



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



e-news

JANUARY 2023



Leza Harary

Presenting Our Grand Prize Winner

Over the past few months, we've announced five winning essays chosen from 175 submissions in Michigan Flyer's "Great Connections" contest, and each won a \$100 gift card runner-up prize. Now we reveal the winner of our top prize, a \$500 gift card: **Leza Harary of Las Vegas, N.V.**

Leza remembers looking through past editions of our E-News to see if the grand prize winner had been revealed: "I was thinking that the story about the woman who met an artist was so good that the winning essay had to be really good." Then she got our call. "I'm still in disbelief that my little essay won. I'm just tickled and thrilled."

A native of Ann Arbor who lives in Las Vegas, Leza just retired from her position in customer service for American Airlines. She counted on Michigan Flyer to

commute back and forth between Ann Arbor and Detroit Metro as her father, Raymond, slipped into dementia.

Before he passed in 2021 at age 93, she traveled back to Michigan twice a month, determined to make the most of the time they had together. "He had become more childlike, and we played a lot. I was able to connect with him in a way that felt profound. He was always such a fun dad," Leza says, adding that he was a former

music teacher at elementary and junior high schools in Willow Run. “He influenced countless students and was so generous with them.”

Each time she flew home, Leza used her time on the Michigan Flyer to prepare herself for the challenges ahead. “Riding on the bus was my last bit of peace and sanity before I came home, and then so calming on my way back to the airport.” It was also an opportunity to problem-solve, like when she decided to paint a mural on her parents’ basement door to disguise it and dissuade her dad from going downstairs, where his studio once was, and potentially falling.

In his final months, as her dad took up painting, Leza created a Facebook page to display his creations and encourage other seniors to post their own art. Called the Forever Young Pop-Art Project, it can be found [HERE](#).

What will Leza do with her \$500 gift card? “I’ll probably donate some of it to my favorite cat rescue, but whatever I buy for myself will be totally fun, frivolous, and unnecessary!” Here’s her story:



Leza with her Pops, Raymond Harary



Raymond Harary with some of his artwork

Making Lasting Memories

By Leza Harary

“I am a veteran airline employee and never, ever, did I think I’d be thankful for a bus! I grew up in Ann Arbor and currently live in Las Vegas. My elderly parents lived alone in Ann Arbor until my father developed vascular dementia. I was on the first flight home with a plan. My life was about to change. During the flight, I realized the one change I didn’t plan for was transportation from the airport to Ann Arbor, which until now, was my father. I went online, mid-flight, to research transportation. The Michigan Flyer popped right up. It seemed convenient and affordable, yet I was still hesitant. The last time I rode a bus was from Ann Arbor to Ft. Lauderdale during spring break, and let’s just say the experience was less than epic.

“However, with very few realistic options to choose from, I booked my ticket from DTW to Ann Arbor. To my delight, the bus was clean, punctual, and surprisingly comfortable. I was relieved knowing I’d be able to get to Ann Arbor safely and easily and without much notice. So, thank you Michigan Flyer. Because of you, transportation was one less thing to worry about. My bi-weekly commute was always seamless, and I became my father’s caregiver. We danced, painted, played, and told stories until the day he caught his final bus ride. And once again, you were there for me, like an old friend, to help me get home. Thank you, Michigan Flyer.”

Your Ride with Us Just Keeps Getting Better!

That’s because our parent company, Indian Trails, just spent \$3 million to add five new luxury motorcoaches to its fleet--and three are designated for Michigan Flyer!



“We invest in new coaches with the latest safety, comfort, and eco-friendly features because of our commitment to customers, communities, and the environment,” says Indian Trails President Chad Cushman. “One of our guiding principles for 113 years has been to pour profits into new equipment so our fleet remains the newest in Michigan.”

The other two new buses are being deployed in the Indian Trails charter service, which transports groups of all kinds from anywhere in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana to whatever destinations they choose in the continental U.S. or Canada. “These are groups from major colleges and universities, K-12 school districts, professional sports teams, corporations, associations, churches, and many others,” notes Cushman.

In addition, Indian Trails operates [daily scheduled routes serving passengers in 80 towns throughout Michigan](#) and into Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota,

connecting them with one another as well as with airports, Amtrak and the rest of the national transportation network.



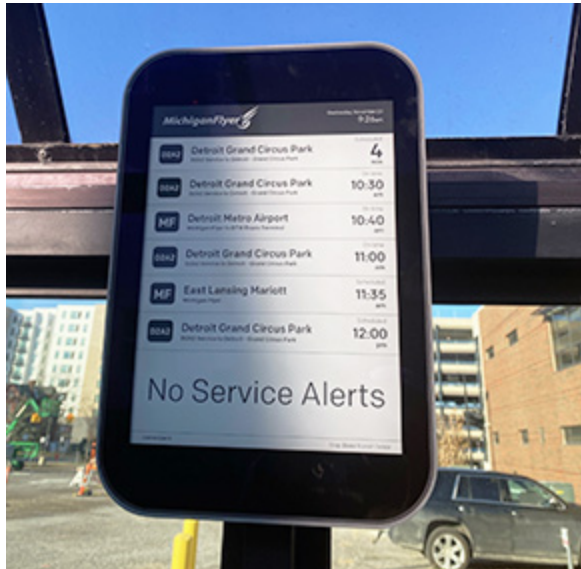
About the New Coaches

[Safety features](#) of the new 2023 Prevost H3-45 coaches include an electronic stability system that enables drivers to avoid danger on slippery roads; an engine fire-detection and suppression system; a backup camera with color monitor; a GPS and electronic logging device (ELD) system; and a tire pressure monitoring system. All the coaches are equipped with three-point retractable seatbelts for passengers, ADA-compliant wheelchair lifts, a large under-floor luggage compartment, and electronic destination signs.

[Comfort features](#) include ergonomic seating with gray, leather-like upholstery; adjustable headrests; ample leg room; individual climate controls, reading lamps and cup holders; tinted, thermopane side windows; USB outlets at each seat for charging mobile devices; free WiFi; on-board lavatories; and enclosed, overhead parcel racks. Also, the coaches offer several high-definition color monitors connected to a DVD player and premium audio system. These enable charter groups to display movies or presentations while on the road.

[Eco-friendly](#) aspects of the coaches include engine technology that exceeds EPA standards by reducing exhaust pollutants to near zero while achieving high fuel economy of about 240 passenger miles per gallon on average. Each coach has the potential to remove up to 56 automobiles from the highway, further reducing air pollution and traffic congestion.

Altogether, the Indian Trails fleet includes 56 vehicles that travel over 3.5 million miles and transport more than 1 million passengers per year.



Travel Alerts

There's a New Way to Track Your Bus in Ann Arbor!

"Where's my bus?" For passengers boarding in Ann Arbor, the answer is now available on an electronic sign INSIDE the bus shelter by the Blake Transit Center. It continuously displays updated arrival times for both Michigan Flyer and D2A2 buses.

The data beamed to the sign by WiFi comes from satellite-based GPS systems and computers on board each of our motorcoaches, which monitor bus location and speed. (Note that the same data is used by our free app for both Apple and Android smartphone—the [Indian Trails Bus Tracker](#)—which is available to all passengers.)

Knowing where your bus is can take some stress out of travel, plus give you the confidence to stay sheltered from the weather until the bus is nearly at your stop. It can also be helpful for friends and family members who are waiting at our stops to give you a ride home. Next, we'll be rolling out electronic signs at our locations in East Lansing and Brighton.

Delta Introduces Free WiFi for SkyMiles Members

Delta Airlines will offer fast, free WiFi to all Delta SkyMiles members on most domestic mainline flights beginning Feb. 1—the first U.S. global carrier to do so. In addition, the airline has announced plans to bring free Wi-Fi to its international and regional aircraft by the end of 2024. Customers can join SkyMiles on the ground or in the air free of charge, and then login to the internet through their account.

Book Seats NOW for Spring Break

Fair warning: Michigan Flyer-AirRide seats will almost certainly sell out for the spring break period from Feb. 24 to March 12. That's when many of nearly 100,000 students at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan combined will be traveling, as well as many of the 38,000 faculty and staff members from the East Lansing and Ann Arbor campuses. For U-M, spring break is from Saturday, Feb. 25, to Monday, March 6; for MSU, it's from Monday, March 3, through Friday, March 10. So, reserve your seats early if you're planning on riding with us to DTW and back during this time period.



Airfares for Spring Break

Ready for some different scenery? Using [Skyscanner.com](#), we spot-checked prices for nonstop roundtrips originating at DTW for the sample dates of March 1 to March 11. Among the search criteria we used: Flights had to be direct to the destination both ways, and the return flight had to arrive at DTW in time for you to catch our last run at 8:15 p.m./8:30 p.m. to Ann Arbor, Brighton and East Lansing.

You can easily find lower prices—and a greater selection of destinations—if you're willing to change

planes on your outbound or inbound trip or both. Ditto if you're flexible about the dates of travel. Note that these economy roundtrip fares include taxes but not necessarily baggage or other "extras":

Atlanta, GA (ATL) Frontier \$35
New York, NY (LGA) Spirit \$84
Philadelphia, PA (PHL) Spirit \$97
Orlando, FL (MCO) Spirit \$137
Austin, TX (AUS) Spirit \$145
Fort Myers, FL (RSW) Spirit \$150
Las Vegas, NV (LAS) Frontier/Spirit \$162
Tampa, FL (TPA) Spirit \$184
Washington, DC (BWI & DCA) Delta \$185
Boston, MA (BOS) Delta or Jet Blue \$188
Escanaba, MI (ESC) Delta/SkyWest \$195
Sault Ste Marie, MI (CIU) Delta/SkyWest \$199
Phoenix, AZ PHX) Spirit \$214
Portland, ME (PWM) Delta \$238
Providence, RI (PVD) Delta \$238
Los Angeles, CA (LAX) Spirit \$242
Nashville, TN (Delta) \$255
Traverse City, MI (TVC) Delta/SkyWest \$258
Dallas, TX (DFW) Spirit \$285
St. Louis, MO (STL) Delta \$295
Lexington, KY (LEX) Delta \$298
Pittsburgh, PA (PIT) Delta \$298
Indianapolis, IN (IND) Delta/Endeavor \$318

Richmond, VA (RIC) Delta/Endeavor \$338
Syracuse, NY (SYR) Delta/SkyWest \$338
Toronto, CAN (YYZ) Air Canada/United \$352
Cancun, MEX (CUN) Spirit \$379
Durham, NC (RDU) Delta \$398
Greenville, SC (GSP) Delta \$398
Huntsville, AL (HSV) Delta \$398
Norfolk, VA (ORF) Delta \$398
Montreal, CAN (YUL) Air Canada/United \$421
Jacksonville, FL (JAX) Delta \$438
Seattle, WA (SEA) Delta \$468
Knoxville, TN (TYX) Delta \$478
Omaha, NE (OMA) Delta/SkyWest \$518
Hartford, CT (BDL) Delta \$518
Kansas City, MO MCI) Delta \$538
San Diego, CA (SAN) Delta \$578
San Francisco, CA (SFO) Delta \$598
San Antonio, TX (SAT) Delta \$718
Amsterdam, NL (AMS) Delta \$778
Frankfort, Germany (FRA) Delta \$904
Honolulu, HI (HNL) Delta \$1,721
Tokyo, Japan (HND) Delta \$2,226



Tips for Smarter Travel

- [!\[\]\(8c4dca64662d21542001ca0ed7eeb688_img.jpg\) Change Your Reservations Online in Two Quick Steps](#)
- [!\[\]\(3de35c640e7147a3fb61ee393128d2ae_img.jpg\) Know How to Find Us at DTW's McNamara Terminal](#)
- [!\[\]\(d1438aeefda19c86ae7477bf1fb30796_img.jpg\) Invest in Travel Insurance for Peace of Mind](#)
- [!\[\]\(dc4d2c544087998b6f093f485f5119d7_img.jpg\) Download Our Free App to Track Your Bus in Real Time](#)

Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!

East Lansing

[Mid-Michigan Women's Expo](#)

Explore a variety of exhibits, activities, and main stage presentations during this entertainment, education and shopping event for women and their families. Includes fashion boutiques, hair styling, vacation and travel, jewelry and accessories, spa services, health and wellness, home décor, skincare and cosmetics, weight loss,



✓ cookware, finance, door prizes and more. It's at the Lansing Center in downtown Lansing on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 10 and 11, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and on Sunday, Feb. 12, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. [Tickets: \\$11 per adult](#) online or at the door; age two and under free.

NOTE: A Capital Area Transportation Authority bus can get you from our location at the East Lansing Marriott to the Women's Expo in about 30 minutes for \$1.25.

Find [CATA's Trip Planner here](#). Folks from the Brighton

and Ann Arbor areas who are going to the Women's Expo should know that our last eastbound run of the day leaves East Lansing at 4:30 p.m.

Check out more local coming events with the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar:

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



Ann Arbor

✓ [46th Ann Arbor Folk Festival](#)

Returning live after a two-year hiatus, the Folk Fest program at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28, will feature Ani DiFranco, Patty Griffin, St. Paul & the Broken Bones, Gina Chavez, Oshima Brothers, Kyshona, and the Jared Deck Band performing at U-M Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. [Tickets \\$45-\\$250 plus fee](#).

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. Explore them with the Livingston County Convention & Visitors Bureau events calendar:

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



Detroit

✓ [Disney On Ice presents Frozen & Encanto](#)

Disney On Ice invites families to step inside the magical adventures of Disney Animation's "Frozen" (the #1 Animated feature of all time) and "Encanto" (the 2022 Academy Award® and Golden Globe® Award winner) as they come to life like never before. This adventure on ice transports fans into two of the most popular Disney films as audiences sing along to their favorite songs while watching world-class ice skating

and aerial acrobatics. You'll see Anna, Elsa, Mirabel, and the Madrigal family live, as well as Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Donald, Goofy, and more. There are 10 performances (morning, afternoon and evening) between Thursday, Feb. 16, and Sunday, Feb. 19, at Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

[Tickets \\$20-\\$180+](#).

NOTE: The D2A2 Express Bus from Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center (BTC) to Detroit's Grand Circus Park can get Ann Arbor-area residents to and from this event. Little Caesar's Arena is about a half-mile walk from D2A2's

stop in Detroit (at 1508 Park Ave. in Grand Circus Park). Also, whenever the [D2A2 schedule](#) coincides with [Michigan Flyer's schedule](#) at the BTC (as it does for some of these performances), it's possible for East Lansing and Brighton residents to ride buses to and from the event.

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



Customer Comments

✍️ "Amazing service and very friendly drivers!"
—L.Z., Washington, D.C.

✍️ "Had a great experience riding to Detroit from Lansing. Driver was polite and was a safe trip for a great price."
—E.H., Lansing, Mich.

✍️ "I have used the bus from Brighton to DTW Metro Airport on several occasions. The schedule is well suited for most flights leaving and arriving at DTW. The

drivers have been friendly and safe. The bus has always been on time and the ride is quiet and comfortable."
—M.D., Brighton, Mich.

Please, Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

Can you spare a moment to help others understand how our service might improve their travels? If so, please visit any of the websites below to submit a brief review about your personal experience with Michigan Flyer-AirRide. Thank you!



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 Drivers 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
- ✍ Annual employee recognition banquet
- ✍ Opportunities for advancement

Also important, Indian Trails truly appreciates the hard work of its staff members—it's a 113-year-old, family-run company with old-fashioned values like fairness, honesty, teamwork, and service excellence.

We encourage anyone, including those with no commercial driving experience, to apply. Also, as a Certified Veteran-Friendly Employer, we welcome all veterans. The requirements and application can be found online by clicking any of the openings. It takes a special person to be a professional bus driver. To us and to our passengers, they're truly heroes of the road. [Learn more and apply here](#).



Happy Valentine's Day and Presidents Day!

Roses are red, violets are blue, for reliable airport connections, we're here just for you! Happy Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, from all of us at Michigan Flyer! We love serving you all year long. Wishing you and your sweeties all the best and safe travels always!

President's Day falls on the third Monday of each February, and that's the 20th in 2023. This federal holiday not only honors George Washington (the first president of the United States, born February 22) and Abraham Lincoln (the 16th president, born February

12), but all the presidents who have served our nation. Hail to the chiefs!

Why Drive?

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



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