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

2022 Committee

George Darnell
President

Doc Holladay
Vice President

Margy Nolan
Communication Coordinator

Gary McDowell
Treasurer

Chris Oxford
Membership Coordinator

Peggy Sabato
Newsletter Coordinator

Pam Toliver
Website Manager

Judy Bogner
Member at Large

April 2023 ISSUE

President's Message

March was a busy month for the Club. We started off with a St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl on the Walking Mall and ended with a Bluebell Hike along the Shenandoah River. In between, we did a walking tour of the Cherry Blossoms at the Tidal Basin. Read the reports in this newsletter. My legs are still sore.

A big disappointment this month was having to cancel a trip that Chris Oxford worked so hard to put together. We just couldn't generate enough interest in a tour of the Mormon Temple in Richmond to pay for the transportation. The tour itself was free. Gary McDowell, our registrar, and treasurer will return or shred the checks of those who registered. April is a quiet month to give us a chance to celebrate Easter and Passover with our family and friends. Shenandoah Tours has a trip to Charleston and Savannah in April that is sold out. If anyone is going, please give us a report with some pictures.

I am pleased to report that some of our members have stepped forward to plan some of the trips on our schedule for 2023. Rick Turner is already working on a tour of the Manassas Battlefields and Sam Kern is working on the Winchester Battlefields. Corinne Osius is working on our Culpeper/Montpelier Wine Tour and Mike Ericksen is considering being the lead for our tour of Harpers Ferry. Rich Karis is planning our Oktoberfest Trip. Our founding president, Judy Bogner is working on our Christmas in Williamsburg trip. And, by member request, we added Noah's Ark and Creation Museum in Kentucky to our trips. Please review our schedule of trips and the cutoff dates for registration.

We need some help if we want to watch the Apple Blossom Parade in Winchester on May 6. Our neighbor, Tony Moritz, has agreed to drive 10 to 14 of us to the parade reviewing area on Handley Blvd next to the high school and pick us up after the parade in his van for \$250 R/T. Seats at the reviewing stands don't go on sale until sometime in April. I'm guessing the price will be \$25 or less for each seat. I may be out of town when they go on sale, and I may be marching in the parade with the Knights of Columbus. So, if this trip is going to happen, we need someone to volunteer to lead it. I will help if

available, but someone needs to get a head count and buy the seat tickets. Contact Doc Holaday if you can help.

Michelle and I will be taking an American Cruise Lines trip around the Chesapeake Bay, visiting many historic sites over the Easter holiday. We dock in Yorktown on Easter Sunday, where our granddaughter, Heather, a PhD candidate at William and Mary, will meet us to celebrate Easter at her church. We will miss our lunch meeting on April 10, but don't forget we start at 11:45, not 11:30 a.m. We wish everyone a Happy Easter or a Blessed Passover! We hope to see you all around campus when we return.

George Darnell, Club President 703-850-2132

Please note the change in my email address:

darnellgd@hotmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting
Monday, April 10, 2023
Rachel's Kitchen
11:45 a.m.

Please bring a dish to share!

St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl on the Walking Mall March 17, 2023, Trip Report



A small group of seven travelers braved a cool, drizzly St. Patrick's Day to take a pub crawl on the Old Town Walking Mall. Phyliss Ford, Mike Ericksen, Stephanie & Greg Zambiasi, Laura Ayres, Wendy Delaney, and George Darnell carpooled from the lodge to the parking garage at the end of Amherst Street, and walked the short distance to Ellie's Irish Pub. We arrived about noon, but a lively crowd was already there celebrating. The colorfully dressed wait staff seated us at a high-top table and took our orders. A group of about twelve senior ladies were celebrating a birthday at one of the large tables nearby. We took our time enjoying our Irish food and drink and conversation before leaving for our next stop, Willie Sutton's Saloon.

This upscale watering hole is housed in an old bank building complete with two walk-in safes. It was also decorated for St. Patrick's Day. We took seats at a long high-top table in front of the huge bar and gave our orders to the bartender/waitress. We were soon joined by a group of younger afternoon revelers dressed for the day. We lingered awhile before moving on to Broken Window Brewery, where the son of one of our party works. But we were disappointed to find that it was closed until that evening.



So, we strolled down the mall, taking in the sights, until we reached Cork Street and the 50-50 Taphouse. They ushered us to another long table and gave us menus. This establishment gets its name from having 50 beers on tap and 50 varieties of hamburgers. It took us a while to make up our minds. 50/50 is located next to the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum, a great place for your grandchildren to explore with their parents while you wait in the taphouse.



After more food and drink we were ready to call it a day and head home. The parking garage was just a few blocks away up Indian Alley. We paid our \$1.00 parking fess and headed to Lake Frederick, where we thanked our drivers, said our good-byes and returned to our homes. It was a fun day!

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

Cherry Blossom March 27, 2023, Trip Report

On March 27, 2023, eighteen travelers, and a therapy dog, Jackie, gathered at the lodge to check in and sign travel waivers. The morning was cool and cloudy, but that didn't dampen our spirits. We boarded our VA Rides minibus with Alan driving and headed for DC.



We arrived at the World War II Memorial earlier than expected and called our tour guide, Eli, to alert him. That gave us some extra time to use the NPS public restrooms nearby. We had lots of company as several colorful tour buses unloaded sightseers. When Eli arrived in his orange sweatshirt, he guided us around the memorial, pointing out its features, including a hidden iconic WWII inscription, "Kilroy was here."



Eli guided us along Independence Ave to a crosswalk to begin our walk around the Tidal Basin. The cherry trees were in full bloom and after hearing their history we proceeded to the Japanese Lantern. There were some piles of uncollected trash from the parade the day before. After a group photo we walked to the Martin Luther King Memorial, an imposing image, where we heard a brief story of his life and contribution to civil rights. A little further on Eli guided us around the massive FDR memorial, with sections that commemorate all three terms he served as POTUS and how he led our country through the Depressions and WWII. Figures of people waiting in bread lines and listening to FDR's "fireside chat" radio broadcast on Sunday nights, were particularly poignant.



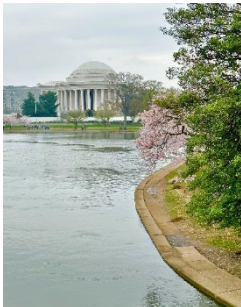
As we made our way through closed streets to the Jefferson Memorial there were several opportunities for photo shoots across the Tidal Basin. The memorial itself is undergoing renovations and solid fencing blocked full access, but two of our ladies still managed to climb the steps for a close view of Jefferson's statue. Meanwhile, Eli told us of the opposition to the memorial and the bitter feud between Jefferson and John Adams, both signers of the Declaration of Independence. They both served as President, and both died on July 4, 1826.



From there, Eli walked us to the Rappahannock Oyster Bar on the Maine Ave Warf, where we had reservations for lunch. We thanked and tipped him for an informative tour before entering the restaurant just as a light rain was beginning around noon. They seated us together near a floor-to-ceiling window overlooking the Maine Ave Fish Market. We enjoyed our lunches and conversations before reboarding our bus on Maine Avenue.



Alan guided the bus out of DC and past the Pentagon as he tried to beat the rush-hour traffic on I-66 and we arrived at the lodge ahead of our 4:00 p.m. schedule. We thanked and tipped him before heading to our cars. I think everyone, including Jackie, enjoyed the day.



George Darnell
darnellgd@hotmail.com



Bluebell Hike in Front Royal March 30, 2023, Trip Report

On Thursday, March 30, 2023, the usual day of the month for John Toliver to lead our members on a nature hike in Lake Frederick, he led us instead along the Shenandoah River in Front Royal to see the Spring Bluebells. About 20 members gathered at the parking lot at Eastham Park in Front Royal to start our hike. The park is near the end of Luray Ave, just past the railroad underpass. Some members drove there directly and others carpooled from the lodge following printed driving directions.

The park has an asphalt trail, like the one on Rachel Carson, along the south fork of the Shenandoah River for about half a mile. There is the remainder of a stone wall along one side of the path that may have marked the edge of bottom farmland. Then it passes under the railroad and through the woods to an open area near the entrance to Skyline High School on Route 340. We saw several families walking with small children and met a couple who were 90 and 87. It is a popular path and bicycles are permitted.



John led us along the river, pointing out the bluebells and the varieties of trees between the path and the river. Some folks walked to the river bank to get a better look at the bluebells. John told us that the ones along Crooked Run near Crappie Court were not as far along in growth.

We passed under the railroad and headed uphill through the woods toward Skyline High School as John pointed out how the variety of trees had changed and how the ground had become rockier. Some of us walked all the way to Route 340 before turning around to retrace our steps to the parking lot.

After getting in our cars, some of us drove to Spelunker's Drive-in on South Ave. for lunch. This is a Front Royal landmark and a place you will have to try. Their milk shakes are wonderful and come with a spoon they are so thick. From there we said our goodbyes and headed back to Lake Frederick, arriving around noon. Despite the day being cloudy and a little cool, it was a good trip that we will have to add to our annual calendar.

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



Trips Planned for 2023

- Apr 10-14—Charleston & Savannah: Springtime in the Old South; 5 days/ 4 nights/ 7 meals; \$1349 pp dbl, \$1759 sgl, R/T coach; SOLD OUT - Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- May 6—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 & Bull Run Winery 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 27-30—Noah's Ark & Creation Museum in KY; 4 days/ 3 nights/ 3 meals; \$759 pp dbl, \$1009 sgl, R/T coach, \$100 dep by Aug 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

- 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 1—Noah's Ark & Creation Museum in
KY <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

Bermuda Cruise (6 days) – \$552*/pp May 27 – June 1, 2023

INCLUDES:

- Royal Caribbean Liberty of the Seas departing Port Liberty, Bayonne, NJ (inside cabin)
- Gratuities, port charges, taxes, fees

Cruise Itinerary - Check-in Between: 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM (Embarkation time, itinerary)

Date	Port Location	Arrive	Depart
27 MAY	CAPE LIBERTY, NJ (NY METRO)		3:00 PM
28 MAY	CRUISING		
29 MAY	ROYAL NAVAL DOCKYARD, BERMUDA	9:00 AM	
30 MAY	ROYAL NAVAL DOCKYARD, BERMUDA		6:00 PM
31 MAY	CRUISING		
01 JUN	CAPE LIBERTY, NJ (NY METRO)	7:00 AM	

NOT INCLUDED:

- Transfers from Lake Frederick to Cape Liberty Cruise port (5hr drive; suggest carpooling)
- Parking at Port Liberty pier (\$25/day)
- Excursions in Bermuda (very inexpensive, use public local buses and ferries)

WHAT NEXT:

- Make reservation on Royal Caribbean website or I used Costco (get additional \$25 shop card)
- If you own at least 100 shares of RCL stock, submit online request for \$50 onboard credit



5 Night Cruise from Bayonne
(Round Trip)

Royal Caribbean®
Liberty of the Seas

5 Night Cruise

Departure Date: Sat, May 27, 2023

Embarkation Port: Bayonne

Return Date: Thu, Jun 01, 2023

Disembarkation Port: Bayonne

Hello Neighbors and fellow Bermuda Cruisers

I just wanted to connect us all easily so I created this group. If you want any other emails added, please let me know. So far we have the following going on the trip: Greg Payonk & Louise Liddle, Christine Chu & Frank Hall, and Gary Blevins & Phyllis Ford - We all travelled to New Orleans together. Interesting.

Right now, Greg is planning to depart LF 5AM on 5/27 and will be carpooling with Christine/Frank. Gary will follow and may continue up to Lake George after cruise returns or possibly come back home depending on his carpool situation. Please tell others about this inexpensive cruise. The more the merrier. I've attached the trip info George Darnell asked me to put together and he said he was going to mention it at the LF travel club.

Once we get onboard, we can link our reservations and then we would be able to all sit at the same table for dinner. If you prefer to dine separately on any particular night, no problem, just let the dining reservationist know when you show up for dinner. There will probably be two formal nights so plan accordingly. Each stateroom can bring two bottles of wine in luggage. If you don't plan to use your allowance, let others know so a bottle can be added to your bag for exchange once on board. Frank and Greg purchased a soda beverage package (was promo at 50% off so if you are interested watch for that. Now I see only 35% discount. Alcohol packages are not worth it IMO -- please contact me for more info!)

Do create Royal Caribbean account and join their Crown and Anchor Society frequent cruiser program and call Royal with this number to add to your reservation. And download Royal app as you will use it extensively on-board to communicate with each other and check your daily itinerary and make reservations.

On May 29, I'm planning to take public bus transportation (available at the pier) to Horseshoe Bay and spend most of the day on the beach. I'm not a beach person, but this beach is world renown and spectacular. You will need some sort of sun protection. I have a pop-up beach tent I'm bringing that folds flat. Amazon link below. Make sure you practice how to get the tent back in the bag (Louise and I can help)!!

<https://www.amazon.com/SUNBA-YOUTH-Instant-Portable-Shelter/>

May 30, AM will take a ferry from Royal Dockyards (at pier terminal) to St. Georges and then probably take a bus back to cruise terminal. May stop off in Hamilton (shopping district) depending on time. This way you will cover the entire island and get to see the scenery and locale. Public transportation is very inexpensive and a great way to do an island tour. There are ship-based tours as well you might consider as well (book in advance if you like as there will be no discounts once on-board).

As you have other thoughts or questions, respond to this email so we can all be better prepared.
Greg Payonk

Iceland Tour - \$4,536*/pp Sept. 24 – Oct. 1, 2023 (8 days)

INCLUDES:

- Scheduled tours with expert local guides as outlined in itinerary.
- VIP sightseeing access to iconic sites.
- Includes full buffet breakfast and 3-course dinner daily.
- First class hotels.
- Tour transportation beginning day 2 to completion day 8.
- Roundtrip, nonstop Iceland Air (IAD – KEF, departing 9/23/2023 8:35 p.m.).
- Roundtrip transfers from KEF (Reykjavik airport) to downtown hotel (Hilton Reykjavik Nordica)

NOT INCLUDED:

- Roundtrip transfers from Lake Frederick to Dulles (available \$25 pp each way).
- Optional excursions at particular points on tour during scheduled free time will be made available for booking as tour date gets closer.
- Morning of arrival after Iceland airport transfers to hotel to drop bags (before 2 p.m. check-in), we will take 3 hrs. Viator Reykjavik sightseeing tour by minibus \$54

WHAT NEXT:

- \$500 non-refundable deposit (cancellations 90 days prior, deposit applied to a different Globus tour).
- Decide on purchase of Globus travel protection (\$299/pp) paid at time of deposit.
- Contact Leslie Dean 303.703.7769 or ldean@globusfamily.com Ask for discounts!!! *Price quoted was based on airfare booking Nov 4, 2022 and may change based on airfare at time of your booking)
- I emailed passport info for each passenger (full name, number, birthdates, state of birth, issue and expiration date) and Leslie called me back to take credit card info for deposit. Or you could give all that info when she calls if you prefer.
- Do mention you are part of Lake Frederick Travel Club group and ask to be attached to reservation #859935 so your booking will count towards our group discount and rooms and dinner reservations will be booked together.

OTHER INFO:

- Depending on group size, we would get additional per person discounts. 8-12 \$100, 13-16 \$150, 17-24 \$200
- Final Payment due 7/26/2023.
- Northern lights peak periods are September and March (equinoxes).
- This is a small group tour with 24 people max.

Greg Payonk is travel lead for this trip.

201.323.2144 gpayonk@gmail.com 106 Witherod Court

Hello Iceland Travelers - Update

We have all booked the Iceland airfare and RT local transfers through Globus.

After many emails with the Viator tour operator for the Reykjavik City tour, you will need to consider the following information whether or not to keep or cancel the Viator reservation:

- We arrive 6:30 a.m. and have to deplane and collect luggage
- Then exit through customs/immigration (I was told this is zero time by another LF Iceland traveler)
- Find the Globus transfer vehicle 45min ride to downtown hotel

Assuming flight arrives on time (could be earlier too?), and baggage is expedient and transfers to downtown hotel are smooth (I contacted Globus rep about this and she reached out to transfer agent and was told once we load into van, it would depart immediately and direct to hotel), we should arrive before 8:30 a.m. which is the latest hotel-pickup time the tour operator would agree to.

So the risk is we pay \$54 for the tour and lose this money because we are late and tour will not wait for us.

Viator cancellations are 24 hrs prior full refund but we wouldn't know our timing till morning of the tour.

All this said, I'm going to keep my reservation and risk it because the alternative is we arrive very early in Reykjavic and have nothing to do all day and no other day available to see the city. However, I just wanted all my fellow travelers to understand the issues and make their own decision.

I also contacted a private tour operator but they did not write back (several weeks now). I asked Globus if they offer a city tour and they said they use Viator. If anyone has other ideas please circulate to the group.

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Reykjavik/Reykjavik-Sightseeing-Tour/d905-2970AH10>

Colors of Autumn, Rails, & Riverboats

October 12-14, 2023

Tour # 23006 Cost of Tour - Per Person

Twin \$839 Single \$1079

3 DAYS * 6 MEALS It's Autumn, and Mother Nature has put on her spectacular coat of many colors. Join Shenandoah Tours for the Autumn Serenade River Cruise in Pittsburgh, and a scenic rail excursion on the Potomac Eagle train in Romney, West Virginia. Rediscover the real America from the rivers and the rails. Visit Fallingwater, the famous home of Frank Lloyd Wright, cantilevered over a mountain waterfall. Don't delay...book today for this scenic journey!

- Day 1 - Thursday - October 12

Travel to Pennsylvania

Fallingwater / Arrive in Pittsburgh

All aboard for our scenic Autumn adventure. This morning we'll make our way into Pennsylvania's beautiful Laurel Highlands for a visit to Fallingwater, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. This architectural masterpiece was built over a waterfall and was used as a mountain retreat by the Edgar Kauffman family. It's a must-see attraction. Continue to Pittsburgh and check into the Drury Hotel for a two night stay. Tonight, enjoy a light dinner at the hotel with fellow travelers. (D)

- Day 2 - Friday - October 13

- Autumn Serenade River Cruise Pittsburgh Sightseeing Tour

- Ride on the Duquesne Incline

An exciting day awaits as we board the Gateway Clipper Autumn Serenade River Cruise. Sit back and rediscover the real America with her scenic vistas and spectacular foliage. Enjoy an included lunch and entertainment while gliding along the river. Afterwards join our local guide for a tour of Pittsburgh's highlights and take a ride on the Duquesne Incline to the top of Mount Washington for the Three Rivers view. Again, dinner is included at the hotel this evening. (B,L,D)

- Day 3 - Saturday - October 14

- Travel to West Virginia,

- Board the Potomac Eagle Train Excursion

- Travel Home

This morning we head to Romney, West Virginia, to board the Potomac Eagle Autumn Train. This train excursion takes us through narrow valleys and along the South Branch of the Potomac River, offering views of fall's brilliant colors that can only be enjoyed from the rails. Keep your camera ready for magnificent eagles that make their home here among the high valley walls. Later this afternoon, we'll board our coach and head for home bringing with us fond memories of our "Colors of Autumn" adventure. (B,BL)