



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



What a wonderful Annual Dinner we just recently enjoyed! Bruce Edelson, assisted by Art Callistein and Ed Cohen, put together a wonderful evening – the check-in, the cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, the dinner, the video presentation (put together by Joel Karlinsky and Mike Weiner), the live action “name that baby,” the awarding of the Bill Gurolnick Founders Award to the very deserving Bruce Edelson, and the Meltones sing-a-long finale. It was

a very special evening. What started with fewer than 25 people at the first annual dinner 24 years ago now featured over 160 members, spouses and significant others at this year’s dinner. (To those who sadly had to cancel at the last minute, you were missed, and I hope that you have recovered by now (or are at least on the way to recovery)

This has been a wonderful year for MEL. We took in 14 new members, we added some excellent new, regular activities – among them Rummikub and Couples Canasta (maybe even Couples Bridge), and we participated in many new events – including visits to the Volo Auto Museum, the O’Brien Water Reclamation Facility, the Adlai Stevenson Home in Mettawa, and a look behind the scenes at Wrigley Field. Those of us who visited the auto museum were surprised by the breadth of the offerings and that the museum is in the business of buying and selling the cars on display.

The water reclamation facility was an entirely unique experience. First, the facility which is in “plain site,” is well hidden from the public. Second, the amount of sewage that is processed daily and returned to usable, but not drinkable, water, over 500,000 gallons daily, is startling.

Many of you will begin your trek to warmer climates as the days begin to cool here. Safe travels, enjoy the warmth of other suns and keep in touch. Because of the Jewish holidays in early October, we are moving our October meeting to October 11, the second Friday in October. If you pray, please pray for peace in America and around the world.

Your new Board, which has the same members as the prior Board, met at the end of August to elect officers for 2024-25. Your new President is Bruce Edelson; John Simon remains Vice President, Ansel Edidin continues as Treasurer and Joel Karlinsky stays on as Secretary. The other Board members are me, Jerry Ezgur, Sheldon Kail, Mike Lerner and Gerry Linda. Hearty congratulations to the officers! And thank you to the entire Board for your service in MEL’s behalf.

So this will be my last note to you. Serving as President of MEL has been an honor. Thank you for the privilege.

Best regards always,

Gary Salit

## FIVE FAMILIES” GOLF OUTING

– By Buddy Kalish

On August 6 a total of 68 golfers from MEL, GEL, SEL, SAM and HOGS participated in our annual golf scramble. The weather and the course were uncooperative. However, we did manage to play nine holes. As usual, Chevy Chase prepared a fine buffet dinner.

With \$1200 of prize money, we were able to play a virtual tournament after dinner. MEL winners included Gary Salit, Bert Rubin, Alan Reinberg, Joel Goldberg and Buddy Kalish. It turned out to be a fun day meeting many new friends from the “Five Families.”



Pictured L to R: Joel Goldberg, Larry Fradin, Alan Reinberg, Gary Salit, Dave Marcus, Jay Weintraub, Mike Stricker and Buddy Kalish.

## TEXAS HOLD ‘EM TOURNAMENT

– By Bruce Edelson

Our Summer tournament was held on 7/29/24 at (where else?) D’Agostino’s in Wheeling; 16 players participated. The big winner was Jerry Ezgur. Most of us had fun--except the losers.

Join us for our Fall game on Monday, September 27. We’ll play from 4:30-8:30 with a break for dinner. Watch your email for the upcoming invitation or contact Bruce Edelson with your intent to play.



# THE 2024 MEL ANNUAL DINNER

## BRUCE EDELSON NAMED GUROLNICK FOUNDERS AWARD WINNER

*- By Gerry Linda*



## EXCITING WATER VOLLEYBALL NEWS! - By Bill Gurolnick and Bob Savin



MEL plays water volleyball every Wednesday, year-round, at 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Weinger JCC on Revere Drive in Northbrook. We receive many inquiries about the sport so this article, in the format of an FAQ ("frequently-asked-questions"), will provide the answers that potential players are most curious about.

### What do you wear while playing water volleyball?

A bathing suit is required to play MEL water volleyball. However, no topless suits are allowed as the pool is visible from the observation deck. Demure suits are preferred, but not required. Proper "support" is at the player's option.

### What are the rules for playing MEL water volleyball?

The rules are very simple. Players can pretty much do whatever they want. However, it is a requirement that players stay on their own side of the net and face the other team, especially during serves. Participants rotate each time they "win the serve" and much discussion takes place about which direction to rotate, who goes where as well as other important issues.

### How do you keep score in MEL water volleyball?

Scoring is very simple. If your team is serving and the opposing team is unable to return the ball (by hitting it over the net) you get a point. The team that reaches 21 points first wins the game. Keeping score is another matter. There are many lively and impassioned debates about what the score actually is. This is especially true after a long volley when players are more likely to forget the score, but are eager to debate their version of what it should (or could) be.

### What determines if a ball is "out of bounds"?

The person closest to the spot where the ball hits the water determines whether it is inbounds or not. Hopefully, that person was looking in the general direction of the ball's landing spot. However, it is not uncommon for a player on the opposing team, who is as far away from the where the ball landed as you can get, to vigorously claim that a ball that was called out of bounds was actually inbounds. Chaos often ensues.

### Is MEL water volleyball fun?

MEL water volleyball is a great way to spend a couple of hours with friends in a rain or shine environment. We are a congenial group playing for fun. Many of us think it is one of the most enjoyable MEL weekly events and it has been played for over 20 years. It's almost the most fun you can have with nearly all your clothes off. If you haven't joined in the fun yet, you should!

## OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER

At MEL's next monthly meeting, October 11, 2024 (note: new date), our speaker will be David Williams, who will discuss hate crimes that have occurred in Chicagoland. Williams is a member of Cook County State's Attorney Special Investigations Bureau, Adjunct Professor of Criminology, Law and Justice at UIC, Co-Founder, Regional Antisemitism Taskforce, and IHMEC LEAD Training Facilitator.



So join us for a great couple of hours splashing in the pool and laughing at the many unforced errors committed by the MEL volleyball players. Although we play for fun, there are rumors that the MEL Volleyball leadership may petition the Olympic Committee for entry as a new sport for 2028. If "Breaking" (aka breakdancing) can get into the summer games, why not water volleyball? Our correspondents will keep you posted on any developments.

BTW: to play you must join the J. The wait time for new member applications is...two minutes. Or, just show up at the JCC and tell the front desk you want to play. First time for MEL members is free! (This is the exciting news referred to in the title.) Ask about membership once you have experienced the joy.

## MELMEN SEE CUBS WIN 10-2 VS. TIGERS

- By Bruce Edelson



Twenty-four (24) Melmen had a great time on Thursday 8/22. We started with a ride on the Skokie Swift, which was followed by a fabulous lunch at Smoke Daddy. The culmination was a big win over Detroit on a beautiful day at Wrigley Field. And nine Melmen then were treated to a visit to the playing field to have our picture taken.

Thanks to Ed Cohen for making the arrangements.

## MEL CYCLING: THE JOY OF RIDING

- By Robert Stein



Finding a way to stay active, fit and connected, Melmen enjoy the great outdoors by cycling. We meet weekly to bike the various trails throughout the north suburbs. We stop halfway to share stories, laugh a little, have a cup of coffee and a quick nosh before turning around. The rides aren't about speed or distance, just the journey itself. Biking is easy on your joints, improves your cardiovascular fitness and your mental well being. Many bikers are switching to ebikes for a little assistance and boost when needed. So dust off your bike, fill up your tires, oil your chain, and put on your helmet to come join us.

# MEL PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



*George Giddens*

## THE MEL PHOTO GROUP'S GOAL - By Jerry Fisher

Our purpose is to improve the photographic skill of all our members at every experience level--whether camera users or cellphone users. The ideal is to have each image tell its own story as presented by the photographer.

Topics are assigned in advance and the group then collectively reviews the images submitted by our members, offering suggestions on how to improve them.

**"LAKE IN THE WOODS" WAS TAKEN WITH A CELL PHONE ON 8/8/24 AT CENTENNIAL PARK IN HIGHLAND PARK. "IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY WALKING IN THE PARK."**

**"OMINOUS" WAS TAKEN ON 8/15/24 ON THE BEACH AT SHEBOYGAN, WI WITH AN IPHONE 15. "THE SHAPE OF THE 'SHELF' CLOUD WAS BEAUTIFUL IN A VERY OMINOUS WAY AND CONTRASTED WITH THE INNOCENCE OF THE BUSH IN THE FOREGROUND."**



*Sheldon Kail*



## MEL HEARTS ANNUAL DINNER - Buddy Kalish

The MEL Hearts group plays every Wednesday starting at 11:00 AM through 3:00 PM. We have a great time enjoying the game and of course the "kibitzing." Jack Meyers (sometimes) is one of our better players. He is known as our "King of Hearts."

We play strictly for bragging rights. Of course, lunch is always a part of the afternoon.

Each year we invite guests to join us for an annual dinner celebration at D'Agostino's. After dinner, we played a 30 question trivia game which was enjoyed by all.

*MEL Hearts players and guests enjoy dinner at D'Agostino's. L to R is Larry & Laura Krupp, Bob Shuman & Linda Karm, Jack & Ellen Meyers, Don & Linda Brooks, Larry Kominsky & Fern Bloom, Bruce & Jan Edelson, Les & Gail Trubow and Buddy Kalish & Joanne Kruger.*

On August 14 161 Melmen and their guests met at Chevy Chase Country Club for our 2024 Annual Dinner. What a wonderful evening! Attendees were warmly greeted, received their table information, name tags, and two free drink tickets and then made their way to the bar and/or where hot hors d'oeuvres were being passed near a cheese and crudité table. This cocktail hour was a perfect beginning for an evening filled with affection, laughter, and entertainment. In other words, it was a typical MEL event.

We were called to dinner and enjoyed our previously ordered choice of salad, rolls, steak, chicken or salmon and dessert. The entertainment began with Board member Joel Karlinsky recounting some of MEL's history and then sharing a video, with an able assist from Mike Weiner, which first showed Melmen as babies, toddlers or even teens and then what they looked like today. Lots of audience oohs and ahs and chuckles resulted. Joel next moved to a live version of the same game wherein five Melmen came to the stage and five baby pictures were shown. Attendees had to vote who was who. They got two right and three wrong.

The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the winner of The Gurolnick Founders Award. This award was established last year to honor MEL's co-founder and 22-year President, Bill Gurolnick, who was the first awardee. Bill exemplified the MEL ethos: Participation, Leadership and Fellowship. This year we established an Award Committee consisting of three Board

members, Gerry Linda, as chair, Jerry Ezgur and Sheldon Kail, and added three non-Board members, Don Brooks, Lou Rosen and Alan Esterman. Collectively, they covered the age ranges of our current membership. They considered several members and made a unanimous recommendation to the Board, which unanimously approved—Bruce Edelson.

Bruce has been a member of MEL for about 10 years, during which time he distinguished himself by creating new activities, assuming activities from older members and generating a host of special events that MEL has had the good fortune to enjoy for many years. The inscription on the special gift we gave Bruce says: "For your Participation, Leadership and Fellowship. Your Origination and Encouragement of New Activities and Events have Enhanced the Growth of Our Organization." His choice as awardee was met with overwhelming audience approval.

Bruce, as a Board member, was not surprised by the award and so had a chance to think about what he wanted to share. Take a guess . . . he talked about Participation, Leadership and Fellowship.

The evening wasn't over yet. As a capstone, our Meltones led everyone in a four song sing-a-long.

Of course, thanks for this marvelous evening are due Bruce Edelson and his committee--Art Callistein and Ed Cohen.



*Gary Salit (right), President of MEL presents Bruce Edelson (left) with his Gurolnick Award gift.*

*The Meltones entertain at MEL's 2024 Annual Dinner.*

*The permanent 2024 Gurolnick Founders Award plaque.*

## MY ALMOST HOLE-IN-ONE

- By Bill Keroff



On a recent Monday when the MEL golfers were playing at Countryside golf course in Mundelein I came close to a hole-in-one. On the 10th hole, a 125 yard, par 3, I hit the perfect shot, which bounced on the Green, hit the flag and, then, yes, rolled 18" away from the hole.

*Bill Keroff bounces on the green, hits the flag, and ends up 18" from the hole on a par 3 at Countryside in Mundelein.*



## HEY! HEY! IT'S THE MELMEN

- By Bill Keroff

Thirty Mel men and guests took a tour of Wrigley Field. We visited the bleachers and press box, stood on the field and went into the dugout. The tour lasted 90 minutes, and at every stop, our guide, Steve, told fabulous stories about the Cubs, past players, and owners. And yes, the ivy on the wall is from the original planting 100 years ago.

## UPCOMING SPECIAL AND SEMI-REGULAR EVENTS

- Sept. 27** Texas Hold'Em D'Agostinos Wheeling
- Oct. 17** Lake County Dunn Museum – True Crimes of Lake County and Bob Ross Paintings
- Dec. 12** Annual Couples Holiday Dinner at D'Agostino's Wheeling



## MEL DIRECTORY UPDATE

We need your help updating the information in our Website's Contact Information and Member Photo Gallery.

### Contact Information

Please review your contact information (Telephone Number, Address, Significant Other, etc.) and send Sheldon Kail any changes that need to be made.

### Member Headshot Photo

If you want to update your headshot photo, choose from one of the two options below.

1. Have your headshot photo taken at one of our upcoming monthly meetings by a member of our photo club. They will in turn send me the photo to be posted on the website.
2. Have a friend or relative take your head shot photo and send it to me. Below are some tips on how to take a good headshot photo.
  - Take the picture indoors, in front of a neutral background, with even lighting.
  - Turn off the flash, if possible.
  - Try to avoid distracting patterns and prints in your clothing or background.
  - Shoot the picture starting from the middle of your chest and up; be sure there is clearance above your head—but not too much. Give us a real smile—from your mouth all the way through your eyes.



*Sharon and Bob Stein in the lobby of Highland Park's Wayfarer Movie Theater to see It Ends With Us, which was Executive Produced by their nephew, Andrew Calof.*

*(They were with Abby and Sheldon Kail, not pictured.)*

## JULY / AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 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 Meyer
  - 25 Michel Golden
  - 28 Mickey Mell



- SEPTEMBER**
- 1 Sarge Hoteko
  - 3 William Goldman
  - 6 Stuart goodman
  - 6 Len Zacks
  - 9 Alan M Magit
  - 12 Sheldon Kail
  - 13 Howard Weisbart
  - 15 Julian Levy
  - 16 Marvin Feinberg
  - 17 Howard Levine
  - 19 Steve Kardel
  - 20 Peter Gruber
  - 27 Paul Chester
  - 29 Art Chapman

