



MAY - JUNE 2025

MONTHLY

MEN ENJOYING LEISURE

About MEL, Melmen and their activities

Celebrating
25
Years

FROM THE EDITOR



Hi all. This month marks our actual 25th Anniversary. Thanks are due our founders and the early joiners, some of whom are still with us! And to the 71 former members on our website's Memorial Gallery and the 12 Honorary members, who for reasons of health or distance can no longer be active. We (166 active members) all stand on the shoulders of these giants.

Fittingly, this issue has a reprint of the minutes of the very first MEL meeting. And there's a story about our visit to the Marriott Theater and another about MEL's first Adventure Hike. Of course, we've lots of photos and birthdays and the continuing draw of special upcoming events.

Enjoy! Gerry

IT WAS SAD WHEN THAT GREAT SHIP WENT DOWN, BUT MEL WAS OK - *Walt Brown*

On May 15, 2025, 25 Melmen and their guests dined at The Marriott Hotel in Lincolnshire and attended a performance of TITANIC, the 1997 five-time Tony Award Winner, including Best Musical (not to be confused with the movie of the same year).

Having a good dinner and socializing before the play perhaps mitigated the unhappiness of the ending. Many newer MEL members - plus their significant others - attended the outing. New Melman, Terry Steczo, a former Illinois State Representative, admitted it was certainly more fun than a session in Springfield.

By showing many of the details of the disaster, the play brought to life the emotional upheavals all the characters faced. Its now-familiar lessons of how class distinctions and overweening pride contributed to the magnitude of the disaster are still relevant today.



MEL MONTHLY LUNCH - *By Bruce Edelson*

On May 22nd, the MEL monthly lunch was held for the 1st time at the McAlister's Deli in Glenview. Our good friend, Danny, the previous manager of the recently closed Deerfield location, set us

up in a corner of the restaurant. Twenty-two Melmen attended. Good food, camaraderie, and schmoozing were enjoyed by all. Join us on June 19th for the next edition.



THE FIRST MEL ADVENTURE WALK WAS A REAL ADVENTURE. 11 MEN STARTED; 10 MADE IT TO BREAKFAST! - *By Richard Spitzer*



May 13th, 2025, 9:00 AM, in the parking lot at the Fort Sheridan preserve trail. It was an unusually foggy morning; the chilly air coming in over the lake created a dense fog and blotted out the surroundings—we couldn't even see the water from the path. But MEL was not to be denied. Eleven hardy Melmen arrived, everyone on time!

Because of the weather, we took an abbreviated Prairie Walk and then continued to the Fort Sheridan parade grounds and residential areas. (We did 2.8 miles in total—a good first effort.)



We stopped to see the replica prehistoric bird nest. Melmen, of course, followed the posted rules - DO NOT CLIMB ON THE DINOSAUR EGGS.

All was going well.



But halfway through the walk, the uneven payment interfered with one of the walkers. Elliot Young took an unfortunate tumble and got a literal goose egg on his forehead. While Elliott seemed OK, wise members, guided by Dr. Jerry Lasin, called 911. EMTs arrived in about 12 minutes, bandaged Elliot and took him to the HP ER to make sure all was OK. We were relieved to

subsequently learn that, yes, he was fine. Phew!

The now cautious 10 went off to the Country Kitchen in Highland Park for a hearty breakfast on the outdoor patio.

While we fulfilled our promise for adventure, we also learned important things on our first hike:

- Future walks will be on softer trails.
- Melmen can act quickly and appropriately to help a fellow member.

Adventure walks are on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month and are led by me and Yale Gordon.

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



BEST COMPOSITION

*"Spring is here" was taken by **George Giddens** on 5/13/25. "Getting ready for the golf season."*



BEST IMAGE

*"Path to nowhere" was taken by **Bob Greenberg** at the Botanic Gardens on 5/6/25 using an iPhone 16. "Seeing the path and a beautiful crab apple in the background—looking through lilac branches—a quiet area to enjoy."*



Melmen at Wrigley 5/30/2025.



Melmen on the way to a Cubs game 5/30/2025.

FLASH FROM THE PAST - By Bill Gurolnick



May is MEL's Anniversary Month. The minutes from a meeting (of four) on the date of our conception are below. You can clearly see how the current incarnation of MEL, 25 years later, has sprung from these strong roots.

MUD, May 5, 00

Hi, I understand that you have an interest in the group. We are working to expand the group and determine its activities. Being in the formative stage, there is work to be done. Here are the minutes from our last meeting. Please feel free to give me a call if there are any questions, 773-395-2455.

Those attending reviewed their work experience and post work activities. Each member listed areas of interest that the group should pursue. These could be classified as community work

and leisure/fun. Since there was a wide range of member business experience, it was thought that this would be of value to the community.

Among community work ideas are:

Support of black/minority new businesses, help and development.

In schools, tutoring, career counseling, assistance with handicapped children.

The leisure/fun ideas were:

Visiting museums and sports and outdoor activities
Interest group discussions, i.e., government and politics (domestic and Israel)

These could take place in the time between the monthly meeting, including all who may have interest with the possible inclusion of spouses in particular outings.

There also seemed to be an interest that the group could be a forum for more open men's discussions. The group was unanimous in the view that there needs to be a larger membership. Everyone will work to bring in additional people. The meeting time of 10:00-11:30 AM seemed acceptable to all.

For continuity, there will be two co-chairs for each meeting, rotating from meeting to meeting. Everyone should pick a date they can fulfill this.

Bill Gurolnick

UPCOMING SPECIAL AND SEMI-REGULAR EVENTS

- June 12** Union Railroad Museum (Bruce)
- June 13** Miniature Golf at Highland Park Learning Center (Bruce)
- June 26** Spa Day at Pretty Nails Salon (Buddy Kalish)
- June 27** Kayak Adventure at Independence Grove (Mike Stricker)
- June 30** Texas Hold 'em Tournament at D'Agostinos (Bruce)
- July 10** Bocce at Pinstripes (Les Sgnilek)
- July 23** Annual MEL Dinner
(Bruce-Bob Greenburg-Dave Marcus)
- July 25** Men who have lost a spouse breakfast at Scrambled at 10:00 AM (Larry Williams)
- July 30** American Family Field Cubs/Brewers
(Bruce-Bob Sherman)
- Aug. 15** Let's Talk Sports-Football Prediction Edition at Grill House (Bruce)
- Sept. 26** Let's Talk Sports-World Series Prediction Edition at Grill House (Bruce)
- Oct. 8** Casino Night at Beth El Temple
(Bob Stein-John Simon-Bruce)



MEL Book Group on 5/29/2025; plus two on Zoom.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

MAY

3	Donald Gaule	75
5	Larry Krupp	71
6	Steve Fallek	82
8	Ed Cohen	73
9	George Giddens	88
9	Shelly Kurtz	90
13	Jerry Berk	97
17	Steve Stern	70
22	Aaron Hershinow	81
23	Bruce Hirschman	89
23	Louis Rosen	88
31	Mike Karsen	79

JUNE

4	Al Newman	80
5	Herb Kanter	86
6	Marshall Goldsen	89
9	Alan Esterman	76
11	Ron Kaplan	90
15	Gary Balm	77
16	Robert Abrams	87
16	Robert Matanky	90
18	Jerry Lasin	89
19	Bob Cremer	86
22	Joel Karlinsky	73
25	Bob Shuman	77
26	Robert Orenstein	69
29	Nick Brown	83
29	Arnie Goot	75
29	Abby Hans	78
29	Ron Meibach	77