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*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

December 2024

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

[info@pvskiers.org](mailto:info@pvskiers.org)

### President's Message

Happy Holidays! Our PVS Holiday party will be held on Saturday, January 4 at 1 p.m. this year at our house. As in the past, we will ask members to bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert. We look forward to seeing you in January. Shortly thereafter, a group of about 24 PVS members will head to Snowmass for our annual ski trip. We are hoping for good snow.

When Bob and I first joined PVS, after meeting the Schwartzbards at a party at the home of a mutual friend, the club was large and vibrant. There were at least two ski trips a year, and often a European trip. Meetings were held every month and there were plentiful non-skiing events as well, such as attending a theatre performance or a local hike. Over the years that Bob and I have been members, the club has shrunk, due to the passing of members and many members aging out of skiing. I have very fond memories of skiing with some of the people who have passed on or spending time with them at PVS meetings and functions.

Sadly, we have recently lost long-time PVS member, Ray McKinley, after a long illness. For many years, Ray was one of the backbones of the club, as a leader of many ski trips, along with his wife, Nancy, and as author of the remarkable column, "The Knee." Those of us who went on a McKinley ski trip were treated to an awards ceremony, where all of us received an "award," that was carefully crafted for each participant. Ray's Toot column entertained and amazed us for many years. Our condolences to Nancy.

Another member who passed recently is David Payne. Many of us not only enjoyed skiing with David, but have fond memories of the trip we took to visit his vineyard in the Finger Lakes area of New York. David gave us a tour of the vineyard and carefully explained the micro-climates in each area of the vineyard and the wine-making process. We extend our condolences to David's wife, Susan. On my first PVS ski trip to Snowmass, I skied with David Abraham, then in his early 80s. With great expertise, he led a group of us down the black diamond runs on the far right side of the mountain. I enjoyed learning about his very impressive career on our rides up the chairlift. David passed away only a few months after that trip.



**Holiday Party**  
**On Saturday,**  
**January 4, 2025**  
**1:00 PM**

Bob and Cara Jablon's home.  
Washington, DC

Many other memorable PVS members have passed, including Bob Marx, Eloise Strand, and Luanne Eadie. Bob Marx was always kind, cheerful and gracious. I recall skiing with Bob, I believe in Sun Valley, when we ended up in a run that was more challenging than we had anticipated. Always the gentleman, Bob did not complain, and slowly, without any mishaps, we worked our way out. Eloise Strand was an amazing woman, who, to my mind, always had a glow about her. In her many volunteer activities, she dedicated herself to helping others and had a profound impact. Luanne Eadie was very generous in opening her home for many PVS parties, and I have fond memories of her Oktoberfest parties.

Other members we have lost during my time with PVS include Charles Huggins, Marvin Haas, Jack Chapman, and Fred Leonhardt. All of these members were important to our club and are missed. I treasure all the time that I was privileged to have spent with PVS members who have left us.

*Cara Jablon*, PVS President

### Coming Event



### **PVS Holiday Party in January 2025**

4573 Indian Rock Terrace, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.



We look forward to hearing all about your holiday season which, for Potomac Valley Skiers, is extended into the New Year!

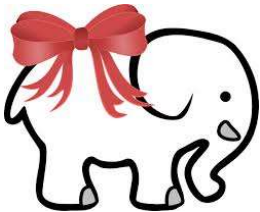
Our holiday party will be held on **Saturday, January 4, 2025, 1:00 p.m.**, at the home of Cara and Bob Jablon. Directions are below.

Please bring either an appetizer, salad or dessert. There will be **no charge** for participants.

Please let Cara know if you will be coming and what you will bring.

Please RSVP to Cara at. [rcjablon@aol.com](mailto:rcjablon@aol.com), 202-333-5332. Thanks.

### **SALE! SALE! SALE!**



To start the new year just right, we are sponsoring a voluntary **"White Elephant Giveaway"**, allowing you to bring anything you'd like to give away at our event. It can be something that's been in your closet a bit too long; a special something you love but have realized you can live without, or maybe a duplicate gift. Just be willing to let it go!

No money will change hands, but you will have to market your gift to get someone to take it!

Any questions? Just check with Marianne Soponis. [marianne.soponis@gmail.com](mailto:marianne.soponis@gmail.com)



## Directions

**From Northwest D.C.:** Take Nebraska Avenue to the beginning of Foxhall Road. Go south on Foxhall Road one traffic light past the intersection of Foxhall and Reservoir to Q Street. Right on Q Street. Continue on Q Street for 1 block to the stop sign (45th St.) and make a right on 45th. Go two blocks and make a left (Q Lane). The street will dead end into Indian Rock Terrace. Make a right and go up the hill. The Jablons' house is the fourth house up the hill on the right (a red brick and frame contemporary house).

**From Potomac/Rockville/Gaithersburg:** Take 270 South to 495 towards Virginia. Exit at Cabin John Parkway and continue south on the parkway until Arizona Avenue (1st traffic light after light at Chain Bridge). Make a left on Arizona and a right on MacArthur Boulevard (1st light). Continue on MacArthur Boulevard for about 1½ miles past the Safeway on the left. Shortly after passing the Safeway, MacArthur forks to the right and Reservoir Road goes to the left. Continue on MacArthur to Q Street (the next light after the light at the fork). Make a left on Q Street. Go 1 block to the stop sign (45th St.), and make a left on 45th. Go 2 blocks and make a left (Q Lane). The street will dead end into Indian Rock Terrace. Make a right and go up the hill. The Jablons' house is the fourth house up the hill on the right (a red brick and frame contemporary house).

**From Virginia (Chain Bridge):** At the end of the Chain Bridge, make a right. Continue to the first light (Arizona Avenue). Make a left on Arizona and follow the directions immediately above from that point on.

**From Virginia (Key Bridge):** Stay in one of the left lanes at the end of the Key Bridge. Make a left at the end of the bridge to M Street (may be called Canal Road at that point). Get in the right lane and continue up the hill to the light at the beginning of Foxhall Road. Continue on Foxhall to the next light (Q Street). Make a left on Q Street. Go one block to the stop sign (45th St.) and make a right. Go 2 blocks and make a left (Q Lane). The street will dead end into Indian Rock Terrace. Make a right and go up the hill. The Jablons' house is the fourth house up the hill on the right (a red brick and frame contemporary house).



## Coming Event



### PVS - BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) group

With the days getting shorter and nighttime reading opportunities getting longer, consider joining us for an hour to talk about what you have read and to learn what others have read and recommend. **See the info at the bottom for how to join in on December 12, 2024 (the second Thursday of each month) at 4 pm!**

Here are the books we shared in November:

Bonnie Sweeney discussed a novel, "Mr. Rochester," written by a local woman who Bonnie knows, Sarah Shoemaker. The author imagines the life of Mr. Rochester beyond that told in Charlotte Bronte's Gothic classic "Jane Eyre." 5\*\*\*\*\*

Bonnie discussed a second book, "An Unfinished Love Story" by Doris Kearns Goodwin, which is part memoir and part history about the late 1950s and 1960s and her and her historian husband's roles and observation of that period. 5\*\*\*\*\*

Ellie Thayer read "Recipe for a Perfect Wife" by Karma Brown, where the story toggles between a 1950s housewife in suburbia and a modern wife transplanted from New York City to the same house 60 years later. The modern wife, Alice, finds Nellie's old letters and cookbooks, and humorous tidbits of advice given to 1950s wives. The book draws parallels and differences in their lives with several surprises at the end. 4\*\*\*\*\*

Karen Knopes noted two books by favorite authors, but declined to give them ratings because they were not representative of the authors' best writings. The first was "My Name is Red" by Orhan Pamuk, one of his first books. The second book was "Leaving Cheyenne" by Larry McMurty, similarly one of that author's earlier books.

Mary Ellena Ward discovered a detective series by Aaron Elkins starring Gideon Oliver, a forensic anthropologist specializing in bones, a profession which the author shares. "Old Bones" is Elkins foremost work, but Mary Ellena liked them all for being a good relaxing read. Aaron's wife, Charlotte Elkins, also writes novels in a variety of genres in addition to collaborating with Aaron. 5\*\*\*\*\*

Jan Marx, the group's mystery queen, read one of Louise Penny's recent Chief Inspector Gamache books, "The Beautiful Mystery" about a murder in a remote monastery. Jan did not think it was one of the best in the series, but grew more interested as the monks' different personalities emerged. 4\*\*\*\*\*

Marianne Soponis became a fan of Jodi Picoult and liked "Wish You Were Here." Late twenties New York professional Diana and her boyfriend's romantic getaway to the Galapagos gets seriously messed up when the Covid pandemic hits and she travels there by herself and becomes stranded. 5\*\*\*\*\*

Prepared by Ellie Thayer

The next BYOB Zoom call will be held on Thursday, December 12th from 4 to 5 pm. Let Nancy McKinley know at [nancymckin@gmail.com](mailto:nancymckin@gmail.com) if you have questions or comments. If you're interested in joining us Nancy will put you on the list to get the link to the Zoom call. No commitment!



# *PVS Ski Trip*

## *Snowmass, Colorado*

### *January 8-15, 2025*

Opening Day at Snowmass is November 23<sup>rd</sup>

In addition to a fun week of skiing we also have the following après ski activities planned:

Wednesday, Jan 8<sup>th</sup> – Welcome Party

Saturday, Jan 11<sup>th</sup> – Pizza Party

Tuesday, Jan 14<sup>th</sup> – Dinner at The Edge

Note there will not be a Pre-Trip get together this year. We will see you in Snowmass!

Reminder: Trip insurance is recommended. It can be purchased through [Encompasse.com](http://Encompasse.com) or by calling 866-385-4839. Be sure to reference Encompasse Tours.

**Please send your flight arrival information so we can help arrange for pickup.**

LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW!

Kathy & Barry Lake

Trip Leaders

[kathylakehomes@yahoo.com](mailto:kathylakehomes@yahoo.com)





## *SKI TALK*

*by Kathy Lake*

### SNOWMASS UPDATES

Snowmass opened earlier than planned thanks to early season snowfall which delivered over 2.5 feet of snow! Opening day was moved up to November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The slopes are calling us! During our trip in January, we will get to ride the new high speed Coney Express lift which originates across from the Snowmass Mall. It should help alleviate congestion at the base area. After an exhilarating day of skiing, we will have a few new restaurants to sample. Napoli Express took over Patores Taste of Philly space and will be serving pizza. Rock Island Oyster Bar & Grill is in Big Hoss Grill location and will be offering seafood dishes. Heather's Pies, where the Artisan was, specializes in savory dinner pies and will have live music. Looking forward to another great week at Snowmass!

### BRSC Fall Meeting

On Saturday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> Barry and I attended the BRSC meeting in Ellicott City, Maryland. The agenda included recaps of 2024 trips, update and discussion of 2025 trips and presentations from tour operators for the 2026 trips, as well as, possible destinations for 2027 and beyond. Here's a summary of the upcoming ski trips:

#### 2025 Trips

**Winterfest** will be at **Killington**, Vermont March 1-6 with Banchi Outdoor Adventures coordinating. This will be a bus trip from the DC area to Killington. There is still space available. Banchi is also offering a BRSC Fam trip to Killington December 12-15, 2024. The cost per person starts at \$379 which includes 3 nights lodging and a 2-day lift ticket. There is limited space available. Only 2 members per club can participate. If interested act quickly and contact Joe Ferrara of Banchi at [joe@banchi.com](mailto:joe@banchi.com) or 609-584-0005.

**Western Carnival** at **Park City**, Utah is February 2-9, 2025. Space is still available. They actually need more people to meet the contracted minimum. If any PVS members are interested you could go with another club that is participating.

**Eurofest** to **Chamonix** is full. The lodging has been sold out.

#### 2026 Trips

There are a few possibilities that were discussed for the **Winterfest** destination which included Jay Peak, Sugarloaf, Quebec City and Tremblant. No decision was made. Stay tuned.

**Banff** in Alberta, Canada is the choice for the **Western Carnival** which is scheduled for January 31 – February 7. This would include the opportunity to ski at Sunshine, Lake Louise and Mt. Norquay resorts, with an optional day trip to Kicking Horse.

**Eurofest** will be at **Madonna di Campiglio** in Italy March 13-22. Our club has been there and many have really enjoyed it. Food for thought!

#### 2027 Trips

There were discussions of possible destinations for 2027. Breckinridge seemed to be the most popular one for the Western Carnival. Quite a few possibilities were talked about for Eurofest including Tynnes in France, Zermatt in Switzerland, Cervina in Italy and Drie Zinnen in Italy.

***If anyone is interested in any of the above trips, please let us know by emailing:***  
[\*kathylakehomes@yahoo.com\*](mailto:kathylakehomes@yahoo.com)

# Memory Corner

In Memory of John Storm  
November 18, 1928 - October 13, 2024



John joined the Merchant Marines and later joined the Navy reaching a rank of Commander. His first wife Rosemary died in 1991, and they had two children Dr. Matthew Storm, and Blaise Thompson and

four grandchildren and one great grandson,. He married Gisela in 1997.

John was president of Over-the-Hill, Chesapeake Chapter for over eight years. This ski club became the Capital Golden Skiers. Both ski clubs went on many ski trips, hiking trips, and met at member's homes once a month. John and Gisela often entertained the members in their home and also on special occasions such as Halloween and Christmas.

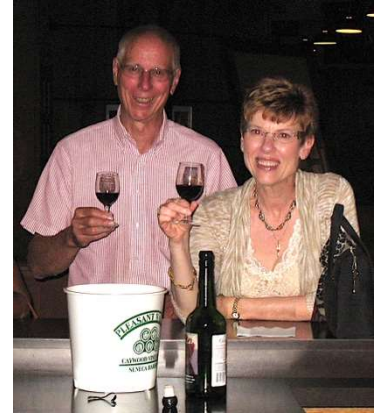
When the Capital Golden Skiers disbanded, John and Gisela joined the Potomac Valley Skiers. John and Gisela also attended dances and concerts. John enjoyed the comradery of friends as much as the activities. John is survived by his wife Gisela, her son Marc Klein, his wife Dr Laura Klein, and three great grandchildren as well as the Rosemary's children.



## In Memory of David Payne



David B. Payne, age 88, of Sarasota, Florida, passed away on October 29, 2024. David was born in Philadelphia and lived in Binghamton, NY from age 6. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's undergraduate school, as well as the School of Dentistry and the School of Medicine. He practiced Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in Binghamton, NY for nearly 40 years. He also served in numerous leadership capacities in his profession, including president of the New York State Dental Association.



He was an artist and skilled at building stone walls and scenery for performing arts groups. He was an avid world traveler and skier. David also enjoyed fine wines and for 25 years, he and his wife, Susan, lived in a charming farmhouse that overlooked their picture-perfect vineyard on Lake Keuka in the Fingerlakes.

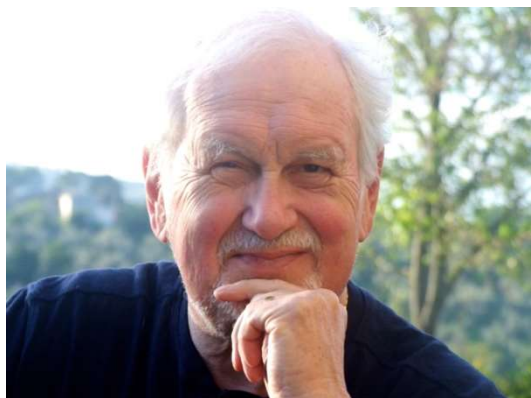
David and Susan joined PVS in 2000 after meeting some PVSers skiing in St. Moritz. They went on several trips with the club and hosted two weekends in the Fingerlakes for PVS members. The first event was in 2002. It was so popular, another winetasting weekend took place in August 2010. Over 20 members participated. Some in the group walked "The Gorge," some 800 steps and three miles, to view the fantastic falls and geological formations; one biked; others went to the Corning Museum; and a few drove their cars on the Watkins Glen International Racetrack. The highlight of the trip was visiting the Payne Vineyard. David took the group on a tour of the vineyard and discussed the various grapes as they sapped them. He grew grapes used for Merlot, Cabernet, and unique Black Russian wines, in addition to growing a dwindling supply of Concord grapes. It was fascinating to taste the grapes and try to guess which grapes were used in which wines. The following morning the group boarded the schooner True Love, which was featured in the movie High Society. The group sailed around Lake Seneca on a lovely morning. The end of a perfect weekend.



While they loved living in the Fingerlakes, the cold winters were getting to be difficult so they moved to Sarasota, Florida. Susa's address: 4130 University Pkwy #105, Sarasota, FL 34243



## In Memory of Ray McKinley



Raymond (call me Ray) McKinley, 82, was born in Camden, New Jersey on September 18, 1942, and was fond of saying that he spent his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday driving across the country with his family to their new home in Long Beach, California where he grew up.

Ray graduated from the University of Southern California in 1960 majoring in Nuclear Physics. His studies led him to the University of Illinois where he received an MS in Astronomy followed by the completion of all Doctoral work in Astrodynamics with the exception of the final PhD thesis.

His early work at RCA in Princeton, New Jersey involved the development of satellite concepts which are still operational today. He became a proud member of the Central Intelligence Agency in 1971 from which he retired in

2007. His accomplishments as a member of the intelligence community resulted in recognition for his analysis and the advancement of knowledge within and outside of the agency. Ray was forever dedicated to the truth and to finding the right answer to every problem.

Ray was thrilled to be able to offer his skills part time as Adjunct Professor of Physics and Astronomy at George Mason University and at Rider College in Trenton, New Jersey. He loved being in the classroom and offered tours of the night-time sky to many. Ray's enthusiasm for life was obvious to all and could be heard as he pronounced each new thing "wonderful!" a word for which he became known by his many friends.

No one was fonder of travel than Ray who with wife Nancy by his side, visited over 80 countries - from Europe to Central Asia, from the Caribbean to the South Pacific, and from South America to New Zealand just to name some, every new adventure spurring the next. He and

Nancy led many ski (and "see") trips around the world for their friends at Potomac Valley Skiers where he was a member for nearly 50 years, serving as early President, and as Program Chair and the indefatigable gossip columnist of The Knee for over 30 of those years. He was a member of the Cosmos Club since 2005 and of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairfax.

Many have declared Ray "one-of-a-kind," a man whose enthusiasms were wide ranging. An avid collector of antiques, gardener extraordinaire, Broadway musical lover, travel devotee, pun aficionado, proud intelligence community member, and an overall energetic lover of life.

A gathering to remember Ray will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Details will be forthcoming

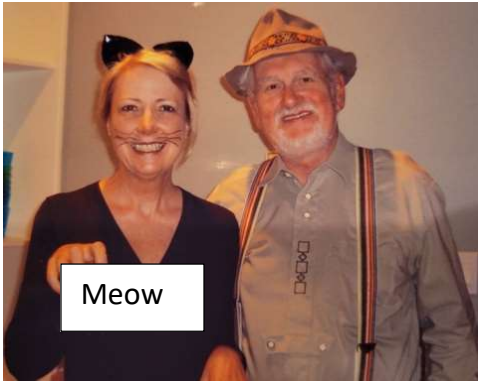


Master of his azaleas



Celebrating The Knee's 30<sup>th</sup>.





Meow



Master of Ceremonies with Bill Anderson



Blue Knob 2007



Octoberfest



Big Sky with Susanne & Bob



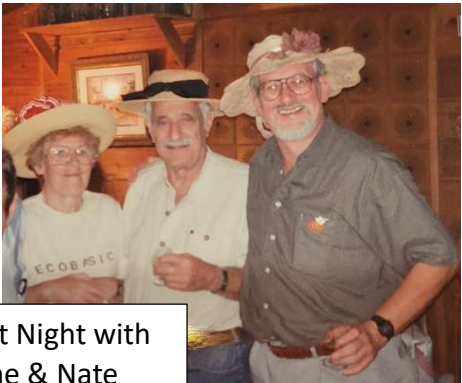
Pajama Party, Mt Sutton, Canada



With Lu at outdoor event



Finger Lakes



Crazy Hat Night with Mary Jane & Nate



Calendar

- Dec 12 BYOB Zoom meeting, 4:00 PM, McKinley.
- 2025**
- Jan 4 Holiday Party. 1:00 PM Jablon's, Washington, DC.
- Feb 4 Excom Zoom meeting, 6:30 PM.



**SKI TRIPS**



- PVS at Snowmass - Jan 8 - 15
- BRSC Western Carnival at Park City - Feb 2 - 9
- BRSC Winterfest at Killington - Mar 1 - 6

ExCom Officers, Board  
Members, and Chairpersons

<p><b><u>Officers:</u></b>  President – <i>Cara Jablon</i>  Vice Pres. – <i>Bob Jablon</i>  Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i>  Treasurer – <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i>  Ex Officio –  <b><u>Board Members:</u></b>  <b><u>First Term 2023-2025:</u></b>  <i>Bob Knopes</i>  <i>Jill Nelson</i>  <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i>  <b><u>Second Term 2024-2026:</u></b>  <i>Salli Diakova</i>  <i>Kathy Lake</i>  <i>Don Vierimaa</i></p>	<p><b><u>Chairpersons:</u></b>  Ski Trip Coordinator – <i>Kathy Lake</i>  Events – <i>Marianne Soponis</i>  Membership Records – <i>Barry Lake</i>    TOOT Coordinator – <i>Jan Marx</i>  TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Kerry Hines</i>    TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Barry Lake</i>    Webmaster – <i>Mary Ellena Ward</i>    Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i>    Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i></p>
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**Useful Ski “Links”**  
[Potomac Valley Skiers](#)  
[BRSC Sanctioned Trips](#)  
[DC Ski Online News](#)

**Reminder: It is club policy that contact information in the club’s roster not be used for promoting personal business, for advertising, or for personal financial gain without the advance permission of the individual member to be contacted. Membership contact information shall not be distributed outside PVS.**