

## TIME TRAVELERS SUMMER BUS TRIPS

### **Murder at the Mansion!**

**Wednesday, May 4, 2011 5:30 p.m.– 8:30 p.m.**

We're starting our bus trip season with a bus trip that really isn't a bus trip because there's no bus involved! I've wanted to do a murder mystery for some time, so I've cooked up one with our friends at the Jacob Henry Mansion, veterans of many a Murder Mystery. They assure me that there's plenty of fun to be had and that even though I'm the murder target of choice, I'll walk out of there at the end of the evening! We'll start the evening at 5:30 with a cash bar. The rustic bar is located in the former location of the home's warming kitchen. Then, the real fun will begin with a murder mystery, personalized just for us, that we'll solve piece by piece, course by course. We'll start with a salad and rolls and move on to my personal Chef Ann favorite, Tuscany Chicken: Italian herb seasoned chicken breast sautéed with garlic, red pepper and spinach in a white wine cream sauce and served over pasta. Yummmmm. We'll finish off the evening and the mystery with dessert. You know how important dessert is for us bus tour veterans!! After the mystery has been solved, a brief history of the mansion will be given and you can tour the mansion on your own. To ensure that the murder mystery is FUN and highly interactive (i.e., we'll all participate in some way), each participant is asked to complete a personality profile questionnaire. No, they don't want to know your criminal history and neither do I!!!! They do, however, want to know what you do, what your hobbies are, what sets you apart from others, what's the funniest thing that's ever happened to you and much more. Once this information is gathered, a clear murderer and suspects are chosen. I can't wait to see if the "usual suspects," and you know who you are, will be chosen!! The murder mystery will be held at the Jacob Henry Mansion, 20 South Eastern Ave. in Joliet. There's plenty of parking across the street in the Mansion's parking lot and a handicapped accessible drop-off and entrance is available. Round up all of your friends as this is sure to be a fun evening!! The cost of this event is \$50 for Museum Members and \$58 for non-members and includes the dinner and server gratuity, murder mystery entertainment, and self-guided tour. A cash bar is available. **Advance registration and payment is due by Tuesday, April 19.** Call Kim at 815-723-5201, ext. 235 to register. Refunds cannot be issued after this date. Profile Questionnaires must be returned to Kim by Wednesday, April 27.



### **Broadway Bound~Drury Lane Theatre**

**Thursday, June 16, 2011 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

You asked for Drury Lane, so here it is with a little more!! We'll start our day with a brief stop at Oakbrook Center. Whether you want to stroll amongst the well-manicured gardens, grab a cup of coffee at Starbucks or the Corner Bakery or power shop at Neiman Marcus, you'll have about an hour to get it done!! Then, we're off to beautiful Drury Lane Theatre for lunch and Neil Simon's semi-autobiographical play, ***Broadway Bound***. Set in Brighton Beach, N.Y., this play follows Eugene Morris Jerome and his older brother Stanley, as they start their careers as professional comedy writers. Determined to break into show business, at the expense of their family members, the brothers use their home life in Brighton Beach as the inspiration for a radio comedy skit. While the brothers find success that ultimately launches their careers as television comedy writers in New York City, the Jerome family may never be the same again!! Lunch includes a spinach mandarin salad with poppy seed dressing and your choice of: Roast Sirloin of Beef **OR** Roast Turkey Breast with the Chef's own herb stuffing, cranberries, and turkey gravy. The meal also includes garden vegetables, potatoes or rice, fresh baked bread, dessert and a drink. Please be prepared with your food selection at registration. The museum will open at 8:30 a.m., with the bus departing by 9:00 a.m. The cost of the trip is \$80 for Museum Members and \$88 for non-members. The cost of the trip includes deluxe motor coach transportation, the luncheon and matinee, server gratuity, and a driver trip. **Advance registration and payment is due by Friday, May 20, 2011.** Refunds cannot be issued after this date. Call Kim at 815-723-5201, ext. 235 To register for this trip.

## **Place de la Musique~Sanfilippo Mansion, Barrington, IL**

**Wednesday, July 13, 2011 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.**

If you're like me, you're a little nutty. So, let's devote a day to nuts. Specifically, Fisher Nuts. Stick with me on this one, I promise it's going to be good. The Fisher Nut Company is owned by the Sanfilippo family, a devoted philanthropic and preservation-minded family. As such, the Sanfilippo Foundation occasionally opens a small portion of the family mansion, built in the French Second Empire Style, to groups as a means of both showcasing its world-renown collections and raising funds for their foundation. See where I'm going? We'll start our day with a trip to the Fisher Nut Home-town Store to stock up on nuts and salad fixings (check out the Fisher Nut website, [www.fishernuts.com](http://www.fishernuts.com), to see what kind of nut you are~I'm a pecan!) Then, it's off to Biaggi's Italian Ristorante for a lunch you won't soon forget! Served family style, we'll feast on an appetizer of Bruschetta Classico followed by a spinach salad. Then, the real eating begins with hearty helpings of Lasagna Bolognese and Chicken Piemontese (Grilled chicken stuffed with imported Italian ham and smoked provolone and Gouda cheeses and topped with a lemon basil butter sauce). After our hearty lunch, we'll waddle over to the Place de la Musique for a three-hour guided tour. They gave me a full page description of the tour so here are the highlights, in a nutshell (hee hee). The Place de la Musique is, as you can tell by it's name, the home to many music-related artifacts, all beautifully restored and maintained including: Edison and Victrola Phonographs, Barrel Organs, Disk Players, Roll Orchestrions, Nickelodeons, and more. On our tour, we'll also visit collections in the American Orchestrion Room, the Arcade Room, the Victorian Bar Room, and before leaving the mansion, we'll be treated to a mini-concert in the Music Room on the world's largest indoor theater pipe organ~***Phantom of the Opera***, anyone? The tour continues in the Carousel Venue where you'll hear more organs and calliopes and view an 1881 Grant Railroad Locomotive, once used by Henry Ford, along with other railroad memorabilia. Then its off to the Eden Palais Carousel. Built in 1890, it's the most complete example of a European salon carousel in existence. No riding is allowed, but you'll be awed by the 36 hand-carved horses and mesmerized by the sounds of the 89-key Gavioli and Organ that accompanies the carousel! You won't want to miss this trip as there is truly something for everyone! The museum will open by 7:45 a.m., with the bus departing at 8:00 a.m. The cost of the trip is \$85 for Museum Members and \$93 for non-members, and includes deluxe motor coach transportation, the Italian luncheon and server gratuity, the guided tour of the Place de la Musique, and a driver tip. There is a great deal of walking for this trip, but there will be periodic seating available. **Advance registration and payment is due by Friday, June 10.** Call Kim at 815-723-5201, ext. 235 to make your reservation. Refunds cannot be issued after this date.

## **A Taste of Illinois Amish Country~Arthur and Tuscola, IL**

**Wednesday, August 10, 2011 7:00 a.m.– 6:30 p.m. (traffic dependent)**

When I was young, we'd head to my grandma's house after church for fried chicken, homemade bread, and some kind of made-from-scratch dessert. Those were the days when cell phones didn't ring non-stop and words like hurry and rush weren't in my vocabulary. I kind of miss those days and thought that maybe a day in Amish Country might be just the fix for many of us tired of the hustle and bustle! We'll start our day in the Arthur area with a stop at Beachy's Bulk Food Store~a favorite. Bring a cooler for any goodies you purchase that might need chilling as we've got a lot of stops ahead of us! After Beachy's, we're off to have lunch in an Amish home where the meal will include fried chicken and another meat, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad, vegetables, homemade bread with homemade jam or apple butter and homemade pie. Need I say more!?! After a quick restroom stop at the Arthur Welcome Center, we'll tour an Amish home to learn more about the Amish way of life. Maybe we can learn a little to help us slow down! Finally, we're off to Tuscola for a stop at the century-old Flesor's Candy Shop. We'll watch a candy-making demonstration and get a sweet treat. You can also order up a fountain drink for the ride home~they mix their own so I'm already thinking about the "real" cherry coke that I'm going to order! The museum will open at 6:30 a.m., with the bus departing by 7:00 a.m. The cost of the tour is \$75 for Museum members and \$83 for non-members and includes deluxe motor coach transportation, lunch and gratuity, the tour of the Amish home, the candy demonstration and sweet treat, and a driver tip. **Advance registration and payment is due by Friday, July 22.** Call Kim at 815-723-5201, ext. 235 to make your reservation. Refunds cannot be issued after this date.

## **Chicago Architecture~River Cruise and More**

**Wednesday, September 14, 2011 8:30 a.m.– 4:30/5:00 p.m. (traffic dependent)**

I don't know about you, but Chicago is one of my favorite places to hang out. Lately, I've been spending a portion of each of my visits on South Michigan Avenue at the Chicago Architecture Foundation, a neat place if you've never been there. They have great trips, interesting exhibits, and one of the coolest gift shops around. So, like Oprah, a Chicago icon, I thought that on this trip, I'd share some of my "favorite things" with you! We'll start with a stop at the Chicago Architecture Foundation to view their permanent exhibits relating to Chicago. It's also a great place to look at historic architecture as the Foundation is located in the Santa Fe building, designed in 1904 by D.H. Burnham and Company, the architectural firm of Daniel Burnham of World's Fair fame. Originally called the Railway Exchange Building, Daniel Burnham created the 1909 Plan of Chicago from his office on the 14th floor of the building. Make sure you visit the gift shop before we leave~it features beautiful jewelry, great wall hangings, and very thick architecture books alongside some really fun doo-dahs for big kids like me. Before we leave, I'll head next door to the Corner Bakery to pick up our box lunches and we'll head north for our afternoon architecture cruise on the Chicago River (we'll eat our box lunches on board). If you haven't been on the Architecture Foundation's River Cruise, you are in for a treat! Sit back and enjoy the scenery while docents interpret 50 buildings along the Chicago River to illustrate how the city has grown from a small back-country outpost into one of the most important crossroads in less than 100 years. Box lunches include a sandwich, chips, seasonal fresh fruit, and a sweet. Choose a sandwich from the following list when registering for the trip! *D.C. Chicken Salad on Steakhouse Rye* (roasted chicken, crisp green apples, currants, red onions, celery, mayo and toasted almonds with lettuce and tomatoes), *Tuna Salad on Whole Grain Harvest* (tuna salad topped with crisp cucumber slices, shredded carrots, leaf lettuce and tomatoes), *Tomato Mozzarella on Ciabatta Ficelle* (plum tomatoes, fresh mozzarella, sweet roasted red peppers, fresh basil and arugula drizzled with balsamic vinaigrette), *Ham OR Turkey Pretzel on Pretzel Bread* (smoked ham or smoked turkey with shaved red onions, plum tomatoes, caraway Havarti cheese and stoneground mustard-mayo). The museum will open at 8:00 a.m., with the bus departing by 8:30 a.m. The cost of this trip is \$72 for Museum Members and \$80 for non-members and includes the deluxe motor coach transportation and driver tip, the river cruise, and the box lunch. **Advance registration and payment is due by Wednesday, August 10.** Call Kim at 815-723-5201, ext. 235 to register. Refunds cannot be issued after this date.

## **Guys and Dolls~Theatre at the Center (Munster, Indiana)**

**Wednesday, October 12, 2011 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

I've been singing the songs from this musical all morning so I'm hoping that if I write the titles down, I'll pass them over to you and you can sing them for the rest of the day! You've heard the songs before~***A Bushel and a Peck, I've Never Been in Love Before, Luck Be a Lady, and Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat.*** Catchy tunes~are you singing yet? If not, then join me for an afternoon of food, fun and music as we once again head to the Theatre at the Center~a great little venue~for the Tony Award Winning musical comedy ***Guys and Dolls***. In this story, a group of gamblers, including the infamous Nathan Detroit, are looking for a place in mythical New York City to hold a floating dice game. Considered by many to be the perfect musical comedy, the show follows the courtship of upright and uptight "Save a Soul" officer Sarah Brown and gambler Sky Masterson, who she is out to save. We'll also meet Adelaide, the chronically ill nightclub performer whose condition is brought about by the fact that she's been engaged to the same man for 14 years, and Nathan Detroit, her fiancé, who is always desperate to find a spot for his infamous floating dice game. Lunch includes minestrone soup and your choice of: Roast Loin of Pork **OR** Veal Parmesan. The meal also includes bow tie pasta with fresh tomato sauce and basil, Italian Green Beans, and cheesecake. Please be prepared with your food selection at registration. The museum will open at 9:30 a.m., with the bus departing by 10:00 a.m. The cost of the trip is \$80 for Museum Members and \$88 for non-members. The cost of the trip includes deluxe motor coach transportation, the luncheon and matinee, server gratuity, and a driver trip. **Advance registration and payment is due by Friday, September 16, 2011.** Call Kim at 815-723-5201, ext. 235 to register. Refunds cannot be issued after this date.

