

ON THE

SHOULDERS



OF GIANTS

WORCESTER, MA

FOUNDED 1952



Greetings!

Time is flying by in the 74th year of our Retired Friends Club. We just finished with our Club Christmas Parties, and our own Family Christmas gatherings and New Years celebrations and here we are looking at February already. February is all about love and Friendship and Valentine's Day and that groundhog "Punxsutawney Phil" letting us know, how many more weeks of winter we have and hoping he doesn't see his shadow!!

Don't forget, February is a school vacation month and we will be meeting at the Worcester Senior Center on the 18th due to school vacation, also remember, on Wednesday, our meeting day, when there is a School Delay or School Closing in Worcester due to ice or snow, we won't be having a membership meeting.

We have some great Programs coming for each week for 2026, bring a Friend or two Friends, let them see what our Retired Friends Club is all about, a Great place to make new Retired Friends, have a Donut and a Coffee and get information about our many Club events and our Club travel. There are some fantastic Day and Overnight trips coming up as well in 2026 for anyone to enjoy. Our trip leaders work very hard to bring our Members some Wonderful trips, not just in this Country but Abroad as well, for you to enjoy, the kind of trips, what I would call trips of a Lifetime.

So in closing, stay warm and come to a Wednesday morning meeting at the Greendale YMCA, Coffee and Donuts 8:00am to 9:00am, meeting starts at 9:00am, at 75 Shore Drive, Worcester, a place to make new Friends!!
—STAN SWENSON, *President*

Special Programming Note: Due to school vacation we will be holding our **February 18th meeting at the Worcester Senior Center**. It is always a nice change of pace that will surely draw a good crowd. Check out the details in the programs section.

Winter Weekly Meetings Cancellation Policy Reminder
The club's weekly meetings will not take place whenever Worcester Public Schools are delayed or cancelled.

Check out this great line-up of Programs !

We invite our members, friends, and spouse 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.

Feb 4

★★★ **Tony Funches** ★★★

For more than a decade, **Tony Funches** graced stages around the world as the longest standing lead singer of the legendary Hall of Fame music group, The Platters. Tony performs some of the Platters' classic hits as well as some top-40 and traditional tunes from other decades with his unique style.



Feb 11

From Doormats to Dynasty History of the Powerhouse Patriots

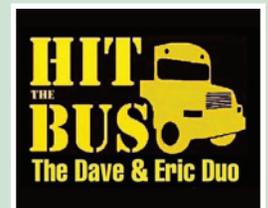
Marty Gitlin is an author and veteran sports writer who has covered the NFL for newspapers and CBS sports. His Patriots presentation will touch on the teams struggles to decades of Super Bowl crowns including videos of the best and most interesting players and moments as well as the greatest highlights from the GOAT.



Feb 18

★★★ **Hit the Bus Band** ★★★

Hit the Bus was formed in 2008 by David Garden and Eric Yanaway and has played throughout New England. They play an eclectic mix of music from the '50s to today's hits. HTB plays the music people want to hear, dance to, and party to!



THIS PROGRAM WILL BE AT THE Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence St., Worcester

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More Upcoming Programs (continued)

Feb 25 **DJ Extraordinaire**

Tom Bruhl delivers an unforgettable blend of live performance and DJ artistry. Featuring guitar, vocals, saxophone, and flute, Tom has performed with legends like The Platters and Paulo Cole. Known as one of New England's most dynamic and complete entertainers, he brings energy, talent, and versatility to every show.



Come enjoy the music & dance if the spirit moves you.

March 4 **Lady J / The Etiquette Expert of 1890**

Ladies, raise your skirts (ankles hidden, please) Gentlemen, tip your hats - we are stepping into Victorian America! Join us for a promenade through the era of corsets, pocket watches, and decorum. Escorted by Mrs. Russell Parsons, a proper Victorian lady, you will learn all the essentials needed to conduct yourself properly in the Age of Gentility.



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.

Feb 4 Wed.	1:00 p.m.	Kateri Tekawitha Housing One Kateri Way, Auburn (508-757-3381)
Feb 11		TBA
Feb 18 Wed.	9:00 a.m.	Club Meets At Worcester Senior Ctr. 128 Providence Street, Worcester
Feb 25		TBA
Mar 4 Wed.		Eisenberg Center (508-757-0981) 631 Salisbury Street, Worcester

Deceased Members

ALFRED L. BLAKE	PATRICIA M. GREMO
LEONARD M. CONLIN, SR.	PAUL KENNEDY
JAMES CUMMINGS	ROBERT J. LAINCZ
GEORGE DAWS	JOSEPH L. LIAN, JR.
LOUIS JOHN DELLASANTA	DONALD S. ORRELL
JOHN A. DOON, JR.	PAMELA J. PALUK
DAVID P. GAUGHAN	EDWARD C. SWEENEY, JR.
FREDERICK J. GAY, JR.	ARTHUR A. TATERONIS
DICK GINGA	ALFRED P. ZATERKA
EDMUND B. GRAMPEITRO	

We Invite You to Attend the Following Informative Trip Presentation

Thursday, March 19, 2026 - 1:00 PM at **Immaculate Conception Church**

353 Grove Street, Worcester (Parking in back)
(The parish hall is in the basement of the church.)

Tulip Time on Jewels of the Rhine

April 25 to May 5, 2027 — from \$6,283 pp/do

Sail the romantic Rhine River in spring and visit the world-famous Keukenhof Gardens, home to seven million blooms. Explore Amsterdam's charms before cruising past windmills and tulip fields. Enjoy guided tours of Cologne, Koblenz and Strasbourg, and visit Schwetzingen Palace. Conclude your journey with two nights in Lucerne, Switzerland, nestled amid the breathtaking Swiss Alps. This tour includes free round trip airfare, trip insurance, round trip transportation to the airports, all gratuities.



There is a \$200 discount if booked by March 31, 2026.

Please contact Dave Cochran to reserve a spot if you plan to attend this presentation or for more info.
(508) 769-9323 or cochradw@verizon.net

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 - 1:00 PM at **Immaculate Conception Church**

Red Sox vs Yankees **NEW**

Aug 28 to 29, 2026 — \$644 pp/do

Experience one of baseball's greatest rivalries—Yankees vs. Red Sox — on this exciting overnight New York trip. Travel by motor coach to Secaucus, NJ, and stay at the Hilton Garden, just minutes from Yankee Stadium. Enjoy the game from reserved terrace infield seats. The next morning, after breakfast, head into Manhattan to visit the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, followed by free time for lunch and shopping at Brookfield Place. Then enjoy a visit to One World Trade Center Observatory for incredible views of New York City before returning home with comfort stops en route. Trip Include: Round-trip motor coach / lodging / game ticket / Breakfast / 9/11 Memorial admission / One World Trade Center admission / All taxes, gratuities, and trip insurance.



Please contact George Barry to reserve a spot if you plan to attend this presentation or for more info.
(508) 799-0739 or george.barry77@yahoo.com

Trip Descriptions

ST. PATRICK'S LUNCHEON & SHOW – AQUA TURF

March 10, 2026 (Tuesday) \$127 pp

Highlights: We'll be celebrating St. Patrick's Day at the Aqua Turf Club. We'll first enjoy complimentary donuts and coffee on arrival. This will be followed by a delicious luncheon served family style – includes a fresh salad, traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage, Pasta, Baked Schrod, potatoes and vegetables. A Complimentary glass of beer or wine and desert are also included. Coffee and Tea are also included. This will all be followed by the show featuring Pdraig Allen and the McLean Avenue Band performing old Irish and rock pop Celtic music. You'll also enjoy the Irish Step Dancers.

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913

Parking: Immaculate Conception rjpinkes1@verizon.net

NEWPORT PLAYHOUSE – "SEXY LAUNDRY"

April 9, 2026 (Thursday) \$140 pp

Highlights: Join us as we travel to Newport, RI for a driving tour of Ocean Drive and the mansions. We will continue to the Newport Playhouse where we will enjoy an all you can eat buffet luncheon. We will have coffee, tea and dessert while being entertained with a Cabaret show. Next, we will see the hilarious play "Sexy Laundry." After many years of marriage, the emergence of love handles and receding hairlines, Alice and Henry have hit a physical plateau. With sex for Dummies guidebook in hand, Alice convinces Henry into a weekend of alone time in the hopes of seducing him and unearthing her inner vixen!

Trip Leader: Rick Ferguson 508-688-4427

Parking: Immaculate Conception rwfery@icloud.com

NEWPORT PLAYHOUSE – "WEEKEND COMEDY"

July 8, 2026 (Wednesday) \$155 pp

Highlights: We are off to Newport, RI for a driving tour of Ocean Drive and the mansions. We end our tour at the Newport Playhouse for their all you can eat buffet followed by their slapstick, always funny, comedy cabaret show. Then we move to the Playhouse for another hilarious comedy play – *Weekend Comedy*. This farce tells the story of a couple in their mid-fifties and a couple in their late twenties who have accidentally rented the same cottage for a three-day weekend. They decide the only solution is to share it; let the fun begin. Laugh and cry as we watch the comedic clash between the generations.

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913

Parking: Immaculate Conception rjpinkes1@verizon.net

LOG CABIN – KENNY ROGERS TRIBUTE SHOW

NEW

August 5, 2026 (Wednesday) \$159 pp

Highlights: We are off to the Log Cabin Restaurant and Showroom for a fantastic Kenny Rogers Tribute Show. First we'll have a delicious dinner with choice of twin lobsters or prime rib accompanied by starch and vegetables, with coffee/tea/desert included. Then it's show time. Dave Karl will have everyone tapping their feet, dancing, and singing along to Kenny Rogers' favorite tunes. You will be mesmerized by his performance of classics such as: "The Gambler" "Lady" "Ruby" "She Believes in Me" and so many more! You'll be blown away by the authentic sounds of this tribute show.

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913

Parking: Immaculate Conception rjpinkes1@verizon.net

TALL SHIPS 2026

NEW

July 14, 2026 (Tuesday) \$160 pp

Highlights: The year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding in 1776 – USA's Semiquincentennial. For this milestone occasion, a fleet of the world's most magnificent international tall ships and military ships, in peacetime gathering, will sail into the port of Boston as part of Sail250®. At Rowe's Wharf we'll board the Provincetown II– the 'Grand Dame' of the Baystate Cruises fleet. From this vantage point we will be able to admire the amazing Tall Ships up close! This narrated cruise enlightens us with history, country origin, the crew on board and much more! After the cruise we will enjoy a sumptuous meal with breathtaking views of the water at Venezia Restaurant. This multi-generational family run business has been serving up classic Italian dishes for more than 25 years. The meal features choice of: Boston Baked Haddock, Pasta Primavera, Chicken Piccata or Chicken Parmigiana w/ pasta Also includes Garden Salad, Dessert, coffee/tea. Trip cost includes all gratuities. *There will only be two buses 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

SAN FRANCISCO / RENO / YOSEMITE / NAPA VALLEY

August 14 to 22, 2026 \$4,898 pp/do

Highlights: We begin in San Francisco with a city tour and a cruise on San Francisco Bay. We'll then visit Muir Wood State Park on our way to the Sonoma Valley and have lunch at the Viansa Winery. We'll then tour Napa and also enjoy a three-course luncheon with Napa Wine accompanying each course as we glide through the rolling vineyards. Now we begin our stunning nature days as we descend from Napa to Yosemite Valley. Highlights include the granite cliffs of Half Dome and El Capitan along with stunning waterfalls, the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias; and many other sites. We'll stop in Carson City and visit the Capitol House and the Nevada State Museum. We then head to Reno, Nevada "The Biggest Little City in the World". Voucher meals are included with time to enjoy the site and casinos. We'll visit Virginia City– the gold rush time where time has stood still in the "Old West". We'll visit the unique shops, saloons, and explore an old mine shaft. Our last night in Reno, we'll enjoy dinner and a show. As with all my trips it includes RT air, airport hotel transfers, portage of one bag PP, trip insurance, and all gratuities (for driver, escort, and all local guides).

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913

Parking: Maironis Park rjpinkes1@verizon.net

CAPE COD LUNCHEON TRAIN

August 26, 2026 (Wednesday) \$179 pp

Highlights: We are off to Hyannis Station to board our luxurious, restored 1937 Pullman Dining Car or lower-level dome car. We will go on a 3 hour excursion and travel through the villages of West Barnstable and Sandwich, up to and along the Cape Cod Canal to the area known as Aptuxcet before returning to Hyannis. You'll enjoy a hot lunch prepared and cooked onboard while you travel along the route (Baked Stuffed Haddock, Chicken Saltimbocca, Eggplant Rollatini, or Shaved Roast Beef Sandwich). Meals include clam chowder and dessert. A full bar is available and all beverages are sold separately. After the ride we will visit the Sandwich Glass Museum and store before returning home. Price includes all gratuities.

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913

Parking: Immaculate Conception rjpinkes1@verizon.net

More Trip Descriptions

ALASKA CRUISE – 7 DAYS – NORWEGIAN JADE

Aug. 30 to Sept. 7, 2026 from \$3,349 pp/do

Highlights: Discover Americans last frontier on this 7-day cruise aboard the Norwegian Jade. Our journey starts with a pre-night in Anchorage. The following day, we depart for Whittier where we will board the Norwegian Jade. We will cruise the Hubbard Glacier. Watch for humpback whales, porpoises and sea lions along Icy Strait Point. Optional excursions include a Salmon Bake in Juneau or Dog Sledding in Skagway. We will visit Ketchikan and cruise the inside passage. Our journey ends in Vancouver BC where we will catch our flight home. Your pricing includes all port charges, fees, taxes and pre-paid gratuities. All meals and entertainment on board the Jade. \$100 on board credit per cabin, Wi-Fi package and shore excursion credit. The premium beverage package and all of your transportation and travel insurance is included.

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435

Parking: Maironis Park ralphshapiro@msn.com

WEST POINT – RHINEBECK AND FDR MUSEUM

Sept 13-14, 2026 \$558 pp/do

Highlights: We will travel to Rhinebeck Aerodrome Museum and Airshow reproducing the age of the Red Baron's dogfights and the age of open cockpit bi-planes. West Point's stunning natural scenery with breathtaking views of the Hudson River is an added bonus for our tour to the oldest military base in the nation. You will see landmarks of the Cadet Chapel and Trophy Point. Our travels also include visits to Hyde Park, New York to tour the 32nd President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, museum, library and his beautiful mansion, "Springwood." Join us for an unforgettable journey through the United States Military Academy where Generals Eisenhower, MacArthur, Patton and many more walked, studied and have been memorialized. It will be a trip you will remember for life! Includes 1 breakfast and 1 dinner as well as insurance and all entrance fees.

Trip Leader: Rick Ferguson 508-688-4427

Parking: Maironis Park rwfergy@icloud.com

PERU: MACHU PICCHU – AND THE SACRED VALLEY

September 18 to 29, 2026 from \$4,945 pp/do

Highlights: We begin this 11-day journey in Lima where we will tour the city and visit the Larco Museum, home to an impressive collection of pre-Columbian artifacts. Next we fly to Cuzco, the capital of the Inca world to visit ancient ruins. We take a rafting trip down the Urubamba River and then enjoy a home hosted lunch with a Peruvian family. We travel by train thru the Sacred Valley to Machu Picchu, the "Lost City of the Incas" and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Our hotel during that part of our journey is located at the base of Machu Picchu where we will have ample time to explore. We will also experience a "Day in the Life" discovery in Izcuchaca where we will visit a local market and nearby mountains. Our visit to this village ends with a tour of the local weaving cooperative and interact with the women who create the beautiful cloth. We will visit the ancient Inca waterworks that still functions 500 years after their construction, and then the massive Sacsayhuaman fortress that the Incas built with stones weighing up to 300 tons. **This trip is limited to just 18 travelers!!**

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435

Parking: Maironis Park ralphshapiro@msn.com

MARGARITAVILLE ON CAPE COD

NEW

September 21 to 23, 2026 \$699 pp/do

Highlights: Did you know that there is a Margaritaville Resort in Hyannis MA? Me neither, but that's where we are headed. We take the motor coach to Hyannis to stay at this new resort for two nights with a buffet breakfast each morning. We will dine at the resort each night before a dinner show. One show will feature a Legends Tribute of Dolly & Kenny. The second show will feature the dynamic Edwards Twins. They can impersonate any number of legendary performers. While one is performing the other is transforming himself into another character. I'm told they are fantastic. The trip doesn't stop there. Additionally, there will be a visit to the Twin Rivers Casino, free time to shop on the Main Street of Hyannis, a Harbor Cruise (Kennedy Compound) and a guided tour of Hyannis. Of course, this trip is insured and baggage handling and driver gratuity are included.

Trip Leader: John Kelly 860-798-6272

Parking: Maironis Park kelly.john.r@gmail.com

MAGNIFICENT SPAIN!

Sept. 28 to Oct. 9, 2026 \$6,119 pp/do

Highlights: We begin with a city tour of Barcelona and then on to Mountserrat Mountain and marvel at the rugged peaks. We take the high-speed train to Madrid. We will learn the history and cultural significance of bull fighting at Las Ventas Bull Ring. We will stroll the Avila cobblestone streets and visit the Convent of Saint Teresa. We continue our day to Segovia- a UNESCO Heritage Site standing for over 2000 years. Visit the fairytale castle with turrets, tapestries and suits of Armor. We will enjoy a traditional lunch of suckling pig renowned for its tender meat and skin. We'll travel to Toledo and later to Cordoba. The highlight is The Grand Cathedral, a former Mosque boasting an enchanting forest of red and white arches. Then we are off to Andalusia and stunning Sevilla where we will visit the Gothic Cathedral (largest in the world). We'll enjoy a dinner and Flamenco show and then head east towards our destination of Granada to visit the magnificent Alhambra palace- an architectural masterpiece and UNESCO site.

Trip Leader: Dave Cochran 508-769-9323

Parking: Maironis Park cochradw@verizon.net

ROB ZAPPULLA CELEBRATES HERB ALPERT & SERGIO MENDEZ WITH 10-PIECE ORCHESTRA

October 13, 2026 (Tuesday) \$132 pp

Highlights: "Rob Zappulla Celebrates Herb Alpert and Sergio Mendez" is today's high-energy concert at the beautiful Aqua Turf Club is located in Plantsville, Connecticut. Rob's incredible trumpet- playing skills are front and center as he is joined by sensational vocalists. Rob has toured with several groups opening for The Temptations, The Count Basie Orchestra, and Bobby Vinton to name a few. Today's delicious luncheon is served family style by a friendly, 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 menu includes: Fresh Greens Salad, Lemon Chicken, Pork Schnitzel, Vegetables, Rolls and Butter, Dessert, Coffee/Tea. *Trip Includes taxes and gratuities.*

Trip Leader: George Barry 508-799-0739

Parking: Immaculate Conception george.barry77@yahoo.com



Day & Overnight Trips For The Years 2026–2027

DAY TRIPS

DESTINATION	DATES	FIRST SALE	PRICE	LEADER(S)	TELEPHONE
Valentine's Chocolate Experience	2/10/26	<i>Wait List</i>	\$117	George Barry	508-799-0739
St. Patrick's Luncheon and Show - <i>Aqua Turf</i>	<i>2nd Bus Added</i> 3/10/26	NOW	\$127	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Newport Playhouse - " <i>Sexy Laundry</i> "	4/9/26	NOW	\$140	Rick Ferguson	508-688-4427
* Annual Spring Luncheon – <i>Maironis Park, Shrewsbury</i>	5/7/26	Feb. 11	\$25	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Cape Cod Canal Cruise	6/9/26	<i>Wait List</i>	\$143	George Barry	508-799-0739
Boston Duck Tour – <i>with lunch at Venezia Restaurant</i>	6/30/26	<i>Wait List</i>	\$149	George Barry	508-799-0739
Newport Playhouse - " <i>Weekend Comedy</i> "	7/8/26	NOW	\$155	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
* Tall Ships, Boston – <i>with lunch at Venezia Restaurant</i>	<i>2nd Bus Added</i> 7/14/26	NOW	\$160	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Log Cabin - <i>Kenney Rogers Tribute Show</i>	<i>2nd Bus Added</i> 8/5/26	NOW	\$159	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Cape Cod Luncheon Train & <i>Sandwich Glass Museum</i>	8/26/26	NOW	\$179	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Rob Zappulla Celebrates Herb Alpert & Sergio Mendez - <i>Aqua Turf</i>	10/13/26	NOW	\$132	George Barry	508-799-0739

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Cultural Cuba Experience	3/26-4/1/26	NOW	from \$4,534**	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Washington DC and Cherry Blossoms – <i>on Amtrak</i>	4/17-21/26	<i>Wait List</i>	\$1,399	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
von Trapp Family Lodge – <i>Stow VT Getaway</i>	4/28-29/26	<i>Wait List</i>	\$568	George Barry	508-799-0739
Great Lakes Cruise – <i>River Boat Cruise and more</i>	5/22-6/1/26	NOW	from \$6,229	John Kelly	860-798-6272
Enchanting 1000 Islands – <i>with Boat Museum & Lake Placid</i>	7/27-30/26	<i>Wait List</i>	\$1,450	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Mt. Washington Adventure – <i>featuring the Cog Railway</i>	8/3-4/26	<i>Wait List</i>	\$630	George Barry	508-799-0739
San Francisco / Napa Valley / Yosemite / Reno	8/14-22/26	NOW	\$4,898	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
* Red Sox vs Yankees (<i>in NY</i>) – <i>with 9/11 Memorial and more</i>	8/28-29/26	NOW	\$644	George Barry	508-799-0739
Alaska Cruise	8/30-9/7/26	NOW	from \$3,349	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
West Point / Rhinebeck / FDR Museum	9/13-14/26	NOW	\$558	Rick Ferguson	508-688-4427
Peru: Machu Picchu & the Sacred Valley	9/18-29/26	NOW	\$4,945	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
* Margaritaville on Cape Cod – <i>Dolly & Kenny & Legends</i>	9/21-23/26	NOW	\$699	John Kelly	860-798-6272
Magnificent Spain	9/28-10/9/26	NOW	\$6,119	Dave Cochran	508-769-9323
* Atlantic City – <i>Tropicana Resort & Casino</i>	10/27-29/26	NOW	\$439	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Hawaii Cruise	10/30-11/7/26	NOW	\$4,249/ 5,199	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Christmas at the Opryland Resort	12/6-11/26	NOW	\$3,976	Dave Cochran	508-769-9323
Allure of the Adriatic	12/31/26-1/16/27	NOW	from \$5,645	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Miami / Costa Rica / Panama Canal	4/4-16/27	NOW	\$3,579/ 5,619	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Tulip Time on Jewels of the Rhine	4/25-5/5/27	NOW	\$6,283/9,163	Dave Cochran	508-769-9323
* Ocean City Maryland – <i>with Annapolis & Atlantic City</i>	5/18-22/27	NOW	\$1,436	George Barry	508-799-0739

* Indicates New Trips this month. ** Required Trip Cancellation Insurance available for additional charge.
 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

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ — TROPICANA RESORT & CASINO

NEW

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

Highlights: Join us on this trip to the Tropicana Casino & Resort right on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City, NJ. Like some variety, our hotel is within walking distance to other casinos. Your package includes Round Trip Motor Coach transportation, two nights at the Tropicana, \$50 in Slot Bonus, \$50 in Food (\$20, \$20 and \$10 increments), two fantastic 8 PM evening shows, all Occupancy taxes and baggage handling of one bag, Driver Gratuity and Trip Protection Insurance. We leave at 8 AM on Tuesday 10/27 and return on Thursday 10/29 at about 7:30 PM. We will make a comfort stop as well as a stop for lunch on the way down and a comfort stop as well as a stop for an early dinner on way home. This is a great time to visit Atlantic City.

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913

Parking: Maironis Park rjpinkes1@verizon.net

HAWAII CRUISE

Oct 30 to Nov 7, 2026 \$4,249/\$5,199 pp/do

Highlights: Join us on this fabulous journey to the Islands of Hawaii. Our trip starts out arriving in Honolulu on the island of Oahu before our cruise begins. The following day, we are on our own where we will have the opportunity to explore Honolulu or the Pearl Harbor visitors center. Then we head to the cruise port to start our 7-night cruise aboard the NCL Pride of America. Day 2 on board has us arriving in Kona on the 'Big Island', then on to Hilo on the other side of the "Big Island" each day gives us ample opportunity to experience things like: sunning on a pristine beach, deep-sea fishing or visiting Volcanoes National Park in Hilo. Days 4 and 5 we spend on Maui, the "Valley Isle". Take a trip to Lahaina, relax on a beautiful beach, Ride the "Road to Hana" or visit Haleakala. Our last stop is Nawiliwili on the Island of Kaua'i the "Garden Island". You will plenty of time for sightseeing, a Luau or just relaxing on a quiet beach. We depart Nawiliwili arriving in Honolulu the following morning where we begin our journey back home. Pricing includes round trip air, pre-night in Honolulu, 7-night cruise, NCL's more-at-sea package and travel insurance.

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435

Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

CHRISTMAS AT THE OPRYLAND RESORT

Dec. 6 to 11, 2026 \$3,976 pp/do

Highlights: Gaylord's Opryland Resort will be our home for 6 days. We'll have a tour of Nashville seeing the sights like the Honky Tonks, Music Row, and the historic Ryman Auditorium and even a full-scale replica of the Parthenon. Then, visit the fabulous Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. You'll have an opportunity to explore this fabulous resort and/or do some shopping. Dinner tonight is in the Opryland Backstage Grill followed by reserved seating for the Grand Ole Opry. We'll have a delicious lunch and a dazzling holiday show aboard the General Jackson, one of the largest showboats ever built. After lunch we'll visit the elegant Belle Meade Plantation and learn its century-long history. We'll visit the annual ICE! Show, an interactive world of colorful hand-crafted ice sculptures from artists around the world.

Trip Leader: Dave Cochran 508-769-9323

Parking: Maironis Park cochradow@verizon.net

ALLURE OF THE ADRIATIC

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. Begin in Zagreb, exploring the city and visiting the Homeland War Museum en route to Rijeka, where we embark the Artemis. Enjoy immersive experiences including an Istrian cooking class, walking tours, and visits to Cres Island's Griffon Vulture Rescue Center, Pula's Roman Amphitheatre, Trieste, Piran (with farm lunch & wine tasting), Rovinj ("Day in the Life" farm visit, olive mill & home-hosted lunches), Ravenna, and much more. Disembark in Venice, where the journey concludes with sightseeing and a gondola ride before returning home.

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435

Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

MIAMI / COSTA RICA / PANAMA CANAL

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, portorage 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

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND WITH ANNAPOLIS & ATLANTIC CITY

NEW

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

Time to Sign up for Golf And Women are Welcome to Join!



The **Green Hill Golf League** is always looking to welcome new members. What makes our league different is that you and your assigned partner play a different match every week with results and standings posted that week. Teams are assigned by handicap, so the matches are competitive with a lot of laughs (and some tears). A great group of guys with a wide range of talent. Your one-time application fee is \$35. Greens fees are \$33 for 9 holes with a cart. We tee off on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 am so we are done by 10am. To sign up call, email, or see **John Kelly** at our Wednesday meeting at the Greendale YMCA. The cell # is 860-798-6272. Email is kelly.john.r@gmail.com. Returning members have priority.

Green Hill

Green Hill Park
Worcester

Match Play
Tuesdays @ 7:30am



Pine Ridge Golf League invites any Greendale member to join us. Membership fee is \$25. You may play any day of the week, Monday through Friday. Teams are assigned by handicap. **New this year is Dream Scores.** You play, turn in your score cards. Your best score for each hole will be recorded and updated so by the end of the season you will have a 'DREAM SCORE.' Prizes will be awarded for Best Dream Score, gross and net. Can't commit to playing every week? Be a Dream Score member only. (Please indicate when signing up if you can only be a Dream Score Member.) All Greendale Pine Ridge members benefit from League Rates: Greens Fees: Walking: 9 holes \$25 / 18 holes \$34 / Riding: 9 holes \$35 / 18 holes \$49, starting the beginning of 2026 season. Tentative starting date is April 20. **Nancy Shivick** may be contacted at (508) 479-7401 or nshivick@charter.net or contact **Artie Goulet** at (508) 853-2601. You can sign up with Artie at our Wednesday club meetings or send a check for \$25 made out to RFCG— please write Pine Ridge in the memo and mail to: Nancy Shivick / PO Box 184 / Rochdale, MA 01542.

Pine Ridge

28 Pleasant Street
North Oxford

Starts April 20
(weather permitting)
Monday thru Friday



Dick Whipplee and Rick Wheeler are hosts to a 9-hole, four-man scramble format league at **Quail Hollow**. Players can play an additional 9 holes if they wish to. Quail Hollow is providing discounted rates to our players. \$30 for 18 holes w/cart, \$20 for 9 holes w/cart. Tee Times will be assigned for Mondays. There is no advance registration fee. Players interested in playing each week are asked to contact Dick or Rick by Saturdays to get them adequate tee times. Starting date is April 20th, weather permitting.

Dick may be contacted at whippees@verizon.net or (978) 355-4842.
Rick may be contacted at wheel1125@aol.com or (508) 864-1083.

Quail Hollow

1822 Old Turnpike Rd.
Oakham, MA

Starts April 20
(weather permitting)
Mondays @ 9:00am

59th Spring Luncheon

Thursday, May 7, 2026
Maironis Park,
Shrewsbury, MA

Believe it or not Spring is right around the corner so it is time to get your tickets for the annual Spring Luncheon (*first sale date is February 11th*). The Rhythms will provide music for your dancing and listening pleasure. The meal will be your choice expertly prepared fish or beef, together with salad, rolls, coffee or tea, and dessert. Tickets are on sale now. The cost is **\$25 per person**.

The easiest way to sign-up is to see either Ralph Shapiro or Jim Hester at any of our weekly meetings at the Greendale YMCA. Just fill out the registration form and pay your \$25pp. You will get your tickets right there.

The next best way to sign-up is by mail. Just send a note to:

Ralph Shapiro
136 Maple Street
West Springfield, MA 01089

Include the names of the guests you are reserving for, their meal choice (beef or fish), seating preferences, a check made out to RFCG (do not send cash) and a self-addressed stamped envelope for me to send you back your tickets.

If you have any questions, you can call me at 413-537-2435 or e-mail me at Ralphvshapiro@msn.com. I cannot confirm any reservations without full payment.

—RALPH SHAPIRO, *Chair*

Possible New Programs?

Thanks to some great ideas from our members, we're exploring a few new RFCG activities. Let us know if any of these spark your interest, and our coordinators will work on getting them started: **Hiking, Cribbage, Calligraphy, and Book/Poetry Club.**

Please send an email to: myrfcg@gmail.com with your contact information and let us know which programs float your boat—or feel free to talk with one of our officers at a weekly meeting.



Participation in the RFCG Golf Leagues is for members who have paid their annual club dues (\$15) or are Life Members. If you paid your dues anytime after May 1, 2025, you are good through August 31, 2026. If you have not gotten around to sending in your renewal dues yet or if you would like to join as a new member, please see the Remittance Form on the back page.

**The Retired Friends Club
of Greendale, Inc.**

Greendale Y. M. C. A.
75 Shore Drive
Worcester, MA 01605

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Worcester, MA
Permit No. 46

Check out our Website: rfcg.info

Coffee Etc.



There's nothing like shooting the breeze with friends—old and new—over a cup of coffee and a donut. It's a great way to kick off your Wednesday morning: share a few laughs, kibitz about the news, solve the world's problems (or at least try), and enjoy the company of a fun group of retirees.

Help Needed

This pre-meeting coffee tradition has been going strong at our club for decades, thanks to members who pitch in to help with setup and cleanup. Right now, we're looking for a few folks to join our **Coffee Crew** to keep things rolling. If you can help out, please contact **Dave Nolan** at (774) 242-0014 or catch him at a meeting. It's a great way to get involved, lend a hand, and meet some great people. Thanks!

TUESDAY Bowling League – (as of January 13, 2026)

Coordinators: **Jim Connolly** (woostatown28@charter.net), **Bob Converse**, **Dave Meyers**

Place	Team	Captain & Team Member
1	#10	Art Douglas , Lou Gouin, Olly Briggs, Bruce Anderson
2	#5	Joe Wondolowski , Dick Adams, John Hester, Mike Mudd
3	#8	Bill Prince , Dave Martin, Paul Indorf, Jack Geneva
HA	Joe Dooley 99, Bill Plante 97, Jim Connolly 95	
HIT	Joe Dooley 338, Bill Plante 331, Dave Meyers 325	
HIS	Carl Masshardt 124, Joe Dooley 123, George Calimeris 123	
HA (women)	Sheila Dahlgren 80, Pam Masshardt 71, Louise Hester 69	

THURSDAY Bowling League – (as of week 13)

Peter Morse, Coordinator Email: morsepd5@aol.com 508-832-4351

Place	Team	Points
1	L PAUL COURCH FH.	67 WPts
2	MANZI FH.	63 WPts
3	LINDQUIST FH.	58 WPts
HA	Joe Dooley, Jr. 98.31, Evan Plant 94.38, Jim connolly 92.92	
HIT	E. Plante 321, J. Dooley 320, P. Morse, F. Piscitelli, J. Connolly (all 302)	
HIS	Evan Plante 131, Joe Dooley, Jr. 129, Carl Masshardt 125	

Membership Drive Contest

★ ★ ★ **HUGE SUCCESS** ★ ★ ★

We added a total of **88 New Members** during the 3 month contest period.

Congratulations to **Thomas Frederico** and **Madeline Lennon** who were winners of the monthly prizes.

And, Congratulations to **Madeline Lennon** who won the Grand Prize of \$1,000.

Keep encouraging your friends to join!

Suggestion: Grab some recruitment flyers at the president's table and ask your barber/hair stylist to display them.

RFCG Remittance Form for New Members, Renewals & Life Members

Dues For NEW Members

(Men & Women - Age 55 & Over)

- ANNUAL = \$15/yr
or
- FOR LIFE = \$150/life-membership
- Complete Application Information.
- Pay at any meeting.
- If not possible, mail form and check to:
RFCG
YMCA - 75 Shore Drive
Worcester MA 01605

The monthly Newsletter is included in dues.

RENEWAL Dues

(For Current Members)

- ANNUAL = \$15/yr
or
- FOR LIFE = \$150/life-membership
- Note address, phone, etc. info changes.
- Pay at any meeting.
- If not possible, mail form, check and a **pre-addressed postage-paid envelope AND prior Year's Membership Card**
to: RFCG
YMCA - 75 Shore Drive
Worcester MA 01605

Application Information

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

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.