

Classic Travels, L.L.C.

"VIP Travel and Service"

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Newsletter

Dear Friends:

November 12, 2024

There is a show at Jim McDonough's home on December 12th. You have time to sign up for it until Monday, November 25th. For details, check inside this newsletter.

The 2025 season shows at The Fireside Dinner Theatre in Ft. Atkinson, WI are "Elvis," "West Side Story," "Murder on the Orient Express," "The Church Basement Ladies," "The Little Mermaid," "Oklahoma" and "A Wonderful Life."

At the Barn in Goodfield, IL, there are two good shows. Start the season at the Barn with "Alone Together." Mom and Dad have spent the last 30 years raising three active sons. How they looked forward to the peace, the quiet, and the privacy of an empty nest. In April, "Nonsense A-Men!" is about five misfit nuns who are trying to put on a variety show to raise the money to bury the sisters who were poisoned by the convent cook.

A trip to Branson is planned for 5 days/4 nights in early December. I have several more seats available for this trip until November 25th.

I have also scheduled a trip to the Hard Rock Casino in Rockford, IL. You don't want to miss this trip. This is the only one I will schedule at this time.

The Summer Mystery Trip is June 17 – 20, 2025. I am announcing this trip so you can plan to go with me and have several days of fun.

The Great Plains Adventure is a bus trip to all sorts of museums, and attractions to be held in October of 2025. See the last item on the newsletter for details.

If you're not on our mailing list, give us your name and address or email address and check out our website at your convenience.

My wish for you is to have a Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends, and a blessed Christmas holiday – and also good health and prosperity. God bless you and your families and God Bless America. I'm looking forward to seeing you again.

--Jill Kirkpatrick

Monday, December 2-6, 2024

Branson, Missouri

We have a few seats available. Call to make sure. We'll kick off the holidays by stopping at Redmond Candy and then continuing on to Lambert's Café, home of the "threwed rolls." The Lights of Joy drive-through display with Whitney's World of Crafts included. The shows are Doug Gabriel, #1 Hits of the 60's, Yakov Smirnoff, Hot Rods & High Heels, Clay Cooper's Country Express, Cassandre – The Voice of an Angel and the Hughes Brothers Christmas Show. Meals include Uptown Café, SS Dockside Café and Pub, Mel's Hard Luck Diner in Branson, McFarland's Restaurant, lunch and time on your own in historic downtown Branson complete with a visit to Dick's Old Time 5 & 10. On our way home we'll stop at Buc-ee's, a new addition to our experience in Springfield, MO. A deposit of \$50 holds your space. A brochure is now available. Price is \$1,079. dbl. and \$1,299 sgl. **Payment due Monday, November 25, 2024.**

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Jim McDonough, Private Concert, Cedar Rapids, IA

It's an afternoon concert on his personal Steinway piano exclusively for our group. During an intermission, Jim will be serving some gourmet desserts with champagne and/or a non-alcoholic beverage for your pleasure. Leave at 11:45 a.m. and return by 6:15 p.m. Price is \$136 and includes bus, concert and intermission treats. Note there will be no lunch stop, but you're welcome to bring something with you to eat enroute to his home. We will be making a stop along the way. **Payment due Monday, November 25, 2024.**

Thursday, January 9, 2025

The Ultimate Elvis Tribute Musical, at The Fireside Dinner Theatre, Ft. Atkinson, WI

In honor of Elvis's 90th birthday, The Fireside and Legends in Concert kick off the 2025 season with jumpsuits, black leather, swiveling hips, and leg-shaking, presenting their newest retrospective of Elvis's life in music told through the eyes of the world's best tribute artists and a live four-piece band. Being an Elvis tribute artist means more than just donning a jumpsuit and singing classic songs. It's about capturing the essence of Elvis Presley, honoring his legacy, bringing joy to fans who adore the King of Rock "n" Roll, keeping his spirit alive for new generations. Whether on stage or off, these artists live and breathe Elvis's charisma, talent, and timeless appeal. Menu includes cream of asparagus soup, garnished with asiago cheese croutons, sliced roast beef tenderloin, glazed with a red wine sauce, and also served with a salted baked potato with butter, chives, and cheese and a roasted vegetable medley. Dessert is a flourless chocolate cake topped with powdered sugar and fresh raspberries. Leave at 7:00 a.m., back at 8:00 p.m. Price is \$156. **Payment due Friday, November 29, 2024.**

Sunday, January 19-31, 2025

The Panama Canal trip

The first day we'll fly to Ft. Lauderdale, FL. to start our winter fun-in-the sun vacation. After a relaxing morning, we transfer to the pier in Miami to be one of the first people to board Norwegian Cruise Line's *Pearl* for an 11-night trip around the Southern Caribbean that includes stops in Jamaica, Ocho Rios; Cartagena, Colombia; The Panama Canal; Harvest Caye, Belize; Colon, Panama; Puerto Limon, Costa Rica; and Cozumel, Mexico. The highlight will be sailing through the locks of the Panama Canal to Gatun Lake! You'll have an opportunity to take

exciting shore excursions (extra fees apply) in each of the ports of call. With NCL's Freestyle Cruising you'll have the choice of dining with your group every evening in the ship's main dining room, or you set off on your own to try one of the other great restaurants. During our days at sea, you can enjoy time by the pool, in the casino, or at one of their many bars and lounges. Call for reservations. Balcony Cabins \$4,999 dbl.; Ocean View Cabins; \$4,399 dbl.; Inside Cabins \$4,099 dbl. Single pricing is available. Call if you're interested.

Sunday, February 16, 2025

"Alone Together" at the Barn III in Goodfield, IL

Mom and Dad have spent the last thirty years raising three active sons. How they looked forward to the peace, the quiet, the privacy of an empty nest. After considerable comic turmoil and revelation of deep feelings, the nest is finally emptied. Peace now? Quiet? Not for long. Leave at 9:30 a.m., back at 6:00 p.m. Includes show, bus and meal. Price is \$120. **Payment due**

Thursday, January 16, 2025.

Thursday, February 27-March 6, 2025

Wonders of Alaska

We will experience the excitement of the Iditarod Ceremonial Start. Visit with mushers, pet the dogs, view the artistic masterpieces of the GCI Snow Sculpture Competition. At the Ulu Factory we will see how Native Alaskans have used ulu knives for thousands of years. We'll visit Talkeetna, an authentic Alaskan town used as a model for the TV show *Northern Exposure*, for majestic views of the mighty Mount Denali as we watch for the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights). We'll take a flight up to Fairbanks, where we'll view amazing ice sculptures at the World Ice Art Championship before our second opportunity to view the Aurora. No visit to Fairbanks is complete without a visit to the Yukon Quest, a challenging 1000-mile International Sled Dog Race. After gliding silently along a wooded trail on a sled powered by a team of dogs, we check into the Chena Hot Springs Resort for our third night of Aurora hunting. Soak in the thermal waters as we look out for northern lights. We will visit the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and the Anchorage Museum before our trip home. Call right away for reservations. Pricing is \$4,999 dbl. and \$5,599 sgl.

Thursday, March 20, 2025

"West Side Story" at The Fireside Dinner Theatre, Ft. Atkinson, WI

In New York City, two young lovers find themselves caught between warring street gangs. Their struggle to survive in a world of hate, violence, and prejudice is one of the most innovative, heart-wrenching, and relevant musical dramas of our time. Broadway legends Arthur Laurents, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, and Jerome Robbins created a show that is ageless. Join us for this landmark musical and epic tale of love eternal. Menu is lemon chicken orzo soup, sliced pork tenderloin with a rich pork stock gravy and served with herb roasted stuffing and cinnamon apple sauce. Dessert is a tart cherry crisp under an old-fashioned cinnamon oatmeal crumb crust topped with our homemade vanilla frozen custard. Leave at 7:00 a.m., back at 8:00 p.m. Price is \$156. **Payment due Wednesday, February 19, 2025.**

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Hard Rock Casino, Rockford, IL

Join us at Classic Rockers where you can save up to 50% on your meal at the Hard Rock Café. You have to have your valid ID and be older than 55. Leave at 8:30 a.m., back at 3:00 p.m. Price is \$62. **Payment due Wednesday, March 26, 2025.**

Sunday, April 13, 2025

“Nunsense A-Men!” at the Barn III in Goodfield, IL

Five misfit nuns from the Little Sisters of Hoboken Convent are trying to put on a variety show to raise money to bury sisters accidentally poisoned by the convent cook, filled with zany characters, outrageous costumes, and plenty of laughs. Nunsense is a heavenly musical filled with devilish comedy. Leave at 9:30 a.m., back at 6:00 p.m. Includes show, bus and meal. Price is \$120. *Payment due Wednesday, March 12, 2025.*

Thursday, April 24, 2025

“Murder on The Orient Express,” at The Fireside Dinner Theatre, Ft. Atkinson, WI

Just after midnight a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks. Agatha Christie’s luxurious train is surprisingly full for the time of the year, but by the morning it is one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed eight times, his door locked from the inside. Isolated and with a killer in their midst, the passengers rely on detective Hercule Poirot to identify the murderer – in case he or she decides to strike again. Join us for this theatrical thriller from the Queen of Crime with both intellectual and comedic twists and turns, masterfully adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig. Menu is watermelon, cantaloupe, honeydew, kiwi and strawberries over fresh garden greens and our famous papaya chutney dressing, pork back ribs, accompanied by our buttermilk marinated southern fried chicken breast, accompanied by roasted garlic redskin potatoes and creamed corn. Dessert is French silk pie with velvety chocolate mousse, topped with fresh whipped cream. Leave at 7:00 a.m., back at 8:30 p.m. Price is \$156.

Payment due Friday, March 21, 2025.

Tuesday, June 17 – 20, 2025

Mystery Trip

Price is available after December 16, 2024. You can sign up now if you wish.

Thursday, June 26, 2025

“The Church Basement Ladies” at the Fireside Dinner Theatre, Ft. Atkinson, WI

It is 1979, the day of the church’s Centennial Celebration, and past parishioners have gathered to share hot dishes, bars, and stories from the last 100 years. As the women work in the kitchen, shared memories burst into life through a series of flashbacks. Travel back to 1897 and meet Vivian’s grandmother; see Karin as a newlywed cautiously navigating the politics of the kitchen; and be there in 1944 when Mavis first barreled her way through the door. The Centennial Celebration is bittersweet. Times are tough in this small community, and hard decisions will have to be made. Menu is an Asian vegetable mix with cashews and sesame dressing topped with fried rice noodles, supreme cut chicken breast seasoned with lemon pepper, served with fried rice and peas, onion and egg and honey glazed carrots. Dessert is a creamy lemon custard garnished with fresh whipped cream and diced strawberries. Leave at 7:00 a.m., back at 8:30 p.m. Price is \$156. *Payment due Thursday, May 22, 2025.*

Monday, October 6-14, 2025

The Great Plains Adventure

A southwest bus trip to the Pony Express, a professional storm chaser throughout, Mid-American All-Indian Museum, Old Cow Town, visit the Big Well attraction, featuring the largest hand-dug well in the U.S., Twister Museum, National Weather Center, Oklahoma National Memorial, Will Rogers Memorial, Route 66 Historic Park Road, Ree and Ladd Drummon and ranch tour, Walter Conkrite Museum, Harry S. Truman Library, and much more. Leave at 6:30 a.m., back at 8:00 p.m. 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 5 dinners are included. A deposit of \$50. is required upon reservation. Brochure is now available. Call and we will send you one. Price is \$2,599 dbl., \$3,299 sgl. *Final payment due Friday, August 1, 2025.*

You agree that Classic Travels, L.L.C., its affiliates, entities and employees, assume no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any personal injury, death, property damage or other loss which may be occasioned by (1) any wrongful, negligent, willful or unauthorized act or omission of any travel agent or agency, other goods or services provider or other third party, (2) any defect or failure of any equipment, instrument or means of transportation owned, operated or otherwise used by third parties, (3) sickness, lack of appropriate medical facilities/practitioners, weather, strikes, theft or other criminal acts, war, terrorism, computer problems, late arrivals or departures, change of schedule, Covid or other related conditions.

Miscellaneous Information

Reservations:

If you would like to make or cancel reservations or to receive a brochure, call us at Classic Travels, at (563) 332-0014. Our answering machine will take your message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. Remember to speak slowly and clearly and to give your name, telephone number, and message so we can get back to you, if necessary. If you don't receive a call back within 24 hours, we're probably on a trip, and if outside the United States, will only be able to possibly respond to email messages. You will, however, receive a call back as soon as we return. Check out your newsletter or our website to see if we're traveling.

Trip Departures:

Bus arrives 15 minutes prior to departure from the lower parking lot of the Northwest Bank & Trust Company, 100 E. Kimberly Road, Davenport, lower parking lot, west side of the building. Tenants and employees park in this lot and the Bank graciously allows us to use it while on trips. Please, park your vehicles to the west and north, away from the building. Thank you for your cooperation.

Payment:

Trips are payable about 30 days in advance unless stated otherwise. If you need to cancel, call us as soon as possible as many dates sell out and have a wait list. For overnight trips, a reservation is confirmed only when a completed reservation form, with your down payment, is received. Checks should be made payable to Classic Travels and mailed to 3371 Eastridge Drive, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722. Usually, final payment dates are listed at the end of trip descriptions. To be fair, if payment is not received by the final payment date, reservations will automatically be offered to those on the wait list. No telephone call reminders will be made for final payment. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Gift Certificates:

The perfect gift for birthdays, holidays, anniversaries, or just "because," is a Classic Travels gift certificate available in any amount. Simply give us a couple days' notice to prepare one for you.