

The Classics Courier

Spring 2026

Winter made one last gasp on March 16th with blizzard-like conditions, but these warmer temperatures always bring about a renewed sense of energy and possibility. It is the perfect time to get out, reconnect, and enjoy all that the season of spring has to offer. We here at Resource Bank's Classics Club are excited to bring you plenty of opportunities to do just that.

One couple that have taken advantage of the opportunities that the Classics Club offers are Penny and Joe Nelson. Married for 54 years, the two of them raised their family in Hinckley while Joe worked for 42 years as a conductor for the Burlington Northern Railroad, and Penny was the practice manager of a doctor's office. "We like to have fun," Penny said. "We like to get out there and enjoy life."

"We've had some trips in the past; we had at one time a pop-top camper, and we took that thing all around. We really enjoyed that with the young ones at the time, but we did have some hairy experiences with it! We all survived them, though," said Joe.

Their first trip with the Classics was to Los Angeles for the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena and Hollywood, CA, and they followed it up with a trip to the Canadian Rockies; but their most recent adventure was the Classics trip to Italy and the Amalfi Coast. "It was our first time going abroad, and it was so wonderful," Penny said. "We were able to go a few days early to Florence with a group of 12 others, and we got along with everyone so well. We were a little hesitant to join up with the rest of the group when they arrived in Rome, but everybody was just so nice!"

"Biljana and Nicole did so much work making it seem easy for us, even when the unexpected happened, as it sometimes can. I remember a group of us who were exploring Rome during some free time had some problems getting back to the hotel, and we just called Biljana. She told us that she would be right there and came on the subway to pick us up," said Joe.

"We didn't see the Pope when we were there, but we did get to see the Sistine Chapel. We thought we were going to miss our chance, because they had the doors closed, but then they happened to open them up when we were there and they let us in!" said Penny.

"One of the highlights for me on that trip was seeing Pompeii. It was just unbelievable," Joe continued. "Seeing the history there and learning all about the volcano's destruction, but also seeing the original mosaic tiles that were still there, preserved after all this time was amazing."

Next up for Joe and Penny will be France. "I want to see the Eiffel Tower," said Joe, "And I want to visit Normandy and experience all the history. I look forward to these trips with Resource; I really do."

Penny said, "I feel like we are cultured people, but seeing a different place and how they live - just taking a bus ride and seeing all the clothes hanging everywhere in Italy because it is the custom to not use dryers gives you such a new perspective."

"Plus the food was just wonderful!" said Joe. "And the people were so nice to us there."

We hope that Penny and Joe continue to have great experiences with Classics, and we hope that you will, too! You don't have to leave the country to experience the fellowship of the Classics; we have plenty of local events and trips to join if you prefer staying closer to home! Make sure to give any of our Classics Team a call if you have any questions about an upcoming event or trip!

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)

Farm History, Heritage, and a Hearty Lunch!

Tues., May 12

Activity Level Moderate - Step back in time, and enjoy a charming countryside outing as we visit Denny Rehn's farm in rural Belvidere for a one-of-a-kind look at agricultural history. Denny will personally guide us through his impressive and thoughtfully curated collection of agriculture-related artifacts and treasures, all cared for in his museum-like barn. You might have seen our article on Denny and his collection in the most recent issue of *Your Resource for Living*. We'll meet at the Kirkland Branch at 10:15 AM and follow each other to Denny's farm, or you're welcome to drive directly to the farm if that's more convenient. The barn doors open at 11:00 AM. After the tour, we'll sit down to enjoy a delicious homemade lunch, graciously prepared and served by Denny right in the museum barn. **RSVP by May 1st. Members \$25 • Guests \$28.**

2027 Trip Preview Presentation

Wed., May 27

10:00 AM at Hearthstone*

2:00 PM at Somonauk

Activity Level Low - We have been hard at work trying to discover unique destinations for our members, and we are ready to share them with you! Join us for a presentation about the upcoming extended trips for 2027. We have two locations for your convenience! Take the opportunity to sign up for the unforgettable and exciting ventures we have planned! **RSVP by May 20th. FREE!!**

Nourishing Your Heart: Cooking and Connecting After Loss

Thurs., June 4, Somonauk Branch

Activity Level Low - This meaningful afternoon will focus on exploring how healing from grief often begins in familiar places, like gathering around the kitchen table. Jo Cessna, local culinary instructor, will offer practical insight on navigating grief, honoring loss, and caring for emotional well-being through thoughtful conversation and shared experiences. Lunch is included. Doors open at 11:30 AM, and lunch will be available at noon. **RSVP by May 28th. Members \$10 • Guests \$12.**

Trains, Bells, and Gardens - An Open House at the home of Steve & Pat Faivre

Tues., July 7

Activity Level Moderate - Steve and Pat Faivre of Sycamore are welcoming their fellow Classics Members to their home for an open house that will feature their beautiful outdoor gardens, the historic school bell of the St. Alban's school that was located on the site, as well as a hidden masterpiece - Steve's miniature electric train diorama. It has to be seen to be believed! Located in the lower level of the Faivre's home, the train layout is a representation of Northern Illinois, and you will see quite a few familiar sights in miniature, including a tiny Resource Bank Sycamore Branch! The open house begins at 11:00 AM, and a box lunch from The Lincoln Inn is included. The address will be provided to attendees, and we will meet you there. Parking will be available on the street or in the parking lot across from their home. The maximum for this event is 25 attendees, but if needed, we will hold another open house on the same day at 4:00 PM. **RSVP by June 30th. Members & Guests \$15.**

Day Trips

Hidden Wonders and Timeless Design in Wisconsin

Fri., April 24

Activity Level Moderate - Enjoy a day exploring some of Wisconsin's most fascinating natural, historical, and architectural treasures. We'll begin with a guided visit to Cave of the Mounds, where stunning underground formations create a truly unforgettable experience. Next, we'll travel to Mount Horeb for a guided tour of the Driftless Historium, offering insight into the unique history and culture of the Driftless Region. You'll then enjoy lunch on your own, with time to explore local dining options. In the afternoon, we'll visit Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin, the iconic home and studio that showcases Wright's vision and legacy. We'll end the day with a relaxing dinner at Bailey's Run Vineyard before heading home. **RSVP by April 10. Members: \$229 • Guests: \$251**

Lake Geneva Cruise and Black Point Estate Tour

Wed., June 3

Activity Level Moderate - Share a beautiful day in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, starting with a relaxing lunch cruise, where you'll take in stunning lake views while enjoying a delicious meal on the water. After the cruise, we'll step back in time with a guided tour of the historic Black Point Estate, a magnificent lakeside mansion rich with stories, architecture, and charm. Following our scheduled activities, you'll have free time to explore at your own pace—take a leisurely stroll along the lakefront, browse the downtown shops, or stop for a sweet treat or coffee before we head home. **RSVP by May 1st. Members: \$166 • Guests: \$182**

Cubs vs. Brewers at Miller Park in Milwaukee, WI

Sun., June 28

Activity Level Moderate - Price includes: transportation to and from the park, admission to the game, lunch ticket for the park, and driver tip. Tickets are limited. Payment is due at time of registration. **RSVP by May 1st. Members \$119 • Guests \$130**

Chicago Air and Water Show Cruise

Sat., August 15

Activity Level Moderate - The Chicago Air and Water Show is the largest show of its kind in the United States! This extraordinary event showcases daredevil pilots, parachute teams (including the U.S. Army Golden Knights!), and formation jet flyers (including the famous U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds!), as well as water-skiing and boat-jumping demonstrations. Plus, the best place to see the show is on the water! We will board the ship, *Spirit of Navy Pier*, at noon for an afternoon of Lake Michigan cruising, all while enjoying a brunch buffet and live DJ entertainment with a view of the show that is second-to-none! Skip the parking hassles and join us with round-trip coach transportation. The scenic cruise is noon to 4:00 PM. Space is limited for this high-end hot ticket! **RSVP by July 1st. Members \$248 • Guests \$272.**

A Second Trip to Mackinac Island With Two Nights at the Grand Hotel August 27 - 31

Activity Level Moderate - By Popular Demand!

The trip to Mackinac Island sold out so quickly, we ended up putting many people on the waiting list. So we decided to go ahead and offer another trip to the historic island with the same itinerary - two nights at the Grand Hotel, the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture, Mushroom Houses, Sault Ste. Marie, and dune rides in Saugatuck. **RSVP by May 30th. Members \$1,985 • Guests \$2,140**

Extended Trips

Mackinac Island With Two Nights at the Grand Hotel

May 16-20, 2026

Activity Level Moderate - SOLD OUT! Please call to be added to our waiting list!

Journey to France

June 11-22, 2026

Activity Level High - SOLD OUT! Please call to be added to our waiting list! If you have already secured your spot, let us know if you are interested in booking an additional Notre Dame restoration excursion!

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

October 4-8, 2026

Activity Level Moderate - SOLD OUT! Please call to be added to our waiting list!

Additional Upcoming Trips

We wanted to give you a sneak-peek at a couple of the new trips that we are working on for the coming months! The details for these are still being finalized, so be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks!

Rockford Peaches Exhibit and Anderson Japanese Gardens

We will head to the Midway Village Museum to see the Rockford Peaches exhibit (the famous All-American Girls Professional Baseball League team). After the tour, lunch will be at the Anderson Japanese Gardens, which are always stunning. This will be a trip that we take on a coach bus, and the date will be in late July.

Celebrate the U.S.A.'s 250th Anniversary With the Founding Fathers!

This 6 day/5 night Virginia tour of the homes of some of the most influential American Presidents who have ever lived will be sure to satisfy our history buff members, plus those who appreciate incredible estates and gardens. Highlights will include:

- Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and Poplar Forest (his private retreat home)
- James Madison's Montpelier
- James Monroe's Highland
- Theodore Roosevelt's Pine Knot
- George Washington's Mount Vernon, which has just undergone a massive and meticulous restoration, including paint, plaster, and wood
- And other historic stops along the way!

Dates and Prices Coming Soon!

Classics Calendar

April 24: Hidden Wonders / Timeless Design in Wisconsin

May 12: Farm History, Heritage, and a Hearty Lunch!

May 16-20: Mackinac Island, Michigan

May 27: Trip Preview 2027, HearthStone and Somonauk

June 3: Lake Geneva Cruise and Black Point Estate Tour

June 4: Nourishing Your Heart, Somonauk Branch

June 11-22: Journey to France

June 28: Cubs vs. Brewers at Miller Park in Milwaukee

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!

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.

ResourceBank

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