



# MONTHLY

MEN ENJOYING LEISURE

About MEL, Melmen and their activities



JULY 2024



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



The rains over the first two weeks of July played havoc with our outdoor activity schedule. Golf, pickleball, biking, lineball and outdoor walking were all canceled as everything was water-logged. The week of July 22-26, however, is shaping up as a warm week with little or no rain in the forecast. I finished a beautiful round of golf today (Monday). The visit to the O'Brien Water Reclamation facility took place Tuesday and is featured prominently in

this issue of MEL Monthly. I am looking forward to other outdoor activities later this week.

Some members, who had not been able to attend monthly meetings, were at the June meeting. It's always a delight to see them. And it's also gratifying to see so many new members at these meetings and participating in regular activities and attending our special events.

COVID has returned and has impacted at least four of our Meltones. It's not clear if COVID came from any of the facilities at which the Meltones performed or was brought by them to any of the venues. If you've contracted COVID, please report to Ralph Rehbock or me so we can

notify our members. We don't want this disease to spread. It seems that this new strain may not be as detectable by the COVID test kits.

There are several exciting events to which I've been looking forward and know you won't want to miss. Chief among them is our Annual Dinner on August 14th, which is shaping up to be an especially fun evening. This year's Gurolnick Award winner will be announced. So far 94 members have already signed up and hopefully more will beat the July 28 deadline.

On August 6th the Five Families Golf Scramble will take place. If you haven't already signed up, send a note to Jerry Ezgur or Buddy Kalish. It's a fun event. August 22nd marks the annual Cubs outing. I think all spots may be filled but get yourself on the waiting list in case someone can't attend at the last minute. Finally, on August 30th MEL will go behind the scenes at Wrigley Field. Spaces remain open. Contact Bill Keroff.

My best always,

Gary Salit



## MEL'S BEEHIVE – SINGING, BUT NO STINGING – *By Walt Brown*



On June 29, 27 Mel couples attended the Marriott performance of "Beehive, The 60s Musical." A very talented and energetic group of young women sang, danced, and presented hit after hit from that decade. Dinner preceded the musical. Hearing all those oldies brought back many memories from that era, though how much great dancing Melmen did back then is an open question. Some Melmen were spotted singing along (at least to the choruses). A few thought they heard some MEL wives singing two of the songs to their husbands- "I'll Never Change Him" and "Where Did Our Love Go." Thanks are due co-sponsors Walt Brown and Bruce Edelson.

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★★★★ MEL'S KAYAKING (NOT QUITE) ADVENTURE 2024 – By Mike Stricker ★★★★★

On a picturesque July 12th morning, 17 adventurous Melmen ventured onto the Skokie Lagoons. The great news is that we all made it back safely. After some trying moments when we were switched from kayaks to canoes, it couldn't have been a better day. And after canoeing, we made our way to Max and Benny's for a traditional MEL meal.



Here's a plug for this treasure right in our backyards. We paddled around a magnificently beautiful section of the Skokie Lagoons without any negative incidents. I've lived here my whole life but had never been on this water. If you haven't had a chance, do yourself a favor and make a point of trying this. Take a spouse, significant other, child, grandchild, or a best bud. You won't be sorry.

★★★★ HISTORY OF THE MELTONES – By George Giddens ★★★★★

In 2008 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 at a senior center who formed a group that sang at other centers. I took the idea to our member, 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.

When Marv Berman became a member, he raised 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.

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

The Meltones enjoy this activity and especially seeing the smiles and happiness we bring to the audience.

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.

If you are interested in joining the Meltones, which is one of MEL's oldest activities, I suggest you come to one of our Friday afternoon performances. Contact George at [ggiddens59@gmail.com](mailto:ggiddens59@gmail.com) or Ralph at [rrehbock@comcast.net](mailto:rrehbock@comcast.net) for more details.

Meltones at House of Welcome



★ ★ ★ ★ MEL PHOTOS OF THE MONTH ★ ★ ★ ★



FIRST PLACE

"BEAMS AND ARCHES" WAS TAKEN AT BANNOCKBURN GREEN ON JUNE 3, 2024. "THE CONFLUENCE OF STONE AND WOOD WAS APPEALING": HOWARD KATZ.

*Howard Katz*

SECOND PLACE

"CALDER STATUE" WAS TAKEN IN FRONT OF THE FEDERAL BUILDING IN CHICAGO'S LOOP ON JUNE 6, 2024. "ON MY SECOND ATTEMPT SHOOTING THIS STATUE I SWITCHED TO A VERTICAL PERSPECTIVE": JERRY FISHER.



*Jerry Fisher*

★ ★ ★ MEL VISITS O'BRIEN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT – By Gerry Linda ★ ★ ★



Safety First! 29 Melmen donning helmets at O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant.

these flows end up in a water reclamation plant like O'Brien, which was built in 1928, and is one of seven wastewater plants operated by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD). Amazingly, using gravity alone, via countless miles of sewers, O'Brien can receive and process up to 500+ million (!) gallons of water per day, including everything from the north part of the city of Chicago and all the northern suburbs, where most Melmen live. This includes 1.314 million people and 143 square miles of northeast Cook County.



The eerie glow results from 64 1,000 watt ultraviolet lights blasting and killing biologic contaminants.

On July 23, 29 Melmen received a terrific two-and-a-half-hour education regarding what happens to the "dirty" water after we flush the toilet, run water, etc. through the disposal or bathroom sink, or shower/bath, or when it rains and the water rushes along the gutter and into the sewer.

In a modern city/region all these flows end up in a water reclamation plant like O'Brien, which was built in 1928, and is one of seven wastewater plants operated by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD). Amazingly, using gravity alone, via countless miles of sewers, O'Brien can receive and process up to 500+ million (!) gallons of water per day, including everything from the north part of the city of Chicago and all the northern suburbs, where most Melmen live. This includes 1.314 million people and 143 square miles of northeast Cook County.

Our tour began with a lecture and viewing a video, then we quickly passed by the control center where screens displayed live video and graphic models of the

plant in operation. Next we boarded and disembarked from a bus as we went to three separate buildings among the 12 on the 97 acre plant in Skokie. And we observed aeration "batteries" and settling pools as well. To keep us safe we all donned safety helmets and later put on dark glasses to protect our eyes from ultraviolet light.

Wastewater treatment has three phases: primary, secondary and tertiary. The primary treatment removes non-dissolved solids from the water. This can range from large debris, removed by coarse screens, to smaller solids, removed via aerated "grit" tanks and settling tanks, which remove fats and oils. In secondary treatment micro-organisms are introduced to remove (consume) organic material from the water, which again is allowed to settle with more solids falling to the bottom.

Tertiary treatment further cleans the water via filtration or disinfection. O'Brien is home to the world's largest ultraviolet disinfection facility. After this final treatment, water is released from O'Brien into the North Shore Channel.

MEL ended this wonderful excursion with a lunchtime visit to Red Robin. We gratefully acknowledge the efforts of Mitch Weiss, who organized this visit.



Most of these pumps date to 1928 and have been kept operating via heroic engineering and parts fabrication efforts. The WMRD is ComEd's largest customer!

**UPCOMING SPECIAL AND SEMI-REGULAR EVENTS**

- Aug. 6** Five Families Golf Scramble
- Aug. 15** Annual Dinner (Melmen and couples)  
Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling
- Aug. 22** Annual Cubs Game Outing
- Aug. 30** Behind The Scenes at Wrigley Field
- Oct. 17** Lake County Dunn Museum (9:30 AM, details to come)
- Dec. 12** Annual Couples Holiday Dinner at D'Agostino's Wheeling



**JULY / AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

**July**



- 4 Sol Shatz
- 5 Harris Cohen
- 5 Morry Dyner
- 9 Art Edelstein
- 11 Ralph Rehbock
- 12 Harvey Orloff
- 14 Tom Green
- 18 Ron Hirsch
- 18 Mike Stricker
- 22 Bob Kohn
- 24 Dave Miller
- 31 Corey stricker

**August**



- 1 Aaron Hoffman
- 2 Bud Kalish
- 9 Mike Weiner
- 10 Robert Stein
- 12 Marvin H Berman
- 12 John Simon
- 13 Mike Lerner
- 15 Gene Chaiken
- 24 Jack Mayer
- 25 Michael Golden
- 28 Mickey Mell

