

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

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 4 AT 1 PM

from Cathy Burke, President

As we arrive in June, I am thrilled to announce that our membership has reached an impressive 376 members. This remarkable growth is a testament to the vibrancy and appeal of our community. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your continued support and participation.

Our recent May Spring Luncheon welcomed approximately 170 attendees to a memorable event. We were treated to a delicious lunch courtesy of the MAVFC Auxiliary, complemented by the delightful entertainment of Señorita Sunshine, whose songs, dance, and infectious energy brought joy to us all.

Speaking of membership, I urge you to ensure that your renewal forms and payments are submitted before June 15. While renewal is possible year-round, please be mindful that membership dues remain consistent regardless of the time of renewal. Your membership year and dues are for July 1 through June 30 of the following year. Seize the opportunity to secure your membership and relish the benefits throughout the year.

I invite you all to mark your calendars for June 4 for our June meeting and Officer Installation ceremony. This is a momentous occasion where we express gratitude and welcome the incoming 2024/2025 officers. Let us come together to show our appreciation for our dedicated Membership Volunteer Officers and Tour Leaders whose commitment drives our collective success.

A special thank you is extended to Anne Flags and Diane Dantagnan for graciously volunteering to serve on our Audit Committee for a second year. Anne will assume the role of Audit Chairperson, with Diane providing invaluable support in conducting the annual audit of the Club's financial accounts, scheduled for August/September.

NOTE: We are excited to welcome Paul Julia, a Collette representative, to our June meeting. Paul will share valuable information about our upcoming April 2025 Northern Italy trip. If Italy is on your travel radar, be sure to attend this meeting to gather insights and plan your adventure.

As we embrace the summer months, I encourage you to seize the spirit of adventure and exploration. With a myriad of exciting travel options available, please sign up for the trips so that they are all a "go." The Tour Leaders work very hard to plan and arrange these trips and we need your participation.

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While our June 4 meeting is on the horizon, please note that there will be no meeting in July. Instead, we eagerly anticipate coming together for a delightful club Picnic/Potluck on Saturday, August 10, at 1 p.m. at the Damascus American Legion Hall. The club provides the fried chicken and we all bring our favorite side salad or dessert.

In closing, let us embark on this summer season with enthusiasm and camaraderie, embracing the opportunities for adventure and connection that lie ahead.



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

June 9 Washington Nationals (*Rusty*)

CANCELED June 12 Buck County Playhouse, New Hope, PA (*Joanne*)

July 21 Tootsie Way Off Broadway, Frederick, MD (*Rusty*)

CANCELED July 16-19 Erie Canal & Niagara Falls (*Joanne*)

July 31 The Sound of Music, Dutch Apple Dinner Theater (*Rusty*)

August 7 Cambridge, Maryland (*Helen*)

August 11-16 Bar Harbor, Maine (*Casey*)

August 14 Jersey Boys Toby's Dinner Theater (*Rusty*)

August 23 Lake Tobias Wildlife Park and More (*Joanne*)

September 11-20 Ireland (*Joanne*)

September 18 Historic Harpers Ferry, WV (*Helen*)

September 30–October 11 Albuquerque, New Mexico (*Casey*)

NEW! October 25-27 Elkins, West Virginia (*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 canceled 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 our members who were born in June!
- *Happy Anniversary* to couples celebrating their wedding anniversary in June.
- *Get well card and prayers were sent to Bill Von Feldt for a speedy recovery from his recent surgery.*

If any of the club members have a special birthday or anniversary to report, we would be happy to publish the event. Just send me 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**.

UPCOMING TRIPS

WASHINGTON NATIONALS VS. ATLANTA BRAVES

Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Sunday, June 9, 2024

Many thanks for the Nats fans that stepped up to the plate and signed up quickly to make this trip a GO! I appreciate your support.

Rules limit us to a clear plastic purse 16x8 inches or 1 gallon size Ziploc bag or 5x8 inch wallet size purse. You can carry in one unopened bottle of water. No coolers, no metal or tin or glass containers are allowed. The stadium is cashless. Only credit cards are acceptable.



We will leave from Weis Market in Damascus (26075 Ridge Road), loading the bus at 10:15 AM and return approximately by 5 PM. Please park on the side of the store parallel to Ridge Road where we will meet the bus. We have an arrangement with store management to leave our cars. Please plan for traffic and arrive 15 minutes early to board the bus. Any questions please call me 301-871-7069. My cell on the day of the trip only is 202-404-7407.

NEW TRIP TO CONSIDER

NEW!

TRAINS, MOUNTAINS AND FALL COLOR

Elkins, West Virginia

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – October 25-27, 2024



Prepare to be wowed as you enjoy the fall in style. Not just driving around and looking at the colorful mountains, but on a train that goes through the colorful mountains! This journey takes us back in time where life ran at a slower pace. And who doesn't like trains?

We travel to Elkins and check into our hotel before dinner and evening entertainment. The next morning after breakfast we leave for Cass, Virginia. We will enjoy a box lunch on board the Cass Railroad for a two-hour roundtrip excursion. The train climbs slopes of a mountain along Leatherback Creek, zig zags through two switch backs. We stop at Whittaker Station, surrounded by fine views of the countryside. After a brief layover we return to Cass and head back to Elkins for dinner and entertainment.

On our third day after breakfast we leave for downtown Elkins where we will stop at the West Virginia Railroad Museum and Appalachian Forest Discovery Center. We will then go on a relaxing and scenic train ride on the New Tygart Flyer. We will travel over tracks that were formerly part of Western Maryland Scenic Railway and the B&O Railroad. The four hour 46-mile round trip features two separate mountain grades, a "S" curve tunnel, passage into a 1500 ft deep canyon, and the crossing of a high bridge over the Shavers Fork of the Cheat River, reaching destinations in remote and pristine settings in the Eastern United States. Photo opportunity will be offered. A box lunch is included while in the passenger coaches. Back in Elkins we will board our coach and head for home. We will stop along the way for dinner. Final details will be in the July newsletter. Mark your calendar for this wonderful trip into the mountains of West Virginia!

ITALIAN VISTAS

Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – April 7-19, 2025

A representative from Collette will be at our **June 4th meeting** to present the details of a trip to **Italy** planned for **April, 2025**. Please come to hear all about this exciting trip! Full details will also be in future newsletters.



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

TOOTSIE

Way Off Broadway – Frederick, Maryland
Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Sunday, July 21, 2024

TOOTSIE is the hilarious award-winning musical-comedy. This show is a go! Tickets are still available if you sign up by June 15.

You will join us at Way Off Broadway in Frederick to see this story. Price is \$60 which includes the show, buffet, taxes, and tip. Price includes hot tea or iced tea and coffee. Cash bar on your own. There is no bus. We will car pool to Frederick. The doors open at 12:30 PM. Dress code for this theater is no jeans or shorts. Business casual attire is suggested.

Driving directions will be in the July Newsletter. **Reservations and payment must be in by June 15, 2024**. Any questions, please call me 301-871-7069. Day of the trip my cell is 202-304-7407.



THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Dutch Apple Dinner Theater – Centerville, Pennsylvania
Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Wednesday, July 31, 2024

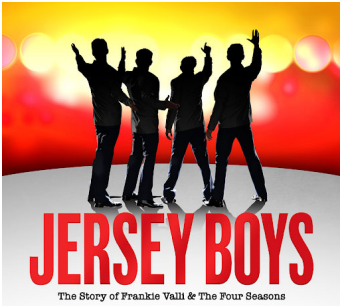
The Sound of Music is a favorite musical. Tickets are still available for this show. Please send in your reservation form ASAP and help make this trip a GO!

We will be picked up from Weis Market parking lot in Damascus at 9:15 AM and return approximately by 6 PM. Enjoy this all-time favorite show for the price of **\$120 pp** which includes show, buffet, motorcoach, driver's tip, taxes, and tips. **Reservations must be in by July 10, 2024**. If you any questions please call me 301-871-7069. Day of the trip my cell number is 202-304-7407.



JERSEY BOYS

Toby's Dinner Theater – Columbia, Maryland
Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Wednesday, August 14, 2024



Jersey Boys takes you back to the Seventies and the music of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. Discover the secrets of their 40-year friendship as they work their way to stardom. You have until July 22 to sign up. This show is already a GO with tickets still available for this show.

We will start off with the best and the largest buffet of all area dinner theatres. **Our price is \$73 which includes show, lunch, tax, and gratuities.** Doors open at 10:30 AM.

We will carpool to the theatre. Driving directions will be in the August Newsletter. **If you have any questions call me at 301-871-7069.** Day of the trip my cell is 202-304-7407. Let me know if you would like to sit at a table on the stage floor instead of the dining tiers. Make a notation on your reservation form. **Full payment and reservation forms are due July 22.**

DORCHESTER AND CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND

Enjoy Maryland's Eastern Shore
Tour Leader – Helen Aument – Wednesday, August 7, 2024

This trip needs several more reservations to make the trip a go. Join us and experience Maryland's Eastern Shore's centuries-old tradition of hospitality, served with a heaping side of unparalleled Maryland food and the remarkable stories that come from this area. Everyone loves to hear a good story and here is your chance. Harriet Tubman is well known in conjunction with the Underground Railroad. But this remarkable woman was so much more. Here you will have the opportunity to hear her story from the time she was a slave, then escaped, but returned to help others. You will have the finest tour company taking you on this journey and telling the story of Harriet Tubman.

We begin in Cambridge and travel to the Courthouse (site of Harriet's first rescue) and Long Wharf, where the enslaved were transported by ship.

We also see the "Take My Hand Mural," painted on the Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center building. We then stop at Stanley Institute, a historic African American one-room schoolhouse and visit the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center.

Please join us ASAP on this unique Maryland history adventure and make this first trip by our newest tour leader a success. Lunch is prepared and will be served at the Harriet Tubman Freedom Museum.

Cost based on 35 participants is \$192 pp. Reservations and payment must be made by June 12, 2024

We leave from Weis Market in Damascus, 26075 Ridge Road, at 7 AM and return approximately at 7 PM.

If you have any questions call me, Helen Aument, at 240-793-6820.



LAKE TOBIAS WILDLIFE PARK AND MORE

**With Amish Lunch and Amish Market – Halifax, Pennsylvania
Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – Friday, August 23, 2024**

Come along on a day of fun at the zoo in Halifax, Pennsylvania. We will be on board an open-air cruiser and travel over many acres to get an up-close view of many animals roaming the fields. We will then have some time to walk through the zoo park to many indoor-outdoor displays until we board the bus for lunch at “Mary’s Place,” an Amish farm house – in the country – near Millersburg, PA. Mary and her helpers will serve us a family-style lunch. The variety of dishes served will surely please everyone!



We will board the bus after this fantastic lunch and spend some time at Crossroad Market that has been in the valley for more than 70 years. It is now managed by the Amish, who are settled into most of the valley farms. August is a great month to take advantage of seasonal produce. They also have a variety of items offered by local residents: cheese, pretzels, bakery items, flowers and more. Bring a small cooler to transport any perishable purchases.

Price for this trip is \$105 pp. Reservations with full payment due August 10, 2024. If you have any questions, please call me at 301-253-0335. We will leave from Weis Market in Damascus at 7:30 AM and return to Damascus by 6:30 PM.

SHADES OF IRELAND

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



Just a reminder to all of you going on this trip that your balance is due to Collette before July 13, 2024. Call 1-800-852-5655 with any questions. Payment can be completed by telephone, credit card, online and website. All this information should be on your registration information. Notices will be sent out sometime in June with balance due, etc. A Collette representative will meet with the group about three weeks before the trip with information regarding the flight and other details.

NOTE!

**Please send in your membership renewal form
in this Newsletter (and on our website)
and join us for another year of fun and travel!**



HISTORIC HARPERS FERRY AND ANTIETAM BATTLEFIELD

Maryland Mysteries Solved

Tour Leader – Helen Aument – Wednesday, September 18, 2024

This trip is waiting for more travelers to make this trip a success. Even though we live nearby this historic site, you will not find this particular adventure on your own. You will have the opportunity to experience one of the finest storytellers there ever was and one of the most sought-after historians of our times. Dennis Frye recently retired from the National Park Service (NPS) at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, where he served for more than three decades, with 20 years as Chief Historian. While with the NPS, Dennis earned the Department of Interior's "Distinguished Service Award," the highest honor of the department.

Dennis Frye has authored 10 books and 101 articles, writing for every major Civil War publication; and he is a tour guide in national demand, leading programs for the Smithsonian, National Geographic, and the New York Times, as well as universities and Civil War organizations around the country. Dennis has made frequent national television appearances as well.

By special arrangement we will have the opportunity to have him share with us the human stories of John Brown at Harpers Ferry. Brown's plan to stir an uprising of slaves ended up failing...or did it? Was he sane or a crazy man? You will hear the facts and see the sites. You will have time to explore the historic town and try some of its well-known food.

History reports the battle at Antietam (Sharpsburg) was indecisive but with the North's claim of winning Lincoln launched the Emancipation Proclamation. The story is not complete, especially now. Antietam's story includes Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and George McClellan. Each of them had unique personalities which influenced every minute of this battle. And historians for years have put their spin on what really happened. Why was Lee there? Why didn't McClellan attack? How did Jackson get back from Harpers Ferry so quickly?

Dinner at the end of the day will be at the Bavarian Inn, in Shepherdstown, WV.

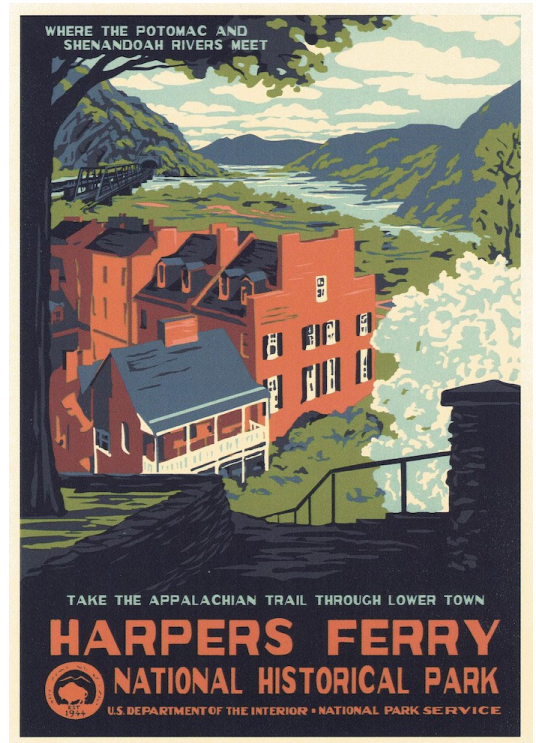
Entrée Choices (Make your choice on the reservation form in this issue.)

- Grilled Chicken Breast in a White Wine Leek Sauce, Whipped Potatoes & Vegetable Medley
- Schweinebraten Pork Loin Scented with Juniper Berries, with Sauerkraut and a Potato Dumpling in a Rosemary White Wine Jus
- Filet Mignon with Peppercorn Brandy Sauce Served with Whipped Potatoes and Vegetable Medley
- Bavarian Inn Crab Cakes Served with Whipped Potatoes and Asparagus Hollandaise

Package includes:

Transportation	Admission to Harpers Ferry
Admission to Antietam	Historian Dennis Frye
Time in historic Harpers Ferry	Dinner at the Bavarian Inn
Tip for historian guide	Tip for driver

Cost based on 35 participants is \$228 pp. **Full payment must be made by July 30, 2024.**
Please send your reservation form and check in now!



BAR HARBOR, MAINE

Lighthouse, Lobsters & Seaport Village Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – August 11-16, 2024



We are still looking for people to make this trip a GO. I'm happy to report that the **deposit deadline has been extended to June 14.** Check the April newsletter for a detailed itinerary of the exciting sites and good food that is planned for this trip.

Sign up today and join your fellow travelers who want to take this trip. Contact Casey Koontz (301) 831-6746 or liontonyjames@comcast.net with any questions.

Cost of Package – based on 35 paid reservations
\$2,164 pp double / \$3,044 pp single / \$1,894 pp triple / \$1,794 pp quad
Deposit of \$500 pp due by June 14, 2024 / Final payment due July 9, 2024

ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA

Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – September 30-October 11, 2024

**** JUST 4 MORE RESERVATIONS NEEDED TO MAKE THIS TRIP A GO! ****

The June 6 deadline to join your fellow travelers on this spectacular trip to see the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque is fast approaching! At the time of this writing, we need just 4 more people to meet our minimum. Details about this trip were provided in prior newsletters and in an email I sent out to all members on April 13.



After reviewing the detailed itinerary, won't you consider joining us on this exciting trip? Don't disappoint your fellow travelers and sign up today to make this once-in-a-lifetime trip a "Go"!!

As a reminder for those that have already signed up, your second deposit is due by June 4. Please allow adequate time for US Mail delivery so your payment reaches us by June 4. Or you can bring your payment with you to the June meeting which is on June 4.

Contact Casey Koontz (301) 831-6746 or liontonyjames@comcast.net with any questions.

Cost of Package – based on 38 paid reservations
\$4,221 pp double / \$5,596 pp single / \$3,872 pp triple / \$3,730 pp quad
1st Deposit of \$500 pp was due April 2, 2024 / 2nd Deposit of \$500 pp due June 4, 2024
Final payment is due August 23, 2024

RESERVATIONS

**Please remember: SEND ONE CHECK FOR EACH TRIP
Mail to: Damascus Travel Club * P.O. Box 304 * Damascus, MD 20872**

Tootsie – Way Off Broadway – July 21, 2024

Payment of \$60 pp due by June 15, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y___ N___ _____

The Sound of Music – July 31, 2024

Payment of \$120 pp due by July 10, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y___ N___ _____

Cambridge, Maryland – August 7, 2024

Payment of \$192 pp due by June 12, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y___ N___ _____

Bar Harbor – August 11-16, 2024

Deposit of \$500 pp due June 14 / Final payment due July 9, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED ROOMMATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y___ N___ _____

RESERVATIONS CONTINUE ON PAGE 11

RESERVATIONS

**Please remember: SEND ONE CHECK FOR EACH TRIP
Mail to: Damascus Travel Club * P.O. Box 304 * Damascus, MD 20872**

Jersey Boys – Toby’s Dinner Theater – August 14, 2024 **Payment of \$73 pp due by July 22, 2024**
Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

DO YOU WISH A SEAT ON THE STAGE FLOOR (NO STEPS)? Y ___ N ___

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___ _____

Lake Tobias Wildlife Park – August 23, 2024 **Payment of \$105 pp due by August 10, 2024**
Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___ _____

Historic Harpers Ferry – September 18, 2024 **Payment of \$228 pp due by July 30, 2024**
Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

MENU CHOICE (CHOOSE ONE): ___ GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST ___ PORK LOIN ___ FILET MIGNON ___ CRAB CAKES

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___ _____

Albuquerque – Sept 30-Oct 11, 2024 **1st Deposit of \$500 pp due NOW**
2nd Deposit of \$500 pp due June 4 / Final payment due August 23, 2024
Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED ROOMMATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___ _____

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



Keep these newsletters for future reference!

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

MYSTERY TRIP

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – May 15, 2024

Our Mystery Trip took us to Philadelphia with a full bus. We began at the Independence Seaport Museum, with a self-guided tour, visiting the largest collection of maritime art and artifacts in North America.

Lunch was on the “Mushulu,” the world’s oldest and largest square-rigged sailing vessel still afloat. She is the one and only restaurant venue on a Tall Ship in the world, and was built in 1904. After lunch we enjoyed a unique audio tour of the Eastern State Penitentiary. Once the most famous and expensive prison in the world, it is now a haunting world of crumbling cell blocks and empty guard towers. We learned many of America’s most notorious criminals, such as Willie Sutton and Al Capone, spent their sentence here. It was a terrific Mystery Trip!



NOTE: A cast iron anchor bottle opener was found on the Mystery Trip bus. Please call Joanne Kessler at 301-253-0335 to discuss the return of the opener.

