



**December/January 2024/25**

**EDITOR: Judy Hardie**



As the year winds down, we want to take a moment to thank each of you for making the **Travel Club** such a vibrant and exciting community. Together, we've shared incredible adventures, inspiring stories, and countless laughs along the way.

The holidays are a time to reflect on the journeys we've taken, the friendships we've formed, and the memories we've created. Whether you're staying close to home or exploring new destinations, we hope your season is filled with joy, warmth, and a little wanderlust.

Looking ahead to 2025, we're excited to continue exploring the world with you. From meetings featuring engaging speakers to unforgettable trips, the best is yet to come!

Wishing you and your loved ones a season full of happiness and a New Year filled with travel dreams come true.



Warm Wishes,

*The Travel Club Team*



# Program Notes



## SCHH Travel Club Holiday Event



Journey to Switzerland and enjoy a selection of Swiss-inspired sweets and treats.

Friday,  
Dec. 13th,  
Pinckney  
Hall  
2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

**\$5.00 pp**

(charged to your CAME)

Deadline: December 6th

Don't delay! Seating is limited!



Join us for our **December 13th**

## **HOLIDAY** Program,

2:30 pm, at *Pinckney Hall Ballroom.*

**[\$5 pp; Registration required.]**

Ruth Dexter is no ordinary traveler—she’s an adventurous globetrotter with countless journeys under her belt! Join us on **Friday, December 13 at 2:30pm** in Pinckney Hall for an exciting presentation as Ruth takes us on a visual and storytelling tour of Switzerland, a country renowned for its breathtaking beauty. From the towering peaks of the Alps to the serene waters of Lake Lucerne, you’ll experience the magic of Switzerland through Ruth’s eyes.

But that’s not all! While most of us love the convenience of unpacking once on a cruise, Ruth swears by the thrill and richness of exploring more when you embrace frequent packing and unpacking. She’ll share her best tips on how to make it easy and enjoyable, so you can see and experience even more on your travels.

And what’s a Swiss adventure without indulging in some decadent Swiss chocolates? As we listen to Ruth’s stories, you might be savoring delicious chocolates and beverages in a festive holiday atmosphere! Don’t miss this delightful afternoon filled with travel inspiration, sweet treats, and holiday cheer!

To help us prepare for this sweet experience, we’ll be serving up ice cream alongside chocolates, and because of this, we’ll be sending out an invitation to ensure we have enough for everyone. A small fee will be charged for the treats, so be sure to RSVP once you receive your invite!



# Looking Ahead

## TRAVEL CLUB OF SUN CITY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

All meetings are 2:30 to 3:30 pm at **Pinckney Hall Ballroom**  
unless otherwise noted.

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 9, 2025**

**at 2:30 pm in Pinckney Hall Ballroom**

Topic: **River Cruising** by *Diane Lippa*

Are you interested in exploring the world of River Cruising? Join us as our presenter, Diane Lippa, gives us an overview of River Cruise brands, river cruise destinations, rankings of the various brands, from most luxurious to mid-range \$\$\$, tips for solo travelers, & much more. In addition, Diane will share a personal look at a recent AMA Waterways experience on the Douro River. Diane is on our Travel Club Board as a Trip Manager. We look forward to seeing you at the January meeting!



## Coming Up!

**February 12** ..... **South America Journey** Noah & Mary Helen Rosenstein  
*Volcanoes, Glaciers, Penguins, Sea Lions & Rainforest*

**March 13** ..... **All About Viking Cruises and More** Viking Spokesperson  
*River, Ocean and Expedition Ships*





## SOME SAVVY TRAVEL TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL VACATION



### PACKING TIPS FOR A ROAD TRIP

*with frequent stops along the way*



#### Pack Essentials in Easy-to-Reach Places

- ◇ Load non-essential items, such as luggage or bulky items, in the trunk or back seat.
- ◇ Place frequently used items like snacks, water, and entertainment in easy-to-reach locations, like the center console or glove compartment.

#### Use Soft-Sided Bags and Backpacks

- ◇ Instead of structured suitcases, use soft-sided bags and backpacks to maximize trunk space and reduce clutter.

**Consider packing a small overnight bag with essentials**, like a change of clothes, toiletries, and medications, for each person.

#### Keep Perishable Items Cool and Secure

- ◇ Use a cooler with ice packs to keep perishable items, like sandwiches and snacks, fresh and safe.
- ◇ Pack liquids in leak-proof containers to avoid spills and messes.
- ◇ Pack Snacks and Water
- ◇ Bring a variety of healthy snacks, such as nuts, granola bars, and fruit, to keep everyone satisfied during stops.
- ◇ Don't forget reusable water bottles and refill them at rest stops or restaurants along the way.

#### Plan for Frequent Breaks

- ◇ Research rest stops and attractions along your route to plan for regular breaks.

**Consider packing a portable charger** for devices and a **first-aid kit** with essentials like pain relievers and band-aids.





## Traveling with Scottie... Memories of Callaway Gardens

Just recently my husband and I joined several other SC Travel Club members and others on a fabulous 2-day trip to Warm Springs and Pine Mountain, Georgia. On the 5-hr. trip there Scottie treated us to a DVD about FDR and Warm Springs as we neared our first stop, a visit to **FDR's Little White House**. There we learned more about our inspiring 32nd President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor. His love and respect of all people, both the poor, the downtrodden and the wealthy, led him to be responsible for a series of programs and projects known as the New Deal, which aimed to help the United States recover from the Great Depression, such as the Social Security and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), created to restore trust in the banking system, insuring deposits in banks to prevent bank failure.



It was awe-inspiring to see the place FDR loved best and where he died suddenly while posing for a presidential portrait in his 63rd year from a cerebral hemorrhage. (The unfinished portrait is displayed in the museum which contains many artifacts and mementos of FDR's years there in Warm Springs. The artist, several years later, redid the portrait in its entirety from her memories of the hours spent with the late president.)

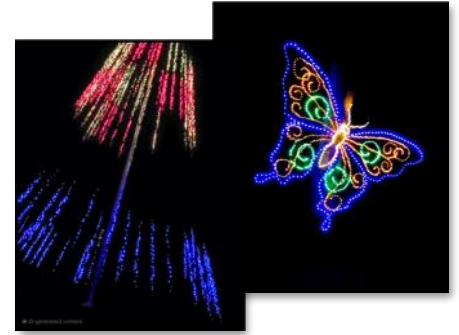
After leaving there and heading towards our final destination, Pine Mountain, and the Callaway Gardens Resort, we stopped for lunch at Peachtree Farm; a chance to stock up on some yummy "peachy" treats, too.



**Callaway Gardens** offers a variety of activities and attractions throughout the year, making it a great destination. Some of the many attractions include 2,500 acres of stunning gardens, including the vibrant azalea blossoms in spring. There are also numerous hiking and biking trails.

It also features **Robin Lake Beach**, a large lake with white sand beaches -- perfect for summer relaxation and water sports, but not, alas, when we were there in mid-November. It did provide, however, some very picturesque views of the

surrounding woods and mountains. Plus it was the setting for what we had come to see... the **Festival of Lights**, enchanting visitors for over 30 years, with over 8 million lights and holiday scenes lit up and animated with music. We took the open-aired *Jolley Trolley* to view the displays with a lively commentary accompanying us.



The following day before we took our leave from the resort, we visited the **Day Butterfly Center**, right on the resort grounds. This tropical conservatory is home to over 1,000 butterflies representing more than 50 different species. The glass-enclosed environment filled with tropical plants provides a lush habitat for the butterflies. Visitors stroll through the conservatory and observe butterflies up close as they flutter among the vibrant flowers and foliage.



Following that we also visited the on-site **Discovery Center**, learning all about birds of prey at the lakeside presentation, even having an opportunity to see a couple of the ambassador birds they presented. We had a chance to visit the rest of the nature displays in the Discovery Center and grab some lunch for the return home.

If you've never been on one of Scottie's bus trips, it's a fabulous time, both educational and entertaining. Her destination trips are not to be missed, filled with out-of-the-way experiences on the way to the main event. And Scottie knows where all the good eating spots are, too. Take a look at some of the upcoming trips featured in this issue of the newsletter. Join us!

--Judy Hardie





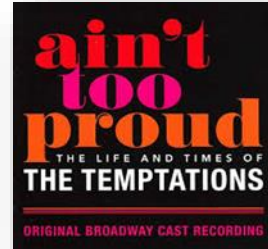
## BUS Trips, One-day & Extended

Weekend Get-Aways

[www.scottiedavis.com](http://www.scottiedavis.com) Contact: Cheryl Fuchs, 703-887-7793, or Scottie Davis, 843-422-3360

***AIN'T TOO PROUD: LIFE AND TIMES  
OF THE TEMPTATIONS  
plus St. JOHN'S TOWN CENTER –  
JACKSONVILLE***

**Saturday, December 7, 2024 (\$244 pp)**



**SPACE STILL AVAILABLE - SIGN UP IMMEDIATELY!**

A great holiday gift to give yourself, a significant other or friends! This fantastic day includes an orchestra seat for the Broadway production of “our kind of music” at the Moran Theater and free time at St John’s Town Center to enjoy a wonderful lunch, knock out holiday shopping or find that perfect dress and shoes to shine at holiday events. On the way home, we will have a wine party to end a very special treat.

Trip includes: transp., orchestra seat for the show, wine and snacks, bus driver’s tip. Trip picks up in Sun City at 8 am and returns by 8 pm that evening.



***CHRISTMAS CHEER IN CHARLESTON***

**Saturday, December 14, 2024 (\$234 pp)**

**SPACE STILL AVAILABLE - SIGN UP IMMEDIATELY!**

A festive, memorable day with a holiday lunch at **High Cotton, Moranz Christmas Show** at the *Charleston Music Hall* with uplifting songs, dances and skits followed by the magnificent **Holiday Festival of Lights** display on James Island, along with wine and snacks for a very full, fun day.

Trip includes: transp., lunch at High Cotton, Christmas show, James Island lights, wine, snacks, bus driver’s tip. Trip picks up in Sun City at 8 am and returns around 8:30 pm.





# BUS Trips, One-day & Extended

## Weekend Get-Aways

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### ***THE MAGIC OF BILTMORE AT CHRISTMAS PLUS CHIHULY EXHIBIT***

**Wednesday, December 4 - Thursday, December 5, 2024**

*(\$979 pp single; 749 pp dbl occ; \$679 pp. triple)*

**THE TRIP IS FULL. SIGN UP TO BE PLACED ON THE WAIT LIST.**



Spend a magical 24 hours on the Biltmore Estate grounds; stay at the elegant Inn on Biltmore Estate with a wine tasting, dinner, and Biltmore House candlelight tour. On day 2, tour the Estate grounds with a step-on guide and see the Chihuly Exhibit.

Trip includes: transp., wine tasting, candlelight tour, Estate tour, Chihuly exhibit, accommodations at Inn; 2 meals, bus driver's tip, snacks.

The annual **Christ Church Tour of Homes** will be on **Saturday, March 15, 2025.**

*The homes on tour this year will all be on Sea Island, GA.*

Cost is **\$269**

*with a **\$5 discount if paid before January 15, 2025.***

The popular trip includes transportation from Sun City, tour ticket, lunch, bus drivers trip and snacks. Trip ETA : Leave Sun City at 8 am and return between 6-7 pm.



**SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE AMAZING TRIPS COMING SOON!**  
**Valentine trip, Feb 14-15**  
**Christ Church Tour of Homes, March 15**  
**Amelia Island-St Augustine, April**  
**Brevard Music Center and Western NC, end of June**



# WHERE TO NEXT?

By Lori Fritzky

## **LAS VEGAS...IT'S MORE THAN JUST GAMBLING!** (PART 2)

The areas surrounding Las Vegas offer spectacular beauty. Amazing natural wonders are just a day trip away, either by organized tour or car rental. Following are some ideas for tours, but all can be done on your own....



Within the Navajo Tribal Park are **Antelope Canyon**, one of the most photographed spots in the U.S. and **Horseshoe Bend**, where the Colorado River created a 1,000 foot deep horseshoe bend in Glen Canyon. Full day tours including admissions and plenty of time to explore are available to these attractions.

Visit the South Rim of the **Grand Canyon** on a full day bus tour (approximately 15 hours). Tour operators pick up from most major hotels. Entertaining and informative commentary is given on the bus by knowledgeable guides. Tours can include lunch, snacks and time to explore on your own.



Join a half day VIP tour with early access to **Hoover Dam**. In addition to transportation in small, climate controlled vehicles, Tours include the Powerplant inside the Dam, stunning views from the Memorial Bridge, admission to Visitor's Center exhibits and Observation Deck and 45 minute Walk on the Top Tour of the Dam. Learn about the construction and operation of the Dam from expert Guides. Prefer to "do it on your own"? Rent a car and add Historic Boulder City to your excursion.

On a 7-hour tour, you can experience the surreal landscapes of both **Bryce Canyon**, with its spires and hoodoos, and **Zion**, with its towering canyon walls. Each are so different from one another, and so beautiful in their own right.



Ready to escape the the glitz and big splashy shows? **Death Valley Sunset and Stargazing** tour is a journey into the serene beauty of Death Valley National Park. Small tours explore iconic

*(Continued on page 10)*

(LAS VEGAS... Continued from page 9)

spots like Furnace Creek, Badwater Basin, and Dante's View. There is nothing quite like a desert sunset followed by stargazing in one of the world's best Dark Sky Parks. Of course, day trips are also available to Death Valley National Park.



You can see the **Valley of Fire and Mojave Desert** on a 6-hour tour of the largest state park in Nevada. Enjoy the unusual landscape shapes and vibrant colors.

Leave behind the hectic pace of Las Vegas to explore the desert topography of **Red Rock Canyon** National Conservation area, with its friendly Park Rangers and informative visitor's Center. There is a marked scenic drive, and If you are lucky you will catch a glance of the protected wild burros and horses that call the area home.



**Lake Mead** was formed by the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River. At only 24 miles east of Las Vegas, it is possible to enjoy a boat ride on the largest man-made reservoir in the US as part of your visit, if the water levels allow it. Due to drought and usage, water levels have been dropping yearly. Don't forget the scenic views of the jagged mountain ranges that surround the lake, especially at sunset.

A full day (a long day!) tour of **Los Angeles/Hollywood** area might be for you. Transportation and extensive sightseeing are included.

How about a **wine-tasting tour** of Pahrump, Nevada, an hour from Las Vegas. From mead and cider to zinfandels, this is a prime area for wineries; there is even a rum-producing distillery. Tours are offered, but you can certainly go on your own. There are many family owned wineries set amongst beautiful, majestic backdrops.

There are also **helicopter tours, hot air balloon rides** and countless other attractions outside the city that are accessible as a day trip.



**LAS VEGAS AND ITS SURROUNDING AREAS AWAIT YOU!**

# SOLO TRAVELERS SIG

Solo Travelers Holiday Gathering

## *Jingle Mingle*

Friday, December 13, 2024 ~ 7:00 pm – 8:30 PM  
Edisto Room at Pinckney Hall

Light snacks will be available. Bring your own beverage.

Mingle with us and enjoy a little holiday fun!



**Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 21st**

*All meetings are at 7 PM in the Lakehouse Ballroom.*



**Are you ready to plan your next  
A-D-V-E-N-T-U-R-E?**

Solo Travelers will ring in the New Year with  
their first meeting of 2025 on **Tuesday,**  
**January 21st at 7pm**  
**in the Lakehouse Ballroom.**

Come find inspiration for your next travel adventure as we explore the 2025 travel season with information on day trips and overnight opportunities on a Scottie Davis tour and much, much more.

Solo Travelers is a special interest group (SIG) within the SCHH Travel Club and a wonderful place to meet other “solo” travelers, share experiences and explore opportunities to travel together.

**We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.**



## What Ever's Going On - WEGO!

*The Travel Club's very active special interest group for local events*

WEGO meetings are a great way to get together with other members. Click [here](#) to view the WEGO page on the Sun City website. Current and past lists of events are in the Documents section at the bottom of the page.

The Travel Club is not just for long trips every once in a while. The **WEGO special interest group has something to do all year round!** Attend a WEGO meeting to hear about local events, showcasing a diverse range of experiences, including classical performances, festivals, parades, home tours, home and garden tours, concerts, plays, shows, markets, art exhibitions, lectures, lunch with author series, museum exhibits and events, local tours, and many other places to go and things to do. Discover a variety of options – most events are moderately priced and numerous offerings are free.

The **WEGO list** is in two parts. The **monthly list** includes events for specific dates. The **Ongoing Happenings** list contains information about events that occur every month, rather than repeating them all the time. Keep it handy to supplement the monthly lists. Special activities for anything on the ongoing list will be included on the monthly list. Click on the links provided on both lists for more information about the activities and to purchase tickets or register. Since an additional fee is often charged for online tickets, consider calling the phone number given to save some money.

The WEGO lists are emailed to club members and posted on the club's webpage in the middle of the prior month. These lists are for your information to go on your own. The meetings and Facebook page provide an opportunity to get together and arrange to go places with others. The Facebook page also provides last-minute updates and a way to keep in touch with other Travel Club members.

The **December list** includes classical concerts, ballets (including several **Nutcracker** performances), many holiday festivals (parades, lights, shopping, etc.), contemporary concerts, holiday and other plays, comedy and variety shows (**A Christmas Tradition** is a favorite), musicals, The Journey and a live Nativity Christmas events, a cabaret-style supper club, markets and boutiques, **Wreaths Across America**, art exhibitions, Palmetto Bluff Conservancy activities, Savannah River holiday cruises, races, a wine tasting, lectures, Nativity displays, sporting events, model train display, car shows, author talks, evening lantern tours at **Fort Pulaski** and **Wormsloe**, a polar bear swim, special activities at several museums, and much more! Access the list on the Travel Club page of the Sun City website ([www.suncityhiltonhead.org](http://www.suncityhiltonhead.org) under **Clubs & Groups/General Interest**) or our dedicated Travel Club site ([www.travelclubssuncityhh.com](http://www.travelclubssuncityhh.com)).

Meetings are at 1 pm on the third Wednesday of the month (except in June, July, and August). They provide the opportunity to learn more about what is going on, ask questions, tell about places you have gone and things you have done, meet with fellow members, and arrange to go places together. We look forward to seeing you there.

*If you are ever looking for something to do, the WEGO list is the place to find it!*

**The next meeting is Wednesday, December 18th at 1 pm  
in Pinckney Hall (Edisto River Room).**

*Come starting at 12:30 to see what events others are planning to attend.*



## **FYI: LOCAL TRAVEL AGENTS**

These are local travel agents. FYI ONLY *Travel Club does not endorse travel agents so do your own due diligence.*



*(Sun City Resident)*

**Dream Vacations - Stephanie - 843-816-4083**

**Lisa & Terry Mosher Travel**

**843-929-0775 -lisa.russo11@gmail.com** *(Sun City Residents)*

**Travel Experts - Carolyn Weber - 843-645-0800** *(Sun City resident)*

**AAA - Kelly Brock - 843-815-3775**

**Expedia Cruises, Diane Lippa, 843-929-2527**



**NOTE:** If you are parking for an overnight trip, don't forget to show your Sun City Parking Pass on your car, and park in the appropriate place.

**Remember!** Kelly Bus Tours no longer pick up in Sun City. Only Scottie Davis's Travel Club bus trips are still picking up in Sun City.

*The necessary documents can be found on the Travel Club website, Travel News, Helpful Documents, at: <http://www.travelclubsyncityhh.com>.*

## **2025 Travel Club Board and advisors**

\* Indicates voting members

President*	Dianne Brooks	678-428-4746	Membership Admin.	TBD	
Vice President*	Shelly Clarke	661-755-3012	Trip Managers	TBD	
Secretary*	Denise Killeen	201-805-7987		Scottie Davis	843-681-1900
Treasurer*	Michael Chorney	571-234-7812		Diane Lippa	760-668-7499
Past President*	Ed Raney	843-707-7085	Editor, <i>The Frequent Flier</i>	Judy Hardie	215-962-7213
WEGO SIG Leader*	Joan Morris	843-705-6132	Webmaster	John Clarke	443-286-7052
	<a href="mailto:TravelClubOfSCHH@gmail.com">TravelClubOfSCHH@gmail.com</a>			<a href="http://travelclubsyncityhh.com">travelclubsyncityhh.com</a>	
Solo Travelers Leader*	Karen Ovesney	304-481-5406	Social Com. Co-Leaders:	Cyndee Wilbur	412-417-7281
Program Director*	Joannie Welch	603-275-1274	Special Assistant	Linda Maslowsk	708-268-6197
				Bernie Wilson	843-705-5468