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MEETS THE 2ND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM 11:45 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. IN RACHEL'S KITCHEN

2023 Committee

George Darnell
President

Doc Holladay
Vice President

Margy Nolan
Communications Chair

Gary McDowell
Treasurer

Chris Oxford
Membership Coordinator

Peggy Sabato
Newsletter Coordinator

Pamela Toliver
Website Manager

Judy Bogner
Member at Large

March 2023 ISSUE

President's Message

It was good to see such a good turnout for our Valentine's luncheon in Rachel's Kitchen. Many thanks to Doc and Connie Holaday and my wife, Michelle, for helping us set up our Mission BBQ catered lunch. As a Valentine's gift to our members, the club subsidized half the cost. I think everyone had a good time, except the Ladies of the Lake. We interrupted their meeting to set up ours. Not very neighborly of us. That won't happen again. From now on we will not enter Rachel's Kitchen before 11:30 a.m. for setup. Please help us be good neighbors and plan to arrive by 11:45 to begin our meeting. We have plenty of time to eat and socialize before 1:00 p.m.

We wrapped up February with a delightful local wine tour. Kudos to Aspen Dale, Fox Meadow, and Valerie Hill for making us feel welcome and sharing their wines. Read the trip report in this newsletter. For March, we have two local day-trips planned: a St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl on the Walking Mall; and a trip to DC to see the Cherry Blossoms and have lunch. This trip will require some walking because of parking restrictions during the festival. I hope we timed it right for good weather and good views. See the announcement in this newsletter.

Chris Oxford found a great tour in Richmond for April 3rd. She has tickets for 15 people, including herself, to tour the new temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons). Chris will lead this trip and stop for lunch with the group before returning home. See the trip announcement in this newsletter.

Rick Turner and Sam Kerns, our local Civil War buffs, will be leading our tour of the Manassas Battlefields this summer. We will have details soon. Please review our schedule of trips and registration deadlines for the remainder of the year. I know there are a lot of trips we would like to take, but there are only a few we can schedule in a year. We try not to overlap trips and to separate them by a week or so. Spring, Fall, and the Winter holidays are the busiest. Nevertheless, we are always open to trip suggestions, and even more so to trip arrangers. So, if you know of a good trip and can help us arrange it, please let us know.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting
Monday, March 13th, 2023
Rachel's Kitchen
11:45 a.m.
Bring a dish to share!

This month we welcome Margy Nolan as our Communications Chair. She will be helping Pam Toliver (Web Manager), Peggy Sabato (Newsletter Coordinator), and Chris Oxford (Membership Coordinator) keep our members informed.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our March 13th lunch at 11:45 in Rachel's Kitchen. See you around campus. Have you noticed how busy it is getting around here?

George Darnell
Club President
703-850-2132
darnellgd@hotmail.com

Valentine Wine Tour

By George Darnell

We had thirteen travelers on this trip. Our first stop was Aspen Dale Winery in Linden, right on Rt. 55 in the converted barn on a farm that dates to the late 1700's. The staff was waiting for us with sampling flights of their red and white wines paired with tasting bites. We settled around cozy fireplaces to enjoy the wines and hear about the ghost that has been seen in the tasting room and on the grounds. You will have to visit to hear the story. I recommend a Spring visit

when the flowers are in bloom in the garden patio behind the barn. We thanked our hosts for a delightful visit and boarded our van.

Our next stop was nearby Fox Meadow Winery, formerly owned by our Trilogy neighbors, Dan and Cheryl Mortland. We passed the entrance to the monastery of the Dominican Nuns on our way up Blue Mountain.

One of the new owners, Amanda Darwill, and her staff were waiting for us. They seated us at a long table that was already prepared. Amanda is a

master chef and she provided us with their February "Culinary & Wine Education Experiences" at a special price for our club. This included generous pours of three white wines, a Rose', and two red wines paired with the chef's

selection of tasty bites. Amanda described each wine and pairing bites as we tasted them and shared our experience of each wine and bite. We took our time around the table inside before gathering on the balcony overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Our final stop was Valerie Hill Vineyard and Winery, on the other side of I-81, near Stephens City. The house and grounds date to the colonial period. The house was used as a hospital during Civil War battles nearby and contains artifacts dating from that period. Some say it is haunted. The winery is under

new ownership, but they were expecting us. We enjoyed glasses of wine in the converted dining room along with some chocolate covered cherries left over from our Valentine luncheon. The band for Friday night's entertainment on an enclosed side porch began to arrive as we were leaving for home.

We arrived back at the lodge about 5 p.m., thanked and tipped our driver, Steve, and headed for our cars. It was a delightful trip on a mild February day. Travelers included: George & Michell Darnell; Gerard & Barbara Dooner; Kay & Michael Ericksen; Carol & Jon Joyce; John & Corinne Osius; Stephanie Pendleton; and Sandra & Roger Shaver.



Trips Planned for 2023

- Mar 17—St. Patrick's Pub Crawl
- Mar 27—Cherry Blossoms/Jefferson Memorial/Lunch on Wharf; R/T bus \$80
- Mar 30—Bluebell Hike in Front Royal
- Apr 3—Richmond Mormon Temple Tour; \$65 R/T bus
- Apr 10-14—Charleston & Savannah: Springtime in the Old South; 5 days/ 4 nights/ 7 meals; \$1349 pp dbl, \$1759 sgl, R/T coach; \$100 dep by Feb 10 - Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Apr 29—Apple Blossom Parade; reserved seat on parade route plus R/T shuttle TBD
- May 12—Winchester Battlefields TBD
- May 27—Jun 1—Bermuda Cruise w/Greg on Royal Caribbean from NJ; \$552 pp inside cabin by Feb 1; carpool R/T NJ; Contact Gregory Payonk gpayonk@gmail.com
- Jun 16—Culpeper/Montpelier Wine Tour TBD
- Jul 7-8—Moses & Dear Soldier in Lancaster, PA; 2 days/1 night/3 meals; \$459 pp dbl, \$538 sgl, R/T coach; \$100 dep by Jun 7- Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Jun 22—Potomac River Dinner Cruise TBD
- Aug 18—Manassas National Battlefield Park Tour & Brewery Lunch Tour TBD
- Aug 26—Charlottesville Area Wine Tour TBD
- Sep 16—Harpers Ferry, WV Tour TBD
- Sep 24-Oct 1—Globus Iceland Tour w/Greg; 8 days/ 7 nights/ bkfst & dnr daily; R/T air from Dulles; \$4,536 pp w/\$500 deposit by Jun 1; R/T carpool to Dulles; Contact Gregory Payonk gpayonk@gmail.com
- Sep 25-28—Niagara Falls; 4 days/ 3 nights/ 4 meals; \$769 pp dbl, \$979 sgl, R/T coach, \$100 dep by Apr 1 - Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Sep 29—Oktoberfest Brewery Tour TBD
- Oct 12-14—Colors of Autumn: Falling-water, Pittsburgh tour & river cruise, Potomac Eagle train ride; 3 days/ 2 nights/ 6 meals; \$839 pp dbl, \$1039 sgl, R/T Coach; \$100 dep by Aug 1 - contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Oct 23—Camp Rapidan Tour by NPS TBD
- Nov 16—Night at Charles Town Races TBD
- Nov 28-30—Longwood Gardens/Miracle of Christmas in PA; 3 days, 2 nights, 4 meals; \$769 pp dbl, \$899; \$100 dep by Sep 15, R/ Coach - contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Dec 9 -- Wreaths Across American in Winchester National Cemetery
- Dec 10-13—Christmas in Williamsburg TBD

Please note: Shenandoah Tours fill quickly; make reservations early!

Trip Registration Deadlines for 2023

- Mar 10—St. Patrick's Pub Crawl
- Mar 17—Cherry Blossoms/Jefferson Memorial/Lunch on the Wharf
- Mar 25—Bluebell Hike in Front Royal
- Mar 26—Richmond Mormon Temple Tour
- Apr 1—Niagara Falls
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Apr 19—Apple Blossom Parade
- May 5—Winchester Battlefields
- Jun 1—Globus Iceland Tour
Gregory Payonk gpayonk@gmail.com -
- Jun 2—Potomac River Dinner Cruise
- Jun 7—Culpeper/Montpelier Wine Tour
- Jun 8—Moses & Dear Soldier
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Aug 1—Colors of Autumn: Falling-water, Pittsburgh tour & river cruise, Potomac Eagle train ride <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Aug 8—Manassas National Battlefield Park Tour & Brewery Lunch Tour
- Aug 16 — Charlottesville Area Wine Tour
- Sep 6—Harpers Ferry, WV Tour
- Sep 15—Longwood Gardens/Miracle of Christmas in PA
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Sep 19— Oktoberfest Brewery Tour
- Oct 13—Camp Rapidan Tour by NPS
- Nov 6—Night at Charles Town Races
- Nov 10—Christmas in Williamsburg TBD
- Dec 1—Wreaths Across America in Winchester

St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl On the Walking Mall

March 17, 2023



Take a break from Lent and join us for a "Pub Crawl" on Winchester's Walking Mall. We have so many good places to eat and drink in the Walking Mall that it will be difficult to settle on just a few. This will be a designated driver carpool trip. We will meet at the lodge and make our arrangements before driving to the public parking garage next to Indian Alley at the end of Amherst Street. We will walk the short distance to Ellie's Irish Pub for brunch. From there we will work our way south to the 50/50 Tap House. Food and non-alcoholic drinks are available at all our stops. Sampling flights are available in some pubs. Wearing of the Green is optional. Here is the schedule.

11:00 Meet at Lodge and form carpools

11:45 Park in garage and walk to Mall

12:00 Visit Ellie's Irish Pub

1:30 Visit Willie Sutton's Saloon

2:45 Visit Broken Window Brewery

4:00 Visit 50/50 Tap House

5:00 Return to garage for drive to Lodge

5:30 Arrive Lodge

All times are approximate and subject to change depending on how busy the pubs are and how much time we want to spend at each one. We will be walking about two blocks on the mall from start to finish.

Minimum for this trip is 8 and maximum is 16. To register drop off a note with the lodge concierge with your contact information and the date of the trip. **Deadline is March 11, 2023**

George Darnell (703-850-2132), darnellgd@hotmail.com

Cherry Blossom Tour, March 27, 2023



The Cherry Blossoms should be near the end of their peak around March 27, 2023. The best way to see them is a walk around the Tidal Basin. Our van will take us to Ohio Drive where we will meet our guide for a tour of the Jefferson Memorial and a guided walk around the Tidal Basin. Then we will return to our van for a guided ride around Haines Point. After we drop off our guide we will proceed to Maine Avenue for lunch in one of the waterside restaurants. After lunch, our van will take us back to the lodge. Check this link for more information.

<<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/cherryblossom/tidal-basin-loop-trail.htm>>

This one will fill up fast. Don't delay.

Schedule:

7:30 AM Depart Lodge

9:30 AM Arrive Ohio Drive and meet guide

10:00 AM Walk to Jefferson Memorial with guide

11:00 AM Begin guided walk around the Tidal Basin (2.1 miles)

12:00 PM Return to van for ride around Haines Point

12:30 PM Arrive Main Ave for lunch

2:00 PM Board van for trip home

4:00 PM Arrive Lodge

Minimum for this trip is 15 and maximum is 25.

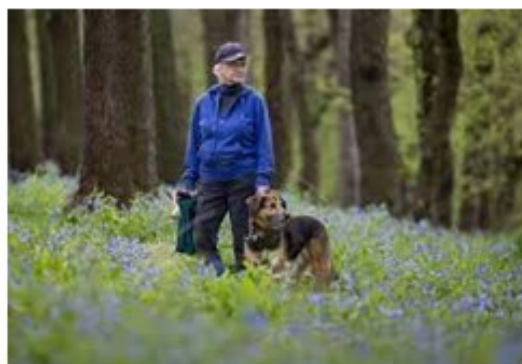
Registration is \$80 for transportation and tour guide.

Lunch and driver and guide gratuity are not included.

Please drop off your registration check with your contact information and the date of the trip with the lodge concierge no later than March 19, 2023.

George Darnell (703-850-2132) darnellgd@hotmail.com

Bluebell Hike in Front Royal March 30, 2023



The banks of rivers and streams are decorated in early Spring with a beautiful wildflower, the Virginia Bluebell. You can find some along Crooked Run near the wastewater plant on Crape Ct. But for an abundant display one must hike along the Shenandoah River. Fortunately, there is a public park in Front Royal with a path along the river. This 1.8-mile out-and-back trail is considered an easy route and it takes an average of 36 min to complete. There is a parking area nearby. It is dog friendly and there is a dog park in the area.

We will carpool from the Lodge to the park and then stop for lunch at Spelunker's.

Schedule:

9:30 Meet at Lodge and form carpools
10:00 Park at Eastham Park
10:15 Start hike
11:15 Gather in parking lot and drive to Spelunker's
1:00 Return to cars for drive to Lodge
1:30 Arrive Lodge

All times are approximate and subject to change depending on how much time we want to spend on the trail and at Spelunker's. Walking sticks and waterproof hiking shoes are recommended. If the weather is bad we will reschedule.

Minimum for this trip is 8 and maximum is 24. To register drop off a note at the lodge concierge with your contact information and the date of the trip. **Deadline is March 21, 2023**

George Darnell (703-850-2132), darnellgd@hotmail.com



Richmond Virginia Tour of the Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon Temple) April 3, 2023

Good News! Chris Oxford has found us tickets for a rare opportunity to tour this new temple in the Glen Allen area of Richmond. She only has 15 tickets for the 11:20 a.m. tour. So, sign up quickly if you are interested.

Schedule:

7:45 a.m. Board bus at Lodge

9:15 a.m. Brief rest stop

11:00 a.m. Arrive at Temple

11:20 a.m. Start tour

12:20 p.m. End tour

12:30 Board bus

1:00 p.m. Lunch at local restaurant

2:00 p.m. Board bus

3:30 p.m. Brief rest stop

5:00 p.m. Arrive Lodge

Minimum for this trip is 12 and maximum is 15.

Registration is \$65 for transportation and the tour.

Lunch and driver tip are not included.

Please drop off your registration check with your contact information and the date of the trip with the lodge concierge no later than March 20, 2023

Chris Oxford (703-626-9274) <coxford1@aol.com>