



MONTHLY

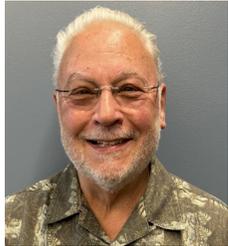
MEN ENJOYING LEISURE

About MEL, Melmen and their activities

Happy New Year - 2026

★ ★ JANUARY 2026 ★ ★

FROM THE EDITOR



Happy New Year, MEL! The weather outside may be dreadful, but our recurring indoor activities and upcoming special events, some of which are also Zoomed, will keep us busy. We'll just add hot soup to our lunch order and keep on going. This issue profiles Board member, Jerry Ezgur, and features a report from the field. Webmaster, Sheldon Kail, presents some interesting data on our use of the website and explains new website features. Thank you, Sheldon! We recount Texas Hold 'Em and Bocce, plus there are pictures, B'Days and more.

Enjoy!
Gerry



A LETTER FROM A SOLDIER DURING THE CIVIL WAR . . . - By Yale Gordon



Dearest Mother...

We have been informed by Colonel Edelson that we will finally see some action. We've been looking forward to this for some time. Early, on a bone chilling winter morning, January 16, 2026, 34 men of the 155th MEL Regiment met at the Hyatt Deerfield and traversed to the Civil War Museum in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Upon arrival, we were met by three extremely knowledgeable scouts, who divided us into smaller groups. They prepared us for what we would soon be encountering.

In the dim light we came across several amazing dioramas where we saw how our fellow northern soldiers were battling the Johnny Rebs. We saw their weapons and medical equipment. We even had the opportunity to sit in a train car and stand next to folks who had seen battle. They told us first-hand what they had been through.

We had no idea how terrible battle would be and saw young soldiers, many just teenagers, with body parts missing. The skirmish in which we engaged lasted about two hours and we left with one injured soldier in our regiment . . . but we had docs Blustein, Krissberg, and Weingarten to skillfully handle the incident.

After this action, the regiment complained of extreme hunger. Colonel Edelson informed us that we'd get our nourishment at a place called the Brat Stop.

Dearest mother, I have never seen so many different types of brats being prepared. The visit to the Brat Stop raised the morale of the entire regiment. Tired, but well fed, we made our way back to the Hyatt in Deerfield where we disbanded.

What a great day for the 155th MEL Regiment.

Your son, Yale



MEMBER HIGHLIGHT - *By Gerry Linda*



This month we profile Jerry Ezgur, who joined MEL about 15 years ago after being sponsored by late Melman, Wally Arbetter. Jerry was elected to the Board of Directors three years ago and serves as leader of our new member acquisition efforts. He has been an active member of the Meltones (some accuse him of being the 'lead singer'), an activity which has been

a source of deep pleasure. Jerry also organizes our golf outings, attends most special events, plays line ball, canasta, is in the movie group, the current events group and eats lots of breakfasts and lunches with fellow Melmen.

Jerry Ezgur was born November 7, 1939, (86) in Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago. He and his sister, Shelly (one year younger), were raised in Albany Park on Drake Avenue, where he lived with his parents and maternal grandparents. He went to Roosevelt High School and graduated the same year as Melman, Mitch Weiss. His parents moved to Rogers Park, right about the time he started college at U of I, Champagne ('57-'60). He graduated with a degree in History and Political Science.

He met his wife, Harlie Vishny (who was the sister of a friend), when she was at U of I and he was in law school. He graduated John Marshall Law School in 1964 and passed the bar later that same

year. He joined a small law firm and was a trial lawyer for about four years; then he started his own practice. He has been in private practice, specializing in negligence law ever since. "I still haven't turned in my license."

Jerry and Harlie married in 1964. They have two sons. The oldest, Michael, also a lawyer, is married to Wendi, lives in Highland Park and just turned 59 on January 21. They have three children: Aidan (28), Charlie (25) and Rosie (22). Their younger son, Rick, is 56 and married Brian this past Labor Day weekend. He is a chiropractor with a practice in Chicago and also has another home (and some rental properties) in Holland, MI.

Jerry has devoted a good deal of time, energy and heartfelt emotion to an organization with the acronym: PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). Their goal is to support, educate the public about, and advocate in behalf of lesbian and gay members of society. He joined and eventually became President of the Chicago Chapter of this organization. He and Harlie made many speeches at colleges and universities and other youth groups; he lobbied in Springfield and advocated for changes in the law. "I was the liaison between PFLAG and the States Attorney of Cook County and helped change the state's Hate Crimes Law."

Jerry's advice for new Melmen is to "be open to new avenues. Add to your life doing something new and different, something concrete and worthwhile. Give to the community of MEL and be rewarded many times over."

BOCCE FUN MEL STYLE ! - *By Bruce Edelson*



Twenty-eight (!) Melmen braved the sub-zero weather to play Bocce and have lunch at Pinstripes on January 19. Bocce is one of MEL's most fun activities. I won't say skillful, experienced play can't improve outcomes, but I will say every MEL member can play well enough to score or block. That's why it is such a blast. If you haven't tried it yet, the next outing will be on Friday 4/10. Make sure to contact Les Sgnilek for more information.



January 22, 2026--Al Magit got a hole in one today while golfing with Jay Weintraub and Jerry Schwartz.

MEL PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



BEST IMAGE FROZEN IN TIME

“Frozen in Time” was taken in his back yard by **Joel Karlinsky** in January 2026. (Editor: no explanation is required.)



BEST COMPOSITION MY DRUG STORE

“My Drug Store” was taken by **Bill Gurolnick** in the Winter of 2025/6. “The title is a metaphor. Some of the items in the cabinet are necessary, the rest is CLUTTER—just like in my house and my garage.”

MEL WEBSITE USAGE & NEW FEATURES - *By Sheldon Kail*

Our MEL website is consistently getting over 300 visits per month from our members. This is a very good indication that members are finding the website very useful.

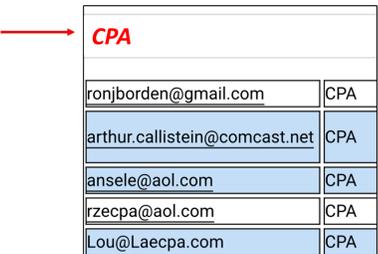


The Most Viewed Pages Are the Home Page and Our Member Directory



NEW WEBSITE FEATURES

- 1. Meet Our BOD**
 - Go to the ABOUT US tab and click on MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- 2. Search Now Works On iPhone**
 - Go to MEL Members Directory and type your search in the SEARCH bar located at the top left part of the page



- 3. New Column For Year Joined MEL**
 - Go to MEL Members Directory and scroll all the way to the right side of the page to see the year that each member joined MEL

ENJOY OUR WEBSITE!

UPCOMING SPECIAL AND SEMI-REGULAR EVENTS

- Feb. 12** Feed My Starving Children (Les Sgnilek)
- March 13** Ethnic Lunch - Armo Grill (Bruce)
- March 26** McCormick Museum at Cantigny (Les Sgnilek)
- March 27** Let's Talk Sports - Preseason Baseball Edition - New Location at Spears (Bruce)
- March 30** Texas Hold 'Em Spring Tournament at D'Agostino's (Bruce)
- April 10** Bocce at Pinstripes (Les Sgnilek)
- April 30** Mini-Golf 1st of the Season at The Highland Park Golf Learning Center (Bruce)
- June 19** Cubs/Blue Jays at Wrigley Field (Bruce and Bob Shuman)
- July 22** Annual Dinner at Chevy Chase (Bruce-Ron Meibach-Harris Cohen)
- Sept. 8** Cubs/Brewers at American Family Field (Bruce and Bob Shuman)



Highland Park Golf Learning Center

DO MELMEN PLAY CARDS? - *By Bruce Edelson*

Yes, we do. Some games are every week, others every month, still others every quarter. Whether you like Poker, Bridge, Canasta, Texas Hold 'Em, Gin Rummy, Hearts, Pinochle, Couples Canasta, or Couples Bridge, there is a game for you. And don't forget Rummikub. Check the calendar and contact the activity host. And...get ready to play!



JANUARY			FEBRUARY		
3	Ron Chess	77	1	Walt Brown	85
3	Carl Rosenthal	73	2	Bruce Harris	83
9	Ron Zweig	79	2	Joel Stein	76
10	Vic Weisskopf	83	2	Harold Versten	87
13	Ron Emmerman	87	4	Barry Edelstein	74
13	Micheal Kafenstock	77	5	Mickey Balm	79
20	Mitch Weiss	86	9	Arthur Noparstak	76
23	Peter Clark	75	10	Howard Katz	91
27	Elliot Young	79	17	Robert Greenberg	75
28	Ron Borden	84	17	Marshall Romanz	89
30	Alan Krissberg	75	20	Bob Schlossberg	86
			20	Marshall White	74

