

# THE PROBUS CLUB OF UXBRIDGE - December 2023

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

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



# UXFORMATION

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

### President

Kathy Clulow

### Past-President

Chuck Heroux

### Vice-President

Robin Dhillon

### Secretary

Linda Abate

### Treasurer

Margaret Blanchet

### Speaker Chair

Zina Bolak

### Social Committee Chairs

Gail Porter Heroux

### Interest Groups Chair

Betty Bignell

### Newsletter Editor

Bernie Beales

### Membership Chair

Elaine Stevenson

### Webmaster

Gerry Bignell

### House Chair

Sally Kotsopoulos

### Members At Large

Lynn Moore

April Gilkinson

## President's Message:

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in our town and in our homes, and, hopefully, in our hearts and attitudes. Our PROBUS Christmas Elves have been working around the clock yet again, getting ready for our annual Christmas Luncheon. I am sure we will be delighted with the results of their creative efforts. They seem to come up with the most creative ideas to make sure we enjoy every aspect. Thank you, Social Committee. You make our club extra special!

We love to receive all the positive comments about our club, our meetings and our activities and we thank you. Do you realize that we are associated with a world-wide group of active like-minded seniors? PROBUS is available in 18 countries. Through their website, Probus Global offers international newsletters, photos, speaker's corner, videos from around the PROBUS world, humour and club information. It's a fun website to peruse on some quiet afternoon. Click on this link: <https://probusglobal.org/>

Christmas time in Uxbridge offers so many special things to do! Check out the local listings included in this newsletter and try to attend some of the beautiful music presentations and, of course, the Fantasy of Lights (don't miss our updated display). The Living Nativity is back again in full force, with a cast of hundreds, horses, a donkey, and a barefooted herald. Bundle up, bring the family and spend 1/2 hour witnessing this event.



We trust you enjoy the Holiday Season, spending time with family and loved ones both near and far. We've come a long way! Remember the feeling of isolation just a few short years ago? Let's enjoy every day.

From my house to yours....Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays  
Kathy Clulow

## From Your Speakers' Chair

At our November meeting Phil Craig of Liberation Tours gave a mesmerizing and moving presentation based on the D-Day Invasion of Normandy. Phil's skills as a master storyteller were evident as he vividly described the preparations at Portsmouth, the crossing of the English Channel, the difficult landings at various beaches including Juno Beach, and of the brave soldiers who fought there, for our freedom, many of whom did not return. One to remember just in time for Remembrance Day.

December – No Speaker (Christmas Party at the Royal Ashburn)

January 2024 - Conrad Boyce presents his Klondike Story.

Prepared by Zina Bolak



## From Your House Chair

### Greetings from the House Committee

**Fa-la-la-la!!!!** It's the Holiday season and the House Committee is on vacation till January. We will be having an urn of decaffeinated coffee starting in January and decaf tea will also be available. I have also been asked to indicate nut free snack options. I will do my best to indicate this when it is evident and members can always ask to see the packaging to make their own safety decisions. When in doubt please decline the snack and keep safe. Thank you to November's House Committee Helpers – You did an amazing job, especially the ladies in the kitchen who kept me calm while we blew a few fuses.

**Volunteers for January are:**

**Room set up & take down:** Rod Eastman & Chuck Heroux

**Kitchen:** Jacqueline McDonald, Paula Donahoe, Cathy Boone & Mary Ann Eastman

**50/50:** Nancy Clarke & Ellen Gillis

**Greeters:** Marilyn Davis & Jan Moody



Thank you to everyone who has signed up to help with set up, kitchen, greeting and 50/50. There is always room for more, so if you feel the urge, please drop me a line at my email or text me with your name and info at 647-206-8645, [sallykprodev@gmail.com](mailto:sallykprodev@gmail.com)

Enjoy the holiday season and from our House to Yours - Happy Holidays

## Fantasy Of Lights



I believe it was four years ago when we first decided to build a display for the Uxbridge Optimists' Fantasy of Lights show at Elgin Park, and at the time we conceived a bus to represent us, because we are an active group going places—all kinds of places. We chose a school bus because the colour was a Probus colour, made Santa the driver, and mounted laminated caricatures of prominent Canadians in the windows.

We added Christmas trees, more lights, and even presents, as the years went by, but this year we actually modified the bus to look more like the coaches we use, and added Rudolph to drive it.

When I say “we”, I refer to a terrific committee of fifteen (!) that participates in the design, manufacture, painting, printing, laminating, and installation of this masterpiece, which happened November 19 this year. Special thanks to Margaret and Rene Blanchet, who generously make their workshop/garage available for us to store and work on the pieces, and for Rene, who did a masterful job re-modeling the bus front for us.

Please make sure to visit the Fantasy and see our show. This project represents the best of what Probus is all about—getting together to use our talents and interests for the benefit of everyone, and have a lot of fun at the same time. We laugh a lot at these gatherings!

(Report by Chuck Heroux, Photos by Lorraine Willcock, Chuck Heroux and Bernie Beales)





# From Your Social Committee

NOV · 24



## ONE OF A KIND

A good time was had by all!!

Despite the early start time (I am not a morning person!!), the bus trip in to this handmade extravaganza was well worth the effort. We arrived at opening and shopped 'til we dropped – well, at least until we were picked up again at 3pm.

If you have not been to One of a Kind – it is a marathon of an event. For example – I bought only one thing (candy!!) and I walked the aisles and aisles of booth from 10 until 3!!

What is there to buy? Everything !!!



Big leather stuffed animals

The most unusual terrarium/aquarium combos I have ever seen.

More gnomes than I ever thought possible.



AND CANDY - Turns out this candy maker – Templeman's Toffee – is moving to Uxbridge in 2024!!! YUM!!

And THIS candy maker won my heart with their sign which reads "Skinny people are easier to kidnap. Stay safe – eat chocolate!!"

Great tour - Then back on the bus with parcels and packages of all shapes and sizes!! Is that map actually a big chocolate bar?



## Upcoming Social Events

### TO SIGN UP FOR ALL SOCIAL EVENTS:

First - you must sign up at the Social Events Table during General Meetings,  
by e-mail to [social.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:social.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com)  
or by telephone to Social Chair Gail Heroux (905-852-9927).

Next - you must pay either by e-transfer to [treasurer.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com)  
or by cheque at a meeting or by mail to:  
Uxbridge PROBUS c/o Gail Heroux, 72 Munro Cres., Uxbridge ON L9P 1L8.

You must be a vaccinated member of Uxbridge PROBUS to attend Social Events  
(or be sponsored by a member and provide proof of COVID19 vaccination).



SUNDAY DECEMBER 10 - 1:00 PM  
TRIBUTE CENTRE, OSHAWA  
(This is a drive yourself event)

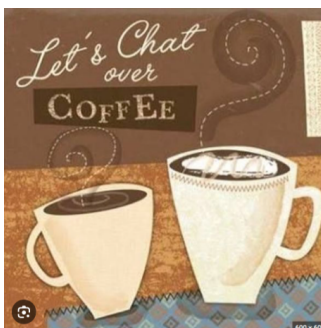
# CRYSTAL

**SOLD OUT!**

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13 -  
ROYAL ASHBURN GC  
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS  
LUNCH & GALA

Cost:

**SOLD OUT!**



THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 10 a.m. - Noon  
**COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Only \$5 pp**

ONCE AGAIN DEIRDRE & ROBERT WILL HOST  
THIS EVENT IN THEIR HOME  
23 Wilson St, Uxbridge

See separate flyer for more details





# Toronto Tour

Thurs. Feb. 8

Step On Guide (a.m.)

Lunch at the Hot House Cafe

Visit to Little Canada (p.m.) to see new displays (including East Coast)

Cost: \$155 (members)

\$165 (guests)

See separate flyer for more details

Mysteriously Yours Mystery Dinner  
Theatre  
presents

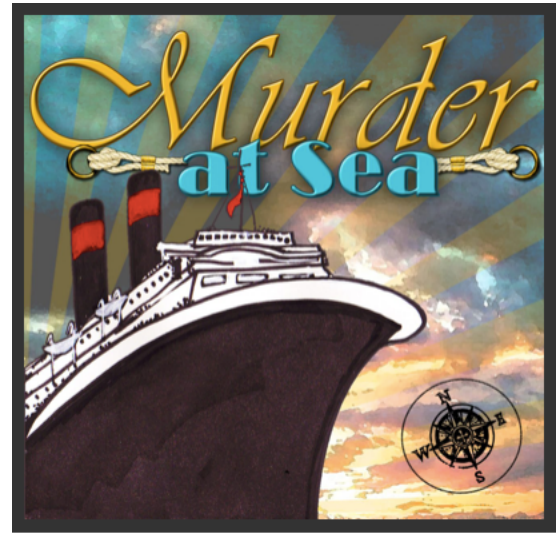
## “MURDER AT SEA”

TUESDAY MARCH 26, 2024 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$120 - Members \$130 - Guests

Lunchtime event with hot roast beef meal catered by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Uxbridge Legion (cash bar available)

See separate flyer for more details



### Local Events & Activities

## OLD SCUGOG ROAD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Display lit nightly from 5-11 pm Dec 1 to Jan 3

Drive yourself on this wonderful Christmas Light Tour! Head south on Old Scugog Road from Taunton Rd. Turn right at each court and turn around in the bottom court at the end of Old Scugog Rd., then proceed north and complete the remaining courts on your right.

For more information Google “Old Scugog Rd Bowmanville” and watch You Tube videos of past displays!



## More Local Events & Activities

Monday Morning Singers, December 3rd, 3 pm, St Paul's

North Durham Concert Band, December 6, 7:30, Hope Church, Prince Albert

One Voice Singers, December 8, 7:30, December 9, 3:00, St. Paul's

Northern Trails Vocal Connection, December 9, 7:30, December 10, 3.00, St. Andrews-Chalmers.

Living Nativity, December 15,16,17, at 7:30 and 8:15, Centennial Park.

Optimists Fantasy of Lights, December 2 - January 6, 6:00-9:30, Elgin Park



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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!**

# THE LION KING

IS COMING NOVEMBER 2024

Mirvish Productions is bringing this show back to the Princess of Wales Theatre. We are planning to attend the Wednesday, November 20 matinee performance with lunch before the show.

Toronto will become the first city in North America to have a second sit-down production of "Disney's The Lion King" and will launch a new generation of Canadian artists.

If you would be interested in coming to see this show with us, please sign up at the social table or by email.

**THIS IS NOT A COMMITMENT**, merely an expression of interest.

We do not have ticket prices yet or other information but it will give us an idea of the interest level. If there is a sufficient number of people signing up, we may plan a second bus.

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# Facebook Post of the Month

 **Zina Bolak**  
November 19 at 2:04 PM · 🌍  
Beautiful day for a hike in North Walker Woods last Thursday! Thanks Carol & John, coordinators of the Hiking group! 🍁🍂🍁



If you use Facebook, and haven't already, consider joining the Uxbridge PROBUS Club For Members Only Facebook group to stay current on what our club is doing and to post your own memories from special outings. This is also a good source to discover what is happening around town as we promote Fun, Friendship and Fellowship! Maybe the next Facebook Post of the Month will be yours! You can find us by searching for **PROBUS Club of Uxbridge**. (Report by April Gilkinson; Post of the Month by Zina Bolak)

NOTE: You will need a Facebook Account to join in the fun!



## Reducing Your Footprint

**CHRISTMAS TREES - REAL OR ARTIFICIAL?** (Report by Debra Lippay)

**CAMP REAL:** Oh, before you get all "they're messy and dangerous", hear me out. Messy - hey, so is life! Is it not fun finding tree needles in July? Danger from fire - yes, if it's dry and sitting next to the fireplace - or candles. Before consumerism took hold, trees didn't go up as early. Decorating now starts exactly one minute after the pumpkins disappear. Farming is green, right? Monoculture tree farming is not participating in any kind of biodiversity or natural ecosystem in our environment, and often chemicals are used in growing the trees. But trees absorb carbon from the air, you say? A little, but tree farms cut down the trees before they are really big enough to start absorbing that carbon. And what distance is the tree being shipped?



**CAMP ARTIFICIAL:** They don't drop needles - unless of course the cat gets in there - but what are they made of? PVC. Yup and you can't get rid of that stuff, it's difficult to recycle. Into the landfill they go. You can keep them for years, although consumerism dictates bigger, newer, shinier - so, are they? Where are they made? Certainly not by your local small business. Mostly they are shipped from factories overseas. Emissions from shipping are scary.

**Which camp are you in?** There isn't a clear winner here, but leaning real; be conscious of where you purchase. Support small local business who are environmentally aware. Our municipalities recycle them! Or leave your tree outside after Christmas, providing shelter for birds and small creatures! Then compost come spring.

This is the second in a series of monthly **DID YOU KNOW?** articles prepared by the Reducing Our



## From Your Interest Groups Chair



Our next General Meeting will be at the Uxbridge Community Centre on January 10, 2024! We will not be having a General Meeting in Dec.

All Club members are invited to join an Interest Group. I will not have a table with Sign-Up sheets available at the Christmas Lunch and Gala, so please contact me at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com) if you want to join any of our Interest Groups. Sign-Up sheets will be available again at our January 10, 2024, General Meeting.

**POTENTIAL INTEREST GROUPS** could include Art Club, Astrology, Bowling, Board Games, Breakfast Club, Casino Visits, Cooking, Current Events, Discovering Uxbridge & Area, Fitness, Home Reno, Horses & Other Animals, Mah-jong, Meditation, Memoir Writing, Music, Sports (Pole Walking, Running, Biking, Golf, Skiing, Skating, Swimming), Photography, Yoga & more.

### POTENTIAL INTEREST GROUPS

**BID EUCHRE** **Coordinator Required** Bid Euchre has been suggested as an Interest Group. If you are interested in joining a Bid Euchre group, please add your name & contact information to the sign-up sheet or contact me at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com).

**HISTORY** **Coordinator Required.** The subject of History covers a broad range of topics. Initially, group members may want to meet and share their areas of interest to discuss at future meetings. Please contact me if you are interested in History and want to join this group. [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com).

### TO SIGN UP FOR ALL INTEREST GROUPS:

At General Meetings, there will be Interest Group sign-up sheets at the back of the meeting room. If you are interested in joining any of the groups, add your name & contact information to the sign-up sheets! Please print! During the coffee break, I'll be at the back of the room with the sign-up sheets. Hopefully, I'll be able to answer any questions.

Coordinators all have their group name tags and may be sitting with me, or elsewhere in the room available to answer any questions. Everyone joining an Interest Group must be a Club member!

As well you can contact me, Betty Bignell, at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com). There usually isn't a charge to join an Interest Group, but some may have a minimal fee to pay for using the venue. Everyone joining an Interest Group must be a vaccinated member of the Club and have proof of vaccination for COVID-19 recorded by the Social Committee.

\*If you have an idea of another potential new group or want to join one of the above suggested groups, please contact me at the General Meetings or send me a message.

REMEMBER - THERE'S AN INTEREST GROUP FOR THAT! (Debra Revie Lippay)

## Current Interest Groups

### BANNED BOOK CLUB: Coordinator Camille Scarlett **One spot left!**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 19 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Joanne Alexander will lead the discussion of Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe. This is the first graphic novel the group has read. Last month the group discussed The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison. The discussion focused on the variety of locations the book was displayed and the reason it was banned. To sign up, follow the directions in the gold box above.

### LIT HAPPENS - Coordinator Jen Thornson **Two spots left!**

The group will meet next on December 28 to discuss Educated by Tara Westover. The group now has eight members and there are spots for two new members! To sign up, follow the directions in the gold box above.

### BOOK CLUB: Coordinators Gerri Martin & Kelly Keilty **This group now has a wait list**

The group will meet in December for a get together and friendly book exchange. In November the group enjoyed a great discussion of Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen. Please contact Betty Bignell if you want to be added to the wait list.

### CANASTA GAMES & LESSONS: Coordinator Amber D'Aguiar

Canasta Lessons will be held on Thursday, December 14 from 1:00-2:00 pm with Games following from 2:00-4:00 pm. To sign up, follow the directions in the gold box above.

### EUCHRE: Coordinator Carolyn Hicken

The group will meet on December 5 at 10 a.m. There will not be a meeting in January, but the group will meet again on February 6, 2024. The Euchre group meets on the first Tuesday of the month, at 10:00 am. To sign up, follow the directions in the gold box above.

### GARDENING: Coordinator Sally Kotsopoulos

The Gardening group will be meeting with the Handicraft group on Friday December 15 at 1:00 pm. They will be making Holiday floral arrangements.

### GENEALOGY: Coordinator Bernie Beales

There will not be a meeting in December. The next meeting will be on January 18 at 1:30. The Genealogy Group meets once a month to share our joys and frustrations in creating our family trees. If you are looking to give a unique Christmas gift for a family member, all the major Genealogy sites are having big sales for the holidays! To sign up, follow the directions in the gold box above.



### HANDICRAFTS: Coordinator Sally Kotsopoulos

The Handicraft group will join the Gardening group on Friday, December 15 at 1:00. They will be making holiday floral arrangements. There will be a small initial charge and weekly charge for members of this group. To sign up, follow the directions in the gold box above.



## HIKING: Coordinators Carol Fraser & John Willcock

Our Goodwood/Uxbridge area has a wonderful series of trails through a variety of forests and meadows, some quite flat, some with gentle hills. The group explores these forest trails near Uxbridge in the Durham and York Regions for 1 ½ to 2 hours. Join them for lively discussions, interesting views and leisurely treks! December hikes are scheduled for Thursday, December 7 and December 21, at 9:30 am. Hike details are emailed to our group members. The Hiking Group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday morning of each month at 9:30. To sign up, follow the directions in the gold box above.



## KITCHEN BRIDGE: Coordinator Anne-Marie Sacco

The group will be playing on Thursday, December 7 at 1:00 p.m. Currently there are eleven group members. It is difficult to have two tables playing as one or two people must sit out. New members are required. To sign up, follow the directions in the gold box above.

## LADIES BRIDGE CLUB: Coordinator Caren Narvet

The group will be meeting on Tuesday, December 12 at 1:00 pm for a regularly scheduled bridge game and a Holiday get together. If anyone would like to join the group, this would be a good chance to get to know members. The group meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00. To sign up, follow the directions in the gold box above.

## ONLINE BRIDGE: Coordinator Caren Narvet **This Interest Group Has Been Cancelled**

Online bridge began during COVID-19. As players are now more interested in playing bridge in person, online bridge games will no longer be organized.

## LET'S EAT OUT: Coordinators Gail & Chuck Heroux

Meeting monthly for dinner, Let's Eat Out members have enjoyed dining in a great variety of restaurants. In November, the group dined at Pastaggio Italian Eatery in Stouffville. Each month, when the name of the restaurant and location is chosen, group members will be notified. The group usually meets monthly on the third Thursday.



## LUNCH GROUP: Coordinators Betty Bignell & Joy Freemantle

The next lunch get together will be on January 29 at 12:00. In November, the group enjoyed lunch at the Douglas Crossing Retirement Home in Uxbridge. Each month, members are informed of the name of the next restaurant where they will meet. The Lunch Group meets on the last Monday of the month at 12:00. To sign up, follow the directions in the gold box above.



## MOVIES: Coordinator Required

The Movie Club is now inactive as the Coordinators have resigned. Along with input from group members, a new Coordinator may bring fresh ideas to reactivate the group. Please contact Betty Bignell at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com) if you are willing to be the Coordinator.

## MULTI-DAY CLUB TRAVEL OPTIONS: Coordinator Anne-Marie Sacco.

Beginning in January 2024, members of this group will have the opportunity of choosing from almost twelve months of vacation opportunities. These include a January visit to Fern Resort in Ontario, an all-inclusive resort on Grand Bahama Island in February, a chance in the Spring to see lovely cherry blossoms in Charleston, a Tatto in Nova Scotia in June, and in the Fall a train trip to see the Agawa Canyon, a tour of Iceland and the Rhine River and many more!

## PICKLE BALL: Coordinators Gerry Bignell & Alan James

The Pickleball group has now closed for the season. To play independently, a summary of indoor locations including time, associated fees and/or membership requirements will be sent out to group members.

## REDUCING YOUR FOOTPRINT: Coordinator Brian Keeling

There will not be a group meeting in December. The next meeting will be on January 17, 2024. The purpose of the group is to discuss reducing our impact on the planet. Many topics can be discussed - energy, food & health. Each decision made can make a difference! To sign up, follow the directions in the gold box above. **Look for our monthly tip in each edition of this Newsletter.**



### SCRABBLE: Coordinator Judy Fink

The Scrabble Group will not be meeting in December. The group will meet next in January 2024. The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm. To sign up, follow the directions in the gold box above.

### SMALL TOWN THEATRE GROUP: Coordinators Steve Fryzuk & Peggy Kennedy

**This group now has a wait list**

The group will not be meeting in December. On January 20th they will be seeing "Murder on the Nile" at the Uxbridge Music Hall. On November 26 after meeting for lunch this group went to the Curtain Club in Richmond to see "39 Steps". Group members like to attend theatre events in the Durham and York Region. Small Town Theatre members may be interested in attending comedies, musicals, or plays in the Durham and York regions.

### WALKING FOR FITNESS: Coordinator Patricia Bell

On December 19 at 1:00, the group will have their first walk together. Choosing from a variety of locations in Uxbridge, the group will begin walking at 1:00 on the first and third Tuesdays each month. Depending on weather, initially the group will walk for approximately 30 minutes and length of times may vary for future walks. To sign up, follow the directions in the gold box above.

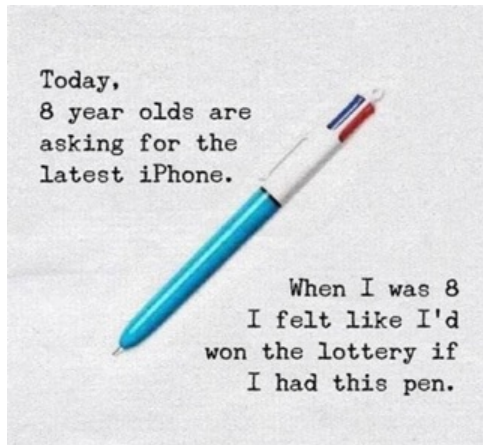


### WINE CLUB: Coordinators Sherrill Burns & Anne Gauvreau

There will be no Wine Club meeting in December. The group will enjoy the Christmas Luncheon at Royal Ashburn on December 13. The group will meet again on January 10, at 7:00 to sip and learn about wines from the Languedoc Region of France. Research will be done on this region and presented by the Wine Group Chairperson at the meeting. As usual, a fun time will be had by all. This group meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 7:00. To sign up, follow the directions in the gold box above.



# Share A Smile!



**"Vaping"  
back in  
my day.**



1978	2023
Long hair	Longing for hair
8 Tracks	Cataracts
KEGs	EKGs
Streaking	Leaking
Acid Rock	Acid Reflux
Seeds and stems	Fiber
Stayin' Alive (the song)	Stayin' Alive (the goal)
Hoping for a BMW	Hoping for a BM
Going to a new, hip joint	Getting a new hip joint
Rolling Stones	Kidney Stones
Bell bottoms	Big bottoms
Disco	Costco
Whatever	Depends
Rock n' roll all night	Sleep through the night
Think you know everything	Think you know your name

sun-gazing.com  
holistic

**Always make sure  
SOMEONE in the  
relationship has  
good credit. That's  
why it's called  
SIGNIFICANT other.  
Sign/if/I/can't.**

**Follow me for more  
marriage tips**

## ARTIST'S CHRISTMAS TREES



Boticelli



Dali



Matisse



Michelangelo



Mondrian



Monet



O'Keeffe



Picasso



Seurat



Van Gogh



Vermeer



Warhol

