



Revealing "Great Connections" Contest Winner #5



Our 2024 essay contest asked folks to tell us how Michigan Flyer connected them with a special person, place or adventure. It features a \$500 gift card Top Prize and five \$100 gift card runner-up prizes. Michigan Flyer staff and creative consultants select the winners based on which essays best fit the contest theme. You can read about our previous four runner-up winners [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). (Next month, we'll reveal the Top Prize winner!)

This month, we're happy to announce that our fifth runner-up winner is **Rachel Resin** of Ypsilanti, Mich. A chance remark from a co-worker at the Ypsilanti District Library, where Rachel serves as a circulation clerk, prompted the birthday adventure that she describes in her entry below.

Rachel is an avid bicyclist who tries to get in 5 to 20 miles of cycling every day. She's also a big fan of public transportation, so when she planned her birthday trip, she relied on Michigan Flyer to get her to and from Detroit Metro Airport. "I left before sunrise and returned after sunset. The Flyer was a great experience. It's a smooth ride that takes you right to your terminal. And it's timely and affordable."

Rachel, who enjoys writing, entered our contest as a way to chronicle her 12-hour birthday excursion: “I was exhausted when I got back, but it was a good kind of tired.” Booking the Flyer was part of her plan to go somewhere special on her birthday and enjoy a hit musical from a front-row seat.

She also knows exactly what she’ll do with her \$100 gift card: Turn it over to her friends who run the Daytime Warming Center in Ypsilanti, where unhoused people can have a meal, rest, and warm up during the winter.

A Birthday to Remember

By Rachel Resin

“I started my birthday by waiting for the Michigan Flyer so that I could take a sunrise flight to Boston. It was an idea my coworker planted in my head — flying somewhere with no luggage and no reservations, just for a day trip, and coming home the same night. I hadn’t taken a vacation in almost three years, and this sounded so simple and effortless. Buses and motorcoaches made it possible from start to finish. At Boston Logan International Airport, I took the Silver Line — one of those crazy articulated buses joined in the middle like an accordion — to South Station, drank a raspberry-lime rickey at the South Street Diner, and sat on a bench at Boston Common, soaking in the sunlight. On one side of me was Beacon Street, full of gorgeous old buildings; on another side was the [Public Garden lagoon](#), with swan boats, weeping willows, and cherry trees in bloom; and everywhere I looked, there were more dog walkers than I had ever seen in one place. (“Look at all these dogs!” I heard a little kid say. “There’s SO MUCH DOG!”) The real reason I picked Boston was the [Calderwood Pavilion](#). It was the closing day of “[Without You](#),” a one-man play by Anthony Rapp, from the original Broadway cast of “Rent!” The woman sitting next to me said “Have your tissues ready for when you cry,” and she was completely right. It gave me chills to hear some of my favorite songs from the first actor who ever sang them, and it was a beautiful tribute to the mind behind the musical, the late [Jonathan Larson](#), who passed away during dress rehearsals and never got to see the Pulitzer Prize he won. Thank you, Michigan Flyer!”



Travel Alerts

Michigan Flyer Turkey Day Schedule Changes

Due in part to the 5K and 1K races of the [Ann Arbor Turkey Trot](#) on Thursday, Nov. 28, Michigan Flyer-AirRide will be running a partial schedule at most locations (Ann Arbor, Brighton, East Lansing, and Detroit Metro Airport). To see which stops we will be making that day, just use the “Book a Trip” feature at [MichiganFlyer.com](#).

Just a Friendly Reminder ...

If you’re planning a trip with us around the Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Year holiday, please be aware that this is a peak travel period. Millions of people are traveling to visit family and friends, and masses of college students are migrating to and from campuses. So, in order to guarantee that we have a seat for you, it’s wise to make your Michigan Flyer reservations ASAP. Ditto for buying your airline tickets.

Delta to Expand its Trans-Atlantic Summer Schedule



The airline’s [new and expanded routes for summer 2025](#) include nonstop service to destinations such as Catania, Sicily; Naples, Rome, and Milan, Italy; Barcelona, Spain; and more. For travelers leaving from DTW, Delta’s expansion — starting in May — means new, four-times-weekly service from Detroit to Dublin (DUB), with more opportunities to explore Ireland’s scenic landscapes and vibrant culture.

“More than one million people with Irish heritage call Michigan home and we expect this first-ever DTW to Dublin route will be in high-demand,” said Wayne County Airport Authority CEO Chad Newton.

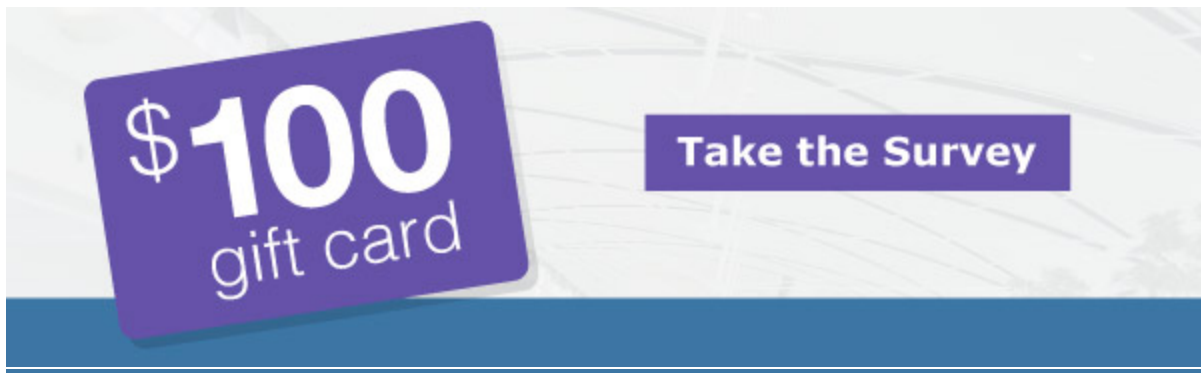
Using [Delta’s website](#), we recently spot-checked prices for a DTW-DUB roundtrip departing on Monday, June 2, and returning on Thursday, June 12, with nonstop flights in both directions. The basic economy fare was \$1,317, while a Comfort+ seat would cost \$2,337.

From Detroit — between July 7 and Nov. 30 — Delta will also offer [new daily service to San José](#) Mineta International Airport (SJC), making it easier for travelers to connect with California’s Silicon Valley and San Francisco Bay area.

Take a Quick Survey, Win a \$100 Gift Card!

At Michigan Flyer, we're constantly working to improve customer service, and your participation in our new Passenger Survey will help us to do just that. There are only 15 questions, mostly brief and multiple choice. The survey should take only 7-8 minutes to complete. You can [find the survey here](#).

After that, you'll be automatically entered into a random drawing for one of five \$100 Amazon gift cards! Thanks for taking time to help us deliver the finest motorcoach experience possible — and good luck!



Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!

East Lansing



Bill Blagg – Family Magic

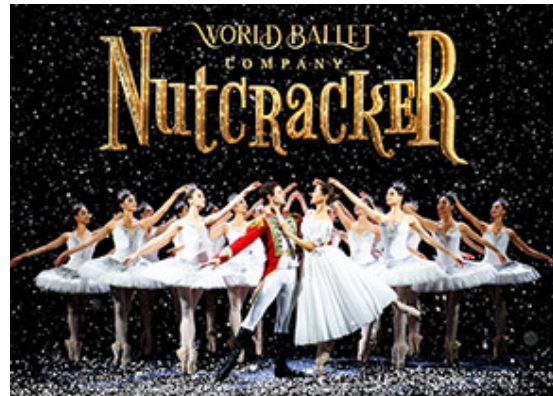
Get ready for a show filled with laughter, wonder, and endless surprises as renowned magician Bill Blagg presents Family Magic. With non-stop fun for audiences of all ages, Bill Blagg's unique blend of comedy, audience participation, and mind-bending magic will keep you on the edge of your seat eagerly anticipating what's coming next.

Prepare to be amazed as ordinary objects come to life while others vanish in the blink of an eye, and you could even be chosen to float in mid-air. This magical family event is sure to create unforgettable memories with your loved ones. Select either a matinee (1:30 p.m.) or evening (4 p.m.) performance on Saturday, Dec. 7, in the Pasant

Theater of the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Ln., on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing. [Tickets \\$15-\\$18 plus fee.](#)

World Ballet Company: The Nutcracker

The famed Christmas classic is coming to East Lansing, and you are invited! World Ballet Company presents Nutcracker LIVE on stage, featuring a multinational cast of 40 professional ballet dancers.



Enjoy a family-friendly experience accompanied by Tchaikovsky's timeless score, over 150 radiant hand-crafted costumes, lavish hand-painted sets, and iconic choreography.

See the Waltz of Flowers, the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, and meet Mother Ginger and the Drosselmeyer. Be part of the tradition at either a matinee (1:30 p.m.) or evening (6 p.m.) performance on Sunday, Dec. 8, at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Ln., on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing. [Tickets \\$32.50-\\$99.50 plus fee.](#)

Check out more local coming events with the Choose Lansing calendar: lansing.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: visitlivingstoncounty.com/events/.

Ann Arbor



Midnight Madness

Ann Arbor's popular holiday shopping event is bigger and better than ever! It takes place from 5 p.m. to midnight on Friday, Dec. 6, in three downtown districts: Kerrytown, State Street, and Main Street. Best of all, admission is FREE!

At KindleFest in **Kerrytown**, explore a German-inspired holiday market featuring artisans and vendors selling holiday wares, plus live music and kids events. Local food options are available for purchase under the glow of holiday lights. At the Merry Market on **State Street**, enjoy handcrafted cocktails in A2's Social District, shopping until midnight, festive music, promotions, delicious food and activities for everyone. On **Main Street**, in addition to late-night shopping, kids of all ages can meet and have their photos taken with Santa Claus!

Handel's Messiah

Handel composed his oratorio Messiah during a single month in 1741 before its triumphant premiere at a new concert hall in Dublin. This timeless masterpiece has enraptured audiences for centuries with its sublime beauty and profound spirituality.

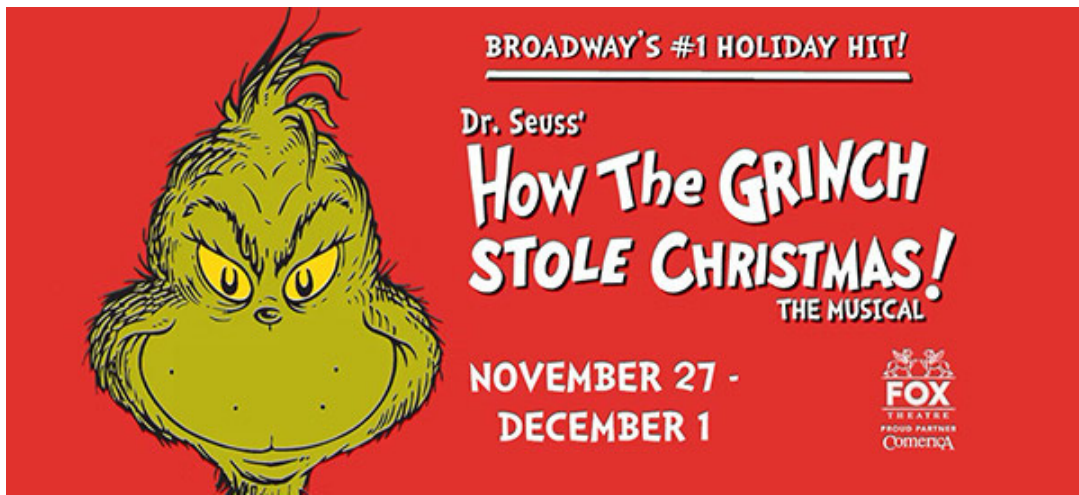


From the jubilant “Hallelujah” chorus to its stirring arias and evocative chorales, Messiah is brought to life by friends and colleagues from the community through both the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra and the UMS Choral Union.

With UMSCU music director Scott Hanoian conducting, a cast of stellar soloists make their first UMS appearances in this musical rite of the holiday season, which still awes listeners more than 250 years after the composer’s death. Catch it on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 7:30 p.m., or Sunday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m., at U-M Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. [Tickets \\$17-\\$44 plus fees.](#)

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

Detroit



Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas – The Musical

Hailed by The New York Times as “100 times better than any bedtime story,” this classic holiday musical will enchant adults and children alike. It’s coming to the Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., in Detroit for nine performances between Wednesday, Nov. 27, and Sunday, Dec. 1!

Featuring the hit songs “You’re A Mean One, Mr. Grinch” and “Welcome Christmas,” The Grinch discovers there’s more to Christmas than he bargained for in this heart-warming holiday classic. Max the Dog narrates as the mean and scheming Grinch, whose heart is “two sizes too small,” decides to steal Christmas away from the holiday-loving Whos.

The Grinch broke box office records for two consecutive years on Broadway. Since then, more than 2.5 million theatergoers across America have been delighted by this heart-warming holiday musical, which Gannett hailed as “A genius of a show! A total delight for both kids and adults.” [Tickets \\$55-\\$75+.](#)

NOTE: [The D2A2 Express Bus](#) from Ann Arbor’s Blake Transit Center (BTC) to Detroit’s Grand Circus Park can get Ann Arbor-area riders to and from this event. The Fox Theatre is a short walk from D2A2’s stop at 1508 Park Ave., Detroit.

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

Airfares for a Holiday Getaway



How about planning a vacation during the two weeks that include both Christmas and New Year's Day? To check out the possibilities for a sample trip between Friday, Dec. 20, and Saturday, Jan. 4, we used [SkyScanner.com](https://www.skyscanner.com) to search for low-priced domestic roundtrips originating at Detroit Metro Airport.

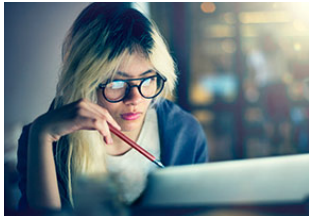
PLEASE NOTE: In order to get below-average fares, it's important to buy your tickets at least three weeks in advance of your trip.

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 9:45 p.m./10:00 p.m. to Ann Arbor, Brighton, and East Lansing. The following economy roundtrip fares include taxes but not necessarily baggage or other "extras":

Minneapolis, MN (MSP) Spirit \$88
Philadelphia, PA (PHL) Spirit \$96
Nashville, TN (BNA) Spirit \$102
St. Louis, MO (STL) Spirit \$102
New York, NY (LGA) Spirit \$107
Boston, MA (BOS) Spirit \$117
Atlanta, GA (ATL) Spirit \$156
Washington, DC (DCA) Delta \$199
Chicago, IL (ORD) American \$274
Phoenix, AZ (PHX) Frontier \$316
Lexington, KY (LEX) Delta \$329
Houston, TX (IAH) Spirit \$338
Fort Myers, FL (RSW) Frontier \$345
Myrtle Beach, SC (MYR) Delta \$349
Portland, ME (PWM) Delta/SkyWest \$349
Richmond, VA (RIC) Delta \$349
Los Angeles, CA (LAX) Spirit \$367
Tampa, FL (TPA) Frontier \$367

Orlando, FL (MCO) Frontier \$380
Dallas, TX (DFW) Frontier & Spirit \$388
Austin, TX (AUS) Delta \$389
Durham, NC (RDU) Delta \$389
Las Vegas, NV (LAS) Spirit \$390
Charlotte, NC (CLT) American \$408
Des Moines, IA (DSM) Delta/Endeavor \$409
New Orleans, LA (MSY) Delta \$429
Denver, CO (DEN) Delta \$437
San Antonio, TX (SAT) Delta \$467
Charleston, SC (CHS) Delta \$469
Fort Lauderdale, FL (FLL) Spirit \$508
Seattle, WA (SEA) Delta \$512
Kansas City, MO (MCI) Delta \$513
San Francisco, CA (SFO) United \$679
San Diego, CA (SAN) Delta \$744
Salt Lake City, UT (SLC) Delta \$758
Honolulu, HI (HNL) Delta \$2,467

Please note that 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 destination.



Tips for Smarter Travel

Know How to Find Us at DTW (click the link for each terminal)

Easily Change Your Own MI Flyer Reservations at this Link

Where's Your Bus? Find Out with Our Real-Time Tracker

Please, Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

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

facebook

tripadvisor®

yelp

Customer Comment

"Great way to get to Detroit Metro Airport. Inexpensive to leave your car and take the bus. Comfortable seats where you can sit back and relax. Did not miss fighting traffic and paying high prices for parking at the airport."

— Carolyn E., Howell, Mich.



We're Thankful for You!



Originally, Michigan Flyer was just a bright idea twinkling in the eyes of its founders, Indian Trails, Inc., and Skybird Okemos Travel. When they launched the new bus company in November 2006, success was anything but certain.

For one thing, we needed to double our six daily roundtrips just to break even on the operation of our luxury, 54-passenger motorcoaches. For another, most people were used to driving themselves from mid-Michigan to Detroit Metro Airport and back, or riding with someone else. The passenger car was stiff competition. Hence our slogan: "Why Drive?"

Zoom forward to today. Our 12 daily roundtrips between East Lansing, Brighton, Ann Arbor and Detroit Metro Airport have carried more than 2.5 million passengers — and with an extraordinary 98 percent rate of on-time arrivals and departures.

Typically, more than 65,000 riders each year are visitors from out of state. Collectively, they infuse an estimated \$22 million annually into the mid-Michigan economy by doing business and attending conventions here, and visiting family, friends, and our great universities.

We hope you'll join all of us at Indian Trails and Michigan Flyer in celebrating our 18th anniversary. After all, we simply would not be here today without you, our loyal passengers, for whom we are forever grateful!

Fun Facts About Thanksgiving!



1. 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 when we feast with family and friends, and then start Christmas shopping on Black Friday.

2. Persecuted for separating from the Church of England, a group of English people set out for America as Pilgrims. In all, 102 souls sailed on the Mayflower on Sept. 6, 1620, and arrived at what is now Provincetown, Mass., on Nov. 21. They settled near Plymouth Rock on Dec. 22. After surviving a brutal winter and then successfully raising food crops with the help of indigenous people, they gave thanks at a three-day harvest feast with the Wampanoag Native Americans in autumn 1621.

3. On Nov. 26, 1789 — in honor of the new U.S. Constitution — President George Washington proclaimed Nov. 26, 1789, as a day of public 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.

4. For decades thereafter, Thanksgiving across the U.S. was celebrated on various dates determined by state governors. 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."

5. On Nov. 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill into law officially creating the federal holiday of Thanksgiving — a day devoted to grateful reflection on our many blessings.

Why Drive?

Booking is easy, click here to view schedules.



333 Albert Street - Suite 214 | East Lansing, MI 48823

www.michiganflyer.com

