

President's Message

<u>ACT II – Jimmy Hoffa</u>

Anton Chekhov's adage, "If a gun is on the mantle in the first act, it must go off in the second or third act" creates the necessity for this column. I reported last month that I found Jimmy Hoffa, a speaker on my 1959 Washington Semester Program, to be "the most interesting seminar guest that we had by far." Following Chekhov, this month I report on Mr. Hoffa and why I found him compelling.

Gentle PVS member, I can envision your easy agreement that there is a relevant connection between Jimmy Hoffa and guns, but I fear that you might doubt that there is a connection between Jimmy Hoffa and skiing. Sherlock Holmes would rightly say that the connection is elementary.

Gondola and even high speed chair lift supports rest in concrete. Many reports are that Mr. Hoffa is buried in concrete. More than a few (concrete) locations for Mr. Hoffa have been suggested and vigorously explored, such as Detroit's Renaissance Center and Giant's Stadium. But none of these have yielded Jimmy Hoffa's remains. Certainly, a good possibility is that he is cemented into the gondola and high-speed chair lift supports for the gondolas or ski chairs that PVS members use. Ski lift foundations would have been a perfect place for those who did in Mr. Hoffa. Land abounds. The concrete will not soon be moved. At proper locations, the cement is covered with snow for much of the year and unnoticed for the rest. Going up the chair lifts, we see animal tracks or even animals themselves – searching.... Fittingly, Jimmy Hoffa teamsters union devoted itself to transportation of all sorts.

As I have reported, there are two kinds of skiers: those who are intently focused, thinking only of instructions for skiing moguls or going down mountains; by contrast there are those who let their minds wander, drifting with wind swept snow. The latter group of skiers thinks beyond the next turn, beyond any turn. For example, while skiing, members of this group think how to get to the restaurant and the bar. When this becomes too taxing, they explore food for thought: one example is whatever happened to Jimmy Hoffa?

Continued on pg 2



NEEDED – ONE GOOD MAN See Page 5 of this TOOT February 24th Meeting Saturday 2:00 PM At the Home of Janet Marx 8312 Oakford Drive Springfield VA, 22152 jebbmarx@aol.com (H)703-451-9158 or (C) 703-314-7361

DIRECTIONS:

W E

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 HWY AND 95:

Exit 95 SOUTH at Old Keene Mill Rd (Hwy 644) West. 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.**

FROM FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKWAY and Braddock Rd east:

Go to Rolling Road at Kings Park. Turn **right**. Go to fifth 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 FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKWAY and Old Keene Mill Rd:

Go to Rolling Rd and turn **left**. 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**.



President's Message continued;

What made Jimmy Hoffa the most interesting seminar speaker at our Washington Semester was his intense, animal magnetism. To this day, I remember his vibrancy. Even in 1979, Jimmy Hoffa was a figure of notoriety. His personality dominated his office, an office that was large enough for our considerable group to meet.

His office was magnificent. Even as a youth, not yet educated by my spouse as to the finer things of life, I remember it. His desk was dominant – rich dark wood, I think mahogany. Aware of the wealth his office conveyed, reveling in it, Hoffa said, "For years, they had it. Now we have it."

This approach was in stark contrast to the AFL-CIO's, which also had a new downtown D.C. office building, although one not anywhere nearly as opulent as the teamsters' office. The AFL-CIO speaker opened

his seminar apologizing for the building saying that it did not represent labor, which he termed as underdogs. Contrast: "For years, they had it. Now we have it."

At the time of our seminars, there had been many strikes. These often caused public harm, even national economic harm forestalling the economy. Of course, who can be said to have caused the harms would depend upon who was justified in not agreeing to the other side's terms.

I was interested in whether there was a way to determine a fair wage, for example statistical references, economic relationships, needs or the like. Jimmy Hoffa forcefully stated a simple answer to this question. "No!" he said without further discussion or explanation.

Jimmy Hoffa's world was a world of power. He expressed in the strongest terms that he and the Teamsters lived up to their contracts. He found agreements to be sacrosanct. I doubt that his adherence to contracts would be tempered by factors of fraud, anticompetitive power or coercion. A contract is a contract. Jimmy Hoffa was determined to follow his contracts no matter what, he said. He expected others to do likewise.

In considering contracts, moral philosophers like Harvard's Michael Sandel (who I understand is the rage of those younger than I) and Columbia's Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz ask questions about sellers and buyers' equalities and inequalities of bargaining power, disparate knowledge and access to knowledge. They ask about justice or the lack thereof where bargaining power and knowledge are unequal.

I think that I found Jimmy Hoffa so compelling because his judgments were so forceful, clear and unyielding. Seminar attendees could sense that they were in the presence of a leader, one who made things happen. And the argument that what one can bargain for or extract is the sum total of one's entitlements when put in more sanitized economic terms has some appeal. Yet we learn that workable ideas must incorporate competing elements. Jimmy Hoffa did not deal in questions of fairness.

Jimmy Hoffa was the embodiment of a leader. His personality was strong. Leaders like him have the power to accomplish more than others. They can shape happenings, communities, society for great good or for ill. Think of FDR's achievements. Think of the Japanese internments. The extra that Jimmy Hoffa and those like him brings to the table is worth recognition. As is where Justice lies.

Maybe the extra that Jimmy Hoffa and those like him bring to the table is the gun on the mantle. But maybe how the gun can be used is controlled by everyone else.

Bob Jablon

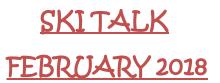
Nominating Committee

At the annual meeting in April, PVS membership will be voting for candidates to serve on vacant Executive Committee (ExCom) positions. ExCom members serve for twoyear terms and many meetings are held by conference call. The Nominating Committee would like to hear from the membership for suggestions for candidates.

If you would like to be considered by the Nominating Committee as a candidate or would like to suggest another to be considered, then please let one of the committee members know.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Jan Marx (chair), Dave DeVilbiss, Louann Eadie, Nancy McKinley, John Smith, and Tom Tycz.







I would like to devote this column to ski safety. When we landed in Aspen a few weeks ago, we shared a van with a man who was there to investigate three ski accidents in Snowmass that were in litigation. He said he was in the ski industry most of his life and was now working as an expert witness. Much to my surprise, he said most accidents are skier to skier not snowboarder to skier. As I spent the week skiing in Snowmass, this was verified. Both Dick and I experienced having the back of our skis clipped by other skiers, and I talked to others during the week who had similar experiences. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission's latest tally, about 150,000 people seek medical treatment each year after a skiing or snowboarding mishap. The injury list has more skiers because there are more skiers on the mountains.

One of the benefits of skiing with a club is that we have multiple people to ski with. Often on a PVS trip groups of six to ten people ski together. When skiing with a group (or alone) here are some things to think about:

Your Responsibility Code

- 1. Always stay in control.
- 2. People ahead of you have the right of way. Stay far enough behind that you can stop easily.
- 3. Stop in a safe place for you and others on the side of the slope where there is sufficient space. When with a group, stop below the group. This is enforced in most ski lessons.
- 4.
- Whenever starting downhill or merging, look uphill and yield.
 Observe signs and warning, and keep off closed trails.
- 7. Know how to use the lifts safely.

Tips to Keep in Mind

- Get in shape. Don't try to ski yourself into shape. You'll enjoy skiing more if you're physically fit.
- Obtain proper equipment. Be sure to have your ski bindings adjusted correctly. When buying skiwear, look for fabric that is water and wind-resistant. Look for wind flaps to shield zippers, snug cuffs at wrists and ankles, collars that can be snuggled up to the chin and drawstrings that can be adjusted for comfort and keep wind out. Be sure to buy quality clothing and products.
- Dress in layers. Layering allows you to accommodate your body's constantly changing temperature. For example, wear technical underwear (top and bottoms), which feels good next to the skin, dries quickly, absorbs sweat and keeps you warm. Wear a turtleneck, sweater and jacket.
- Be prepared. Mother Nature has a mind of her own. Wear gloves or mittens (mittens are usually better for those susceptible to cold hands). Wear sun protection. The sun reflects off the snow and is stronger than you think, even on
- cloudy days!
- Always wear eye protection. Have sunglasses and goggles with you. Always wear a helmet.

While most of this seems obvious since we have skied for so many years, it is good to keep it in mind. Be safe. Keep skiing.

On another note, we have heard that Brian Eardley is now back in town. He is working at Alpine Ski Shop in Fairfax.

We are working on the 2019 ski year and will have information for you soon. See you at Big Sky. **Rosemary Schwartzbard**

rosemaryschw@gmail.com

<u>Ski Trip</u>

Big Sky Montana February 14 - 21, 2018



Looking for a Male skier to join the PVS group to Big Sky Montana 14-21 February 2018. Airfare, Accommodations at the Huntley Lodge with fantastic breakfast buffet, Skipass included. Excellent snow conditions.

Contact <u>Lesjak.inge@gmail.com</u>

Ski Trip



<u>CANCELLATION</u> MT. SNOW, VERMONT



We are sorry to announce that the Mt. Snow ski trip has been cancelled. Not enough people have signed up for the trip to make it move forward. If anyone is interested in skiing at Mt. Snow, please contact Alice (<u>mcnulty@optonline.net</u>) and perhaps you can set up an informal meeting.

<u>Ski Trip</u>

MID-WEEK SKIING AT WISP

If there is interest in a little more extended mid-week skiing, we should consider going to Wisp for a day or two. I would recommend going to Wisp and staying at the lodge at the base of the mountain for one or two nights. Rooms at the lodge are available for one or two people (same price) for \$144 per night plus tax. Meals are not included. If there is interest, we will reserve a block of rooms for our group. Reservations should be made directly with the lodge.

Over age 70, the skiing is **free** at Wisp.

The preferred days are February 27 and 28 to avoid conflict with the Big Sky trip.

The arrangements are flexible and would be to car pool or drive to Wisp, ski the afternoon, stay overnight, ski the whole next day and then have choice to either stay a second night and ski the third day before coming home or to just stay one night and come home after skiing only the first two days.

Contact me if you are interested and for more details.

Phone: 301-299-8376 E-mail: johnhsmith@juno.com

For those interested, I will coordinate car pools and roommates, as much as possible.

Submitted by John Smith

Past Event

Snowmass – January 10 – 17, 2018

visible

challenged

rocks

brush

It snowed enough on Wednesday January 10 to cause arrival delays and lost luggage for many of us. One lucky group flying United from Washington to Denver, though, were right on time, perhaps due to the expert piloting of Marianne Jacobs' son, a happy coincidence for her and the rest of us.

The few inches of snow that fell on Wednesday and Friday enhanced the snow base, as did a lot of grooming and snowmaking by the mountain crew. But the coverage at Snowmass remained pretty thin, and many favorite trails were closed or avoided due to





us. We did enjoy the sunny skies and comfortable temperatures and ended up with plenty of skiing, although less variety than usual.

Never ones to complain, PVSers found much to do, on and off the mountain. There were trips to Aspen in search of vintage clothes at Susie's, Amber's and the Thrift Shop. Jannes Gibson led a group to the Anderson Ranch Arts Center down the Snowmass road, where visitors can walk through the studios teaching painting,



ceramics and other arts. Barbara Leonhardt and Janet Marx organized a luncheon visit to Krabloonick where one can sign up for dog sled fine excursions and enjoy mountain dining. Another attraction was Snowmass' new Breathtaker Alpine Coaster at the top of the Elk Camp gondola, which enticed several roller coaster fans in the group. Many enjoyed the outdoor hot tub, where politics was a main topic of conversation. And there were two groups of "gamers" playing Farkle, Mexican Train, Rummicub and Quiddler in the lounge every evening.





The food and drinks were great, as usual, starting with the opening wine & cheese party that was augmented by cold cuts and extras from the Mountain Chalet manager. Our hungry group demolished about ten pizzas and all the salad offered on Saturday. And we visited several of the fine local eateries on the other evenings.

The group suffered some casualties and scares. The most serious was Dave Warthen, who dislocated his shoulder in a fall



Saturday right near the Mountain Chalet entrance and had to wear a sling and stay off the slopes the rest of the week. Fortunately, Rosemary Schwartzbard was not injured when a distracted skier ran into her from

behind and knocked her over; Dick Schwartzbard suffered a similar take-down, but fortunately no injuries.

Our farewell gala at the Snowmass Club featured the usual good wine and excellent cuisine. And it provided an opportunity to congratulate several of our past trip leaders, including Barbara Leonhardt, who discovered the Mountain Chalet and organized the first PVS trip there 20 years ago. Carolyn DeVilbiss and Marianne Soponis similarly were applauded for their past efforts. Our current trip leaders, Kathy and Barry Lake, were presented with a set of lovely ceramic bowls made by the director and founder of Anderson Ranch.





A great time was had by all and we thank Kathy and Barry for their outstanding leadership.

Submitted by Jill Nelson



PVS Enjoys the Classics!

A few devoted classical music fans from PVS enjoyed a fine Sunday afternoon of chamber music at the Lyceum Museum in Alexandria on January 21. A long-time favorite of PVS, Eclipse Chamber Orchestra provides both regular concerts with the full orchestra and intimate recitals at smaller venues. On this surprisingly beautiful afternoon in January the Lyceum was filled to capacity to hear four stellar musicians who have formed the Columbia String Quartet under the auspices of Eclipse.

The program featured two accomplished violinists, a violist, and a cellist performing pieces from Haydn, Puccini and Glazunov – all perfection! The Lyceum offers excellent acoustics and the opportunity to appreciate fine musicianship in a beautiful setting. It was a lovely way to spend the afternoon. Please join us next time!

--Submitted by Nancy McKinley

Past Events

PVS JANUARY 20, 2018 MEETING At the home of Jannes Gibson

On Saturday January 20, Jannes Gibson welcomed 39 PVS members to her lovely home. She provided an abundant array of delicious food - shrimp, meatballs, various cheeses, crackers, dips, veggie platter, fresh fruit, and even a specialty lentil soup. The table also



boasted cookies, brownies and rum cake, plus wines and sodas. The soup is called Mulligatawny (an English adaptation of the many-spiced split pea and lentil dishes that form the cornerstone of Indian peasant cuisine. From Ethnic Cuisine cookbook).



While pleasing our palates and conversing with fellow PVSers, we also had the enjoyment of looking at the many varied pieces of art that Jannes and her husband had collected, many on overseas trips. Prominently displayed was a painting of her parents on a picnic in Wisconsin in the 30s by William McCloy.

Later, President Bob Jablon presided over our PVS meeting. A fun and successful Snowmass trip report was given by Kathy Lake. Quite a lot of PVSers from the trip were also at our meeting so Jannes pointed out a picture of her parents and a dog sled taken in Aspen.

The upcoming trip to Big Sky, Montana, was discussed by Inge Lesjak. John Smith reported some good local skiing and discussed a possible trip to Wisp, MD, for a 1-2 night ski trip in February.



PVS is looking for a host for the March meeting. Let the McKinleys know if you are interested.

Our January meeting was fun, the food was great, and we owe it all to our hostess Jannes. Many thanks, Jannes, we had a good time and appreciate you having the meeting at your house.

submitted by Sue Lyon and Jan Marx





PETER, HERE AND THERE

Marianne Arden Cook

April 19, 1913 – January 5, 2018

Marianne Arden Cook, a PVS member for over 33 years, died on January 5, 2018 at the age of 104. Marianne joined PVS in August 1984, sponsored by the Wyckoffs. In her latter years, PVS designated her an Honorary Member. She wrote a song for PVS, which was sung at the 45th Anniversary Gala. Marianne was in attendance at that event and a picture shown here was taken at that time.

On August 12, 2012, the Style section of the Washington Post profiled her and her musical contributions in a moving tribute by Dave Nuttycombe: "*At 99, Marianne Arden Cook, has self-released a CD of original music.*" The following are excerpts from that article.

The woman in the lobby of the Friendship Heights

Community Center snaps awake shortly before 3 p.m. She grabs her walker and makes her way steadily, and quickly, down the hall and into a bright community room. About 30 seniors have gathered, many queuing up to the coffee and snack table. The woman ignores the treats and guides herself directly to a piano in the corner. At 3 o'clock on the dot, she sits down and starts playing.

The light classical music and Great American Songbook selections are played with authority and without sheet music. What sets this performance apart is that the pianist is 99 years old. Also, she's about to release an album of her songs – 15 of the 130 she's written.

... {D}uring the '40s and '50s, as Marianne Arden, she toured Europe and America – singing, playing and tap dancing at top nightclubs and on radio.

Born in 1913 to a Colonel and Baroness in Vienna, Cook retains a slight accent with an imperial Austrian edge that brooks no foolishness. But it's countered by a girlish spark.

... "They say I'm unique. I'm 99. I write songs, words and music – and in four languages."

... Cook came to America in 1940, part of a female vocal group that was booked at the Rainbow Room in New York City, a premier nightclub at the time....

Cook has transferred some of her records and reel-toreel tapes onto three CDs. "The Classical Marianne Arden" has solo piano versions of Ravel, Debussy, Rachmaninoff and others: "Marianne Arden Sings and Plays for You" is a collection of radio shows and homemade recordings. But the one she's releasing is the collection of her originals.

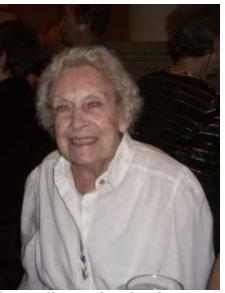
Compiled by Ellie Thayer

A reminiscence by Margaret Wyckoff:

Yes, I know Marianne Cook for almost 50 years. She and her late husband, Giff Cook, had been very active skiers and Bob and I introduced them to PVS. I am not sure when they started the

membership. Marianne and Giff liked skiing so much that the rented a place in Westerndorf Austria during winter so they could ski every day. When our club arranged a trip to Europe they always came to visit with us. Marianne was a concert pianist and also played in different cocktail lounges in the







District. If I recall right she wrote a song for our club. She still played the Piano until she was 102 for a senior community center. She was a very special person.

A reminiscence by John Smith:

Marianne Cook went on many of our ski trips until just a few years ago. She was a very beautiful and elegant skier and often wore very stylish and dramatic ski hats. On several of our ski trips she entertained us in the evening with wonderful piano concerts. In this picture of Marianne she is performing for us at our hotel in Salzburg, Austria after our ski trip to Kitzbuhel (year 2000). She often told many fascinating stories of her life in Vienna, Paris, Washington and Hollywood and shared a short biographical book about her exciting life. For many years she was the resident pianist at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington.

PVS Anthem written by Marianne Arden Cook

Have you ever, ever heard of P -V -5? It's the greatest ski club without a guess! Mostly we all ski But then that isn't all Staying healthy is our goal from spring to fall! When it comes to skiing, we discuss a lot When it comes to food, we give it all - we've - got! Ski trips are superb Perfect as can be Our Potomac Valley Ski Club is - the - onefor you and me!

\square \square \square \square \square

Members'Corner



Dave Warthen is unfortunately on injured reserve and unable to prepare his usual Members' Corner. We have substituted this nice story from Dick Parlow .

Renewing a Friendship on the Slopes

Returning to Aspen this year was a real treat that was instigated by my son who is living in Hawaii. When he heard that I was going to Snowmass he insisted that I contact one of his childhood friends. His friend is Craig Chalmers who is now the Snowmass Ski Patrol Director whom I haven't seen in years. My son Brook and Craig grew up together in Bowie Maryland, played club and High School soccer, won the Maryland soccer championship their last 2 years in high school, went to the Univ. of Maryland and



Dick and Craig

eventually settled in Colorado ski country doing what young folks do to enjoy life on minimum dollars.

Both young kids eventually found their way out of poverty in the Colorado mountains to meaningful careers – Craig as Director of the Ski Patrol and my son into the global music world. To renew our friendship, I took Craig to dinner, all the locals knew him. We talked for hours about the intervening years and how things were a bit hectic in Snowmass with the Olympic trials and all the Toyota and NBC TV crews present. None the less he offered to ski with some of my friends for a run or so in the morning.

The next morning Tom and Mary Tycz, Ben Purcell and I met Craig in the morning for several runs on the slopes. He took us on the best groomed slopes off of Big Burn, stopped regularly to point out the sites, various mountain peaks, points of interest like the town water pond where they found numerous dinosaur fossils etc.. It was a very enjoyable morning interlude. He offered to join us again after lunch and we all headed up to Elk Camp. Unfortunately, our time with Craig was short lived – a skier fell, cracked his helmet and didn't have any recall about where he was or what he was doing. Fortunately, Craig was there, took charge and bid us farewell as he attended to business.



Tom, Dick, Mary, Ben

We thought that would be the last we would see of Craig. Well the next day an unusual and unexpected thing happened. As we were getting off Sam's Knob lift heading for Banzai Ridge, I looked up and saw Craig heading off in the opposite direction. Had either of us been 30 seconds sooner or later we would have been heading in our separate directions. Fortunately, we didn't and the four of us had several runs with him and we truly enjoyed his company and some unexpected slope time.

Look forward to seeing him on our 2019 Snowmass trip.

submitted by Dick Parlow

PVS Calendar 2018:

Feb 24 Sat Monthly Meeting, 2:00 PM, Marx, Springfield, VA

Feb 26 Mon ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM , Jablon, Washington





PVS Ski Trips 2018:

February 14-21, 2018 Big Sky Montana, (Inge Lesjak & Marianne Soponis)

February 27-28, 2018 Wisp Maryland, (John Smith)

Useful Ski "Links" Potomac Valley Skiers BRSC Sanctioned Trips DC Ski Online News Best of Times Ski Club



ExCom

Officers:	Chairpersons:
President – <i>Bob Jablon</i>	Ski Trip Committee – Rosemary Schwartzbard
V. President – Janet Marx	Events – Ray and Nancy McKinley
Secretary – Ellie Thayer	Membership Records – Dave Warthen
Treasurer – Dick Schwartzbard	Membership PR Reps – Inge Lesjak &
Ex Officio - Carolyn DeVilbiss	Marianne Soponis
Board Members:	, TOOT Coordinator – <i>Ellie Thayer</i>
First Term:	TOOT Layout Editors – Jan Marx, Kerry Hines
Inge Lesjak	& Dave Warthen
Nancy McKinley	TOOT (E-Distribution) – Dave Warthen
Tom Tycz	TOOT (USPS Distribution) – Barb Leonhardt,
Second Term:	June Read, Liz Triau
Barry Lake	Webmaster – Mary Ellena Ward
John H. Smith	Meeting Records – Sue Lyon
Ellie Thayer	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.