

DAMASCUS TRAVEL CLUB

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

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

2024-2025 Officers

President	Cathy Burke	202-302-4941	Treasurer	Tammy Monarch	301-253-0044
1 st Vice President	Jim Kemp	301-253-2859	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

MARCH 2025

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 4 AT 1 PM

from Cathy Burke, President

Happy Spring! Once the weather starts to warm up, I know we are all looking forward to spending more time outdoors and getting back to traveling. It's exciting to see the season changing, and I hope you're as eager as I am for the many trip adventures ahead! Our February meeting was a great success, with 97 attendees. It was wonderful for so many members to reconnect after the holiday break, and January cancellation. We also welcomed several new faces to our group. The positive feedback from the meeting was overwhelming, and I'm so glad to hear everyone had a good time. Special thanks to Jim Kemp for expertly running the meeting. I also want to extend my appreciation to Sue Wogatske, who did an outstanding job stepping in as our new Chaplain for her first meeting in this role.

I want to acknowledge the four tour leaders who (I was told) gave fantastic presentations about their upcoming trips. It is so inspiring and heartwarming to see Joanne Kessler continuing to feel better and becoming excited about the trips she's leading this year. Our membership chair, Barbara Walker, is also driving again and pleased to be healing!

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

MARCH MEETING:

Join us on **March 4 at 1 PM** at the **Damascus American Legion Hall** for our next meeting. As always, thank you to everyone who brings refreshments and drinks for us to enjoy. A special thank you to Cheryl and Bill Shores for managing the volunteers and setting up the refreshments. Please, if you have not volunteered to contribute in a while, sign up to do so this year. The signup sheet is usually at the sign in table or see Cheryl.

APRIL 1 – WHITE ELEPHANT SALE (No April Fool-ing):

Don't miss our **White Elephant Sale** during the April 1 meeting. Please bring almost-new items that others will want to bid on. We ask that you be patient as items are auctioned, and if your item doesn't sell, you'll need to take it back home. Last year, we had some incredible deals, including beautiful items that made perfect gifts. This is one of our biggest fundraisers, so please start looking around your home for items you no longer use or need. We are looking for kitchen items, jewelry, purses, books, glassware, puzzles, dishes, scarves, gloves, decorations, and more. (Please note: items should be in good condition, as this is not a yard sale or a place to get rid of worn-out items.)



SPRING LUNCHEON:

Our **Spring Luncheon** will be held on **May 6** at the **Mt. Airy Volunteer Reception Hall** at 1 PM. This is a lunch event that requires reservations and pre-payment, so please keep an eye out for more details as the date approaches.

I want to wish everyone a **HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY** on **March 17** and I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting on March 4 and please check your email or our website for any updates. *Safe travels, Cathy*



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 3, 2025** Philadelphia Flower Show (*Casey*)
- April 7-19, 2025** Italian Vistas (*Casey*)
- April 15, 2025** Antietam Entertainment (*Century of Song*) (*Rusty*)
- April 25, 2025** Mount Olivet Cemetery Tour (*Helen*)
- April 28, 2025** Mystery Trip (*Joanne*)
- May 3, 2025** Embassy Tours/National Cathedral Flower Mart (*Casey*)
- May 27-30, 2025** Sugarcreek, Ohio (*Helen*) **NOTE DATE CORRECTION**
- NEW! June 24-27, 2025** Long Island and Hamptons (*Joanne*)
- NEW! August 6-15, 2025** Nova Scotia (*Helen*)

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.

REVIEW OF OUR CHECK AND MONEY POLICIES

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 March.
- **Happy Anniversary** to couples celebrating their wedding anniversary in March! ***A belated Happy 56th Anniversary to Barbara and Garry Walker on February 15!***
- **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**
- Sympathies and prayers were sent to two former member families, **Margaret Huff** and **Gloria Warfield**. Both women recently passed and will be greatly missed.

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.

UPCOMING TRIPS

THE PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – Monday, March 3, 2025

This fun trip is full! We will leave Damascus from Weis Market (26075 Ridge Road) at 7:30 AM and arrive back in Damascus approximately 5 PM. Please park next to the store on the left or in the back which is our traditional spot to park for trips. Parking arrangements have been modified by the new store manager. Thank you. **Contact Casey Koontz (301) 831-6746 or liontonyjames@comcast.net** with any questions.

OUR VERY POPULAR MYSTERY TRIP

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – Monday, April 28, 2025

April will be a very busy month for the club. You have many good trips to choose from throughout the year. **This mystery trip is full.** You will be called if you are on the wait list. Be prepared!

We leave at 7 AM and will be home by 6 PM. Please park on the side of Weis Market, 26075 Ridge Road, Damascus. Parking arrangements have reverted to where we used to park at the request of the new store manager. Any questions call Joanne at **301-253-0335**.



NEW TRIPS TO CONSIDER

LONG ISLAND, GOLD COAST AND HAMPTONS NEW YORK

NEW!

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – June 24-27, 2025

Come along on this great trip within driving distance of New York City. So much to tour! It has been the perfect mix of oceanside locals, rural atmosphere, history, and charm. The area was conceived as a summer colony to provide an escape from daily life, and centuries later it still has that same ambience. This will be a wonderful tour.



Our adventure includes motorcoach transportation, 3 nights at the Hyatt Place Riverhead, breakfast each day, admission to Montauk Lighthouse Museum, Whaling Museum, Whalers Church in Sag Harbor, two ferry rides to Shelter Island and Greenport, admission to Westbury Gardens, Duck Walk Vineyards with wine tasting, Harbes Family Farm, dinner at Jerry and the Mermaid, Insatiable Eats, Touch of Venice, a locally licensed tour guide, and all taxes, meal gratuities, guide gratuities and hotel luggage handling. **Questions: call Joanne at 301-253-0335.**



Cost of Package: \$1757 pp single / \$1399 pp double / \$1331 pp triple / \$1291 pp quad

FULL PAYMENT DUE BY APRIL 1, 2025.

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

Tour Leader – Helen Aument – August 6-15, 2025

NEW!



Feast on fresh Atlantic lobster, hear local stories of the sea and seek out wildlife on the Cabot Trail and Gulf of the St. Lawrence. On this nine-day tour of Canada, explore wind-swept sea cliffs, centuries-old towns, and the hearty way of life of the Nova Scotians. You'll even visit famed Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick and explore the legends and traditions of the indigenous Mi'kmaq people.

Day 1– August 6, 2025 - Arrive Halifax, NS

Private transfers from Halifax Stanfield International Airport to downtown Halifax hotel. Meet your Tour Director

Day 2: Halifax, Lunenburg, and Peggy's Cove

Day 3: Cape Breton Island

Day 4: Cabot Trail

Day 5: Ferry to Prince Edward Island

Day 6: Explore Prince Edward Island

Day 7: Shediac Lobster Cruise and Hopewell Rocks

Day 8: Bay of Fundy Ferry and Grand-Pré National Historic Site

Day 9 – August 14, 2025 – Saint John to Halifax

Day 10 – August 15, 2025 - Depart Halifax, NS

Private transfers from downtown Halifax hotel to Halifax Stanfield International Airport



INCLUDES

- 9 nights accommodations
- Tour Director for trip duration
- Motorcoach transportation
- All bridge, ferry and road tolls
- 16 meals (5 Dinners; 1 Lunch; 1 Boxed Lunch; 9 Breakfasts)
- Fees associated with all sightseeing
- Handling of one suitcase per person
- Tips for guides and driver

DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Flights to and from Halifax, NS.
You will hear more about flights soon, probably by email
- Travel Insurance



Pricing for package: \$6,532 pp single / \$4,835 pp double / \$4,294 pp triple / \$4,053 pp quad

Deposit Due: April 18, 2025 - \$500 per person is due at sign up

2nd Payment Due: May 1, 2025 - \$1,000 (or \$1,500 if you sign up late)

Balance Due: May 27, 2025

For detailed itinerary or questions contact Helen Aument @ 240-793-6820 or shirlelu123@yahoo.com

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

MOUNT OLIVET CEMETERY HISTORY TOUR

Tour Leader – Helen Aument – Friday, April 25, 2025



"The History of Frederick County is not merely a local history. It is a history of men and events of national importance." (T.J.C. Williams)

Join us on a private tour hosted by Chris Haugh. Chris Haugh holds the title of Mount Olivet's Community Relations and Historic Preservation Manager.

Steeped in community pride and American patriotism, Mount Olivet is considered one of the most beautiful and distinguished burial grounds in the country. The cemetery is located in historic Downtown Frederick, Maryland, and has provided final resting places for generations of residents over the last century and a half. We will learn about the more than 150 years history of one of Maryland's first and most respected "garden cemeteries," and meet notable "inhabitants" found within the cemetery.

Established in 1854 it features the gravesite of Francis Scott Key (National Anthem author), Barbara Fritchie (Whittier's Poem), and Thomas Johnson (first Governor of Maryland). The Monument to the Unknown Confederate Soldiers was unveiled in 1881 to honor the soldiers of the Confederate army who fell in the battles of the Civil War and who are buried at Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Be prepared to walk. The event includes a two-hour tour, and one-hour lunch. Price includes Historian Tour Guide, Lunch and Gratuity

Cost per person: \$32 Payment due April 2, 2025

We will meet at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, 515 S Market St, Frederick, MD 21701, in the Chapel.

Meeting Time: 9:30 AM in Frederick. Tour begins at 10 AM.

NOTE: DIRECTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE APRIL NEWSLETTER

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

Box Lunch served with tea, lemonade or water (**Make your lunch choice on the insert reservation form.**)

Turkey & Cheddar Sandwich - Oven roasted turkey breast, aged white cheddar, crisp mixed greens, vine-ripened tomatoes, red onions, garlic aioli, salt and pepper on our Country Rustic Sourdough. Served with chips and a cookie.

Tuna Salad Sandwich - Tuna salad, crisp mixed greens, vine-ripened tomatoes, salt and pepper on our Country Rustic Sourdough. Served with chips and a cookie.

Mediterranean Veggie Sandwich - Zesty sweet peppers, feta, sliced cucumbers, crisp mixed greens, vine-ripened tomatoes, red onions, hummus, and sprinkled with salt and pepper on our Tomato Basil Miche. Served with chips and a cookie.

Bacon Turkey Sandwich - Oven roasted turkey breast, applewood smoked bacon, aged white cheddar, crisp mixed greens, vine-ripened tomatoes, then sprinkled with salt and pepper, and drizzled with our Signature Bravo sauce on our Tomato Basil Miche. Served with chips and a cookie.

Grilled Chicken Avo BLT - Grilled chicken, smoked applewood bacon, aged white cheddar, crisp mixed greens, vine-ripened tomatoes, fresh sliced avocado, garlic aioli, salt and pepper on our Country Rustic Sourdough. Served with chips and a cookie.

SUGAR AND SPICE AND EVERYTHING NICE TOUR

Tour Leader – Helen Aument – May 27-30, 2025

(Please note date correction from May 31 to May 30)



It is hard to imagine that several hours away is this charming town of Sugar Creek. The town is known as “The Little Switzerland of Ohio” for the strong Swiss and German roots of those who settled here. As you walk downtown, you will notice the building designs are inspired by their European roots.

The Alpine Hill Museum, located across from the World’s Largest Cuckoo Clock, tells the story of life in Sugar Creek throughout the years. The cuckoo clock overlooks the town square and operates spring through fall. During the day, spectators are treated to a musical performance each hour. The clock’s doors open and a wooden polka band pops to life as a wooden man and lady dance to the lively tunes. The production momentarily transports you to life in a small Swiss Village. There is plenty of fun to be had wandering the shops in downtown Sugar Creek.

If this historic town isn’t enough there are other historic towns while the countryside is dotted with German and Amish Farms and artisans. And who would know that cheese making was such a huge industry in this area? Get your tastebuds ready for some of the finest cheeses produced. You might want to bring a small cooler to take your goodies home. Did you know that this area was the home of the famous Warther family? Master Carvers, their works are on display in our museum tour and we will be stopping at their cutlery store so you can see or maybe even bring home one of the finest knives ever made. Contact Helen Aument at 240-793-6820 or shirlelu123@yahoo.com for full itinerary.



Package includes: BASED on 35 paid

- Transportation – Wolf’s
- 3 Nights Lodging at the Comfort Inn, Berlin, OH
- 3 Hotel breakfasts
- 3 Dinners
 - Dutch Valley Buffet
 - Amish Home
 - The Farmstead Buffet
- 2 Shows
 - Ohio theatre – Road to Damascus
 - Amish Country Theatre - Comedy
- Guide Service for two days
- Tip for guide service
- Time in Sugar Creek
- The Farm at Walnut Creek
 - Wagon Ride with animal feed
- Swartzentruber Amish Basket Shop
 - Demonstration
- Swiss Village Bulk Foods
- Dan Amish Quilter
- Heini’s Cheese Chalet
 - Self-guided tour of cheese making
- Kauffman’s Bakery
- Ohio Flea Market
- Time to explore Historic downtown Berlin
- Troyer’s Genuine Trail Bologna Store
 - Tasting
- Warther Carvings Museum
 - Admission and Guided Tour
- Warther Cutlery Museum and Store
- Broad Run Cheese and Wine Village
 - Wine tasting available
 - Cheese tasting available
- All taxes and tips
- Tip for guides
- Tip for driver

Pricing of package based on 35 paid

Payment due April 2, 2025

\$1161 pp single / \$984 pp double / \$953 pp triple / \$923 pp quad

CENTURY OF SONG
Antietam Entertainment – Hagerstown, MD
Tour Leader: Rusty Embrey – April 15, 2025



Hooray, this trip is a GO!!! We have enough tickets to offer the “snow birds” and non-members now as we have met the minimum reservations required. I can extend the date for final reservations to **March 17, 2025**. Reservations with check must be received at P.O. Box 304, Damascus, by then. Any checks delivered after March 17 will be on a wait list.

Century of Song is retro-style luncheon show offering 100 years of music (1920 to 2020.) Lots of songs and dances for you to remember. Our afternoon of fun entertainment costs only \$104 and includes the show, lunch, taxes, and driver’s tip. Full write up is in the January and February DTC newsletter.

Reminder from new Weis store manager: Please use our old parking area in the back and on the left side of Weis Market (26075 Ridge Road) in Damascus. We load the bus at 9:45 AM and return approximately by 5 PM. Any questions please call me at 301-871-7069. Day of trip my cell is 202-304-7407.

**2025 AROUND THE WORLD EMBASSY TOURS &
WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL’S FLOWER MART**

Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – Saturday, May 3, 2025



This trip is filling up fast, but we still have a few seats available. Get your reservations in now if you wish to join us! Walk to embassies of your choice such as Egypt, China, Singapore, Bangladesh, and Pakistan in the morning, then we’ll travel a short distance to the Washington National Cathedral for the 2025 Flower Mart where you will enjoy lunch on your own and experience international floral displays, entertainment, shopping and more. See the January 2025 newsletter (available on our website) for the full details.

We will depart from the Damascus Weis (26075 Ridge Road) at 7:30 AM and return approximately 6:30 PM. Package includes coach transportation by Wolf’s, driver gratuity, and a light breakfast/snack during the morning bus ride. **Cost of the package is \$106. Full payment is due by April 1, 2025.**



EMBASSY OF CHINA

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

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

March 2025



Keep these newsletters for future reference!

Join us for our March Meeting!

Tuesday, March 4, at 1 PM

American Legion Hall, 10201 Lewis Drive, Damascus, MD

RESERVATIONS

Please remember: SEND ONE CHECK FOR EACH TRIP

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

Antietam Entertainment (*Century of Song*) – April 15, 2025 **Payment of \$104 pp due by March 17, 2025**

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___ _____

Mount Olivet Cemetery History Tour – April 25, 2025 **Payment of \$32 pp due by April 2, 2025**

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

CHOOSE ONE: __TURKEY CHEDDAR __TUNA SALAD __VEGGIE __BACON TURKEY __GRILLED CHICKEN

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___ _____

Embassy Tours/National Cathedral Flower Mart – May 3, 2025 **Payment of \$106 pp due by April 1, 2025**

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___ _____

Sugarcreek OH – May 27-30, 2025 **Full Payment due by April 2, 2025**
\$1161 pp single / \$984 pp double / \$953 pp triple / \$923 pp quad

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED ROOMMATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___ _____

Long Island, Hamptons – June 24-27, 2025 **Full payment due by April 1, 2025**
\$1757 pp single / \$1399 pp double / \$1331 pp triple / \$1291 pp quad

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED ROOMMATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___ _____

Nova Scotia – August 6-15, 2025 **\$500 deposit due April 18, 2025**
\$1000 Second payment due May 1, 2025 / Balance due May 27, 2025
\$6532 pp single / \$4835 pp double / \$4294 pp triple / \$4053 pp quad

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED ROOMMATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___ _____

PLAN AHEAD!

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025



Our **White Elephant** auction is one of our favorite spring meeting highlights!

This event is so much fun with your donations of next-to-new kitchen items, utensils, jewelry, books, glassware, puzzles, dishes, scarves, purses, gloves, decorations, knick-knack items and more!

There promises to be something for EVERYONE!

Look through your closets, the basement, and the garage!

Empty those boxes that haven't been opened in years!

We have auctioned off some wonderful treasures in the past.

You never know what might appeal during this exciting April meeting!

Please bring everything in good condition (especially your money) but **no clothes**.

All the money raised helps to offset the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, insurance and other business expenses for the Club. This was a MAJOR fundraiser last year!