

# DAMASCUS TRAVEL CLUB

MEETINGS HELD AT American Legion Hall, 10201 Lewis Drive, Damascus, MD

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 304, DAMASCUS MD 20872

## 2023-2024 Officers

President	Cathy Burke	202-302-4941	Treasurer	Tammy Monarch	301-253-0044
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Jim Kemp	301-253-2859	Tour Treasurer	Lois Kemp	301-253-2859
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Diane Dantagnan	301-428-0144	Historian	Barbara Morten	301-253-5824
Recording Secretary	Teresa Brown	240-375-0387	Membership Chair	Barbara Walker	301-253-1519
Corresponding Secretary	Judy Cullen	301-972-0137	Chaplain	Dee Nelson	301-740-1555

Refreshment Co-Chairs: Roz Bowman and Delores Neal

## AUGUST 2023

JOIN US AT THE PICNIC/POTLUCK ON AUGUST 12! BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT

*from Cathy Burke, President*



Happy “Hot and Smoky” August everyone. We are all getting excited about our annual Picnic/Potluck on **August 12 at 1 PM at the American Legion Hall**. Please make sure you have let us know that you are attending the picnic. The club will provide the fried chicken so bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. As a fun idea, we also would like you to think of a “best travel tip” you have learned to share with the group. We know that we all learn something traveling and sometimes it is that one great “tip” that turns our trip into the best ever!

We had a very good DTC Executive Board Meeting on July 17. Among other topics we agreed to allow our members to announce other Damascus-centered organization announcements at our meetings while applying the KISS principal: Keep It Simple and Short. Your Board of Directors care very much about club members and the enjoyment you all get out of belonging and traveling with us. We thank you. The Board Meeting minutes will be read at our September meeting.

Our September meeting will be on **September 5 at 7 PM**. Yes, you read that right, an evening meeting. This meeting will be special in that we will have a travel agent from Colette Tours to provide information on a possible trip to Ireland. We will also have our regular general meeting. Hopefully, the evening meeting will offer an opportunity for our members who cannot make day meetings. We hope to see all of you at the picnic and the evening meeting. What better time for an evening meeting but when it stays nice and light outside.

We are super excited to participate again in the Damascus Community Fair on September 8, 9 and 10. We need you, our members, for this event. Tammy Monarch will be sending out a signup sheet for you to volunteer for one or more of these days to support our booth. We had so much fun last year working together and sharing all the fun we have with this travel club. We met so many wonderful people, many of whom had never heard of our travel club. Please sign up and come enjoy some time with your fellow members.

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We are proud of all the technology advancements this club has made in the last year and want to add an option for you to receive only the electronic version of our newsletter, if you choose. This is for those of us who prefer to receive our communications via e-mail and avoid the mail delays. We will still print and mail the newsletter for anyone who prefers a printed version. The next time you sign-in at a meeting or event, just let us know if you choose/prefer e-mail only. Or send an email to me with your full name with your preference at **cburke53@comcast.net**. We can then take you off our hard copy mailing list. Remember, you will need to

*Continued on next page*

have a printer to print the reservation slips you need to register for a trip or luncheon. Who knows - we may save a little money and some trees....

We hope you will join us at our **Fall Luncheon** in October. This luncheon will be at the **Mount Airy Volunteer Firemen's Activity Hall in Mount Airy**. We had club luncheons at this location before the pandemic and they have now reopened. It is a larger venue for our very popular luncheons. Details are in this newsletter.

Once again we need to ask for a Webmaster within our club. This is not to replace Mandy Buckley but rather to give her an assistant who could make quick changes as needed. Mandy would remain our Technology Webmaster. The website is built to be user friendly. So, if anyone in this club has any website development or programming experience or background, please let me know.

We are all looking forward to the upcoming year with the Travel Club and are excited about the trip considerations. As we did last year, we plan to publish an annual calendar of trips with our February 2024 newsletter. We hope to provide you with as much detail as possible so that you can plan.

If you have not sent in your membership form yet, please complete your renewal form and send in your \$25 membership fee today. **This newsletter will be the last you will receive if we do not receive your renewal.** Don't miss out on this great community of club members.

Have a great August and I look forward to seeing many of you at the picnic. For the rest, I will see you at our September evening meeting. I am here for you, please contact me anytime, 202-302-4941, [cburke53@comcast.net](mailto:cburke53@comcast.net). Keep traveling and having fun. *Cathy*

## A QUICK GLANCE AT OUR UPCOMING TRIPS AND LUNCHEONS

Details of these trips and luncheons will be printed in this and upcoming newsletters.

If you have any questions, please call the tour guide listed with each trip.

*Joanne Kessler: 301-253-0335 Rusty Embrey: 301-871-7069 Casey Koontz: 301-831-6746*

<b>August 3</b>	Totem Pole – Million Dollar Quartet ( <i>Rusty</i> )
<b>August 12</b>	<b>Damascus Travel Club Picnic/Potluck</b>
<b>August 17</b>	Dutch Apple Dinner Theater – Guys and Dolls ( <i>Rusty</i> )
<b>August 23</b>	Raystown Lake/East Broad Top Railroad ( <i>Joanne</i> )
<b>Sept 28-Oct 1</b>	Virginia Beach Neptune Festival ( <i>Joanne</i> )
<b>October 3</b>	<b>Fall Luncheon at Mt. Airy Firemen's Activity Hall</b>
<b>October 18</b>	Toby's Dinner Theater – Sister Act ( <i>Rusty</i> )
<b>NEW! November 17</b>	Sight and Sound – Miracle of Christmas ( <i>Joanne</i> )
<b>NEW! December 14-15</b>	Christmas in Bethlehem ( <i>Joanne</i> )

**Note:** Please bring your choice of beverage to keep you hydrated on our bus trips. We do have cups and limited water if someone needs water for medicine. Thanks.

**REMEMBER: All money is non-refundable after the final payment FOR ALL TRIPS.** This has always been our policy. However, if you cancel after your final payment and someone wants to take your spot, your money will be returned when/if they have paid in full.

**CHECK POLICY: Remember the club will not cash your check until we know the trip is a go.** This is in case the trip needs to be cancelled and we would therefore need to return your money. Please note your check could be cashed weeks BEFORE your trip once all seats have been reserved and the venue needs to be paid.

**PLEASE send ONE CHECK for each activity. DO NOT COMBINE payments for trips and luncheons.** It makes it too complicated for our treasurers. **PLEASE DO NOT MAIL ANYTHING TO THE AMERICAN LEGION HALL. OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS P.O. BOX 304, DAMASCUS, MD 20872**

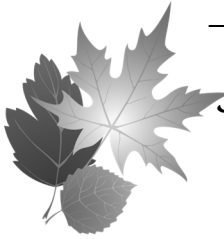


## JOYS & CONCERNS



- **Happy Birthday** to all members born in August!
- **Happy Anniversary** to couples celebrating their wedding anniversary in August!
- **Margaret Nichols sent a note via her membership form that read:** "I was a tour guide for over 40 years. I want to get the newsletters to keep up with the club in taking trips. Tell everyone I said Hi. I'm doing well for 99 years old."
- **A Thinking of You card was sent to Mary Jane Walter who has moved to an assisted living facility in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.**
- **Get Well cards were sent to Sue Greenberg for a good recovery from her upcoming procedure, and to Danny Stotz for a speedy recovery from recent surgery.**
- **Our sympathies, thoughts and prayers were sent to Barbara and Garry Walker on the passing of her mother, Jean Gosbee.**

If you know of any sunshine joys or concerns, or have a special birthday or anniversary to report, please contact **Ann Gray** at 301-758-5350 (leave a message if necessary) or email her at **anngray1@gmail.com**



*Join us for a Fried Chicken and Shrimp Dinner  
at our Fall Luncheon in October!*

Tuesday, October 3 at 1 PM

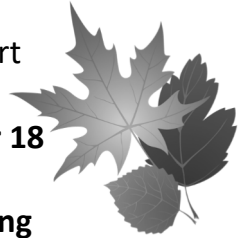
Mount Airy Volunteer Fireman's Reception Hall, 1008 Twin Arch Road, Mount Airy / \$25 per person

### *Our Menu*

A delicious Chicken and Shrimp Dinner with vegetables, potatoes, and dessert  
Drinks and Entertainment included

**Please send in your reservation form (page 7) with your check by September 18  
to Damascus Travel Club, P.O. Box 304, Damascus. MD 20872**

**DON'T FORGET THIS NEW LOCATION: Mount Airy Fireman's Activity Building**



SOME TRAVEL NOTES – *Look where we've been!*

### WASHINGTON NATIONALS

**Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Sunday, July 9, 2023**

July 9th turned out to be a perfect day. We had clouds, dark skies, and a slight breeze. Our seats on the first base side were perfect as always and not many people were in our section so we were able to spread out over four rows. All the weather alerts etc. held off and we only had rain coming home while on the bus. We were real travelers! We covered Maryland, District of Columbia and Virginia coming home a new way. And with lots of home runs and a couple of double plays we had a VICTORY. In all the 14 years DTC has had this outing, our record is 14-3. Obviously we bring good luck. All had lots of fun at a good game!!! GO NATS!

## UPCOMING TRIPS

### MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

**Hickory Bridge Farms & Totem Pole Playhouse / Fayetteville, Pennsylvania  
Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Thursday, August 3, 2023**

**This trip is a GO!** This will be a fun day trip to Hickory Bridge Farms for their delicious lunch and the Totem Pole Playhouse. You will enjoy an afternoon of delicious food and great music. We will leave Weis Market in Damascus at 10 AM and return approximately 5:30 PM. Please plan for traffic and arrive 15 minutes early to board the bus. Park on the side of the store parallel to Ridge Road. We have an arrangement with store management to leave our cars. If you have any questions, please call me 301-871-7069. My cell on the day of the trip is 202-304-7407.

### GUYS AND DOLLS

**Dutch Apple Dinner Theater / Lancaster, Pennsylvania  
Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Thursday, August 17, 2023**



**This trip is almost a go at the time of this newsletter.** I'm gambling we'll get some additional travelers from a blast email that was sent to everyone in July. I will call everyone with a confirmation.

Hopefully we will leave from Weis Market in Damascus (26075 Ridge Road) at 9:15 AM and return approximately 5:30 PM. Please park on the side of the store parallel to Ridge Road. We have an arrangement with store management to leave our cars. If you have any questions, please call me at 301-871-7069. My cell day on the day of the trip is 202-304-7407.

### RAYSTOWN LAKE / EAST BROAD TOP RAILROAD

**Huntingdon, Pennsylvania  
Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – Wednesday, August 23, 2023**

**This wonderful day trip is a GO!** There is a waiting list in case of any cancellations. Thanks to all who signed up!

We will leave from Weis Market in Damascus (26075 Ridge Road) at 7:30 AM and return approximately by 7:30 PM. Please park on the side of the store parallel to Ridge Road. We have an arrangement with store management to leave our cars. We will have a morning rest stop at the Welcome Center in Warfordsburg, PA, and have another rest stop on our return. My cell on the day of the trip is 240-454-4742.



## NEW TRIPS TO CONSIDER

**NEW!**

### MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS

**Sight and Sound Theater / Ronks, Pennsylvania**

**Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – Friday, November 17, 2023**

The Christmas show, “Miracle of Christmas,” is back and we will all enjoy an afternoon show of this “*reason for the season*” production. Travel back in time to Bethlehem as the original story of Christmas unfolds. Experience this show as it comes to life on stage with massive sets and live animals. Don’t hesitate to send in your reservation as this trip always goes with a full bus.

Our show time is 3 PM this year and we will have time to stop and explore at the Kitchen Kettle Village (decorated for Christmas) before we go to lunch at Miller’s Smorgasbord. They offer American favorites as well as their own distinctive Heritage Dishes and baked-fresh desserts. The menu is too extensive to list! Lancaster County’s heritage include the Amish, German, Pennsylvania Dutch, Moravian, and more and they all have their own dishes for you to enjoy.

Please join us for this wonderful production presented in a theatre that you need to be there to experience the total surroundings of the show. **Price is \$202 per person** which includes lunch at Miller’s Smorgasbord, ticket, taxes, tips, motorcoach, and driver’s gratuity. **Reservations are due by October 1.**



**NEW!**

### CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

**Mysterious Moravians and Lively Germans**

**Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – December 14-15, 2023**

This interesting trip offers many places to tour, as well as many things to see and do. We will have two days to enjoy everything during the Christmas season. The Moravians came here in 1732 from Ancient Bohemia and Moravia, now part of the Czech Republic. The missionaries and settlers founded Bethlehem in 1741. Christmas in Bethlehem is a unique experience in itself with its ties to the Christian holiday, the German tradition of decorating trees, and the famous Moravian star. This mix makes this time of year so magical and is planned as a one-of-a-kind tour experience.

We have combined the traditional Christmas tour with an extended tour of all the historic sites. You will learn and experience Putz, a Moravian decorating tradition. After time in the Christmas Village, you will have an evening City Stroll with time at Christkindlmarkt, a very German market offering good food and unique gifts. No one else offers this unique trip experience. Don’t miss out! Please note there will be walking from one place to another. More details about this wonderful trip will be in the September newsletter.

This trip includes motorcoach and driver’s gratuity; lodging at Hampton Inn, Bethlehem, with breakfast; lunch at Tavern at the Sun Inn; an Apothecary Tour; Christmas Tree Tour at the Moravian Museum; presentation of Putz; Christmas City Stroll; Christmas City Village; Christkindlmarkt; taxes and tips. **Your reservation is due by October 18, 2023.**

**Cost of Package:** \$289 pp double / \$350 pp single / \$276 pp triple / \$266 pp quad

TRIPS TO REVIEW... *Will you join us?*

## NEPTUNE FESTIVAL VIRGINIA BEACH

**Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – September 28-October 1, 2023**

**Deposit deadline for this trip was July 7 but unfortunately we have not met our minimum number of reservations.** I will leave this trip open through August for anyone who would like to join us. Come with us to Virginia Beach, Virginia, to the 49<sup>th</sup> celebration of the **Annual Neptune Festival**. The itinerary and other information has been in the last two newsletters and is available on our website. Summer will be over and it will be a perfect time to get away for a few days.

The signature event is the **North America Sand Sculpting Competition**, one of the largest of its kind on the East Coast. Activities will take place on the boardwalk while sculpting is on the beach each day. There will be music, craft vendors and food on the boardwalk, all of this near the hotel where we will be staying. Please think about joining us. Give me a call at 301-253-0335 if you have any questions.

This great trip includes transportation, 3 nights hotel, 3 full breakfasts, 1 dinner, admission to the dolphin cruise and the museum, baggage handling, taxes, tips on inclusions and driver's gratuity. **Send in the full amount before August 18.** We will leave from Weis Market in Damascus (26075 Ridge Road) at 7 AM on September 28 and return approximately by 6 PM on October 1. Please park on the side of the store parallel to Ridge Road. We have an arrangement with store management to leave our cars.



**Cost of Package based on 35 reservations:** \$796 pp double / \$762 pp triple / \$1034 pp single

## SISTER ACT

**Toby's Dinner Theater / Columbia, Maryland**

**Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Wednesday, October 18, 2023**



Sister Act is a delightful musical comedy about a woman hiding from the mob in a convent. When lively lounge singer Deloris Van Cartier sees her mobster beau commit murder, she is relocated for her protection. Disguised as a nun in a California convent, Deloris proceeds to upend the quiet lives of the resident sisters. We start the morning with a great lunch at Toby's Dinner Theater which has been a fixture in our area since 1979. Join us for this fun matinee experience. The buffet includes a large selection of cheeses, veggies, hot entrées, and fresh slices of roast beef, turkey, and ham at the carving board. Top off your meal with a dessert, plus coffee and tea are included.

Without the expense of a bus, this trip is just \$70 for good food, a great show, and all taxes and gratuities. Bar drinks are on your own. Carpool with friends for this approximately 45-minute drive to Columbia, Maryland. Directions will be in the October newsletter. Doors open at 10:30 AM, and the show begins at 12:30 PM. **Your reservation with payment must be in by September 6, 2023.** Any questions just call me at 301-871-7069. Day of the trip my cell is 202-304-7407.

**RESERVATIONS**

**Please remember: SEND ONE CHECK FOR EACH TRIP**

**Mail to: Damascus Travel Club \* P.O. Box 304 \* Damascus, MD 20872**

**PICNIC/POTLUCK – August 12, 2023      AMERICAN LEGION HALL / NO FEE!      RSVP was due July 31, 2023**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Neptune Festival – Sept 28-Oct 1, 2023**

**Payment of full amount due August 18, 2023**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Encl. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MENU CHOICE (CHOOSE ONE):     CRAB CAKES     GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST     GRILLED SALMON

REQUESTED ROOMMATE:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y  N  \_\_\_\_\_

**Sister Act – October 18, 2023**

**Payment of \$70 pp due by September 6, 2023**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Encl. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y  N  \_\_\_\_\_

**FALL LUNCHEON – October 3, 2023**

**MT. AIRY FIREMAN'S HALL**

**Payment of \$25 due September 18, 2023**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Sight and Sound – November 17, 2023**

**Payment of \$202 pp due by October 1, 2023**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Encl. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y  N  \_\_\_\_\_

**Christmas in Bethlehem – December 14-15, 2023**

**Payment in full due by October 18, 2023**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Encl. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y  N  \_\_\_\_\_

**DAMASCUS TRAVEL CLUB**  
**P.O. BOX 304**  
**DAMASCUS, MD 20872**  
*August 2023*



*Keep these newsletters for future reference!*



**Please send in your reservation  
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who can't make our afternoon meetings  
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Bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Hope to see you there!**