HAPPY NEW YEAR . . .
We hope you had a wonderful holiday season filled with family, friends, good food & fun! Our Fall season was so busy with trips that we coordinated & accompanied - Asheville, Caroline Dorman Preserve, Beijing, Ohio, Natchitoches & New York. We took 106 happy people to see the fabulous Rockettes. I organized some trips for churches & several schools. And, in the middle of it all, we sold our house, bought a townhouse & moved. I only now found the time to put together some new trips for this January newsletter. We hope you are ready to do some traveling. I have tried to offer a wide variety of trips from one-day to more lengthy ones to cruises. Also, in light of the economic downturn, I have made a real effort to keep the prices down while continuing to offer interesting, organized, researched & unique trips that make it fun to travel with a group. Hope to hear from you soon.

Nancy & Lou

Shangri La
Botanical Gardens & Nature Center
Orange, Texas
Tuesday, April 14

Along with the amazing Botanical Gardens, Shangri La includes a world-class Nature Center. Great diversity of plants found throughout the world. Five garden rooms and 4 sculpture rooms allow you to see more than 300 plant species. Pontoon boat ride on Adams Bayou, boardwalks, bird blinds, cypress/tupelo swamp.

In 2008, Shangri La became the first project in Texas & the 50th project in the world to earn the U.S. Green Building Council’s Platinum Certification. Even after the hurricanes, it is more beautiful than ever! Gardens were designed by local landscape architect Jeffrey Carbo.

STARK MUSEUM OF ART -or- W. H. STARK HOUSE -or- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

It’s dome is the only opalescent glass dome in the U.S. (each person will have time to visit one venue before lunch)
Luncheon at OLD ORANGE CAFÉ
Motorcoach, Shangri La, tour, lunch, supper, refreshments, driver’s gratuity
Depart Alexandria with a pick up scheduled in Oakdale.
This is Spring Break - children over age 6 are welcomed!
$95 per person      $45 per person deposit

PAULA DEEN
Jackson, Mississippi
Saturday, March 28

See Paula live with her stories, chats & maybe even a little cooking!
Paula took control of her life when she thought it could not have gotten worse. She embraced both heartache & joy as she & 2 sons started The Bag Lady Catering in Savannah with only $200. Paula now has 2 restaurants, The Lady & Sons & Uncle Bubba’s Oyster House, & has appeared on Oprah & the Food Network. She has numerous cookbooks & her latest memoir, It Ain’t All About the Cookin’.

RAOUL DUFY: A CELEBRATION OF BEAUTY
Artwork includes 200+ drawings, paintings & textile designs, plus dresses created from Dufy fabric by famous designers

OLD STATE CAPITOL
Newly restored since Katrina to its original 1839 design

Motorcoach, show, breakfast, exhibit, driver’s gratuity
$150 per person $50 per person deposit
**Ohio Amish Country**  
Sunday, April 26 - Sunday, May 2

Graceland in Memphis - Derby Dinner Theatre in Louisville, Amish dinner & music in farmhouse - Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center - Wendell August Forge  
Walnut Creek ice cream - Breitenbach Winery Trumpet in the Land Outdoor Drama - Heinis Cheese & Kaufman Country Bakery - Lehman’s General Store & Old Fashioned Hardware - Livestock auction day - Yoder Farm Tour & Buggy Ride Candlelight dinner & tour of Warther Carvings, Gardens & Knife Shop - Amish farm breakfast - City tour of Cincinnati - Country Music Hall of Fame & Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, lunch & tour of Cheaney’s Dairy Barn

- 6 Deluxe Continental Breakfasts & 1 farmhouse breakfast  
- 7 Dinners  
- 1 Lunch  
- Gratuity for all included meals  
- 7 nights hotel (3 nights in Amish country at Carlisle Inn)  
- Baggage handling in Amish country  
- Four Seasons motor coach with restroom  
- Accompanied & coordinated by Nancy Richards  
- Driver’s gratuity  
- Step-on tour guide in Amish country  
- Tour guide gratuity  
- Admission to all places listed  
- Bottled water throughout trip

$1950 per person, single occupancy  
$1500 per person, double occupancy  
$1350 per person, triple occupancy  
$1300 per person, quad occupancy  
$500 deposit

**George Rodrigue: Legends & Lives of Acadiana**  
Thursday, March 19

The Acadian Center for the Arts hosts a special exhibition as all of Lafayette honors its own Blue Dog & Cajun artist George Rodrigue with the largest collection of his paintings ever assembled.

We’ll spend time in vibrant downtown Lafayette with many restaurants, art & craft galleries, museums & unique shops, including one of Southern Living’s 50 top shops in America, Sans Souci.

Visit Martin Accordions to meet Clarence “Junior” Martin, Master Craftsman & see (and hear) how they craft fine Diatonic Accordions (Cajun Squeezeboxes) used by musicians around the world.

Motorcoach, tours, driver’s gratuity

$55 per person  
$25 per person deposit

**Good News...**  
Marking another major milestone in New Orleans’ revival, the Mahalia Jackson Theater for the Performing Arts opens in January after a $27 million restoration. N.O. City Council hopes this jump-starts restoration of other venues, starting with the Saenger. Since word spread about Mahalia Jackson opening, their management company has been getting calls from traveling companies that want to put New Orleans back on their calendars.

**Washington DC & Williamsburg**  
During Cherry Blossom Season  
Friday, April 3 - Thursday, April 9

Korean War, Vietnam Veterans, Iwo Jima & FDR Memorials  
Arlington National Cemetery - Tomb of the Unknowns  
Changing of the Guards - John F. Kennedy Memorial  
Smithsonian’s American Indian and Air & Space Museums  
Newseum, new interactive museum of news  
Monuments Illumination Tour - Powhatan Village  
Mount Vernon & Jamestown Settlement - Williamsburg  
Colonial Tavern Dinner - Cherry Blossom Parade

4 nights in Arlington VA & 2 nights in Williamsburg  
4 dinners & 3 breakfasts  
Airport transfers  
Professional tour manager

$1987 land only (single occupancy)  
$1398 land only (double occupancy)  
Call for roundtrip air from Alexandria

**Islands of New England**  
Friday, October 9 - Friday, October 16

Providence - Newport - Boston - Cranberry Bog  
Plymouth Rock - Plimoth Plantation - Cape Cod  
Cape Cod Dinner Train - Martha’s Vineyard - Nantucket  
Lobster Feast - Hyannis - Provincetown

3 nights in Providence - 4 nights in Hyannis  
Roundtrip air from Alexandria, hotels, transfers, tours, 7 breakfasts, 4 dinners  
$2349/person, double occupancy  
$2949/person, single occupancy  
$100 deposit

**Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola**  
Thursday, February 26

Tour the museum, gift shop & all around the penitentiary. See Red Hat where the electric chair was once used, a cellblock or dormitory, the lethal injection table, horse & dog pens & an agricultural operation that has returned to the horse-drawn 18th century farming. Angola raises the beautiful Percheron white horses. We’ll meet an inmate & have lunch in Camp F (cooked from scratch with homemade bread & desserts).  
Friends tell me this is one of the most interesting tours ever taken.  
Motorcoach, tour, lunch, driver’s gratuity

$50 per person

$1987 land only (single occupancy)  
$1398 land only (double occupancy)  
Call for roundtrip air from Alexandria

**Canadian Rockies by Rail**  
Monday, May 25 - Wednesday, June 3

Vancouver, Kamloops, Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff & Calgary  
Rocky Mountaineer Train  
8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners

Join a group of Louisiana folks already booked on this trip  
$2,999 per person, double occupancy, land only  
Call for roundtrip air from Alexandria
RODIN: A MAGNIFICENT OBSESSION
SHAW CENTER FOR THE ARTS
LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM
OLD STATE CAPITAL
HURRICANE ON THE BAYOU
OLD HEIDELBERG & CAPITOL HOUSE HOTEL
LUNCH IN DOWNTOWN BATON ROUGE

Tuesday, February 3

Rodin: A Magnificent Obsession is a complete retrospective of his career & includes more than 60 bronzes from small studies to monumental works. The exhibition spans Rodin’s career from the earliest bust of his father to later dancing figures. There are works on paper, photographs, self-portraits & an educational model demonstrating complexities of the lost-wax casting process.

Louisiana’s newest museum features the diversity of our history, environment, culture & people that make a beautiful & fascinating state. Topics range from the Louisiana Purchase to Sportsmen's Paradise to Mardi Gras traditions. There’s a 48 foot wooden shrimp trawler, Civil War submarine, record breaking Marlin, Krew of lawnmowers, New Orleans Lucky Dog cart & musical artifacts from Fats Domino, Buddy Guy, Clarence Gatemouth Brown, Aaron Neville & much more.

Hurricane on the Bayou takes audiences on a journey deep into the soul-stirring heart of Louisiana before, during & after the unprecedented devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Motorcoach, museums, show, driver’s gratuity

$65 per person

NORWEGIAN SPIRIT
Sunday, March 29 - Sunday, April 5, 2009
Port of New Orleans to Costa Maya, Santo Tomas de Castilla, Belize City, Cozumel, Mexico

Interior cabin $459
Oceanview cabin $559
Balcony cabin $799

These are special group prices with limited availability. Call now to reserve your cabin for this terrific cruise. Hurry and join the fun!

AUSTRALIA

Collette Vacations is offering discounts of $200 off per person for any departure to Australia in 2009 for bookings now through March 31. Of Collette’s 8 Australia & New Zealand journeys, 2 are from their Explorations by Collette brand which offers just 16-24 passengers; 1 is from Smithsonian Journeys Travel Adventures & several include a visit to a Collette Foundation site. Call for details.

If I planned a motorcoach trip to the Big Bend area, would you be interested? Please let me know!

TEXAS BLUEBONNETS
Monday, March 30 - Thursday, April 2

AUSTIN - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Texas State Capitol, LBJ Library, Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, University of Texas & its Tower, Tour of Austin with a step-on guide
BRENHAM - Washington-on-the-Brazas, Quaint downtown

Motorcoach, 3 nights Austin hotel, 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners, tours, driver’s gratuity, refreshments

$465 per person, double occupancy
$635 per person, single occupancy
$100 per person deposit

TRAINS OF THE COLORADO ROCKIES
Saturday, May 30 - Sunday, June 7

Experience the majesty of the Colorado Rockies from 4 trains that celebrate the can-do spirit of the Old West. Scale Pike’s Peak on a working 1881 steam train for a journey through San Juan Mountains. Travel Trail Ridge Road & reclaim Anasazi Indian culture at Mesa Verde National Park. Relish cowboy culture in an evening of authentic dining & entertainment.

Denver, Rocky Mountain National Park, Georgetown Loop Railroad, Vail, Grand Junction, Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Durango, Mesa Verde, Colorado Springs, Pike’s Peak Cog Railway, Garden of the Gods, Royal Gorge Railroad

Four 2-night hotel stays, 8 breakfasts, 4 dinners

$1799 land only
Call for roundtrip air from Alexandria

TEXAS CRUISETOUR
Wednesday, August 5 - Sunday, August 16

Diamond Princess
3-night Land Tour featuring 1-night Anchorage, 1-night Mt. McKinley Princess Lodge, 1-night Denali Princess Lodge & a 7-night Voyage of the Glaciers Cruise that includes stops in Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan & Vancouver

We have group rates that include a very special rate for balcony cabins (limited space)

Balcony cabin $2849 per person
Oceanview cabin $2849 per person
Interior cabin $1999 per person

Price does not include air, tax, transfers or insurance
Call to discuss details
PICK UP LOCATIONS
When we travel south on I-49, we pick up at Sammy’s Truck Stop. When we travel west on Highway 28, we pick up at Holloway’s Store. Out Highway 28 West, we pick up in Leesville. We can pick up in Oakdale when going that direction.

INSURANCE is available for ALL trips
Ask for complete brochure

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