

# The Classics Courier

## Summer 2025

Summer is here and so are exciting events with The Classics! It always seems like summer brings with it a burst of energy and opportunities for good times. It is the season of possibility, where every day brings the promise of new experiences.

One couple who were excited to take advantage of a new experience are Beth and Russell Wackerlin. They traveled with the Classics Club for the first time to visit a place they had never been before - Japan! The Wackerlins are from rural Leland and were kind enough to sit down with us to share their trip experiences.

"It was on our bucket list," said Beth. "We were members of the Classics, but had never traveled with them before. We noticed the Japan advertisements, and Russell said to me, 'What do you think?' Let me tell you, it was fabulous. It certainly took all the work and headaches out of a big trip like that. You just get on the bus and everything is handled, from getting your tickets to going through the airport, to the hotels, and literally the luggage.

"We had fabulous culinary experiences and hands-on activities – it was just a blast," Beth continued. "One highlight for us was visiting the fish market. But there is also enough downtime where you are able to do your own things, if you want. One day we went to a temple in the morning, then the afternoon was free. So we just Ubered to a place we knew we wanted to go to, which was the Bamboo Forest and Monkey Mountain. Then our guide helped us learn how to get public transportation back to the hotel. We really were able to see so many different things while we were there."

"I really enjoyed riding the bullet train and going up to Hiroshima," said Russell. "We went up through the mountains and rode through probably a foot of snow through what they called the 'Japanese Alps.' There was such a variety of climate and landscapes to see. Plus you learn about Hiroshima in your history textbooks, but to be standing there where the history took place was really something."

Beth and Russell had a few nice things to say about Biljana, as well. "Gosh, we really just connected with her," said Beth. "She was so friendly and outgoing, and she checked on us to make sure we didn't need anything. It was our first time meeting her, but I have to tell you, she is a friend now!"

"We knew the people that we traveled with," Russell added, "but we didn't know anybody else. But it was a very nice group of people, and those kinds of trips can make you bond quickly."

"We even met a couple weeks ago for a little get-together," said Beth. "Almost everyone from the trip was able to make it. That tells you a lot about people wanting to get together and continue those relationships. We will travel again with The Classics, for sure. I tell people, 'It is just a wonderful way to travel.'"

Thank you to Beth and Russell for those kind words! Please take a look at what we have coming up in the next few months for our members. Whether you are interested in a smaller event, day trip, or longer excursion, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Also, if you have any ideas for upcoming events, we would love to hear them. Just give us a call at (815) 756-6321.

Biljana Jovanovic, Nicole Patterson, and Courtney Weber  
The Classics Team

# Entertaining Events in the Community Rooms

(\*HearthStone Center is located at 625 Bethany Road, DeKalb, IL 60115)

## **Antiques Road Show with Steve Almburg**

**Tues., August 12, Leland Branch**

**Activity Level 1** - Do you have a family heirloom or antique that you've always wondered about? Is it a hidden gem or just a sentimental keepsake? Join us for a special evening with Steve Almburg from Almburg Auctioneering in Malta as he shares insights into the history and value of your treasured items. Bring an antique you'd like Steve to evaluate and discover its story! If you already have one in mind, send a photo to us so we can have Steve research it to be ready for the show. We will have a cookout, so the meal and refreshments are included. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. **RSVP by August 8th. Members: \$14.00 • Guests: \$19.00**

## **Create Your Own Pumpkin Floral Centerpiece**

**Thurs., September 25, Somonauk Branch**

**Activity Level 1** - Angie from Ivy Oaks Floral will guide us through a hands-on workshop where you'll learn how to create your own stunning pumpkin floral centerpiece. Using fresh seasonal blooms and real pumpkins, Angie will share her expert tips on arranging flowers, selecting complementary colors, and adding those special touches that bring the whole design together. Lunch and refreshments are included! Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and the event will begin at 12:00 p.m. **RSVP by September 18th. Members: \$38 • Guests: \$41**

## **Oktoberfest at HearthStone\***

**Sat., October 18, HearthStone Center**

**Activity Level 1** - Mark your calendar for October 18th for a big event at our own HearthStone Center to celebrate October Fest! More details will be shared in our next issue!

## **Make Holiday Centerpieces!**

**Thurs., November 13, Kirkland Branch**

**Activity Level 1** - At the Kirkland Branch, Christina Fisher of Maple Leaf Floral will help us create and take away your own holiday centerpieces. More details will be shared in our next issue!

## **Build Your Own Holiday Porch Planter in Earlville**

**Tues., November 18, Earlville**

**Activity Level 1** - Join us at the Earl Township Building in Earlville for a fun afternoon of creating your very own holiday porch planter! A delicious lunch will be provided, and at the end of the session, you will have the perfect accent for your seasonal decorations, or a wonderful gift to give away. **RSVP by November 10th. Members: \$38 • Guests: \$41**

## Day Trips

### **Cubs vs. Brewers at Miller Park!**

**Wed., July 30th, Milwaukee, WI**

**Activity Level 3** - Join us for a Milwaukee Brewers vs. Chicago Cubs afternoon game at Miller Park in Milwaukee, WI! Price includes: transportation to and from the park, admission to the game, lunch ticket for the park and driver tip. Space is limited! Payment is due at the time of registration. Tickets are non-refundable. Payment is due upon registration. **RSVP by June 10th. Members: \$99.00 • Guests: \$110.00**

### **Tristan Crist Magic Theatre**

**Fri., August 8th, Lake Geneva, WI**

**Activity Level 2** - "Master Illusionist of the Year" Tristan Crist presents Las Vegas-style magic up close and personal like you've never seen before! The Tristan Crist Magic Theatre features award-winning magic, comedy, and illusion performances. Witness grand illusions in an intimate setting—every seat is close to the action! Experience the impossible! Dinner this evening will be at Fitzgerald's Genoa Junction, known for its all-you-can-eat fish and BBQ chicken. Price includes: tickets, dinner, transportation, and driver tip. **RSVP by June 25th. Members: \$117 • Guests: \$128**

### **Resource Bank Historic Preservation Tour**

**Sat., August 16**

**Activity Level 1** - Join us for a self-guided celebration of history, architecture, and hospitality for this fun event! Beginning at 10:00 A.M., explore the beautifully restored Resource Bank branches and community rooms in Hampshire, Sycamore, Leland, and Shabbona. At each stop, you will experience more than just history, you will enjoy a progressive meal and warm community spirit:

- Hampshire – Kick things off with the restored Eakin One-Room Schoolhouse at the Hampshire Branch and delicious appetizers
- Sycamore – Refresh at the Sycamore Branch (the historic Frederick B. Townsend Garage) with beverages in a charming setting
- Leland – Enjoy a small, satisfying meal in the Leland Branch's historic Yocklich Building and restored Rollo One-Room Schoolhouse community room
- Shabbona – End the day on a sweet note at the Shabbona Branch and its Quilhot One-Room Schoolhouse community room for delicious pie

This is a drive-yourself tour that showcases our commitment to honoring the past while serving today's communities. Maps will be given out at the first location, Hampshire, and we will leave as a group for the next location in our own vehicles. Come for the stories, enjoy the food, and experience how historic places continue to thrive. **FREE!** Bring a friend! **RSVP by August 6th.**

## Day Trips, continued

### **Timber Lake Play House in Mt. Carroll for *The Bridges of Madison County***

**Sat., September 20, Mt. Carroll**

**Activity Level 2** - Timber Lake Playhouse is Illinois' oldest continuously operating professional summer stock theatre. Nestled on 15 acres of wooded beauty, the playhouse features a 371-seat theatre with a 45' stage, offering audiences an up-close and dynamic viewing experience. Since 1961, the Play House has brought Broadway-quality performances to northwest Illinois and has launched the careers of many artists seen on TV, film, and Broadway - including Jennifer Garner and Tony Award winner Jayne Houdyshell. Whether you're a seasoned theatregoer or new to live performance, the playhouse itself is a destination - surrounded by nature and filled with history, talent, and charm. *The Bridges of Madison County* is a heartfelt musical, based on the bestselling novel, that tells the story of love, longing, and the choices that shape a lifetime. Set against the quiet beauty of 1960s Iowa, it features a lush, emotionally rich score and a story that stays with you. After the show, we will enjoy a delicious dinner at Candlelight at Lake Carol. The price includes the ticket for the show, transport to and from the venue, dinner, and all tips. **RSVP by August 20th. Members: \$129.00 • Guests: \$142.00**

## Extended Trips

### **Shipshewana, Middlebury, IN**

**July 15th - 17th, 2025**

Join us on this three-day trip to some of the most beautiful places in Indiana. There will be a flower garden tour like you have never seen before! Shopping, horse and buggy tours, and special evening dinner shows await you! Call for pricing and details!

### **Yosemite and Lake Tahoe**

**September 8th - 15th, 2025**

**Activity Level 6** - Experience the untouched beauty of the American West - Yosemite National Park, a natural paradise since time began, is a true treasure of the American West. On this unforgettable journey, discover the charm of Monterey and take in the breathtaking views along 17-Mile Drive. Marvel at the unspoiled beauty of Yosemite, then travel over the majestic Sierra Nevada Mountains to the pristine waters of Lake Tahoe. Indulge in local wines in Napa Valley and savor a farm-to-table lunch, all while embracing the laid-back lifestyle of the Golden State! Plus, enjoy the option of extending your adventure with two days in San Francisco. **Please call Classics for the brochure and pricing details.**

### **Rome and the Italian Amalfi Coast**

**October 2nd - 11th, 2025**

**Activity Level 6** - Take in the sights of the "Eternal City" of Rome! All of the unforgettable destinations of the city, such as the Spanish Steps, the Colosseum, and the Piazza Navona will be yours to savor. Then head to the Amalfi Coast, recognized by UNESCO as an outstanding example of a Mediterranean landscape. Here, mountains dramatically plunge into the sea, creating a breathtaking scene of steep cliffs, cliffside homes, and lush woodlands. This stunning coastline is a favorite getaway for Italians, with each town exuding the quintessential Amalfi charm. As you travel along the picturesque coastal drive, you'll journey through lemon groves and hillside orchards, immersing yourself in the beauty of this remarkable region. **Please contact Classics for the brochure and pricing details.**

## A Country Christmas in Vermont

December 6-11, 2025

**Activity Level 6** - Celebrate the magic of the holiday season with a festive journey to Vermont! This unforgettable Christmas trip will take you to charming Woodstock Village, the historic Billings Farm for a scenic sleigh ride, and a delightful visit to a Vermont Christmas tree farm. Experience hands-on fun at the Village Peddler Chocolate Maker, explore the Vermont Teddy Bear Factory, and soak in the beauty of the famous Trapp Family Lodge. And that's just the beginning! For a brochure and pricing details, contact Classics today!

## Classics Calendar

Jul. 15 - 17 : Shipshewana and Middlebury, IN

Jul. 30 : Cubs vs. Brewers, Miller Park

Aug. 8 : Tristan Crist Magic Theatre, Lake Geneva, WI

Aug. 12 : Antiques Road Show, Leland Branch

Aug. 16 : Resource Bank Historic Preservation Tour

Sept. 25 : Pumpkin Floral Centerpiece, Somonauk Branch

Sept. 8-15 : Yosemite National Park

Sept. 20 : Timberlake Play House

Oct. 2-11 : Rome, Italy, and the Amalfi Coast

Oct. 18 : Oktoberfest, HearthStone

Nov. 13 : Make Holiday Centerpieces, Kirkland Branch

Nov. 18 : Holiday Porch Planters, Earl Township Building

Dec. 6-11 : Christmas in Vermont

Prices may be subject to change due to fuel increases.

If you have any ideas/suggestions for future events or trips, please email us at [Classics@ResourceBank.com](mailto:Classics@ResourceBank.com)!

## Activity Levels

**Activity Level 1:** No stairs.

**Activity Level 2:** A little walking, possible stairs.

**Activity Level 3:** Walking, getting on & off the coach, and possible stairs.

**Activity Level 4:** Walking, getting on & off the coach several times and stairs.

**Activity Level 5:** Walking distances which might be on non-flat surfaces, getting on & off the coach multiple times, and stairs.

**Activity Level 6:** All of the above, including multiple flights of stairs and activities requiring a higher level of stamina.

## Cancellation Policy

Cancellation policy on an extended trip is outlined by the tour company as stated in their trip brochure.

If you cancel a day trip or event after the date of the final payment and if we/you can find a person to take your place we will provide you with a full refund. In the event we don't have a wait list or you can't find a replacement, you will not receive any refund.

If the trip is scheduled with another tour company, then the trip cancellation policy is outlined by the tour company as stated in their trip brochure. If the trip is scheduled by the Classics Club then the cancellation policy will be listed on the Classics Club brochure/registration form for the specific trips.

**ResourceBank**  
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Additional Banking Locations:

**Cortland** 10 W. North Avenue • 815-756-2266

**DeKalb** 775 S. Annie Glidden Road • 815-748-3108

**Earlville** 613 S. Ottawa Street • 815-246-5981

**Genoa** 310 S. Highway 23 • 815-784-8301

**Hampshire** 135 W. Oak Knoll Drive • 847-792-8080

**Hinckley** 280 E. Lincoln Avenue • 815-286-3241

**Kaneville** 2S101 Harter Road • 630-358-4083

**Kirkland** 414 Main Street • 815-522-7001

**Leland** 205 N. Main Street • 815-495-7040

**Malta** 201 Rt. 38 • 815-825-2074

**Serena** 2264 Rt. 52 • 815-496-6308

**Shabbona** 102 S. Indian Road • 815-824-1210

**Somonauk** 605 E. Market Street • 815-498-1280

**Sycamore** 351 N. Main Street • 815-895-1703

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