

Spring Has Sprung!!



From the President

It's mid-April and I've already been home from Palm Desert for more than three weeks. Weather was iffy most of the six weeks we were away, but things are already heating up for MEL since the end of March. 13 members joined in a spirited discussion of Chicago sports teams on March 25 at Portillo's (Let's Talk Sports!). Nine members attended the first live movie (John Wick: Chapter 4) and discussion since Covid kept us away from each other and out of theaters. Two others joined for dinner and the discussion. Golfers had their first outing on Monday, April 12, Pickleballers were out on the courts on Thursday, April 13, the Slow(er) Bike Group had their first venture on Friday, April 14 and five members walked at the Chicago Botanic Garden on April 18. Spring is definitely here! Can Lineball be far behind?

By the time you read this, members will have played miniature golf at the Highland Park Learning Center on April 25 and the book group will have met on May 2nd to discuss

The Brothers, about how John Foster Dulles, as Secretary of State, and Allen Dulles, as head of

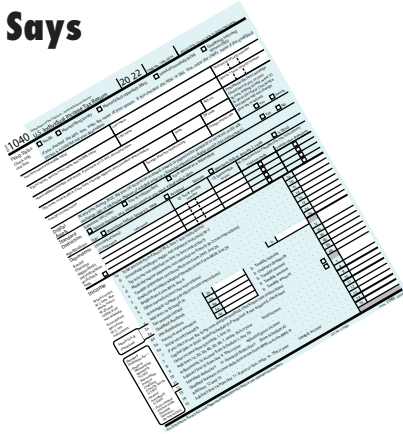
the CIA, fomented covert actions to topple heads of state around the world. And of course, gin, poker, hearts, bridge and canasta continue at a variety of venues. Not to mention water volleyball, bowling and pool.

And looking forward, 25 guys will visit the Halim Time and Glass Museum in Evanston on May 9. There are so many more special events planned and scheduled throughout the summer. Thank you to Bruce Edelson and his merry band of co-sponsors. The next Investment meeting is scheduled for May 16 and on May 25 many of us will be traveling to the National Restaurant Show at McCormick Place to pick up and bring food to the Chicago Food Depository. Bill Gurolnick will be leading that effort as he has for over 20 years.

My message to each of you: MEL IS YOU! Have an idea for an activity? Run with it! But get involved! Get engaged!

Gary Salit

Simon Says



In 1913, Cordell Hull, a Democrat from Tennessee, introduced a bill to initiate income taxes. At that time the progressives had shifted their focus from controlling economic forms such as factories, grain elevators and trains toward gaining power over broader swaths of America, most notably the newly emerging middle class. This group became the target because it had both wealth, which the government could tap as a source of revenue, and political power.

America for the first time was a large collective entity, (the federal government) with the potential to redistribute wealth, and the perfect mechanism for that was an income tax. The concept of an income tax so troubled our Founders that they specifically prohibited a direct tax in the Constitution (Article 1, Section 9), thus forcing the passage of an amendment.

Congressman Hull, the primary drafter of the 1913 and 1916 income tax bills, and the 1916 inheritance tax bill, was far less concerned about revenue-producing capabilities than about advancing "economic justice." The form was simple (generally one page), and the rates were phenomenally low by today's standards – 6% on the ultra wealthy and half a percent on most of those who paid any taxes at all – and the exemptions were so numerous that only 2% of all Americans paid any taxes. That was a good strategy, as the fewer number of people who paid taxes, the easier it would be to raise them later.

Interestingly, Lincoln sought to institute an income tax in the 1860's to help pay for the Civil War.

Traveling the USA with Bruce Edelson



Arches National Park is a red-rock wonderland with a landscape of contrasting colors, land forms and textures unlike any other. The park has over 2,000 natural stone arches and hundreds of soaring pinnacles, massive rock fins and giant balanced rocks. It will amaze you with its beauty and inspire you with its sunsets. Jan and I flew into Grand Junction, Colorado and drove to Moab, Utah. The drive in itself was magnificent. Every turn yielded another fantastic sight.

Formally dedicated in 1972, tourists from all over the globe discuss: where did you eat, what did you see, where have you been. You will instantly have hundreds of friends! That makes this trip even better. Here are the must see areas:

- 1) Balanced Rock - Stands a staggering 128 feet tall. It defies gravity, but eventually the 3,600 ton boulder will come tumbling down from erosion. No better time than now to see this awe-inspiring giant. At sunset, the rock becomes saturated in a deep red-orange making it a great place to end your fun filled day.
- 2) The Windows Section - This is the beating heart of Arches. The most scenic two square miles in the park features a large concentration of arches.

Continued on back page

Reprinted from the Chicago Sun Times



WASHINGTON — Tuesday marked Yom HaShoah — that's the Hebrew term for Holocaust Remembrance Day — and this year it comes as anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial remain on the rise.

That's why the stories of people like Ralph Rehbock, 88, who lives in Northbrook — whose family fled Nazi Germany to start a new life in Chicago's Hyde Park community when he was 4 — are important to be told and retold.

Rehbock and Ginger Lane — another Chicago Holocaust survivor who I wrote about last year — are determined to have their stories — their credible testimony — preserved to educate future generations after they are gone.

June Speaker - Larry Mayer

Larry has been the Chicago Bears senior writer since 2001 after serving as the managing editor of the Chicago Bear Report newspaper from 1992-2000. This is his 32nd year covering the Bears. In the 1990s, he also worked part-time for the Chicago Tribune and freelanced for the Associated Press, covering the Cubs and Blackhawks.

He grew up in Niles, graduating from Niles North High School in 1984 and Loyola University in 1988. He has three sons: Alex (28), Joshua (25) and Jeremy (19). He currently lives in Arlington Heights.

Larry is the son of Jack Mayer

Rivers Edge Miniature Golf

Melmen- Are you used to playing mini golf with the grandkids ? Well, this is a whole different experience. Located at The Highland Park Golf Learning Center, on Route 41, just past Target on the Northeast side of the street, this is a challenging 18 hole course that's tough for even the seasoned golf pro.

Water, out of bounds, bridges, etc., you'll be shaking your head more than once, I promise! We meet at 10:30 and after have lunch at Portillo's in Deerfield. Lots of fun! We play every two months until it's cold. Next game is June 20. Contact Bruce Edelson for more info. Come join us!

Thanx to Bruce Edelson

Photo of the Month



Wheelchair Basketball by Steve Wasserman

Camera: Nikon Z6 mirrorless w/24-70 14 lens
Poor lighting conditions and flash not allowed because of distraction to refs

Inspiration - The skill and determination of the athletes. Amazing how they can shoot the ball at such severe angles

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 30	May 1	2	3	4	5	6
	MEL MONTHLY BREAKFAST 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM PLAY POOL 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	MORNING WALK 9:30 AM - 11:00 PM CANASTA 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	HEARTS GAME 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM WATER VOLLEYBALL 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM		MEL MONTHLY MEETING 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM BRIDGE 12:00 AM - 3:00 PM	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	GIN RUMMY 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM PLAY POOL 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	HALIM TIME & GLASS MUSEUM 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM MORNING WALK 9:30 AM - 11:00 PM	HEARTS GAME 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM WATER VOLLEYBALL 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM		BRIDGE 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	PLAY POOL 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM	MORNING WALK 9:30 AM - 11:00 PM CANASTA 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	HEARTS GAME 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM WATER VOLLEYBALL 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM		BOWLING & LUNCH 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM BRIDGE 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	POKER 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM PLAY POOL 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	VOLUNTEER DAY RESTAURANT EVENT MORNING WALK 9:30 AM - 11:00 PM	HEARTS GAME 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM WATER VOLLEYBALL 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM	CURRENT EVENTS DISCUSSION 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM MEL LUNCH 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM	BRIDGE 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	
28	29	30	31	Jun 1	2	3
	PLAY POOL 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	MORNING WALK 9:30 AM - 11:00 PM	HEARTS GAME 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM WATER VOLLEYBALL 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM	LETS TALK SPORTS 11:00	MEL MONTHLY MEETING 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM BRIDGE 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	

Upcoming Special Events

MAY 9 HALIM MUSEUM TOUR AND LUNCH 11:30
MAY 23 VOLUNTEER DAY RESTAURANT EVENT

JUNE 1 LETS TALK SPORTS PORTILLOS 11:00
JUNE 13 SC JOHNSON'S WAX TOUR HOSTED BY MITCHELL WEISS (DETAILS SOON)
JUNE 19 MINIATURE GOLF 10:30 HIGHLAND PARK GOLF CENTER ON ROUTE 41
JUNE 29 BUDDY HOLLY STORY AT LINCOLNSHIRE MARRIOTT

JULY 11 SAN FILLIPPO MANSION TOUR HOSTED BY STEVE WASSERMAN (DETAILS SOON)

AUGUST 23 ANNUAL MEL DINNER CHEVY CHASE COUNTRY CLUB 5PM

SEPT 8 CUBS GAME 1:20 VS. ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS

Activities

Lineball



Spring Training is over and we're playing LINE BALL; 16" softball, NO RUNNING BASES AND NO STRIKING OUT. Try it, you'll like it. Last season we had a great response with many new players, some who haven't played since grammar school or high school. You'll find that it is just like riding a bike without training wheels.

First, we warm up by throwing the ball around and then we have batting practice. We had some great games last season including several going into extra innings.

Our softball field has a home plate and the pitching mound has yellow rope extended the width of the field. Orange cones on each side establish the out-of-bounds.

When at bat, any ball that bounces between home plate and in front of the yellow rope is an OUT. A fly ball over the rope and in front of the outfielder is a DOUBLE, and over the outfielder's head is a HOME RUN.

We play on a well manicured field just east of Northbrook Court on Lee Road which is west on Lake Cook Road from Skokie Valley Road, second stop light is Lee Road, left on Lee to the field is one block south. Play starts at 9:30 AM on Wednesdays, weather permitting.

Tuesday Morning Walk

After my wife's last hip replacement surgery, she asked her orthopedic surgeon what exercise she should do. He said, "Walking is the best medicine." We Melmen are very fortunate. We have access to the best medicine every Tuesday at 9:30 AM, rain or shine, throughout the year.

The MEL Tuesday Morning Walk has been around almost as long as MEL. It is an easy, low impact physical activity. We accommodate all walkers – slow walkers, fast walkers, short distance walkers and long distance walkers. If you need a walking device, bring it. Besides the gentle physical activity there is the mental activity. We schmooze as we walk, we schmooze after the walk and you will hardly remember you even walked!

As it is springtime, we are now walking in the magnificent Chicago Botanic Garden. The garden is in bloom. Each week there will be a noticeable difference as we commune with nature and enjoy one another's company. We end our walk with coffee in the outdoor Garden Café.

Please consider joining us on the Tuesday Morning Walk. Be adventurous. Get out of the house. Throw away those Covid blues. Remember, walking is the best medicine. If you have any questions about the Tuesday Morning Walk, please contact me.

Thanx to Ron Meibach



Traveling the USA Cont'd

3) Delicate Arch - This is the number 1 attraction in the park. A free standing arch, it has become widely recognized as a symbol of the state of Utah and one of the most famous geologic features in the world. The light opening beneath the arch is 46x32 feet wide, the largest in the park. (See the featured picture above).

4) Park Avenue and Courthouse Towers - View the high walls, pinnacles and monoliths from trails and viewpoints throughout the park. Each time of day presents a different color pattern on these wonderful rocks.

Make sure to get a timed entry in advance. The park gets very busy, which we found out after the first day. We decided to get there as soon as it opened and packed a picnic lunch each day. By mid-afternoon, we were exhausted ! This is a fabulous destination with forever memories. Get to it while you physically can to enjoy all that it has to offer. The website is: NPS.GOV/ARCH.com

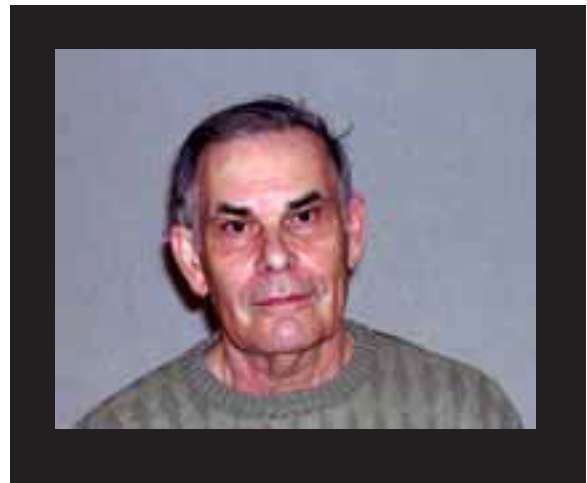
ANYONE EVER EAT AT A WOOLWORTH'S LUNCH COUNTER?



May Birthdays

Don Gaule	5/3	73
Larry Krupp	5/5	69
Steve Fallek	5/6	80
Ed Cohen	5/8	71
Shelly Kurtz	5/9	88
George Giddens	5/9	86
Jerry Berk	5/13	95
Ed Margulies	5/16	92
Steven Stern	5/17	68
Bruce Hershman	5/21	87
Aaron Hershnow	5/22	79
Lou Rosen	5/23	86
Robert Bloom	5/26	87
Mike Karsen	5/31	77

In Memoriam



Bob Mel 1934-2023

Did you know

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades.' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't 'playing with a full deck.'

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, "Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg." (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint.)

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