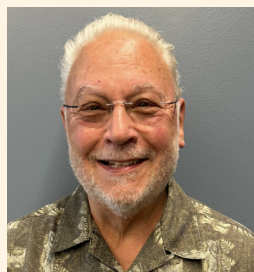




★ ★ ★ ★ JUNE - JULY 2026 ★ ★ ★ ★

FROM THE EDITOR



Hi all,

Hope you had a fun 4th! This month's lead story covers our revisit to Amazon. And there is a tasty tale of our hot pot luncheon. Plus, there's coverage of our quarterly miniature golf outing and our Annual Cubs game. This issue also features an especially large number of photos of MEL in action. And don't forget the Birthdays.

Enjoy! Gerry

250
★ ★ ★ YEARS ★ ★ ★
ANNIVERSARY

MEL VISITS AMAZON - REDUX - By Larry Williams



Several years ago MEL visited this Amazon facility; it became one of our most discussed and most fondly recalled special events. On June 3rd, we were able to revisit; 24 Melmen toured the Amazon Fulfillment Center located in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. Before arriving in Oak Creek, we enjoyed a good brunch at The Maple Table located in Racine. Then arrived at Amazon and had a very interesting 90-minute tour.



The facility is about 15 years old, on four floors and covers 4.2 million (!) square feet. On entering, we had to present ID's and we were given specific safety and security instructions to follow on the tour. Each of us was given a lanyard with a badge and earphones.

This facility does not deliver packages directly to the customer. The packages sorted and assembled into completed orders here are transferred to another Amazon facility for their final destination.

Oak Creek has about 1,500 employees who work full-time, part-time or flex time. Full-time employees work four 10-hour days/week, with two 30 minute breaks a day. The warehouse operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Employees start at \$21.00 an hour and learn all of the departments of the facility.

Merchandise is received and placed throughout the warehouse. At the first station, the employee receives a bar graph of the order. Next, a robot platform brings merchandise to that area. A signal lights up a section which has the customer's order. The employee at the station pulls out the order and then places it in another container, which is sent to another area. Finally, it is packed and ready to be shipped to the customer.

We were fortunate to have the Director of Tours, Alyssa, as our guide. She was outstanding and answered the many questions that we had. It was a very interesting tour with a company that dramatically changed our shopping habits and has made our lives easier.

Amazon, which you may recall, began as a bookseller that lost money for many years, is a perfect example of what the great economist, Joseph Schumpeter, termed "the creative winds of destruction" that characterized capitalism. (Ed.)



MELMEN SEE CUBS WIN AT WRIGLEY 16-2 - By Bruce Edelson

On a beautiful, sun-soaked Friday afternoon, 26 Melmen rode the Skokie Swift for our yearly Wrigley adventure. The first stop was our usual luncheon eatery, Smoke Daddy (which is coming to Glenview later this year). After a hearty BBQ, we walked through Gallagher Way to the upper deck behind first base.

The journey was worth it, because our seats were fantastic! And the Cubs did not disappoint. Sixteen (!) runs, second most they've scored this year. The only unhappy ones in the ballpark were the Toronto Blue Jays.

The best part of our day was that everyone made it home safe and sound. Our next live ballgame is in Milwaukee on September 8.



MEL IS HOT, HOT, HOT! - By Alan Esterman

On June 25, a group of 20 Melmen met at Galaxy Hot Pot and Sushi in Deerfield for the latest MEL Ethnic Lunch. In Chinese hot pot cooking, you cook your own food in a boiling pot of flavored broth.

First, we selected one of six different soups, ranging from mild to sharply flavored. Then we chose as many as we liked from a large selection of meats, seafood, and dumplings. Third, we also visited a buffet of vegetables, mushrooms, noodles, and more to add into the pot. Finally, in just a few minutes, we cooked our own lunch on individual burners right in front of our seats. There were also crowd-pleasing appetizers (how about those hot buns and fried dumplings) and a wide selection of sushi. BTW: we also got to choose a cold dessert from a freezer case. Beverages were extra.

Note: everything was all you can eat. Melmen, of course, thrived on those magic words and did serious damage, especially Bruce Edelson, who had enough empty plates at the end of the meal to start his own cafeteria. Harold Versten explored the whole menu including the beef stomach. Harold told me he also likes to eat bird testicles, but hey, I don't judge what a man does in his private time.

For many of us, this was a first experience with hot pot. Since it is fun to do as well as tasty, I heard several say they would like return with their grandchildren, and maybe even their wives. These MEL Ethnic Lunches are always interesting and a great way to spend time with fellow Melmen.



THE MELTONES REHEARSE AND PERFORM



Meltones perform at the VI.



Meltones do it again; this time at Gidwitz Place.

RAIN DOESN'T DETER YOUR MELMEN!

- By Bruce Edelson



The June miniature golf tournament at The Highland Park Golf Learning Center was delayed by 10 minutes and started in a drizzle. However, after just two holes, precipitation stopped and we were able to complete the entire 18-hole course.

The winners, in a tie with a score of 50, were Larry Krupp and Skip Becker. Bob Shuman and Alan Esterman both shot holes in one. A fun time was had by all, even the losers.

We had lunch after at Portillo's in Deerfield.

Come join us for our next game on August 21.

MEL plays couples bridge.





MEL Bocce bochers July 2026



MEL Adventure Walk at Independence Grove.



Nine Melmen met to discuss Disclosure Day at El Tradicional; that's Rick Gurolnick hidden at the back right.



MEL Book Group discusses the history of capitalism.



MEL and others play bridge.



Over 90 Melmen show at June 5, 2026 meeting – the largest ever.

UPCOMING SPECIAL AND SEMI-REGULAR EVENTS



American Family Field

- July 10** ***MEL MONTHLY MEETING SPECIAL DATE***
July 22 Annual Dinner at Chevy Chase (Bruce-Ron Meibach-Harris Cohen)
July 30 Spa Day at Pretty Nails in Deerfield (Buddy Kalish)
Aug. 14 Air Classics Museum Event in Sugar Grove (Alan Esterman)
Aug. 28 Sports Talk Pre-season football edition at Spears (Bruce)
Sept. 8 Cubs-Brewers game in Milwaukee (Bruce and Bob Shuman)
Sept. 17 Marriott Theater "Come From Away" (Bruce and Walt Brown)



JUNE

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5	Larry Krupp	72
6	Robert Abrams	88
6	Marshall Goldsen	90
9	Alan Esterman	77
9	Joe Mintz	74
11	Ron Kaplan	91
15	Gary Baim	78
16	Robert Matanky	91
18	Jerry Lasin	90
19	Bob Cremer	87
22	Joel Karlinsky	74
25	Bob Shuman	78
26	Robert Orenstein	70
29	Nick Brown	84
29	Arnie Groot	76

29	Abby Hans	79
29	Ron Meibach	78

JULY

4	Saul Shatz	70
5	Harris Cohen	76
5	Morry Dyer	84
11	Ralph Rehbock	92
12	Harvey Orlov	91
14	Tom Green	77
18	Neil Esterman	84
18	Rich Hirsch	89
18	Mike Stricker	79
22	Bob Kohn	72
29	Barry Veit	75
30	Joel Schwartz	75
31	Corey Stricker	70