

# MONTHLY

## MEN ENJOYING LEISURE

About MEL, Melmen and their activities

MEMORIAL DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



MAY 2024

### FROM THE PRESIDENT



If I haven't personally seen you since your return, let me take this opportunity to welcome all the snowbirds back. Much to our delight, hopefully not to their disappointment, weather in Chicago and environs was unusually warm this winter, although I must admit there's a difference between "unusually warm" and actually warm.

Despite some inclement weather, outdoor activities are in full swing – pickleball, golf, lineball, and bike riding. Toss in miniature golf and we're getting out there. And our indoor activities are All Systems GO!

The highlights this past month were the visit to the Volo Auto Museum and the food collection at the National Restaurant Show for the Greater Chicago Food Depository. I didn't realize that Volo bought and sold cars, but the variety and number of the cars were impressive and so were the price tags. And the brunch at the Whistlestop Restaurant in Fox Lake was also a treat and a delight. Twenty-six guys attended.



And 27 Melmen collected food after the National Restaurant Show and later could be seen "fressing" (as Bill G put it) at Manny's. If you haven't been to the McCormick Convention Center, it is in a word, GINORMOUS! And going up and down the aisles collecting food that will later go to

needy Cook County residents was a terrific experience and adventure, particularly dodging all the heavy equipment employed by the convention center in breaking down the exhibits that showcased food and all types of restaurant wear and equipment.

The Board met in May and heard reports on our new members, retention of our webmaster, printing of our newsletter and the annual dinner. A number of items were discussed under new business, all of which will be posted on our website when the minutes have been approved by the Board members.

If you're thinking about getting involved in an activity or event, please do so. The opportunity for getting engaged is in the control of each of us as is the opportunity to bring new activities and events to MEL.

I'd like to thank David Newman for his talk on his Ham Radio experience at our May meeting. I want to encourage other MEL members to consider speaking at future MEL meetings. I'd also like to encourage all of our members to feel comfortable enough to bring up a topic important to them at our Bregman-Grossman Hour. If it's important to you, it's important to us.

Finally, I'd like to call your attention to the Web hint this month. Webmaster, Sheldon Kail, explains how you can get more information about any upcoming event or activity.

My best always,  
Gary Salit



### MEL VISITS VOLO – By Gerry Linda



The town of Volo was visited by 26 Melmen on May 9. We first caravanned north to Fox Lake for gustatory fortification at the well-known Whistlestop Café, where a cadre of expert servers and a remarkable kitchen churned out a wide variety of meals from a menu with over 30 options in what seemed like just

a few minutes. Now with accumulated calories aplenty, we drove to nearby Volo, IL to what in our internal promotion of this event was always referred to as the Volo Auto Museum. This appellation, it turns out, is a misnomer.

Little did we know, we'd need every erg of stored energy to survive the several hours it took to view the four large show spaces of cars and other vehicles including some boats (200,000 square feet!), a separate military museum full of actual equipment, uniforms and weaponry, a fascinating museum of the history of RVs and campers, and a whole lot of miscellany, e.g., farm equipment, stage coaches, two-wheeled vehicles, trains, etc., scattered about the grounds and in every nook and cranny as well. Our tickets did not include visits to the dinosaur areas or the history of torture exhibit or the Titanic exhibit. Neither did we visit the adjacent antique mall, the several carousels or the many food options.

The highlight though was indeed the enormous display of cars—almost all of which have been restored and/or rebuilt—some to their original glory, many more to undreamed of colors, interiors and mechanical enhancements. While there were a few magnificent older vehicles such as a couple of Duesenbergs, unlike the Klairmont Kollection, which we visited over a year ago, most of these cars dated from the 60s and forward. Uniquely, they were almost all for sale! You could pick up a nice one for \$10,000 down and \$1100/month for 120 months.

Volo is rightly proud of its many specialty vehicles as well: super cars like Lamborghinis, Ferraris, and the Ford GT40 and TV/movie cars like the 1966 TV show **Batman, Ghostbusters, Fast and Furious, Back to the Future** and, the Griswald Family Truckster, among others.

All told there are over 75 acres of exhibits. Volo merits more than one visit—perhaps including spouses, kids, and grandkids.

Did they know we were coming . . .



Photo courtesy Jack Myers

## MELMEN AGAIN AID GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY (GCFD) FOOD RESCUE

– By Bill Gurolnick



Twenty-seven Melmen volunteered to gather food after the National Restaurant Association show at McCormick Place on May 21st. MEL has been doing this since 2001; it's our longest running volunteer activity and this was our biggest group ever. MEL is also the longest participating group working this event for the GCFD. We're certainly the oldest group, and we have the most experienced grocery cart drivers, although grocery carts have been replaced with Magliner dollies.

Vendors at this show leave behind an enormous quantity of foodstuffs, finding it less expensive to donate it than to pack it and ship it back to its source or onto the next show. This food has been a part of their displays, which are designed to influence restaurateurs to buy from them (or their local distributor). Dry goods, refrigerated, canned and frozen foods are collected.

Volunteers walk throughout the building, looking in the empty booths for the food and packing it in boxes on a movable cart. It's then brought to a staging area where it is separated, palletized, loaded on trucks and delivered to the GCFD's large southside warehouse. This year **36,381 pounds** of food was collected! This is equivalent to about 30,000 meals. The GCFD, which serves over 600 food pantries in Cook County, takes this food, sorts it, and distributes it to their client locations within a few days.

It's a lot of walking, maybe 8,000-9,000 steps. And plenty of bending and lifting as well. Some call it a Good Deed, some call it a Mitzvah. Melmen call it a rewarding experience and it certainly builds camaraderie among our members.

When it's all over, Melmen then do what they do best—**EAT**. We had dinner at **Manny's** where the camaraderie continued.

We'll wash our tees and be ready for next year.

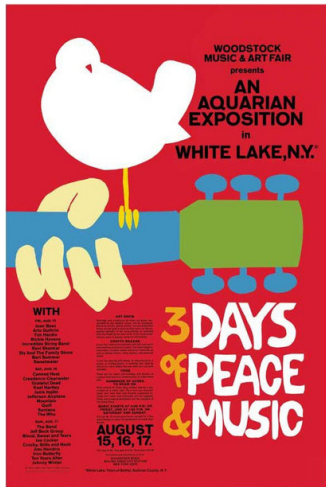


*Now its corned beef time.*



# TRAVELING THE USA WITH BRUCE EDELSON

- By Bruce Edelson



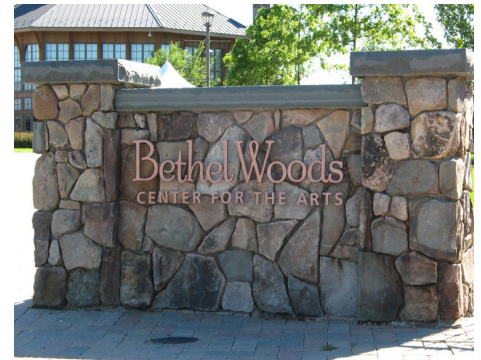
For me, a musician growing up in the 1960's, the Woodstock Music Festival was a huge event. Held in August, 1969 at Max Yasgur's dairy farm in the town of Bethel, NY, it was promoted as three days of peace and music. Showcasing a total of 32 acts with some of the biggest names in contemporary music at one of the first outdoor concerts, Woodstock is widely regarded as a pivotal moment in popular music history.

The original estimate was for 50,000 attendees. However, soon after the tickets went on sale, 200,000 were bought and the promoters were scrambling to get enough provisions

to accommodate such a huge crowd. It is now estimated over 500,000 people actually made it to the farm.

All of this is featured in The Museum at Bethel Woods, which celebrates everything Woodstock and the entire decade it came to represent.

Opened to the public in 2008 with 14,000 square feet of permanent and rotating exhibition space, the museum offers an immersive and captivating multi-media experience combining film and interactive displays, text panels and artifacts to tell the story of the Sixties. Located in a beautiful setting about two hours northwest of New York City or two hours southwest of Albany, it is easily accessed from both locations.



I smiled for about three hours listening to the music, reading the articles, looking at all of the photos and watching videos of how the organizers were able to put the entire festival together. Extremely entertaining and detailed, this is another of my favorite places to visit.

For more information, the website is [www.bethelwoodscenter.org](http://www.bethelwoodscenter.org).

## MEL PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



*Group photo of Melmen at Volo.*



*Blue Heron at Captain Daniel Wright Woods Forest Preserve. - Photo by Nick Brown*



*MEL's Slow Bikers Prepare to head off on a 10-miler.*

## Quick Tip: How to Learn More About MEL Activities

*(Go To [menjoyingleisure.org](http://menjoyingleisure.org) & save as a Favorite)*

Step 1: Scroll down to the middle of the Home Page & click on the photo labeled MEL UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

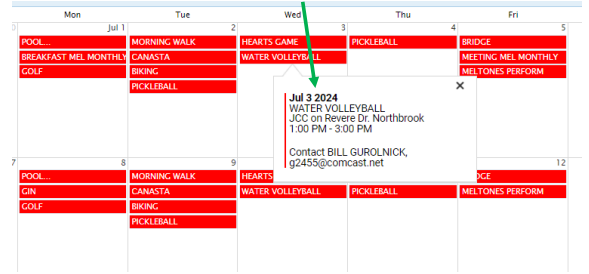


Step 2: Review summary of all activities for the most current two months

**July 2024**

- 1 POOL – Arlington Lanes
- 1 MEL MONTHLY BREAKFAST – Demetri’s (Lake Cook Rd, Deerfield)
- 1 GOLF – TBD
- 2 MORNING WALK – Botanic Gardens or Northbrook Court
- 2 BIKING – Location TBD
- 2 CANASTA – D’Agostino’s on Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling
- 2 PICKLEBALL – Location TBD
- 3 HEARTS GAME – D’Agostino’s on Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling
- 3 WATER VOLLEYBALL – JCC on Revere Dr. Northbrook

Step 3: Scroll down to the Monthly Calendar at the bottom of the Home Page and hover your cursor over each activity for more details including time and who to contact



## UPCOMING SPECIAL AND SEMI-REGULAR EVENTS

- 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
- Oct. 17** Lake County Dunn Museum (9:30 AM, details to come)
- Dec. 12** Annual Couples Holiday Dinner at D’Agostino’s Wheeling



## MARCH AND APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 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



- June**
- 4 Al Newman
  - 5 Herb Kanter
  - 6 Marshall Goldsen
  - 9 Alan Esterman
  - 11 Ron Kaplan
  - 15 Bernie Hauser
  - 16 Robert Abrams
  - 16 Robert Matanky
  - 18 Jerry Lasin
  - 19 Bob Cremer
  - 22 Joel Karliinsky
  - 25 Bob Shuman
  - 26 Robert Orenstein
  - 29 Arnie Groot
  - 29 Abbie Hans
  - 29 Ron Meibach

