

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

Connections

Exploring the world with the FSB Connect Club

Adriatic Awakening

October 15 - 25, 2020

See inside for details



REFLECTIONS



Hello Connect Club Friends!

Well, it's that time of year when we all start complaining about the cold and snowy weather! As you all know by now, I am not a big fan of being cold and would prefer to hibernate all winter. This year I am going to get out there and make each day an adventure!

I have put together a pretty amazing line up of tours for 2020-2021, so if you haven't traveled with us in the past, and are looking for your next adventure, check out this newsletter for some great ideas! I am looking forward to another great year with all of you!

REAL ID: I want to make sure everyone is aware of the Real ID. This law will be enforced on **October 1, 2020**. Basically this law states that, in order to fly, you must update your regular driver's license with the Real ID so that you can get through airport security and onto a plane. You will still need to use your passport when flying internationally.

To get a Real ID, you need to present documents to your motor vehicle department proving your age and identity, Social Security number and address. That generally means bringing a birth certificate or passport, a Social Security card or tax form such as a W-2, and two proofs of address. If you've changed your name through marriage, you'll need a marriage certificate.

I would suggest that anyone who will be traveling by plane to make the switch to the Real ID to ensure you have all the legal documentation you need for travelling domestically or internationally.

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.

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

Let's

Explore **the** *World* *Together!*

COOKING WITH THE CONNECT CLUB

Meatloaf with Bacon



Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 large celery stalk, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 jalapeno pepper, chopped with seeds
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup tomato sauce or ketchup
- 1 cup dry bread crumbs
- 2 pounds meat-loaf mix (1 pound lean ground beef, 1/2 pound ground pork, 1/2 pound ground veal or lamb)
- 4 strips thick-sliced bacon

Directions

Step 1: Heat oven to 350°F. In a medium skillet, over medium heat, heat the oil with the onion, celery, garlic, and jalapeño and cook until the vegetables are tender but not browned, about 10 minutes. Add the salt, cumin, and nutmeg. Remove from heat. In a large bowl, whisk the eggs, then blend in the milk, tomato sauce, and bread crumbs. Add the meat and cooked vegetables and stir or work with your hands to combine. Pat into a 9 x 5 inch loaf pan. Cut the bacon strips in half and lay over the loaf, tucking the ends in.

Step 2: Bake 1 hour and 15 minutes or until an instant-read thermometer inserted in the meat loaf registers 150°F. Remove from oven and pour off the fat. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

Our 2019 Travels...



Jamaica



Ballard's
Fishing Tour



Israel



5-Day Mystery Tour
Columbus, OH



12 Countries without a Passport
Omaha, NE





One Day Mystery Tour
Kalona, IA



Wonders of Alaska



Canyon Country



Ladies
Outing



Cubs vs. Cardinals



May 11 - 16, 2020
(6 days)

* Waitlist Only

Castles, Flowers & Falls

\$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!



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

***Don't WAIT to sign up for this exciting tour!
We need our final count of 24+ by March 2020!***

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 Leeseekamp for details.



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 grave sites. 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: Round-trip 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.



Adriatic Awakening

**October 15 - 25, 2020
(10 Days)**

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.

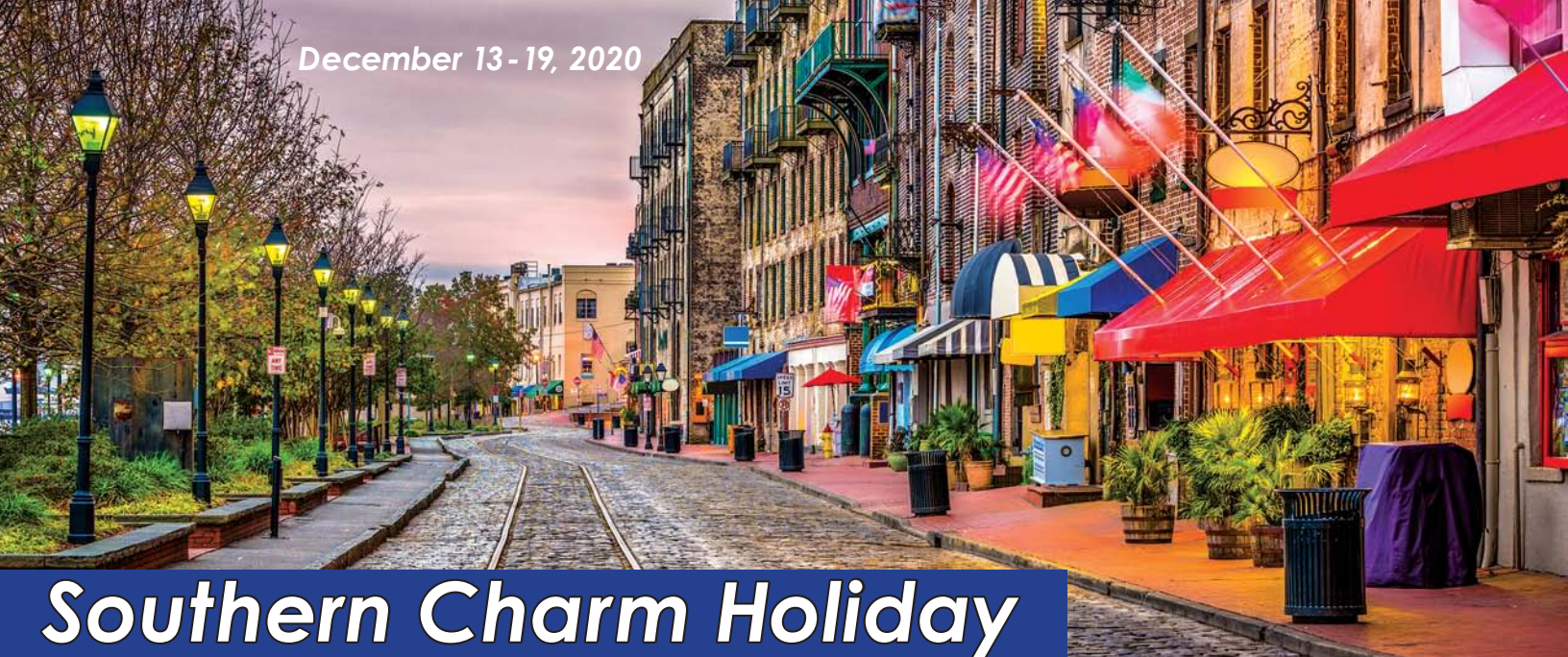
This tour includes your choice of 4 free shore excursions, free beverage package or \$400 shipboard credit (per stateroom, based on double occupancy).

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!

December 13-19, 2020



Southern Charm Holiday

Charleston, Savannah and Jekyll Island

\$2,969 per person (double occupancy) and \$3,669 single occupancy. Travel insurance \$299 per person. Deadline to sign up for this tour is June 5, 2020. After this date you will be waitlisted.

Charleston is a city that has defied all odds. It survived the Civil War, major fires, an earthquake and hurricanes - and still exudes elegance, charm and grace. Join us as we explore this city's rich history and beautiful scenery. We'll begin our tour with your choice to stroll through Charleston's historic center with a local guide, exploring hidden alleys and quaint areas that are only accessible by foot. **OR**, you can choose to set out on a panoramic coach tour with a local guide to see the best of the city. Each choice includes a stop at the battery overlooking Fort Sumter where the first shots of the Civil War were fired in 1861.

We will make our way to the City Market, one of the oldest public markets in America. The bustling market is also the central hub for Gullah sweet grass basketry, an intricate handicraft of African origin. We will also explore Boone Hall Plantation & Gardens where we will experience Southern living and come to know one of America's oldest plantations, beautifully decorated for the holidays. In the evening we will visit James Island County Park, where over 500,000 lights will provide us with an enchanting 3-mile driving tour. We will have time to explore Charleston at leisure.

Take in the ambiance of the "Old South" with our holiday-themed trolley tour highlighting Savannah's sprawling Historic District. Lively, informative commentary brings the city to life as we travel along the cobblestone-paved streets and beneath moss-draped oaks. Allow the stately mansions, beautiful squares and romantic riverfront promenades to capture your heart. We will have time to explore Savannah at leisure. Then it will be time to gather at a popular local restaurant on Savannah's famous River Street for a cooking demonstration and dinner showcasing regional culinary specialties.

Jekyll Island is situated grandly in the middle of the Golden Isles and was once the beloved vacation spot for prominent families including the Rockefellers, the Vanderbilts and J.P. Morgan. With a morning at leisure, we can take a complimentary tour of the Jekyll Island Club hotel or just enjoy the old-world ambiance of this iconic island resort, beautifully decorated for the holidays. Gather for a tram ride that brings us on a tour of the island and the Jekyll Island Historic Landmark District - one of the nation's largest restoration projects. In the afternoon you will find yourself in the holiday spirit with Christmas caroling and refreshments.

Pricing includes: Round-trip 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 per person plus insurance and your completed reservation form are required to reserve your space. Final payment will be due on Oct. 14, 2020. Your deposit is fully refundable up to June 12, 2020.



9-Nights Aboard Celebrity Cruises' Equinox

January 28 - February 7, 2021

Caribbean Cruise

Featuring Grand Cayman, Aruba, Bonaire & Curacao

***Deadline to sign up for this tour is October 16, 2020. After this date you will be waitlisted.**

For nine nights we'll let the beat of the tropics take control as we visit four sun-soaked Caribbean destinations. Spend your days relaxing in the sun with a tropical drink or exploring these vibrant Caribbean ports.

- **George Town, Grand Cayman:** This upscale destination offers world-class restaurants, designer boutiques, and duty-free shopping, plus white sand beaches, brilliant blue waters, and teeming coral reefs.
- **Oranjestad, Aruba:** Admire the architectural details and open-air patios of the candy-colored townhouses that define this charming Dutch community. Find spas, restaurants, and bars just steps away from the white sandy beaches. Aruba is known for its vibrant coral reefs, neon tropical fish, and eerie old shipwrecks.
- **Kralendijk, Bonaire:** An island in the Dutch Antilles, with such treats as flamingos, hiking, barefoot casino and delightful pastel stucco houses in pinks, oranges and lime greens act as the backdrop for the marine park that surrounds the island. Starting at the beach, the park extends 200 feet in depth and covers the entire coastline.
- **Willemstad, Curacao:** Experience a traditional Dutch cityscape painted in distinctly Caribbean colors. Stroll the magnificent waterfront, admire the colonial buildings, and explore the backstreet cafés, shops, museums and galleries.

Celebrity Cruises' Equinox continues to set new standards in modern luxury. New outdoor spaces and updated technology give guests a fresh feel while at sea. Grab a seat on the Rooftop Terrace, a restaurant, bar, or alfresco movie theater. Wine and dine in reimagined restaurants and lounges that feature an amazing array of flavors to suit every palette. Enjoy evenings that are filled with live entertainment. Experience the ultimate in relaxation at Canyon Ranch Spa. Find the perfect environment for every mood and occasion.

***This tour includes two free perks -
Classic Beverage package and an Onboard Credit of \$150.00 per person.***

**A deposit of \$450.00 per person (includes deposit and insurance),
along with the completed reservation form are required to reserve your space.
Your deposit is fully refundable up to the final payment date of October 16, 2020.**



Ya'll... it's Mystery Tour Time

August 18-21, 2020

\$839 Double Per Person, \$999 Single

Howdy partner!

It is time to channel your inner cowboy, find a pair of boots and get ready for a rootin tootin time!

This exciting tour has a blend of authentic Western cowboys, songs, musicals, feasts, famous TV personalities, native culture, story telling, western heritage and much more.

Head 'em up and move 'em out so you don't miss out on this exceptional Western adventure!

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Kathy Leeseekamp to be placed on the "interested" list.

Discovering Poland 2021

*Your journey through Poland, a land of amazing castles,
poignant history and welcoming cultures!*



** Dates and pricing will be announced in a future Newsletter*

We will visit Warsaw, the city that blends old-world charm with a modern vibe. Embrace the moving history of Warsaw, a city reborn after WWII. Our journey through this capital city includes a stop at the monument dedicated to the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Our journey will take us to the town of Malbork, home to Malbork Castle, one of the largest castles in the world. **A guided tour of this 700-year-old structure** introduces us to the world of the Knights of the Teutonic Order. We will continue onto Gdansk, stopping at the Gdansk Shipyards, site of the creation of the anti-Communist Solidarity movement in 1980 that helped liberate Poland from Soviet rule.

It's your Choice! Join your Tour Manager on an excursion to the seaside resort town of Sopot -OR- remain in Gdansk and join a local guide on an educational shopping excursion during which you'll learn about Polish amber at a demonstration, followed by the opportunity to purchase the stone.

We will travel to the town of Torun, a UNESCO World Heritage site and birthplace of Nicolaus Copernicus, the famous astronomer. Torun remains one of the best-preserved medieval towns in all of Europe and is one of the "Seven Wonders of Poland." On arrival, we will walk past Copernicus's house before stepping back into history while baking and sampling our very own gingerbread according to a 500-year-old recipe.

Once we arrive in the ancient city of Wroclaw, we will enjoy some locally-brewed beer and a traditional "home-style" dinner at a local restaurant. Wroclaw brings us up close and personal to this large and ethnically diverse city. It could be the only location where you can find a *Stare Miasto* (Old Town) with a Synagogue, a Lutheran church, a Roman Catholic Church and an Eastern Orthodox Church standing near each other. We will have plenty of time at leisure to savor Wroclaw's idyllic parks and captivating culture. Be sure to go in search of the many "dwarfs" hidden on the streets of the city!

We will visit Krakow, an enchanting city famous for its well-preserved town center. Along the way we will stop in Czestochowa, the spiritual capital of Poland, where each year over 5 million pilgrims journey to pay their respects to the famous Black Madonna. Housed in the Jasna Góra monastery, we will journey inside for an up-close look at this miraculous image.

During the morning we will explore the city on a panoramic tour that includes Market Square, St. Mary's Church and the university, and the famous Wawel Castle, the former residence of Polish kings. You will have time at leisure to stroll the quaint streets of Krakow's famous Old Town and visit the Schindler Museum.

On the last day of our tour we will **embark on a poignant journey through history as we travel to Auschwitz**. A local expert will guide us through the former concentration camp where we will learn firsthand about the terrors as well as the resilience of the human spirit that occurred within those walls.

Stop by my office or call me at 319-294-2900 to let me know if you are interested in this exciting winter tour!

We will miss you...



As the new year begins, we reluctantly bid a very fond farewell to our beloved Cookie Lady, Ann Bromley. For the past six years, Ann faithfully trekked to our office in Marion to serve coffee and cookies to FSB customers and friends. As an avid Connect Club traveler for many years, Ann was always willing to share stories from her travel experiences ... and eager to hear details about trips others had taken with the Connect Club.

While we will truly miss seeing Ann's smiling face each month at Cookie Day here in Marion, we offer our sincere best wishes to her and Bob as they continue to enjoy retirement and visits with their children and grandchildren whenever schedules allow.

Thank you again, Ann, for being the "sweetest" Cookie Lady around! We already miss you!

DES MOINES PERFORMING ARTS



May 2, 2020 \$125.00

A powerful and stirring re-invention of this beloved favorite, celebrated the world over for its Grammy award-winning score and the excitement, energy and passion of its Irish and International Dance.

Now, 25 years later, renowned composer Bill Whelan brings this mesmerizing soundtrack back to life, completely revitalized for the first time since those original

orchestral recordings. Producer Moya Doherty and Director John McCollan have produced an amazing new 25th Anniversary production with innovative and spectacular lighting, projection, staging and costume design, and an all-new finale number which will blow audiences away. Immerse yourself in the extraordinary power and grace of music and dance, beloved by fans of all ages. Fall in love with the magic of Riverdance all over again.



June 18, 2020 \$150.00

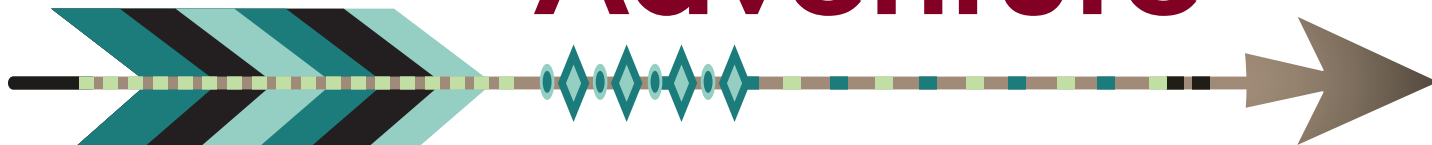
WICKED, the Broadway sensation, looks at what happened in the Land of Oz...but from a different angle. Long before Dorothy arrives, there is another young woman, born with emerald-green skin. She's smart, fiery, misunderstood, and possesses an extraordinary talent. When she meets a bubbly blonde who is exceptionally popular, their initial rivalry turns into the unlikely of friendships...until the world decides to call one "good,"

and the other one "wicked." From the first electrifying note to the final breathtaking moment, WICKED—the untold true story of the Witches of Oz—transfixes audiences with its wildly inventive story that USA Today cheers is "a complete triumph! An original musical that will make you laugh, cry, and think."

Once payment is received, your name will be added to the tour.

Pricing includes: Deluxe Motor Coach, lunch, performance and all gratuities. Deadline to sign up and deadline to cancel with a full refund is at final payment (6 weeks prior to the performance).

Choose Your Own Adventure



Domestic and International Travel 2020/2021

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

May 11-16, 2020

SOLD OUT - Waitlist Only

▪ **Kentucky with Ark Encounter and Creation Museum** ▪

Tentative date set for May 1-5, 2020

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

June 26 - July 5, 2020

SOLD OUT - Waitlist Only

▪ **Mystery Tour** ▪

August 18-21, 2020

Planning for this tour is in progress

▪ **Ballard's - Fishing with Gene Neighbor** ▪

August 18-21, 2020

▪ **Discover Washington, D.C.** ▪

September 3-8, 2020

▪ **Adriatic Awakening** ▪

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

October 15-25, 2020

▪ **Southern Charm Christmas Markets** ▪

Charleston - Savannah - St. Simons Island - Jekyll Island

December 13-19, 2020

▪ ▪ ▪ **Upcoming 2021 Tours** ▪ ▪ ▪

Celebrity Equinox - Grand Cayman, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao

January 28 - February 7, 2021

Poland

Planning for this tour is in progress

British Isles

Planning for this tour is in progress



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY

- 3rd - Cookie Day (9:00 am - 2:00 pm)
- 3rd - Southern Caribbean Document Party
- 15th-26th - Southern Caribbean Cruise

FEBRUARY

- 3rd - Cookie Day (9:00 am - 2:00 pm)

MARCH

- 3rd - Cookie Day (9:00 am - 2:00 pm)
- 17th - Movie Day

APRIL

- 3rd - Cookie Day (9:00 am - 2:00 pm)
- 9th - Seminar
- 21st - Movie Day - Make Up

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

