

ON THE

SHOULDERS

WORCESTER, MA



OF GIANTS

FOUNDED 1952



Greetings!

Well folks, here we are, heading into the Month of March, the month that marks the transition from winter to spring, longer days and warmer days as well, at least that's what some people say, remember the snowstorm that year

on April Fool's Day?? Just saying!!

March also has St. Patrick's Day, serving as a celebration of Irish identity, (everyone is Irish on that day) there are parades, wearing Green, and the partaking of Guinness Beer and Irish dancing and Irish music. Speaking of Irish dancing and Irish music, we will be having Clare McInerney and her Irish Step Dancers on March 18th and The Healy Singers on March 25th. So, come one, come all, and bring a "Friend" on those dates to help celebrate the "Irish"!

Please, keep an eye on our monthly newsletter with all of the day trips as well as overnight excursions and club events like golf, starting sometime in April, and the Spring Luncheon in May, and tell a friend about us, bring them to a meeting, let them see what a great place it is to have a coffee and donut and make new "Retired Friends".

It really is a great place to gain new friendships, so come and join us every Wednesday from 8:00am to 9:00am for coffee & donuts, meeting starts at 9:00am until 10:30am and see what it is to be part of a great organization, the Retired Friends Club of Greendale.

—STAN SWENSON, *President*

Hey Everyone,

I wanted to take a moment to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for the outpouring of love. My hospitalization in Feb. was completely unexpected and pretty scary, but knowing I had all of you in my corner made a world of difference. Your thoughts and prayers and words of encouragement were the best medicine I could have asked for. I feel so lucky to have you all in my life.

Gratefully,
Stan Swenson

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.

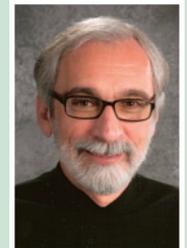
Mar 4 Lady J/ Etiquette Expert of 1890

Mrs. Russell Parsons, a proper Victorian lady will escort us through the era of corsets, pocket watches, and decorum. You will learn all the essentials needed to conduct yourself properly in the Age of Gentility.



Mar 11 History of the Hanover Theatre

Whether as a voice on Audio Journal or a docent at the Museum of Worcester and The Hanover Theatre, **John Riccio** is a dedicated steward of our local heritage. Today, he's taking us behind the curtain to explore the evolution of Worcester's theaters, tracing the fascinating history of The Hanover Theatre from its 1904 origins to the present day.



Mar 18 Irish Step Dancers

The McInerney School of Dance is home to numerous dancers who compete in local, regional and National championships. They have danced with renowned Irish performers including the Clancy Brothers, the Chieftains and the Merry Ploughboys.



Mar 25 Healy's Irish Program (Oldies & Irish Music)

We are very happy to welcome back **Healy's Irish Program**, a popular radio broadcast that began in July 1986 and continues entertaining its many fans with great Irish music. Come get a dose of Irish bliss as we get treated to a sampling of this wonderful program.



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More Upcoming Programs (continued)

April 1 **History of Mechanics Hall**

Executive Director, **Meghan Montaner**, will paint for us the fascinating history of Mechanics Hall. Admired for its architecture and central New England location, it has hosted legendary artists including the London Philharmonic, Yo-Yo Ma, Ella Fitzgerald, and Linda Ronstadt, as well as notable speakers like Charles Dickens, Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, and Mark Twain. Today, it continues to enrich the community through concerts, educational programs, and creative partnerships.



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.

Mar 4 Wed.	2:00 p.m.	Eisenberg Center (508-757-0981) 631 Salisbury Street, Worcester
Mar 11 Wed.	2:00 p.m.	Christopher Heights (508-792-1456) 20 Scano Drive, Worcester
Mar 18 Wed.	2:00 p.m.	Christopher Heights (508-281-8001) 99 Pleasant Street, Marlborough
Mar 25 Wed.	2:00 p.m.	St. Mary's Health Care (508-753-4791) 39 Queen Street, Worcester

Deceased Members

RUSSELL K. ANDERSEN	ANTHONY F. CARTER
RICHARD ARAKELIAN	HENRY P. CUSICK
ERNEST BISHOP	JOHN P. DOHERTY
JOSEPH E. BOISVERT	

Help Needed

We are blessed that generations of RFCG members before us have given of their time and talents to keep this club going because they saw the enormous social benefit that this great organization provides. That's right, it doesn't happen by itself. It requires a team of volunteers (*Many Hands Make Light Work*).



That being said, we are currently looking for someone to fill the role of **Assistant Secretary** to help Carol Chester with the Club Secretary duties. This vital role keeps our club thriving and involves attending weekly and monthly meetings to take minutes and sending sympathy cards to member families. With a manageable commitment of about 15 hours per month, it's a wonderful way to give back and build priceless friendships. If you're ready to lend a hand, please contact Carol directly at clchester@charter.net.

New Programs Coming Soon!

Hiking



Flash! Bulletin! A new club activity - that you will certainly love - is coming. Enjoy the glorious outdoors hiking the many marked trails in our area. With the arrival of the good weather we will have group hikes which will continue through the Spring and Summer. The hikes are not "rain or shine" events, we only go in good weather. The terrain and the pace will be suitable for seniors. The events are free and available to all members, but you can bring non-member friends as well. In order to minimize the likelihood of running into crowds, boisterous children, unruly dogs and speeding mountain bikers, we will go midweek. Get your hiking gear ready, pack your backpack, bring your hiking sticks (or ski poles) and charge your phone. More detailed information about times and locations will be published in the Newsletter and on-line at rfcg.info as we get closer to Spring. For more information contact **Tom Pokoly** at tbpokoly@gmail.com or by calling 508 397-9411.

Cribbage



We are looking for Cribbage players to join our newly created Cribbage league. We will be starting this September (2026). This will be a team play format. Players of all levels are welcome to join. This will be a friendly league. That means we will operate on a "Cards speak for themselves" system. There will be no taking of points missed by the other players. The first session will consist of 12 weeks of play, each week we will play 10 games. Approximately 2 ½ hours. The time and location of play is yet to be determined. We are looking for a minimum of 20 players (10 teams of 2, 5 tables of play). For every 4 additional players, we will add an additional table of play. If you already have a teammate, great. If not, we will match you up with someone. If you don't want to play every week, we will have a substitute list in the event a regular player is unable to play that week. The substitute will play in the place of the absent player. How do I sign up or what if I have any questions? Email **Ralph Shapiro** ralphvshapiro@msn.com with your name, address and phone number and he will add you to the list, answer any questions and keep you informed of your next steps.

Calligraphy



Welcome to the wonderful world of the Art of Beautiful Writing that is Calligraphy. You will learn a variety of scripts such as Chancery Italic, Old English Gothic and Copperplate. You will produce your own beautiful original projects using calligraphic pens, nibs and paper. You will also learn about Illuminated Lettering and Decorative Calligraphy. Dates, time and place to be determined. Space is limited. Contact **Rick Ferguson** at (508) 688-4427 or rwfergy@icloud.com.

CRUISE Presentations

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 - Noon
at **Immaculate Conception Church**

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

Alaska Cruise

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

We begin with a pre-night stay in Anchorage and then sail from Whittier to witness the Hubbard Glacier, explore the Inside Passage, and visit iconic ports like Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and ending in Vancouver. 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.



Wednesday, March 18, 2026 - 1:00 PM
at **Immaculate Conception Church**

Hawaiian Cruise

Oct 30 to Nov 7, 2026 — from \$4,249 pp/do

We start with a pre-night stay in Honolulu followed by a 7-night cruise aboard the NCL Pride of America. Discover the diverse beauty of the islands with overnight stops in Maui and Kaua'i, plus visits to Kona and Hilo on the Big Island. Trip includes round-trip airfare, NCL's "More-at-Sea" package and travel insurance.



Wednesday, March 18, 2026 - 2:00 PM
at **Immaculate Conception Church**

Caribbean Cruise NEW

Jan 23 to 31, 2027 — from \$2,499 pp/do

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.



Please contact **Ralph Shapiro** to reserve a spot if you plan to attend one or more of these CRUISE presentations or for more info. (413) 537-2435 or ralphvshapiro@msn.com

TRIP Presentations

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

Tulip Time on Jewels of the Rhine

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

We'll visit the world-famous Keukenhof Gardens, home to seven million blooms and 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.



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

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

Red Sox vs Yankees

Aug 28 to 29, 2026 — \$644 pp/do

Experience the legendary Yankees vs. Red Sox rivalry with this exciting overnight getaway. Enjoy the game from terrace infield seats, stay at the Hilton Garden Inn and explore New York City icons including the 9/11 Memorial, One World Observatory, and Brookfield Place.



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

Thursday, April 16, 2026 - 1:00 PM
at **Immaculate Conception Church**

Ocean City, Maryland

WITH ANNAPOLIS & ATLANTIC CITY

May 18 to 22, 2027 — \$1,436 pp/do

Experience a bayside sunset dinner, a guided tour of Ocean City, Assateague Island (home of the famous wild horses). Enjoy a classic Maryland crab feast. Visit Annapolis and the U.S. Naval Academy. Travel by ferry to Cape May, NJ for a trolley tour of Victorian homes, then continue on to Atlantic City.



Please contact **George Barry** to reserve a spot if you plan to attend this TRIP 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 hair-lines, 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 rwfergy@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

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

SAN FRANCISCO / RENO / YOSEMITE / NAPA VALLEY

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

Highlights: Experience the best of Northern California and Nevada on this comprehensive tour. Begin with a San Francisco city tour and bay cruise before exploring the towering redwoods of Muir Woods. Indulge in gourmet luncheons and world-class tastings in Sonoma and Napa Valley. Journey into Yosemite National Park to witness the grandeur of Half Dome, El Capitan, and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. Transition to Nevada for a dose of history in Carson City and the "Old West" charm of Virginia City's mines and saloons. Conclude with dinner, a show, and casino excitement in Reno. Includes RT air, airport hotel transfers, trip insurance, and all gratuities.

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913

Parking: Maironis Park rjpinkes1@verizon.net

CAPE COD LUNCHEON TRAIN

August 26, 2026 (Wednesday)\$179 pp

Highlights: The Cape Cod Luncheon Train offers a three-hour scenic journey departing from Hyannis aboard beautifully restored 1930s Pullman and dome cars. As you roll through the historic villages of West Barnstable and Sandwich toward the Cape Cod Canal, you'll enjoy a three-course meal prepared fresh onboard. Menu highlights include local favorites like clam chowder and Baked Stuffed Haddock, Chicken Saltimbocca, Eggplant Rollatini, or Shaved Roast Beef Sandwich. The experience often concludes with a visit to the Sandwich Glass Museum to view live glassblowing demonstrations. Price includes all gratuities.

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913

Parking: Immaculate Conception rjpinkes1@verizon.net

WEST POINT – RHINEBECK AND FDR MUSEUM

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

Highlights: Join us for a historic journey through the Hudson Valley, starting with the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome to witness vintage WWI dogfights and biplanes. You'll explore West Point, the nation's oldest military academy, walking in the footsteps of legends like Eisenhower and Patton while taking in the stunning views from Trophy Point. The tour continues in Hyde Park at Springwood, FDR's beautiful estate, and his Presidential Library. 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

NANTUCKET ISLAND

NEW

September 15, 2026 (Tuesday)\$223 pp

Highlights: Experience the quintessential charm of Nantucket Island with this seamless day trip. Your journey begins with a scenic high-speed ferry from Hyannis, followed by a narrated tour of the island's most iconic landmarks. You'll visit the historic Old Mill, the rose-covered cottages of 'Sconset Village, and the striking Sankaty Head Lighthouse. Spend your afternoon in the town center, where you can enjoy local seafood for lunch, browse boutique shops, and explore the world-class Whaling Museum. It's a perfect blend of maritime history and coastal beauty packed into one unforgettable day.

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
St. Patrick's Luncheon and Show - <i>Aqua Turf</i> 2nd Bus Added	3/10/26	NOW	\$127	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Newport Playhouse - "Sexy Laundry"	4/9/26	NOW	\$140	Rick Ferguson	508-688-4427
Annual Spring Luncheon – <i>Maironis Park, Shrewsbury</i>	5/7/26	NOW	\$25	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Cape Cod Canal Cruise	6/9/26	Wait List	\$143	George Barry	508-799-0739
Boston Duck Tour – <i>with lunch at Venezia Restaurant</i>	6/30/26	Wait List	\$149	George Barry	508-799-0739
Newport Playhouse - "Weekend Comedy"	7/8/26	NOW	\$155	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Tall Ships, Boston – <i>with lunch at Venezia Restaurant</i>	7/14/26	Wait List	\$160	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Log Cabin - <i>Kenney Rogers Tribute Show</i> 2nd Bus Added	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
* Nantucket Island – <i>with Whaling Museum</i>	9/15/26	NOW	\$223	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

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	Wait List	\$1,399	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
von Trapp Family Lodge – <i>Stow VT Getaway</i>	4/28-29/26	Wait List	\$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	Wait List	\$1,450	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Mt. Washington Adventure – <i>featuring the Cog Railway</i>	8/3-4/26	Wait List	\$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 (in NY) – <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
* Caribbean Cruise	1/23-31/27	NOW	from \$2,499	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

PERU: MACHU PICCHU — AND THE SACRED VALLEY

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

Highlights: This 11-day Peruvian odyssey begins in Lima with a private tour of the Larco Museum. After flying to Cuzco, you will explore the Sacsayhuaman fortress and ancient waterworks. The adventure continues with a rafting trip on the Urubamba River and a home-hosted lunch in the Sacred Valley. A “Day in the Life” visit to Izcuchaca offers a chance to browse local markets and visit a weaving cooperative. Finally, travel by train to stay at the base of Machu Picchu, enjoying ample time to discover the “Lost City of the Incas”.

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435

Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

MARGARITAVILLE ON CAPE COD

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 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. 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 driver gratuity is 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: This grand tour captures the essence of Spain, from Barcelona’s modernist flair to the rugged peaks of Montserrat. After a high-speed train to Madrid, you’ll explore the history of bullfighting at Las Ventas before stepping back in time in Avila and Segovia. There, you’ll marvel at the fairytale Alcázar and savor traditional suckling pig. Journeying south, you’ll witness Cordoba’s iconic red-and-white arches and Sevilla’s massive Gothic Cathedral, paired with an authentic Flamenco performance. The journey culminates in Granada at the breathtaking Alhambra, a Moorish masterpiece and the ultimate highlight of Andalusia’s rich heritage.

Trip Leader: Dave Cochran 508-769-9323

Parking: Maironis Park cochradw@verizon.net

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ — TROPICANA RESORT & CASINO

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

ROB ZAPPULLA CELEBRATES

HERB ALPERT & SERGIO MENDEZ — AT AQUA TURF



October 13, 2026 (Tuesday) \$132 pp

Highlights: Experience the non-stop energy of renowned trumpeter Rob Zappulla and his 10-piece orchestra at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, CT. Rob’s incredible trumpet-playing skills are front and center as he is joined by sensational vocalists. 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. There is also a cash bar for additional drinks. Trip Includes taxes and gratuities.

★ **Great Food, Entertainment, & Dancing!** ★

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: Experience the ultimate holiday getaway with a 6-day stay at Gaylord Opryland, featuring 5 million lights and the world-class ICE! exhibit. This Nashville adventure blends music history with festive flair, including tours of Music Row, the Ryman Auditorium, and the Country Music Hall of Fame. Enjoy a classic Southern lunch and holiday show aboard the General Jackson Showboat, followed by a historical tour of Belle Meade Plantation. Evenings are highlight-filled, featuring dinner at the Opryland Backstage Grill and reserved seating for a live performance at the legendary Grand Ole Opry.

Trip Leader: Dave Cochran 508-769-9323

Parking: Maironis Park cochradw@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. 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

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. We’ll spend 11 days on the newly refurbished Norwegian Sun with 8 ports including 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, all airport hotel transfers, and trip insurance.

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913

Parking: Maironis Park rjpinkes1@verizon.net

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.

Quail Hollow

1822 Old Turnpike Rd.
Oakham, MA

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

Dick may be contacted at whippees@verizon.net or (978) 355-4842.

Rick may be contacted at wheel1125@aol.com or (508) 864-1083.



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. 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

**Please visit
our website**

rfcg.info



Participation in the RFCG Golf and Bowling 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

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

Check out our Website: rfcg.info

**Winter Weekly Meetings
Cancellation Policy Reminder**

*The club's weekly meetings will not
take place whenever Worcester Public
Schools are delayed or cancelled.*

Time to Sign up for Summer Bowling



**Summer Bowling
Starts April 21**

Ladies and gentlemen, warm up your arms and get ready for summer candlepin bowling on **Tuesday mornings** at Bayberry Lanes in Spencer. Although there's snow on the ground now, it's warm inside year round.

For those of you who bowl on Thursday afternoons, bowling is available at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays every week except for holidays. Averages range from the 40s to 90s in this handicap league where a low average bowler can help out with an occasional high string. Fun is the bottom line and encouragement is a constant.

Registration is \$25, due on the first day of bowling which is April 21 this year. The season runs for 26 weeks, ending Oct. 13, just in time to get off the golf course and into warmer climes. The weekly dues are \$18 with some of that money going into a prize fund at the end of the year when everybody gets something and we throw a party.

Last year we had 40 bowlers, 10 four-person teams. Bowling is split into two halves of 13 weeks. Prizes are awarded for team and individual accomplishments. If you want to bowl, call Jim Connolly at 508-753-5737 or email him at woostatown28@charter.net. Dave Meyers and Bob Converse are other sources.

You must be a member of the Retired Friends Club of Greendale. If you have a conflict such as a vacation or a doctor's appointment, you may bowl in advance so that your team is not penalized five pins per string. Come one, come all. Teams will be made up prior to the season opener, so please contact us so we can reserve a slot for you.

Summer Tuesday Morning League
Jim Connolly: 508-753-5737
woostatown28@charter.net

TUESDAY Bowling League – (as of February 26, 2026)

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

Place	Team	Captain & Team Member
1	#11	Ken Miller , Paul Prince, Steve Gully, Ron Jablanski
2	#3	Jim Connolly , Chris Mudd, Louise Hester, John McIntyre
3	#12	Charlie Welsh , Dennis King, Rollie Laflash, Al Barsamian
HA Joe Dooley 99, Bill Plante 97, Jim Connolly 94		
HIT Joe Dooley 338, Bill Plant 331, Dave Meyers 325		
HIS Carl Masshardt 124, Joe Dooley 123, George Calimeris 123		

THURSDAY Bowling League – (as of February 12, 2026)

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

Place	Team	Captain & Team Members
1	BORG	John McIntyre , Don Casey, Chris Mudd, Robin White
2	MANZI	Don Fair , Jerry Stanley, Shawn Dyer, Bob Juneau
3	JOHN DOLAN BARRY	Jack Geneva , Denny King, Bob White, Dave Flint
HA (men) Joe Dooley 96.48, Evan Plant 94.44, Jim connolly 93.84		
HA (women) Robin White 83.37, Sandra White 76.30, Ollie Villensky 74.60		
HIT Evan Plante 336, Joe Dooley 320, Felix Piscitelli & Jim Connolly 314		
HIS Evan Plante 131, Joe Dooley 129, Ron Remillard 126		

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

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.