

## Shalom and Greetings from Israel!



I am on a “Jeff Cavins Pilgrimage” to the Holy Land, as I write. There are six busses seating travelers from all over the country. One of the busses, the “Blue Bus,” is exclusively Destin area residents and snowbirds. Doris and Mike Beam, group leaders of the Blue Bus, said they shared the trip information with the local Catholic Churches: Resurrection, Corpus Christi and St. Rita’s. “We were hoping to get 20 to 25 people.” Doris said, “But amazingly, a total of 57 signed up.” I call the Beams “closet snowbirds” because, even though they consider themselves residents, they still go “home” to Wisconsin for a couple of months every summer. I am sharing this information to exemplify yet another awesome opportunity that was available to Destin snowbirds and I plan to recruit the snowbirds on my bus for the Destin Snowbird club. Photo of Destin pilgrims attending a goat-milking lesson while learning the way-of-life for ancient Israelis.

Thanks to the technology of today, my fellow Destin snowbirds and I are in constant contact. In fact, I’m hearing raves about Bobby D’s performance at last Tuesday morning’s meetings. Bobby has a knack for taking us back in time to those sock-hopping, be-bopping days when our hearts accelerated as we danced to songs such as “Boogie Shoes” then accelerated even more as we danced cheek-to-cheek to “What a Wonderful World” with that special someone. For many, those memories became a reality just a few hours later at the first T.G.I.T. (Thank Goodness it’s Tuesday) Party in the Seascaple Conference Center. Chairpersons Cindy and Ray Varnell have this party down to a science, and it has become the season’s most popular event. Fortunately, snowbirds will have three more opportunities to experience the excitement: January 29, with Todd Herendeen, February 12, with Crystal Gage and February 19, with David Hall.



After a year’s sabbatical, the very popular David Seering will be next Tuesday’s entertainment. David has been mesmerizing the flocks for about 25 years. He may not get our hearts pumping to old-fashioned rock and roll, but he can send chills down our spines with his mastery of the classics. I would advise our new snowbirds to block all the exits until he agrees to sing “Music of the Night” from The Phantom of the Opera. Close your eyes and you will be able to imagine yourself in the audience of the famous Broadway musical. You may want to shout, “Encore!” and he will oblige by offering tickets to his annual concert to benefit Children in Crisis. This year it will be held February 18, at Village Baptist Church. David donates 100% of the concert proceeds to this worthy cause and over the last five years he has raised well over \$100,000.

Obviously, Destin snowbirds need to be “early birds” as well. Activities such as bridge and creative writing have already met their participation limits. Last Sunday’s Nine & Wine & Whine at Shalimar



Pointe was a complete sell-out. (Information on future outings will be emailed to those who have signed up.) The First Harbor Party Boat Cruise, Valentine Dinner Dance, Fashion Show Luncheon and Mardi Gras trip will definitely sell-out. However, there are still plenty of activities that are welcoming more participants. One, is the Singles Friendship Club. They will be gathering at the Half Shell Oyster House next Tuesday immediately after the 11 a.m. meeting. The best way to make sure you don’t get left out of the fun is to attend the meetings and sign up for the events. If you’re not a member yet, plan to arrive an hour to 45 minutes before the 8:30 or 11 a.m. meetings to register. Also, check our website often ([www.destinsnowbirds.org](http://www.destinsnowbirds.org)) because interesting and important information is continuously added and updated.