

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

OCTOBER 1, 2024

FALL LUNCHEON 1 PM
from Cathy Burke, President



I'm pleased to report that our annual September meeting was a success. While our attendance was slightly lower than expected, we still had 74 members and guests join us. Unfortunately, our goal of holding an evening meeting to accommodate those who can't attend daytime meetings didn't meet our expectations, with only five members attending specifically for this reason. However, the excitement, consideration, and kindness displayed during the meeting was heartwarming.

We were delighted to see Doug and Tracy Shipe, long-time members and our previous Membership Officer, who brought along Doug's famous cake. Barbara Walker also attended with her husband's assistance and a "4-wheeler." If you missed this meeting, you missed out on a wonderful gathering of great people.

A big thank you to everyone who completed the DTC Survey at the September meeting. We collected 28 additional surveys, and your input is invaluable as we plan future trips and fill our buses or trip rosters.

Join Our Team – Chaplain Position Open

We have an exciting volunteer opportunity for a Chaplain in our club. If you're interested, please speak with Dee Nelson, our retired Chaplain, or me. Volunteering is a rewarding experience that brings more joy than it requires effort. If you're already attending most of our meetings, this position will be easy for you but incredibly helpful to us. We would love to have you on board.

Tour Leader Updates

We are fortunate to have four dedicated and articulate Tour Leaders who genuinely care about our members and their travel experiences. Many of you may know that Joanne Kessler recently had a fall, resulting in two breaks in her pelvis. She is currently in rehabilitation at The Village at Rockville and is grateful for your prayers and well wishes. Joanne is working hard to resume her normal activities, though it may take some time. Helen Aument has graciously agreed to lead Joanne's trips at this time. We are so grateful for her help!

Attention Lake Tobias Attendees Only

As many of you know, Helen Aument stepped in to lead the Lake Tobias trip after Joanne's injury. Helen did not have your cash refund envelopes available on the day of the trip. These are now with our Tour Treasurer, Nancy Sutherland. We distributed some of them to those who attended the last meeting and will try to give the rest out at the October 1 Luncheon.

Continued on next page

We Need Your Help – Refreshment Donations

We're 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, with the other meetings being paid luncheons, a month without a meeting, and a picnic/potluck. If you haven't yet helped in the past club year, we need additional volunteers for November 2024, January, February, March, April, and June 2025. Please sign up at the October luncheon, where we will have 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 thank you in advance for your generosity.

October 1 Fall Luncheon

We hope to see you at our Fall Luncheon on October 1 at 1 PM. We will enjoy fried shrimp, chicken, and all the trimmings at the Mt. Airy Reception Hall, 1008 Twin Arch Rd, Mt. Airy, MD. We have also planned entertainment with Doug Phebus. It's the perfect way to kick off the fall season!

Holiday Celebrations

Be sure to check out the calendar on the second page of our newsletter, where we list our upcoming trips and holiday events. Don't miss out—get your reservations and payments mailed in promptly.

December Holiday Luncheon and Basket Raffle (December 3)

Start preparing for our December Holiday Luncheon and Basket Raffle on December 3. Show off your creativity by crafting a beautiful basket for the raffle. There's no set theme, so let your imagination run wild! Proceeds will benefit the club and our members. If you haven't attended this luncheon before, it's a wonderful opportunity to get into the festive spirit. It's always a fantastic time—you won't want to miss it.

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 feel free to reach out to me anytime with your suggestions at 202-302-4941 or **cburke53@comcast.net**. *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

- October 1 Fall Luncheon** – Mt. Airy Reception Hall
- October 25-27** Elkins, West Virginia (***Joanne***)
- November 6** Fall Mystery Trip (***Casey***)
- November 8** Joy to the World, American Music Theater (***Rusty***)
- November 14** Daniel, Sight and Sound Theater (***Joanne***)
- December 5** Longwood Gardens & Winterthur (***Casey***)
- April 7-19, 2025** Italian Vistas (***Casey***)

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.

*Please see page 9 in the September Newsletter (available on our website)
for our check and money policies.*

JOYS & CONCERNS

- **Happy Birthday** to all our members who were born in October.
- **Happy Anniversary** to couples celebrating their wedding anniversary in October, especially **Renee and Fred Minnick!** Congratulations!
- **Get well wishes and prayers were sent to Joanne Kessler, our wonderful travel leader, for a speedy recovery. Joanne fell and has two fractures in her pelvic area. Get well wishes and prayers were also sent to Debra Dilworth who was hospitalized with pneumonia. Continued prayers are sent to our Membership Chair, Barbara Walker. We hope they are on the road to recovery.**

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.

LOOK WHERE WE'VE BEEN...

BAR HARBOR, MAINE **LIGHTHOUSES, LOBSTERS & SEAPORT VILLAGE**

Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – August 11 - 16, 2024

What an action-packed trip the 25 of us had on our travels to Bar Harbor, Maine. Despite running into heavy traffic and very poor road conditions around New York City, we arrived in Ogunquit for our first night at the Meadowmere Resort where we received a nice Welcome Reception before checking into our rooms. Dinner was at the adjacent restaurant and some of us even took advantage of the jacuzzi afterwards. The next day we were off to Bar Harbor, where we stayed at the Oceanside Resort, our home for the next 2 nights. The group received guided tours of Acadia National Park and a walking tour of downtown Bar Harbor.

We had lots of time to explore all the shops and eat at the local restaurants where some people enjoyed lobster rolls, but no one (including me) was brave enough to try the lobster ice cream sold at one of the local shops. We had a delicious lobster dinner the first night at the Oceanside Resort, donning our lobster hats provided by the local reception service. The second day the group boarded the *LuLu* for a lobster boat cruise where we and learned about lobsters and the life and work of the lobstermen/women. We had a hands on experience banding live lobster claws and throwing the lobsters back to the ocean and we got an up-close view of seals and a bald eagle. We finished the day with an early dinner then headed to The Great Maine Lumberjack Show. “Timber Tina,” a contestant on the TV show *Survivor*, greeted us on the bus and was the MC of the show. We saw competitions in log rolling, pole climbing, and crosscut saw, along with lots of comedy which everyone enjoyed.



After leaving Bar Harbor we stopped in Portland for some time on our own for shopping and lunch followed by a lighthouse tour. We drove back to the Meadowmere Resort for the night and had another lobster dinner at The Bull and Claw in Ogunquit. The next day we had time to explore the shops and have lunch in the quaint town of Ogunquit. After stopping at the Nubble Lighthouse, we set out for Mystic, Connecticut. The following day before heading home we received a guided tour of Mystic Seaport Museum and village. The highlight of the tour was stepping aboard the whaling ship the *Charles W. Morgan* that was originally launched in 1841 where we saw live demonstrations of various aspects of whaling. After running into more rain and more heavy traffic in New York City we arrived home a little later than planned, but with great memories of our trip to Maine.

UPCOMING TRIPS

TRAINS, MOUNTAINS AND FALL COLORS

Elkins, West Virginia

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – October 25-27, 2024



With additional reservations, this trip is now a go. We will enjoy the mountains, the fall colors, the waterfalls and rivers on our scenic train adventures. Our stay is at the Wingate Elkins Hotel, with breakfast included. We will stop along the way home for dinner. We will leave at 8 AM on Friday, October 25, from Weis Market in Damascus (26075 Ridge Road) and return approximately 7:30 PM on Sunday, October 27. Please note parking arrangements have changed somewhat at Weis Market and we are asked to park along the wall to the **right** of the main entrance from Ridge Road, parallel to the road.

FALL MYSTERY TRIP

Tour Leader – Casey Kontz – November 6, 2024

This trip is a go and is full with 44 seats sold. There is no wait list for this trip. The bus will depart from the Damascus Weis on Wednesday, November 6 at 6:30 AM. Please arrive by 6:15 AM to get your seat on the bus and be sure to park along the wall to the right of the main entrance from Ridge Road, parallel to the road. Approximate return time is 6 PM. Contact Casey Koontz (301) 831-6746 or liontonyjames@comcast.net with any questions.

AMERICAN MUSIC THEATER / JOY TO THE WORLD

Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Friday, November 8, 2024

Joy to the World is now a go! At this time I have 7 seats available and then a wait list will be in place. We will start off with lunch at Shady Maple Smorgasbord in East Earl, PA, which was voted as a favorite by our members last year. There is a very large gift shop in the building. You may want to divide your time between eating and shopping. We have to leave by 2:15 PM to get to the theater on time. This holiday experience at \$112 pp. includes motor coach, lunch, show and tips for driver and wait staff. Reservations and checks must be in by October 1, 2024. If you have any questions, please call me at 301-871-7069. Day of trip my cell is 202-304 7407.

SIGHT AND SOUND / DANIEL

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – Thursday, November 14, 2024

This is a wonderful day trip to Lancaster County to see the spectacular performance of DANIEL. This theater is one-of-a-kind, and produces shows you will remember and talk about with family and friends.

This is a morning show (11 AM) so we will have lunch after the show 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 \$216 pp. It includes motor coach, lunch, show and tips for driver and wait staff. Reservations and your check must be in by October 1. We will leave Damascus at 7:30 AM and return at approximately 6 PM.

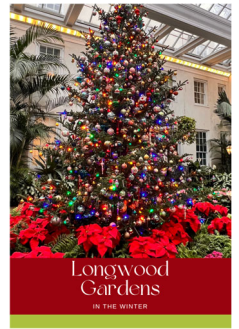


**LONGWOOD GARDENS & WINTERTHUR
CHRISTMAS IN BRANDYWINE VALLEY**

Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – Thursday, December 5, 2024

This trip is sold out with 45 reservations received. An additional eight people have been contacted to let them know they are on the wait list. If you're on the wait list, be ready to go should we have a last-minute cancellation.

We will leave Weis Market in Damascus at 10 AM and return approximately 10 PM. Please arrive by 9:45 AM to allow time to get checked in and find a seat on the bus. Please park in our new location - along the wall to the right of the main entrance from Ridge Road, parallel to the road. **Contact Casey Koontz (301) 831-6746 or liontonyjames@comcast.net with any questions.**



ITALIAN VISTAS

Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – April 7-19, 2025

If you plan to go on this trip and want to take advantage of the advertised price, please be sure your reservation is made before October 1, 2024. After that the price will increase. There is a block of **only 22 spaces** for this trip. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. This 13-day trip includes 17 meals (11 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 4 dinners). The detailed itinerary was provided in the July newsletter.

Reservations for this trip are open to members only. Please go online at <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1244008> to make a reservation. A deposit of \$698 pp is due with your reservation. Once you have made your reservation online, you will also need to send the DTC reservation form found in the July 2024 newsletter (available on our website www.damascustravelclub.org) to DTC for our records. If you have any questions, please call Collette Tours at 1-800-340-5158 and mention trip ID 1244008. The pre-trip option is sold out.

**Cost of Italian Vistas Package: \$5,799 pp double / \$6,799 pp single / \$5,699 pp triple
Deposit of \$698 pp due upon reservation. Final payment due January 6, 2025.**

RESERVATIONS

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

American Music Theatre – November 8, 2024

Payment of \$112 pp due by October 1, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

Sight and Sound – November 14, 2024

Payment of \$216 pp due by October 1, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

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

October 2024



Keep these newsletters for future reference!



*Join us for a Fried Chicken and Shrimp Dinner
at our Fall Luncheon October 1!*

Tuesday, October 1 at 1 PM
Mount Airy Volunteer Fireman's Reception Hall
1008 Twin Arch Road, Mount Airy