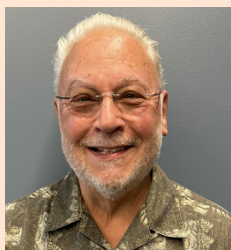


★ ★ SEPTEMBER 2025 ★ ★

FROM THE EDITOR



Hi all,

This month we inaugurate a new regular column, Member Highlight, in which we will profile a different Melman each month. We also recall the Little City event, the Coat Drive, hear about a new movie at the Wayfarer, and delve into the MEL Photo Group. Plus there're plenty of pictures, coming events and birthdays.

Enjoy!

Gerry



Buckingham fountain at night, Chicago, Illinois.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT - By Gerry Linda



This month we inaugurate a new regular feature in **MEL Monthly, a Member Highlight**, in which we'll provide a somewhat in-depth portrait of a Melman. We are going to begin with your Board of Directors, specifically Gary Salit.

Gary Salit was born 11/1/43 in the Bronx. He was an only child, who attended James Madison High School and then CCNY, where he earned a BA in History. He then went to Indiana University and earned a MA in Political Science. Gary met Lynn Schecter at Indiana, and they married in 1968. They have two daughters, Rachel whose medical specialty is cancer hematology, and Loren, who is a marketing consultant. Gary and Lynn have two young grandchildren, a boy and a girl. He finished his education with a law degree at Loyola University, and he practiced law for the

next 40+ years, culminating as General Counsel at Bell & Howell Company.

Gary thinks he joined MEL about 2015. In MEL he served on the Steering Committee for three years and then became our first President as we transitioned to a formal not-for-profit corporation. He was re-elected to the Board for three more years in August. Gary initiated and facilitates MEL's monthly Book Group and he started and leads the MEL Travel Group as well. He regularly participates in golf, the Adventure Walk, and MEL's Margulies Movie Group. And he can be counted on to attend most special events and outings.

"Mel has given me the opportunity to both create as well as participate in a wide variety of activities that have given me a great deal of fulfillment since I joined."



MEL Photo Group 9/25/2025

MEL REVISITS LITTLE CITY - *By Alan Esterman*

On Thursday, September 4, 20 Melmen joined the residents of Little City for a fun game of bingo. This was a follow-up to our previous bingo game held last December when we had such a good time. 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.

After breakfast at, of all places, Mr. Breakfast, we moved to Little City where our hostess, 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 to join the residents, who were already sitting at tables. "Master Bingo Caller," Bruce Edelson again

announced the numbers and did a great job of keeping the games fun and moving.

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. And we brought boxes of donuts that were fully appreciated.

The residents were a fun group of people and seemed to enjoy having us there. As for we Melmen, we all felt good about giving our time to these deserving people and we enjoyed the day.

It would be meaningful if we could continue these events with Little City on a regular basis.



VIETNAM VETERANS COAT DRIVE - *By Bruce Harris*

On Monday 9/15, Bob Shuman, Marv Topel, Larry Krupp and I delivered approximately 250 coats, donated by you, "the great big brotherhood of MEL," to Temple Jeremiah in Northfield. These coats will be picked up by the Vietnam Veteran's truck and distributed as needed.

Bob Shuman coordinated this event and both he and I thank you for your overwhelming response.

Next up: Larry Krupp's Toys for Tots event. Let's make that a tremendous success as well!



MEL PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



BEST IMAGE HAPPY HIPPO

"Happy Hippo" was taken in 2020 by **Bob Greenberg** on a trip to Victoria Falls, using a Canon 5D. "A group of hippos in the water. Caught the mouth opening wide, showing so much definition. The sharp focus of the teeth, hair, and roof of the mouth, one distinct strand of saliva."



BEST COMPOSITION NO EVIL

"No Evil" was taken by **Carl Rosenthal** on September 2, 2025, in Portland, Maine. "Residents didn't want to hear, see or talk about politics."

DID YOU EVER WONDER HOW THE PHOTOS OF THE MONTH GOT TO BE SO GOOD?

- By **Carl Rosenthal**

MEL's Photo Group held our September ZOOM meeting regarding "**Animals.**" The meeting was arranged by **Bill Gurolnick** and all the submissions were reviewed and critiqued by our leader, master professional photographer, **Steve Wasserman**, and all the MEL photo club members. We observed and discussed many interesting photos with positive commentary or discussed how they could be improved as most images were taken with a cell phone. Then, based on voting, two of our favorite photographs will be displayed in the next **MEL Monthly**: best image and best story. (See this and every issue of **MEL Monthly**.)

We're having fun as we're learning and exchanging ideas, while improving our photo taking ability.

Get in on the challenge and enjoyment! Even though we are the largest regularly scheduled MEL group, we are always looking for new participants and encourage you to contribute and join us in future monthly meetings. Next month's topic will be "Street Scenes" with the goal of "telling a story." We'll meet via Zoom on Monday evening, October 20th, at 7:00 PM.

Contact Steve Wasserman at sawphoto@comcast.net with questions or comments, if you are interested, and/or for the zoom link to view future meetings.

THE SENIOR - *By Bob Stein*



Along with my extended family, I attended the Chicago premiere of the new movie, **The Senior**, starring Michael Chiklis at Wayfarer Theater in Highland Park. It's a feel-good movie about Mike Flynn, who in his senior year gets kicked out of college and off the football team. Then, at age 59, Mike has an opportunity to return to his college to play one last semester of football.

The movie was produced by my nephew, Andrew Calof. Following the movie, there was a discussion moderated by Richard Roeper with Michael Chiklis and Mike Flynn himself.



UPCOMING SPECIAL AND
SEMI-REGULAR EVENTS



- Oct. 8
- Casino Night at Beth El Temple
(Bob Stein/John Simon/Bruce)
- Oct. 10
- Mini Golf-last game of the
season (Bruce)
- Oct. 16
- Bocce at Pinstripes (Les Sgnilek)
- Nov. 17
- Toys for Tots Event-
Max and Benny's (Larry Krupp)
- Dec. 9
- Couples Holiday Party at
D'Agostino's (Bruce)



MEL's Board of Directors "in the room where it happens"—9/25/25.



SEPTMBER
&
OCTOBER
BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

1

Sarge Hoteko

78

3

William Goldman

87

4

Mark Busch

75

6

Fred Elman

88

6

Stuart Goodman

87

6

Len Zacks

81

7

Philip Fine

81

8

John Belvisi

71

9

Alan M. Magit

82

12

Sheldon Kail

71

13

Howard Weisbart

75

15

Julian Levy

93

16

Marvin Feinberg

82

16

Norman Maskin

73

17

Howard Levine

90

20

Peter Gruber

79

27

Paul Chesler

78

27

Loren Hutter

71

OCTOBER

2

Ralph Samuel

84

6

Jeffery Wadler

85

9

Arnie Cohen

76

11

Mark Garber

78

11

Les Sgnilek

77

12

Skip Becker

82

12

Marvin Berman

90

12

Ulfur Thors

73

13

Steven Wasserman

80

22

Jack Myers

82

24

Dave Marcus

83

24

Jay Weintraub

79

26

Joel Goldberg

88

28

Larry Kominsky

79

31

Jack Marks

88

31

John Wolfson

73

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY