

DAMASCUS TRAVEL CLUB

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

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

2025-2026 Officers

President	Sue Wogatske	301-980-5634	Treasurer	Tammy Monarch	301-253-0044
1 st Vice President	Cathy Burke	202-302-4941	Tour Treasurer	Nancy Sutherland	301-788-8008
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			

Refreshments: Cheryl Shores: 240-605-6255



FEBRUARY 2026

from Sue Wogatske, DTC Club President

Next Meeting: February 3, 2026 at 1 PM

January Meeting Recap

Our January meeting was a wonderful success, featuring engaging activities and a great turnout. The basket raffle and the 50/50 raffle were particularly popular, drawing much excitement from attendees. *For the next few months, all proceeds from the 50/50 raffle will be awarded to members whose number is drawn, adding an extra incentive to participate.*

During the meeting, Diane Dantagnan led an informative "Travel Tips" discussion. Members enthusiastically shared their personal advice and strategies, helping everyone learn new ways to make their trips smoother and more enjoyable. The highlight seemed to be if you are traveling as a couple, put some of your clothes in each suitcase in case one gets lost.

Membership Growth

We were pleased to welcome 110 members and guests to the January meeting. Several guests decided to join during the meeting, and a few more became members the following week. Our club now boasts 338 registered members, and it is wonderful to see our community continue to expand. Looking forward to seeing many of you at our February 3 meeting.

Upcoming Tours and Highlights

Looking ahead, we have scheduled over 20 exciting trips and tours for the upcoming year. Several trips will celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country. Details about these tours were featured in the January newsletter, which is available on our website www.damascustravelclub.org for reference.

Club Name Tags

New club name tags were distributed to members who attended the January meeting. If your name tag was missed, it will be ready for pickup at the February 3 meeting. Additionally, name tags for registered members who were unable to attend in January will also be available for pickup.

Luncheon Refunds

Tammy Monarch provided refunds for our cancelled December luncheon to those attending the January meeting. If you have not yet received your luncheon refund, please plan to attend the February 3 meeting to collect it.

February Meeting Details

At the February 3 meeting, all Tour Leaders will present details about their upcoming tours for 2026. We are grateful for their dedication and hard work in organizing these memorable trips. Your participation is essential for the continued success of our club's travel programs.

Continued on next page

FYI, help is always needed to set up tables before the meeting. If you can arrive around noon, your assistance will be greatly appreciated, especially since we know some regular helpers will be absent. After the meeting, volunteers are also needed to help return tables and chairs to their original locations.

Board Participation and Elections

We encourage members to consider joining our board. At the April meeting, we will introduce a slate of officer candidates for the upcoming year. If you are interested in serving, please let us know—your involvement truly makes a difference. Elections will be held in May.

Website Assistant Needed

The club is searching for a Website Assistant. If you are interested, please review the details for this position provided in this newsletter. (See back page.)

Inclement Weather Reminder

The club follows Montgomery County Public Schools for closings and delays. If schools are closed, club activities will be cancelled. If schools operate on a delay, meetings will still take place. Please check your email or the club website for updates. Your safety remains our top priority.

Let's continue traveling, Sue

A QUICK GLANCE AT OUR UPCOMING TRIPS AND LUNCHEON

Details of these trips and the luncheon 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

April 2, 2026 Dutch Apple Dinner Theater/*Oklahoma!* (**Rusty**)

April 19-21, 2026 Virginia Beach (**Casey**)

NEW! April 29, 2026 Baltimore Museum of Industry, Spirit of Baltimore (**Helen**)

May 5, 2026 Spring Luncheon - Mount Airy Reception Hall

May 13, 2026 Mystery Spring Trip (**Joanne**)

May 18-22, 2026 Spring in North Carolina (**Casey**)

June 21-23, 2026 Celebrate America / Sail250® Virginia (**Helen**)

August 8-18, 2026 Nova Scotia (**Helen**)



JOYS & CONCERNS



- *Happy Birthday* to all 25 members born in February! **Millie Bahnsen** has a birthday on February 2, and both **James and Elaine Molesworth** have February birthdays with Valentine's Day in the middle of their celebrations. What fun!
- *Happy Anniversary* to members celebrating their wedding anniversary in February.
- **WELCOME ALL NEW MEMBERS!**
- Prayers and a sympathy card were sent to our DTC member, **Sharon Walton**, and her family on the December passing of her husband, **Doug Walton**.

We are willing to recognize a former member's passing details, but please give me their address when requesting a card be sent to the family.



SHOUTOUTS

If any of our club members have a special birthday, anniversary, or a special event to report, we would be pleased to publish the news. Just give me, Ann Gray, a call or send me an email (see below).

Help keep us current on the status of our DTC members by contacting me, **Ann Gray**, at 301-758-5350 (just leave a message and I will return your call) or email me at **anngray1@gmail.com**.

NEW TRIPS TO CONSIDER

NEW!

BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY AND THE SPIRIT OF BALTIMORE

Innovation and Relaxation

Tour Leader – Helen Aument – April 29, 2026

In the dark ages when we went to school and learned about the Industrial Revolution, the most important thing was to know the date it started for the test. As we head into the 4th Industrial Revolution, we know little about the men and women behind the labor and innovation of any of the movements, including the ones we studied back in the day. The exhibitions at the Baltimore Museum of Industry (BMI) document the diverse and significant human stories of the workers and entrepreneurs who built Baltimore into a manufacturing powerhouse.

We recently discovered this fantastic experience in Baltimore and decided to include it on our way to have a delightful luncheon cruise on the Spirit of Baltimore.



We have arranged a short special tour for you to get most of the experience with time to explore before boarding the Spirit. Here are our trip details:

Depart 7:45 AM Weis Market, Damascus; return at approximately 3:30 PM

Price is \$212 pp

Payment Due – March 24, 2026

- Transportation – Wolf
- Admission - BMI
- Special tour and free time to explore
- Cruise & Lunch Buffet
- Taxes and tips
- Tip for driver

Buffet Lunch on the Cruise

GREEK SALAD

Cucumber | Grape Tomatoes | Red Onion | Arugula | Feta Cheese | Za'atar Dressing

ROASTED VEGETABLES AND GRAINS (G*) (VG) (V)

Watercress | Quinoa | Cauliflower | Broccoli | Carrots | Mixed Seeds | Sumac Vinaigrette

SUN-DRIED TOMATO PASTA SALAD

Olives | Crispy Bacon | Garlic Aioli | Fresh Herbs

MAIN

BAKED ORECCHIETTE PASTA (V) Parsnips | Ricotta Cheese | Roasted Kale | Sage

BIRRIA STYLE CHICKEN (G*) Fire Roasted Peppers | Caramelized Onions

SESAME GLAZED ATLANTIC SALMON Napa Cabbage | Sweet Bell Peppers | Scallions

CARIBBEAN JERK BRAISED PORK (G*) Plantains | Black Beans | Garlic | Scallions

CURRIED CAULIFLOWER BLEND (G*) (V) (VG) Carrots | Brussel Sprouts | Raisins and Almonds

ROASTED TRI-COLOR POTATOES (G*) (V) (VG) Fresh Rosemary | Olive Oil

ROASTED FALL VEGETABLES (V) (VG) (G*) Pumpkin | Winter Squash | Celery Root

DESSERT

SIGNATURE DESSERT STATION (V) Individual Desserts | Seasonal Fruit

(G*) Gluten Free (VG) Vegan (V) Vegetarian

TRIPS TO REVIEW

OKLAHOMA!

Dutch Apple Dinner Theater

Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – April 2, 2026



We can still take reservations for our trip to the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, for *OKLAHOMA!* This theater does a beautiful show with these old-timer productions, and I promise you don't want to miss this one.

We start off with a buffet with a lot of delicious hot entrées, salad bar, yummy desserts, and ice cream.

NOTE: Seats will be assigned before entering the theater. Be sure to **list who you want to sit with in the theater** on your reservation slip. Reservations must be in by March 5, 2026.

All this fun and a good time for \$123, which includes show, lunch, taxes, and driver's tip. We leave Weis Market in Damascus at 9:30 AM and return approximately 5:30 PM.

MYSTERY SPRING TRIP

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – May 13, 2026

We will be going on this trip, our annual Mystery Trip. I am looking forward to all of us going! As of the writing of this newsletter there is still space available on this trip, and I will probably have a wait list. Cancellations are always a possibility just before the trip, so if you'd like to join us, please send in your reservation form included in this newsletter before April 7, 2026.

Once again, I am sorry I cannot give you a clue where we are going but I have never had to cancel a Mystery Trip – such a record! The schedule is to leave Damascus at 8:30 AM on May 13, 2026. We will return by 5:30 PM. I can tell you there is not a lot of walking, you will have a wonderful lunch, and experience something to make you smile! Our fee includes motorcoach, lunch, activity, taxes and tips for the meal, and driver's tip.

Price is \$170 pp. The deposit of \$30 was due December 10 to secure this trip with the final payment expected before April 7, 2026. If you'd like to join us, please send in your reservation form with your full payment as soon as possible.



If you have any questions (that I can answer) please call me at 301-253-0335.

NOTE: MY APRIL JORDAN SPRINGS TRIP (listed on the January 2026 Calendar) HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

MORE TRIPS TO REVIEW

VIRGINIA BEACH

featuring Patriotic Performances and the Azalea Festival

Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – April 19-21, 2026



This trip is a go! Those who made your reservation should have received a confirmation email with a reminder that your final payment was due by January 23rd.

Even though the trip is a go, **there were still a few openings as of mid-January.** If you are interested in making this trip **please contact Casey Koontz immediately at (301) 831-6746 or liontonyjames@comcast.net.** Full details of the trip can be found in the November and December 2025 newsletters, available on our website www.damascustravelclub.org.

Cost of package – based on 35 paid reservations.

\$792 pp double / \$962 pp single / \$752 pp triple / \$712 pp quad

Final payment was due January 23, 2026.

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

SPRING IN NORTH CAROLINA – ASHEVILLE & CHEROKEE

Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – May 18-22, 2026

We have had a good response for this trip, **but we still need additional reservations to make this trip a go.** Don't let this special trip pass you by! See the December newsletter for the full details of the trip, available on our website www.damascustravelclub.org.

This trip includes a fun itinerary while enjoying the beautiful Blue Ridge mountains scenery in the spring. Tours of the city of Asheville and the grand Biltmore Estate, its winery and gardens are included. You'll visit various native Indian and Appalachian craft museums and enjoy a night at Harrah's Cherokee Casino in Cherokee, NC.

The trip price includes bus transportation, four nights lodging, three breakfasts and four dinners, carriage ride, admission to Oconaluftee Indian Village, tours of the city of Asheville, The Biltmore Estate, Teepee Village and Arts & Crafts Co-Op, taxes and tips on all inclusions.



Cost of Package – based on 35 paid reservations

\$1,083 pp double / \$1,312 pp single / \$1,030 pp triple / \$1,008 pp quad

Deposit of \$400 due by February 3, 2026. Final payment due by April 7, 2026.

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

CELEBRATE THE 250TH BIRTHDAY OF OUR NATION

Norfolk, Hampton Roads, and Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Region

Tour Leader – Helen Aument – June 21-23, 2026

**WE ARE IN NEED OF PARTICIPANTS TO MAKE THIS TRIP A GO!
PLEASE JOIN ME TO CELEBRATE THE 250TH BIRTHDAY OF OUR NATION**

Arrive on Sunday, June 21, for 2-night stay to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's birth in 1776 – the United States of America's semiquincentennial. International tall ships and military vessels will sail into the port of Virginia as part of *Sail250*[®] America. 4,000 officers, cadets, and crews of over 50 vessels from 20 nations will engage in events along Virginia's waterfront.

Spend the afternoon at *Sail250*[®] Virginia. Ships will be open for touring after docking in downtown Norfolk. Enjoy exploring Norfolk's Waterfront with **Navy exhibits and demonstrations, artisan foods and beverages, national and regional live entertainment, and more.**

Yorktown Guided Tour – Wrap up your adventure where our country began in Yorktown: the end of British rule in the colonies and the birth of a new nation, the United States of America.

Package includes (based on 30 paid): Transportation and tip, lodging and luggage handling, two breakfasts and one dinner, entrance and cruise fees, tour and admission to Yorktown, taxes and tip for inclusions.

\$762 pp double / \$980 pp single / \$723 pp triple / \$703 pp quad
Deposit \$200 due February 3, 2026 Final Payment due April 7, 2026
Questions: Contact Helen Aument at 240-793-6820

Complete additional details regarding this trip were emailed to club members on November 18, 2025.



NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, BAY OF FUNDY, AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Tour Leader – Helen Aument – August 8-18, 2026



THERE IS STILL TIME TO SIGN UP BY FEBRUARY 1. 10 days of travel in beautiful Nova Scotia from Halifax to Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and more. See more details in the **June 2025 and July 2025 newsletters**, available on our website, or on the Gateway link (see below). Reservations are made on a first-come, first-served basis. **Reservations made after the seat reduction date of February 1, 2026**, are based upon availability. **Final payment is due May 10, 2026.** Deposits are refundable up until February 8, 2026.

Pricing for package is: \$6,399 pp single / \$5,299 pp double / \$5,199 pp triple
Deposit of \$698 pp is due with your reservation form.

Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Baltimore/Washington International Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers. **Not Included:** Cancellation Waiver and insurance of \$429 per person. **For more information visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1349802>.**

REGISTER ONLINE with Collette at <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1349802>

Then send us the reservation form which was in the July and August 2025 newsletters, available on our website (www.damascustravelclub.org)

For more information visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1349802>

RESERVATIONS

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

Dutch Apple Dinner Theater (*Oklahoma!*) – April 2, 2026 **Payment of \$123 pp due March 5, 2026**

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED THEATER SEAT MATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

Virginia Beach, Virginia – April 19-21, 2026 **Deposit of \$100 due NOW**
\$792 pp double / \$962 pp single / \$752 pp triple / \$712 pp quad **Final payment due January 23, 2026**

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED ROOM MATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

BMI and Spirit of Baltimore – April 29, 2026 **Payment of \$212 pp due March 24, 2026**

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

Mystery Trip – May 13, 2026 **Deposit of \$30 due now / \$170 pp final payment due April 7, 2026**

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

Asheville and Cherokee, North Carolina – May 18-22, 2026 **Deposit of \$400 due by February 3, 2026**
\$1,083 pp double / \$1,312 pp single / \$1,030 pp triple / \$1,008 pp quad **Final payment due April 7, 2026**

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED ROOM MATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

Celebrate America/Sail 250/Yorktown, Virginia – June 21-23, 2026 **Deposit of \$200 due by February 3, 2026**
\$762 pp double / \$980 pp single / \$723 pp triple / \$703 pp quad **Final payment due April 7, 2026**

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED ROOM MATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

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

February 2026

Be my Valentine?



Keep these newsletters for future reference!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Website Assistant Needed

The Damascus Travel Club is seeking a volunteer to help maintain our website and ensure it remains accurate, up-to-date, and welcoming. This role is vital in supporting our members and attracting new travelers to our club.

- Keep the Google Calendar current as dates change or new trips are added by checking monthly newsletters and monitoring emails from Teresa Brown, Recording Secretary.
- Refresh website photos when new ones become available.
- Add information about recent trips to the trip lists on the site.
- Gather new testimonials from members about our club and trips.
- Ensure newsletters are posted promptly and that all editions remain accessible to the public.
- Update the FAQ section and suggest improvements to help inform and attract new members.

If you feel you could help the club with this important role, please contact Club President Sue Wogatske at 301-980-5634 or email her at swogatske@verizon.net. **THANK YOU!**

