

## FROM THE EDITOR



This month the feature article is about our trip to the Dunn Museum in Lake County, where we had a special presentation about the Crimes of Lake County and enjoyed seeing and learning about Bob Ross' landscape art. Our second lead is about our book group. Also, there are featurelets about poker, miniature golf and the investment group. And savor all the upcoming Special and Semi-Regular Events.

We are amid our Fall/Winter new member recruitment period, so give a warm hello to visitors. To join MEL potential new members must have (or be given) a sponsor, contact Bruce Edelson, fill out an application, attend two monthly meetings . . . and pay their full annual dues.

Gerry



## DUNN DONE! – By Gerry Linda

On October 17 over 30 Melmen travelled to the Dunn Museum in Libertyville. Dunn is a museum of the history of Lake County beginning with dinosaurs through the early 20th Century. In addition to their permanent collection, they create exhibits from their archives/research and by hosting travelling exhibits prepared by others. This visit included both kinds of exhibitions as well as time to explore the permanent collection. (This was our second trip to Dunn; earlier we went to see an Ansel Adams exhibit.)

First, we had a private presentation by a museum staffer—**True Crimes of Lake County**. We learned about the first murder in the 1860s, the infamous Rondout Train Robbery (the largest train robbery in history; \$44 million in today's money; it was an inside job), the Dynamite Girl (an anarchist), various gang struggles during Prohibition between Al Capone and Bugs Moran (including incidents at the Mineola Hotel, the Fox Lake Beer Wars and the Fox Lake Massacre) and the Attempted Durand Kidnapping (of the grandchild

of a successful dairy owner, Grace Durand, known as The Dairy Queen; it was foiled by the police).

We then made our way to the large exhibition of Bob Ross paintings. You may remember the gentle, encouraging Ross with his curly hair and beard, from his PBS show, **The Joy of Painting**, during which he would create on camera an entire landscape painting in 30 minutes. The show ran for 11 years, and he is credited with an estimated 14,000 paintings! He specialized in what is termed the “wet on wet” technique in which different layers of color were applied over each other to achieve the desired effects. Interestingly, both Monet and Van Gogh used the same technique. This exhibit included dozens of his paintings as well as two videos showing him at work. Melmen noted that, in addition to employing brushes, part of his technique used the edge of a chisel-shaped knife to apply lots of the paint.

This was a MEL outing so we ended with lunch at Wildberry. Thanks are due Bruce Edelson for making all the arrangements.



One of Bob Ross' original paintings



## MINI GOLF TOURNAMENT – *By Bruce Edelson*

The October event is now history, and we have a new champ! Mike Stricker won the honors; his round included a hole in one! Now, he can gloat until the next round in April.

For those of you who haven't tried this, it's a ton of fun. The course is located at the Highland Park Learning Center on Route 41 near Target. We play four times a year: April, June, August, and October. This is not your regular kiddie course, but a much more difficult one, which includes water, low bricks and many ups and downs.

Think you can putt? Come and try it next year!



## JESUS SAVES; MELMEN INVEST – *By Al Simon*

George Giddens and I run an investment meeting twice a year--once in the spring and once in the fall. The basic idea is to discuss economic events or situations and trends that have already occurred or are current with an eye as to how they may affect the economy and our assets. For example, today's topics would include The Fed and whether/when they will raise interest rates again and by how much, and the election--what each candidate might try to accomplish and their impact on the economy.

We meet at the Highland Park police station, which has a very large parking lot. We generally meet from 1:30 to 3:00 or 3:30. George and I bring up various topics of the day and encourage everyone to join in the discussion or bring up their own questions. Usually, we have interesting conversations with everyone participating and often adding additional observations.

There's room for more Melmen, so if you are responsible for managing any of your assets, join us.



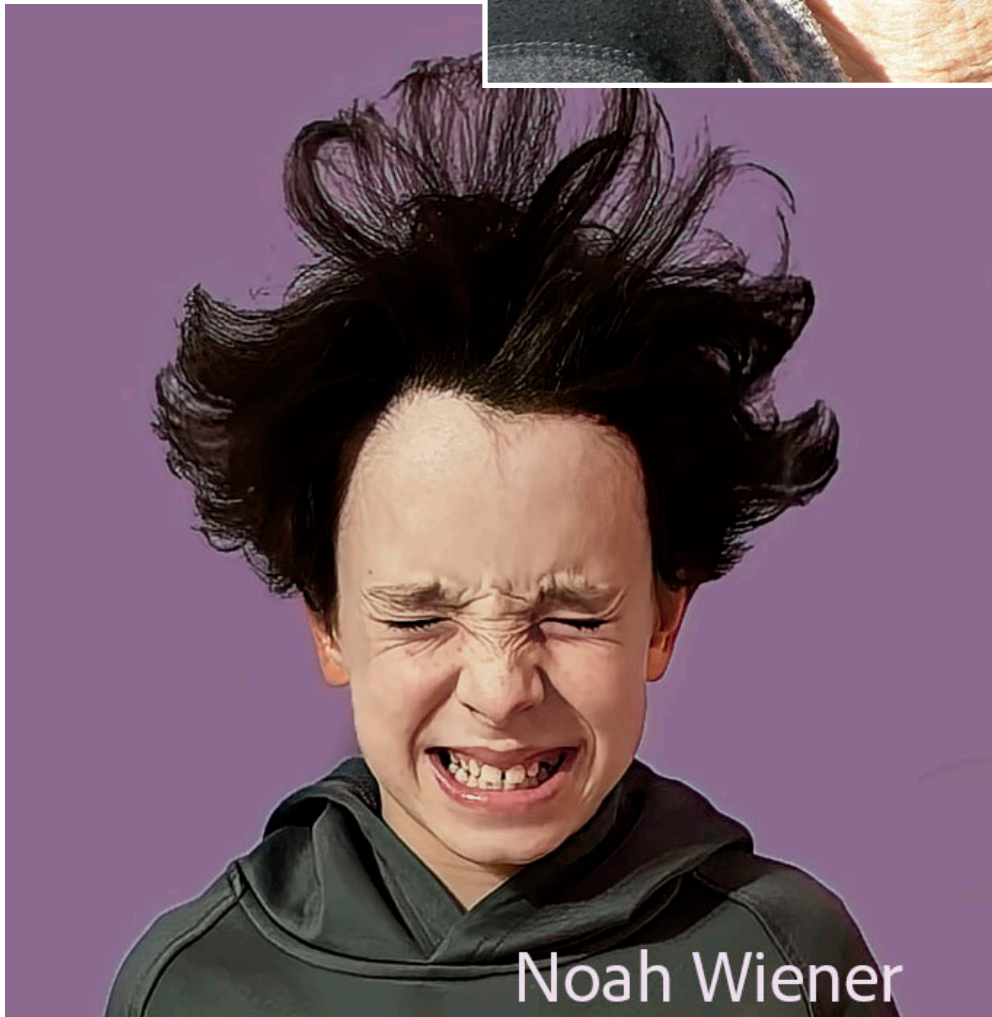
## MEL PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

### BEST COMPOSITION

“THE PERFECT PROFILE” WAS TAKEN ON 10/9/2024 AT THE GROSS POINT LIGHTHOUSE IN EVANSTON WITH AN OLYMPUS FE-240. “ON A SUNDAY RIDE TO THE GROSS POINT LIGHTHOUSE IN EVANSTON, IL I HAD THE CHANCE TO TAKE A PROFILE IMAGE OF MY WIFE, MIRIAM, ENJOYING THE VIEW OF LAKE MICHIGAN WITH THE SUN AT THE PERFECT ANGLE. I COULD NOT PASS UP THE OPPORTUNITY.”



Harvey Orlov



Noah Wiener

### BEST IMAGE

“NOAH - HAIR DRYER MOMENTS” WAS TAKEN ON A CELL PHONE IN DEERFIELD ON 10/13/2024. “THE INSPIRATION WAS MAKING MY GRANDCHILDREN LAUGH” (MICHAEL WIENER).

## MEL BOOK GROUP – By Gary Salit



The MEL Book Group has been around about seven years in its current iteration. We now meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, most regularly at the Deerfield Public Library. Our books can be either fiction or non-fiction, but the commonalities sought are that we want to learn something, and we also require something that will lead to an interesting discussion.

Our most recent books were **The Ghost of Honolulu** about what we knew or should have known before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, **The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry**, James, a fictionalized focus on Jim from Mark Twain’s **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**, **The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store** and **The Wager**, based on the true story of the shipwreck of a British

warship on the west coast of South America and the ultimate recovery of its crew. Two were non-fiction, three were fiction.

Sometimes the books are more controversial like the recently discussed **Searching for Fatima**, and many of our books have been turned into movies or series (although none has measured up to the book). Notable among those have been **Killers of the Flower Moon**, **Where the Crawdads Sing**, **Leave the World Behind**, **Lessons in Chemistry**, **Boys in the Boat** and **Gentleman in Moscow**. Other books have ranged from **Code Breaker** by Walter Isaacson, a non-fiction telling of the Nobel Prize-winning developer of CRISPR, which has been used in the treatment of Covid-19 and is on the threshold of treating, maybe even eradicating, other illnesses, to **Horse**, **The Warmth of Other Suns**, and **The Emperor of Pain**.



Our next book is **The Tyranny of the Minority** by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt. Bob Kohn will lead our discussion on Thursday, November 21 at 10:00 AM at the Deerfield Library. If you like thoughtful, interesting things to read such as the examples cited above, and if you like sharing your ideas with others, join us. Still not sure? Come for the discussion and see us in action.

### UPCOMING SPECIAL AND SEMI-REGULAR EVENTS

- Nov. 15 Toys for Tots Benefit at Max and Benny’s (Larry Krupp Sponsor)
- Dec. 5 Holiday Dinner/Party at D’Agostinos Wheeling
- Dec. 12 New Member Breakfast Presentation at Scrambled
- Dec. 13 City of Hope Volunteer Event (Alan Esterman Sponsor)
- Dec. 30 Winter Texas Hold ‘Em Tournament at D’Agostinos Wheeling
- Jan. 10 Let’s Talk Sports Super Bowl Edition at Grill House
- Jan. 16 Bocce Ball at Pinstripes (Les Sgnilek Sponsor)



*Believe it or not , George Giddens could not finish his lunch.*

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

#### OCTOBER



- 2 RALPH SAMUEL
- 6 JEFFREY WADLER
- 9 ARNIE COHEN
- 9 TED ISAACMAN
- 11 MARK GARBER
- 11 LES SGNILEK
- 12 ULFUR THORS
- 13 STEVEN WASSERMAN
- 22 JACK MYERS
- 24 DAVID MARCUS
- 24 JAY WEINTRAUB
- 26 JOEL GOLDBERG
- 28 LARRY KOMINSKY
- 31 JACK MARKS
- 31 JOHN WOLFSON

