



MICHIGAN'S PREMIER MOTORCOACH CONNECTION
BETWEEN EAST LANSING, ANN ARBOR,
BRIGHTON & DETROIT METRO AIRPORT



e-news

DECEMBER 2023



Amy Slonim

Presenting Our Grand Prize Winner!

Our 2023 “Love Connections” essay contest asked folks to tell us how Michigan Flyer connected them with a special person, place, or adventure dear to their hearts. Based on which essays best fit the contest theme, our staff and creative consultants chose the winning entries from among the many we received.

We announced the five runner-up winners—each of whom received a \$100 gift-card prize—in our E-News of [July](#), [August](#), [September](#), [October](#) and [November](#). Now, we’re pleased to announce the winner of our \$500 gift-card Top Prize: **Amy Slonim, of Bellingham, Wash.**

When she got the call that she was our top prize winner, Amy was flabbergasted. “I never anticipated

that I would win,” she said. “I’ve been reading the past winning entries, and they were all so great and so heartfelt.”

Amy, who can’t recall winning anything before, immediately shared the news with her family, which includes three daughters, two of whom are identical twins. “I was so thrilled by the news.” She entered the contest because of a “sweet, vivid memory” about a joyous reunion she’d had—one that many others can identify with, especially at this time of year.

An outdoor enthusiast, Amy has been living in Washington since 2013. “We were purposeful in coming here. We can see the San Juan Islands and the foothills of the Cascades.” After retiring from a career in public health, she now serves as a part-time consultant for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a philanthropic organization, and is an active community volunteer.

Before moving west, she and her family had lived in East Lansing, Mich. She even remembers when Michigan Flyer was first launched: “It’s such a wonderful asset to the area. The drivers are always so nice, and the bus is so clean and comfortable. I still absolutely depend on it when I come back to visit my daughter and her family who live there.”

Amy has spent her \$500 gift card to buy sweatpants and hoodies for homeless people who use the severe weather shelter where she works: “Most who come only have the clothes on their backs.” Here's her story:



Amy's grandchildren Micah, Tobin, and Orly

Little Delights

By Amy Slonim

Michigan Flyer is often the last leg in my trips from Bellingham, Wash., to see my three grandchildren – Micah, seven; Orly, almost six; and Tobin, three. I frequently leave my home at 3:45 am Pacific Time, then take a shuttle bus from Bellingham at 4:10 a.m. to wait a couple of hours for my flight at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport to Detroit. If I don't check bags, I can often get there before the kids are asleep, but the timing is tricky. One time, everything worked smoothly. The kids were Facetiming me to make sure I made the bus. They wanted me to let them know when I passed

the Okemos Exit on I-96. I knew they would be in bed when I got to their home. A dear friend was to pick me up. Lo and behold, when we got to the Marriott in East Lansing, my three little ones ran across the street screaming "Grandma, Grandma, Grandma" in their pajamas and boots. Everyone on the bus was delighted in my tears of joy and their shrieks and running to hug me. Talk about feeling the slings and arrows of good fortune!

Michigan Flyer Schedule - 12 Roundtrips Every Day					
East Lansing→ Brighton→ Ann Arbor→ Detroit Metro					
EASTBOUND	East Lansing Marriott	Brighton Meijer	Ann Arbor Blake Transit Center	DTW McNamara Terminal	Detroit Evening Terminal
Daily Runs	333 Albert Ave., East Lansing	8650 W. Grand River, Brighton	328 S. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor	Departures Level Ticketing & Check-in Airfrance	Stall #1 Ground Transportation Center
8000	2:00 AM	2:48 AM	3:15 AM	3:50 AM	4:00 AM
8002	3:30 AM	4:18 AM	4:45 AM	5:20 AM	5:30 AM
8004	5:00 AM	5:50 AM	6:25 AM	7:05 AM	7:15 AM
8006	6:30 AM	7:20 AM	7:55 AM	8:30 AM	8:40 AM
8008	7:45 AM	8:35 AM	9:10 AM	9:45 AM	9:55 AM
8010	9:15 AM	10:05 AM	10:40 AM	11:15 AM	11:25 AM
8012	10:45 AM	11:35 AM	12:10 PM	12:50 PM	1:00 PM
8014	12:15 PM	1:05 PM	1:40 PM	2:20 PM	2:30 PM
8016	2:00 PM	2:50 PM	3:25 PM	4:05 PM	4:15 PM
8018	3:15 PM	4:05 PM	4:40 PM	5:25 PM	5:35 PM
8020	4:30 PM	5:20 PM	6:00 PM	6:35 PM	6:45 PM
8022	5:30 PM	6:20 PM	7:00 PM	7:35 PM	7:45 PM

Travel Alerts

Our New Daily Schedule Gives You More DTW Flight Options

Michigan Flyer now makes it easier for you to connect with approximately 700 daily nonstop flights between Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) and top domestic and international destinations. Our schedule recently grew from nine to 12 roundtrips per day. We added three Eastbound runs #8000, #8004, and #8024, along with three Westbound runs #8001, #8005, and #8023 as shown [HERE](#).

The early morning Eastbound runs help passengers connect with the cheapest flights out of DTW, while the later Westbound runs benefit those who've long wanted

our last bus of the day to leave the airport at 9:45 or 10 p.m. instead of 8:15 or 8:30 p.m.

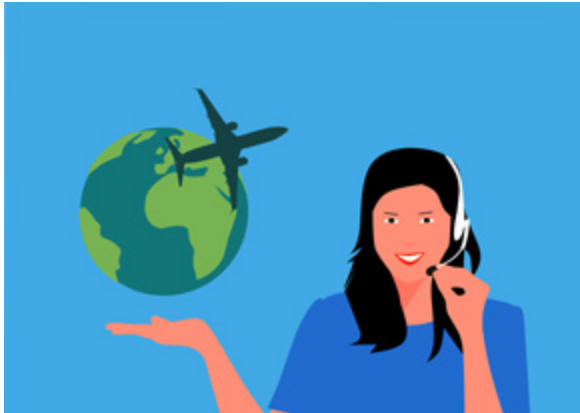
www.MichiganFlyer.com.

Fewer Michigan Flyer Runs on Christmas Eve

On Sunday, Dec. 24, we will operate some—but not all—of our Eastbound and Westbound runs. Yet, on Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day, we plan to operate our full daily schedule of 12 roundtrips. Just use the "Book a Trip" feature on [our website](#) to see which buses will operate on any particular day.

Holiday Downtimes for D2A2 Express Bus

The D2A2 Express Bus between Detroit and Ann Arbor will not operate during the Christmas and New Year holidays (Dec. 24, 25, 31, and Jan. 1). On normal weekdays, the luxury motorcoaches of D2A2 offer 16 eco-friendly roundtrips between Detroit's Grand Circus Park (1508 Park Ave.) and Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center (328 S. Fifth St.), plus eight roundtrips on weekends. [See the schedule here](#). The D2A2 service was created by the Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan in partnership with the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority, and is operated by Michigan Flyer.



Book Michigan Flyer NOW for Travel in Early January

If you're planning a trip with us this time of year, remember that it's a peak travel period. People by the millions visit family and friends around the Christmas and New Year holidays. Also, with Michigan State University and University of Michigan students returning from winter break, we will be in high demand for the first couple weeks of January. MSU students resume classes for Spring Semester on Monday, Jan. 8, 2024, U-M students on Wednesday, Jan. 10. To guarantee that we have a seat for you, make reservations without delay at MichiganFlyer.com.



Our New Office Hours Starting January 10

The Michigan Flyer office at the East Lansing Marriott will be staffed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday starting Jan. 10, 2024. But on Saturday and Sunday after that, there will be no in-person service at the office, nor will reservations be taken by phone. In addition, our office will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25, and Monday, Jan. 1.

Still, not to worry. Passengers can buy tickets 24/7 through our website at www.MichiganFlyer.com. And while tickets are non-refundable once purchased, two changes per reservation are allowed before a

scheduled departure. [You can easily change reservations online here](#).

Discount Parking to be Eliminated in Ann Arbor

If you're a Michigan Flyer-AirRide passenger who's used to parking a car in the structure at the corner of 4th Ave. and William St. downtown, then you should know that the discounted parking rate of **\$2 per day** is going away. As of Jan. 8, 2024, the rate will be **\$1.20 per hour** Monday through Saturday. The [Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority](#) (DDA), which manages the structure for the city, will no longer offer the discounted parking rates. If you have questions about this impending change, please contact the DDA by phone at (734) 994-6697 or email at dda@a2dda.org.



Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!



East Lansing

[Mamma Mia!](#)

A mother. A daughter. Three possible dads. And a trip down the aisle you'll never forget! Set on a Greek island paradise where the sun always shines, a tale of love, friendship, and identity is beautifully told. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the father she's never known brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited decades ago.

For nearly 25 years, people around the world have fallen in love with the characters, the story, and the timeless hits of ABBA that make Mamma Mia the

ultimate feel-good show. Catch it between Tuesday, Jan. 16, and Sunday, Jan. 21 (times vary), at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 50 E. Shaw Ln., Michigan State University, East Lansing. [Tickets \\$39-\\$160, plus fee.](#)

Check out more local coming events with the Choose Lansing™ events calendar:

<http://www.lansing.org/events>.



Ann Arbor

[U-M Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium](#)

The University of Michigan will host the 37th annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium on Monday, Jan. 15, from 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave, Ann Arbor.

This year's theme, "Transforming the Jangling Discords of Our Nation into a Beautiful Symphony," will feature keynote speaker Michelle Alexander, legal scholar, social justice advocate, New York Times columnist,

writer and professor, who explores the myths surrounding the U.S. criminal justice system from a racial and ethical standpoint. She offers solutions for combating the epidemic of ongoing discord around the globe, and

examines our role as individuals and members of society to create a world where harmony is possible. This event is FREE and open to the public.

For more entertainment in and around A2, see the Ann Arbor Area Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar of coming events: <https://www.annarbor.org/events/>.

Brighton

Brighton, like other communities in Livingston County, offers a multitude of events to delight visitors of all ages—from a “Lantern Hike at Island Lake,” to a “Chickadee Chow Down” at Kensington Metropark. Explore them all with the Livingston County Convention & Visitors Bureau events calendar:

<https://visitlivingstoncounty.com/events/>.



Detroit

[Madonna's Celebration Tour](#)

With nearly 80 expected performances across the U.S. and Europe between October 2023 and April 2024, Madonna's massive “Celebration World Tour” kicked off with six sold-out shows in London. Not too surprising, since she's reportedly the best-selling female artist of all time. In a reflection of her unparalleled career, Madonna takes captivated audiences on an emotional

journey through some of her biggest hits, including “Nothing Really Matters,” “Open Your Heart,” “Like A Prayer,” “Into The Groove” and “Crazy For You.” Her Detroit performance is on Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, at 8:30 p.m. at Little Caesar's Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit. [Tickets \\$92-\\$570+](#).

To learn more about what's happening in Detroit, check out the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar of coming events: <https://visitdetroit.com/events/>.



Delta Adds DTW-LAX Flights for the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1

To transport more football fans to attend the clash between the University of Michigan and Alabama in Pasadena, Calif., on New Year's Day, Delta Airlines is adding flights to its regular DTW-LAX schedule. Specifically, the airline is offering two more flights departing from Detroit (one each on Dec. 30 and 31), and two more returning flights, both on Jan. 2. Our spot

check found that the economy fare for a roundtrip departing on Dec. 30 would be \$1,728, and \$2,348 for those departing on Dec. 31.

When we checked last Sunday, tickets to the Rose Bowl game itself were still available, although at a cost of roughly \$450-\$2,500 each from online vendors such as [SeatGeek.com](https://www.seatgEEK.com) and [StubHub.com](https://www.stubHub.com).

Airfares to Warm, Romantic Places for Valentine's Day

Using [SkyScanner.com](https://www.skyScanner.com), we set out to scout prices for a sample trip that includes Valentine's Day. We chose Saturday, Feb. 10, for the departure from DTW, and Sunday, Feb. 17, for the return. As usual, our search



criteria required that the flights be non-stop in both directions, and had to arrive back at DTW in time for you to catch Michigan Flyer's last run at 9:45/10 p.m. to Ann Arbor, Brighton, and East Lansing. We discovered dozens of warm and potentially romantic destinations. The following economy roundtrip fares include taxes but not necessarily baggage or other "extras":

NOTE: You can find even lower prices and more choices if you're flexible about dates of travel and/or willing to change planes at least once enroute to your

Tampa, FL (TPA) Spirit **\$93**
Atlanta, GA (ATL) Spirit **\$97**
Orlando, FL (MCO) Spirit **\$98**
Houston, TX (IAH) Spirit **\$129**
Los Angeles, CA (LAX) Spirit **\$161**
Myrtle Beach, NC (MYR) Delta **\$178**
Fort Myers, FL (RSW) Spirit **\$182**
Charlotte, NC (CLT) American or Delta **\$237**
Phoenix, AZ (PHX) Delta **\$248**
Las Vegas, NV (LAS) Delta **\$258**
Seattle, WA (SEA) Delta **\$258**

Cancun, MX (CUN) Spirit **\$330**
Austin, TX (AUS) Delta **\$338**
San Antonio, TX (SAT) Delta **\$358**
San Diego, CA (SAN) Delta **\$498**
San Francisco, CA (SFO) Delta **\$498**
San Juan, PR (SJU) Delta **\$693**
Frankfurt, DE (FRA) Delta **\$800**
Honolulu, HI (HNL) Delta **\$851**
London, GB (LHR) Virgin Atlantic **\$953**
Paris, FR (CDG) Delta **\$1,095**
Amsterdam, NL (AMS) Delta **\$1,098**

destination.



Tips for Smarter Travel

- ✍ [Use a Hytch Van to Connect with MI Flyer in East Lansing](#)
- ✍ [Easily Change Your Own MI Flyer Reservations at this Link](#)
- ✍ [Where's Your Bus? Find Out with Our Real-Time Tracker](#)

Professional Drivers Wanted

Indian Trails, Inc.—which staffs Michigan Flyer with professional drivers—is accepting applications for full-time motorcoach drivers. These positions pay a **starting** hourly rate of \$21.42, provide a 6-week PAID training program leading to a Commercial Driver's License, and operate Michigan's newest and largest fleet of motorcoaches. Full-time drivers also receive:

Two weeks of paid time off in the first year
Medical, dental, vision and life insurance
401(k) retirement program with employer match
Annual safety bonus



Also important, Indian Trails truly appreciates the hard work of its staff members—it's a 114-year-old, family-run company with old-fashioned values like fairness, honesty, teamwork, and service excellence.

If you're a safe driver, we encourage you to apply, even with no commercial driving experience. It takes a special person to become a professional bus driver. To us and to our passengers, they're truly heroes of the road. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Please, Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

Kindly take a moment to help others understand how our service might improve their travels. Simply visit one of the websites below to write a brief review about your experience with Michigan Flyer. Thank you!



From all of us at Michigan Flyer, we wish you and yours the happiest of holidays, a healthy, prosperous New Year, and safe travels always!



Why Drive?

Booking is easy, [click here](#) to view schedules on



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