

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	301-980-6186	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



happy thanksgiving

NOVEMBER 2025

from Sue Wogatske, DTC Club President



happy thanksgiving

Of all the seasons we experience in Maryland, Fall remains my favorite. The combination of warm afternoons and crisp evenings never fail to evoke a sense of comfort and anticipation. I am especially fond of watching the trees transform into vibrant shades of yellow and orange. Their gradual transition into dormancy reminds me that, much like nature, our travel club also follows a rhythm—slowing down during the winter months, only to reawaken with renewed energy and excitement for new adventures in the Spring.

I hope many of you were able to join us for the October Luncheon, which turned out to be a wonderful gathering. The meal, once again provided by the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company, was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We had a great turnout with 103 members in attendance, including 5 new members! We welcomed a guest who decided to join as a new member.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who assisted with the setup and cleanup. The decorations on the tables were beautiful, and everything was put away quickly and efficiently. Your help makes these events run smoothly and creates a welcoming atmosphere for all.

Chaplain Position Filled

I am pleased to announce that **Sally Tear** has graciously volunteered to fill the Chaplain position. Sally has been a member of our club for over a year and joined along with three friends from her church. Please be sure to welcome Sally when you see her at our next meeting. Thank you, Sally, for filling this important position!

Spring 2026 meetings and planned trips:

JANUARY:

January 6, 2026 – General Meeting – 1:00 PM / *Travel Tips*

FEBRUARY:

February 3, 2026 – General Meeting – 1:00 PM / *Detailed Tour Leader Reports*

MARCH:

March 3, 2026 – General Meeting – 1:00 PM / *All In One Tours (Cathy Strite)*

APRIL:

April 2, 2026 – Dutch Apple – Oklahoma / *(Rusty Embrey – Tour Leader)*

April 19-21, 2026 – Norfolk, VA / *(Casey Koontz – Tour Leader)*

April 29, 2026 – Museum and Cruise / *(Helen Aument – Tour Leader)*

A full list of all the 2026 trips will be published in the January 2026 newsletter.

Continued on next page

November General Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 4. This meeting will also feature our Annual Memorial Service, a time to remember club members who have passed away during 2025 or to honor anyone you wish to remember. Please join us for this meaningful ceremony. November 4 is also Election Day for state and local races, so don't forget to make time to cast your vote—every vote counts.

December Holiday Luncheon and Basket Raffle



The December Holiday Luncheon and Basket Raffle will take place on December 2. Early sign-ups for the luncheon are appreciated for this popular event. Some members will be touring Greenbrier on that date, but even if you cannot attend, please consider donating a holiday or themed basket. These contributions are always a highlight, and your generosity helps make the luncheon one of our best events each year. If you're heading to Greenbrier, you can deliver your basket or donation to Cathy Burke's house before you leave. Please make your reservation early so we can prepare accordingly.

The Damascus Travel Club is all about adventure, community, and creating memorable experiences together. We look forward to sharing more journeys with you in the future. I wish everyone a blessed Thanksgiving surrounded by family and friends. Enjoy the crisp fall weather! If you have suggestions, please feel free to contact me anytime at 301-980-6186 or swogatske@verizon.net.

Keep 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

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| November 11, 2025 | Sight and Sound Theatre (<i>Noah</i>) (Joanne) |
| November 20, 2025 | American Music Theater (<i>Deck the Halls</i>) (Rusty) |
| November 30-December 2, 2025 | Greenbrier at Christmas (Joanne) |
| December 2, 2025 | Holiday Luncheon and Basket Raffle |
| December 16, 2025 | Lititz and Stone Gables Estate, PA (Casey) |
| NEW! April 19-21, 2026 | Virginia Beach (Casey) |
| August 8-18, 2026 | 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.



JOYS & CONCERNS



- *Happy Birthday* to all members born in November.
- *Happy Anniversary* to members celebrating their wedding anniversary in November.
- If any of the club members have a special birthday, anniversary, or a special event to report, we would be happy to publish the news. Just give me a call or send me an email.
- **Welcome to all new members! We're so glad you joined our club!**
- We will be happy to recognize a former member's passing in the newsletter, but you will need to give me an address when requesting that a card be sent to the family.
- Sue Greenberg is now in Emerald assisted living in Damascus. We wish her a good recovery. She would love a card from any of her friends. Her address is 24711 Ridge Rd, Damascus, MD 20872. Thank you all for your prayers for Sue.

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

VIRGINIA BEACH

NEW!

featuring Patriotic Performances and Azalea Festival

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

Join us as we travel south to Virginia Beach to view the Virginia International Tattoo, an exhibition of marching bands, massed pipes and drums, drill teams, Scottish dancers, choirs and more. Your trip also includes tours of the Cape Henry Lighthouse, Old Coast Guard Station, Military Aviation Museum, a demonstration of a WWII flying plane and admission to the Norfolk Botanical Gardens where the azaleas should be in full bloom.



Upon arrival, a boxed lunch will be provided along with reserve seating for the **Tattoo Hullabaloo**, a preshow event where performers come out and do mini performances with music, dancing, drill routines, and drumming exhibitions. Very festive and fun! There is also a beer garden and vendors of products and food. In the afternoon you will attend the **International Tattoo – A Salute to 250**

years of American Independence, which welcomes over 800 performers from all over the world where you'll witness pageantry and patriotism, spirit and spectacle, talent teamwork and precision personified. At the conclusion of the Tattoo we will check into your **Virginia Beach oceanfront hotel**, your home for the next two nights.

On the second day you'll tour the **Cape Henry Lighthouse**, and **The Virginia Beach Surf and Rescue Museum**. Your final stop for the day will be the **Military Aviation Museum** that houses one of the largest collections of WWI and WWII military aircraft. The museum will be the backdrop for a typical **southern BBQ dinner**. After dinner you'll be treated to a **WWII flying plane demonstration** (weather permitting).

Our final day you'll tour the **Norfolk Botanical Garden**, 175 acres, with more than 60 themed gardens that can be viewed by tram, boat or on foot. On your way home we'll make a stop for lunch (on your own), then depart for **Shirley Plantation** where you'll tour the oldest and most intact colonial plantation in Virginia, established in 1613 and still family-owned today.

This trip is a perfect salute to 250 years of America! We'll depart Damascus at 7 AM with an estimated return time of 8:30 PM.

The trip price includes bus transportation, two nights of oceanfront lodging, two breakfasts, one boxed lunch, one dinner at the Military Aviation Museum, and tours of the Aviation Museum, Cape Henry Lighthouse, Old Coast Guard Station, and Shirley Plantation. Admissions to Norfolk Botanical Gardens, the Hullabaloo and tickets to the International Tattoo. Taxes and tips on all inclusions.

Cost of Package – based on 35 paid reservations

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

Deposit of \$100 due by December 30, 2025. Final payment due January 23, 2026.

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

UPCOMING TRIPS

DUTCH APPLE DINNER THEATER

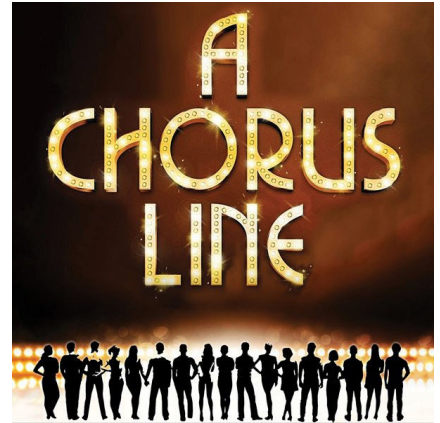
A Chorus Line

Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Thursday, October 30, 2025

A Chorus Line is a celebration of those unsung heroes (dancers) of the American musical theater. Set on a bare stage of a Broadway theater, seventeen dancers audition for spots on a chorus line. Classics such as “What I Did For Love,” “One (Singular Sensation),” and “I Hope I Get It” and more will be heard. and of course there will be lots of dancing.

We leave from Weis Market (26075 Ridge Road) in Damascus, load the bus at 9:15 AM and return at approximately at 6 PM. Please park on the side of the store, parallel to Ridge Road. Any questions call me at 301-871-7069. Day of the trip my cell is 202-304-7407.

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SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE

Noah

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – Tuesday, November 11, 2025

This trip is a GO! We will enjoy the show NOAH. We will leave from Weis Market (26075 Ridge Road) in Damascus at 7:15 AM and return at approximately 6 PM. We will enjoy our lunch at Millers Smorgasbord after the 11 AM show. You may want to bring a snack because of the late lunch time. The smorgasbord is a wonderful place that features American favorites as well as their distinctive heritage dishes and fresh baked desserts.

If you have any questions, call me at 301-253-0335. My cell on the day of the trip is 240-454-4742.



JOIN US FOR OUR DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY!

Tuesday, December 2, at 1 PM / \$25 pp for a delicious holiday luncheon!

Mt. Airy Volunteer Fire Company Reception Hall, 1008 Twin Arch Road, Mt. Airy

Reservation form on page 7

TRIPS TO REVIEW...

AMERICAN MUSIC THEATER

Deck the Halls

Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Thursday, November 20, 2025



Here is our New York Broadway Experience in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. This show is a **GO** but I have a few tickets I have not released. First stop is **Smorgasbord Lunch at Miller's** with a wide variety of food and off to see an extravagant show. Let me know who you want for a seatmate for the show.

If you want to sit with a friend, please let me know. If you have already identified a seatmate I will pick up your request from the reservation slips.

I have 3 seats left at the time of this writing. A wait list will be in place. Cancellations do happen!! All this enjoyment and fun for \$125 pp includes show, bus, lunch, and all taxes, all tips for driver and wait staff. Call me at 301-871-7069 and let me know you would like to join us for this spectacular show.

We will leave from Weis Market in Damascus (26075 Ridge Road) and load the bus at 9:15 AM. We will return approximately by 7:30 PM. If you have any questions, call me 301-871-7069. Day of trip my cell is 202-304-7407.

GREENBRIER AT CHRISTMAS

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – November 30-December 2, 2025



Just a reminder that this trip is a GO for November. By the time you receive this newsletter you will be busy packing for your trip. I cannot predict the weather except expect it will be probably be cold. There are so many activities to experience I am sure the time will seem short while we are there.

We leave at **6 AM on November 30** from Weis Market (26075 Ridge Road, Damascus) and arrive at 11:30 AM. This will give us time to explore, have lunch, and participate in activities. We will receive maps at the hotel to help us navigate the resort until we check in at 4 PM. Remember to review the dress code for meals. Dinner reservations are required **before** your arrival: 855-453-4858. A dress jacket is required for gentlemen, dresses or pantsuits for ladies, for dinner.

Everything was covered in the September newsletter about this wonderful trip. Please review all the great details before the trip. A copy of the September newsletter is available on our website: www.damascustravelclub.org. We plan to return to Damascus by 7 PM. **Questions: Call Joanne at 301-253-0335.**

A Magical December Getaway to LITITZ & STONE GABLES ESTATE

Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – December 16, 2025

This trip is FULLY BOOKED and is a GO. If you're on the waiting list, be ready to go should we have a last-minute cancellation. We will leave Weis Market in Damascus at 8 AM and return approximately 10 PM. Be sure to account for morning traffic and plan to arrive by 7:45 AM to allow time to get checked in and find a seat on the bus. **Please note that since this trip is full, there will NOT be an opportunity to spread out. So please DO NOT put your belongings on the seat beside you or expect to have an empty seat next to you.** Questions? Contact Casey Koontz 301-831-6746 or liontonyjames@comcast.net



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

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

10 days of travel in beautiful Nova Scotia from Halifax to Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and more. See more details in the June newsletter, available on our website (damascustravelclub.org) or on the gateway link (see below).



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>**

Reservations for this trip are open. Please go online at <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1349802> to make a reservation. Once you have made your reservation online, you will also need to send the DTC reservation form found in the August newsletter to DTC for our records. If you have any questions at any time, please call Collette Tours at 1-800-340-5158 and mention trip ID 1349802. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. 20 seats have been reserved by Colette for our members until February 1, 2026. Reservations made after February 1 are based upon availability. The refund deadline is February 8, 2026. Final payment is due May 10, 2026. Call Helen Aument at 240-793-6820 for details on how to make reservations or use the gateway link below.

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

Look where we've been!

POTOMAC EAGLE EXPERIENCE

Tour Leader – Helen Aument – October 2, 2025

Thank you to all who attended this trip to make it a success. There were 39 of us in attendance.



First Stop: Blue Goose Fruit Market & Bakery! We arrived at the Blue Goose Fruit Market & Bakery in Hancock, Maryland which is famous for its out-of-this-world pies. People drive from all across Maryland just to taste them – and I've even seen folks wait for hours. Exceptional food really does inspire some fun adventures!

Next we boarded the Potomac Eagle Railway in Romney, West Virginia. We enjoyed a 3-hour Trough trip that goes southbound through the Trough to Sycamore Bridge and back. We sited eagles and their nests as we journeyed across rolling countryside to the remote and rugged Trough Canyon. Carved by the South Branch Potomac River, it is one of West Virginia's very own "Grand Little Canyons."

Our lunch onboard consisted of Baked BBQ Chicken with Creamy Mac & Cheese. Each meal came with green beans, a cookie or brownie, and water. It was a great trip!

RESERVATIONS

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

American Music Theater (*Deck the Halls*) – November 20, 2025 **Payment of \$125 pp due ASAP**
Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____
REQUESTED THEATER SEAT MATE:
Name _____ Phone _____
EMERGENCY CONTACT:
Name _____ Phone _____
ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON – December 2, 2025 **Payment of \$25 pp due November 21, 2025**
Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____
EMERGENCY CONTACT:
Name _____ Phone _____

Norfolk, Virginia – April 19-21, 2026 **Deposit of \$100 due by December 30, 2025**
\$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 ___

FOR THE TRIP TO NOVA SCOTIA, PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE with Collette at
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1349802>

Then send us the reservation form which was in the July and August newsletters.



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

November 2025



Keep these newsletters for future reference!



JOIN US FOR OUR DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY!

Tuesday, December 2, at 1 PM / \$25 pp for a delicious holiday luncheon!
Mt. Airy Volunteer Fire Company Reception Hall, 1008 Twin Arch Road, Mt. Airy

We will have raffle items and gift baskets to bid on for a memorable afternoon. Enjoy fun and games and a delicious holiday meal which will include turkey and ham as well as some great side dishes.

Please bring a raffle basket with you to our December meeting, if you're able.

Send in **your reservation form found in this newsletter** before **November 21** with your check right away to enjoy this great holiday party!