

# The Classics Courier

Autumn 2025

The fun never stops with the Classics Club! We have some new events coming up that we are excited to share with you, including some details on our 2026 offerings. As the summer winds down and the temperature begins to cool, we hope you can find time to join us at one of our many local get-togethers. We will save a seat for you!

One pair who have been traveling with us for a while now are sisters Joyce Schirmer and Bonnie Nowinski. "I believe I started with the Classics about ten years ago," Joyce said. "I decided I wanted to do some trips, but everybody else I knew was working still. So I thought I would see what this was all about. And I very much enjoyed it, right from the start. I didn't feel alone at all – people were talking and laughing and sharing. Everyone was so friendly. I've been able to see so many things that I probably wouldn't have seen on my own. A lot of the day trips are local, and I am really interested in that. So it worked out really well for me, and I made a lot of friends. And now I am going to Italy!"

Bonnie said, "Before I came to live in the area, Joyce had invited me to a few events as a guest, and I always enjoyed it, too. Then when I moved here, that became a big part of our life – the two of us traveling together. We have had a lot of laughs! Plus, Biljana always has the best places to go for delicious food."

"If I had to pick some of my favorite trips," Joyce said, "I think it would be New York or Quebec, which was just last year. We even went to Iowa and that was really good! I learned so much about that area; I had no idea it had so much to offer. But I really enjoyed New York. At first, I had no interest in going, but I decided to see what it was like, and I learned that I like New York! It was not something I expected, and I was very surprised. There is always something to learn about each place. We both are history buffs, so we like to know all about the places we go to – the history, the architecture - those little facts that can tell you so much about a place that you have never been before."

"I really enjoyed myself when we went up to the Fireside," Bonnie said. "There was one trip where we participated in a glass-painting activity, and we had so much fun with the people that we were with. We were just sitting there, and we got to laughing so hard with them. I think that is the main thing – the people that you meet. Everyone has that common goal that they really like to travel and to know about new things. And the Classics sets it up just right."

Joyce and Bonnie, the history buffs, have also traveled to France to walk in the footsteps of their father's tour of duty during World War II. "Our father was in a special paratrooper unit that helped to liberate France. We were able to see some of the places that he would have been during that time, and it was just so special," Joyce said. "The people in the villages there all wanted to greet us and thank us, because of our dad. We were really treated like royalty."

It just so happens that France is one of the destinations for our upcoming trips in 2026! Take a look at it inside, along with all of the other upcoming events. We go out of our way to find something for everyone - whether you are looking to have the international trip of a lifetime or just a fun get-together with new and old friends. Give us a call today! (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)

## **Oktoberfest at HearthStone\***

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

**Activity Level Low** - Willkommen! Join us for an unforgettable evening as we celebrate Oktoberfest in true German style! Enjoy the lively sounds of The Happy Wanderers, a genuine oom-pa band from Aurora, and savor delicious, authentic German cuisine. Grab your friends and raise a glass with us! Doors open at 4:30 p.m., and the event begins at 5:00 p.m. **RSVP by October 1st. Members: \$60 • Guests \$66**

## **Make Holiday Centerpieces!**

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

**Activity Level Low** - Join us at the **Kirkland Branch** for a festive afternoon with Christina Fisher of Maple Leaf Floral! You will be able to design and take home your very own holiday centerpiece. Choose between a fall-themed or winter-themed lantern decoration—each including a flameless candle. The event begins at 2:00 p.m., with snacks and refreshments provided. **RSVP by October 30th. Members: \$35 • Guests: \$38**

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

**Tues., November 18, Earlville**

**Activity Level Low** - 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. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and the event will begin at 12:00 p.m. **RSVP by November 10th. Members: \$38 • Guests: \$41**

## **Festive Flavors Across the Globe!**

**Sun., January 18, HearthStone Center\***

**Activity Level Low** - Step into the New Year with flavor and festivity! Join us in January as we celebrate holidays around the world with a special dining experience that highlights traditions and tastes from across the globe. December is often packed with commitments, so we're bringing the holiday cheer into the new year! Our afternoon will feature a progressive-style meal that transports you from country to country, sampling delicacies inspired by international cuisines. Bring your appetite, your curiosity, and your festive spirit! Entertainment will also be provided. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., and the event will begin at 1:00 p.m. **RSVP by January 1st. Members: \$60 • Guests: \$66**

## **Antique Road Show With Steve Almburg**

**Tues., February 10, HearthStone Center\***

**Activity Level Low** - Since the Antique Road Show in Leland drew such a strong response, we've decided to host another session at HearthStone! The event will take place at noon (doors open at 11:30 a.m.). For this session, we will be limiting participation to one item per person with a maximum of 50 people. If you plan to present an item, please email a photo of it to the Classics Department no later than February 1st. Not bringing an item? You're still welcome to join us! **RSVP by February 1st. Members: \$15 • Guests: \$16**

## Day Trips

### **Galena Get-up and Go!**

**Tues., October 28**

**Activity Level Moderate** - Put on your walking shoes and join us for a day of shopping and lunch in Galena! Join us for a pre-holiday shopping adventure where charming boutiques, specialty stores, and unique finds await. We'll depart from Farm & Fleet at 8:00 a.m. and head straight to Galena. The morning is yours to explore the town's historic Main Street, brimming with local shops. At midday, we'll gather as a group for lunch, and after you will still have time to visit more shops! We will depart Galena no later than 5:00 p.m. **RSVP by October 10th. Members: \$120 • Guests \$132**

### ***Les Misérables* at the Historic Fabulous Fox Theatre, St. Louis!**

**Wed.-Thurs., November 19-20**

**Activity Level Moderate** - Experience the magic of Broadway in St. Louis! Join us for an overnight trip featuring *Les Misérables* at the historic Fabulous Fox Theatre, plus a special behind-the-scenes tour. Comfortable accommodations, great company, and unforgettable memories await. **RSVP by November 1st. Please call Classics for pricing and availability.**

### **Aurora Christkindlmarket**

**Thurs., December 4**

**Activity Level Moderate** - Step into the magic of the holidays with a day trip to the Aurora Christkindlmarket! Sip hot cocoa or mulled cider, shop for unique treasures, and enjoy the sights, sounds, and flavors of this beloved holiday tradition — all close to home. Lunch is on your own. **RSVP by November 25th. Members: \$40 • Guests: \$44**

### ***On Your Feet!* at Drury Lane Theatre**

**Sun., February 22**

**Activity Level Moderate** - Join us for *On Your Feet!*, the inspiring true story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan, featuring their chart-topping music and the journey that made them international sensations. Filled with the exhilarating music of the Miami Sound Machine, this show will have you dancing in the aisles! **RSVP by February 1st. Members: \$165 • Guests: \$175**

## Extended Trips

### **A Country Christmas in Vermont**

**December 6-11, 2025**

**Activity Level High** - For a brochure and pricing details, contact Classics today!

## Extended Trips, continued

### **Savannah, GA: Historic Streets and Southern Charm**

**March 8-14, 2026**

**Activity Level High** - Step back in time with us on an unforgettable journey to Georgia's oldest city—Savannah. Founded in 1733, this Southern gem is renowned for its storied past, breathtaking architecture, and graceful public squares. We'll explore the city at the height of Azalea season, when vibrant blooms add to Savannah's charm. From scenic land and river adventures to guided historical tours filled with captivating stories, folklore, and even a few haunted tales, this trip promises beauty, history, and discovery at every turn. **RSVP by January 15, 2026.** Please call for a brochure and pricing details!

### **Tennessee's Hidden Gems: Granville, TN**

**April 8-12, 2026**

**Activity Level Moderate** - Discover the charm of small-town Tennessee on a journey filled with history, music, and unique experiences. Cruise scenic rivers, explore fascinating museums, and celebrate at Granville's lively "I Love Lucy" Festival. Relax at the beautiful Wildwood Resort and Marina, enjoy a Champagne Brunch on the water, and step aboard My Old Kentucky Dinner Train for a thrilling murder mystery dinner. With Southern hospitality at every stop, this trip promises laughter, culture, and memories to last a lifetime. **RSVP by February 9, 2026.** Please call for a brochure and pricing details!

### **Mackinac Island With Two Nights at the Grand Hotel**

**May 16-20, 2026**

**Activity Level Moderate** - Our journey will take us to the spectacular Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, the whimsical Mushroom Houses, and across the water on a scenic ferry ride to Mackinac Island, where we'll enjoy two nights at the world-famous Grand Hotel. Along the way, we'll explore the historic Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie and enjoy the thrill of dune rides in Saugatuck. This trip is filled with incredible sights, rich history, and one-of-a-kind experiences. **RSVP by February 1, 2026.** Please call for a brochure and pricing details!

### **Journey to France**

**June 11-22, 2026**

**Activity Level High** - Experience the very best of France on this unforgettable journey, filled with iconic sights and inspiring moments. Walk in the footsteps of royalty at the breathtaking Versailles Palace, and step into a masterpiece at Monet's enchanting gardens in Giverny. Explore the historic region of Normandy, where visits to the D-Day Landing Sites, Omaha Beach, and the American Cemetery offer a moving tribute of courage and sacrifice. Marvel at the stunning island abbey of Le Mont St. Michel and discover the elegance of the Loire Valley with a tour of the fairytale-like Chenonceau Castle. In Paris, glide along the Seine River on a scenic cruise and savor an unforgettable dinner at the Eiffel Tower. **RSVP by December 12, 2025.** Please call for a brochure and pricing details!

### **Experience Albuquerque During the 52nd International Balloon Fest, Plus Santa Fe!**

**October 4-8, 2026**

**Activity Level Moderate** - See the magic of Albuquerque and Santa Fe on this adventure, highlighted by two exclusive events at Balloon Fiesta Field. **RSVP by June 1, 2026.** Please call for a brochure and pricing details!

## Essential South America

November 5-14, 2026

**Activity Level High** - Embark on a South American adventure through Chile and Argentina, where vibrant cities, stunning landscapes, and rich cultural experiences await. Begin in Santiago, Chile, exploring its mix of modern and colonial architecture, local markets, and museums that reveal the nation's history and artistry. Savor fresh seafood at Mercado Central and toast your journey with a welcome dinner. Fly to Mendoza, Argentina, a desert-bordered wine region at the foot of the Andes, where boutique vineyards offer tastings, hands-on cooking classes, and insights into the local tradition of yerba mate tea. Conclude your trip in the energetic city of Buenos Aires, strolling its historic neighborhoods, sampling diverse cuisine, and soaking in the city's European flair and Latin rhythms. **RSVP by April 6, 2026.** Please call for pricing details!

## Classics Calendar

Oct. 18: Oktoberfest, HearthStone Center

Oct. 28: Galena Get-up and Go

Nov. 13: Make Holiday Centerpieces, Kirkland Branch

Nov. 18: Holiday Porch Planters, Earl Township Building

Nov. 19-20: *Les Misérables*, Fabulous Fox Theatre, St. Louis

Dec. 4: Aurora Christkindlmarket

Dec. 6-11: Christmas in Vermont

Feb. 10: Antique Road Show, HearthStone Center

Feb. 22: *On Your Feet!*, Drury Lane

March 8-14: Savannah, Georgia

April 8-12: Tennessee's Hidden Gems

May 16-20: Mackinac Island, Michigan

June 11-22: Journey to France

October 4-8: Albuquerque and Santa Fe, New Mexico

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)!

## Please note our new Activity Levels

**Activity Level Low:** Relaxed pace, minimum walking and level ground, ample time to rest

**Activity Level Moderate:** Low-key movement, possibly on and off a bus, walking on uneven terrain, climbing stairs, and occasional periods of standing

**Activity Level High:** Designed for travelers who can comfortably walk longer distances, uneven terrains, long periods of standing, multiple bus boardings, and possible flights with transfers

## Cancellation Policy

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 anyone to take your place, 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 that specific trip.

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