

DECEMBER 2024

MONTHLY

MEN ENJOYING LEISURE

About MEL, Melmen and their activities



FROM THE EDITOR



This month's **MEL Monthly** contains our regular features of photos, birthdays and another helpful tech hint from Webmaster, Sheldon Kail. And it contains three articles about—the 4th Annual Holiday Dinner, our first foray to Little City and the New Member Breakfast. This latter piece also gives me the opportunity to introduce new Melman, Rich Spitzer, who will become a regular contributor to this newsletter and be available to back me up when/if needed.

This is the last issue of 2024. I trust we all had a fun Christmas whether with family around a tree or at the movies and dining on Chinese food. We are still celebrating Hanukkah, so enjoy! And here's an only slightly belated hope for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2025.

Next year MEL will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary. WOW!

Gerry



MEL PLAYS BINGO AT LITTLE CITY – By Alan Esterman

On Friday December 13, 19 Melmen joined the residents of Little City for a wild game of Bingo.

Little City is a non-profit community in Palatine that offers a comprehensive scope of services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Most live on campus, with others staying in other affiliated residences. But, before the game we went to Mr. Breakfast for (of all things) breakfast. After overwhelming the service staff at the restaurant, we moved on to Little City where our host, Madeline Martin, gave us a brief rundown of what the organization is about and what they do for people.

We then moved into the Bingo room where we joined the residents, who were already sitting at tables. Bruce Edelson assumed the role of Bingo Caller and did a great job of keeping the games fun. We talked with the residents, gave them encouragement as the game went on and tried to build excitement. We also helped them with the numbers in some cases. Everybody was hoping to yell Bingo and also hoping nobody else did. One of the highlights was the premature exclamation of “Bingo” by Bob Greenberg.

The residents were a fun group of people. The best thing was they enjoyed us and we enjoyed them. Hopefully, we will be able to do something with them again in the future.



I WAS AT AN HISTORIC MEL NEW MEMBER BREAKFAST – By Rich Spitzer

December 12, 2024. MEL new member breakfast. I'm a new member. From what I've learned about MEL's history, and if I've got my facts right, this breakfast might very well have been an historic event.

- First December new member breakfast.
- The breakfast included a record turnout of 28 people.
- With the December/January entry of 17 people, we are the largest new member group.
- Membership growth that the Botanic Garden and WTTW would envy.
 - o 158 MEL members +9 new December +8 new members due in January = 17
 - o **11% increase in membership!!**



Although I've heard about MEL, Hogs, and the other groups for many years, I thought I was too busy to get involved with something new. But through the magic of synchronicity, I became reacquainted with an old friend and colleague, Gerry Linda, who sponsored me, and now I'm a MEL member.

And I am an impressed member. I've been involved with numerous volunteer and professional groups over the last 50 years. In just my few weeks in MEL, I've seen an extraordinary level of organization, coordination, scheduling, participation and enthusiastic leadership.

I know from experience how much effort and motivation it takes to keep an organization moving forward, creating new interests and involving members and what MEL has accomplished is truly impressive. And this is just through breakfast!

The breakfast itself was a perfect example of MEL's excellence.

President, Bruce Edelson, gave a thorough introduction to the organization and all the opportunities for involvement. There are more

than I realized, and much is already scheduled to the week through 2025! I never thought I could tell my wife on December 12 that I'll be kayaking in June next year!

Then Webmaster and IT leader, Sheldon Kail, gave an understandable introduction to the intricacies of the website and email, took our pictures and made it easy to get going within the MEL site.



Not to be taken for granted is how MEL has established itself with the restaurant.

It's remarkable to have 28 separate orders taken quickly; apparently all delivered correctly and together. My wife and I can't always get our extra pita at the Grill House when we ask for it!

I asked another new member, Yale Gordon, about his experience with the breakfast and other aspects of MEL. We had almost identical reactions: an overwhelming (in a good way) demonstration of what a committed, enthusiastic group of people can create.

This is from two business guys who have been through every type of organization and management structure:

I don't want to paraphrase Yale, so here's what else he told me:

"The tone of the get-together was warm and welcoming. The presentations were very engaging and presented with enthusiasm. Top notch website...great graphics and easy to navigate. I can see why both Bruce and Sheldon are on the Board...both bring leadership in their areas. I also noted the courtesy and respect given to the wait staff of the restaurant...a very telling sign. My takeaway was...I should have joined sooner and with so many great activities...where to start. Well done!"

MEL enthusiasm must be infectious. I have volunteered to help Gerry with the newsletter. I look forward to all the activities and events and meeting more Melmen.

MEL MEETS FOR 4TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER – By Gerry Linda

On December 5, 2024, 38 Melmen and guests met in the private function's room at D'Agostino's on Milwaukee Road in Wheeling to celebrate the Season and another year of comradeship. MEL President, Bruce Edelson and his wife, Jan, acted as host and hostess and warmly welcomed us all. The dinner consisted of a buffet service that included salad with a choice of dressings, pasta, several kinds of pizza and cookies for dessert. A non-alcoholic beverage of choice was also included. (Alcoholic beverages were individually ordered.)



There was plenty of spontaneous entertainment as Melmen and spouses connected, chatted, and in some cases, too, kvetched. The event began around 5:30 and was over by 8:30.



MEL'S ACTIVITIES PHOTOS



Rummikub crew meets at Portillo's



MEL Book Group meets live and via Zoom



MEL Travel Club meeting live and via Zoom at Deerfield Public Library. Photo courtesy Gary Salit.



MEL Photo Group meets at Portillo's. Photo courtesy Steve Wasserman.

How To Ensure You Are Receiving MEL Group emails

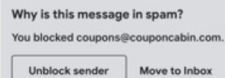
People receive a lot of spam emails. Due to varying definitions, estimates for the percentage of email traffic occupied by spam range from 45-85%. This is a potential security issue, as well as a nuisance.

In response, email service providers like Gmail, Outlook, Yahoo and AOL work to ensure that their users receive the most relevant, desired emails while spam and low-quality promotional messages get filtered. They perform a constant balancing act in the background.

As a result, MEL Group.io emails can sometimes end up in your spam folder because email providers may automatically flag mass emails from a single sender (like group.io) as spam, particularly if the subject line or content appears generic, if the sender's reputation is poor, or if a significant number of users on that email provider mark the emails as spam, triggering a filter to automatically send future messages to the spam folder.

Here are some steps you can take to prevent MEL Group emails from going to your spam or junk folders.

1. Use clear and descriptive subject lines:
 - For Example: "Pickleball Tuesday 4/30 & Thursday 5/2" is very specific
2. Create a contact for MEL in your phone or computer using the MEL group email address which is melmen@groups.io
3. Check your spam/junk folders to see if MEL emails are going there. If you find one you should do one of the following:
 - Click on the "Unblock sender" or "Report as not Spam/Junk" buttons.
 - Move or send the message to your primary email folder.



4. Do not mark emails from MEL group.io as "Spam."

Reach out to Sheldon Kail if you have any questions or need personalized help.

UPCOMING SPECIAL AND SEMI-REGULAR EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 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) |



MEL ADDS 17(!) NEW MEMBERS IN DECEMBER '24 AND JANUARY '25

Please give these new Melmen a warm greeting and make a point of saying hello when you see a new face.

Skip Becker

Art Noparstak

John Belvisi

Allen Rapheal

Paul Canchester

Joel Schwartz

Peter Clark

Terry Steczo

Morry Glicksman

Rich Spitzer

Yale Gordon

Joel Stein

Neil Esterman

Charles Weingarten

Loren Hutter

Jack Kramer

Larry Williams

DECEMBER - JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER			
		13	Ron Emmerman
		13	Michael Kafenstock
2	Bruce Edelson	20	Joel Meisles
5	Basil Jacobson	20	Mitch Weiss
6	Ken Kirsner	22	Alan Schwartzberg
14	Steve Lurie	25	Burt Harris
16	Paul Schiff	27	Elliot Young
18	Sandy Berliner	28	Ron Borden
19	Jim Klapman	30	Allen Krissberg
22	Howard Reinglass		
23	Art Callistein		
26	Bob Savin		
27	Bill Blustein		

JANUARY

3	Ron Chess
3	Carl Rosenthal
9	Ron Zweig
10	Vic Weisskopf

