



FROM THE PRESIDENT



The sun's shining as I write this and it looks like Spring might actually be on the horizon. With the Kentucky Derby just down the road, walking in the Garden, fast and s-l-o-w biking beginning, and miniature golf, real golf, outdoor pickleball and lineball soon to return, we have a pretty good group of outdoor activities. Does anyone have an idea for another physical activity? Just run (or walk) with it!

The Spring and Summer are shaping up as a very active time. We have a lot of special events on the horizon - a visit to the Volo Auto Museum, collecting food at the National Restaurant Show for the Chicago Food Depository, "Beehive: The Musical" at the Marriott Lincolnshire, not to mention the Cubs game and our Annual Dinner in August.

I just returned from a short visit to Washington, D.C. If you haven't been there in a while, consider a trip. Ignore the politics and what doesn't

happen there; the museums are world class while at the same time being truly American. The relatively new National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Museum of the American Indian both tell the story of marginalized groups and their accomplishments despite repeated setbacks. The U.S. Holocaust Museum is a constant reminder of what antisemitism can really lead to and Jewish successes despite the hate that exists. And the various art museums with their permanent and special collections tell the story of evolving art and culture throughout our history. All truly inspiring.

I know some Melmen are having health challenges, both their own and among their loved ones. To them I wish only the best. Please know that we are a brotherhood that cares and is here for you. Our hopes and prayers are always with you.

My best always,

Gary Salit



MEL INAUGURATES FIRST REGULARLY SCHEDULED COUPLES ACTIVITY - CANASTA

– By Alan Esterman and Bob Stein



MEL held its first monthly Couples Canasta Night on April 18th at the Pavilion restaurant in Northbrook with 12 couples. The event provided an opportunity for our significant others to engage in a MEL activity with laughter, camaraderie, and friendly competition as well as a tasty dinner. Tables were assigned randomly, providing an opportunity to meet new people.

We will continue playing every 3rd Thursday of the month at 5:00 PM until 8:30 PM with a break for dinner at the Pavilion (in the same shopping center as Max and Benny's).

Canasta is a fun game that has gained a lot popularity in the last few years. In fact, MEL also has a day Canasta game at D'Agostino's on Tuesdays at 11:00 AM.

The game requires strategic thinking, memory, and concentration. It is not difficult to learn, but the more you play, the more you pick up on its nuances and strategies. Canasta is played by four people - teams of two with two decks of cards, including jokers. The game involves melding, clean and dirty canastas, picking the deck, a variety of special hands and penalties if you're not careful! There is a unique scoring system with increasing points needed with each deal until a goal of 8,500 points is achieved.

So are you ready to play? We have 25 couples who have indicated they might play with room for more. Join us for Couples Canasta Nights!

WELCOME TO THE START OF THE 2024 GOLF SEASON – By Jerry Ezgur



I would like to welcome everyone to the 2024 golf season. We have two tee times starting at 10:00 on Monday, May 6 at the Chevy Chase Golf Club, 1000 North Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling (847 465 2300). As in the past, I will be sending out notices in advance regarding tee times and course information.

MEL has had a golf group for over 20 years. We play every Monday, weather permitting. All members are encouraged to come out to play, no matter your skill level. You will enjoy spending a few hours playing and having fun with fellow Melmen. When you receive a notice, please respond directly to me if you will be playing, and if 9 or 18 holes.

I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new members.

MEL CELEBRATES 24 YEARS – By Bill Gurolnick



In the beginning of the year 2000, after the Y2K scare, Weinger JCC, Northbrook, provided a computer training program for older people, Senior Net. The volunteer instructors were drawn from the area, and were, generally, retired men. In April of that year, Sue Klein, approached the instructors with the idea of forming a men's activity group that would be different than

those typically associated with a temple's Sunday morning men's groups -- you know, a bagel, a shmeer and fall asleep. Subsequently on May 5, a focus group was conducted among those men who were interested; it was attended by 10 to discuss the idea. This was our "conception date."

Below are some notes from the minutes of that meeting, sent to all those interested in continuing: The group decided on the name "MUD" -- Men with Unfulfilled Desires. The focus would be on doing things we couldn't do because we were too busy working.

MUD Meeting Minutes, May 5, 00

Hi, I understand that you have an interest in the group. We are working to expand the group and determine its activities. Being in the formative stage there is work to be done. Here are the minutes from our last meeting. Please feel free to give me a call if there are any questions, 773-395-2455. Bill Gurolnick

Those attending reviewed their work experience and post work activities. Each member listed areas of interest that the group should pursue. These could be classified as community work and leisure/fun.

Since there was a wide range of member business experience, it was thought that this would be of value to the community. Among community work ideas are:

- Support of black/minority new businesses, help and development.
- In schools, tutoring, career counseling, assistance with handicapped children.

The leisure/fun ideas were:

- Visiting museums and sports and outdoor activities
- Interest group discussions, i.e., government and politics (domestic and Israel)
- These could take place in the time between the monthly meeting, including all who may have interest with the possible inclusion of spouses in particular outings.

There also seemed to be an interest that the group could be a forum for more open men's discussions.

The group was unanimous in the view that there needs to be a larger membership. Everyone will work to bring in additional people. The meeting time of 10:00-11:30 AM seemed acceptable to all.

For continuity, there will be two co-chairs for each meeting, rotating from meeting to meeting. Everyone should pick a date they can fulfill this.

Bill Gurolnick

On June 2, our "birth date," the next meeting was attended by only four guys (!): Steve Avery, Ron Emmerman, Mort Greenberg, and Bill Gurolnick. Well, I guess we had a job to do, especially because many of the others from the May meeting did not think much of the idea: "It wasn't going anywhere." That was the birth of MEL.

A good summary of the first year of MEL is best illustrated below by the first copy of the **MEL "Not-So" Monthly**, edited by Mort Greenberg. "No-So" because it depended on how much material there was to publish. As you can see, there were many activities that first year. The first fun activity was bass fishing at Lake Barkley KY, attended by Mort, Bill, Ron and Alan Reinberg. And the first community activity was helping to arrange the library at the Jenner School in Cabrini Green.

By January of 2001, MEL had 28 members. Today MEL has about 160 members and has also spawned the other four of the "Five Families," who collectively have over 600 members.

Men
Enjoying
Leisure

The MEL Monthly

Issue No. 1
September, 2001

MEL

Mission Statement

MEL is a non-sectarian, social organization of contemporary senior men who are no longer fully committed to their careers and want to participate in MEL as an opportunity for camaraderie and individual growth through diversified group activities.

Some MEL Moments

On May 6th we celebrated our first anniversary with lunch at 41 North. We thought it might be fun to look back at the many events that occurred during our first year (not in chronological order!)

A Movie Matinee - "The Hank Greenberg Story" (and, of course, lunch before the movie.)


Another Movie Matinee - "The Michael Jordan Story" (and - what else? - lunch before the film)

An afternoon game at Comiskey Park with the White Sox vs. ?? (The best part was the beer, hot dogs, popcorn and sunshine!)

A Visit to the Field Museum to see the Russian Artifacts Exhibit and the Shackelford Exhibit (and an eventual 5-hour ride home in the winter's worst blizzard!)

"Ice Cream for Breakfast" - A discussion by the author of the book with a special treat - Ice Cream for Breakfast!


(Mel Moments Continued)



(Above) An Evening at Ravinia with our significant others.

Dinner and Theater with our significant others. (Stage Presentation of an old Radio Show - "The Shadow". Lots of fun!)

Dinner and Theater with our significant others. ("The Jackie Wilson Story" with dinner a "Before" and "After" event!)



(Above) Fishing in Cadiz, Kentucky. (That's a 5lb. bass - an exciting catch!)

Among our many activities are volunteer opportunities. We have volunteered at:

Gathering Food for Greater Chicago. Food Depository
Cataloging Books at Jenner School for "Reading is our Future" project
Organizing music for ALS Music Sale



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

There are now 13 new Melmen! Please welcome:

Mickey Baim	Dan Horowitz	David Newman	Les Sgnilek
Nick Brown	Steve Kardel	Ron Sandler	Barry Veit
Abby Hans	Jeff Levin	Jerry Schecter	Steven Wolf
			John Wolfson

Our indefatigable Webmaster, Sheldon Kail, has already added their information and photos to the MEL Directory and email system.

MEL PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



Bob Greenburg

“When’s My Turn?”

Taken by Bob Greenberg on 3/10/24 at Delray Beach, FL using a Canon SR. “The babies of a large heron were being fed by their mother; being able to get the shot was special.”



Howard Katz

Runner up – “Peastick.” Taken 2/13/24 at Chicago Botanic Garden via an iPhone. “Its unusual structure prompted me to produce this image.”

RALPH REHBOCK SHARES HIS PERSONAL HISTORY

– By Bruce Edelson

At the Illinois Holocaust Museum last month, our own Ralph Rehbock was featured in their Survivor series. Ralph spoke about his journey from Gotha, Germany to the streets of Hyde Park in Chicago. Lots of great photographs and interesting artifacts were shown in a slide show. His granddaughter, Carly, acted as the mistress of ceremonies. A question-and-answer session followed.

An amazing journey, indeed.

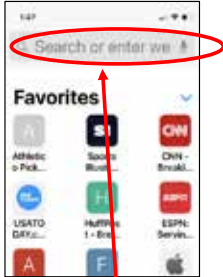


Bruce Edelson spends so much time at D’Agostino’s that he receives special treatment from the waitstaff.

– Photo Courtesy Jack Meyers

Quick Tip: How to Log On to the MEL Website (Go To menenjoyingleisure.org & save as a Favorite)

Step 1: Open your internet browser



Type menenjoyingleisure.org in address bar and press enter

Step 2: Open save options



Click on Save Options Button

Step 3: Save new MEL website location to your favorites



Click on Add to Favorites

The bookmark process could be different for your browser

Note: If on future logins, you receive a "Page Not Found" error message you are probably using an old link or an old favorite button that is trying to take you to our old website. If this happens, delete your old menenjoyingleisure links and favorites and start using your new favorite.



MEL TUESDAY AM WALK

The MEL Tuesday AM Walk Now Includes Wives, Significant Others, Non-MEL Friends, and Dogs!

Very few Melmen are so otherwise fit that they could not benefit from more exercise. The Tuesday walk is a low impact aerobic exercise that never exceeds a conversational pace.

UPCOMING SPECIAL AND SEMI-REGULAR EVENTS



- 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

- | | | |
|--------------|----|------------------|
| April | 1 | Larry Baskin |
| | 2 | Ansel Edidin |
| | 6 | Mort Pechter |
| | 7 | Richard Horwood |
| | 14 | Jerru Schwartz |
| | 19 | Fred Nathan |
| | 21 | Al Simon |
| | 25 | John Bravos |
| | 27 | Richard Delevitt |
| | 29 | Stan Scher |
| | 29 | Peter Cohen |
| | 29 | Lonnie Klein |



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| May | 3 | Donald Gaule |
| | 5 | Larry Krupp |
| | 6 | Steve Fallek |
| | 8 | Ed Cohen |
| | 9 | George Giddens |
| | 9 | Shelly Kurtz |
| | 13 | Jerry Berk |
| | 16 | Edward Margulies |
| | 17 | Steven Stern |
| | 20 | Jerome Schur |
| | 22 | Aaron Hershinow |
| | 23 | Brue Hershman |
| | 23 | Louis Rosen |
| | 31 | Mike Karsen |

