



MONTHLY

MEN ENJOYING LEISURE

About MEL, Melmen and their activities



MARCH 2024

FROM THE PRESIDENT



It's been fun to get away to Palm Desert for some warmth, golfing, hiking and fine dining. And it's been especially enjoyable to have connected with several Melmen during our stay. The one challenge to our being in California is the time difference. Things could be worse.

Speaking of worse, we have several members who've been having significant health issues:

Jerry Berk, Gene Litwin, Ed Margulies, Bill Goldman, and Jeff Wadler. Guys get back on the road to recovery and good health! Melmen all know about health challenges. It takes some work and some luck, but it can be done. Prayers are with you all.

Regular indoor activities have continued through the winter, including the Movie Group and the Book Group. Applause to their sponsors. The Travel Club will be holding its first meeting in over two years on April 23. Yeah! Outdoor activities are on the horizon. (Ron Meibach even took our Tuesday walk to the Botanical Gardens a few weeks ago!) Golf,

bike riding – fast and s-l-o-w – , pickleball, lineball and horseback riding (really?) can't be too far away.

A Reminder: Ralph Rehbock is the featured speaker at the Illinois Holocaust Museum on April 7 on "Survivor Voices."

By the time you read this, most of our prospective members will have attended two monthly meetings and upon payment of their annual dues will be full-fledged members of our brotherhood. Welcome! And who knows what new and exciting activities and opportunities they may add to our portfolio? They and their sponsors got together on March 28 with Bruce Edelson and others to learn more about MEL.

Again, if you don't recognize someone at a meeting or activity, introduce yourself. It might be a new member or a member you don't recognize or have never met.

Best to All,
Gary Salit



MEL PLAYS PICKLEBALL – *By Aaron Hershinow*



Pickleball, invented in 1965, is a racket or paddle sport combining elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis. Players hit a perforated, hollow plastic ball with paddles over a 34-inch-high net until one side is unable to return the ball or commits a rule infraction. It is widely acknowledged as the fastest growing sport in history.

Melmen began playing pickleball about nine years ago. Al Newman started this activity at MEL and was quickly joined by Jack Meyers. Unfortunately, Al has aged out, but Jack is still an avid player—in fact he's a pickleball cultist. Carl Rosenthal taught them how to play (and still spends a lot of time teaching players). In the early days they had to personally lay down tape at the JCC to define the court. Jack was struggling with this task until Ulfur Thors showed him how to do it correctly.

These days Aaron Hershinow is the activity facilitator, and we usually have 6-12 players each week. The level of play is such ("Nobody is great.") that a newcomer will not be overwhelmed, so if you've been thinking of trying this sport, you'll be welcomed. There is no dress code; all you need is your own paddle and sneakers. Play lasts about

two hours. While, historically, there has been no fee for court use, this is changing as the ever-increasing demand has led some facilities like in Glenview to begin to charge a small fee to make a reservation.

Watch your MEL emails for a weekly invitation from Aaron; usually it is warm enough to play outside starting in April. We typically start the season at Stonegate Park in Northbrook.



The Ghosts of Purim production at Temple Ezra-Habonim in Skokie on Saturday 3/16 was hosted by Ed Cohen and was attended by Paul Chesler, Nancy Gans, and Bruce and Jan Edelson.

MEL VISITS THE DOMES – By Gerry Linda



On Friday, March 8 fully 29 (!) Melmen—some with spouses and others without—visited the Domes at Mitchell Park in Milwaukee. We drove up in the rain, but that didn't matter because the domes are large (seven stories high), climate controlled eco-environments, unique flora conservatories (that only leaked a little bit). After our arrival, we were first given a private overview by our park-volunteer guide, who also provided advice about various not-to-miss features.



The first dome we entered was the Show Dome, which features five seasonal variations in its center along with permanent unusual tree and plant installations around the circular perimeter. The show this season was miniature towns constructed of different kids toys like Duplo and Lincoln Logs, among which ran three different H-gauge trains. The key flowers were vibrantly colored azaleas.



The next dome focused on desert plants from around the world. The space was spare, uniformly pale-hued, and not as warm as expected. Many of these samples were quite exotic and never-before-seen by most of our party. Examples included five different kinds of aloe, trees with

outlandishly-shaped branches and a ground-hugging cactus that resembled a nest of snakes.

The final dome was the Tropical Rain Forrest. Lush, damp, dense, quite green, noisy with flowing water. There was even a bridge over a pond with large koi swimming about.

Our visit took slightly over two hours and could have taken even longer had we lingered, but, as is nearly almost always the case at events like this, a meal was also planned. We had a late



lunch at the famous Brat Stop, a restaurant whose odd shape and many rooms and levels, due to continuous, yet sporadic growth, resembled one of the exotic plants we saw earlier.

Out warm thanks go out to Bruce Edelson, our Vice President of Activities.



George Giddens with ketchup on his brat. In Wisconsin this is a worse affront than ketchup on a hot dog is in Chicago. Photo courtesy of Stan Ascher.



MAY SPEAKER

Our May speaker will be new Melman, **David Newman**. He is a ham radio enthusiast and will share some of his experiences.

NEW MEL MEMBERS

Six of the several potential new members this year have already become Melmen! Please welcome:

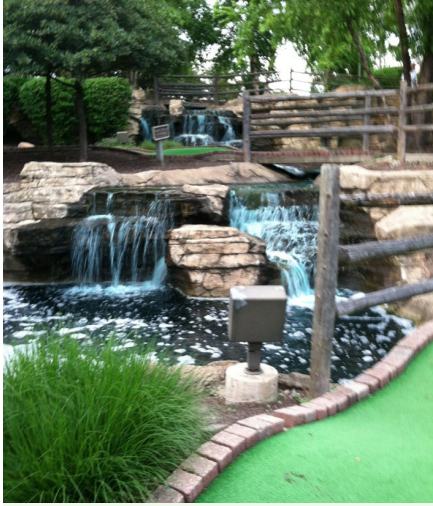
Steve Kardel
Jeff Levin

Ron Sandler
Les Sgnilek

Barry Veit
John Wolfson

Their names and relevant information have already been added to our website directory and their pictures will be added shortly. And we still have other potential new members in the queue.

ACTIVITY SPOTLIGHT - MINI GOLF – by Bruce Edelson



Come join one of MEL's most entertaining activities when Mini Golf returns on April 26.

Weather permitting, we play four times per year at The Highland Park Golf Learning Center on Route 41 near Target. The action starts at 10:30 and afterwards we go to lunch at Portillo's on Lake Cook.

This is not a kids' 18-hole course; it's meant to be challenging and it is. A few of the MEL pros bring their own putters! That should tell you something. Watch your email for the invitation as we get closer to the date. I look forward to seeing you.



MEL PHOTO OF THE MONTH

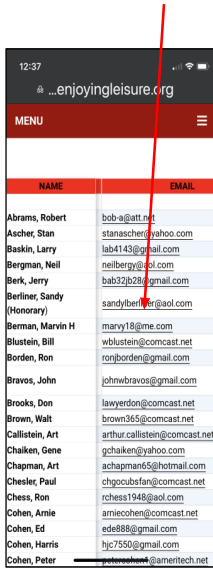


"All Gone" taken at home on 3/7/24
on an iPhone SE .

- by Bill Gurolnick.

Quick Tip: How to Use The MEL Membership Directory to Find Member Occupations

Step 1: Open MEL Contact Information Page



Step 2: Scroll to the right of the screen to find the SEARCH bar



Step 3: Type the attribute you are looking for into the search bar (only one search word at a time can be entered). Results will automatically be displayed.

<input type="text" value="attorney"/>	
EMAIL	OCCUPATION
lawyerdon@comcast.net	ATTORNEY
mdyner@fischelkahn.com	ATTORNEY
jezgur@jezgurlaw.com	ATTORNEY
sararon@comcast.net	ATTORNEY
richardmhorwood@gmail.com	ATTORNEY ESTATE PLAN
hkanter@realproptax.com	ATTORNEY
kennethsk@rocketmail.com	CORPORATE ATTORNEY

When you are done searching erase the search word and the full table will be displayed again.

UPCOMING SPECIAL AND SEMI-REGULAR EVENTS



- April 26** Mini-Golf 1st of season Highland Pk Golf Learning Center
- April 26** MEL Movie live only at Hackney's on Lake
- April 29** Texas Hold Em Tournament D'Agostino's 4:30-8:30
- May 9** Volo Auto Museum
- May 21** Annual Restaurant Show volunteer day - Contact Bill Gurolnick
- June 27** Lincolnshire Marriott "Beehive" (Melmen and couples)
- July 23** O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant Tour Contact Mitchell Weiss
- Aug. 14** Annual Dinner (Melmen and couples)
Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling
- Aug. 22** Annual Cubs Game Outing

MARCH AND APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | March | 1 | Bill Keroff |
|-------|----|------------------|
| | 3 | Mickey Drachler |
| | 5 | Ken Davidman |
| | 11 | Neil Bergman |
| | 13 | Bill Gurolnick |
| | 18 | Bob Stein |
| | 19 | Fred Strauss |
| | 20 | Irwin Fischman |
| | 23 | Dan Forman |
| | 26 | Lou Epstein |
| | 28 | Marty Krawitz |
| | | |
| April | 1 | |
| | 2 | Larry Baskin |
| | 6 | Ansel Edidin |
| | 7 | Mort Pechter |
| | 14 | Richard Horwood |
| | 19 | Jerru Schwartz |
| | 21 | Fred Nathan |
| | 21 | Al Simon |
| | 25 | John Bravos |
| | 27 | Richard Delevitt |
| | 29 | Stan Scher |
| | 29 | Peter Cohen |
| | 29 | Lonnie Klein |