

# 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

## JULY 2023

NO MEETING IN JULY

*from Cathy Burke, President*

Happy Summer, Fellow Travelers! We had a good June meeting with 73 members in attendance. Thank you all who attended and came out to support the installation of your 2023/2024 Damascus Travel Club Officers. I also want to give a shout out to Jean Casey and Donna Carr who assisted us with the Officer Installation. Jean and Donna are new members this year to the club who graciously offered to help. I really appreciate all of you who step up and volunteer to be of help in making this a great club. Please remember when you get a chance to thank the Club Officers, Tour Leaders, and all the volunteers. Many hands make light work. We can always use your help and I appreciate all of you very much.

The board is looking forward to the coming year and we hope to help your year be one of the best yet. We plan to have a Board Meeting (officers only) on Monday, July 17. If you have suggestions for the club, just send me an e-mail ([cburke53@comcast.net](mailto:cburke53@comcast.net)), text or leave me a message. Our members make the club what it is so we need to hear from you. I have already received some trip requests from members and will make sure those are considered. We want to know where you want to go. While we cannot make every trip request a go, we will certainly try. We can also always use suggestions if you know someone who would provide entertainment or catering for our club, so please let us know.

Barbara Walker, our Membership Officer, mentioned at the June meeting that we have around 250 members so far and we have received many renewals and new members forms recently. Thank you, Barbara, for all your hard work at renewal time and all year. Please spread the word to your friends about the club and have them join and have fun. Check out our website: <https://www.damascustravelclub.org/>

I also want to say a special thank you to Lois Kemp, our Tour Treasurer. Lois has been performing this job for well over a decade and oh my what a job she has. She keeps track of thousands of dollars for the tours, provides our Tour Leaders with the support they need to keep these trips moving along, and has the tedious job of reading all the checks and reservation forms you submit. Lois also contacts those folks whose submissions might be unreadable or might contain an error. Please help Lois as much as possible with correct checks, one trip form for each trip, and clear readable writing with accurate information that you submit to her. Please do

## MEET OUR 2023-2024 OFFICERS



Damascus Travel Club Officers were installed on June 6 for the upcoming year. Front row: Lois Kemp, Tour Treasurer; Tammy Monarch, Treasurer; Barbara Morten, Historian; Judy Cullen, Corresponding Secretary and Newsletter Editor; Back row: Cathy Burke, President; Jim Kemp, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Diane Dantagnan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Teresa Brown, Recording Secretary; Dee Nelson, Chaplain; and Barbara Walker, Membership Chair

not send unclear hand written notes or information on sticky notes. At the June meeting we listened to two months of Tour Treasury reports and man, that's a lot of keeping up.... Lois does a tremendous job!

As a reminder, **we do not have a meeting in July.** We will have an amazing August **Picnic/Potluck on Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM** at the American Legion Hall. The club provides the paper products, drinks and fried chicken and we ask that you bring a side dish or salad and/or dessert. Please plan to join us, as this is one of the best events of the year and you will be happy you came. We have such a fun time! The luncheon sign up form is in this newsletter so that we can get an idea of how many people plan to attend. Remember this event is FREE as part of your annual membership. For those of you who are newer to the club, while we call the event a picnic/potluck, we will have the event inside the Legion Hall for climate comfort (coolness and lack of bugs!).

Thank you for giving me the pleasure of being your Club President for another year, I have so enjoyed getting to know you and having fun with so many of you last year. I hope I can build on my membership knowledge and get to know more of you. I look forward to the next year and hope we continue to have lots of fun, grow and enjoy the club's camaraderie. I will try my best to fulfill your expectations and not let you down. I am here for you, please contact me anytime, 202-302-4941, **cburke53@comcast.net**. See you at the August Picnic/Potluck if not before on a trip. Travel and have fun.... *Cathy*

## A QUICK GLANCE AT OUR UPCOMING TRIPS

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>July 9</b>	Washington Nationals Baseball Game ( <i>Rusty</i> )
<b>July 19</b>	Riverside Center – 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street ( <i>Rusty</i> )
<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</b>
<b>NEW! October 18</b>	Toby's Dinner Theater – Sister Act ( <i>Rusty</i> )
<b>October TBD</b>	<b>Kentucky Moonshine Trip CANCELED (<i>Joanne</i>)</b>

**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. **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 July!
- *Happy Anniversary* to couples celebrating their wedding anniversary in July! Congratulations to Judy and Dave Cullen on their 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary.
- *Welcome to all our new members! We hope to see many more newcomers.*
- *Get Well cards with wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to Lynn Leach and Barbara Thompson.*
- *Our sympathies, thoughts and prayers were sent to Sandra Matson on the passing of her husband, Eric; to Janet Haines on the passing of her husband Lewis; and to Geneva Foster on the passing of her husband, Jim.*

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](mailto:anngray1@gmail.com)

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

#### HONKY TONK ANGELS

**Totem Pole / Fayetteville, Pennsylvania**

**Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Thursday, June 1, 2023**

45 people enjoyed this great day trip! After a tricky start while we looked for someplace to park our cars because of graduation at Damascus High School, we were grateful for a local church parking lot that welcomed our cars for the day. After an easy bus trip we had a delicious turkey dinner at Hickory Bridge Farm, served family-style with more than enough to eat. We had time to tour their grounds and check out their unique gift shop. Then we boarded our bus for the short ride to the Totem Pole Theater. The musical, which highlighted three women determined to find musical success in Nashville, had three great voices that covered the songs of Dollie Parton, Loretta Lynn, and Tammy Wynette and other county western entertainers. It was a really enjoyable day.

#### NEW YORK FINGER LAKES

**Wine, Dine, Scenery and More**

**Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – June 13-15, 2023**

The trip to the Finger Lakes got off to a bit of a rocky start with having to swap to a larger bus, but everyone took it in stride and before long we were on our way. During our drive we saw some awesome scenery driving through the mountains of Pennsylvania, New York and around two of the eleven New York Finger Lakes. Despite having rain on our second day the weather was perfect and we were grateful that we avoided the smoke from the Canadian wildfires that the area had experienced the week before. In Watkins Glen the group enjoyed a lunch overlooking Seneca Lake followed by an informative boat ride around the lake.

*Continued on next page*

The group enjoyed a stop at the *It's a Wonderful Life* Museum and wine tasting at a few wineries around Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, followed by cheese tasting inside a wonderful old barn at the Muranda Cheese Company. One of the highlights of our trip was the Willard Chapel. Built in 1892, the interior contains 14 opalescent windows, nine chandeliers, memorial tablets of glass mosaic tile and furnishings of oak inlaid with metal and glass mosaic, a ceiling with gold leaf stencils and mosaic flooring, entirely designed by Tiffany Glass.

On the way home we stopped at the Corning Museum of Glass where we saw a large collection of beautiful glass art works and live glass working demonstrations. Several of us chose to make our own piece of glass, working one-on-one with a glassblower. Others took a short walk to downtown Corning and enjoyed the shops and restaurants the quaint town had to offer. We all agreed that this was a great stop. We had a great group of travelers that included many new people. Compliments abounded about what a great trip this was. Make sure to check out pictures from the trip on the club's Facebook page. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on our future trips!

## NEW TRIP TO CONSIDER

**NEW!**

### 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. In an effort to keep her out of day-to-day trouble, Deloris is assigned to the convent's choir, an ensemble that she

soon turns into a vibrant and soulful act that gains widespread attention. She helps her fellow sisters find their voices as she rediscovers her own. The Broadway version of this musical had 5 Tony nominations, including Best Musical!

We start the morning with a great lunch at the largest buffet in our area. Toby's Dinner Theater has been a fixture in our area since 1979 with numerous live theater awards over the years. 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 reservations 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.



## UPCOMING TRIPS

### WASHINGTON NATIONALS VS. TEXAS RANGERS

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

**We are a GO** to the game and we will be loud and clear in our red shirts looking to celebrate a “Curly W!” We do have stadium rules to follow. Please bring a clear bag no larger than 16”x16”x8” or a purse or wallet size 4”x7”. You can bring a single size serving of food in a soft bag. One unopened bottle of water is also permitted. If you bring an umbrella it must fit in the clear bag. The stadium is credit card only except their 50/50 drawing takes cash. No glass or metal containers or hard sided coolers. No alcohol, weapons, or drones.

**The game is at 12:05 PM.** You will have plenty of time to shop and see the sights before the game. We will load the bus at Weis Market in Damascus (26075 Ridge Road) at 9:45 AM and return at approximately 4:30 PM. Please allow for traffic and arrive 15 minutes early. Park on the side of the store parallel to Ridge Road. If you have any questions, please call me 301-871-7069. My cell on the day of the trip is 202-304-7407.

### 42<sup>nd</sup> STREET

**Riverside Center for Performing Arts / Fredericksburg, Virginia**

**Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Wednesday, July 19, 2023**

I’m pleased to announce that this wonderful Broadway production is a go! **There is still room for a few more people if you’d like to join this trip.** The cost of the show, lunch, motorcoach, and driver’s tip is \$110 pp. Call me ASAP if you are interested.

We will leave from Weis Market in Damascus (26075 Ridge Road) at 9:15 AM and return approximately by 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. If you have any questions, please call me 301-871-7069. Day of the trip my cell is 202-304-7407.



### MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

**Hickory Bridge Farms & Totem Pole Playhouse / Fayetteville, Pennsylvania**

**Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Thursday, August 3, 2023**

**This trip is a GO!** There are still a few tickets left if you would like this fun day trip to Hickory Bridge Farms for their delicious lunch and the Totem Pole Playhouse. You will have an afternoon of delicious food and great music for just \$111 which includes, lunch, show, motorcoach and driver’s tip. Call me right away at 301-871-7069 if you are interested in coming along.

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.

## RAYSTOWN LAKE / EAST BROAD TOP RAILROAD

Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – Wednesday, August 23, 2023

**This wonderful day trip is a GO!** We will have a wonderful day cruising on the lake while we enjoy a delicious turkey dinner, followed by a scenic excursion on America's oldest operating narrow-gauge railroad.

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. If you have any questions, please call me 301-253-0335.



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

## GUYS AND DOLLS

Dutch Apple Dinner Theater / Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Thursday, August 17, 2023

We are half way to being able to go on this fun trip to Lancaster. Please turn in your reservations before **July 10, 2023**. Dutch Apple serves a large buffet with a salad bar and salad specialties, entrées of meat, fish, chicken, and pasta. You also have your choice of beverages and desserts, plus ice cream.

Guys and Dolls opened on Broadway and won a Tony Award for Best Musical in 1950 and has become a classic production. This musical romantic comedy invites the unlikeliest of Manhattan pairings with a high roller gambler, a puritanical missionary, a show girl dreaming of the straight and narrow and a crap game manager who is anything but interested in the straight and narrow! So many recognizable songs including “Sit Down, You’re Rockin’ the Boat” and “Luck Be a Lady.” Nathan Detroit and Sky Masterson have their hands full with Adelaide and Sarah Brown!



I'm gambling we're all going to have a great time! Just sit back and enjoy the show for \$113 which includes the buffet, show, tax, tip, motorcoach and driver's tip. **Reservations with full price must be in by July 10, 2023.** We will leave from Weis Market in Damascus (26075 Ridge Road) at 9:15 AM and return approximately 5:30 PM. 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.



## **NEPTUNE FESTIVAL VIRGINIA BEACH**

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

**Deposit deadline for this trip is July 7.** Make sure you send your check in on time so you can join us on this unique weekend. Come with us to Virginia Beach, Virginia, to the 49<sup>th</sup> celebration of the **Annual Neptune Festival**. Enjoy fun packed day and night events and entertainment which attracts visitors from all over to these sand creations, as well as a chance to relax at the beach, if you choose.

The signature event is the **North America Sand Sculpting Competition**, one of the largest of its kind on the East Coast. With many of the world's most talented sculptors, the Neptune International Championship has distinguished itself as a premier event unlike any other. Activities take place on the boardwalk while sculpting is on the beach each day.



We will stay at the conveniently located Oceanfront Inn with breakfast each morning. No need to take a bus to events and activities. We will be in the middle of the festivities between 6<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Streets. Enjoy a dolphin watching cruise Thursday afternoon before dinner at Waterman's Seaside Grille, and a visit to the Virginia Beach Surf & Rescue Museum Friday morning, before returning to enjoy the festival weekend.

Please select your choice of meal for Thursday's dinner on the reservation form which is an insert page in this newsletter. Options are Chesapeake Bay Broiled Crab Cakes, Honey Citrus Grilled Chicken Breast or Grilled Cold Water Salmon.

Highlights of the festival include daily outdoor concerts and the Grand Parade through the streets with colorful floats, balloons and marching bands to thrill and enjoy. There will also be arts and crafts with more than 200 artists as well as countless food vendors.

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. 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

**Deposit of \$200 is due July 7. The balance is due August 18.**

Call me if you have any questions: 301-253-0335

## 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 due July 31, 2023**

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

**EMERGENCY CONTACT:**

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

**Guys and Dolls – August 17, 2023**

**Payment of \$113 pp due by July 10, 2023**

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

**EMERGENCY CONTACT:**

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

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

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

**Payment of \$200 pp due by July 7 / Balance 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 \_\_\_

**FYI FOR YOUR CALENDAR: Fall trip dates are finalized**

**November 17** Sight and Sound – Miracle of Christmas (*Joanne*)

**December 8** American Music Theater – The First Noel (*Rusty*)

Please remember to send in your membership renewal form!  
We'd love to have you join us on many of our wonderful trips.

The membership form can be found on our website

[www.Damascustravelclub.org](http://www.Damascustravelclub.org)



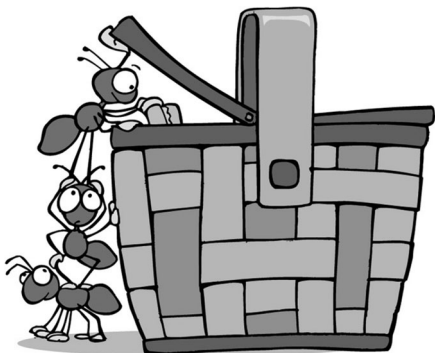


**DAMASCUS TRAVEL CLUB**  
**P.O. BOX 304**  
**DAMASCUS, MD 20872**

*July 2023*



*Keep these newsletters for future reference!*



**Please send in your reservation for our free  
POTLUCK/PICNIC on August 12 at 1 PM!  
This is the time for all our DTC members  
who can't make our afternoon meetings  
to come and meet everyone!**

Bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Hope to see you there!