

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



OCTOBER 2025

FALL LUNCHEON OCTOBER 7 at 1 PM

from Sue Wogatske, DTC Club President

Our September meeting had 93 members and 5 guests; one guest joined as a new member. We reviewed the minutes and enjoyed refreshments. Diane Dantagnan introduced our guest speaker, **Bernardine Gladhill Beall** from the *Damascus Heritage Museum*. Bernardine has lived in Damascus all her life and knows its history well. She displayed a “Damascus blanket” and told how Damascus went from 235 dairy farms to the one dairy farm currently in existence. There were other tidbits of history shared that day. Since many of our members live in Damascus, it was an informative presentation. Thank you, Diane, for arranging this guest speaker.

We will distribute another DTC Survey at an upcoming meeting. Your feedback will help us plan 2027 trips and fill bus or trip rosters.

Join Our Team – Chaplain Position Open

We have an exciting volunteer opportunity for a Chaplain in our club. If you are interested, please speak with me. Volunteering is a rewarding experience that brings more joy than it requires effort. If you regularly attend most of our meetings, this position should be straightforward and would provide valuable support for the team.

Refund Policy

Please note that ALL money is non-refundable FOR ALL TRIPS. This includes trips with a deposit due date. The deposit is also non-refundable because we have made a commitment with the destination arrangements. This has always been our policy but perhaps wasn’t clearly explained. Just a reminder regarding our travel reservations: once you have reserved and paid for your trip with the club any cancellations will only be refunded if the club has a waiting list, and someone is able to take your place.

We do recommend you purchase travel insurance in case you become ill and are unable to go. These are a couple travel club insurance providers: Allianz Travel (866-884-3556) and Travel Guard (844-970-0117).

Board and Tour Guide Meeting

We met on September 3rd to discuss the upcoming trips and tours in 2026. The complete list will appear in the January 2026 newsletter. The November newsletter will list our Spring 2026 trips. Registration will open with plenty of time to add these trips to your calendars.

Continued on next page

October Fall Luncheon

Hopefully you've already registered for the Fall Luncheon on October 7 at 1 PM. We will enjoy fried shrimp, roast pork, and all the trimmings at the Mt. Airy Reception Hall, 1008 Twin Arch Road, Mt. Airy, MD.

December Holiday Luncheon and Basket Raffle (December 2nd)

Start preparing for our December Holiday Luncheon and Basket Raffle on December 2nd. Show off your creativity by crafting a beautiful basket for the raffle. Proceeds will benefit the club and our members. If you have not attended this luncheon before, it is a wonderful opportunity to get into the festive spirit.

We Need Your Help – Refreshment Donations

We are asking our members to volunteer to donate refreshments for our meetings once a year. With enough volunteers, this will only be a once-a-year commitment. The members provide refreshments at seven of our meetings each year. We need volunteers for January and February 2026. Please sign up at the October luncheon. There will be sign-up sheets at the check-in desk, or email Cheryl Shores at baydreamin01@verizon.net with your preferred month and whether you will bring a snack or drinks (we never seem to get enough soda). We thank you in advance for your generosity.



The Damascus Travel Club offers adventure, community, and memorable experiences. We look forward to sharing future journeys with you. Stay tuned for more updates, and remember, your club is here to help you explore the world! Please feel free to reach out to me anytime with your suggestions 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 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

October 2, 2025 Potomac Eagle Experience (**Helen**)

October 7, 2025 FALL LUNCHEON – Mount Airy VFC

October 30, 2025 Dutch Apple Dinner Theater (*A Chorus Line*) (**Rusty**)

November 11, 2025 Sight and Sound Theatre (*Noah*) (**Joanne**)

November 20, 2025 American Music Theater (*Deck the Halls*) (**Rusty**)

November 30-December 2, 2025 Greenbrier at Christmas (**Joanne**)

December 16, 2025 Lititz and Stone Gables Estate, PA (**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 October.
- *Happy Anniversary* to members celebrating their wedding anniversary in October.
- 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! Remember to send in your membership renewal!***
- 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 a card be sent to the family.
- Get well cards and prayers were sent to Jan and Bob Peterson. Sadly, Bob passed away on September 10. Services were held on September 19 at Greenridge Baptist Church in Boyds.
- Get well cards and prayers were also sent to Sue Greenberg, Jan Mullinix, Sue Wogatske and Dave Cullen. We wish them all a full and speedy recovery. The DTC Club is looking forward to seeing them soon.

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

POTOMAC EAGLE EXPERIENCE

Tour Leader – Helen Aument – October 2, 2025

Scenic Wilderness: Journey through Trough Canyon's breathtaking landscape.

ALL ABOARD! There may be a seat still available. Contact Helen at 240-793-6820 for more information.

This excursion is a train trip that goes southbound through the Trough to Sycamore Bridge and back. (It is approximately 35 miles round-trip.) There is no layover; passengers stay on board.

This popular adventure offers a deep connection to West Virginia's wilderness, showcasing its natural splendor and iconic eagles. Named by George Washington during his 1748 surveying expedition, Trough Canyon's historical significance enriches this memorable experience.

We leave at 8:30 AM from Weis Market (26075 Ridge Road, Damascus). Please park on the side of the store parallel to Ridge Road. We have an arrangement with Weis that we can leave our cars there while on the trip. We will return by approximately 7:30 PM.



Please contact Helen Aument at 240-793-6820 if you have any questions.

DUTCH APPLE DINNER THEATER

A Chorus Line

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

Last call for Chorus Line and it is a **GO**. I have a few tickets I have not released. Be sure you have your 4 friends that you want to eat with and watch the show. If you have them on your reservation slip, I will pick them up. Dutch Apple wants me to assign the seats. Fun!!! You can call me with your list.

We start off with a buffet with salads, meats, veggies, bread and butter. It will meet everyone's appetite.

The price of \$121 pp includes lunch, show, motorcoach and driver's tip and taxes. Reservations were due by September 30, 2025. Call me if you want to join us!

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

SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE

Noah

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



There are still spaces available for this spectacular show. You will not regret attending this wonderful production. Don't hesitate and come along for a wonderful theater experience. See the July and August newsletters for an outline of the show. Newsletters are available on our website: www.damascustravelclub.org.

This trip has always been a popular trip and tickets go quickly! Send in your reservation soon! This show sells out long before the due date. We will enjoy eating at **Millers Smorgasbord**. The menu features American favorites as well as their distinctive heritage dishes and fresh baked desserts.

The price for this wonderful experience is \$212 pp. It includes motor coach, lunch, show and tips for driver and wait staff. Reservations and your check must be in by **October 5, 2025**. We will leave from Weis Market (26075 Ridge Road) in Damascus at 7:15 AM and return at approximately 6 PM. If you have any questions, call me at 301-253-0335.

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.

This trip is usually a sell out and I suggest you sign up now for the first 54, then a wait list will be in place. After the deadline of October 14, guests may sign up if space is available.

A day of music, dance, and food for \$125. It includes show, motorcoach, taxes and tip for driver and wait staff.

We leave from Weis Market in Damascus. Load the bus at 9:15 AM and return at approximately at 7:30 PM.

All this enjoyment and fun for \$125 pp includes show, bus, lunch, and all taxes, all tips for driver and wait staff. **Reservations must be in by October 14, 2025.** Any questions please call me: 301-871-7069. Day of trip my cell is 202-304-7407.

We will leave from Weis Market (26075 Ridge Road) side parking lot in Damascus at 9:15 AM and arrive home approximately by 7:30 PM. **NOTE:** If interested, please list the member you would like to have as a seatmate at the theater on your reservation form.



GREENBRIER AT CHRISTMAS

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



Just a reminder that this trip is a GO for November. The balance of the cost (after your deposit) was due September 24. If there is a problem or question, please call me at 301-253-0335.

We leave at **6 AM on November 30** from Weis Market (26075 Ridge Road) 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 place until we check in at 4 PM.

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. An additional six people have been contacted to let them know they are on the waiting list. 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 already 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>

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 (*A Chorus Line*) – October 30, 2025 **Payment of \$121 pp due NOW**

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED THEATER SEAT MATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

REQUESTED THEATER SEAT MATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

Sight and Sound (*Noah*) – November 11, 2025 **Payment of \$212 pp due October 5, 2025**

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

American Music Theater (*Deck the Halls*) – November 20, 2025 **Payment of \$125 pp due October 14, 2025**

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED THEATER SEAT 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>

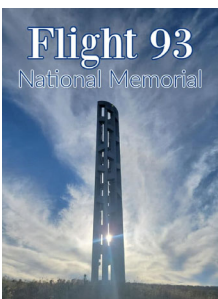
Then send us the reservation form which was in the July and August newsletters.

Look where we've been!

HEROES, SAINTS AND A RESCUE

Shanksville, Pennsylvania

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – Thursday, September 4, 2025



There were 30 members who joined together to visit two memorials – Flight 93 and Queecreek Mine in Pennsylvania. Flight 93 National Memorial is one of 400 parks in the National Park System. It includes the Visitors Center Complex, Memorial Plaza, Wall of Names Memorial Plaza, and Tower of Voices. After lunch we visited the Queecreek Mine Site where 9 miners were trapped for 77 hours. Many mine safety experts considered it the greatest deep-mine rescue in history. One of the rescuers was our spokesperson and added validity to our visit.

DAMASCUS TRAVEL CLUB
P.O. BOX 304
DAMASCUS, MD 20872
October 2025



Keep these newsletters for future reference!

OCTOBER FALL LUNCHEON

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 - 1 PM

**Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company Reception Hall
1008 Twin Arch Road, Mount Airy, MD**

**Roast Pork and Fried Shrimp, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy,
Sauerkraut, Succotash, Coleslaw, Rolls, Tea, and Dessert**

Hope to see you there!