

ON THE

SHOULDERS

WORCESTER, MA



OF GIANTS

FOUNDED 1952

Greetings!



As we are now finishing our hamburgers and hot dogs at our barbecues following the celebration of our 250 years as a country. I hope everyone is enjoying a restful summer as we are looking forward to the planning of a new year. It is my honor to become your president and especially during the 75th year of our inception. As we look forward to September, I would like to remind everyone that the Corn Roast is on Aug. 12th. I hope to see you all there.

I have extreme appreciation for the leadership that I followed through my 3rd, 2nd, and 1st vice presidency. We had fantastic leaders in Jim Hester, Rick Ferguson, and our outgoing president Stanley Swenson. If it wasn't for their guidance, I would not be in the position that I am today. Being a leader comes with many challenges, but one certainty is you never become the smartest person in the room. Instead, you need to be a follower before you become a leader. My mother once told me God gave you one mouth and two ears because you need to listen more than you speak. Even though she only had an eighth-grade education, she was smarter beyond her years.

I cannot promise you anything except that I will run the club with respect and integrity. Respect for the ones that came before me and the integrity of doing the right thing to make sure this is a very special year for everyone. I do want to honor our veterans for the sacrifice in protecting our homeland from all enemies. I also pray for the veterans that paid the ultimate sacrifice by respecting our flag before each meeting. I am also excited to start off the year with a bang. Tony Funches will be the opening act so please bring your dancing shoes and let's enjoy the fun.

We all know that I have come from an educational background with a doctorate in educational leadership, but I worked for that position by not knowing everything. My goal this year is to listen to your concerns without any prejudice. We want to make sure that our bowling and golf leagues have what they need. I am also looking forward to our trip leaders to guide us to make the 75th year a memorable one. One important message that I have learned over the past 3 years is that this club is not for me or the leaders who guide us through meetings, trips, social events, and sports. It's for you the members. I humbly ask you to participate to help make our club stronger. You are the backbone of this organization, and we are here to help make your membership enjoyable.

May God bless each and everyone of you as we move forward toward a memorable year.

—DR. JOHN J. PEPI SR., President

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.

Aug 12 Annual Corn Roast (at SAC Park)

see details on page 2

Sept 9 ★★ ★ 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.



Sept 16 Joe Fusco Jr. – Humorist

You will truly enjoy the humor of Worcester's own **Joe Fusco, Jr.** He is a multi talented person who teaches "Humor 101" locally. Joe is an authority on the comedy of such greats as Mel Brooks, Rodney Dangerfield, Lucille Ball, Charlie Chaplin and many more. You'll be sure to laugh a lot and recall the humor you and your family shared through the years!



Sept 23 What's New with Medicare? ... AND ... 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 2027 and will also answer any questions you have about Health Insurance for retirees.



continued on page 2

More Upcoming Programs (continued)

Sept 30

American Bandstand Greatest Hits

We are delighted to welcome our own fellow member and past president, **Paul Daley** who will entertain us with a musical journey back in time with some of the greatest songs ever from his DJ library!



Oct 7

History of Millbury – Gateway to The Blackstone Valley

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



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.

Sept 9 Wed.	7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	REHEARSAL SING AT MEETING (No Sing-Out)
Sept 16 Wed.	1:00 p.m.	Northbridge Sr. Ctr. (508-239-2002 x1905) 20 Highland Street, Whitinsville
Sept 23 Wed.	12:00 p.m.	North Brookfield Sr. Ctr. (508-867-0220) 29 Forest Street, North Brookfield Lunch @ 12 noon / Sing @ 1:00 p.m.
Sept 30 Wed.	2:00 p.m.	Fairview Estates (774-280-4346) 132 East Main Street, Hopkinton
Oct 7 Wed.	2:00 p.m.	Heywood Wakefield Commons 50 Pine St., Gardner (978-632-8292)

Is there room for more in the chorus?

Of course. Just speak up to a singer at a meeting or show-up at a Wednesday, 7:30 rehearsal. The more the merrier!

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

Don't Miss The Annual Corn Roast

Wednesday, AUG 12th, 10:00am

at SAC Park in Shrewsbury.

Free for all paid up and life members and one guest.

No Reservations Needed.

(it will be a great way to show your guest what a great club we have!)



You will be served a club sandwich, chips, pickle, and two ears of corn at about 11:30 by table. **Beverages may NOT be brought onto the grounds - they will be available to purchase.** The corn will be pre-shucked and therefore **NO volunteer shuckers will be needed this year.** Extra sandwiches and corn will be available for sale after lunch.

See you there, Rain or Shine!

Also, some of our Travel Vendor Partners will be on hand to answer question about our current and new trips and will have flyers for these great adventures.

SAVE THE DATE — Annual Holiday Gala

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

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

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

Dick Pinkes
1034 Pleasant Street
Worcester, MA 01602-1334

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

Deceased Members

GEORGE A. ANUSAUSKAS
LEO "DAN" BRENNER
FRANK T. MACGRORY

WILLIAM P. MURDOCK
PAUL H. PRATT

Trip Descriptions

NANTUCKET ISLAND

2026

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

MAGNIFICENT SPAIN!

2026

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 cochradow@verizon.net

ROB ZAPPULLA CELEBRATES

HERB ALPERT & SERGIO MENDEZ — AT AQUA TURF

2026

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.

A Brass-Filled Blast!

THE SHOW: Rob Zappulla, world-class trumpeter and vocalist, celebrates Herb Alpert & Sergio Mendez, featuring Rob's incredible 10-piece orchestra.

THE JOURNEY: A musical tribute covering the Tijuana Brass era, Herb Alpert's solo hits, and the infectious rhythms of Sergio Mendez.

THE MENU: A delicious family-style luncheon featuring Lemon Chicken and Pork Schnitzel, fresh greens, vegetables, and dessert.

THE PERKS: Enjoy a complimentary glass of beer, wine, or a soft drink with your meal (cash bar also available).

Trip Leader: George Barry 508-799-0739

Parking: Immaculate Conception george.barry77@yahoo.com

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ —

TROPICANA RESORT & CASINO

2026

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

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

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913

Parking: Maironis Park rjpinkes1@verizon.net

WHITE MOUNTAIN HOTEL CHRISTMAS

2026

December 9 to 11, 2026 (Wed to Fri)\$1,048 pp/do

Highlights: We are going to travel to the Mt. Washington Valley area and spend two nights at the White Mountain Hotel in North Conway NH. This beautiful grand hotel is nestled right up against scenic Cathedral Ledge. On Day 1 we will travel to North Conway with lunch on our own at the Muddy Moose restaurant followed by a sleigh ride at Nestlenook Farm before arriving at our hotel in the mid-afternoon. The Hotel has a game room and a year-round outdoor heated pool and jacuzzi. On arrival, after check-in, we'll enjoy a Welcome Reception with punch in the Tullamore Tavern. **All meals** are included at the hotel, and they are all off their expansive regular menus. There are also **three** Christmas/Comedy Shows included, one on our first night and two on our second day. After Breakfasts at the hotel, on day 2 we'll have a morning guided tour of the Northern Valley area and on Day 3 a scenic ride up the Cog Railway to Waumbec Station on Mt Washington. Then we start our drive home after a wonderful visit to the Valley Area. On the way home we will stop for an **included** lunch at Moat Mountain Brewery. We will then stop at the Old Country Store and Museum followed by a comfort stop at the NH State Liquor Store & Rest Area before continuing home. This trip is a lot of fun and a great bargain with all the included meals, shows and excursions. Driver gratuity and insurance are also included in the price. This filled up quickly last time I ran this trip so don't be left out, reserve early.

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913

Parking: Maironis Park rjpinkes1@verizon.net

ALLURE OF THE ADRIATIC

2027

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

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

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435

Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

More Trip Descriptions

CARIBBEAN CRUISE

2027

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

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

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435

Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

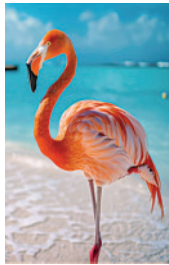
SUN DRENCHED ARUBA

2027

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

Highlights: Have you had enough winter by the end of February? Do you wish you could go to a sun-drenched island in the Caribbean? We have the antidote. Come join us on an 8 day 7 night all inclusive trip to the sun-drenched island of Aruba, staying in the Riu Palace Antillas on Palm Beach, February 25 - March 4 2027. The trip includes round trip non-stop flights from Boston, all transfers, all meals, many restaurants to choose from, drinks, snacks, entertainment, some water sports, baggage handling, all taxes, and trip insurance. Spend your days on the beach or golfing nearby, your nights at the casino or take in some entertainment. Do as much or as little as you'd like. Everyone gets a Junior Suite with an ocean view, and upgraded rooms are available. All of this for \$4,659 per person double occupancy.

There will be an Informative Trip Presentation for this trip on Thurs., Aug. 20, 2026 at 2 PM at Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove Street, Worcester (Parking in back) Please contact Trip Leader, Dave Cochran if you wish to attend. (see contact info below)



Trip Leader: Dave Cochran 508-769-9323

Parking: Maironis Park cochradow@verizon.net

MIAMI / COSTA RICA / PANAMA CANAL

2027

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

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

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913

Parking: Maironis Park rjpinkes1@verizon.net

ROMANTIC VILLAGES OF ALPINE EUROPE

2027

April 10 to 25, 2027 from \$5,475 pp/do

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

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435

Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

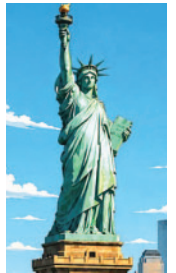
UNFORGETTABLE NEW YORK CITY

NEW

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

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

There will be an Informative Trip Presentation for this trip on Thurs., Aug. 6, 2026 at 1PM at Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove Street, Worcester (Parking in back) Please contact Trip Leader, Ralph Shapiro if you wish to attend. (see contact info below)



Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435

Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND WITH ANNAPOLIS & ATLANTIC CITY

2027

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

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

Trip Leader: George Barry 508-799-0739

Parking: Maironis Park george.barry77@yahoo.com



Buffalo Round-Up



Magnificent Spain



Baltic Cruise



Newport Schooner

Day & Overnight Trips For The Years 2026–2028

DAY TRIPS

DESTINATION	DATES	FIRST SALE	PRICE	LEADER(S)	TELEPHONE
Annual Corn Roast – SAC Park Shrewsbury	8/12/26	–	FREE		
Cape Cod Luncheon Train & Sandwich Glass Museum	8/26/26	<i>Wait List</i>	\$179	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Nantucket Island – with Whaling Museum	9/15/26	NOW	\$223	George Barry	508-799-0739
Rob Zappulla Celebrates Herb Alpert & Sergio Mendez - Aqua Turf	10/13/26	NOW	\$132	George Barry	508-799-0739
NH Turkey Train	10/15/26	<i>Wait List</i>	\$135	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
* Holiday Gala – The Manor Restaurant, West Boylston	12/1/26	10/7	\$25	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
* Newport Schooner Cruise	6/22/27	NOW	\$242	George Barry	508-799-0739

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

San Francisco / Napa Valley / Yosemite / Reno	8/14-22/26	<i>Wait List</i>	\$4,998	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Red Sox vs Yankees (in NY) – with 9/11 Memorial and more	8/28-29/26	<i>Wait List</i>	\$644	George Barry	508-799-0739
Margaritaville on Cape Cod – Dolly & Kenny & Legends	9/21-23/26	<i>Wait List</i>	\$699	John Kelly	860-798-6272
Magnificent Spain	9/28-10/9/26	NOW	\$6,119	Dave Cochran	508-769-9323
Lake George Oktoberfest – Dinner Cruise and more	10/3-4/26	<i>Wait List</i>	\$613	George Barry	508-799-0739
Atlantic City – Tropicana Resort & Casino	10/27-29/26	NOW	\$439	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Christmas at the Opryland Resort	12/6-11/26	<i>Wait List</i>	\$3,976	Dave Cochran	508-769-9323
White Mountain Hotel Christmas	12/9-11/26	<i>Wait List</i>	\$1,048	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Allure of the Adriatic	12/31/26-1/16/27	NOW	from \$5,645	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Caribbean Cruise	1/23-31/27	NOW	from \$2,499	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Sun Drenched Aruba	2/25-3/4/27	NOW	\$4,659	Dave Cochran	508-769-9323
Miami / Costa Rica / Panama Canal	4/4-16/27	NOW	\$3,579 / 5,619	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Romantic Villages of Alpine Europe	4/10-25/27	NOW	from \$5,475	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Tulip Time on Jewels of the Rhine	4/25-5/5/27	<i>Wait List</i>	\$6,283 / 9,163	Dave Cochran	508-769-9323
* Unforgettable New York City Adventure	5/14-18/27	NOW	\$1,799	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Ocean City Maryland – with Annapolis & Atlantic City	5/18-22/27	NOW	\$1,436	George Barry	508-799-0739
* Baltic Cruise	6/2-13/27	NOW	\$4,549 / 5,999	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Ohio River Cruise – from Louisville, KY to Pittsburgh, PA	8/19-28/27	NOW	\$7,449 / 9,119	George Barry	508-799-0739
* The Great Buffalo Round-up	9/21-27/27	NOW	\$3,873	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Gettysburg & Penn Dutch Country	9/27-10/1/27	NOW	\$1,596	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Wonderful Mackinac Island	10/1-9/27	NOW	\$5,549	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Eastern Europe to the Black Sea	11/5-18/27	NOW	from \$4,845	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
* Miami to LA via the Panama Canal	4/16-5/2/28	NOW	\$4,399 / 5,399	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435

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



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

BALTIC CRUISE**NEW**

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

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

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435

Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

NEWPORT SCHOONER CRUISE**NEW**

June 22, 2027 (Tuesday) \$242 pp

Highlights: Join us for an exciting day trip to the "Sailing Capital of the World" – Newport, Rhode Island. We depart Worcester by luxury motorcoach at 8:15 AM, heading straight to our first stop for a tour of a famous Newport Mansion. Following the tour, we'll gather for lunch at the historic La Forge Casino Restaurant. Famous for its excellent pub fare, fresh seafood, and iconic New England clam chowder, La Forge offers a uniquely charming dining experience with scenic views overlooking the International Tennis Hall of Fame grass courts. After lunch, we'll head to the wharf to board the majestic Adirondack IV Schooner, featuring classic teak decks, varnished mahogany rails, and gleaming brass fixtures. As we raise sail and catch the breeze, we'll glide effortlessly through Narragansett Bay to enjoy panoramic views of magnificent mansions, historic forts, and scenic lighthouses—all complemented by the exceptional service and warm hospitality of the captain and crew. To wrap up our unforgettable sailing adventure, you'll have free time to explore and shop in downtown Newport before boarding the motorcoach for our return to Worcester. Note: The trip includes all taxes and gratuities.

Trip Leader: George Barry 508-799-0739

Parking: Immaculate Conception george.barry77@yahoo.com

OHIO RIVER CRUISE**2027**

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

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

Trip Leader: George Barry 508-799-0739

Parking: Maironis Park george.barry77@yahoo.com

THE GREAT BUFFALO ROUND-UP**NEW**

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

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

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435

Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

GETTYSBURG & PENN DUTCH COUNTRY**2027**

Sept. 27 to Oct 1, 2027 (Mon to Fri) \$1,596 pp/do

Highlights: Take a trip to historic Gettysburg and into the heart of Amish Country on this Pennsylvania adventure. We'll stay in Gettysburg for two nights with breakfast daily and dinners at the historic Dobbins Tavern and the Hickory Bridge Farm. We'll have guided visits of the battlefield, Gettysburg National Military Park Museum, Eisenhower home & farm, Lincoln Train Museum, a wine tasting, and a ride on the Scenic Gettysburg Rail Line. On day 3 after completing our Gettysburg touring we will head for Lancaster and after checking into our hotel we will take in a Dinner Show at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater. We'll have breakfast both days at the hotel. On Day 4 we tour Amish Country with a local guide, then spend time at Kitchen Kettle Village to shop for unique local goods and enjoy lunch on our own. Next, we visit an authentic Amish home for a tour, then arrive at Sight and Sound Theater to see an incredible Biblical musical show featuring a cast of hundreds depicting scenes of the Bible accompanied by live animals. After the show enjoy an incredible dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord. On Day 5, we visit the local Farmer's Market before heading for home.

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913

Parking: Maironis Park rjpinkes1@verizon.net

EASTERN EUROPE TO THE BLACK SEA**2027**

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

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

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435

Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

WONDERFUL MACKINAC ISLAND

2027

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

Highlights: Are you ready for a relaxing journey to the tranquil beauty of Mackinac Island and the Great Lakes region? This 9-day experience begins with us arriving in Chicago where we can settle in after our flight from Boston. Day 2 begins with our morning guided tour of Chicago. The afternoon is free for you to explore on your own where you can visit one of the many museums or take a relaxing boat ride on the **Chicago River**. We end this day with a group dinner at the legendary **Harry Carays Italian Steakhouse**. On day 3 we board our coach on our way to Grand Rapids. After our arrival, we will explore the many sights in the **Frederik Meijer Gardens** and Sculpture Park. The morning of day 4 we arrive in Mackinaw City at the tip of Michigan's lower peninsula. We will have some time to explore some of this costal vacation town before boarding the ferry to **Mackinac Island**. We spend the next 2 nights at the glorious Victorian-era **Grand Hotel**. Since no personal vehicles are allowed on the Island, our tour on day 5 will be by horse drawn carriage. After our tour, feel free to rent a bicycle and tour the island on your own, go swimming in the iconic Esther Williams swimming pool or take a stroll to one of the public beaches. Each evening, we will enjoy a group dinner. After breakfast on day 6, we depart Mackinac Island for our riverfront accommodations in Bay City MI. Day 7 starts with breakfast at our hotel and a guided tour of Alden B. Dow's home and studio, famous for his mid-twentieth century architecture. We continue our journey and arrive in Detroit in the afternoon. On day 8 we will visit the **Henry Ford Museum** along several other sights. At our farewell dinner, we will be treated to the many musical sounds that are part of Detroit's legacy. Day 9 has us returning back to Worcester with the many great memories and new friends..

*There will be an Informative
Trip Presentation for this trip on*

Thursday, Aug. 6, 2026 at noon

*at Immaculate Conception Church,
353 Grove Street, Worcester (Parking in back) – Please contact
Trip Leader, Ralph Shapiro if you wish to attend.*

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435

Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com



MIAMI TO LA VIA THE PANAMA CANAL

NEW

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

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

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435

Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

Did you know we have a collection bin for food donations?

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

For many years, our long-time member Fred Gay, who passed away this past January at the age of 102, faithfully collected and delivered these donations to the Food Bank. We are deeply grateful to **Diane Lindberg**, a member of our coffee crew, for stepping up to carry on this tradition and distribute our donations to the Food Bank and local food pantries where the need is greatest. Thank you, Diane, for all that you do!

Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item or two, once a month or so, to a Wednesday meeting at the YMCA. With so many local families in need, every single donation makes a difference.



HIKING CLUB UPDATE

June 25: Redemption Rock



July 16: Mt. Wachusett



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

Want to stay in the loop?

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

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

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

Check out our Website: rfcg.info

TUESDAY 2026 Summer Bowling League – (First Half)

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

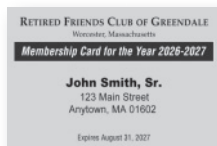
Place	Team	Captain & Team Member
1	#2	Jim Connolly , Paul Indorf, George Calimeris, Sandy Mitchell
2	#1	Bill Plante , Mike Guillotte, Charlie Bromage, Marty Polito
3	#5	Carl Masshardt , Chris Mudd, Jerry Stanley, Don Desrosiers
HA (men) Bill Plante, Mike Guillotte, Gerard and Felix Piscitelli, all at 94		
HA (women) Sheila Dahlgren 78, Louise Hester 70, Pam Masshardt 67		
HT Dave Meyers 321, Jim Connolly 317, Gerard Piscitelli 314		
HS Ron Jablanski 131, Gerard Piscitelli 129, Mike Guillotte 126		

It's Renewal Season

Membership Cards: Fall is the time of year that we ask our members to pay their **Annual \$15 Renewal Dues**. If you have not already done so for this 2026-2027 year, please renew ASAP either by mail or in person (at a Wednesday meeting).

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

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



Fall / Winter Bowling Starts Sept. 17 & Oct. 20 So Don't Delay ... Sign-up Today!



All right boys and girls, get ready for Fall/Winter candlepin bowling at Bayberry Lanes in Spencer. Bowling will begin Oct. 20 for the 9:30 a.m. league on Tuesdays. The Thursday 1 p.m. league starts on Sept. 17. Bowlers must be Retired Friends Club of Greendale members. League registration is \$25 with weekly dues of \$18. Prizes are given at the end of the season. The Thursday league will run for 25 weeks, split into two halves followed by rollofs. The Tuesday league will run for 21 weeks split into 10-week halves followed by rollofs on April 19. If bowlers go on vacation they will be able to bowl in advance. Those scores will not count toward individual prizes but will count toward team totals. Teams will be determined by handicap with higher averages teamed up with lower averages. Averages range from the 50s to the 90s. Teams are changed each season based on handicap.

So sign up for either or both leagues.

TUESDAY LEAGUE

contact **Jim Connolly** at
woostatown28@charter.net or 508-753-5737

THURSDAY LEAGUE

contact **Gerard Piscitelli** at
Gerbeloli@yahoo.com or 774-253-7367
or contact **Mike Mudd** at
mudddad@gmail.com or 774-261-3658

**It's important to let us know so that
we can set up teams.**

Both leagues are geared toward one thing, having FUN. So no matter your skill level, give candlepin bowling a try and share some laughs with fellow club members. Some of our bowlers had not thrown a ball for years but now they are at the lanes on a weekly basis and loving the camaraderie.

— SUBMITTED BY JIM CONNOLLY

RFCG Remittance Form for New Members, Renewals & Life Members

Dues For NEW Members (Age 55 +)

- ☐ **ANNUAL** = \$15/yr
or
☐ **FOR LIFE** = \$150/life-membership
- Complete Application Information.
 - Pay at any meeting.
 - Or mail form with your check and a **pre-addressed postage-paid envelope** (so we can mail your card back to you)
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 any address, phone or email changes.
 - Pay at any meeting.
 - Or mail form (if any changes) with your check and **your prior year's membership card** and a **pre-addressed postage-paid envelope** (so we can mail your new card back to you).
to: RFCG
YMCA - 75 Shore Drive
Worcester MA 01605

Application Information Form

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

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.