-Nazis to train the Muslim Brotherhood for guerrilla war in the Canal Zone. Their usefulness to him over, Nasser established death camps for the Muslim Brotherhood, and when the U.S. supported the creation of Israel he allied himself with the Soviet Union.

The Arab world banded together to destroy Israel, and their failure was humiliating. 750,000 Palestinian refugees poured into Egypt and elsewhere. Arab nationalism and socialism failed because the countries were too poor. Meanwhile the

Americans used ex-Soviet Muslims with contacts in the U.S.S.R. such as Chechens who had fought with the Germans and were then sent to Siberia, to try to establish Muslim cells within Russia. The Muslim Brotherhood despised atheist communism, but needed the money and weapons Russia provided.

Ayatollah Khomeini's Iranian revolution in 1979, in which the Shah, the western proxy, was removed and American hostages were captured, marks the first modern time that Islam has defeated the West. The Americans saw Iraq as a bulwark against Iran, and armed Saddam Hussein. The Wahabes took over the Great Mosque in Mecca, but the Arab world believed Khomeini's pronouncement that the infiltrators were Israelis supported by the U.S.

When the Red Army moved into Afghanistan, the U.S. financed a covert war using Muslim Brotherhood volunteers moving through Pakistan. The Russian retreat was a great victory for Islam, not the United States. When the mujahedeen returned, having formed cells under C.I.A. training in Pakistan, they were convinced they had won the war against the infidel and must continue it.

The United States did not realize how serious the problem was until September 11, 2001. President Bush then went into Afghanistan to chase the Taliban and into Iraq to destroy Al Qaeda. The Americans chose a moron to replace Hussein, and Iraq is in the shambles of sectarian war with Al Qaeda controlling a portion of it.

The Arab spring of 2011 was hailed as the birth of Middle Eastern democracy. The Muslim Brotherhood, a conservative Islamic regime, won the Egyptian election and was overthrown by the military. Not understanding what was happening, and dreaming of brokering a Mideast peace, President Obama cut off \$1.5 billion in aid to Egypt. Saudi Arabia replaced it with \$14 billion, and so the U.S. has no influence with either the Brotherhood or the military. In Syria the chemical weapons continue despite American threats. It is President Putin, determined to keep a warm water naval base in Syria and concerned about radical Islamism entering Russia, who has negotiated the agreement.

The war on terror gave Al Qaeda tremendous credibility in the Muslim world. Its guerrilla warfare showed that the U.S. cannot defeat the Taliban, who will soon be back in power in Afghanistan, massacring those who cooperated with the west. Al Qaeda is like the hydra, growing multiple new heads when one is cut off. This conservative radical militant Islam group has many followers, appealing to many young people struggling with the clash of their traditional religion and modernity. Dr. Gerolymatos responded to questions with personal opinions and predictions. Sudan is deteriorating, and the U.S. will not intervene until it is too late.

Oil was a big factor in the Second Gulf War. Syria is a series of disasters; the U.S. turned its back on a liberal opposition, and now no one can afford to intervene. The Syrian war will spill

over into Lebanon, which will fracture. President Obama has a naive view of the world and immediately he was elected made impossible promises to Cairo and Istanbul. The terrorist target in Russia will be Volgograd, not Sochi. China has a radical Muslim province which it wants to contain. Turkey is becoming a more radical Islamic state, which the E.U. will not accept as a member for fear of a flood of labourers. The North African Muslims in France are more radical. Canada's unreserved support of Israel is a mistake which prevents us from helping Israel with the Arabs. The U.S. will become military allies with Iran. The Quebec secular charter is terrible; the province imported French-speaking Muslims and now hate them. The past failure of education gives the gleam of hope that future education may improve matters. We must understand Islam and explain tolerant Canadian society to immigrants so they learn how to adjust. Meanwhile we have mosques built and paid for by Saudis which are preaching hatred.

Tony Weall thanked Dr. Gerolymatos for his preparation, expertise and passion and hoped that he would return to soon.

ROTARIANS' INVESTMENT CLUB



The Rotarians Investment Club meets on the last Thursday of every month at the RVC at 6.00 pm with a no-host bar followed by dinner, with wine, and the meeting 6.30. We frequently have a guest speaker from a brokerage house or an industry of interest.

Some of our members will research and present a topic of interest such as Forestry, REITS, ETF's and Energy. Members enjoy the fellowship of a small, intelligent and convivial group with common interests, as well as gaining knowledge of the stock market.

Please visit the Probus Website, for more details. We would welcome you to attend a meeting to see if the Investment Club would be of interest to you, especially if you have your investment account managed by a professional advisor.

The website gives the names and phone numbers of our Executive. If you have questions, please call John Sullivan at his residence: 604-263-4486; or office—604-714-4773.

Our next meetings are:

January 30th - Speaker - Felix Narhi of Pender Fund Capital
Topic - "U.S. Equities";

February 27th - Speaker - Jeff Davies of Odum Brown
Topic - tba.

Welcome New Members
John Simonett—Civil Engineer
Terry Gould—Accountant
David Pulfrey—Electrical Engineer

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Last month my message urged you to average down your Probus cost by attending more meetings. So, it is gratifying to see members take full advantage of their membership by pumping the January attendance to over 200, well above the 170 or so average over the past few months. It likely had a lot to do with Dr. Gerolymatos and his excellent oration on the recent history of the wars in the Middle East. Kudos to Brian Maunder and his Speakers Committee for persisting in getting Dr. Gerolymatos back.

You will find it rewarding to use our "probusvancouver.com" website. Those of you who already use it, might help others to benefit from this great storehouse of our club's history and current happenings. Did you realise that the website allows you to quickly and easily access almost every newsletter our club has ever published? To sign up a new member, you or he can print the "Nomination for Membership" form from the Website's Home Page. The Website is open to the public except for some password protected areas. You can refer friends and prospective members to it to find out what we're all about. There are also links to other Probus Clubs. On the Home Page, you can easily see who the upcoming speakers are, as well as find out what future activities are in the offing. Under the Speakers button, a simple click gives you the list of speakers back to 2009. You don't have to comb through the newsletters to see who our previous speakers have been, along with all their information. Also easily accessible from the Home Page is information on our 3 Clubs (Bridge, Book and Investment) and 6 Committees.

Our Roster (password protected) of all 385 members is kept up to date monthly and is accessible under Membership Information. Telephone numbers and email addresses are part of the package. Jack Zaleski chairs our Website Committee which not only keeps the Website up to date but continues to make improvements which render the site more and more user friendly. If you want information about using the site, contact Jack. 604-261-7492
jack.zaleski@gmail.com.



GUIDED TOUR OF THE VINTAGE CAR MUSEUM AND COLLECTABLES

“A walk down memory lane”

Location: - 12391 Gilbert Road, Richmond

Date: - Wednesday, March 19th



MEMBERS ONLY (MAXIMUM OF 60—WILL OPEN TO GUESTS AT FEBRUARY MEETING IF NOT FULL)

NOTE – CARPOOLING RECOMMENDED, EASY PARKING, NO STAIRS, SHORT WALK

Jim Ratsoy has been restoring cars since 1959. He now has over 125 cars, all in running condition, with many looking better than new. This is probably the most highly admired collection of vintage cars in North America. Housed in two buildings with over 30,000 square feet, the collection is estimated to be worth between \$9 and \$12 Million. In addition, Jim has an astounding collection of memorabilia which includes pin ball machines, gas pumps, music boxes, juke boxes, mechanical organs/player pianos, and nickelodeons. This includes a vast collection of early Wurlitzers. Jim enjoys talking about and playing these instruments (all in full working condition) and has an encyclopedic knowledge of his collection, which he is eagerly willing to share.

9:45 AM – ARRIVE AT 12391 GILBERT ROAD. TURN RIGHT FOR PARKING LOT

10:00 AM - ASSEMBLE IN MAIN BUILDING. HAVE COFFEE AND HEAR OPENING REMARKS

10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON GUIDED TOUR AND FREE TIME TO VIEW THE COLLECTION

12:30 – NO HOST LUNCH AT YOUR CHOICE OF RESTAURANT - POSSIBLY IN STEVESTON.

For example: Dave’s Fish and Chips, Cimona Café, Charthouse Restaurant, Sockeye City Grill.

TRAVELLING INSTRUCTIONS FROM VANCOUVER

1. Route 99 South, Turn right onto Steveston Highway for 4.6km, Turn left on Gilbert. Continue 1.1km to 12391 Gilbert Road (almost at the end!).

2. Take Granville Street south over Arthur Laing Bridge, take right exit towards South Airport, Turn left at Gilbert Road (before #2 Road Bridge and South airport exit), continue 6.6km to 12391 Gilbert (almost at the end!).

YOU MAY REGISTER: At the Activity Desk at the Probus February or March meeting, cash or check or Mail Registration form and payment – **only \$20 per person**

To Dave Phillips, 1291 West 38th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6M1R2

E-Mail DPH13579H9@shaw.ca

Deadline for Registration: **MARCH 11th**. Cancellation deadline **MARCH 11th**.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

NOTE – YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED

I plan to attend: Name _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Cheque enclosed for: _____

IN MEMORIAM

It is with regret we announce the passing of Barrie Lindsay on January 4, 2014

and of Doug McGinnis on January 11, 2014

Our condolences to their families.

The Probus Club of Vancouver will make a donation in Barrie’s memory to

BC Children’s Hospital Foundation,

and one in Doug’s memory to The Canadian Cancer Society