

PVSC

Voice

Learning for the Fun of It!

Rock and Roll!

ON SEPTEMBER 18, 64 members attended PVSC's Annual Meeting at Jeff's Catering. Kudos to the Membership Committee, led by Judy Chandler and Pam Briggs, who skillfully organized the event.



Andy Mead Rockin' It

The highlight of the meeting was the program presented by Andy Mead: The History of Rock and Roll, Vol 1, 1953-1963. Andy used his voice, his guitar, his computer screen, and his digital backup music to inspire and lead a singalong. Everyone had a great time. We are looking forward to Vol. 2 next year! Big thanks to Andy Mead.*

* Andy asked us to pass along this bit of historic music trivia: the bass player who gave up his seat to Ritchie Valens on Buddy Holly's fateful flight went on to have a successful career in country music. His name is Waylon Jennings.



The slate of officers for 2025 was approved. President Ann Torrey reported that our use of Zoom made it possible to add winter and summer semesters and enabled members to take courses at any of Maine's 17 senior colleges. Membership numbers are finally approaching pre-Covid levels.

Thanks to all for talking to your friends and selling the virtues of Penobscot Valley Senior College!

Learning for the fun of it! Keep up the good work!

By Ann Torrey

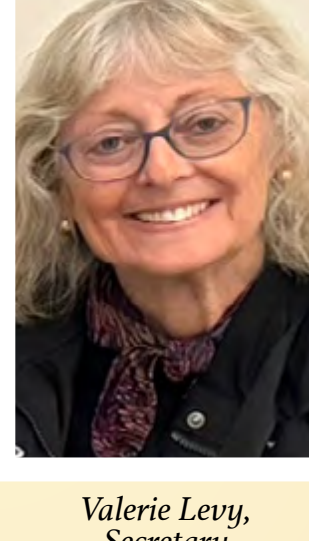
Our Fearless Leaders



Ann Torrey,
President



Suzanne Gordon,
Vice President



Valerie Levy,
Secretary



Lin Lufkin,
Treasurer

It takes an amazing amount of work to keep PVSC courses going year-round, attract new members, provide services like the recent Annual Meeting, and keep the organization financially sound.

We've been fortunate in having so many capable people step up to do the endless grunt work on the

committees. The officers who take more general responsibility for PVSC and maintain our relationship with the statewide Senior College organization have daunting jobs. Lucky us—our four very capable 2024 officers have been elected to continue their good work in 2025.

Fall is for learning

Courts and cooking and Bangor trails, oh my! Our fall semester courses tackled a rich variety of topics and drew enthusiastic responses. All eleven classes filled with happy learners eager to walk local trails or get into the intricacies of opera, art, spirituality, Middle East history, the courts, cooking, the Wildlands, ancient mythology, mindfulness, and furniture making. Good times!



Walking in Bangor's Essex Woods



The opera class watched Carmen on video



How hybrid courses work: some students in the classroom, some at home on Zoom.

THE MEMBERS' CORNER Sadly, there were no submissions this time. Remember: we'd love to hear about your travels and local adventures, see your art, craft, or photos of anything interesting, read your writing. The sweet blanket you crocheted for that grandbaby? That cherry side table you built? A photo from an autumn hike, a weird bug on a leaf, a lakeside sunset? Whatever it is, bring it on! We just reserve the right to edit a bit if needed.

AND, let's expand the options! What treasured objects evoke a special moment or event your past? Clothing, toys, jewelry, cars, tools, hats, gloves, furniture? Give us a paragraph or two, and a photo if possible.

Send your submissions to kurth@maine.edu.

Meet an Instructor

Kay Retzlaff



Kay, a UMA English professor, is currently teaching "Origins of the Western Literary Tradition." We recently sent her a few email questions. Her answers were long and hilarious. This is an abridged version.

Q. You've taught quite a few courses for PVSC. What keeps you coming back?

A. PVSC students enjoy learning. They get my jokes and don't give me that "I'm looking at my demented Nana" look. They actually read the materials—and if they don't, they know how to do a cover story that actually is quite entertaining.

Q. One of your research areas is mythology. How did your interest begin?

A. I got interested in mythology because my folks sent me to a Lutheran parochial school. It was one of those German patriarchal boys-are-always-better-than-girls places. I grew up with brothers, so puh-lease, I knew/know better. When I finished homework I would grab an encyclopedia and just read. A is an amazing volume. I found Athena. I liked Athena. She could kick some major boy butt.

Q. You recently published a book about the Irish in Belfast, Maine. What made that a compelling topic?

A. I have spent 50 years learning about the Irish, Irish culture, Irish language, Irish history. I was intrigued to find myself living between Bangor and Belfast. I was going to do a short article for

Maine History about the murder of a 26-year-old Irish-born woman on the eve of the American Civil War. Fifteen years later, and a lot of research later, I discovered that Maine's character has been formed by steady stream of folks born in Ireland.

Q. What do you do when you're not teaching?

A. When I am not teaching, I write. Or I work in the garden, which has now become gardens and a bit overwhelming. They are quite demanding, but they do produce beauty and/or food. I like both. Or I cook for friends and family. Or I talk with friends about their travels. Or I travel, if I can swing it. Or I read, which is cheaper and easier. Sometimes I try to nap, but then a neighbor shows up. Always.

Q. You're giving a dinner party. What three historical figures would you invite, and why?

A. Oh, I have thought about that dinner party for years. I would love to have Ben Franklin there. I guess I would have to think if we were going to eat or laugh. I don't want anyone choking. Mark Twain would get on with Franklin, I think. Just to mix things up, I'd add Edgar Poe. Both Poe and Franklin were "ladies' men." I realize that is a very sexist table, but I, of course, would be the center of attention. So why not?

"I'm at the age when friends with benefits means I know someone who can drive at night."

The Voice is published bimonthly (or so).

See more online at: penobscotvalleyseniorcollege.org