



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



e-news

NOVEMBER 2022



Meg Denbow

And Our 4th “Great Connections” Contest Winner Is ...

In our latest contest, more than 175 passengers submitted short stories about how Michigan Flyer connected them with a special person, place, or adventure. Five lucky entrants each win a \$100 gift card as a runner-up prize. The top prize winner gets a \$500 gift card. (Note: Each winner is notified in the month when their entry is to be published.) We'll reveal the last \$100 winner in December, and the grand prize winner in January.

Today, we're pleased to announce that our fourth “Great Connections” winner is **Meg Denbow** of Superior, Colo., who beautifully describes the joy of being welcomed home to visit, and the poignancy of having to say goodbye again.

“I know how lucky I am to have someone who makes saying goodbye so hard,” she says of her father, Terry Denbow, who served as spokesman and VP of University Relations at Michigan State University until his retirement in 2011.



Meg with her father Terry

Michigan Flyer has always been part of her trips home. "It's just so convenient and comfortable. I can charge my phone along the way and I don't have to worry about parking or anything."

Meg grew up in Okemos, Mich., the second of four sisters. After high school, she studied for a year at the University of Alabama, then transferred to MSU, where she majored in English. Later, she lived in both Washington, D.C., and San Francisco, before putting down roots in Colorado 21 years ago. Currently, she works in the field of event production and serves as president of the MSU Rocky Mountain Alumni Club.

What does she plan to do with her \$100 Amazon gift card? "I'll be using it to travel back to Michigan—or for Christmas gifts." Her favorite advice from her dad? "He loves to quote the '[Man in the Arena](#)' speech by Teddy Roosevelt. It's not about victory or defeat, it's about getting out there, daring greatly, not standing on the sidelines, trying your best." Here's her story:



Terry Denbow waving goodbye

Time to Say Goodbye

By Meg Denbow

"I live in Colorado, and the Michigan Flyer is instrumental in getting me to and from the airport, where I fly in as often as possible to visit my family. Each time the Flyer draws closer to campus, I still feel a childlike thrill as we pass the familiar buildings on Grand River, turning onto Charles Street. And there is my dad, standing in front of the Marriott, waiting for me. He's in his seventies now, retired from his longtime job at the university, and getting home to spend time with him is one of my favorite things. We spend the days talking, looking at old photos, reminiscing. The time to say goodbye always comes too soon. Recently, I stood

next to the Flyer, hugging Dad goodbye, and wiping away his tears. As we pull away from the curb, he jogs over to the corner of Albert and M.A.C. to wave and blow kisses, just as he always does. 'I love you, Dad!' I call, my own tears streaming down my face. It doesn't occur to me that he is visible to the whole bus until I hear the woman in the seat in front of me sniffing, the lady in the row behind me blowing her nose. The girl sitting next to me is wiping her eyes. A father's love is universal, and his actions struck a chord in others sitting on the bus with me. The silent solidarity of this great connection made me smile through the tears."

Travel Briefs

Thanksgiving Schedule Changes

On Thursday, Nov. 24, Michigan Flyer-AirRide will NOT operate Eastbound runs #8016, 8018, or 8020, or Westbound runs #8017, 8019, or 8021. Also, due to road closures for the annual Turkey Trot foot race, Eastbound runs #8006, 8008, and 8010 will NOT stop in Ann Arbor.

On Friday, Nov. 25, we will NOT operate Eastbound run #8002 or Westbound #8003.

Please see [our schedule](#), or use "Book a Trip" on [our website](#), to see which runs we will operate on both days.



Indian Trails Honored with “Energy Champion” Award

You may not realize it, but Indian Trails (our parent company) operates the newest and largest fleet of deluxe motorcoaches in Michigan, including ours. Moreover, the company keeps these buses in tip-top shape by cleaning, washing, and performing any needed repairs on them—every day—at three big maintenance facilities in Owosso, Kalamazoo, and Romulus. So when the Small Business Association of Michigan offered a chance to participate in its Energy Solutions program, Indian Trails was all in. It converted incandescent lighting at all three garages, plus two

other facilities, to energy-efficient LED. That will save a lot of energy and reduce costs by thousands of dollars a year, which is why [SBAM recently recognized Indian Trails](#) with its Consumers Energy “Energy Champion” Award.

Delta Lets You Check Carry-ons in the Airport Lobby

At some airports, Delta passengers now have the opportunity to voluntarily check their carry-on bags in the lobby when flights are full (instead of having to check them at the gate when there’s no room in overhead bins). So, at the check-in kiosk at the airport, you may be asked if you’d like to check your carry-on early. This means you’d have less luggage to haul through the airport, as well as on and off the plane.

But before agreeing to check your carry-on, just be sure to remove anything from the bag that you might need on the plane (such as a cell phone or medication). By the way, Delta guarantees that bags checked on the domestic flights it operates will be delivered to baggage claim within 20 minutes of landing. If they’re not, SkyMiles members are eligible to receive 2,500 bonus miles.



Airfares for a Holiday Getaway

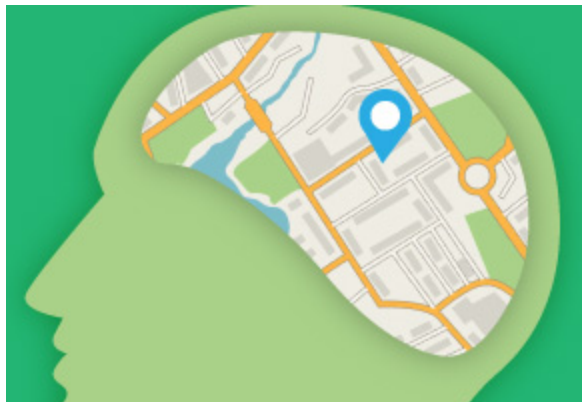
How about vacationing someplace warmer than Michigan for two weeks including both Christmas and New Year’s Day? To check out the possibilities with a sample trip between Friday, Dec. 23, and Saturday, Jan. 7, we used [SkyScanner.com](#) and searched for low-priced domestic roundtrips originating at Detroit Metro Airport (DTW). Turns out there are dozens of potential destinations for holiday getaways.

Our search criteria required that the flights be non-stop in both directions, and the return had to arrive at DTW

in time for you to catch Michigan Flyer’s last run at 8:15 p.m./8:30 p.m. to Ann Arbor, Brighton, and East Lansing. The following economy roundtrip fares include taxes but not necessarily baggage or other “extras”:

Washington, DC (BWI) Spirit \$74
Myrtle Beach, NC (MYR) Delta \$138
Atlanta, GA (ATL) Spirit \$152
Nashville, TN (BNA) Delta \$218
Las Vegas, NV (LAS) Frontier & Spirit \$222
Phoenix, AZ (PHX) Frontier & Spirit \$225
Orlando, FL (MCO) Frontier \$235
St. Louis, MO (STL) SkyWest/Delta \$238
Lexington, KY (LEX) Republic/Delta \$278
Charlotte, NC (CLT) Delta \$296
Durham, NC (RDU) Delta \$318
Kansas City, MO (MCI) Delta \$318
Austin, TX (AUS) Delta \$328
Knoxville, TN (TYS) Delta \$338
Memphis, TN (MEM) Endeavor/Delta \$338
Norfolk, VA (ORF) Endeavor/Delta \$338
Richmond, VA (RIC) SkyWest/Delta \$338

Tampa, FL (TPA) Frontier \$358
Louisville, KY (SDF) Endeavor/Delta \$378
Huntsville, AL (HSV) Delta \$388
Los Angeles, CA (LAX) Spirit \$409
Charleston, SC (CHS) Delta \$438
Houston TX (HIS) Spirit \$446
Dallas, TX (DFW) American \$470
Ft. Lauderdale, FL (FLL) Spirit \$500
New Orleans, LA (MSY) Delta \$508
San Antonio, TX (SAT) Delta \$518
Sarasota, FL (SRQ) Delta \$548
Fort Myers, FL (RSW) Spirit \$564
San Francisco, CA (SFO) Delta \$658
San Diego, CA (SAN) Delta \$788
West Palm Beach, FL (PBI) Delta \$1,098
Honolulu, HI (HNL) Delta \$1,439



Tips for Smarter Travel

- [!\[\]\(cdf2842d82858164c68c92720a337fb9_img.jpg\) Change Your Reservations Online in Two Quick Steps](#)
- [!\[\]\(3973dad7f2f3eafb2c144deb79d5c822_img.jpg\) Know How to Find Us at DTW's McNamara Terminal](#)
- [!\[\]\(78688513da7a924039ac16e546d7bf8b_img.jpg\) Invest in Travel Insurance for Peace of Mind](#)
- [!\[\]\(508a1136d49b79584e89f03b586dfa9e_img.jpg\) Download Our Free App to Track Your Bus in Real Time](#)

Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!



East Lansing

[Pretty Woman: The Musical](#)

“If you love the movie, you’ll love the musical,” says BuzzFeed News. One of Hollywood’s most beloved romantic stories comes to life on stage thanks to a powerhouse creative team led by two-time Tony Award®-winning director and choreographer Jerry Mitchell (*Hairspray*, *Kinky Boots*, *Legally Blonde*) and lead producer Paula Wagner. The musical features an original score by Grammy® winner Bryan Adams and Jim Vallance (“Summer of ’69”, “Heaven”), and a book by the movie’s director, Garry Marshall, and screenwriter J. F. Lawton. Performances Dec. 13-Dec. 18, times vary, at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts (see above). [Tickets \\$29-\\$95.](#)

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

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



Ann Arbor

[Handel's Messiah](#)

Handel composed his oratorio *Messiah* during a single month in 1741, then staged its triumphant premiere at a new concert hall in Dublin. Nearly 300 years later, the ravishingly beautiful production of the *Messiah* by friends and colleagues in the Ann Arbor community is an annual holiday tradition. Music director Scott Hanoian conducts the UMS Choral Union and the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. It's at U-M Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor, for two

performances: Saturday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. [Tickets \\$17-\\$43](#). (Note that host Doyle Armbrust of "The Society of Disobedient Listeners" will give a special pre-performance talk at 6:30 p.m. in the lower lobby of the auditorium on Saturday.)



[Itzhak Perlman and Friends](#)

Superstar violinist Itzhak Perlman is beloved by audiences around the globe for his remarkable artistry and joy in making music. Among other things, Perlman performed at the Inauguration of President Barack Obama in 2009, was awarded a Kennedy Center Honor in 2003, and played for Her Majesty The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh at a White House state dinner hosted by President George W. Bush and Mrs. Bush in 2007. For this special Ann Arbor performance, he brings together pianists Emanuel Ax and Jean-Yves Thibaudet and the Juilliard String Quartet for a mixed

chamber music program. It's at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10, at U-M Hill Auditorium. [Tickets \\$28-\\$181](#).

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 School of Ballet Presents: The Nutcracker](#)

This charming, 36th annual production of the Christmastime classic, *The Nutcracker*, features more than 100 local dancers, gymnasts, and three professional guest artists from Mauro Ballet of Puerto Rico. Join in Livingston County's longest-running holiday tradition at 2 p.m. on either Saturday, Dec. 3, or Sunday, Dec. 4, at the Brighton Center for the Performing Arts, 7878 Brighton Rd., Brighton. [Tickets \\$30](#).

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

[Nutcracker! Magic of Christmas Ballet](#)

Bring the whole family to this acclaimed holiday ballet. Overflowing with larger-than-life puppets, breath-taking acrobatics and dazzling costumes, it features an international cast—including stars of Ukraine ballet—performing at the highest level of classical technique. On Sunday Dec. 11, catch any of three live performances at 12 p.m., 4 p.m. or 8 p.m. It's live at the Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. [Tickets \\$30-\\$100+](#).

PLEASE 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. The Fox Theatre is within a few minutes walk of 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 following the noon performance), it's possible for East Lansing and Brighton residents to get to and from downtown Detroit by bus for an event such as this.

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 Comment

"Excellent, comfortable ride. The driver put safety first, comfort next, and highlighted both with interjections of family-appropriate humor. We were able to advance our tickets to an earlier bus simply by showing up at the bus with our tickets and requesting the change (available space was not a concern). Overall, this was as easy as it gets."

—B.R., Eugene, Ore.

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!





Fun Facts You May Not Know About Thanksgiving

✍ The practice of giving thanks at harvest time goes back to the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. Likewise, the indigenous peoples who occupied what is now known as North America gave thanks at harvest feasts for centuries before Europeans appeared on their shores. So, Thanksgiving has always been more than a four-day weekend in which we feast with family and friends, and then start Christmas shopping on Black Friday.

✍ Persecuted for separating from the Church of England, a group of English people set out for America as Pilgrims. In all, 102 souls departed on the Mayflower on Sept. 6, 1620, and arrived at what is now Provincetown, Mass., on Nov. 21. They decided to settle near Plymouth Rock on Dec. 22. Fortunately, members of the Wampanoag tribe taught them to hunt, fish, and grow corn, beans, and squash, which enabled them to survive a brutal winter and successfully raise food crops. The Pilgrims and Native Americans then gave thanks together at a three-day harvest feast in autumn 1621.

✍ On Nov. 26, 1789—in honor of the creation of the U.S. Constitution—President George Washington proclaimed Nov. 26, 1789, as a “Day of Publick Thanksgiving” in gratitude for God’s grace in helping to found a new nation. The country had recently emerged from the Revolutionary War for independence from Great Britain.

✍ For decades thereafter, Thanksgiving across the U.S. was celebrated on various dates determined by the governors of the states. Then on Nov. 26, 1863—about four months after the Union Army’s victory in the Civil War’s bloody Battle of Gettysburg—President Abraham Lincoln called upon Americans to “observe the last Thursday of November ... as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise.”



Sarah Josepha Hale

✍ But actually, a woman named Sarah Josepha (Buell) Hale was most responsible for establishing Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November. Born on a New Hampshire farm in 1788, she was home educated by her mother and college-student brother. While women weren’t allowed to be teachers at the time, she founded her own school at age 18. Then she met and married David Hale and had five children. When he died in 1822, she began writing to make ends meet. Her first book of poems included the famous nursery rhyme “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

Eventually, Hale became America’s first woman magazine editor. In that position, she wrote hundreds of letters to influential people—including President Lincoln—urging that the last Thursday in November be set aside to “offer to God our tribute of joy and gratitude for the blessings of the year.” Lincoln agreed.

✍ On Nov. 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill into law officially creating the federal holiday of Thanksgiving.

✍ No costumes, cards, candy, gifts, or commercialism—it’s a holiday devoted just to grateful reflection on our many blessings.

Why Drive?

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



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www.michiganflyer.com



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