

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

Refreshment Co-Chairs: Roz Bowman and Delores Neal

OCTOBER 2023

FALL LUNCHEON Tuesday, October 3 at 1 PM

LOCATION: Mt. Airy Reception Hall, 1008 Twin Arch Rd, Mt. Airy

from Cathy Burke, President



Travel Club is back in full swing after the summer break, and our recent meeting in September was nothing short of spectacular! With the fantastic presentation by Paul Julia from Collette Travel of a possible trip to Ireland, the travel bug has bitten us all once again. Special thanks go to Joanne Kessler for initiating discussions about "big travel" considerations, which have opened up a world of possibilities in 2024.

Our September meeting was a roaring success with an incredible turnout of 103 enthusiastic members. Many members expressed their appreciation for the evening meetings, making it easier for those who cannot attend daytime gatherings.

Community Fair Booth Volunteers: A big thank you to the 30 wonderful members who volunteered to represent our club at the Damascus Community Fair booth. Your dedication helps us grow and gain recognition in our community. While the weather was a bit uncooperative on Saturday afternoon, we still were able to register some new members.

Join Our Team - Webmaster Assistant and Facebook Message Coordinator Needed: As a club run entirely by volunteers, we have some exciting opportunities for you to get involved! Currently, we are in need of a Webmaster Assistant and a Facebook Message Coordinator. If you have the passion to support our club in these roles, please consider helping us out in this way.

Calling All Tour Leaders: Are you someone who can't get enough of traveling? We understand the feeling! The Damascus Travel Club is on the lookout for Tour Leaders to help us explore even more destinations. This might be the only job in our club where **you** receive benefits! Speak to any of our tour leaders or let our let me know if you're interested in this exciting position. With our club growing and members eager to travel, your involvement is greatly needed.

Upcoming Events:

October 3rd Fall Luncheon: Hope to see you at this delightful event at the **Mt. Airy Reception Hall, 1008 Twin Arch Rd, Mt. Airy, MD**. We have a great lunch and entertainment planned with Doug Phebus. It's the perfect way to kickstart the fall season.

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Holiday Celebrations: We're already gearing up for the holiday season with a lineup of beautiful trips. I'm excited to say **ALL remaining trips for this year are already full with waiting lists!** This is so great for our club! Remember, if you are on a waiting list you could be called the night before the trip when the Tour Leader has a last-minute cancellation. Be prepared! Encourage a friend to explore becoming a Tour Leader and share in future adventures that you can create as a Tour Leader.

December Holiday Luncheon and Basket Raffle (December 5): Get ready to showcase your talents by creating a beautiful basket to be raffled off at the luncheon. The basket theme is open, so be creative! Proceeds from this event go towards benefiting the club and our members. If you've never attended this holiday luncheon before, this is your chance to join in the festive spirit. More details next month.

The Damascus Travel Club is all about adventure, community, and creating lasting memories. We're excited about the journey ahead and hope you are too. Stay tuned for more updates and remember, your club is here to help you explore the world! Please reach out to me anytime with your suggestions. *Cathy*



JOYS & CONCERNS



- **Happy Birthday** to all our members who were born in October!
- **Happy Anniversary** to couples celebrating their wedding anniversary in October!

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**

A QUICK GLANCE AT OUR UPCOMING TRIPS AND LUNCHEON

Details of these trips and luncheons will be printed in this and upcoming newsletters.

If you have any questions, please call the tour guide listed with each trip.

Joanne Kessler: 301-253-0335 Rusty Embrey: 301-871-7069 Casey Koontz: 301-831-6746

October 3	Fall Luncheon at Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company Reception Hall
October 18	Toby's Dinner Theater – Sister Act (<i>Rusty</i>)
November 17	Sight and Sound – Miracle of Christmas (<i>Joanne</i>)
December 5	Holiday Luncheon – details to come in our November newsletter
December 8	American Music Theater – The First Noel Christmas Show (<i>Rusty</i>)
December 14-15	Christmas in Bethlehem (<i>Joanne</i>)

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 cancelled 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**

UPCOMING TRIPS

SISTER ACT



Toby's Dinner Theater / Columbia, Maryland
Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Wednesday, October 18, 2023

This trip is sold out! Be at Toby's Dinner Theater (5900 Symphony Woods Rd, Columbia, MD) at 10:30 AM when doors open and meet in the Lobby. I will call you with a reminder on October 16th. You will be invited to the salad bar and the buffet. Toby's web address is tobysdinnertheater.com. Directions are on their website under "Plan Your Visit." Carpool with friends for this approximately 35-minute drive.

DIRECTION TO Toby's: From Damascus/or north of Gaithersburg area take Route 27 North to Route 70, toward Baltimore/East to Route 29 South to Merriweather Post signs 1 mile pass Route 175 to South Entrance Road. Toby's is on the left.

If you live South of Columbia, MD, take Randolph Road, the ICC, or Route 198 east to Route 29 North to Exit 18B, Merriweather Post. Easiest way is under bridge and stay to the right for two lights to Little Patuxent Parkway, turn right and go to second light to Symphony Woods Drive. Turn right and Toby's is on the right at the bottom of the hill. **If you get lost on the day of the show call Toby's box office at 410-730-8311** for help. The show begins at 12:30 PM. Call me with any questions at 301-871-7069. Day of the trip my cell is 202-304-7407.

MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS

Sight and Sound Theater / Ronks, Pennsylvania
Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – Friday, November 17, 2023

This trip is a go! Our reservations are for the 3 PM show. We leave from the Weis Market in Damascus (26075 Ridge Road) at 8:30 AM and arrive at Kitchen Kettle Village at 10:30 AM for some holiday shopping ideas. We then go to Miller's Smorgasbord for a 12:30 PM lunch before going to the show. We will arrive home around 8 PM.

THE FIRST NOEL CHRISTMAS SHOW

American Music Theater / Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Friday, December 8, 2023



We are a go! New York's "Broadway Experience" comes to Lancaster, PA, at the American Music Theater. We will leave Weis Market (26075 Ridge Road) in Damascus at 9:15 AM and return approximately by 7:30 PM. Any questions call me 301-871-7069. Day of trip my cell is 202-304-7407.

CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

Mysterious Moravians and Lively Germans
Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – December 14-15, 2023

We will have two wonderful days to enjoy so many things in Bethlehem, PA, with this sold out show, beginning with lunch at Tavern at Sun Inn, then an Apothecary Tour, Christmas Tree Tour at the Moravian Museum and more! We leave from the Weis Market in Damascus (26075 Ridge Road) at 7 AM on Thursday and return by 6:30 PM on Friday. My cell on the day of the trip is 240-454-4742.

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October 2023



Keep these newsletters for future reference!

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

RAYSTOWN LAKE / EAST BROAD TOP RAILROAD

Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – Wednesday, August 23, 2023

We had a wonderful day cruising the lake while enjoying a delicious turkey dinner, which can't be beat. The train excursion in the afternoon was so enjoyable. We were seated in a recently refurbished train car and it was like going back in time. Thanks to everyone who made this sold out trip possible!

Happy

Halloween!