

ON THE

SHOULDERS

WORCESTER, MA



OF GIANTS

FOUNDED 1952



## Greetings!

As I sit at home thinking about what to write in this month's message for you, I am thinking of what my wife Debby and I did this summer, family trip to Alaska, a week at Hampton Beach with our grandsons (an annual event) and making everlasting memories, how blessed we are to have the ability to do that.

Being a member of the Retired Friends Club, you are blessed as well to have the ability to make everlasting memories and travel with your "Retired Friends" on several day trips as well as overnight trips during the year. Please, keep an eye on our monthly newsletter for information on new trips that are posted in the newsletter as well as announcements made at our weekly members meeting.

We have some great weekly programs coming in October, some interesting stories of success, travel, and mystery as well as great music that our Program Committee hopes you will enjoy with your "Retired Friends".

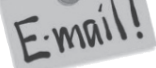
So, in closing, I pray that you all have an outstanding October, getting ready for those trick or treaters as well as planning trips to see the colors of Fall that come out in October, there is no other place like New England in the Fall.

Safe travels and remember, we meet every Wednesday morning at 9:00am at the Greendale Y, with coffee and donuts before each meeting. So, bring a friend let them see if they would enjoy our club as much as you do!

—STAN SWENSON, *President*

## Electronic Communications

### Have you been getting our weekly Emails?



Each week we send out a simple program reminder email to about 1,000 of our members who have given us their email address. If you have not been receiving those emails please send an email to: [myRFCG@gmail.com](mailto:myRFCG@gmail.com) and indicate that you would like to receive emails from RFCG.

## 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.*

Oct 1

### Conquering the Appalachian Trail at 71

Hiking the Appalachian Trail (2,175 miles) would be an extraordinary and difficult achievement for people in their 20s. **Dave Manca**, at 71 years of age, trekked the distance from Georgia to Maine in just 133 days! He dedicated his hike to the Tunnels to Towers Foundation and subsequently raised \$36,851 for their charity through many generous donations. Don't miss this incredible man's presentation that is sure to captivate and inspire everyone.



Oct 8

### Making Bubbles Since 1882

Did you know that **Polar Beverages**, right here in Worcester, is the largest independent bottling company in the USA. **Christopher Crowley**, Executive Vice President, has been instrumental in shaping the direction of this 5th generation company with a blend of tradition and innovation and stands as a testament to the enduring strength of family-owned businesses in America.



Oct 15

### Rhythm Music ... 20s-90s

Steve Infantino leads "Rhythm," a 4-piece band from the Leominster area. Some people have compared Lisa, Donna, Leo and Steve with the harmonies of "Manhattan Transfer." For your enjoyment, "Rhythm" offers great dance and easy listening music. Music spanning from the roaring 20s to the 90s will surely bring back memories for young and old.



*continued on page 2*

## More Upcoming Programs (continued)

Oct 22

### Biggest Art Heist in History!

About an hour after the 1990 Saint Patrick's Day ended, two men dressed as Boston cops entered the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, stayed for about 90 minutes, and left with 13 pieces of art. None of the priceless items have been found. **Bob Ainsworth**, the author of *DUPED*, a fictional account of the robbery, will review the actual detail of the theft, the suspects, and the motives behind the world's most valued art theft.



Oct 29

### ★★ 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. You'll hear the great songs, a bit of humor and some great stories from his years on the road.



Nov 5

### What's New with Medicare? Will it affect you?

**Ravi Natarajan** is a local Medicare consultant who regularly holds educational events to help people navigate this complex subject. He will explain Medicare currently and what changes will be coming for 2026 and will also answer any questions you have about Health Insurance for retirees.



## 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.*

<b>Oct 1 Wed.</b>	2:30 p.m.	<b>Shrewsbury Nursing and Rehab</b> 40 Julio Drive, Shrewsbury (508-841-4793)
<b>Oct 8 Wed.</b>	1:30 p.m.	<b>Holy Trinity "Court Yard"</b> 300 Barber Ave., Worcester (508-852-1000)
<b>Oct 15 Wed.</b>	12:15 p.m.	<b>Barre/Hardwick Senior Center</b> 557 S. Barre Rd, Barry (978-355-5004) Pre-Register for Lunch @ 11:30
<b>Oct 22 Wed.</b>	1:30 p.m.	<b>Holy Trinity "Community Room"</b> 300 Barber Ave., Worcester (508-852-1000)
<b>Oct 29 Wed.</b>	2:00 p.m.	<b>Knollwood at Briarwood</b> 87 Briarwood Cir, Worcester (508-852-9036)

*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!*

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTEST Runs Sept 3 thru Dec 17, 2025



### 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!
- Grand Prize: \$1,000 Trip Voucher good on any Retired Friends Club of Greendale 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](http://www.rfcg.info)

## Deceased Members

RICHARD O. BLAIR  
KENNETH E. BIBEAU  
CHARLES J. GEORGE, JR.

EDWARD JOHNSON  
WILLIAM R. THIBEAULT  
GORDON B. WILSON

Visit our website by scanning this QR code or by keying it in: [www.rfcg.info](http://www.rfcg.info) to see past newsletters as well as detailed flyers for each of our trips.



## Day & Overnight Trips For The Years 2025–2027

### DAY TRIPS

DESTINATION	DATES	FIRST SALE	PRICE	LEADER(S)	TELEPHONE
NH Turkey Train	10/17/25	<i>Wait List</i>	\$120	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Fever 'N Chills Show - <i>Aqua Turf</i>	11/11/25	<i>Wait List</i>	\$122	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Trattoria Appia - <i>with pasta making demo &amp; Little Italy tour</i>	11/18/25	<i>Wait List</i>	\$131	George Barry	508-799-0739
* Holiday Gala – <i>Maironis Park</i>	12/11/25	10/1	\$22	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
* Radio City Christmas Spectacular	12/4/25	NOW	\$234	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
* Friend's Christmas Party – <i>YMCA</i>	12/17/25	10/15	\$10	John Pepi	774-208-6340
Newport Playhouse - <i>"A Twisted Christmas Carol"</i>	12/9/25	<i>Wait List</i>	\$155	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
* Fireplace Feast at Salem Cross Inn	12/13/25	NOW	\$145	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
St. Patrick's Luncheon and Show - <i>Aqua Turf</i>	3/10/26	NOW	\$127	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
* Cape Cod Canal Cruise	6/9/26	NOW	\$143	George Barry	508-799-0739
* Rob Zappulla Celebrates Herb Alpert & Sergio Mendez - <i>Aqua Turf</i>	10/13/26	NOW	\$132	George Barry	508-799-0739

### OVERNIGHT TRIPS

The Seine Paris to Normandy – <i>River Boat Cruise and more</i>	11/3-15/25	<i>Wait List</i>	from \$4,345	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Caribbean Getaway Cruise – <i>9 Ports / 8 Islands</i>	1/25-2/4/26	<i>Wait List</i>	\$2,659 / 3,499	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Cultural Cuba Experience	3/19-25/26	NOW	from \$4,534**	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Washington DC and Cherry Blossoms – <i>on Amtrak</i>	4/17-21/26	NOW	\$1,399	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
von Trapp Family Lodge – <i>Stow VT Getaway</i>	4/28-29/26	NOW	\$568	George Barry	508-799-0739
Danube Explorer – <i>River Boat Cruise</i>	5/5-16/26	NOW	from \$6,174	Rick Ferguson	508-688-4427
Great Lakes Cruise – <i>River Boat Cruise and more</i>	5/22-6/1/26	NOW	from \$6,229	John Kelly	860-798-6272
Great Pacific Northwest – <i>with Lewis &amp; Clark Discovery</i>	6/18-27/26	NOW	\$5,272	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Enchanting 1000 Islands – <i>with Boat Museum &amp; Lake Placid</i>	7/27-30/26	NOW	\$1,450	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Mt. Washington Adventure – <i>featuring the Cog Railway</i>	8/3-4/26	NOW	\$630	George Barry	508-799-0739
* San Francisco / Napa Valley / Yosemite / Reno	8/14-22/26	NOW	\$4,911	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Alaska Cruise	8/30-9/7/26	NOW	from \$3,349	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Peru: Machu Picchu & the Sacred Valley	9/18-29/26	NOW	\$4,945	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Magnificent Spain	9/28-10/9/26	NOW	\$6,119	Dave Cochran	508-839-9446
Christmas at the Opryland Resort	12/6-11/26	NOW	\$3,976	Dave Cochran	508-839-9446
* Miami / Costa Rica / Panama Canal	4/4-16/27	NOW	\$3,579 / 5,199	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913

\* 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.

## We Invite You to Attend the Following Informative Trip Presentation

**Thursday, October 23, 2025 at Immaculate Conception Church**

**1 PM**

### Danube Explorer Cruise

May 5-16, 2026 – from \$6,174 pp/do

Join us as we depart the USA and arrive in beautiful Budapest, Hungary to begin our grand river cruise on the romantic Blue Danube aboard the Emerald Cruises Star-Ship. We will explore Budapest's medieval quarter and the Grand Market Hall. We will sail to Bratislava, Slovakia and Vienna, Austria. We will have an optional exclusive Viennese Evening Concert featur-

ing the music of Mozart and Strauss! Our ship will take us to cities in the Czech Republic and Germany. We will travel on to magnificent Prague and have free time to explore the beauty of the city, or take an optional excursion to Terezin Concentration Camp. We will bid farewell with wonderful memories of our cruise along the Danube River. *(Insurance Included)*



Please contact Trip Leader Rick Ferguson at (508) 688-4427 or [rwfergy@icloud.com](mailto:rwfergy@icloud.com) to let him know you will be coming.



## RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR **NEW**

December 4, 2025 (Thursday) ..... \$234 pp

**Highlights:** We depart Shrewsbury at 6:30am to the “City that never sleeps” New York, New York. With decorations galore the city is getting ready for the holiday season. Upon our arrival, you will have plenty of time to catch lunch on your own or shop prior to our show. Our tickets are for the 2:00pm show where we have reserved orchestra seats. If you have seen the show before, you have never seen it like this! Using “Christmasvision” and digital technology, the interior of Radio City will transform into a massive and magical canvas. See the world-famous Radio City Rockets perform their classic “Parade of the Wooden Soldiers” and “New York Christmas”. The most wonderful time of the year is made even better with this beloved holiday tradition. On our journey back to Shrewsbury, we will stop at Reins Deli for dinner to complete our “New York Experience”. Our expected return is 8:00pm.

**Trip Leader:** Ralph Shapiro ..... 413-537-2435

**Parking:** Maironis Park ..... ralphvshapiro@msn.com

## FIREPLACE FEAST AT SALEM CROSS INN **NEW**

December 13, 2025 (Saturday) ..... \$145 pp

**Highlights:** Let’s go celebrate the Christmas season with our friends at the historic Salem Cross Inn. On arrival, we’ll go on a horse-drawn wagon/sleigh ride before stepping inside to watch our lunch being cooked on the open hearth of a great fieldstone fireplace and browse the extensive collection of colonial and federal American antiques. We’ll be seated in our own dining room and enjoy the following: cheese spread and crackers with apple cider, fresh from the oven rolls, Traditional New England Chowder, Fresh potatoes and butternut squash, Fireplace Prime Rib cooked to perfection, homemade apple pie w/whipped cream. After dessert, get into the holiday spirit and sing along to the tunes we all know and love with the Inn’s multi-talented singer and guitarist. This afternoon of merriment is sure to be an experience we won’t soon forget. Sign up early as this Holiday Trip is sure to sell out fast.

**Trip Leader:** Dick Pinkes ..... 508-769-2913

**Parking:** Immaculate Conception ..... rjpinkes1@verizon.net

## We Invite You to Attend the Following Informative Trip Presentations

### Thursday, October 16, 2025 at Immaculate Conception Church

353 Grove Street, Worcester (Parking in back)

10 AM

#### Peru: Machu Picchu

Sept 18-29, 2026 – from \$4,945 pp/do

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 Sacsayhuman fortress that the Incas built with stones weighing up to 300 tons. **This trip is limited to just 18 travelers!!**



Please contact Trip Leader Ralph Shapiro at (413) 537-2435 or [ralphvshapiro@msn.com](mailto:ralphvshapiro@msn.com) to let him know you will be coming.

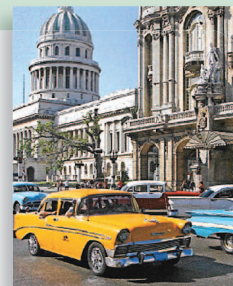
12 Noon

#### Cultural Cuba Experience

March 19-25, 2026 – from \$4,534\*\* pp/do

Join us on this exclusive 20-traveler-only, People-to-People educational travel experience. We will visit the San Jose Craft Market to mix and mingle with the artisans and vendors and visit a private cigar shop to see how authentic cigars are made. We will be treated to a ride in a vintage American car along the coast and travel to places of inspiration to the famous author, Ernest Hemingway. We will explore the history and legacy of Cuba’s cultural and political history, including the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Cold War. We will tour the Morro Castle and learn about its

amazing history and its importance in protecting the city from pirates. We will visit a neighborhood community project where we will be given an authentic Cuban Salsa dance lesson. We will visit a privately run farm where we will have hands on opportunities in organic farming and cheese making, and share a locally prepared meal. We will visit a local art studio in “the Athens of Cuba” and meet artists and watch them work. On our last evening, we have our farewell dinner at one of the city’s most popular paladars.



Please contact Trip Leader Ralph Shapiro at (413) 537-2435 or [ralphvshapiro@msn.com](mailto:ralphvshapiro@msn.com) to let him know you will be coming.

## CAPE COD CANAL CRUISE

**NEW**

June 9, 2026 (Tuesday) ..... 143 pp

**Highlights:** Join us as we enjoy a one-of-a-kind sightseeing cruise that shows off a man-made engineering marvel- the Cape Cod Canal. Officially completed in 1916, the canal is the widest sea level canal (without locks) in the world. The 17 mile long waterway connects Cape Cod Bay to Buzzards Bay. We'll enjoy live commentary and learn about its fascinating history and points of interest- including the Mass Maritime Academy, Bourne Bridge, Vertical Lift Railroad Bridge and Herring Run. Before our cruise, we will dine at Mezza Luna Restaurant in Buzzards Bay. Our luncheon buffet today includes: Chicken Picatta, Broiled Haddock, salad, garlic bread, pasta with marinara sauce, vegetable, assorted mini Italian pastries, and coffee/tea. *Trip includes taxes & gratuities.*

**Trip Leader:** George Barry ..... 508-799-0739

**Parking:** Immaculate Conception      george.barry77@yahoo.com

## GREAT LAKES CRUISE — ALL 5 LAKES!

May 22 to June 1, 2026 ..... from \$6,229 pp/do

**Highlights:** Have you ever been intrigued by the world's largest area of fresh water, the Great Lakes? Here is your chance to experience all 5 of America's Great Lakes on this 9-day cruise aboard the coastal vessel, MS Victory I. We fly to Milwaukee for a tour of that city and stay overnight before boarding our boat where our luggage will be waiting for us. The vessel has all water viewing rooms with top notch amenities. The food is excellent, and beverages are unlimited (24x7). There is a myriad of interesting excursions (all included) with some highlights being Mackinac Island, Detroit (The Ford Museum), Cleveland (Rock & Roll Hall of Fame) and Toronto (Niagara Falls). We end this trip in Toronto and will fly directly into Boston. The starting price of \$6,229 is very competitively priced and offers plenty of value.

**Trip Leader:** John Kelly ..... 860-798-6272

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

## We Invite You to Attend the Following Informative Trip Presentations

### Thursday, October 23, 2025 at Immaculate Conception Church

353 Grove Street, Worcester (Parking in back)

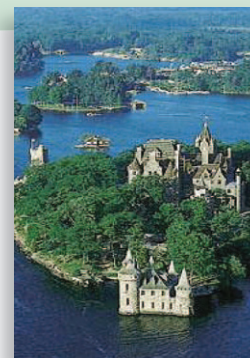
**10 AM**

### Enchanting 1000 Islands

**July 27-30, 2026 – \$1,450 pp/do**

Enjoy a breathtaking journey through the Adirondack Mountains of New York to the St Lawrence Seaway and the famous 1000 Islands. Our hotel, Captain Thomson's Resort in Alexandria Bay, offers waterfront dining, castle view rooms, an outdoor pool, and views of ships navigating a major shipping channel. We'll explore the village of Alexandria Bay and take a Two Nation Cruise on a paddle-wheel riverboat with a lunch on board. At the end of our cruise, we'll stop on Heart Island to visit majestic Boldt Castle. We'll visit the 1000 Island Antique Boat Museum including the "La Duchesse" houseboat. You'll have free

time in Clayton Village for lunch on your own, followed by a visit to the 1000 Islands Winery for a tasting. On day 4 we'll take a scenic drive through the heart of the Adirondacks to the lovely village of Lake Placid. This small town on Mirror Lake can boast of hosting the Winter Olympics in 1932 and 1980. You will have some free time in the village for lunch on own. Afterwards, we will meet our local guide for a history and nostalgic tour, followed by a visit to the recently opened Olympic Museum. This will be a nice summer trip to a great area.



Please contact Trip Leader Dick Pinkes at (508) 769-2913 or [rjpinkes1@verizon.net](mailto:rjpinkes1@verizon.net) to let him know you will be coming.

**11:15 AM**

### Great Pacific Northwest

**WITH LEWIS & CLARK DISCOVERY**

**June 18-27, 2026 – \$5,272 pp/do**

Experience the Pacific Northwest from Portland, OR to Seattle, WA on this 10-day adventure. It features stunning vistas, rugged coastlines, beautiful scenery and history on this tour of America's great Northwest. We will travel by deluxe motor coach with a full time escort. It includes nine nights hotel accommodations; 9 breakfasts and 9 dinners; guided tours of Columbia River, Portland, Pacific Coast, Seattle, and a full day Lewis & Clark experience. We'll visit several Lewis & Clark National Historical Sites, have a dune buggy experience, visit 7 museums, Oregon Coast

Aquarium, and 2 State Capitals. There will be a Portland Dinner Cruise and an Oregon Crab Fest & Oyster Tasting. There will also be visits to the Space Needle, and a Puget Sound Boat Cruise. Five of our nights will be at an Embassy Suites Hotel with their included manager cocktail reception every day. Price includes luggage handling of one bag per person, all taxes & gratuities airfare, and Travel Protection Insurance. This and many other features will be covered at our Trip Presentation. Looking forward to seeing you all there. This will be an exciting trip so sign up early!



Please contact Trip Leader Dick Pinkes at (508) 769-2913 or [rjpinkes1@verizon.net](mailto:rjpinkes1@verizon.net) to let him know you will be coming.

## **Mt. Washington** — *FEATURING THE COG RAILWAY*

August 3 to 4, 2026 ..... \$630 pp/do

**Highlights:** Getaway to lovely New Hampshire and explore the Lakes Region and the glorious **White Mountains**. Our first stop will be **Lake Winnepesaukee** where we will enjoy a narrated Cruise around the lake on the **Mount Washington Steamship**. We will have lunch at nearby **Harts Turkey Farm Restaurant**. We head to the White Mountains and the town of **North Conway** where we will check into the Fairfield Inn and Suites. Located in a magnificent mountainous setting and surrounded by National forests. This evening we will have dinner at the local **Moats Mountain Brewery and Smokehouse**. On Day 2, after a full buffet breakfast, we will head out to the base of Mt. Washington to board the famous **Cog Railway** for a captivating journey up the slopes of New England's highest Peak. Once up top enjoy the views. After we return from the summit we will get lunch on our own and board the bus for home, with a stop again in North Conway for some shopping at the discount outlets.

**Trip Leader:** George Barry ..... 508-799-0739

**Parking:** Maironis Park ..... george.barry77@yahoo.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 ..... 508-839-9446

**Parking:** Maironis Park ..... cochraddw@verizon.net

## *We Invite You to Attend the Following Informative Trip Presentations*

### **Thursday, October 30, 2025 at Immaculate Conception Church**

353 Grove Street, Worcester (Parking in back)

**1 PM**

### **Alaska Cruise**

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

Discover Alaska on this 7-day cruise aboard the Norwegian Jade. Discover Americas last frontier. 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 is also included. All of your transportation and travel insurance is included. You just need to park your car at Maironis Park and leave the rest to us. Please see the flyer on our web site for all of the details.



Please contact Trip Leader Ralph Shapiro at (413) 537-2435 or [ralphvshapiro@msn.com](mailto:ralphvshapiro@msn.com) to let him know you will be coming.

**2 PM**

### **Washington DC CHERRY BLOSSOMS / AMTRAK**

**April 17-21, 2026 – \$1,399 pp/do**

We start our journey with a short bus ride to the Providence train station where we will board the fully equipped Amtrak train to Washington DC. Day 2 has us enjoying our full-day guided tour of Washington DC. Some of the sights on this tour will include the US Capitol, the White House, the National Archives Embassy Row and Georgetown. We will see the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, MLK National Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memo-

rial. After breakfast on day 3, we will travel to Arlington National Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Kennedy grave sights and the Iwo Jima Memorial. We will also enjoy a visit to the Smithsonian Institution. We will have dinner with entertainment this evening before ending the day. After breakfast on day 4 we will complete our guided tour of Washington DC. After lunch we spend the afternoon at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens.



Please contact Trip Leader Ralph Shapiro at (413) 537-2435 or [ralphvshapiro@msn.com](mailto:ralphvshapiro@msn.com) to let him know you will be coming.



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

**NEW**

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

**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. Day 5: Today we visit the annual ICE! Show this winter holiday attraction is an interactive world of colorful hand-crafted ice sculptures created by artists from around the world. .

**Trip Leader:** Dave Cochran ..... 508-839-9446

**Parking:** Maironis Park ..... cochradw@verizon.net

***We Invite You to Attend the Following Informative Trip Presentations***

**Monday, November 17, 2025 at Immaculate Conception Church**

353 Grove Street, Worcester (Parking in back)

**9:30 AM**

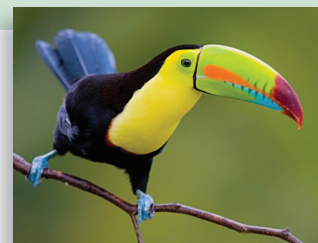
**Miami / Costa Rica /  
Panama Canal**

**NEW**

**April 4-16, 2027 – \$3,579/\$5,199 pp/do**

Join us as we fly to Miami and stay overnight in a beach-front 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 and many other features will be covered at our Trip Presentation. Looking forward to seeing you all there. This will be an exciting trip so sign up early!



Please contact Trip Leader Dick Pinkes at (508) 769-2913 or [rjpinkes1@verizon.net](mailto:rjpinkes1@verizon.net) to let him know you will be coming.

**10:45 AM**

**San Francisco / Reno, NV  
Yosemite NP / Napa Valley**

**Aug 14-22, 2026 – \$4,911 pp/do**

**NEW**

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 and vast meadows, 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, portorage of one bag PP, trip insurance, and all gratuities (for driver, escort, and all local guides). This will be an exciting trip so sign up early!.



Please contact Trip Leader Dick Pinkes at (508) 769-2913 or [rjpinkes1@verizon.net](mailto:rjpinkes1@verizon.net) to let him know you will be coming.

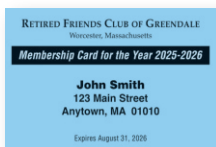
**The Retired Friends Club  
of Greendale, Inc.**  
Greendale Y. M. C. A.  
75 Shore Drive  
Worcester, MA 01605

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Check out our Website: [rfcg.info](http://rfcg.info)

## 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 2025-2026 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 and please DO NOT FORGET to include a self-addressed stamped envelope for us to send you your membership card).*

## TUESDAY Summer Bowling League – (as of Sept. 2nd)

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

Place	Team	Captain & Team Member
1	#5	<b>Gerard Piscitelli</b> , Dave Martin, Rollie Laflash, Blind
2	#9	<b>Carl Masshardt</b> , George Calimeris, Charlie Walsh, Blind
3	#7	<b>Bill Prince</b> , Charlie Bromage, Dennis Laporte, Olly Briggs
HA		Bill Plante 96, Evan Plante 92, Jim Connolly 91
HIT		Bill Plante 342, Gerard Piscitelli 313, Jim Connolly 312
HIS		Bill Plante 125, Gerard Piscitelli 123, Charlie Walsh 123

## HELP NEEDED

We are looking for one or two guys or gals to step-up and fill the shoes of Craig Richards who is retiring as **Coordinator** of the **Pine Ridge Golf League**. It is very important that we find a new coordinator(s) so that we can continue to provide this great activity to our members. Please contact:

**Craig Richards** at (508) 842-8814  
OR **Artie Goulet** at (508) 853-2601

## Green Hill Golf League - 2nd Half Standings

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

**A Division:** **1st** – Paul Lienard & Jim Terill  
**2nd Tie** – Ron Parse & Lou Nicholas  
Dave Wiggins & Phil Mariano  
**3rd** – Tom Nicholas & Ray Starvaski

**B Division:** **1st** – Stan Swenson & Bill McGovern  
**2nd** – Jim Hester & Jim Peaslee  
**3rd** – Steve Russo & Tom White

**Play Day:** **1st** – Dave Wiggins; Phil Mariano;  
Tom Liberis; Terry O'Brien  
**2nd** – Paul Lienard; Jim Terrill;  
Neil Rogers; Bucky Buccigliola  
**3rd** – Ken Engstrand; Rick Ferguson;  
Steve Russo; Tom White

**Fall / Winter Bowling Starts  
Sept. 18 & Oct. 14  
So Don't Delay ...  
Sign-up Today!**



### TUESDAY LEAGUE

contact **Jim Connolly**  
at [woostatown28@charter.net](mailto:woostatown28@charter.net)  
or by phone at 508-753-5737

### THURSDAY LEAGUE

contact **Peter Morse**  
at [morsepd5@aol.com](mailto:morsepd5@aol.com)  
or by phone at 508-832-4351

## 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.*