



## FROM THE EDITOR



Hi all, We trust everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday.

This issue of **MEL Monthly** is loaded with goodies! There are articles about our movie group and our gin players and our first ever Toys for Tots event. Our list of upcoming special activities now extends all the way through July! Of course, our regular features of photos galore and birthdays are included.

And there is a terrific hint about how to use the search function on our Website. Looking ahead, our Webmaster, Sheldon Kail, is expanding his regular column to web, email and *technical questions*. If there is a topic you'd like him to address in the future, drop him a note at [sheldonkail44@gmail.com](mailto:sheldonkail44@gmail.com).

Enjoy!

Gerry



## MEL SUPPORTS TOYS FOR TOTS – By Larry Krupp



Twenty-three (23) Melmen and guests met for lunch on Friday, November 15 at Max & Benny's. So what, you say? Melmen are always meeting for lunch! But this was special because we celebrated the First Annual MEL Toys for Tots program. Over 50 items were donated and on display. Toys, games, books, sports equipment, and arts and crafts projects were arrayed. Connect Four was the most popular item, with three

donations. About 20 Melmen, who could not attend the lunch, also contributed, having brought their items to our November meeting.

Three Northbrook police officers, led by Richard Rash, Community Relations Supervisor, gave us the history of and background information about Toys for Tots. They described how our gifts, along with other donations, will be sent to a warehouse in Niles, which will be stacked from floor to ceiling with toys. They compared it to being in Santa's workshop. From there, holiday presents will be distributed to children from all over Chicagoland.

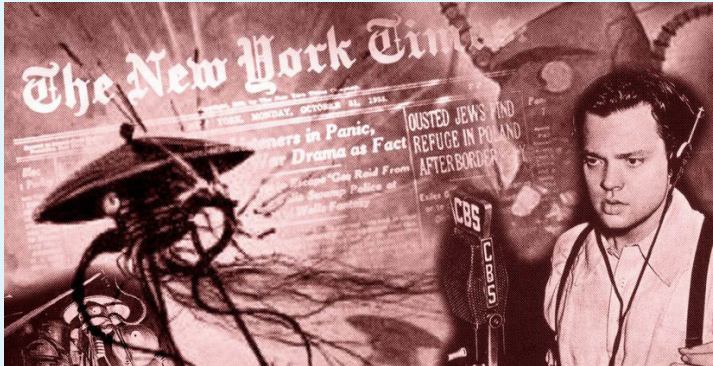
In response to their question, MEL President, Bruce Edelson, told the officers how MEL was established and about the wonderful

programming we do. The officers then stayed for a few minutes to shmooze before collecting our gifts that will help make a happy holiday for many children.



## MEL GOES TO WAR (OF THE WORLDS) – By Gerry Linda

On October 25 the MEL Movie Group celebrated a work of fiction first published in 1898, H.G.Wells' **War of the Worlds**. The basic story is that Martians looked at earthlings scurrying about our beautiful, desirable planet much like we might examine microbes in a drop of water. With their much greater technology, they looked at us with an intelligence that was "vast, cool and unsympathetic." They invade, kick our butts; it all seems hopeless, but then they all perish because they have not co-evolved for millions of years with the myriad of microscopic germs and viruses, etc. to which we had built immunity.

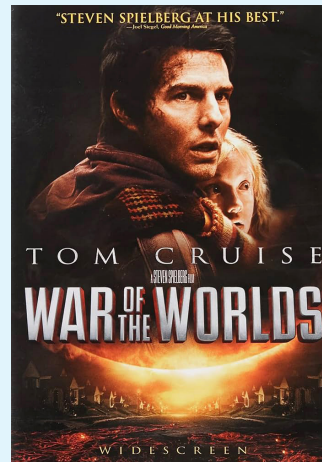


This cautionary tale has been remade for other media at least three times. In 1938, only 40 years after it was first published, Orson Welles' Mercury Theater of The Air made a famous radio version that was so realistic as a purported news program that many people panicked when they listened to it. You may recall Welles was a so-called "boy genius;" he was only 23 years old when this aired!

In 1953 (71 years ago!) science fiction movie pioneer, George Pal, made an unusually realistic version starring Gene Barry. In its day this was a very scary movie, had terrific special visual and sound effects and was decidedly superior to the more typical "cheesy" SF movies of the day.



And Steven Spielberg, the modern Master of Film, made a version in 2005 that starred Tom Cruise, not playing his usual heroic role. It featured exceptional special effects and it, too, was quite unnerving.



Melmen listened to and saw all three versions and we had a rollicking discussion. Some had heard the radio program before, but many had not and were delighted. Several Melmen recalled seeing the 1953 movie and being terrified at the time. And about half of the attendees had not seen Spielberg's version and found it quite satisfying. He does not disappoint.

If you like movies, like good conversation, and can tolerate fried onion rings, join Ed Margulies, me, and fellow Melmen when we talk about movies at Hackney's on Lake!

## MEL PLAYS GIN – By Gerry Linda



When I was a little kid, my parents were avid gin players—with each other and with relatives and friends. One friend, I remember, never sorted his cards because the acts of drawing, placing in his hand, and throwing cards might give a clue to his opponent. My dad played gin weekly with a bunch of buddies, so every so often our house would reek of stale cigar smoke when I woke up. It was pre-ordained then that I would play gin, too. I played the most with

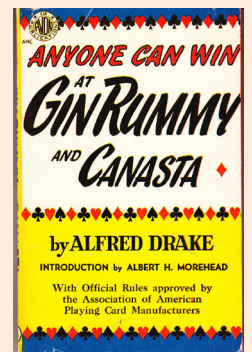
my mother, many hundreds of times until she died at age 86 in 2002. In all those games I won perhaps 10 times—a tribute to her skill or my lack thereof.

So, unsurprisingly, among the MEL players I'm probably average, not a star by any means, but I did read the book pictured here when I began

to play. Alfred Drake was a Broadway star and TV actor who loved to play gin and wrote this in 1949. The most famous gin player was Stu Unger, who was practically unbeatable in the 60s and 70s. Another gin star was the bridge and backgammon champion, Oswald Jacoby. Ernie Kovacs also played well and wrote a gin book. The best known fictional player was Auric Goldfinger, who famously cheated in the eponymous James Bond book and movie.

The game was invented in 1909 by Elwood T. Baker and his son, C. Graham Baker. It remained local to New York until 1949 when it became a Hollywood fad and its popularity exploded. A survey by the US Card Playing Association found the number of people who learned to play gin during WWII was equal to the number who learned to play pinochle, cribbage, poker and bridge combined!

Depending on the time of the year, between 10 and 20 Melmen play at D'Agostino's on Milwaukee on the second Monday of the month. We play in teams with only the combined net score getting posted. We start at 11:00 AM, break for lunch (about \$20 including beverage and tip) and then continue until about 3:00 PM. Yeah, we play for money, but not for much. On a very bad day you might lose \$5.00. Why bother telling you all this? Because this is a typical fun, MEL, recurring activity. There's room for more/new players. At least two of our regulars were relatively new to the game when they started playing with us.



## MEL PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

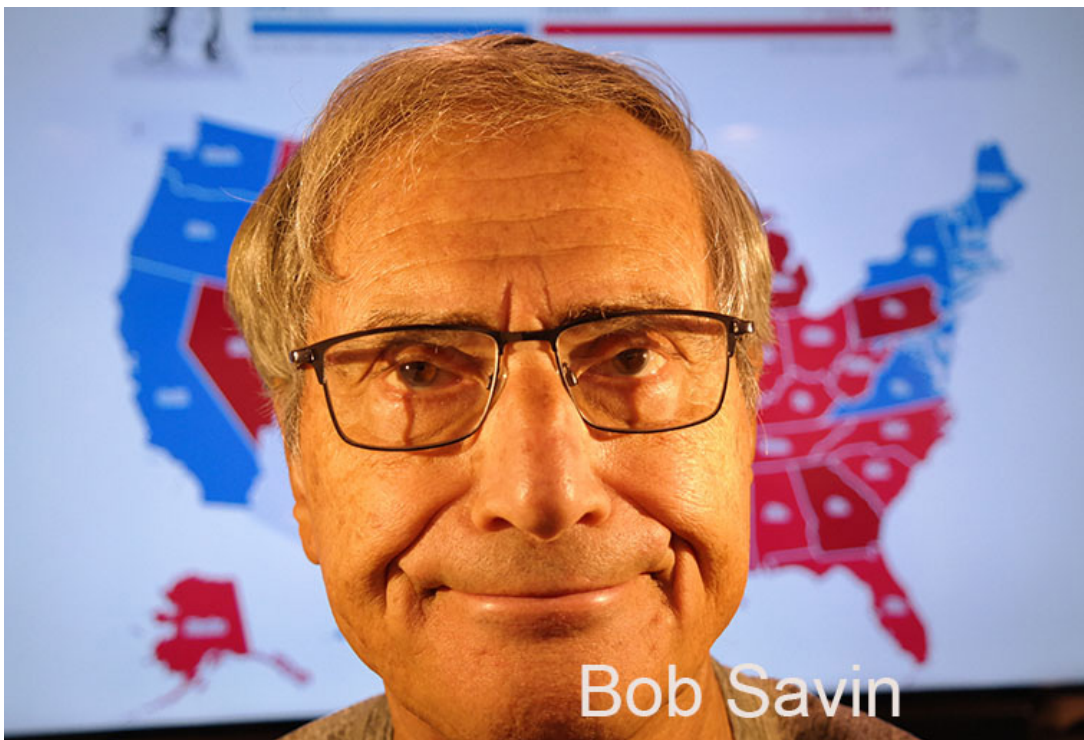
### **BEST PICTURE: "96 YEAR OLD"**

WAS TAKEN 9/2/2024 IN THE LAKE COUNTY FORREST PRESERVE WITH A CAMERA. "I MET THIS GENTLEMAN WITH HIS WIFE. HE COULD BARELY WALK, BUT HE HAD A SHARP MIND AND A GREAT FACE; THE FACE OF A LIFE WELL-LIVED TO ME.



### **BEST COMPOSITION: "SELF PORTRAIT"**

WAS TAKEN 11/12/2024 IN MY BEDROOM WITH AN NX30. "I TOOK THIS PHOTO RIGHT AFTER THE ELECTION. IT EXPRESSES MY FEELINGS ABOUT THE RESULT. I EXPLORED SEVERAL OPTIONS (GREEN SCREEN, ZOOM BACKDROP, COMBINING TWO INTO ONE), BUT SETTLED ON TV IMAGE AS MOST WORKABLE. I DON'T EXPECT TO WIN ANY CONTESTS, BUT I DO THINK IT'S AN INTERESTING TAKE ON A PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPH."



## Did You Know The MEL Website Directory Has A SEARCH Function?

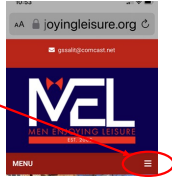
*(Go To [menenjoyingleisure.org](http://menenjoyingleisure.org) & save as a Favorite)*

The MEL website directory has a search function that allows you to search for any characteristic of interest to you. For example:

- Find all the members that live in your suburb so you can find someone to carpool with for an activity.
- Or find all the members who were accountants so you can ask one of them about a tax question.

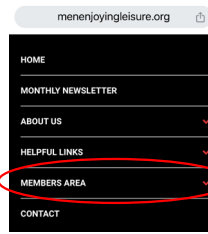
Here is how to use the MEL SEARCH function.

Step 1: On your mobile phone tap on the MENU bar which is the 3 white horizontal lines in the red bar on the right.

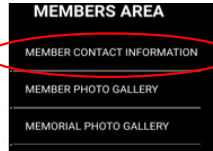


Step 2: Click on the red downward arrow next to the Members Area.

Note: The Members Area is password protected. If you are asked for a password type in **melmen** (all lower case).



Step 3: Click on the line titled Member Contact Information. This will expose the MEL Members Directory.



Now the fun begins!

**Example 1: Find all the members that live in your suburb.**

Type Skokie in the SEARCH bar located in the upper left-hand corner of the screen. All members living in Skokie will be displayed making it easy for you to find someone to carpool with if you live in Skokie!

menenjoyingleisure.org				
MENU				
SEARCH	Skokie			
Berk, Jerry	847-213-0236	847-636-6823	9725 Woods Dr Apt 803	Skokie, IL 60077
Meyers, Jack	847-767-7230	9537 Tripp Ave		Skokie, IL 60076
Newman, David	847-909-1377	5245 Palma Pl		Skokie, IL 60077
Schiff, Paul	773-671-1390	7711 Kenton Ave		Skokie, IL 60076
Wolf, Steven	847-636-2085	9540 Ridgeway Avenue		Skokie, IL 60203

menenjoyingleisure.org				
MENU				
SEARCH	Pharmacist			
Cohen, Ed	847-558-9077		ede888@gmail.com	PHARMACIST
Edelstein, Barry	847-635-6669	847-744-0638	barry4323@comcast.net	PHARMACIST
Fisher, Jerry	847-607-8788	847-814-1071	jfisher941@gmail.com	PHARMACIST
Karlinsky, Joel	847-520-9843	847-812-0663	rxdispens@aol.com	PHARMACIST
Rosenthal, Carl	847-940-7437	847-431-5585	duke0103@aol.com	PHARMACIST
Roskin, Herb (Honorary)	847-383-5099		sherbs100@aol.com	PHARMACIST
Wiener, Mike		847-708-0047	dmo855@gmail.com	PHARMACIST

*If you are having trouble finding or using any of our website features reach out to Sheldon Kail for help.*



**The MEL Pool Hustlers; Courtesy of Eugene Chaiken.**

## UPCOMING SPECIAL AND SEMI-REGULAR EVENTS

- Dec. 12** New Member Breakfast Presentation at Scrambled (Bruce)
- Dec. 13** Little City Volunteer Bingo Event (Alan Esterman)
- Dec. 30** Winter Texas Hold 'Em Tournament at D'Agostino's (Bruce)
- Jan. 10** Let's Talk Sports Super Bowl Edition at Grill House (Bruce)
- Jan. 16** Bocce Ball at Pinstripes (Les Sgnilek)
- Mar. 27** Fermi Lab Tour - (Nick Brown)
- May 15** Marriott Theater- Titanic (Bruce and Walter Brown)
- May 30** Annual Cubs Game (Bruce and Bob Shuman)
- July 23** MEL Annual Dinner (Bruce and Bob Greenberg and Dave Marcus)
- July 30** Miller Park Cubs vs. Brewers (Bruce and Bob Sherman)



## NOVEMBER-DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

### NOVEMBER

- 1 Barry Metz
- 2 Gary Salit
- 2 Frank Florence
- 3 Alan Reinberg
- 5 Gene Litwin
- 7 Jerry Ezgur
- 10 Donald Karel
- 12 Don Brooks
- 13 Zev Steiger
- 16 Arnie Slutsky
- 17 Neil Kaplan
- 19 Moe Ehrlich
- 21 Jerry Fisher
- 22 Steve Marshal
- 25 Sol Jolcover
- 25 Gerry Linda
- 27 Dicke Silver
- 30 Richard Herbstman

### DECEMBER

- 2 Bruce Edelson
- 5 Basil Jacobson
- 6 Ken Kirsner
- 14 Steve Lurie
- 16 Paul Schiff
- 18 Sandy Berliner
- 19 Jim Klapman
- 22 Howard Reinglass
- 23 Art Callistein
- 26 Bob Savin
- 27 Bill Blustein

