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*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

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

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

### President's Message:

I am drafting this President's message as I prepare to travel to the upcoming Snowmass 2020 trip. I thought it an opportune time to provide my view of the PVS annual Snowmass ski trip.



It is a favorite for Mary and me every year since joining the club. Why is this trip a favorite for us? Snowmass is a great mountain; it has many and varied terrain trails for beginners to the experts, and it's a fun mountain to ski with wide open trails (akin to bowl skiing) and glade trails amongst the lodgepole firs. The majority of trails are well groomed; however, there are several trails accessed from each lift that are sculptured and ungroomed for those who like to ski moguls. (You know who you are!) There are 19 lifts and 2 gondolas, and we usually find many with short lines so we can ski many runs and different trails in a day. Even if there is the unusual crowd at a lift, the line moves quickly, and one is usually on the chair or in the gondola in less than 5 minutes.

The restaurants on the slopes are convenient and provide good food and a place to rest on the mountain. Most are cafeteria style and the variety of food is excellent. Good hearty soups, sandwiches, myriad salads, grill selection, pizza, other hot dinners, and hot and cold beverages are available. There are discounts for senior skiers at some of the summit restaurants.

I think everyone especially relishes the ski-in ski-out feature of our Mountain Chalet hotel (Chalet) where PVS members have stayed every trip for over 30 years. We walk less than 100 feet from the door, step into our skis and are on the slope to ski anywhere on the mountain. The Chalet also has complimentary good hearty breakfasts and soup lunches for those who go back to the hotel mid-day. The breakfast room is a great place to plan the day's skiing. Everyone usually shows up for the complimentary breakfasts, so it is easy to connect with others to ski with or to plan trips to Aspen to ski, shop or dine. The outside hot tub at day's end provides an opportunity to relax and talk with PVS members and other skiers about the day's skiing adventures. There is also a gym, a pool and two saunas. The staff is most accommodating and allows the club to have our private welcome reception and the ever-popular pizza party. The rooms are comfortable. Most importantly, the beds are very comfortable. The Chalet also has free wireless and computers so guests can check emails, change plane reservations, print tickets or browse the web.

*Continued on page 2\**

### **Monthly Meeting**

February 22, Saturday

At 2:00 PM

Jan Marx

8312 Oakford Dr.

Springfield, VA 22152

703-451-9158

*Directions: See next page*

Jan Marx  
8312 Oakford Dr.  
Fairfax, VA 222152  
703-451-9158

**Directions**

**FROM NORTH ON THE BELTWAY:**

**Take Exit 54A west** onto Braddock Rd. Go to the fifth stop light and angle **left** onto Burke Lake Rd. Turn **left** at next stoplight onto Rolling Rd. Go to fourth stoplight and turn **left** onto Forrester Blvd. (called Hillside on the right side of Rolling). Go two short blocks and turn **right** onto Oakford Dr. (opposite the school on your left). Go about two blocks, past the Dead End sign to 8312 on your **left**.

**FROM SHIRLEY HIGHWAY AND I-95:**

**Exit 95 SOUTH at Old Keene Mill Rd (Hwy 644) West.** (Franconia Rd and the Mall go to the East.) Go to the seventh stoplight and turn **right** onto Rolling Rd. Go through one light, past McDonalds and turn **right** onto Roxbury Ave. (opposite the post office). Turn at the **second right** (road curves around to the left) onto Fenwood Dr. Go one block and dead end into Oakford Dr. Turn **right** and the house is the fourth on the **left**, 8312 Oakford Drive.



*\*Continued from page 1*

Off the lobby is the Chalet's cathedral ceilinged great room with massive stone fireplace beckoning us to sit on the deep raised hearth to warm up or sit in the surrounding comfy furniture to read, swap ski tales or watch the fire in a restorative trance. The room also has other distinct sitting areas; tables for playing games or doing work; computer stations; and a large area with more comfy couches and stuffed chairs for chatting, reading or watching a Redskins game on the TV.

The Chalet is steps away from the Snowmass Village Mall that has a number of restaurants varying in price and cuisine, ski shops, ski ticket office and the bus stop for those who wish to take the shuttles to Aspen, Buttermilk and Aspen Highlands for skiing or shopping. From the mall area, we can also take the Sky Cab Gondola for a short ride to the Snowmass Base Village where other fine restaurants and shopping are available.

Finally, PVS members enjoy a private farewell dinner at the Snowmass Club on the last evening before everyone departs for home. The dinner provides an opportunity to review the week's skiing and other activities and to discuss and plan for upcoming ski trips with members.

All of these accommodations and activities enhance the fellowship amongst the trip participants and greatly enhance the entire weeklong Snowmass skiing nirvana.

I can't thank Kathy and Barry Lake enough for what will be another outstanding job of coordinating this wonderful trip.

I hope everyone has a fabulous ski season.

*Tom Tycz*

Coming Events



**Bon Voyage Lunch**

1:00 p.m. Friday, February 14, 2020



Please join us to say bon voyage (or “yoi-tabi-o” in Japanese) to Inge Lesjak at our favorite Japanese restaurant! Inge is leading the PVS “trip for two” to the Hakuba ski area in Japan as part of the Blue Ridge Ski Council’s AsiaFest. She leaves on February 20 for this new adventure.

We thought it would be fun to sample some Japanese food and share any helpful travel hints with Inge. The restaurant, Yosaku, is located at 4712 Wisconsin Avenue NW, D.C. 20016 (202-363-4453). The DC transit “30” buses run on Wisconsin Ave; the red line Metro in Tenleytown is about a 5 block walk; and, metered parking is available on nearby streets.

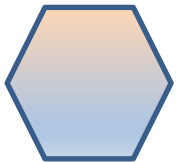
The restaurant offers Sushi, Bento Box, Noodle and other favorite offerings. The food is delicious and the prices reasonable. If you are interested in joining us, please let Marianne Soponis know (202-363-5250) or [Marianne.soponis@gmail.com](mailto:Marianne.soponis@gmail.com) so we can set another seat at the table!



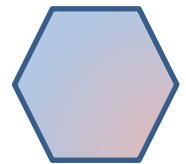
*Marianne and Clare Soponis*



Coming Event



**HEXAGON**  
in Crystal City



Join us on Sunday, March 15, for a fun, rollicking musical show at the Synetic Theater in Crystal City (Arlington, VA) at 2:00 p.m. Hexagon is a non-profit charity organization run by volunteers whose goal is to create and stage original, political, local, satirical, musical comedy sketches and performances each year. It has found homes in various venues since its beginning and now has landed at the [Synetic Theater](#) in Crystal City, whose web site has directions and parking information (free parking on Sunday). Of course, if you live nearby, lucky you!

The theme this year is “One state; two state; red state, blue state”. Let your imagination run wild!

The ticket price, with handling fees, is \$34 each. If you are interested in attending, please contact Marianne Soponis, 202-363-5250 or [Marianne.soponis@gmail.com](mailto:Marianne.soponis@gmail.com)

## Ski Trip

### **PARK CITY – DEER VALLEY, March 7-14, 2020**



**Park City and Deer Valley are premier ski destinations. We invite PVS skiers and their friends to a unique PVS Park City – Deer Valley trip.**

PARK CITY has varied terrain for all skiers. It has 348 trails, close to half of which are suited for intermediate skiers, 13 bowls and a 3,200-foot vertical drop with advanced and expert terrain. It now incorporates the Canyons ski area. *Park City has extensive skiing opportunities for everybody.* Known for its upscale amenities, including its fine mountain dining and shopping, DEER VALLEY claims to be the nation's premier ski resort. It has an uphill lift capacity of 50,470 skiers per hour. Notably, *Deer Valley does not allow snowboards* and limits ticket sales to prevent overcrowding.

**PARK CITY's Main Street is on the National Register of Historic Places and is home to dozens of fine restaurants, bars, unique shopping experiences and art galleries.**

#### TRIP INCLUSIONS:

- Seven nights' lodging at the Peaks Hotel Park City (two to a room), including lodging taxes and baggage handling. *The Peaks is a full-service hotel with pools, a sauna, fitness center and ski storage.*
- **A MALE HOTEL ROOMMATE IS NEEDED.**
- Daily breakfasts.
- Welcoming dinner – Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Departing dinner – Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.
- At least 3 Après Ski events.

**SLOPES TRANSPORTATION:** A city ski bus stops 21 steps from the hotel entrance. Busses come every 20 minutes. Also, the Peaks has a private Park City shuttle every hour on the hour and a Deer Valley shuttle every hour on the half hour.

**AIR:** Because of different travel and payment preferences, we do not include air transportation and airport shuttles. Doug Horstman of [Encompasse Tours](#) recommends [Canyon Transportation](#), which can be booked online, for transportation between the airport and hotel.

**LIFT TICKETS:** Trip participants may want to ski four days at Park City and two at Deer Valley, but they can vary lift ticket purchases to meet preferences. Lift ticket prices vary with skier ages, the number of days of ski tickets purchased, ski areas, ski pass arrangements and the like. There are price discounts for 20 tickets, which need not necessarily be for the same day or person. Doug Horstman will package participants' lift tickets for convenience and will get the best available prices. We shall charge separately for ski lift tickets when they are purchased closer to the trip.

**SIGN-UPS:** The trip should be during a good ski weather week. We shall try to maximize trip cohesion and provide for coordinated group-participant skiing, good restaurants and other desired, joint activities. **ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS SHOULD LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WE CAN ATTEMPT TO ENSURE HOTEL SPACE AND PRICING.** We have an extra room reserved effectively through November 26, 2019. Prices for included items - \$1,260 per person; single hotel room, use supplement - \$930 additional).

For answers to questions and additional trip details, please contact us ([rcjablon@aol.com](mailto:rcjablon@aol.com); [robert.jablon@spiegelmc.com](mailto:robert.jablon@spiegelmc.com)) and see [Application Form](#) and [Waiver](#).

[BRSC Airport Lodging & Parking Program for 2020](#)

**BOB AND CARA JABLON**

## SKI TALK

February 2020



The bush fires in Australia have brought about horrendous images of loss, including koalas and kangaroos running for their lives. I reached out to PVS member Elizabeth Warren-Bolton, who lives in New South Wales, a few miles north of Nowra and about 100 miles south of Sydney. She lives on the banks of the Shoalhaven River and the fires came close enough that she and her partner George were warned to get ready to evacuate. They packed their car and waited for instructions. She said the hardest part was deciding what to take. The good news is the fire went to their west and they did not have to leave their farmhouse and large garden. Our hearts and thoughts go out to Liz and George. We hope Liz comes back and skis with us soon.

Now that we are firmly into 2020, the Ski Trip Committee is thinking about 2021. Members of the Ski Trip Committee (STC) are: Rosemary Schwartzbard, Chair; Kerry Hines; Inge Lesjak; and Nancy McKinley. The STC is responsible for recommending and coordinating the trip schedule. The trips are run by members of the club.

### ***Here is something David Lerner wrote about ten years ago about being a ski trip leader:***

“Being the leader of a PVS club ski trip is both demanding and rewarding. As leader you are the host of the party, providing a great vacation for your fellow club members. You get to choose the resort, the lodging, and the dates. You also get part or all of your trip paid for as a “Comp” from the resort, the airline, and the tour operator. Experience as a trip participant is more important than experience as a trip leader or as an assistant leader. . . During the trip the leader will attend to details of group dinners or apres-ski parties and make sure that everyone is informed of transportation arrangements. The PVS Trip Guidelines are posted on our web site in the Club Docs. Section. These guidelines serve as a manual for running a trip. Talk to the leader of a trip that you are on or to a member of the Ski Trip Committee to get various personal accounts of what it is like to run a ski trip. You may find that it is an activity that you will enjoy doing.”

We are hoping to go back to Snowmass and would like to have at least one other trip for the club. We have not been to Telluride for several years and could join BRSC there in 2021, if someone will step up to lead the trip.

### **The Blue Ridge Ski Council trips for 2021 are:**

Western Carnival: Telluride (Feb 6-13). Tour Operator: Sporttours, Effie Rubenstein.

Eurofest: Davos, Switzerland (Feb. 26-March 6). Tour Operator: Holidayze.

Winterfest: Jay Peak, Vermont (March 7-12). Tour Operator: Bianchi Outdoor Adventures.

We can join the BRSC trips or any other destinations you might like to visit. Please let me know your thoughts. If you have any questions about leading trips, our STC would be glad to answer your questions.

### **Spring 2020 Ski Show**

The Paul Weber Spring Ski Show will be on Friday evening, May 1, at the Marriott Tysons Corner. Mark your calendars and come to this event to talk to the different representatives of ski resorts and the vendors who help organize trips.

Rosemary Schwartzbard  
[rosemaryschw@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryschw@gmail.com)



Past Event

Outing to the Little Theatre of Alexandria



On a bitterly cold afternoon on January 19, fourteen hardy Potomac Valley Ski Club members joined Shirley Rettig to attend a musical theater performance of "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" at the Little Theatre of Alexandria.



Cleverly written and cleverly staged, the story revolved around a young man whose mother had a distant relationship to a wealthy earl. In order for the young man to have any chance at being an heir, a number of relatives had to be "gotten out of the way"! What proceeded were hilarious and effective "accidents" to clear a path to love and wealth. The surprise ending also left the audience in smiles.



A trip to The Southside, a restaurant that had the NFL semi-final football games on TV (we saw Kansas City defeat the Tennessee Titans), also had delicious food and quick service. Thanks again to Shirley, for our Sunday afternoon/evening adventure!

*Submitted by Marianne Sponis and Clare Sponis*



**Election Nominations**

*Elections take place at the Annual Meeting in April.*



[Nominating Committee Report for PVS Officers \(2020-2022\)](#)

<p><b>PVS Officers continuing for the completion of their two-year term in 2020-2021:</b>  President: Tom Tycz  Vice-President: Kal Nossuli  Candidates of PVS Board Members for 2020-2022:  ExCom: Cara Jablon  ExCom: Kathy Lake  ExCom: Don Vierimaa</p> <p>Additional nominations may be made by the signatures of any five active members in good standing and must be presented at a business meeting at least one month prior to the election, which will be held on April 21, 2020.</p>	<p>Submitted by the Nominating Committee:  Inge Lesjak (Chair)   Carolyn DeVilbiss   Melissa FitzGerald   Kerry Hines   Bob Jablon   Jan Marx</p>
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**IN MEMORIAM**  
*Elizabeth (Betty) Lawrence*



Betty Lawrence passed away peacefully on December 19, 2019, with her daughter, Beth, by her side, at Walter Reed National Naval Medical Center, due to heart failure.

Betty was born on October 29, 1927 in Beacon, NY. She had an adventurous spirit, beginning in her early years when she accepted an assignment to travel to Japan to work for the Department of the Army in the 1940s. Her government career continued as she worked for the Central Intelligence Agency for over 20 years and received numerous accolades for her hard work and dedication to the agency.

As a military wife, Betty lived in many places and eventually settled in Great Falls, VA in 1966. She moved to Vienna, VA in 2005, where she spent her remaining years and was active in the community. Betty's love for travel never ended. She traveled the world and loved her time and life-long friends in the Potomac Valley Skiers organization. Betty's first ski experience was in 1951 in Akahura, Japan, where equipment and facilities were Spartan at best. Betty was proud to say that she skied well into her eighties all over the United States and Europe. Her love and boundless energy positively touched all those who knew her.

Betty joined PVS in 1991 and within two years became an indispensable part of club life. She went on ski trips and made her beach house in Bethany Beach and her Blue Knob slopeside chalet available to PVSers. Betty served on ExCom in 1993 and 1994. For many years, she regularly hosted monthly meetings and held special events, such as her famous crab fests. Betty was an integral member of the club.

Betty is survived by her son, George Lawrence of Fayetteville, NC, her son Paul Lawrence of Falls Church, VA, her daughter, Mary Elizabeth (Beth) Foley of Potomac Falls, VA, her daughter Ciel Lawrence of Denver, CO, and her son David Lawrence of Teton Valley, ID. She was also blessed with seven grandsons and a great granddaughter. Her marriage to Col. Paul Lawrence ended in divorce.

**PVS Remembrances:**

Betty was a part of PVS since 1991 and will always be remembered as a fun-loving and truly generous member of PVS. As hostess extraordinaire, she held numerous events at her home and (multiple) vacation homes over the years, including 10 straight years hosting the always-popular Crab Fest. Betty even returned from a 3-week ski trip to New Zealand and held a 50-person event at her home less than four days later wearing the grass skirt she picked up in Hawaii on the way back from her trip.

Her Blue Knob hiking and ski weekends were legend – with PVSers anxiously waiting to find out what new addition to her ski chalet she had accomplished since the last visit – a hot tub! A new bedroom! Continually renovating, Betty was never done making things better.

She told us stories of hiking Mt. Fuji in the 50s and of living in Alaska where she shot the moose whose head adorned the wall of her chalet. As a young woman, she took a freighter from Japan to Italy, on board for six months. Adventurer, entrepreneur, hostess and friend, Betty's enthusiastic presence will be missed by all who knew her.

She was always lively and up for any adventure. The ultimate hostess. I remember many house parties at Blue Knob and Bethany and pool parties at her Great Falls home. One time she was driving a group of us to the airport for a ski trip and picked us up in her newly purchased white van. In large red letters she had written Lawrence Shuttle on the side of the van. What a special lady!

*Submitted by Nancy McKinley, Jan Marx, and Marilyn Clark*



*Betty and Good Friend, Suzanne*

*Betty's daughter, Ciel Lawrence, and her husband, Paul Andrews, sent this thank you note to PVS:*

*Dear PVS Betty fans,*

*On behalf of Betty Lawrence's family, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the love and support we received after Betty's recent passing. PVS was one of Betty's most loved activities and is where she met some of her closest and dearest friends. We appreciated seeing so many of you during our final goodbye to her. She would have loved seeing you all there! Although we weren't PVS members ourselves, we enjoyed being a part of various activities (parties!) and meeting all of her dear PVS friends over the years. Much love and health to all!!*

*Ciel Lawrence and Paul Andrews*





# Members' Corner

J. David Warthen, Jr  
[dwarthen409@gmail.com](mailto:dwarthen409@gmail.com)



## **2020 PVS Ski Season:**

The 2020 PVS ski season began on January 25 with the BRSC Aspen/Snowmass ski trip. It is a bit later in January this year than last year, but with a lot more skiers. Have a great, SAFE trip.



Blue skies & cheers!!!

## **TOOT Distribution to 119 Members:**

pdf: 107; USPS: 2

- TOOT Coordinator - E. Thayer
- TOOT February Layout Editor – J. Marx
- TOOT Electronic - J. D. Warthen
- TOOT USPS – J. Read

## **Roster:**

A quarterly, updated, PVS Roster was electronically distributed to the PVS membership on February 1, 2020. Please dispose of your out-of-date, roster-version, and store your new version on a secure device.

**Roster Changes:** contact [dwarthen409@gmail.com](mailto:dwarthen409@gmail.com)

## **Elizabeth Lawrence:**

It is with deep sadness that we report that Betty Lawrence (92) died December 19, 2019. She was a wonderful PVS Member (hostess), friend, and skier for 28 years. She lived life to the fullest. Rest in peace, Betty.



## **February General Meeting:**

Bing & Betty Van Nuys will be hosting the PVS General Meeting on **February 22**, 2:00 PM, at their beautiful home in Fairfax, VA. Come, join the party in the day light. See pages 1 & 2 for invitation and directions.

Join us on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to celebrate George Washington's birthday, which was in 1732, Pope's Creek, VA. George Washington was the first United States President, who was inaugurated on April 30, 1789. He was the Commander of the Continental Army and a hero of the Revolutionary War. While he was reluctant to take on the Presidency, he served two terms from 1789 to 1797. He died on December 14, 1799, Mount Vernon, VA. What would be the thoughts of our founding fathers/authors of the Constitution on this day in 2020?

Skiing did occur in the early days of our nation's founding; however, most times, images are subject to copyright. A search for "skiing in the 1700's" on the Internet reveals an array of fascinating pictures. Even evidence has been found for the existence of skiing in prehistoric times on the walls of caves.

On February 1, most of our skiers will be home from Aspen/Snowmass, hopefully in one piece. We hope you had a wonderful time, and that those who no longer ski enjoy their memories. See you on the 22<sup>nd</sup>!



## **Valentine's Day**

### ***How Do I Love Thee? (Sonnet 43)***

Elizabeth Barrett Browning - 1806-1861

*How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of being and ideal grace.  
I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for right.  
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.*

**PVS 2020 Calendar**

- Feb 14 Fri - Bon Voyage Lunch at Yosaku restaurant, DC at 1:00 PM.
- Feb 22 Sat - Monthly Meeting at Marx's, Springfield, VA at 2:00 PM.
- Mar 15 Sun - Hexagon show at Synetic Theater, Arlington, VA at 2:00 PM.
- Mar 22 Sat - Monthly Meeting at Van Nuys', Fairfax's, VA at 2:00 PM.
- April 21 Tue - Annual Meeting at Heitchue and Sinclair, Reston, VA at 7:30 PM.



**PVS Ski Trips 2020:**



March 7-14, 2020  
**Park City - Deer Valley, UT**  
 (Bob & Cara Jablon)

February 21-29, 2020 (base trip)  
 with BRSC & Pentagon Ski Club  
**AsiaFest**, Japan (Inge Lesjak)

**Useful Ski "Links"**

[Potomac Valley Skiers](#)  
[BRSC Sanctioned Trips \(Norton blocks viewing by Safari\)](#)  
[DC Ski Online News](#)

**ExCom**

<b>Officers:</b>	<b>Chairpersons:</b>
President – <i>Tom Tycz</i> V. President – <i>Kal Nossuli</i> Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> Treasurer – <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i> Ex Officio - <i>Bob Jablon</i>	Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i> Events – <i>Marianne Sponis</i> Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i> Membership PR Reps – <i>Inge Lesjak &amp; Marianne Sponis</i>
<b>Board Members:</b> <u>First Term:</u> <i>Jannes Gibson</i> <i>Jan Marx</i> <i>Mary Rose de Valladares</i>	TOOT Coordinator – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Kerry Hines &amp; Dave Warthen</i> TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i> TOOT (USPS Distribution) – <i>June Read</i>
<u>Second Term:</u> <i>Melissa FitzGerald</i> <i>John Holt</i> <i>Barry Lake</i>	Webmaster – <i>Mary Ellena Ward</i> Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i> Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>

**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.