



# MONTHLY

## MEN ENJOYING LEISURE

About MEL, Mermen and their activities



JUNE 2023

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ FROM THE PRESIDENT ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Hope this Father's Day was an enjoyable one for each of you! And even if you didn't get a chance to visit with your kids and grandkids, hopefully you got to FaceTime or speak on the phone.

The visit to the Frank Lloyd Wright designed SC Johnson Campus (and the stop at the Brat Stop after) was a highlight for June. Thank you to Bruce Edelson and especially Mitch Weiss, who coordinated 34 drivers and riders for the trip to and from Racine. Often a thankless job.

The Book Group met at the Deerfield Library on June 27 to discuss Birnam Wood by Eleanor Catton, the Movie Group gathered on June 20 to discuss Lawrence of Arabia, members enjoyed the Buddy Holly Story and dinner at the Marriott Lincolnshire on June 29, and 10 "fashionable guys" had mani-pedis on June 6 (check out the fingernails on one artistic

soul). Plus other significant events and regular activities were well-attended in June, but we're still not seeing enough walkers on Tuesday mornings in the Chicago Botanical Garden or bikers with the SNL bike riders on Fridays (only two riders, really). Have we gotten so old we can't take a slow bike ride or walk at our own pace with our MEL brothers?

Most heartwarming, six new members attended the SC Johnson trip, and five new members attended the MEL Photography Group on June 19.

Remember, MEL IS YOU! Have an idea for an activity? Run with it! But, in any case, get involved! Get engaged!

Gary Salit

## MEL VISITS SCJOHNSON HQ - By Mitch Weiss



Special screening of the film "Frank Lloyd Wright in Racine"

On June 13, 37 MEL members and 10 vehicles headed north to visit SC Johnson's Global Campus in Racine, Wisconsin.

The primary purpose was to tour the 1939, Frank Lloyd Wright (FLW) designed Administrative Building, considered one of the 25 most outstanding buildings of the twentieth century.

After a special screening of the film "Frank Lloyd Wright in Racine" at the Golden Rondelle Theater, an SC Johnson building moved from the 1964-65 New York World's Fair to Racine, we broke into two groups. Each group had an opportunity to tour the FLW designed Administrative Building, the FLW designed Research Tower, the repurposed, Gensler designed, Waxbird Commons, and, the Foster + Partners designed, Fortaleza Hall.

Gensler is the same firm that handled the \$800 million repurposing of the Old Post Office in Chicago. Foster+ Partners designed the new Apple Store on the banks of the Chicago River at Michigan Avenue.

The Administrative Building or Great Workroom is highlighted by soaring 30-foot columns called dendriform, often referred to as lily pads. These concrete elements are 9-inches at their base and 18.5 feet in diameter at the roof line. Instead of windows, Wright used 43 miles of glass Pyrex tubing to allow outside light in. Wright designed 40 different pieces of furniture reflecting the building's unique character. Nearly 200 special brick shapes were created to achieve the building curves Wright envisioned.

The 15 floor Research Center, which opened in 1950, is a 40-foot square, 150 feet high. It is one of the tallest structures built on the cantilever principle. The walls are banded with 5,800 glass Pyrex tubes and 21,000 bricks. Unfortunately, without the addition of an external fire escape, it was unable to meet current building codes. No longer large enough to accommodate Johnson's continually growing R&D requirements, it was taken out of service in 1982.

Waxbird Commons is the newest edition to the campus. It is a repurposed group of former manufacturing facilities converted into conference and meeting spaces. It features a contemporary and collaborative design with elements that focus on key historical moments, company artifacts, and materials that reflect the purpose and culture of the company. Within the building's lobby is Johnson's first airplane, the Waxbird. The building is on track to earn a Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) Gold Certification.

Fortaleza Hall was our final stop. This 60,000 square-foot facility, designed by Foster + Partners, was completed in 2010. Fortaleza Hall is a celebration of the life-changing 1935 journey to Brazil by H.F. Johnson, third generation company leader, as traced by his son Sam six decades later. Brazil, a major source of the palms that produce carnauba wax, has major historical significance to the Johnson family.

Fortaleza Hall incorporates glass and light, rounded shapes and edges, soaring stone columns and innovative design. Hung from the ceiling is a replica of the Sikorsky S-38 amphibious plane Sam Johnson flew from Racine to Fortaleza, Brazil in 1998.

Finally, this was a MEL event, so on our way home we ate a late lunch at the regionally renowned Brat Stop in Kenosha, WI.

## MEL VOLUNTEERS FOR THE GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY (GCFD)

- By Bill Gurolnick and Gerry Linda



On May 23, 18 MELMEN, fighting traffic delays to the Edens and on the Kennedy, traveled to McCormick Place to again engage in the oldest of all MEL events—gathering donated food from the many vendors who had booths at the annual National Restaurant Association’s giant show.

Veterans as well as first-timers donned the green t-shirts identifying us as volunteers for the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) and ventured into the chaos of a show being torn down at McCormick Place. GCFD is the major distributor of food products to over 600 food pantries, which serve the needy throughout Cook County.

Pulling carts, loaded with large empty boxes that once contained fresh bananas, we went up and down the aisles of the show looking for pre-marked donations and occasionally cajoling vendors to donate food—fresh, canned, bottled, refrigerated and frozen. The amount collected by all volunteers was 40,476 pounds, enough for 33,730 meals!

So we hiked and we schlepped and occasionally kvetched for about three hours (from about 3:00 PM to 6:00-ish). And in this fashion we spent enough calories to earn the right to eat at Manny’s Deli. Thanks to Bill Gurolnick for once again leading us in this mitzvah.

### BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MELTONES - By George Giddens



In 2008—15 years ago—I saw a documentary called “Young at Heart”, which is still available on cable, and not to be confused with the movie with Frank Sinatra. The film was about people in a senior center who formed a group that sang at other centers.

I shared that idea with Melman, Gene Mitofsky, who was the Band Teacher at Lane Tech High School before he retired. Gene liked the idea and had a piano, so we started the Meltones at his house with six singers.

Gene suggested we have a “MEL song.” In the musical, “How to Succeed in Business Without Trying,” there is a song “Brotherhood of Men”. We used that as the basis for the MEL anthem.

When Gene moved to Arizona, Ralph Rehbock took over and offered his house and piano for us to continue the Meltones. We hired different piano players and the group grew.

When Marv Berman became a member, he took us to a new level. Marv is an entertainer and musical marvel who took us from reading songs to teaching us how to sing with feeling. Marv was a dentist by trade, but his passion is music and entertainment. We went from singing for our own enjoyment to entertaining others at senior and retirement facilities.

The Meltones enjoy this activity, especially seeing the smiles and happiness we bring to our audience(s).

# MEL TAKES OVER PRETTY NAILS SALON

- By Buddy Kalish

Seven years ago, when I first realized how wonderful a pedicure and manicure were, I decided to share this experience with fellow Melmen. It seems we men are reluctant to do this because it's too feminine. But if you realize how much your wife spends on her regular hair and nails, you might come around to thinking, "maybe I should get in on in this."

In 2016 I planned the first MEL Spa Day. The pioneers brave enough to join me were: Bill Gurolnick, Art Callistein, Jack Marks, Ralph Rehbock, Joel Meisles, Sherm Keats, Larry Baskin, Mort Greenberg, Al Freeman and Jerry Schor.

I provided bagels and cream cheese and Quan (owner of Pretty Nails Salon) had coffee. Afterwards, of course, we went to lunch. Thus the pattern was set for all subsequent Spa Days.

Getting Melmen to join us for his first time has always been my goal. I remember calling Bill Keroff. He began laughing when I told him what we'd be doing. I heard Marilyn, his wife laughing in the background saying..... "and you are going!" This year Allen Krissberg was our "rookie." I think he really enjoyed his pedicure. He laughed the entire time the operator was scraping the callous on his heels ... or it just tickled.

Paul Schiff, who is a regular, had his thumbs painted with the American Flag, perhaps to celebrate upcoming Fourth of July.

Afterwards, we met at Portillo's for lunch. Ron Emmerman and Bill Gurolnick shared their memories of the beginnings of MEL.

Always a fun annual event enjoyed by all. Join us next year!



## JUNE PHOTO OF THE MONTH

"Squirrel with a French Fry"



Taken by Marshall White using an iPhone 14 on March 20, 2023 in Delray Beach FL.

I was having lunch at an outdoor restaurant and saw a squirrel take a French fry from a plate, which the waitstaff had left on an empty table. I followed the squirrel until it went up a palm tree to eat the fry, where I took the photo. I thought it was a fun, amusing scene and tried to capture it with my phone.

## JULY SPEAKER - WWII STORIES: PROFILES OF COURAGE, SACRIFICE AND ADVERSITY



Join us as we explore the lives of the men and women who served our country during WWII. We will examine their stories while having each veteran's wartime artifacts on display. From the Pacific to the European Theater. From B-17 Pilots to D-Day Paratroopers.

Michael Rastall is a proud son of a decorated WWII combat veteran. As a young child, he would sit intently listening to his father's war stories. For the last decade Michael has dedicated much of his free time to veteran's research and preservation of US WWII artifacts. In an effort to provide education about "The Greatest Generation," he has made his collection available through public displays and presentations.

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- Al Newman 78
- Herb Kanter 84
- Marshall Goldsen 87
- Larry Krupp 69
- Alan Esterman 74
- Ron Kaplan 88
- Gil Levy 97
- Bernie Hauser 83
- Bob Abrams 85
- Robert Matanky 88
- Gerry Lasin 87
- Bob Cremer 84
- Joel Karlinski 71
- Bob Shuman 75
- Arnie Groot 73
- Ron Meibach 75
- Robert Orenstein 67

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

- Sol Shatz 67
- Harris Cohen 73
- Morry Dyner 81
- Art Edelstein 89
- Ralph Rehbock 89
- Harvey Orlov 88
- Tom Green 74
- Mike Striker 76
- Sol Jolcover 89
- Cory Stricker 67
- Jay Goldsmith 71
- Robert Kohn 69



## JULY MEL MONTHLY CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
JAY GOLDSMITH'S B'DAY	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM MEL MONTHLY BREAKFAST 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM PLAY POOL	HAPPY BIRTHDAY U.S.A. SOL SHATZ'S B'DAY 9:30 AM - 11:00 PM MORNING WALK 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM CANASTA	HARRIS COHEN'S B'DAY MORRY DYNER'S B'DAY 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM LINEBALL 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM HEARTS GAME 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM WATER VOLLEYBALL		BOB KOHN'S B'DAY 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM MEL MONTHLY MEETING 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM BRIDGE	
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
ART EDELSTEIN'S B'DAY	11:00 AM - 3:00 PM GIN RUMMY 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM PLAY POOL	RALPH REHBOCK'S B'DAY SAN FILIPO MANSION TOUR 9:30 AM - 11:00 PM MORNING WALK	HARVEY ORLOV'S B'DAY 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM LINEBALL 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM HEARTS GAME 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM WATER VOLLEYBALL		TOM GREEN'S B'DAY 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM BRIDGE	
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM PLAY POOL 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB RUMMIKUB GAME AT PORTILLOS DEERFIELD 11AM (CONTACT STAN ASCHER)	RICH HIRSCH'S B'DAY 9:30 AM - 11:00 PM MORNING WALK 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM CANASTA	9:30 AM - 12:00 PM LINEBALL 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM HEARTS GAME 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM WATER VOLLEYBALL		10:30 AM - 3:00 PM 5 FAMILIES BOWLING & LUNCH 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM BRIDGE	BOB KOHN'S B'DAY
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
	DAVE MILLER'S B'DAY 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM POKER 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM PLAY POOL	9:30 AM - 11:00 PM MORNING WALK 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM LETS TALK SPORTS	9:30 AM - 12:00 PM LINEBALL 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM HEARTS GAME 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM WATER VOLLEYBALL	SOL JOLCOVER'S B'DAY 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM CURRENT EVENTS DIS- CUSSION 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM MEL LUNCH	11:00 AM - 3:00 PM BRIDGE	
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>AUG 1</b>	<b>AUG 2</b>	<b>AUG 3</b>	<b>AUG 4</b>	<b>AUG 5</b>
	COREY STRICKER'S B'DAY 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM PLAY POOL	AARON HOFFMAN'S B'DAY JACK SANDER'S B'DAY 9:30 AM - 11:00 PM MORNING WALK 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM CANASTA 11:00 AM - 8:30 PM MEL -GEL- SEL- SAM -HOGS GOLF OUTING	BUDDY KALISH'S B'DAY 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM LINEBALL 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM HEARTS GAME 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM WATER VOLLEYBALL		10:00 AM - 12:00 PM MEL MONTHLY MEETING 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM BRIDGE	

## EVENT SCHEDULE JULY - DECEMBER

- July 3** MEL monthly breakfast 9 am Demetri's restaurant on Lake Cook Rd. (contact Jack Meyers)  
**7** MEL monthly meeting 9am at the Temple  
**10** Gin Rummy 11am D'Agostino's in Wheeling  
**11** San Fillipo mansion tour (contact Steve Wasserman)  
**24** Poker 11am D'Agostino's in Wheeling  
**25** Let's talk Sports The Grill House on Dundee 11am  
**27** MEL monthly lunch 11:30 McAlisters Deerfield

- Aug. 1** Annual Golf outing Chevy Chase (contact Jerry Ezgur)  
**3** Argonne National Lab tour and lunch (contact Bob Abrams)  
**4** MEL monthly meeting 9am at the Temple  
**7** MEL monthly breakfast 9am Demetri's restaurant on Lake Cook Rd. (contact Jack Meyers)

- 14** Gin Rummy 11am D'Agostino's in Wheeling  
**22** Mini Golf 10:30 Highland Park Golf Learning Center on RT41 near Target.  
**23** MEL annual dinner 5PM Chevy Chase  
**28** Poker 11am D'Agostino's in Wheeling  
**31** MEL monthly lunch 11:30 McAlister's Deerfield

**Sept. 8** MEL annual CUBS game

**Oct. 16** Harley Davidson Museum tour in Milwaukee (details soon)

**Dec. 5** MEL informal couples holiday dinner D'Agostino's in Wheeling (details soon)