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OCTOBER 2026
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ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

RETIRED FRIENDS CLUB OF GREENDALE RFCG

WORCESTER, MA FOUNDED 1952



Greetings Members!

As we enter October, we welcome the transition into the beautiful autumn season. The mornings are crisp, the leaves are turning vibrant colors, and we are all looking forward to the upcoming holiday season. It is a wonderful time of year marked by cool mornings, warm afternoons, football games, and the comfort of good friends gathering together.

This season is a perfect time to cherish our long-held traditions while looking forward to creating new ones. It has been wonderful to see so many new faces joining our club recently. I want to extend a warm welcome to all of our new members—we are truly glad to have you in our community. We look forward to sharing upcoming trips, golf outings, and bowling events with you. At the same time, let us always remember the members who came before us, as they built the strong foundation our club stands on today.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the incredible work our volunteers do to keep our club operating flawlessly each week. Thank you to Terry Monfreda for waking up early to ensure our donuts are delivered fresh. I would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to Dave Nolan, Deborah Nolan, and Diane Lindberg for everything they do for our community; your efforts are deeply valued.

We have an excellent lineup of guest speakers this month that you won't want to miss. ***Check them out.***

Let's get ready for a fun-filled month of autumn activities, apple picking, and Halloween festivities. As your president, I encourage everyone to enjoy each other's company and welcome new traditions into our club. Warm regards,

—Dr. John J. Pepi Sr., *President*

PS: Thank you all for your patience and understanding during our meeting on **September 9, 2026**, when our scheduled entertainer, **Tony Funches**, was unable to appear. Tony reached out directly on Friday with a sincere apology. A tree unfortunately fell on his house, and due to his ongoing heart condition, his wife took him to the hospital as a precautionary measure. We are very glad to report that he is doing well, and we have successfully rescheduled him. He was already booked to join us in **February**, and we have now added an additional date for him this coming Spring. ***Thank you again for your wonderful community spirit and understanding!***

Check out this great line-up of Programs !

We invite our members, friends, and spouses to be our guests at ALL of these great programs held at the Greendale YMCA. *Come at 8AM for Coffee & Donuts. Meeting begins at 9AM with our Color Guard followed by our Chorus and the Program.*

Oct 7 — History of Millbury — Gateway to The Blackstone Valley



Frank Gagliardi, a life-long Millbury resident and historian, will be telling us about Millbury's impressive history: How, in 1813 Millbury broke away from the town of Sutton; and the connection Millbury had to President William Taft; President Taft's connection to the Waters Family; the role the Asa Waters Mansion played in the Underground Railroad; and many more historical facts about Millbury.

Oct 14 — Rocking the Boroughs



Rocking the Boroughs, a Senior Show Choir is made up of 45 spirited seniors who love to sing, dance, and perform to the music of the 50's, 60's and 70's. Their mission is "to ignite the joy of life through song, empowering seniors to uplift themselves and inspire their communities." Come join in the fun by singing along or dancing to the music of our youth..

Oct 21 — What You Need to Know About Scams of Today!



Kevin Donohue is a Retired Teacher from the Spencer-East Brookfield District. Upon retiring, Kevin sought employment through the office of District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. where Kevin is the Community Outreach Coordinator and specifically focusing on educating our seniors about scamming tactics and arming them with safety tips to avoid falling prey to scammers.

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More Upcoming Programs (continued)

Oct 28 — "Creating a Joyful Noise" — Stephen George



Stephen George brings the party with him wherever he goes and loves to put smiles of everyone's faces. He is a singer songwriter who performs all over New England. He sings a wide range of music from oldies, pop, country and folk. Join us as we sing along, tap our feet or dance to a variety of Stephen's songs.

Nov 4 — Get Your Ducks In A Row! — Estate Planing —



Waddle on over and get your ducks in a row at this fun, no-stress estate planning presentation just for seniors! **Attorney Kristina Vickstrom** of Vickstrom Law, PC will tackle Wills, Trusts, Durable Powers of Attorney, Health Care Proxies, Mass Health and more in plain English, a little humor, and maybe even a few quacking good stories. Less mumbo jumbo- just the information you need to get your ducks in a row.

Chorus Group Activities Schedule

Our choral group will sing on meeting days, following practice. If you'd like to attend one or more of the following outside programs, call ahead to check space availability.

Oct 7 Wed.	2:00 p.m.	**Heywood Wakefield Commons** 50 Pine Street, Gardner *(978-632-8292)*
Oct 14 Wed.	10:45 a.m.	**New Horizons Asst. Living** *(508-460-5221)* 400 Hemenway Street, Marlborough
Oct 21 Wed.	2:00 p.m.	**Birches at Briarwood** *(508-852-9007)* 65 Briarwood Circle, Worcester
Oct 28 Wed.	2:30 p.m.	**Christopher House** *(508-796-8994)* 10 Mary Scano Drive, Worcester
Nov 4 Wed.	1-4 p.m.	**Meet at 1pm at Holy Cross College – Jesuit Residence.** We will travel by vans to the **Campion Retirement Ctr. for Priests** 319 Concord Road, Weston *(508-826-4256)*

Is there room for more in the chorus?
Of course. Just speak up to a singer at a meeting or show-up at a Wednesday, 7:30 rehearsal. The more the merrier!

If you know of any member who is ill, or has passed away, please contact, Carol Bethoney at cbitaly2@gmail.com
Please do not contact her for other issues.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTEST
Runs Sept 9 - Nov 30, 2026

We are very interested in growing our membership. Starting in September 9th, we will be running a Membership Drive Contest, with monthly prizes and final grand and 2nd place prizes. This should be a lot of fun. Stay tuned to the newsletter for monthly updates as the contest will run until November 30th.

CONTEST RULES



- **Earn your first ticket by getting 2 new members to join the Retired Friends Club of Greendale ***
- **Earn additional tickets for each subsequent new member you get to join.**
- **Each ticket earned will go into the pot from which tickets will be drawn for monthly prize drawings and the final grand prize drawing.**
- **Monthly Prize: Lifetime Membership!**
- **Final Grand Prize: $1,000 Trip Voucher good on any RFCG trip.**
- **Final 2nd Place Prize: $500 Trip Voucher good on any RFCG trip.**

***** New members must be new to the club or inactive for 2 or more years. The new member must pay their first year's dues and include the name of the referring member when completing their application form.

For questions contact:
John Kelly (860) 798-6272 or
Jim Hester (978) 618-5422

www.rfcg.info

Deceased Members

Joseph F. Azzarone
Paul Davis
Cecil D. Everett
Charles J. Genovesi
Leo J. Messier
Oswald Sauer

Atlantic City, NJ — Tropicana Resort & Casino — 2026

October 27 to 29, 2026 *(Tuesday to Thursday)* . . . . $439 pp/do

Highlights: This Tropicana Atlantic City motor coach getaway package includes round-trip transport, two nights on the Boardwalk, and $100 in total bonuses ($50 slot play and $50 dining credit). You'll enjoy two 8 PM evening shows, with all taxes, baggage handling, driver gratuity, and trip insurance fully covered. It's a perfect, worry-free escape to enjoy gaming, entertainment and world-class dining.

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913
Parking: Maironis Park rjpinkes1@verizon.net

Allure of the Adriatic — 2027

Dec. 31, 2026 to Jan. 16, 2027 . . . . . from $5,645 pp/do

Highlights: Ring in the New Year on an unforgettable 17-day journey through Croatia, Italy & Slovenia, featuring a private small-ship cruise aboard the 50-passenger M/V Artemis—with only 25 exclusive spots secured for our group. Start in Zagreb before exploring the Istrian coast, featuring Pula's Roman Amphitheatre and the wildlife of Cres Island. Savor authentic culture with cooking classes, olive mill visits, and home-hosted lunches in Rovinj. After visiting Trieste and the mosaics of Ravenna, your voyage concludes in Venice with iconic sightseeing and a classic gondola ride through the winding canals.

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435
Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

Caribbean Cruise — 2027

January 23 to 31, 2027 . . . . . from $2,499 pp/do

Highlights: Our trip begins with a flight from Boston and a pre-cruise hotel stay in Florida. You'll sail from Port Canaveral to Great Stirrup Cay, Jamaica, Grand Cayman, and Cozumel, with all taxes, port fees, and tips already covered. The package features a premium beverage package, specialty dining, Wi-Fi, and onboard credits, travel insurance and all ground transfers.

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435
Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

Sun Drenched Aruba — 2027

February 25 to March 4, 2027 . . . . . $4,659 pp/do

Highlights: Have you had enough winter by the end of February? Do you wish you could go to a sun-drenched island in the Caribbean? We have the antidote. Come join us on an 8 day 7 night all inclusive trip to the sun-drenched island of Aruba, staying in the Riu Palace Antillas on Palm Beach. The trip includes round trip non-stop flights from Boston, all transfers, all meals, many restaurants to choose from, drinks, snacks, entertainment, some water sports, baggage handling, all taxes, and trip insurance. Spend your days on the beach or golfing nearby, your nights at the casino or take in some entertainment. Do as much or as little as you'd like. Everyone gets a Junior Suite with an ocean view, and upgraded rooms are available. All of this for $4,659 per person double occupancy.

Trip Leader: Dave Cochran 508-769-9323
Parking: Maironis Park cochradw@verizon.net

St. Patrick's Luncheon and Show — NEW

March 9, 2027 *(Tuesday)* . . . . . $127 pp

Highlights: We'll be celebrating St. Patrick's Day at the Aqua Turf Club. We'll first enjoy a complimentary tray of donuts and coffee on arrival. This will be followed by a delicious luncheon served family style – includes a fresh green salad, traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage, Pasta, Baked Schrod, potatoes and vegetables. A Complimentary glass of beer or wine and desert are also included. Coffee, Tea and Decaf are also included. This will all be followed by a fantastic St Patrick's Show featuring Padraig Allen and the McLean Avenue Band who have their own sound with old Irish Celtic folklore and rock pop Celtic music for your enjoyment. You'll also enjoy the Irish Step Dancers during the show. Join your friends for a wonderful combination of great cuisine and entertainment. One more thing, they provide a free raffle for some great prizes. This is truly a great location, meal and show.

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913
Parking: Immaculate Conception rjpinkes1@verizon.net

Miami / Costa Rica / Panama Canal — 2027

April 4 to 16, 2027 . . . . . $3,579/$5,619 pp/do

Highlights: Join us as we fly to Miami and stay overnight in a beachfront hotel, with free time for shopping and leisure. Our 1900 passenger ship, the Norwegian Sun, was refurbished in 2024. We'll spend 11 days with 8 ports of call and includes a Panama Canal transit to Gatun Lake and back. We visit Falmouth, Jamaica; Cartagena Columbia; Gatun Lake, Panama; Colon, Panama; Puerto Limon, Costa Rica; Harvest Cay in Belize; and Cozumel, Mexico. As usual the trip includes all gratuities including the daily service charge applied to each cabin by NCL as well as those for the included Premium Beverage and Specialty Dining Packages (2 dinners per person, four for Balcony and above). It also includes RT air from Boston or Hartford, all airport hotel transfers, porterage of one bag PP, and trip insurance. This will be an exciting trip so sign up early!

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913
Parking: Maironis Park rjpinkes1@verizon.net

Romantic Villages of Alpine Europe — 2027

April 10 to 25, 2027 . . . . . from $5,745 pp/do

Highlights: Join us on this 16-day trip thru the Romantic Villages of Alpine Europe. We will arrive in Milan and journey thru Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria end in Munich Germany. Along our way we will stay at Lake Maggiore, take a private cruise of the Borromean Islands in Stresa. We will stop at the Simpson Pass, take a short train ride to Zermatt and take in the views of the Matterhorn arriving in Interlaken Switzerland. We will tour Vaduz, the Capital of Liechtenstein then on to Seefeld Austria. While in the Seefeld area we will travel to Innsbruck and Mittenwald, Germany. After leaving the Seefeld area, our final destination is Munich Germany.

There will be an Informative Trip Presentation for this trip on Thurs., Oct. 8, 2026 at 1:00pm *at Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove Street, Worcester (Parking in back) –* ***Please contact Trip Leader, Ralph Shapiro if you wish to attend.***

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435
Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

More Trip Descriptions

Log Cabin — YAKOV Smirnoff — NEW

April 27, 2027 *(Tuesday)* . . . . . $159 pp

Highlights: Join us in laughter with the very funny Russian Comedian YAKOV SMIRNOFF at the lovely Log Cabin in Holyoke, MA. We'll first enjoy a family style meal consisting of Garden Salad Chicken Francaise AND Baked Scrod, Rolls & Butter Vegetable & Potato, Dessert - Coffee & Tea. YAKOV has been featured in many movies such as: "The Money Pit" with Tom Hanks, "Brewster's Millions" with Richard Pryor and John Candy, as well as appearances on TV shows such as "Night Court" and the "Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson! YAKOV is famous for his line "WHAT A COUNTRY!!!" BOOK EARLY!! There will only be one bus for this trip and it will be very popular so book early.

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913
Parking: Immaculate Conception rjpinkes1@verizon.net

Unforgettable New York City — 2027

May 14 to 18, 2027 . . . . . $1,799 pp/do

Highlights: Get ready for an unforgettable 4-night, 5-day New York City Adventure. The trip starts off with a relaxing Amtrak train ride to NYC. Experience the excitement of the Big Apple on guided tours showcasing iconic sights including Central Park, Times Square, Rockefeller Center, Wall Street, and the 9/11 Memorial. Enjoy a matinee Broadway show. Take a cruise to both Liberty and Ellis Islands for an up-close look at the Statue of Liberty, then enjoy a wild day exploring the world-famous Bronx Zoo. From legendary landmarks to incredible experiences, every day will be packed with excitement and discovery.

There will be an Informative Trip Presentation for this trip on Thurs., Oct. 29, 2026 at 1:00 pm *at Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove Street, Worcester (Parking in back) –* ***Please contact Trip Leader, Ralph Shapiro if you wish to attend.***

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435
Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

Ocean City, Maryland with Annapolis & Atlantic City — 2027

May 18 to 22, 2027 . . . . . $1,436 pp/do

Highlights: Enjoy a 5-day getaway to Ocean City, MD, featuring oceanview accommodations, scenic coastal towns, and historic sightseeing. Stay 3 nights at the Holiday Inn & Suites Boardwalk in deluxe oceanview suites with kitchen and private balcony, plus 1 night at the Tropicana Atlantic City with food and slot vouchers. Experience a bayside sunset dinner at Harbor Watch, a guided tour of Ocean City, Assateague Island (home of the famous wild horses), and free time in charming Berlin, MD. Enjoy a classic Maryland crab feast at Hooper's Restaurant. Visit Annapolis with a guided tour of historic downtown, the State Capitol, and the U.S. Naval Academy, with lunch at Mike's Crab House. Travel by ferry to Cape May, NJ for a trolley tour of Victorian homes and the historic Physick Estate, then continue on to Atlantic City. Trip Includes: Round-trip motor coach transportation / 3 nights Ocean City Boardwalk hotel / 1 night Tropicana Atlantic City (food & $15 slot voucher; show tickets if available) / 8 meals / Guided sightseeing / All taxes, gratuities, luggage handling & trip insurance.

Trip Leader: George Barry 508-799-0739
Parking: Maironis Park george.barry77@yahoo.com

Baltic Cruise — 2027

June 2 to 13, 2027 . . . . . $4,549/$5,999 pp/do

Highlights: The complete Baltic. Join us on this 12 day 9-night cruise of the complete Baltic experience. We will arrive one day early in Copenhagen before we board the ship. We will visit and explore: Copenhagen, Denmark; Gdansk, Poland; Warnemunde and Berlin, Germany where you can visit the Brandenburg Gant and the Berlin Wall. Going on to Ronne Bornholm, Denmark; Klaipeda, Lithuania; Riga, Latvia; Stockholm, Sweden; Tallinn, Estonia; ending up in Helsinki, Finland. This is a trip of a lifetime encompassing the entire Baltic region.

There will be an Informative Trip Presentation for this trip on Thurs., Oct. 29, 2026 at 11am *at Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove Street, Worcester (Parking in back) –* ***Please contact Trip Leader, Ralph Shapiro if you wish to attend.***

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435
Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

Newport Schooner Cruise — 2027

June 22, 2027 *(Tuesday)* . . . . . $242 pp

Highlights: Join us for an exciting day trip to the "Sailing Capital of the World" – Newport, Rhode Island. Our first stop will be for a tour of a famous Newport Mansion. Following the tour, we'll gather for lunch at the historic La Forge Casino Restaurant. Famous for its fresh seafood and iconic New England clam chowder. After lunch, we'll head to the wharf to board the majestic Adirondack IV Schooner. As we raise sail and catch the breeze, we'll glide effortlessly through Narragansett Bay to enjoy panoramic views of magnificent mansions, historic forts, and scenic lighthouses. To wrap up our unforgettable sailing adventure, you'll have free time to explore and shop in downtown Newport before boarding the motorcoach for Worcester.

This trip is currently Full *— We can add you to the wait list if you like.*

Trip Leader: George Barry 508-799-0739
Parking: Immaculate Conception george.barry77@yahoo.com

Saratoga & Lake George — NEW

Aug. 4 to 6, 2027 . . . . . $989 pp/do

Highlights: Once again, we are off to the races on this 2-night 3-day get-a-way to magnificent Lake George and Saratoga. Our trip starts off with an afternoon enjoying downtown Lake George. Feel free to take a horse drawn carriage ride, play a round of miniature golf, explore Fort William Henry, shop and browse the many shops downtown or just relax lakeside. Then we board the Lac du Saint Sacrement for our sunset dinner cruise along the lake. Day 2 has us arriving at Saratoga race track early for a behind-the-scenes tour of the property. After the tour, you are free to wander and explore the campus at your leisure returning to you reserved grand-stand seat for the races. On day 3, we will spend our free time in the morning exploring downtown Saratoga and Congress Park where you can sample many of the mineral springs that made Saratoga famous. Lunch will be on your own before we return home.

There will be an Informative Trip Presentation for this trip on Thurs., Oct. 29, 2026 at 1:30pm *at Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove Street, Worcester (Parking in back).* ***Please contact Trip Leader, Ralph Shapiro if you wish to attend.***

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435
Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com









Day & Overnight Trips For The Years 2026–2028

Day Trips

Destination	Dates	First Sale	Price	Leader(s)	Telephone
NH Turkey Train	10/15/26	***Wait List***	$135	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Holiday Gala – *The Manor Restaurant, West Boylston*	12/1/26	10/7	$25	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
* Christmas Time with the Reagle Players	12/5/26	***Wait List***	$171	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
* Friends Christmas Party – *YMCA*	12/16/26	TBA	$10	Coel Kolegue	724-888-9576
* St Patrick's Luncheon and Show - *Aqua Turf*	3/9/27	NOW	$127	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
* Log Cabin – Yakov Smirnoff	4/27/27	NOW	$159	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Newport Schooner Cruise	6/22/27	***Wait List***	$242	George Barry	508-799-0739
* Jukebox 45: The Doo Wop Show - *Aqua Turf*	9/14/27	NOW	$134	George Barry	508-799-0739

Overnight Trips

Lake George Oktoberfest – *Dinner Cruise and more*	10/3-4/26	***Wait List***	$613	George Barry	508-799-0739
Atlantic City – *Tropicana Resort & Casino*	10/27-29/26	NOW	$439	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Christmas at the Opryland Resort	12/6-11/26	***Wait List***	$3,976	Dave Cochran	508-769-9323
White Mountain Hotel Christmas	12/9-11/26	***Wait List***	$1,048	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Allure of the Adriatic	12/31/26-1/16/27	NOW	from $5,645	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Caribbean Cruise	1/23-31/27	NOW	from $2,499	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Sun Drenched Aruba	2/25-3/4/27	NOW	$4,659	Dave Cochran	508-769-9323
Miami / Costa Rica / Panama Canal	4/4-16/27	NOW	$3,579 / 5,619	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Romantic Villages of Alpine Europe	4/10-25/27	NOW	from $5,745	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Tulip Time on Jewels of the Rhine	4/25-5/5/27	***Wait List***	$6,283 / 9,163	Dave Cochran	508-769-9323
Unforgettable New York City Adventure	5/14-18/27	NOW	$1,799	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Ocean City Maryland – *with Annapolis & Atlantic City*	5/18-22/27	NOW	$1,436	George Barry	508-799-0739
Baltic Cruise	6/2-13/27	NOW	$4,549 / 5,999	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
* Saratoga and Lake George	8/4-6/27	NOW	$989	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Ohio River Cruise – *from Louisville, KY to Pittsburgh, PA*	8/19-28/27	NOW	$7,449 / 9,119	George Barry	508-799-0739
The Great Buffalo Round-up	9/21-27/27	NOW	$3,873	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Gettysburg & Penn Dutch Country	9/27-10/1/27	***Wait List***	$1,596	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Wonderful Mackinac Island	10/1-9/27	NOW	$5,549	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Eastern Europe to the Black Sea	11/5-18/27	NOW	from $4,845	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Miami to LA via the Panama Canal	4/16-5/2/28	NOW	$4,399 / 5,399	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435

* Indicates New Trips this month. All prices quoted are per person (Double Occupancy).
Refunds will be made per printed club policy.

Visit our website www.rfcg.info for detailed flyers for each of our trips.

More Trip Descriptions

Ohio River Cruise — 2027

August 19 to 28, 2027 . . . . . $7,449 / 9,119 pp/do

Highlights: Embark on an **all-inclusive** 9-day Ohio River voyage between Louisville, KY and Pittsburgh, PA. Your journey begins in Louisville with a one-night hotel stay, a city tour and a unique "backstretch breakfast" watching morning horse workouts at Churchill Downs. Onboard your premier small ship, the experience truly shines with an intimate atmosphere, dedicated crew, and fully included gourmet meals and open-bar beverages. Days on the river feature engaging expert-led enrichment programs, live cooking demonstrations, and nightly entertainment. Beyond the relaxing shipboard lifestyle, exciting shore excursions await at every port: sip "Lemonade on the Lawn" in Madison, tour Cincinnati's Reds' Ball Park or Freedom Center, and explore historic Marietta. Conclude in Pittsburgh with panoramic views from Mount Washington or a visit to The Andy Warhol Museum. Unwind and let the gentle currents carry you through America's heartland.

Trip Leader: George Barry 508-799-0739
Parking: Maironis Park george.barry77@yahoo.com

Jukebox 45: The Doo Wop Show — NEW

September 14, 2027 *(Tuesday)* . . . . . $134 pp

Highlights: This morning we'll board our coach and depart to Plantsville, CT and the beautiful Aqua Turf Club. Our entertainment today features the Jukebox 45 Show Band – Connecticut's premiere Doo Wop and Oldies band featuring incredible vocal harmonies and dynamic choreography transporting us back to the good old days of the 50s and 60s. We'll enjoy hits from such artists as Paul Anka, The Duprees, Fred Parris and The Satins, Larry Chance and The Earls among many others. Their high energy and infectious smooth sounds will have us all quickly on our feet dancing and singing along! We will enjoy a delicious luncheon served family style by an efficient staff, and we will have a complimentary glass of beer, wine or soft drink. Additional drinks are available through a cash bar. Today's family-style menu includes: Fresh Field Greens Salad, Roast Beef and Chicken Francaise, Vegetables, Rolls and Butter Dessert, Coffee/Tea.

Trip Leader: George Barry 508-799-0739
Parking: Immaculate Conception george.barry77@yahoo.com

The Great Buffalo Round-up — 2027

September 21 to 27, 2027 . . . . . $3,873 pp/do

Highlights: This 6-day experience begins with our arrival in Rapid City South Dakota which will be our base for the next 5 nights. Day 2 we are off to the Mount Rushmore Memorial, visit the Black Hills Gold Factory. We will then board the 1880 Train. We will enjoy a Chuckwagon Supper and a Cowboy Music show. Day 3 we are off to Deadwood and the Crazy Horse Memorial. The Great Buffalo Round up is on day 4. Each fall the ground rumbles and the dust flies as the Cowboys and park crews saddle up to bring in the thundering herd of nearly 1,300 Buffalo. Our Day 5 begins with a stop at the Chapel in the Hills then on to the famed Wall Drug store in Wall, SD. Our final stop of the day is Badlands National Park before returning back to Rapid City for our farewell dinner. Day 6 has us returning back home with great memories and new friends.

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435
Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

Wonderful Mackinac Island — 2027

October 1 to 9, 2027 . . . . . $5,549 pp/do

Highlights: This 9-day journey begins with a flight from Boston to Chicago, featuring a guided tour of the windy city, a free afternoon to explore on your own and then we end the day with dinner at Harry Caray's. Next, we travel by coach to Grand Rapids to explore the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. From there, take a ferry to Mackinac Island for an unforgettable two-night stay at the historic Grand Hotel. Enjoy a horse-drawn carriage tour, with free time for biking, swimming, or beach strolls. Afterward, head to riverfront accommodations in Bay City, Michigan. The journey continues to Detroit with a tour of Alden B. Dow's architectural studio, a visit to the Henry Ford Museum, and a musical farewell dinner. Finally, return to Worcester with unforgettable memories and new friends.

There will be an Informative Trip Presentation for this trip on Thurs., Oct. 29, 2026 at noon** at Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove Street, Worcester (Parking in back) – **Please contact Trip Leader, Ralph Shapiro if you wish to attend.

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435
Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

Eastern Europe to the Black Sea — 2027

Nov. 5 to 18, 2027 . . . . . from $4,845 pp/do

Highlights: Join us on this spectacular 14-day trip traveling to Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia and Hungry. Our first 3 days are in Romania where we will explore Bucharest and Constanta. On day 4, we will board our home for the next 10 days, the 162-passenger M/S River Aria cruising the Danube. Our stops in Bulgaria include Ruse and Vidin then on to Serbia. We will visit Belgrade, the Capital of Serbia and the historically rich town of Novi Sad. Day 11 of our trip finds us in Vukovar, Croatia where after our tour of the city, we will be treated to a Home-Hosted Lunch with a local family. Our cruise continues to our final port of call, Budapest, Hungry where several tours await us on our final 2 days of our cruise.

There will be an Informative Trip Presentation for this trip on Thurs., Oct. 8, 2026 at 1:30pm** at Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove Street, Worcester (Parking in back) – **Please contact Trip Leader, Ralph Shapiro if you wish to attend.

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435
Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

Miami to LA via the Panama Canal — 2028

April 16 to May 2, 2028 . . . . . $4,399 / $5,399 pp/do

Highlights: Join us on this 17-day cruise from Miami to LA via the Panama Canal. Our journey has us arriving a day early into Miami before we board our 15-night cruise to Los Angeles. Along the way we make stops in Cartagena, Columbia and Colon, Panama. This is our stepping off port before we experience the full transit of the Panama Canal. This 8-to-10-hour trip covers approximately 50 miles and is not to be missed. Experience all of the sights while sitting on deck enjoying your favorite meal and beverages. Our next stop is Puerto Caldera, Costa Rica, followed by Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala. Our last 2 ports of call are Puerto Vallarta and Cabo San Lucas on the west coast of Mexico. Our journey ends in Los Angeles before we depart for home.

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435
Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

2026 Holiday Gala

Our Twenty-Ninth Annual Holiday Gala will be returning to a **NEW** location this year. It will be held at the popular **Manor Restaurant** at 42 West Boylston, West Boylston, MA on **Tuesday December 1, 2026**. Please plan to kick-off the Christmas Season at this wonderful event.

Our celebration will start with a Social Hour+ at 11:00 AM and dinner will be served at 12:45 PM. Dinner will consist of your choice of Queen Cut Prime Rib Au Jus, Baked Haddock in White Wine and Lemon or Baked Stuffed Chicken Supreme. Dan Mackowiak & Friends will be providing us with dance music and music of the Christmas Season starting at Noon and until 4 PM.

Tickets are $25 per person and will be on sale starting 10/7/26 at any of our regular meetings until 11/18/26 or until sold out, there is a maximum of 260 tickets to be sold, so sign up quickly. Mail order tickets will be accepted between 10/7 and 11/4/26 **only** and must be accompanied by a completed flyer and check payment. You can print a copy of the flyer/reservation form off our web site and mail it to the following address.

Dick Pinkes
1034 Pleasant Street
Worcester, MA 01602-1334

See Dick Pinkes, or call him at (508) 769-2913

ALSO, Save The Date For:

2026 Friends Christmas Party



Date:
December 16, 2026

Place:
Greendale YMCA

Cost:
$10

More details to follow in next month's newsletter

Did you know we have a collection basket for used Eye Glasses?



You can find it right next to the Secretary's table during our weekly meetings (Sept. through June).

We are deeply grateful to **Beverly Hester** *(wife of Past President Jim Hester)* for bringing donated eyeglasses from the RFCG to the Lions Club in Millbury. By donating your used eyeglasses, you enable the Lions Club to make a meaningful impact in the community through vision care initiatives including collecting used eyeglasses for distribution to the underserved. They also operate a sightmobile which offers free vision, hearing and health screenings. Please consider bringing your used glasses, to the YMCA on one of our Wednesday meetings.

Thank you

HIKING CLUB UPDATE





What a great way to enjoy nature and each other's company. We would love to see some new faces.

Want to stay in the loop?
If you'd like to receive more information about future events and trail locations, please contact Tom Pokoly at tbpokoly@gmail.com.

The Retired Friends Club of Greendale, Inc.
Greendale Y. M. C. A.
75 Shore Drive
Worcester, MA 01605

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Check out our Website: rfcg.info

TUESDAY 2026 Summer Bowling League – (as of Sept.15th)

BAYBERRY LANES ..... 326 Main Street, Spencer
Coordinators: **Jim Connolly** (woostatown28@charter.net), **Bob Converse, Dave Meyers**

Place	Team	Captain & Team Member
1	#8	**Don Fair**, Art Douglas, Dave Williams, John Mcintyre
2	#2	**Jim Connolly**, Paul Indorf, George Calimeris, Sandy Mitchell
3	#5	**Carl Masshardt**, Chris Mudd, Jerry Stanley, Don Desrosiers

HA (men) Felix Piscitelli 95, Bill Plante and Gerard Piscitelli 93
HA (women) Sheila Dahlgren 76, Louise Hester 71, Pam Masshardt 67
HT Carl Masshardt 324, Dave Meyers 321, Jim Connolly 317
HS Ron Jablanski 131, Gerard Piscitelli and Carl Masshardt 129

Green Hill Golf League - Final Results

John Kelly,** Coordinator* ***860-798-6272

A Division **SECOND Half** Winners:
1st – Bernie Dow & Dave Wiggins
2nd – Ron Parse & Phil Mariano
3rd – Bill Krans & Rick Ferguson

A Division **PLAYOFF** Winners:
1st – Tom Nicholas & Lou Nicholas
2nd – Ron Parse & Phil Mariano

B Division **SECOND Half** Winners:
1st – Jim Hester & Dave Cochran
2nd – Bucky Bucciaglia & Dick Pinkes
3rd – Russ Lacasse & Bob Gale

B Division **PLAYOFF** Winners:
1st – Jim Hester & Dave Cochran
2nd – Stan Swenson & Dick Perry

Electronic Communications

Have you been getting our weekly Emails?



Each week (other than over the Christmas and Summer breaks) we send out a simple program reminder email to about 1,400 of our members who have given us their email address. If you would like to receive those emails please send an email to: **myRFCG@gmail.com** and indicate that **"I would like to receive emails from RFCG."**

If you already gave us your email address and have not been receiving those emails please send an email to: **myRFCG@gmail.com** and again indicate that **"I would like to receive emails from RFCG."** *(from time to time we have interpreted some email addresses incorrectly if they were submitted in handwriting)*

It's Renewal Season

Membership Cards:

Fall is the time of year that we ask our members to pay their **Annual $15 Renewal Dues**.



If you have not already done so for this 2026-2027 year, please renew ASAP either by mail or in person (at a Wednesday meeting).

Life Membership: For a one time fee of $150, new or existing members can forget about paying annual dues and be paid-up for LIFE!

(see instructions for Renewing or becoming a Life Member at the bottom of this page).

Special Note: Please DO NOT FORGET to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for us to send you your membership card.

RFCG Remittance Form for New Members, Renewals & Life Members

Dues For NEW Members *(Age 55 +)*

❒ **ANNUAL** = $15/yr
or
❒ **FOR LIFE** = $150 / life-membership

- Complete Application Information.
- Pay at any meeting.
- Or mail form with your check to:

RFCG
YMCA - 75 Shore Drive
Worcester MA 01605

RENEWAL Dues *(For Current Members)*

❒ **ANNUAL** = $15/yr
or
❒ **FOR LIFE** = $150 / life-membership
❒ My contact info has NOT changed.
❒ My info has changed. *(supply NEW info)*

- Pay at any meeting.
- Or mail form *(if any changes)* with your check and **your prior year's membership card** and a **pre-addressed postage-paid envelope** *(so we can mail your new card back to you)*.

to: RFCG
YMCA - 75 Shore Drive
Worcester MA 01605

Application Information Form

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY - STATE - ZIP _____
TEL (☐ HOME OR ☐ CELL) _____
EMAIL _____
DATE OF BIRTH _____ VETERAN ☐
RETIRED FROM _____
FORMER OCCUPATION (CAREER) _____
REFERRED BY _____

The monthly Newsletter is included in dues.

New or Current members paying after May 1st will be considered paid-up for the next fiscal year which starts on September 1st and ends August 31st.