

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

Connections

Exploring the world with the FSB Connect Club

Discover Washington, D.C.

September 3 - 8, 2020
(6 days)

IN THIS TEMPLE
AS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN
IS ENSHRINED FOR

See inside for details

REFLECTIONS



Hello Connect Club Friends!

It's hard to believe that 2019 is almost over and I am getting ready for the Holidays. Although I don't care for the weather, I always look forward to spending this time with my family and friends!

I was looking back through 2019 and enjoyed seeing what a great year we have had with travel, experiences and friends! None of this would be possible without the support of the Connect Club Members. I want to take this time to personally thank each and every one of you for participating in our events and traveling with me throughout the year.

Our final tour for the year will be New York Holiday in December. If you are interested in joining the Connect Club on the spectacular Christmas tour please let me know!

Make sure you check out the upcoming newsletters for some new and exciting tours that I will be adding to next year's lineup!

Let's connect! Please call me or stop by with any questions you may have or to sign up for one of the many upcoming events in the newsletter.

I am looking forward to another great year with all of you!

Kathy Leeseckamp - Connect Club Director • 319-294-2900

Let's

Explore the World Together!

COOKING WITH THE CONNECT CLUB

Reuben Casserole



Ingredients

- 6 slices rye bread, divided
- 1 pound pastrami or corned beef, thinly sliced or shaved
- 1 (14.5 oz.) can sauerkraut
- 4 cups Swiss Cheese, shredded
- 1 cup dill pickles, chopped
- 1 cup milk
- 1/3 cup Thousand Island dressing
- 1/4 cup mustard
- 3 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons caraway seeds

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F and lightly grease a 9×11-inch baking dish with butter or non-stick spray.
2. Take four pieces of rye bread and cut them into cubes. Place remaining bread in food processor, pulse until you've got fine breadcrumbs and set aside.
3. Spread cubed bread out along the bottom of your baking dish, then cover with 1/2 of pastrami. Top beef with sauerkraut, pickles, half of caraway seeds and 2 cups cheese.
4. Cover with remaining beef, caraway seeds and cheese.
5. In a medium bowl, whisk together milk, salad dressing and mustard, then beat in eggs until combined.
6. Pour wet ingredients evenly over the casserole, then top with breadcrumbs.
7. Place baking dish in oven and bake for 40-45 minutes, or until mixture is bubbly, top is browned and center is set.
8. Remove from oven and serve hot.

Serves 6-8

Castles, Flowers & Falls

May 11-16, 2020
(6 days)

\$2,425 Double per person and \$2,859 Single per person

We will begin our tour viewing the beauty of the 1000 Islands Region of New York. On arrival in Alexandria Bay, we will take a Two Nations Sightseeing Cruise on the St. Lawrence River. This international tour offers historic and scenic wonders in both the Canadian and American sections of the 1000 Islands. We will disembark at Heart Island where we will take a tour of Boldt Castle, built at the turn-of-the-century by the millionaire proprietor of the world-famous Waldorf Astoria. We will then depart for Belhurst Castle which is located on the shores of Seneca Lake. Belhurst takes you to a place filled with history, beauty and breathtaking views. Our elegant dinner will be held at the Belhurst which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



We will spend the second day exploring the beautiful Finger Lakes. The eleven, long, narrow fingers are lakes that were carved by a glacier eons ago. In the afternoon, we will visit the New York Kitchen where their mission is to educate, engage and excite visitors by showcasing New York's finest in wine, food and agriculture in a setting that proudly highlights the natural beauty, rich history and agricultural bounty of New York State. We will learn about the Kitchen and then be treated to a gourmet dinner prepared especially for our group.

Our first stop on the third day will be at the George Eastman House for a guided tour of the restored Colonial Revival-style mansion, once home to the founder of the Eastman Kodak Company. After the tour, you will be able to walk through the formal gardens of the estate. Next, we're off to experience Rochester's Lilac Festival. Every May, the Festival signals the start of spring as 22 acres of Highland Park display more than 500 varieties of lilac bushes, from the deepest purple to the purest white, from lightly scented to irresistibly aromatic. Our group will be treated to lunch at the Elmwood Inn, a local favorite, before continuing on to Niagara Falls, Ontario. We will check into the beautiful Hilton Niagara Falls Hotel where everyone will have a view of Niagara Falls from their room!

We'll start our fourth day at the Floral Showhouse with its collection of orchids, succulents and other tropical plants. We'll make photo stops at Horseshoe Falls, the Floral Clock and the lilac gardens before our arrival in the charming, historic town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. This lovely village has been described as the prettiest town in Canada. Blocks and blocks of boutiques and cafés line the flower-filled streets. Next, we'll take an exciting boat ride on the Hornblower Niagara that will take us up close to the American and HorseShoe Falls. Our elegant farewell dinner will be in a revolving restaurant high atop the Skylon Tower.

This tour includes: Round-trip transfers from Marion to Chicago airport, deluxe motor coach transportation throughout the tour, five nights deluxe hotel and accommodations, luggage handling at all hotels, five breakfasts, two lunches and four dinners, all activities and admissions as listed on the itinerary, all tour-related taxes and gratuities, travel insurance and a Cruises and Tours Worldwide tour manager.

A deposit of \$100 and your completed reservation form is required to reserve your space. Final payment is due on February 3, 2020. Your deposit is fully refundable up to February 3, 2020.

Contact Kathy Leeseekamp at 319-294-2900 for a detailed brochure of this remarkable tour!

December 9-13, 2019

**Experience
"The Big Apple"
alive with the
holiday spirit on this
spectacular tour.**



New York City Holiday Tour

\$3,459.00 Double and \$4,459.00 Single
Travel Protection \$110.00 pp

From Rockefeller Center to Greenwich Village, New York City shines even brighter during the holiday season. We will spend four nights in the heart of Midtown close to Central Park's skating rink and Times Square all dressed up for the holidays. We will take a seat and watch the curtain rise for an exciting Broadway show. See the Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall, featuring the world famous Rockettes! We will take a ferry to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island and see the Empire State Building and Central Park. We will visit the poignant 9/11 Museum and Memorial. We will enjoy plenty of free time on our own to shop and see the elaborate 5th Avenue holiday window displays and the Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center. Get ready to "start spreading the news!"

Reservations for this tour are based upon availability.

Contact Kathy Leeseekamp at 319-294-2900 for details of this outstanding tour!

Southern Caribbean "Epic" Cruise

*On the Norwegian Epic ≈
You're on a Floating
All-Inclusive Resort!!*

January 15-26, 2020

12 Day • 11 Night
Cruise/Tour

Enjoy 9 Destinations: Aruba ☼ Curacao ☼ Bonaire ☼ St. Lucia ☼ Barbados ☼ St. Kitts ☼
St. Maarten, San Juan, Puerto Rico ☼ St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands

The incredible Norwegian Epic is a ship that's designed to dazzle! Recently awarded Best Cruise Ship Entertainment by Frommer's, the Epic features a Cirque extravaganza, the Headliners comedy club and two new Broadway shows: Ballroom Blitz and Priscilla, Queen of the Desert! When it's time to simply relax - there's the 180-degree indoor observation lounge with floor to ceiling windows providing spectacular vistas ... and, of course, a full-service bar so you can toast the colorful sunsets! The Epic is also packed with exciting activities in its lively casino, Bliss Ultra Lounge, bowling alley, and top-deck Aqua Park. While the Epic's dining options offer plenty of standard favorites, you'll also find exciting new choices. Authentic Brazilian steakhouse or Shanghai noodles, anyone?? With over 15 dining venues and more than a dozen lounges and bars, you'll surely find the perfect spot to relax and enjoy the warm breezes of the Atlantic Ocean as you sail from San Juan down through the unspoiled Southern Caribbean!

Pricing ranges from \$3,798 to \$4,698 pp double occupancy depending on which cabin you choose. Single Supplement is an additional 50% up charge in your selected cabin category.

Pricing includes: Round trip motor coach transfers from Marion to Chicago Airport, transfers, all gratuities, round trip airfare to San Juan (checked baggage fees are not included), pre-night lodging in San Juan, 10 nights onboard the Norwegian Epic in your selected stateroom, all meals while onboard the Norwegian Epic, all port charges and government taxes.

Reservations for this tour are based upon availability.

**Stop by or call Kathy Leeseekamp at 319-294-2900
for availability and details of this incredible tour!**

Discover Washington, D.C.

September 3 - 8, 2020 (6 days)



*Explore America's heritage
and history during your stay in
the capital city of the United States
~ Washington, D.C.*

\$2,609 double per person and \$3,009 single per person. Travel Insurance \$299.00

Our tour begins at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center with a guided tour of this historic and storied building. Then, we will discover the celebrated history of America's capital on a tour with a local expert. Delight in wonderful views of the White House, National Mall and many monuments and museums. We continue with stops at the moving World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Korean War Memorial. We will visit the White House Visitor Center, explore the history of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, and see artifacts from the White House collection. Your Choice: You can step into the pages of history and uncover some of the treasures of the Smithsonian Institution with a visit to the National Air and Space Museum -OR- you can enjoy the National Museum of American History. Among the National Air and Space Museum's collection in their location on the National Mall are the famous Wright 1903 Flyer, the Spirit of St. Louis, and the Apollo 11 command module. The National Museum of American History houses an array of American touchstones, including many gowns worn by America's First Ladies and the Star-Spangled Banner.

We will visit Arlington National Cemetery for a narrated tour that takes us to the Tomb of the Unknowns and the Kennedy gravesites. In the afternoon, we will call on Mount Vernon, the beloved home of the first U.S. president, George Washington. Wander the beautiful plantation grounds he adored and tour the home filled with 18th-century artifacts. Next, we'll arrive in Old Town Alexandria, a charming community nestled along the Potomac. Enjoy some time to stroll the cobblestone streets, view the historic Colonial architecture, and stop at some of the trendy boutiques. This evening we will dine at Gadsby's Tavern, located in the heart of Old Town Alexandria and famous for hosting George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and other founding fathers. We will also visit the Washington National Cathedral. This magnificent church took 83 years to complete and has been host to many poignant moments in America's history such as state funerals, Presidential inaugural masses and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s last sermon. Admire the beautiful craftsmanship of the cathedral as you learn more about its history during a docent-led tour. In the afternoon, we will visit Ford's Theatre where President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on that fateful night in 1865. Tour the theatre and hear about the timeline of events that transpired as John Wilkes Booth's plan unfolded. Our tour will finish with a visit to the neighboring Petersen House, the boarding house to which the fatally injured Lincoln was carried.

Pricing includes: Roundtrip Airfare from Cedar Rapids, sightseeing, baggage handling, deluxe motor coach, 1st class and deluxe hotel accommodations, gratuities and all taxes/service charges. A deposit of \$500 plus insurance and your completed reservation form is required to reserve your space. Final payment will be due on July 5, 2020. Your deposit is fully refundable up to April 3, 2020.

October 15 - 25, 2020
(10 Days)

Adriatic Awakening

Deadline to sign up for this tour is April 15, 2020. After this date you will be waitlisted.

Pricing ranges from \$3,955 to \$7,588 pp double occupancy depending on which cabin you choose.

Your deposit is fully refundable up to final payment date of June 26, 2020.

Together, let's explore the coastal cities of the eastern Mediterranean including Greece, Turkey, Montenegro, Croatia and Italy aboard Oceania Cruises' Marina.

We will begin our cruise in Athens, one of the world's oldest cities, and travel to Rhodes to spend the day admiring the idyllic scenery of the largest of the Dodecanese. In Kuşadası, you could visit the Temple of Artemis or escape to the nearby ruins of the city of Ephesus. We'll discover the dramatic seascapes of Santorini before cruising to Katakolon, a peaceful town with seaside cafés and galleries. We'll relax along the coastline of Corfu, a unique coastal city with a colonial-style old town, and then discover the walled medieval city of Kotor, a UNESCO World Heritage site that showcases narrow streets and a twelfth-century cathedral. Our journey will end with two days in the timeless city of Venice, but before that, we'll stop in Zadar to tour its majestic churches and stroll down its seaside promenade.

This tour includes your choice of 4 free shore excursions, free beverage package or \$400 shipboard credit (per stateroom, based on double occupancy).

Pricing includes: Round trip airfare from O'Hare Int'l airport, transfer to/from Marion to Airport, air taxes and fees/surcharges, cruise, transfers, gratuities and baggage handling.

A deposit of \$950 pp (includes deposit and insurance) and your completed reservation form are required to reserve your space.

Stop by or call me at 319-294-2900 to learn more about this spectacular tour!



Ballard's Resort Fishing Trip with Gene Neighbor

in Minnesota's Lake of the Woods
August 24-27, 2020 (Monday - Thursday)

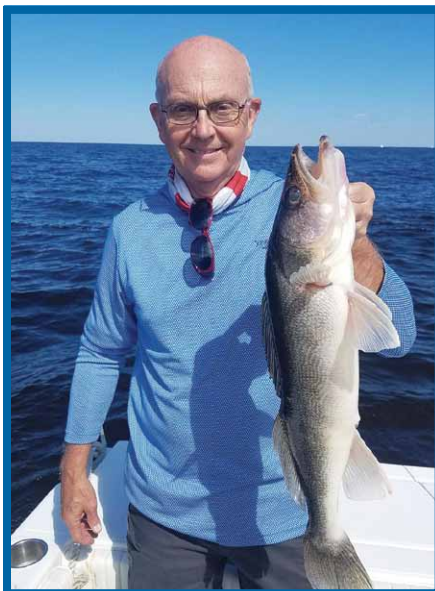
**Like to fish? Love to catch (and eat) Walleye?
Then you'll want to join FSB President Gene Neighbor
on the 2020 Ballard's Resort Fishing Trip!**

• • • Special Rate of \$815.00 per person

As evidenced by the photos below, the 2019 Ballard's Fishing Trip was so much fun we're going to do it all over again in 2020!

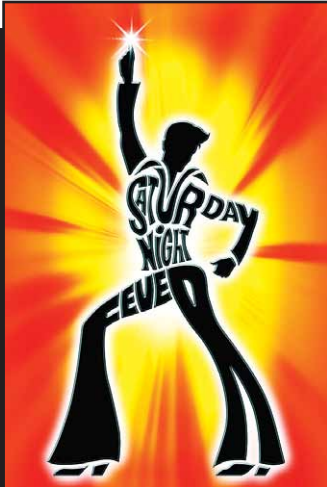
This tour will include transportation to and from Ballard's Resort, three nights lodging at the resort, 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 3 dinners at the lodge, along with all gratuities. With this guided Walleye fishing tour, all fishing equipment is included, and the fish you catch will be cleaned and packaged for you to take home!

To get the pricing and accommodations we want, we must have a group of 24 or more signed up for this trip. If you are interested in this tour, please contact Kathy Leesekamp for details.

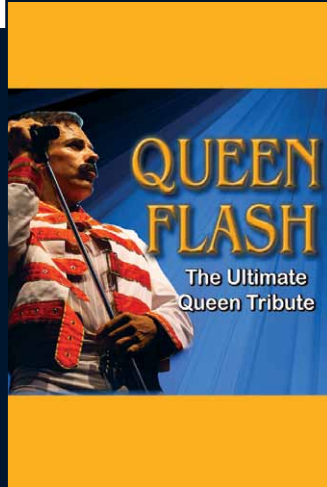


• COMING IN 2020! •

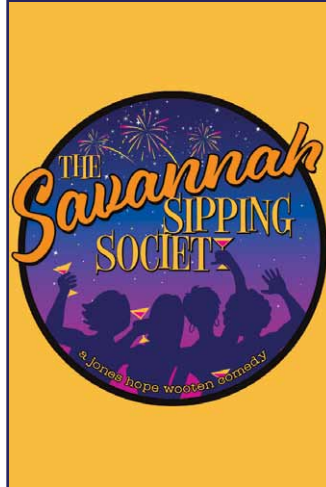
A TASTE OF BROADWAY
CIRCA'21
DINNER PLAYHOUSE



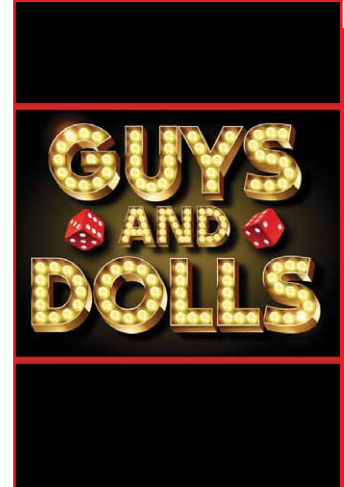
March



June



September



November

--- **MOVIE DAY** ---



1462 Twixt Town Rd, Marion

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Join your Connect Club friends for your choice of five 1st-run movies currently showing at the Collins Road Theatres. Enjoy all the free popcorn you can eat and all the pop or coffee you can drink! The concession stand is also open to purchase anything else you might like to have. At 9:15 we will have announcements, and a synopsis of the movies being shown that day with a chance to change theatres for the movie of your choice, and to get those refills before we start the show!

Due to the staff needing time to set up, the doors will not open until 8:30 AM.

No reservations are necessary!

Please remember our FREE events are for members only.

Due to inclement weather, we will not be hosting movie days or seminars during the months of January to March. The missed events will be held on different dates throughout the year.

2020

Sneak Peek

Domestic and International Travel

▪ **Spotlight on New York City Holiday** ▪

December 9-13, 2019

▪ **Southern Caribbean Cruise** ▪

January 15-26, 2020

** This tour will not be escorted by Kathy **

▪ **Hawaii** ▪

February 13-22, 2020

** This tour will not be escorted by Kathy **

▪ **Castles, Flowers & Niagara Falls** ▪

May 11-16, 2020

▪ **Switzerland - Austria - Bavaria - Oberammergau** ▪

June 26 - July 5, 2020

Waitlist Only

▪ **Discover Washington, D.C.** ▪

September 3-8, 2020

▪ **Adriatic Awakening** ▪

Oceania Cruise to Greece, Turkey, Montenegro, Croatia, and Italy

October 15-25, 2020

Possible Upcoming 2020 Tours

Arc and Creation Museum (Kentucky)

Southern Charm Holiday (Charleston-Savannah-St. Simons Island-Jekyll Island)

Possible Upcoming 2021 Tours

Celebrity Equinox-Grand Canyon, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao

Winter Alaska - Iditarod Festivities

Japan

Poland

Autumn in Vermont



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Connect Club Director
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KathyLeeseekamp@fsbmail.net

SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER

- 1st - Cookie Day
- 19th - Movie Day
- 26th - New York Document Party @ 2:00 PM at FSB

DECEMBER

- 3rd - Cookie Day
- 9th-13th - Spotlight on New York Holiday

Dates and events are subject to change. This announcement does not include all Connect Club events. Check your future newsletters for further updates.

