

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

SEPTEMBER 2025

SEPTEMBER 2 MEETING – 1 PM

from Sue Wogatske, DTC Club President

Annual Picnic/Potluck Recap

We had quite a turnout at the Picnic/Potluck in August. If you couldn't attend, you missed a great time. So many people brought sides and desserts to compliment the fried chicken from Green Valley Carry-Out. In addition to our luncheon, the Tour Leaders updated us with the upcoming tours for the rest of the year. Casey Koontz expressed her concern that too many of our members are not going on the trips. She and the other three tour guides spend a lot of their time organizing these wonderful events. After all, we are a TRAVEL CLUB! I'd like to thank Teresa Brown for reading the meeting minutes from May and June and also thank Tammy Monarch for the fun game she played with all of us. I enjoyed meeting many new members and members I hadn't met before. There were 108 members in attendance. Please notify Tammy ASAP if you reserved a spot at the Picnic/Potluck but were unable to attend, that way we can adjust the numbers for the event. Although the event was "free" to our members, we purchase the fried chicken, tablecloths, paper products and drinks for all who reserved a spot. We had 17 members who did not attend after reserving their spots. My special thanks to the Shores, the Burkes and the Monarchs for their help with setting up. I want to thank everyone who helped clean up. All those helping hands made the clean-up go quickly!



September's Meeting and Club Chaplain Search

The September 2 meeting will be held at our usual 1 PM time. We're all looking forward to our guest speaker, Bernardine Beall from the Damascus Historical Society. Thank you Diane Dantagnan for making these arrangements! With me becoming the Club president, don't forget we need a Club Chaplain. Please think about volunteering for this fun position.

Fall Luncheon

Our wonderful Fall Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, October 7, at 1 PM at the MAVFC Reception Hall in Mount Airy. The Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary will be serving us a delicious lunch. **Details are on page 6.** The price is \$25 for each of us. Please send in your reservation form and check before September 26.

Website Update

We're entering our fourth year of having an online website and Facebook page. If you haven't visited it yet, please do. The link to the website is www.damascustravelclub.org. A big thank you to Mandy Buckley for her fantastic work as our webmaster. And special thanks to Diane Dantagnan, our 2nd Vice President and resident photographer. She takes so many wonderful pictures and videos that document our trips. When we look at them they make us all feel like we're there too!

I look forward to seeing you at our September 2 meeting. I do want to hear from you. Please contact me with any suggestions or concerns, preferably between 10 AM and 6 PM 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

September 4, 2025 Shanksville, PA (*Joanne*)

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

October 7, 2025 FALL LUNCHEON – Mount Airy VFC

CANCELED October 8-10, 2025 Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown (*Casey*) **CANCELED**

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.

Unfortunately the Williamsburg trip is cancelled due to insufficient reservations.

REVIEW OF OUR CHECK AND MONEY POLICIES (Important)

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.

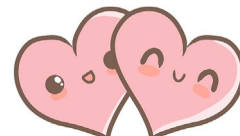
CHECK POLICY: Remember the club will not cash your check until we know the trip is a go. This is in case the trip needs to be canceled and we would therefore need to return your money. Please note your check could be cashed weeks BEFORE your trip once all seats have been reserved and the venue needs 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 members born in September.
- *Happy Anniversary* to members celebrating their wedding anniversary in September, **especially Lois and Jim Kemp** who will celebrate 61 years on September 6.
- 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 **Gail O'Conner** and **Bill Lagarde**. We wish them all a full and speedy recovery. The DTC Club is looking forward to seeing them soon. **Jan Peterson's husband Bob** is now in the Lorien Health Services program because of his cancer battle. **Judy Cullen's** husband Dave is in White Oak Rehab after a stroke. We wish them well and send prayers.

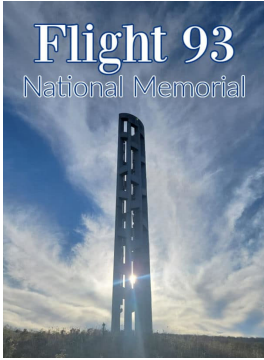
Help keep us current on the status of our DTC members by contacting me, **Ann Gray**, at 301-758-5350 (just leave a message and I will return your call) or email me at **anngray1@gmail.com**.

UPCOMING TRIPS

HEROES, SAINTS AND A RESCUE

Shanksville, Pennsylvania

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



This trip is a GO. Many thanks to all for your reservations. Details were plentiful in earlier newsletters which are available on our website www.damascustravelclub.org.

The motorcoach will leave from Weis Market parking lot (26075 Ridge Road, Damascus) at 6:30 AM. This will allow us time at the Flight 93 Visitor's Center Museum and the Walk of Names. We will then continue to the Quecreek Mine Site to hear about that miraculous event. Lunch will follow at the Oak Hurst Tea Room. We will return to Damascus at approximately 4:30 PM

If needed on the day of the trip I can be reached at 240-454-4742.

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

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.

Since 1991, Potomac Eagle has operated scenic rail excursions through the South Branch Valley of West Virginia. In addition to the beautiful scenery and rich history, passengers can enjoy the opportunity to see American bald eagles. Because of the clean water, tall trees, and breathtaking environment, the South Branch makes a perfect home for these birds. As you roll through the valley, you'll be able to view these birds in their natural habitat. These majestic creatures are easy to spot with their distinctive white head and tail features, and yellow beak and feet.

Our meal will be Baked BBQ Chicken with mac & cheese. All entrées served with green beans, coleslaw, cookie or brownie, and water.

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 7:30 PM.

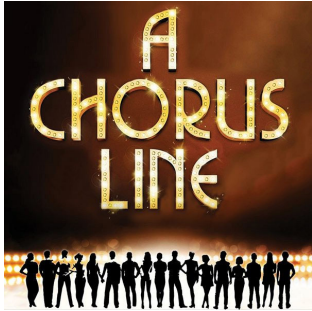


Please contact Helen Aument at 240-793-6820 if you have any questions.

DUTCH APPLE DINNER THEATER

A Chorus Line

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



A Chorus Line is a celebration of those unsung heroes (dancers) of the American musical theater. 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 must be in by September 30, 2025.** 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.

SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE

Noah

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

Did you send in your reservation for this outstanding production? There are a few spaces open as of this printing. Don't hesitate and come along for a wonderful theater experience. See the July and August newsletters for an outline of the show.

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.

AMERICAN MUSIC THEATER

Deck the Halls

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



Here is our New York Broadway Experience in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. You will not find a better Christmas Show anywhere. First stop is a Smorgasbord Lunch at Miller's with a wide variety of food of salads, fruits, veggies, hot entrées and craving board to suit everyone's taste. Lots of desserts and beverages of lemonade, ice tea sweet and raspberry ice tea, hot coffee/decaf.

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

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) is due September 24. Please see earlier newsletters for more information or call me at 301-253-0335. I hope you have scheduled a few activities available to us. The outline below should help you with planning your activities. There are activities listed online (www.greenbrier.com/calendar) for each day of our trip. Be sure to book some of these wonderful activities EARLY so you can enjoy them. Some of the activities are complimentary and some have fees: your choice. Additional activities (workshops, carriage ride, bunker tour, spa treatments and more!) are by reservation.

We leave at **6 AM on November 30** from Weis Market (26075 Ridge Road) and arrive at 11:30 AM. We cannot check in until 4 PM so we will have time to explore, have lunch, and participate in their numerous activities. You will receive maps at the hotel to help you navigate the countless activities, places to shop, and things to do. We will all have our own itinerary/activity plan while we are there which is a bit different than other travel club trips.

Check in opens at 4 PM. Meet back in the lobby. Luggage will be unloaded, keys handed out, as well as any other information you may need. Please note your package included \$20 free slot play per stay, afternoon tea, use of the swimming pool and movie theatre, historic hotel tour, grounds tour or slideshow presentation, on-property grounds transportation, access to the Casino Club which also includes a complimentary nightly champagne toast, unlimited local telephone calls, wireless internet in guest rooms and public area, as well as use of the fitness center!

As a guest you must make your own reservation for dinner (included). Please call 855-453-4858. You will have a custom dinner menu daily. Don't forget the classic dress code after 6 PM. Gentlemen are required to wear a jacket, and ladies are asked to wear a dress, skirt, or pants suit. After dinner there is time for the casino.

Breakfast (included) on **Monday, December 1**, is served from 7 to 10:30 AM in the Main Dining Room. No reservation is required. You will have time to explore, have lunch on your own and participate in more of your reserved or chosen activities from the online site. Dinner is included but please make your own reservations.

Breakfast (included) waits for you before we leave for Damascus on **Tuesday, December 2**. Bags must be out and ready by 8 AM. There is more time to explore, have lunch on your own, and participate in additional activities which are found on the online calendar link. **Be sure to have lunch before we leave at 1 PM.** There will be a quick stop on the way home. We plan to return to Damascus by 7 PM.

**Pricing for package: \$1499 pp single / \$1129 pp double
\$1005 pp triple / \$945 pp quad**

FULL PAYMENT DUE SEPTEMBER 24, 2025. / Questions: Call Joanne at 301-253-0335.

**** SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES OFFERED DURING YOUR TRIP ****

Hotel Interior History Tour

Declassified Bunker Tour

Winter Carriage/Sleigh Ride

Jeep Driving Adventure

Greenbrier River Trail Ride (bicycle)

Indoor Pool

Pickleball and/or Tennis

Spa Treatments

President's Cottage Museum

Glass Blowing Demonstration

Guided Fly Fishing

Fairy and Gnome Workshop

A Magical December Getaway to LITITZ & STONE GABLES ESTATE

Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – December 16, 2025



This trip is filling up fast! If you want to go, be sure to act quickly by mailing your payment and reservation form NOW.

Details of the trip can be found in the August 2025 newsletter. Your trip includes travel by coach to Lititz and Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, entry to the indoor National Christmas Center Museum, Christmas train ride through Stone Gables Estate, drive-thru holiday light show, 5-star buffet dinner and show at The Star Barn, taxes and tips on all inclusions.

We'll depart Damascus at 8 AM and arrive back in Damascus at approximately 10 PM.

Cost of the package is \$265 per person. Payment is due at the time of your reservation.

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.

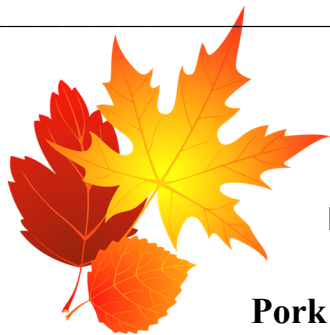
For more information visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1349802>

OCTOBER FALL LUNCHEON

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 - 1 PM

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

**Pork Roast and Fried Shrimp, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy,
Sauerkraut, Succotash, Coleslaw, Rolls, Tea, and Dessert
\$25 per person**



RESERVATIONS

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

Potomac Eagle Experience – October 2, 2025 **Payment of \$244 pp due August 25, 2025**
Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____
EMERGENCY CONTACT:
Name _____ Phone _____
ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___ _____

FALL LUNCHEON – October 7, 2025 MAVFC Reception Hall **Payment of \$25 pp due September 26, 2025**
Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____
EMERGENCY CONTACT:
Name _____ Phone _____

Dutch Apple Dinner Theater (*A Chorus Line*) – October 30, 2025 **Payment of \$121 pp due September 30, 2025**
Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____
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 ___ _____

Letitz and Stone Gables Estate – December 16, 2025 **Payment of \$265 pp due October 20, 2025**
Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____
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
September 2025



Keep these newsletters for future reference!

LOOK WHERE WE'VE BEEN...

ITALIAN VISTAS

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



Nineteen club members ventured to Italy with Collette Tours for a 12-day trip of a lifetime! Our journey took us through Rome, Sorrento, Isle of Capri, Florence, Venice, and Stresa. Weather for our trip was typical Spring-like weather, sunny and warm in some locations while cloudy and rainy for others. After a long flight, Rome welcomed us with timeless grandeur. On arrival we were met by our awesome Collette Tour Guide, Christian Cueva, who provided guidance and assistance throughout our entire time in Italy.



In Rome we toured the Colosseum, the Vatican, and meandered through Piazza Navona with its beautiful fountains. Many of us marveled at The Pantheon, tossed coins in the Trevi Fountain, and climbed the Spanish Steps. While at the Vatican on our second day we toured the Vatican Museum and marveled at St. Peter's Basilica. What a moving and memorable experience that was! We then made our way south stopping to tour Pompeii on our way to Sorrento. The tour included preserved buildings, frescoes, artifacts and even

forms of people in their final moments that were buried under 13-20 feet of volcanic ash and pumice when Mt. Vesuvius violently erupted in 79 AD. We had lunch at a pasta factory, followed by a tour of their facility. The narrow, curvy roads to Sorrento, perched above the Bay of Naples, were scary, but our coach driver Leo handled it expertly. The next day after a short boat ride that whisked us to Capri, we enjoyed a boat tour around the island where turquoise waters and dramatic cliffs framed a day of pure Mediterranean delight that included dining and shopping.

After two nights in Sorrento, we headed north to Florence and despite the rain we were dazzled with the Renaissance brilliance the city provided. We stood in awe before Michaelangelo's David and strolled the streets for a tour of the many buildings built during the Renaissance. We were treated to special demonstrations and shopping at recommended jewelry and leather shops, then had time to shop on our own. One evening we toured a 14th-century monastery followed by dinner at a Tuscan restaurant where we were entertained by an opera singer who was quite a hoot!

With other adventures before we returned home, we all agreed we had shared an unforgettable adventure through Italy's most iconic destinations which left us inspired, enriched, and dreaming of our next escape.