

ON THE

SHOULDERS

WORCESTER, MA



OF GIANTS

FOUNDED 1952



Greetings!

March may come in like a lion and go out like a lamb but it beckons the coming of Spring with warmer days, greener grass, budding trees and colorful flowers. My grandmother was born March 10, during the Great Blizzard of 1888 in Boston. It was a winter hurricane that paralyzed the entire northeast from New York City, through New England to Canada. Let's hope March of 2025 is a lot kinder and gentler. But "Beware the Ides of March!"

St. Patrick's Day, the seventeenth, is on a Monday this year. People will be celebrating with parades; politicians will roast one another at breakfasts and everyone will be "green" for a day! Our friend, club member, and talented singer-musician, John Riley, will perform classic Celtic singalongs on March twelfth. Our annual Irish Step Dancers will once again perform their joyous and colorful dances on March nineteenth. They always bring smiles upon all our faces.

The Retired Friends Club of Greendale has a long history of providing excellent programs designed to uplift and inspire our members with thoughtful presentations of varying subjects, and delightful entertainment. I welcome all to become engaged and to feel free to offer suggestions for future programs.

We have many excellent day, overnight and international trips available as well. Our trip leaders do everything in their power to provide trips that are attractive, memorable and affordable. I recommend you see all the trips listed in our newsletter and website. Trip flyers are available at our weekly Wednesday meetings, or simply call the trip leaders to obtain your flyer.

There are several openings for club officers available and I encourage you to share your skills and talents. We have bowling and several golf leagues available to you. I want you to know we have wonderful opportunities with extraordinary leaders dedicated to making your experiences in our club the best there is!

— RICK FERGUSON, *President*

Deceased Members

JOHN R. GREGARCZYK
MICHAEL SACCO

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 12

John Riley – Irish Music & More

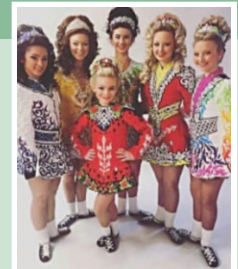
John W. Riley has been playing guitar and singing songs for over 30 years in many of the local pubs and restaurants in the Worcester area. We are in for a treat as he entertains us with a variety of crowd pleasing songs including some great Irish music!



Mar 19

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 26

"DISMAS IS FAMILY"

Co-executive director, **Dave McMahon**, will share with us the wonderful work **Dismas House**, Dismas Homes and Dismas Family Farm does to help former offenders and homeless (who are looking to turn their lives around) on their journeys back to our communities and families in Central Mass through supportive services.



Apr 2

Maureen Binienda

Maureen Binienda's career has spanned forty-nine years and counting in the Education field. She has held various roles and has worked tirelessly in each as a teacher, school Administrator, Superintendent and currently as a School Committee Member for the city of Worcester. Learn how her vision and leadership style has had an impact on Worcester as she shares her story and highlights projects that have made a difference to her students, teachers, staff and community.



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 12 Wed.	2:30 p.m.	Holden Rehab (508-829-1119) 32 Mayo Drive, Holden
Mar 19 Wed.	2:00 a.m.	Lydia Taft House (508-278-9500) 60 Quaker Highway, Uxbridge
Mar 26 Wed.	2:30 p.m.	Care One at Millbury (508-713-4452) 312 Millbury Ave, Millbury
April 2 Wed.	10:30 a.m.	Worcester Sr. Ctr. (508-799-1232) 128 Providence Street, Worcester

We Invite You to Attend the Following Informative Trip Presentation

Thursday, April 17, 2025 - 11:00 AM
at Immaculate Conception Church

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

Great Pacific Northwest WITH LEWIS & CLARK DISCOVERY

June 18-27, 2026 - \$5,272 pp/do

NEW

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 Dick Pinkes to reserve a spot if you plan to attend this trip presentation or for more info.
(508)769-2913 or rjpinkes1@verizon.net

More Trip Presentation

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 - 10 AM
at Immaculate Conception Church

Cooperstown

Sept 16 to 18, 2025 — \$751 pp/do

Trace the history of our national pastime, view artifacts and learn the stories of the fabled players at the Baseball Hall of Fame. We will also visit Fly Creek Cider Mill, take a cruise on Lake Otsego, visit the Farmers Museum, and Montezuma Winery. There will be lots of great food, shopping opportunities and spectacular views.



Tuesday, March 18, 2025 - 11 AM
at Immaculate Conception Church

Amazing Longwood Gardens

June 25 to 27, 2025 — \$850 pp/do

Join us as we travel to the World's #1 rated formal gardens - highlighted by a laser light evening fountain show! We will also visit Valley Forge, George Washington's Army headquarters as well as the Hagley Museum, home of chemist E.I. Dupont who started a gunpowder mill, we'll stop at Chaddsford Winery and much more.



Contact George Barry to reserve a spot if you plan to attend the Cooperstown or Longwood presentations or for more info.
(508) 799-0739 or george.barry77@yahoo.com

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 - 12:30 PM
at Immaculate Conception Church

Great Lakes Cruise

May 22 to June 1, 2026 — from \$6,729 pp/do

Here's your chance to experience all 5 of America's Great Lakes. We fly to Chicago for a tour of that city. 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, Cleveland (R&R Hall of Fame) and Toronto (Niagara Falls). *more info on page 6*



Please contact Trip Leader John Kelly to reserve a spot if you plan to attend this Great Lakes presentation or for more info.
(860) 798-6272 or kelly.john.r@gmail.com

ITALY

*Amalfi Coast
Tuscany and
Venice*

From October 19 through November 7 last Fall, our club toured the Amalfi Coast, Tuscany and Venice!

We enjoyed the food, culture and shopping there. Our members visited Pompeii, Napoli and had a delicious in-home dinner with families from Sorrento. The group spent a glorious week visiting Florence, Pisa and Sienna taking in local wineries, cathedrals and an Italian cooking class. We went to the Piazza del Duomo, and the jewelry shops by Ponte Vecchio. The post trip to Venice with the Grand Canal, Saint Mark's Square and the Rialto Bridge provided our group with incredible views into history and the magnificent palaces along the canals.

—RICK FERGUSON, *Trip Leader*.



Woo Sox

Fireworks Night*

** fireworks after the game*

Optional Parking at the Hibernian Cultural Center
at 19 Temple Street – \$15 per car

*Only have a limited number
of Tickets (40) on Third Base side*

TICKET PRICES

\$45 (Includes \$20 Food per Ticket)

Friday, JULY 18, 2025

Game starts at 6:45 PM



Contact

Jim Gallagher:

508-259-3786 OR

gallagher_27027@msn.com

OR

see him at a Wednesday meeting.

Tickets will go fast, so sign-up early!

Trip Descriptions

JAMES TAYLOR AT TANGLEWOOD

July 4, 2025 (Friday) \$235 pp

Highlights: Celebrate the 4th of July with friends and James Taylor at Tanglewood. James Taylor's music embodies the art of songwriting in its most personal and universal forms. He is a master at describing specific, even autobiographical situations, in a way that resonates with people everywhere. Taylor has sold more than 100 million albums and earned gold, platinum and multi-platinum awards since the release of his self-titled debut album in 1968. Afterwards, the night sky becomes a glow with a spectacular fireworks display celebrating America's birthday. *Food is available for purchase, or you may bring your own. No coolers allowed.

Parking: Maironis Park / Depart: 2:00 pm / Est. Return: 1:00 am

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

CELEBRATE ITALIA — Aqua Turf

July 8, 2025 (Tuesday) \$125 pp

Highlights: Join us as we travel by fully equipped Luxury Motor Coach to the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, CT. Upon arrival, you will receive a complementary coffee and donut. Door prizes will be raffled. We know you will enjoy an afternoon filled with food, fun and music! **The Italian Connection** has been delighting audiences for decades. They have performed at weddings, private functions and concert festivals. Their repertoire consists of a wide variety of Italian and American favorites such as— *Volare* and *That's Amore*. The Aqua Turf's family style lunch includes fresh green salad, Meatballs & Sausage and Chicken Parmigiana, with vegetables, and rolls. Enjoy a complimentary glass of wine or beer as well as coffee/tea and desert. You'll return home around 5 pm after a fun filled day.

Parking: Immaculate Conception Church

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

THE SEINE PARIS TO NORMANDY

Nov. 3-15, 2025 from \$4,345 pp/do

Highlights: There are 8 guided tours, 5 exclusive discovery series events, a French language session, a cooking demonstration and much more. Our stops include 3 days in Paris, then on to Conflans where you can take the "Path of Van Gogh tour. Next, we cruise to Vernon and the village of Giverny. Day 7 finds us in Les Andelys and day 8 we are in Rouen, the Capital of Normandy. Rouen is where we will enjoy our "Home Hosted Visit". This is also the town where Joan of Arc was imprisoned. The following day while in Rouen, we will participate in a cooking demonstration and be treated to a French Cheese tasting before cruising on to our last port of Honfleur. Day 10 we arrive in Honfleur and a full day of D-Day discoveries, including Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach and the American Military Cemetery. Day 11 we will be treated to a walking tour of Honfleur in the morning with optional tours available in the afternoon. On day 12 we will disembark the ship and spend the day at the Peace Memorial Museum in Caen. After lunch, we will depart for Paris to prepare for our journey back home.

Trip Leader: Ralph Shapiro 413-537-2435

Parking: Maironis Park ralphvshapiro@msn.com

SONG, DANCE & ROMANCE — AQUA TURF

Aug. 12, 2025 (Tuesday) \$122pp

Highlights: Richie Matnick's Special Show!!! Join us for a fun filled trip to beautiful Aqua Turf to sing along and dance to musical tributes to Kenny Rogers, Tim McGraw, Dianne Warwick and Roberta Flack! After a welcome reception we will enjoy a delicious luncheon of Fresh Field Green Salad, Baked Cod, Chicken Marsala, Potatoes and Vegetable all served with rolls and butter, and a complimentary Glass of Wine or Beer. Coffee & Tea & Decaf are also available. Enjoy a delicious desert as well!

9:00 AM Depart / 5:30 PM Approximate return time.

Parking: Immaculate Conception Church

Trip Leader: Rick Ferguson 508-688-4427
rwfergy@icloud.com

SUMMER IN OGUNKIT, MAINE

Aug. 19-21, 2025 \$1,275 pp/do

Highlights: We'll first visit the Seaport area of Portland for sight-seeing and lunch, on our own at the Old Port followed by a Harbor Lights and Sights cruise on Casco Bay. We travel back to Ogunquit to check into our hotel for two nights, the Meadowmere Resort. On Day 2 we tour Kennebunkport with lunch on our own. In the afternoon we have time to explore the village of Ogunquit and Perkins Cove. After an early dinner at the hotel, we're off to the Ogunquit Playhouse to take in a Broadway Musical. On our last day we'll travel down the Maine coast to York, Maine's First Town, where we'll visit the Museums of Old York. There we'll participate in "hands-on" demonstrations of 17th Century cooking, weaving and schoolhouse lessons followed by a tour of nearby York its beaches and lighthouses ending at Foster's Clambake for a traditional meal of lobster, clams, chowder and all the fixings with live fun and entertainment. On the way home we'll stop at either Stonewall Kitchen or When Pig's Fly Bakery.

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes 508-769-2913

Parking: Maironis Park rjpinkes1@verizon.net

"DANUBE EXPLORER" — RIVER BOAT CRUISE

May 5 - 16, 2026 \$6,174 / \$8,878 pp/do

Highlights: Join us as we depart the USA and arrive in beautiful Budapest, Hungary to begin our grand river cruise on the romantic Blue Danube! We will be met at the airport and transferred to 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 featuring 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 in the Czech Republic to explore the Old Town Square with its historic anatomical clock and the Medieval Charles Bridge. We will be free to explore the beauty of the city, or take an optional excursion to Terezin Concentration Camp. We will bid farewell to Europe with wonderful memories of our cruise along the beautiful Danube River. See the flier on the RFCG website.

Parking: Maironis Park

Trip Leader: Rick Ferguson 508-688-4427
rwfergy@icloud.com



Day & Overnight Trips For The Years 2025–2026

DAY TRIPS

DESTINATION	DATES	F/SALE	PRICE	LEADER(S)	TELEPHONE
Rock & Roll Heaven - <i>at the Carriage House</i>	4/10/25	<i>Wait List</i>	\$134	George Barry	508-799-0739
Spring Luncheon	5/8/25	NOW	\$25	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Lake Winnepesaukee - <i>Luncheon Cruise</i>	6/25/25	NOW	\$150	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Newport Playhouse - <i>"It's Your Funeral"</i>	7/2/25	NOW	\$155	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
James Taylor - <i>Tanglewood</i>	7/4/25	NOW	\$235	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Celebrate Italia - <i>Aqua Turf</i>	7/8/25	NOW	\$125	George Barry	508-799-0739
Essex Steam Train - <i>Luncheon & Riverboat Cruise</i>	7/17/25	<i>Wait List</i>	\$136	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
WooSox Baseball Game - <i>Fireworks Night</i>	7/18/25	NOW	\$45	Jim Gallagher	508-259-3786
Lake Sunapee Luncheon Cruise	7/31/25	<i>Wait List</i>	\$134	Rick Ferguson	508-688-4427
Song, Dance & Romance - <i>Aqua Turf</i>	8/12/25	NOW	\$122	Rick Ferguson	508-688-4427
Annual Corn Roast – <i>SAC Park Shrewsbury</i>	TBD	–	FREE		
NH Turkey Train	10/17/25	NOW	\$120	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Fever 'N Chills Show - <i>Aqua Turf</i>	11/11/25	NOW	\$122	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Trattoria Appia - <i>with pasta making demo & Little Italy tour</i>	11/18/25	<i>Wait List</i>	\$131	George Barry	508-799-0739

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Exotic Repositioning Caribbean Cruise – <i>Tampa to Boston</i>	3/28-4/11/25	NOW	\$2,837 / 4,243	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Niagara Falls and Toronto	5/12-16/25	NOW	\$1,099	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
England, Scotland and Wales	5/15-30/25	NOW	\$5,545	Rick Ferguson	508-688-4427
Victorian Cape May	6/16-19/25	<i>Wait List</i>	\$1,485	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Amazing Longwood Gardens – <i>with Fountain Lights Show</i>	6/25-27/25	NOW	\$850	George Barry	508-799-0739
Newfoundland, Greenland & Iceland Cruise	7/12-27/25	NOW	\$4,849 / 6,189	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Discover Lancaster, PA	8/5-7/25	<i>Wait List</i>	\$975	Jim Hester	978-618-5422
Ogunquit, Kennebunkport & Portland	8/19-21/25	NOW	\$1,275	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Norwegian Cruise Line – <i>Boston to Canada and back to Boston</i>	8/29-9/5/25	NOW	\$1,800 / 3,000	Jim Hester	978-618-5422
Upper Mississippi River – <i>St. Louis to Minnesota</i>	9/5-13/25	NOW	from \$5,609	George Barry	508-799-0739
Cooperstown – <i>Baseball Hall of Fame and more</i>	9/16-18/25	NOW	\$751	George Barry	508-799-0739
Northern National Parks – <i>Glacier, Yellowstone & Grand Tetons</i>	9/19-28/25	NOW	\$5,629	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
The Seine Paris to Normandy – <i>River Boat Cruise and more</i>	11/3-15/25	NOW	from \$4,345	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
* Caribbean Getaway Cruise – <i>9 Ports / 8 Islands</i>	1/26-2/4/26	NOW	\$2,659 / 3,499	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Danube Explorer – <i>River Boat Cruise</i>	5/5-16/26	NOW	\$6,174 / 8,878	Rick Ferguson	508-688-4427
Great Lakes Cruise – <i>River Boat Cruise and more</i>	5/22-6/1/26	NOW	from \$6,729	John Kelly	860-798-6272
* Great Pacific Northwest – <i>with Lewis & Clark Discovery</i>	6/18-27/26	NOW	\$5,272	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
* Magnificent Spain	9/28-10/9/26	NOW	\$6,119	Dave Cochran	508-839-9446

(*) Symbol, represent NEW TRIPS this month. All prices quoted are per person (Double Occupancy) - Refunds will be made per printed club policy. Detailed trip flyers are available at Wednesday meetings (or by telephone) from the designated trip leaders or by visiting our website rfcg.info.

More Trip Descriptions

BOSTON TO CANADA & BACK TO BOSTON CRUISE NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

Aug. 29 to Sept. 5, 2025 \$1,800 / \$3,000 pp/do

Highlights: This is a delightful and relaxing trip to Canada with no flying and the best pricing of the year. Depart from Boston on the 29th with a day at SEA on the 30th to unwind and relax by the pool. This is also a day to enjoy all activities on the ship including GAMBLING. Day three will be at Charlottetown Prince Edward Island, Canada where you can take tours or an island drive /water-front solar powered pedal bus food/drink tour or city highlight tour and many more tours. Day four at Sydney Cape Breton Island. Visit the Worlds Largest Fiddle, Cossit House Museum and more. Day five visit Halifax and have a tour of Peggy's Cove and Halifax Historic port/ Half-day Historical tour of Halifax or relax on the ship by the pool. Day six we are back in the States in Portland Maine where you can do a vintage fire truck sightseeing tour of Portland Maine / Sightseeing Charter on a vintage Lobster Boat or a two pound lobster lunch and more. Our final day will be in Bar Harbor, Maine in which you can discover Bar Harbor city and lighthouse tour / Donut tasting walking tour in Bar Harbor old port / Seafood lovers lunch and more. We will dock in Boston at 7am Sept. 5. This is a highly anticipated trip because you put your luggage on the Bus at Maironis Park and you don't see your luggage again until you are in your cabin. Also, you only have a short trip home from Boston.

Trip Leader: Jim Hester 978-618-5422

Parking: Maironis Park bevhester13@gmail.com

GREAT LAKES CRUISE — ALL 5 OF AMERICAS GREAT LAKES!

May 22 to June 1, 2026 from \$6,729 pp/do

Highlights: Enjoy well appointed staterooms, fine regional cuisine, diverse entertainment, free Wifi and unlimited beverages throughout. Beginning in Chicago we'll tour sites like the famous Navy Pier, Willis Tower, Millennium Park and Wrigley Field. Relax for a full day of cruising, then dock at historic Mackinac Island where no cars are allowed. Take a horse-drawn carriage tour, explore the magnificent Grand Hotel which has sweeping views from "the world's largest porch". We'll visit Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan's oldest city, with its historical sites, lighthouses, nature preserves and spectacular Tahquamenon Falls. View the fascinating Soo Locks, largest in the Western Hemisphere. Our next port is the "motor city" of Detroit with its auto and music history. Visit the Detroit Historical Museum, explore the bustling Eastern Market and enjoy a show at the Fox Theater. Then we sail to Cleveland, Ohio boasting iconic attractions like the world-class Cleveland Museum of Art and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. From Cleveland we cruise to spectacular Niagara Falls and then to Toronto before returning home.

Trip Leader: John Kelly 860-798-6272

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

.....
If you know of any member who is ill, or has passed away, please contact the club secretary, Carol Bethoney at (508) 243-1204 or email cbitaly2@gmail.com Do not contact the secretary for other issues. For other issues please contact one of our officers listed on our website www.rfcg.info or in person at one of our meetings.

CARIBBEAN GETAWAY CRUISE

NEW

Jan. 26 to Feb. 4, 2026 \$2,659 / \$3,499 pp/do

Highlights: Break the winter blues with this spectacular cruise. Join us on this 11-day land and sea adventure. Your trip begins with travel from Boston to Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic where we will overnight before boarding the Norwegian Sky for our 9-day Caribbean getaway. On this 9-day cruise you will travel to 9 different ports on 8 islands. They are, Cabo Rojo in the Dominican Republic, Oranjestad - Aruba, Willemstad - Curacao, Kralendijk - Bonaire, St. Georges - Grenada, Bridgetown - Barbados, Castries - St. Lucia, Tortola - BVI, and back to Punta Cana. Your trip includes transportation to/from Logan, to the Hotel and Cruise ship, round trip airfare from Boston to Punta Cana. Hotel and breakfast in Punta Cana. 9-day cruise aboard the Norwegian Sky including all port charges, fees and Taxes, pre-paid service charges, premium beverage package including gratuity, and speciality dining. TRAVEL INSURANCE IS INCLUDED!!

Parking: Maironis Park

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

MAGNIFICENT SPAIN!

NEW

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

Highlights: Discover history, beauty and culinary delights in one of Europe's most celebrated countries- Spain! We begin by flying into Barcelona and enjoying a city tour. On Day 2, we travel to Mountserrat Mountain. Marvel at the rugged peaks with panoramic views all encompassed by the mountain top Benedictine Monastery. Day 3 begins with another adventure as we take the high-speed train to Madrid. We will meet our guide for a city tour and enjoy a stroll along La Gran Via, Madrid's principal Avenue, as well as Las Ventas Bull Ring where we learn the history and cultural significance of bull fighting. The following day we journey outside Madrid to see two of Spain's most enchanting destinations-Avila and Segovia. We will stroll the Avila cobblestone streets and visit sites including 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. Departing the capital the next morning we'll travel to Toledo for a tour of this historic city. Later we'll embark on a walking tour of 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! The next morning we'll enjoy a city tour with a visit to the Gothic Cathedral (largest in the world). We'll visit the Royal Alcazar- a stunning palace and home to royalty. We'll enjoy a dinner and Flamenco Show. We head east towards our destination of Granada with a stop at one of Spain's cliffside villages of Ronda for a tour, lunch and free time to explore. We travel in Granada to visit the magnificent Alhambra palace- an architectural masterpiece and UNESCO site. The palace, perched on a hill with stunning views, is a testament to the grandeur of the Nasrid dynasty. On Day 11, we take the high-speed train back to Madrid. You can use your last afternoon for shopping and last minute gifts. We'll enjoy our Farewell Dinner at a Madrid restaurant, rise the next morning and fly home.

Parking: Maironis Park

Trip Leader: Dave Cochran 508-839-9446
cochrandw@verizon.net



Thursday, May 8, 2025
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 (formerly Ladies Day Luncheon). The Rhythms will provide music for your dancing and listening pleasure. The meal will be your choice expertly prepared chicken, 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 (chicken, fish or beef), 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 Ralpvhshapiro@msn.com. I cannot confirm any reservations without full payment.

—RALPH SHAPIRO, *Chair*

**Please visit
 our website**
rfcg.info



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



Our league at **Green Hill** Municipal Golf Course is now accepting applications. 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

John Kelly
 (860) 798-6272



Golfers are assigned teams by handicap and may play any day of the week Monday through Friday. Tentative starting date is April 21, weather permitting.

Greens fees are \$47 for 18 holes riding, \$35 for nine holes riding, \$32 for 18 holes walking and \$25 for nine holes walking. Craig may be contacted at 508-842-8814 or you can call assistant coordinator Artie Goulet at 508-853-2601. You can sign-up with Artie at any of our Wednesday club meetings. or send a check for \$25 to: Craig Richards, 771 Main St., Shrewsbury, MA 01545.

Pine Ridge

28 Pleasant Street
 North Oxford

Starts April 21
 (weather permitting)
 Monday thru Friday

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



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 21st, weather permitting.

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

Quail Hollow

1822 Old Turnpike Rd.
 Oakham, MA

Starts April 21
 (weather permitting)
 Mondays @ 9:00am

Dick Whipplee
 (978) 355-4842
 Rick Wheeler
 (508) 864-0183

Participation in the Retired Friends Club of Greendale 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, 2024, you are good through August 31, 2025. 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

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

Check out our Website: rfcg.info

TUESDAY Bowling League – (as of March 4, 2025)

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

Place	Team	Captain & Team Member
1	#8	Don Fair , George Frascolla, Steve Gully, Dennis Laporte, Mike Mudd
2	#10	Art Douglas , Ken Miller, Olly Briggs, Jim Hester, Bruce Anderson
3	#4	Dave Meyers , Frank Visci, Paul Prince, Charlie Walsh, Don Desrosiers
HA	Joe Dooley II 97, Dave Meyers 93, Bill Plante and Don Fair 92	
HIT	Joe Dooley II 331, Dave Meyers 330, Bill Prince 312	
HIS	Bill Plante and Joe Dooley II 125, Dave Flint 123	

THURSDAY Bowling League – (as of March 6, 2025)

BAYBERRY LANES 326 Main Street, Spencer
Peter Morse, Coordinator Email: morsepd5@aol.com 508-832-4351

Place	Points	Team / Captain & Team Members
1	44 wins	Jim Connolly , Dave Flint, Peter White, Chris Mudd
TIE	2 40 wins	Don Fair , Denny King, Robin White, Shaun Dyer
	2 40 wins	Dave Meyers , Marty Polito, George Harpin, Bob White
	3 39 wins	Carl Masshardt , Tony Neggers, Dave Daoust, Don Casey
HA	Joe Dooley 97.97, Evan Plante 93.21, Dave Meyers 93.05	
HIT	Joe Dooley 338, Carl Masshardt 329, Dave Meyers 323	
HIS	Joe Dooley 139, Jim Connolly 122, Ken Miller 121	

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 _____

Time to Sign up for Summer Bowling



Summer Bowling Starts April 15

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 15 this year. The season runs for 26 weeks, ending Oct. 7, 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 48 bowlers, 12 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

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.