

MONTHLY

MEN ENJOYING LEISURE

About MEL, Melmen and their activities



NOVEMBER 2023

FROM THE PRESIDENT



When you read this, the Thanksgiving holiday will have come and gone and winter will loom ahead for those of us who don't drift south or west. I hope everyone had a happy and healthy Thanksgiving with family and/or friends. We traveled to Seattle for Thanksgiving, which is unusual for us since we'd hosted the holiday for over 40 years. It was different, but what's important is we were with family.

This Fall has been relatively mild, so I'm encouraged that Winter may also be temperate in Chicagoland. Many Melmen have headed or will be heading south or west shortly. My wishes for them are warmth, sun and good times. We'll miss you. Try to connect to the monthly meeting when you're away and stay involved with your activities if they are on Zoom. It's just a way to stay connected.

About twenty of us will have visited the Adlai Stevenson Museum last week. And our annual Informal Couples Dinner will take place on December 5. Looking forward to that. Our Book Group is scheduled for early January. We'll be setting up for Zoom so those in warmer climates can attend. The same is true for the Movie Group.

We lost our oldest member three weeks ago; Gil Levy was 97! I didn't know him well. We just met at a couple of meetings. From what his

children and grandchildren said at the funeral, he was much beloved and led a full life. So those Melmen who did know him were blessed. Ninety-seven years old! Wow! Still can't get over that.

Speaking of holidays, this issue of MELMonthly is the last one of 2023. My hope is that 2024 will be special for you, your loved ones, family and friends. For me, I'm still buoyed having survived my December 2022 scare and living to enjoy 2023. I'm not an optimist by temperament, but I've learned that every day is special, and everyone is special and to look forward and not backward.

My wish for our MEL family in the New Year is that you remain engaged and involved in MEL activities and events and that you and your loved ones stay healthy or get healthy to enjoy our future.

Best,
Garry Salit



MEL KEEPS GOING TO THE MOVIES

- By Gerry Linda

On November 19 Melmen gathered live at Hackney's on Lake and via Zoom to review and discuss Spartacus, the award-winning 1960, "sword and sandal" spectacle. This was our first blended meeting, and it was a technical success, so we'll be doing it again in season if we are not attending a live movie.



If you haven't been paying attention, the original "movies of gratuitous violence that your wife won't want to see anyway" has evolved into movies that have significant historical, artistic and/or cultural merit in addition to action elements that men might enjoy.

Our discussions are wide-ranging and informed by the group's diverse movie and life experiences. Often the moderator is not the only one who has done research prior to the meeting.

In 2023 some of the movies we viewed and discussed were:

- Godfather Part II
- The Seven Samurai
- Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (live)

- John Wick Chapter Four (live)
- Lawrence of Arabia
- Mission Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One (live)
- The Big Red One
- The Good The Bad and The Ugly
- Spartacus

If the variety and quality of these movies appeals to you, then Ed Margulies, co-Chair, and I invite you to join us, won't you!



MEL IN 2023: THE YEAR IN REVIEW VIA PHOTOS



January 2023 Issue: Mel Photo Club holiday Dinner



February 2023 Issue: MEL Plays Water Volleyball



March 2023 Issue: MEL Visits the Klairmont Kollection



April 2023 Issue: MEL Visits Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Design Studio



May 2023: Wheelchair Basketball - by Steve Wasserman



June/July 2023 Issue: MEL Visits the Greater Chicago Food Depository



July/August Issue: MEL Rocks Out with Buddy Holly



September/October Issue: MEL Monthly Breakfast—The Tradition Continues



October/November Issue: Vroom! Vroom! MEL Eats Up HOGS

MEL PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



Paul Schiff

“PEACEFUL” TAKEN IN GLENVIEW WOODS ON 10/17/23. INSPIRED BY THE “SMOKEY” RIVER.
- Paul Schiff



Howard Weisbart

“HEART IN A TREE” TAKEN AT GRACELAND ON 10/23/23.
INTERESTING NATURAL FORMATION. - Howard Weisbart



Steve Wasserman

“AUTUM” GRACELAND CEMETERY - 10/23/23 - Steve Wasserman

REPORT ON RECENT “FIVE FAMILY” ACTIVITY

– By Gary Salit



As you probably know, MEL was so popular in its early days that four additional men’s groups in Chicago’s northern suburbs were formed to accommodate the demand. As an homage to youse know who, the then leaders called themselves “The Five Families”. Each group is an offshoot of MEL and each has a slightly different emphasis. So, for example, the Hungry Old Guys (HOGS or “horny old guys”) have all their get-togethers at eateries.

These days we gather quarterly to discuss issues we have in common—the assumption being that our collective wisdom and experiences will enhance each of our operations. All the attendees are on their respective boards of directors. Each group sends three or four members to the meeting.

At the meetings we discuss a range of issues from speakers to special events to new members, etc. Guys who have been attending for several years have formed a working relationship and you can see how well they get along. Joel Karlinsky and I are carryovers from prior years. We’ve been joined in 2023 by Bruce Edelson and Jerry Ezgur.

Two weeks ago, MEL hosted this quarter’s meeting at Scrambled. (As a host we get to pick up the breakfast for the recording secretary. Money well spent. He does a terrific job.) Topics on the agenda included: (1) upgrading Websites (some use for marketing, others not, but it serves at a minimum as a desirable tool for speakers to learn about us, (2) getting new members through marketing vs. sponsoring, (3) paying dues and making other payments through the website (not recommended by a consultant – would make us an e-commerce company and it just gets too complicated), (4) how to get members more engaged in activities and events, (5) the benefits of providing entertainment at the annual dinner vs. it’s an unnecessary expense and (6) making donations in the case of extraordinary external events – earthquakes, tornadoes, mass shootings, the Hamas attack, etc.

VISIT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED RESPONSIVE WEBSITE

www.menenjoyingleisure.org

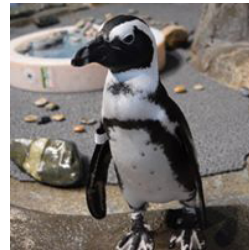


TRAVELING THE USA WITH BRUCE EDELSON



Monterey Bay Aquarium

I am an avid aquarium visitor always planning a trip to the local aquarium in whatever city I am exploring. If you've toured the west coast, I hope some of you have visited the world-famous Monterey Bay Aquarium. For those of you who haven't, this is one of the greatest aquariums of them all. Located on the Bay in beautiful Monterey, California, this destination averages 1.8 million visitors per year and has seen over 60 million (!) visitors since opening 30 years ago.



The aquarium is a showcase for the habitats and sea life of one of the world's richest marine regions. Twelve different sections with nearly 200 exhibits, 35,000 creatures and over 550 species of birds, invertebrates, fish, marine mammals, octopi and kin, plants and algae and reptiles are presented in this beautiful setting.

Representing a window to the wonders of the ocean is no easy task, but the Monterey Bay Aquarium does exactly that. Family activities start at only age 4, so this is a great place for grandpas, grandmas and grandchildren to visit. Tours, adventures, even sleepovers can be arranged. Also, don't miss the many daily shows and feedings, they're great! For more information, visit the website www.montereybayaquarium.org.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/1	Metz, Barry	88
11/1	Salit, Gary	80
11/2	Florence, Frank	94
11/3	Reinberg, Alan	81
11/5	Litwin, Gene	79
11/7	Ezguir, Jerry	83
11/10	Karel, Donald	72
11/12	Brooks, Don	91
11/13	Steiger, Zev	83
11/16	Slutsky, Arnie	74
11/17	Kaplan, Neil	85
11/19	Ehrlich, Moe	86
11/21	Fisher, Jerry	74
11/22	Marshal, Steve	80
11/25	Kafenstock, Chuck	69
11/25	Linda, Gerry	77
11/27	Silver, Dick	80
11/30	Herbstman, Richard	79

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/2	Edelson, Bruce	71
12/5	Jacobsen, Basil	76
12/6	Kirsner, Ken	79
12/14	Lurie, Steve	73
12/16	Schiff, Paul	72
12/16	Seiden, Bill	90
12/18	Berliner, Sandy	85
12/19	Klapman, Jim	90
12/22	Reinglass, Howard	76
12/23	Callistein, Art	83
12/27	Blustein, Bill	79

EVENT SCHEDULE NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

Dec	1 MEL monthly meeting 10am at the temple	Jan	2 MEL monthly breakfast 9am Demetri's restaurant on Lake Cook Rd. (Moved to Tuesday because of the holiday) (Contact Jack Meyers)
	4 MEL monthly breakfast 9am Demetri's restaurant on Lake Cook Rd. (Contact Jack Meyers)		2 Canasta 11am D'Agostino's in Wheeling
	5 Canasta 11am D'Agostino's in Wheeling		5 MEL monthly meeting 10am at the temple
	5 MEL informal couples holiday dinner 5:30 D'Agostino's in Wheeling (Contact Bruce Edelson)		8 Gin Rummy 11am D'Agostino's in Wheeling
	11 Gin Rummy 11am D'Agostino's in Wheeling		15 Rummikub 11am Portillo's Deerfield
	15 Movie Discussion (Contact Gerry Linda)		16 Canasta 11am D'Agostino's in Wheeling
	18 Rummikub 11am Portillo's Deerfield		19 Movie Discussion (Contact Gerry Linda)
	18 Poker 11am D'Agostino's Wheeling (Special date because of the holiday)		22 Poker 11am D'Agostino's in Wheeling
	19 Canasta 11am D'Agostino's in Wheeling		25 Current Events on Zoom 9:30 (Contact Joel Karlinsky)
	21 MEL monthly lunch 11:30 McAlister's Deli Deerfield		25 MEL monthly lunch 11:30 McAlister's Deli Deerfield
	28 Current Events on Zoom 9:30 (Contact Joel Karlinsky)		30 Canasta 11am D'Agostino's in Wheeling