

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 st Vice President	Jim Kemp	301-253-2859	Tour Treasurer	Lois Kemp	301-253-2859
2 nd 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

Refreshments: Cheryl Shores: 240-605-6255

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, at 1 PM

FEBRUARY 2024

from Cathy Burke, President



As we embark on another thrilling year at the Damascus Travel Club, I'm delighted to reflect on our lively January meeting; 75 members and guests were in attendance. We fondly reminisced about our fantastic 2023 meetings and trips, and our Tour Leaders provided additional insights into the exciting 2024 spring trip lineup to Savannah GA, Charleston and Myrtle Beach NC, and our highly anticipated fall trip to Ireland!

Our club thrives on fresh ideas and enthusiastic participation. We warmly invite volunteers to lend their time and energy in various capacities: assistance with setting up and rearranging tables and chairs during meetings and luncheons; serving delectable food and beverages at our gatherings; suggestions for entertainers, catering, or diverse food options. Your support matters tremendously, and your input is invaluable. Contact me directly to share your ideas or express your interest in contributing further.

A heartfelt thank you to **Cheryl Shores** for taking charge of the meeting refreshments. We deeply appreciate her dedication. We still have open months for refreshment volunteers in 2024, so please take the opportunity to join in! Reach out to Cheryl at **240-605-6255** or **baydreamin01@verizon.net** or sign up at our general meetings.

Our April meeting will showcase a slate of officers for the upcoming year. Consider being part of our board; your involvement is crucial. Let me know if you're interested in any board positions for the upcoming voting at our May meeting.

Remember, our website facilitates easy communication with the board and provides essential updates. Keep up to date with the 2024 Calendar on our website as we have a few additional trips and details added since last month. Additionally, stay updated via the DTC Google Calendar on our website, which you can hopefully sync with your phone's calendar.

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Don't forget to explore our website, featuring current and past newsletters, a vibrant photo gallery, and club updates. Join us on Facebook to stay connected. A special acknowledgment to our dedicated webmaster, Mandy Buckley, for her invaluable contributions to our club.

Together let's make 2024 an exceptional year! Stay healthy, stay happy, and let's continue our adventures together. **Happy Valentine's Day to all.**

Sincerely, Cathy



JOYS & CONCERNS



- **Happy Birthday** to all our members who were born in February!
- **Happy Anniversary** to couples celebrating their wedding anniversary in February!
If any of the club members have a special birthday or anniversary to report, we would be happy to publish the event. Just send us an email.

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**

A QUICK GLANCE AT OUR UPCOMING TRIPS

Details of these trips will be printed in this and upcoming newsletters.
If you have any questions, please call the tour guide listed with each trip.

Helen Aument: 240-793-6820 Rusty Embrey: 301-871-7069
Joanne Kessler: 301-253-0335 Casey Koontz: 301-831-6746

March 12-18, 2024	Savannah, Charleston, and Myrtle Beach (Casey)
April 16, 2024	Sweet & Salty in Pennsylvania (Rusty)
June 18-20, 2024	Explore Historic Virginia (Casey)
September 11-20, 2024	Ireland (Joanne)

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**

OUR VERY POPULAR MYSTERY TRIP!

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – May 15, 2024



JUST A NOTE: Not all details are finalized as of this newsletter for this very popular trip but I should have everything ready to publish in our next newsletter. The itinerary is a good one, but only I know that!

TRIPS TO REVIEW... *Won't you join us?*

SOUTHERN CHARM IN THE SPRINGTIME

**Savannah, Georgia / Charleston & Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – March 12-18, 2024**

With 42 paid reservations **this trip is a go!** Don't forget that your **final payment is due on or before February 6th.** Please allow adequate time for mail delivery. As a reminder, you've made a deposit of \$350 per person already so, when making your final payment, be sure to deduct your deposit amount from the total cost of the package amount shown below. Contact me at **(301) 831-6746 or liontonyjames@comcast.net** with any questions.



Cost of Package – based on 40 paid reservations
\$1,520 pp double / \$2,014 pp single / \$1,403 pp triple / \$1,338 pp quad

SWEET & SALTY

**Herr's Snack Factory (Nottingham PA)
and Turkey Hill Experience (Columbia PA)
Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Tuesday, April 16, 2024**

Let's be kids again and have fun on this trip! We start off with a tour of the **Herr Potato Chip Factory.** We will have a guided tour and at the end we get to sample the chips we saw being made.

We then board our bus at 11 AM for our sit down "high end lunch," a fully hot cooked-to-order lunch. I'm quoting the owner of **The Inn at Bully's Restaurant & Pub!** We start off with a salad and your choice of:

Roasted Chicken

Boneless breast of chicken in a tomato sauce, and seasonal rice: or

Beef Brisket

10 hours slow-roasted Brisket, au jus demi-glazed sauce, and garlic red skin mashed potatoes: or

Broiled Crab Cake

A house specialty crab cake with tartar aioli, and seasonal rice.



All entrées served with Chef's vegetables. All non-alcoholic beverages included. Please make your entrée selection on your reservation slip on page 5.

Back on the bus to the **Turkey Hill Experience & Lab** which features interactive exhibits allowing you to learn about the dairy culture, the story of Turkey Hill Dairy and how the company's ice cream and iced tea flavors are selected and created. You will truly experience what it's like to be a Turkey Hill Dairy Ice Cream maker for a day, including the opportunity to create your own virtual ice cream flavor. In addition, you can sit in their vintage milk truck, milk their mechanical cows, star in your very own Turkey Hill commercial and enjoy plenty of unlimited samples of iced tea and ice cream! Yay!!! They also have a shop to buy memorabilia.

All this fun and all the good eats and treats for \$124 includes the tour of Herr's factory, hot lunch, Turkey Hill Experience & Lab, transportation, drivers tip and all taxes and gratuities. We leave Weis Market in Damascus at 7:30 AM and return approximately at 6:30 PM. **Reservations must be in by March 5, 2024.** If you have any questions, please call me at 301-871-7069. My cell on the day of the trip is 202-304-7407.

EXPLORE HISTORIC VIRGINIA

Staunton, Lexington, Bedford and Charlottesville, Virginia Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – June 18-20, 2024

Now is the time to make your reservations for this tour of some wonderful small historic towns along I-81 in the scenic Shenandoah and Blue Ridge Mountains and Charlottesville, VA. On this trip we will experience beautiful mountain views along with visiting many historic sites. In addition, we'll have plenty of time to explore these places and enjoy the best of what each has to offer. See the article in the January newsletter for a detailed narrative. Below is a daily itinerary for this trip.

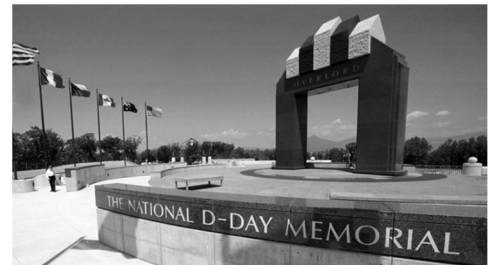
Day 1 – Staunton & Lexington, VA

- Driving tour of Staunton, time on your own to explore and have lunch on your own
- Travel to Lexington, VA
- Tour of Virginia Military Institute (VMI)
- Carriage Ride through Lexington
- Tour of General Jackson's home
- Dinner at local restaurant (included)
- Overnight stay in Lexington, VA



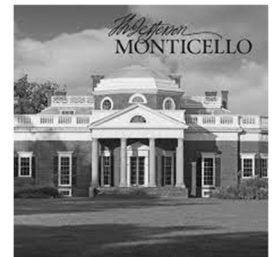
Day 2 – Bedford, VA

- After breakfast at hotel (included) depart for Bedford, VA
- Guided tour the National D-Day Memorial and surrounding grounds
- Travel to Smith Mountain Lake
- Board "The Virginia Dare" (a paddlewheeler) for lunch (included) and a 2-hour narrated cruise
- Travel to Poplar Forest (Thomas Jefferson's private retreat) for a tour of Jefferson's retreat house and grounds
- Travel to Charlottesville, VA for overnight stay with dinner on your own



Day 3 – Charlottesville, VA

- After breakfast at hotel (included) depart for Monticello
- Tour of Monticello including the house, gardens and museum
- Lunch at Michie Tavern (included)
- Browse Tavern Shop and The General Store at Michie's Tavern – as time allows
- Tour of Ashlawn (home of our fifth president James Monroe)
- Depart for Damascus, MD – dinner stop (on your own)



Price includes two one-night hotel stays, two breakfasts, two lunches and one dinner, all tours, carriage ride, bus transportation, taxes and tips. **Contact Casey Koontz (301) 831-6746 or liontonyjames@comcast.net with any questions.**

Cost of Package – based on 35 paid reservations
\$709 pp double / \$864 pp single / \$677 pp triple / \$668 pp quad
Deposit of \$150 pp due by April 2, 2024. Final payment due May 7, 2024.

SHADES OF IRELAND

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – September 11-20, 2024



Good news! This trip, where you will enjoy the Emerald Isle through Dublin, Kilkenny, Waterford, Blarney Castle, and more, has reached the limited block of 18 reservations and is now a go for us. It's not time to pack yet, but we will all be ready by September to enjoy this wonderful trip.

If there are any questions, please call me at 301-253-0335. Or you can call Collette directly at 1-800-340-5158. The booking number is 1190553. **Final payment due July 13, 2024.**

RESERVATIONS

Please remember: SEND ONE CHECK FOR EACH TRIP

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

Sweet & Salty in Pennsylvania – April 16, 2024

Full payment of \$124 due March 5, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

MENU CHOICE (CHOOSE ONE): BROILED CRAB CAKE ROASTED CHICKEN BREAST SLOW ROASTED BRISKET

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y N _____

Historic Virginia – June 18-20, 2024

Deposit of \$150 pp due April 2, 2024 / Final payment due May 7, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED ROOMMATE:

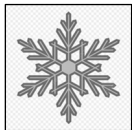
Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

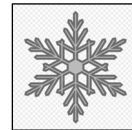
Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y N _____

OUR BAD WEATHER POLICY



If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed due to bad weather, there will be no meeting.



If schools are delayed one or two hours, we will meet at 1 PM as usual.

If schools close early, there will be no meeting.

Any meeting or trip cancellations will be noted on our website, www.damascustravelclub.org and on our Facebook page, [Damascus Travel Club](#).

DAMASCUS TRAVEL CLUB
P.O. BOX 304
DAMASCUS, MD 20872
February 2024



Keep these newsletters for future reference!

From Barbara Morten, our Historian: **2023 TRIPS AND HIGHLIGHTS**

Look at our adventures last year!

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|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 12 | Chocolate, Wine and a Murder Mystery in Hershey and Mannheim PA |
| April 17-22 | Springtime in Nashville TN and the Grand Ole Opry |
| April 30 | 40 members spent a Sunday at Way Off Broadway to see <i>Church Basement Ladies</i> |
| May 17 | 49 members enjoyed the Mystery Trip to the Naval Academy at Annapolis MD |
| June 1 | 45 members enjoyed lunch followed by <i>Honky Tonk Angels</i> at the Totem Pole |
| June 13-15 | New York Finger Lakes three-day trip with beautiful scenery and wineries |
| June 22 | 42 members enjoyed Dutch Apple Dinner Theater and <i>Elvis the Musical</i> |
| July 9 | Washington Nationals Baseball vs. Texas Rangers |
| July 19 | Fredericksburg VA trip to see <i>42nd Street</i> |
| August 3 | 28 members enjoyed the <i>Million Dollar Quartet</i> at the Totem Pole theater |
| August 12 | 94 members attended our Potluck/Picnic |
| August 17 | Members enjoyed <i>Guys and Dolls</i> at Dutch Apple Dinner Theater |
| August 23 | Raystown Lake Cruise/ East Broad Top Railroad in Pennsylvania |
| September 8-10 | Damascus Community Fair booth |
| September 24 | Washington Nationals vs. Atlanta Braves |
| September 29-October 1 | Neptune Festival, Virginia Beach VA – Sand Sculptures! |
| October 18 | 48 members at Toby's Dinner Theater, Columbia MD to see <i>Sister Act</i> |
| November 17 | Sight and Sound, <i>The Miracle of Christmas</i> , Ronks PA |
| December 5 | Holiday Luncheon and Basket Raffle. 126 members and guests attended. We had a record number of 33 donated holiday baskets. |
| December 8 | 53 members enjoyed <i>The First Noel</i> at the American Music Theater |
| December 14-15 | 41 members and friends on this two-day trip to Bethlehem PA |

DAMASCUS TRAVEL CLUB, INC.
2024 Calendar of Meetings and Trips
Dates and Times Subject to Change

All monthly meetings and potluck/picnic will be held at the
American Legion, 10201 Lewis Drive, Damascus, Maryland 20872.
If we move an event to a different address, we will notify you in plenty of time.

Any meeting or trip cancellations or changes will be noted
on our website, www.damascustravelclub.org
and on our Facebook page, [Damascus Travel Club](#) and/or by email.

Look for more details in the monthly DTC Newsletter when these trips are offered.
Trips marked TBD (to be determined) are in the planning stages.

TOUR LEADERS:

Helen Aument – 240-793-6820 / Rusty Embrey - 301-871-7069
Joanne Kessler - 301-253-0335 / Casey Koontz- 301-831-6746

JANUARY:

January 2, 2024 – General Meeting – 1 PM

FEBRUARY:

February 6, 2024 – General Meeting – 1 PM
Cash Bingo with suggested Valentine's Theme

MARCH:

March 5, 2024 – General Meeting – 1 PM
Entertainment – Rear View Window
March 12-18, 2024 – Savannah, Charleston, and Myrtle Beach
(Casey Koontz – Tour Leader)

APRIL:

April 2, 2024 – General Meeting – 1 PM
White Elephant / Slate of Officers for 2024-2025 presented
April 16, 2024 – Sweet and Salty – Tour of Herr's Potato Chip Factory
and Turkey Hill Ice Cream Factory
(Rusty Embrey – Tour Leader)

MAY:

May 7, 2024 – Spring Luncheon – 1 PM – Mount Airy Reception Hall
Entertainment – To Be Determined / Election of Officers
May 15, 2024 – Mystery Trip
(Joanne Kessler – Tour Leader)

JUNE:

June 4, 2024 – General Meeting – 1 PM
Installation of Officers
June 12, 2024 – New Hope, PA
(Joanne Kessler – Tour Leader)
June 18-20, 2024 – Historic Virginia
(Casey Koontz – Tour Leader)

JULY:

NO GENERAL MEETING

July 16-18, 2024 – Erie Canal/Buffalo **NOTE DATE CHANGE**
(Joanne Kessler – Tour Leader)

July 31, 2024 – *Sound of Music* at Dutch Apple Dinner Theater
(Rusty Embrey – Tour Leader)

AUGUST:

August 10, 2024 – Club Picnic/Potluck – 1 PM – American Legion

August 11-16, 2024 – Bar Harbor, Maine
(Casey Koontz – Tour Leader)

August 14, 2024 – *Jersey Boys* at Toby's Dinner Theater
(Rusty Embrey – Tour Leader)

August 23, 2024 – Lake Tobias Wildlife Park and Safari, Amish in home Lunch
(Joanne Kessler – Tour Leader) **NOTE DATE HAS BEEN ADDED**

SEPTEMBER:

September 3, 2024 – General Meeting – 7 PM
Evening Meeting with Speaker

September 11-20, 2024 – Shades of Ireland
(Joanne Kessler – Tour Leader)

Eastern Shore (date TBD)
(Helen Aument – Tour Leader)

September 30-October 10, 2024 – Albuquerque, NM (Hot Air Balloon Festival)
(bus trip through Columbus, Branson, Oklahoma, and Santa Fe)
(Casey Koontz – Tour Leader)

OCTOBER:

October 1, 2024 – General Meeting and Luncheon – 1 PM – Mt Airy Reception Hall
Entertainment – To be determined

Elkins, West Virginia (two-day trip – date TBD)
(Joanne Kessler – Tour Leader)

NOVEMBER:

November 5, 2024 – General Meeting – 1 PM
Memorial Service

November 6, 2024 – Mystery Trip **NOTE DATE CHANGE**
(Casey Koontz – Tour Leader)

November 8, 2024 – *Joy to the World* at American Music Theater
(Rusty Embrey – Tour Leader)

November 14, 2024 – *Daniel* at Sight and Sound
(Joanne Kessler – Tour Leader)

DECEMBER:

December 3, 2024 – Christmas Luncheon and Raffle – 1 PM – Mt Airy Reception Hall

December 5, 2024 – Longwood Gardens and Winterthur / Delaware
(Casey Koontz – Tour Leader)

December 11-12, 2024 – Greenbriar at Christmas / West Virginia
(Joanne Kessler – Tour Leader)

