



PVSC

Voice

Learning for the Fun of It!

THE LATEST PVSC NEWS

NEW COURSES COMING FOR SPRING!

You're going to love this: a terrific variety of subjects is coming your way with our spring course offerings:

- ❖ **THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF THE GERMANS WHO FOUGHT HITLER** with Sandy Garson. Zoom.
- ❖ **BEGINNERS' AFRICAN DRUMMING** with Lauralyn Buie. In person in Bucksport.
- ❖ **PLAY READING WITH TRUE NORTH THEATER (READERS' THEATER)** with Mark Bilyk. In person.
- ❖ **THE GEOLOGY OF MAINE** with Steve Norton. In person.
- ❖ **WRITING A LEGACY LETTER** with Jay Sherwin. Zoom.
- ❖ **VISUAL CULTURE OF THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE** with Michael Grillo. In person.
- ❖ **MUSIC AND THE SYMPHONY: A VIEW FROM THE PODIUM** with Lucas Richman. In person.
- ❖ **JANE EYRE AND BERTHA ROCHESTER—THE UNDERSIDE OF A CLASSIC** with Ruth Nadelhaft. In person.
- ❖ **INSIDE MAINE'S LAST INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER** with Dan MacLeod. In person.
- ❖ **HOW ELECTIONS IN MAINE WORK AND WHY** with Matt Dunlap. In person.

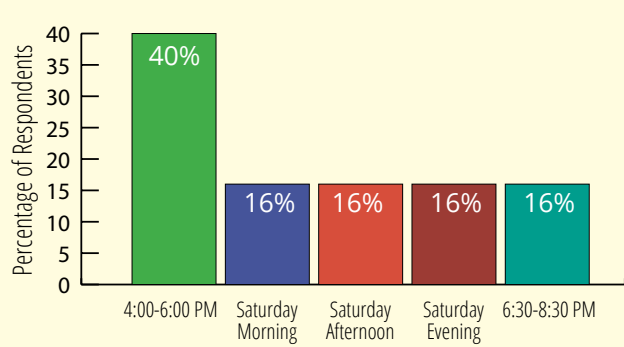
Survey Results

During 2023 PVSC surveyed our membership on a number of topics. We thought you would be interested in the results.

First, we compiled 188 responses covering over 200 members. We thought that was an excellent response from our membership. Through those responses we were able to update our database with new telephone numbers and addresses. We also asked people if they required regular "snail mail" communication as opposed to email. We found that only 9 people required snail mail. That cuts down on our mailing costs.

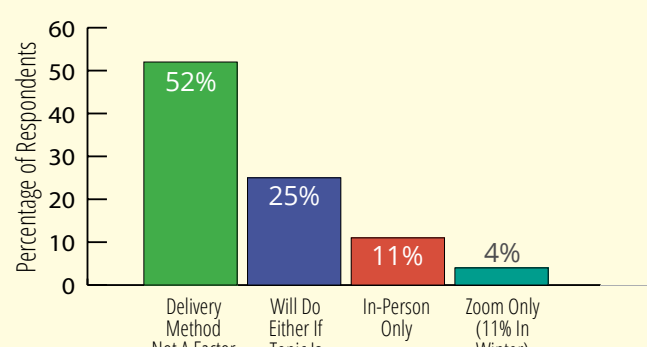
CLASS TIMING PREFERENCE

We found that 40% of our respondents would be willing to take courses from 4-6 P.M. 16% were willing to take courses on weekday evenings from 6:30-8:30 P.M. 16% would take courses on Saturday mornings; 16% would take courses on Saturday afternoons; 16% would take courses on Sunday afternoons.



DELIVERY METHOD PREFERENCE

On the issue of delivery method of courses, Zoom versus in-person, most of the respondents said the delivery method was not a factor if the course was of interest. 11% said they would only take courses if they were in person. 11% would only take courses on Zoom in the winter.



PVSC thanks the members who responded to the survey!

*"I don't know how to act my age—
I've never been this old before."*

Members' Corner



Collaging Together

Kristin Langellier and Eric Peterson are PVSC members who read, ride, cook, and collage together.

"We've known Chief Inspector Armand Gamache and the whole cast of characters in the Louise Penny mystery novels for years, first as amusing audiobooks on car trips to the Midwest. We have yet to find the charming fictional village of Three Pines, but we've recreated a Gabri dish or two from the Bistro at home, and we patronize places that are like Myrna's Bookstore. And when we drove

to Quebec City, we walked like acolytes in the steps of Gamache on the Bury Your Dead literary tour (we have the book in both English and French). At the Musée National des Beaux Arts we sought out the paintings of Clarence Gagnon, a Quebec artist who features in *A Long Way Home*.

"And so when the assignment in Kal Elmore's PVSC collage class was to "rework a work of art," Gagnon's townscape was the subject."



Big Hiking Together

John Bryant, Betty Jamison, and Kris Reid are PVSC-ers who love to hike together. Their most recent adventure took them to Iceland. They shared some dramatic and fascinating photos.



Five Minute Read

Ever hear of a civician? It's a person who takes responsibility for actively engaging in and improving society whether by major activism or small, everyday acts. Enough civicians could transform our fractured nation. Ann Torrey recommends an inspiring read from the Washington Post about this idea, especially given the year-long electioneering we're about to face. No subscription required.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/12/05/strong-society-citizenship-democracy/>

MORE READS

BOOKS: the original hand-held device. What was the best book you read in 2023? Or have you encountered a fascinating article, story, poem, or other writing you'd like to share? Send link and brief explanation of why you liked it to kurth@maine.edu.



THANK YOU, DONORS!

PVSC members are the best—and are you ever generous! An astounding \$5,000 was donated last fall, far more than anyone expected. Fifty-seven households sent contributions. Some gifts were in honor of extraordinary volunteers and some were in memory of departed members. Most were just statements that PVSC's courses and social life matter. After several years of operating in the red, due mostly to the pandemic, today both our bank balance and our membership numbers are growing. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

